

What is the WV Save Our Streams Program?

Goals and Objectives



WV Save Our Stream is a volunteer monitoring program that promotes statewide water quality awareness through workshops, demonstrations, presentations, outreach materials and a wide variety of projects and activities. The program's target audiences include schools, elementary through college level, businesses and community leaders, volunteer organizations of many types, state and federal agencies, and all other citizens with an interest in learning about water quality. The program's objective is to encourage volunteer monitors to adopt sections of their local streams, thus taking responsibility for their protection and preservation through their monitoring and other outreach activities. The program also encourages participation in public meetings and other events relating to water quality.

Description

Implementation occurs through a diverse group of government and non-government partnerships. The planning and organization of program activities involves working together to produce a wide variety of water-monitoring programs and projects. In addition, the program implements its own statewide monitoring effort through a tiered-approach, which includes a multitude of instruction manuals and survey forms, hands-on training, many types of monitoring equipment and a certification process as cited in the WV Code § 22-11-13. WV Save Our Streams also provides continuous support through written communications, reports, website development and updates, quality assurance reviews, Volunteer Assessment Database (VAD) administration, random site visits, follow-up training, and assistance with other agency and partner project monitoring and field investigations as necessary. The information collected is shared with many state and federal agencies, academic partners, and NGOs such as watershed associations, Cacapon Institute, The Mountain Institute and many others. In any given year the Coordinator trains 100-200 volunteers and works with more than 1,000 participants if all of the programs outreach activities are combined.

Data Uses

First and foremost the data is used by the volunteer groups themselves. Volunteer monitors determine baseline conditions and conduct long-term monitoring programs to do trend analysis. On occasions, chemical data generated by credible volunteer groups has been used in DEP's Integrated Report. Other state agencies such as WV Conservation Agency have used volunteer data to integrate with their stream restoration projects. Often the data is used by contractors and consultants for reports and project submittals, especially in areas where DEP or other data is limited. Volunteer data was used to nominate Watkins Run and Fill Hollow Creek to the Tier 2.5 list, and it was used again recently to nominate these streams for the Tier 3 list. The data is also used by the program for reporting purposes. And, finally it is used as an outreach tool, highlighting projects and encouraging participation in the program.

Funding

The program is funded through DEP's WQM and §106 grants.

Contact

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