

Project #: 00-1400

Project Name: Lower Little River Watershed

Watershed: Lower Little, HUC #11140109

Counties: Polk, Sevier, Howard, Hempstead, Little River, Miller

Project Type: Public Awareness, Education/Training, Demonstration, Technology Transfer, Technical Assistance, Financial Assistance

Pollutants: Pathogens, Sediment, Nutrients, Bacteria, Nitrogen, Phosphorous

Project Summary

In Arkansas' Unified Watershed Assessment, the Lower Little River watershed was selected as one of the top seven priorities for restoration based on the following criteria:

- It contains streams with federal and state scenic river designations.
- It contains four imperiled aquatic species.
- It contains three state waters of concern.
- It contains one USDA EQIP project.
- It contains drinking water supplies serving a population of about 100,000.
- It contains one state extraordinary water resource.
- It contains interstate waters of concern.

To comply with the action items outlined in the President's Clean Water Action Plan, the next item to be completed in this watershed is a Watershed Restoration Action Strategy (WRAS). This project proposes to organize local agencies within the watershed, develop the WRAS and begin implementation of the WRAS.

The Lower Little River basin covers parts of five counties in Southwest Arkansas. The majority of the residents in Miller County depend on the watershed for their water supply, and Millwood Lake is also a major source of recreation for the area. Residents have expressed an interest in development of a watershed-wide approach to protecting their water supply.

In January 2000, representatives of the Rich Mountain, Cossatot, Mine Creek, Sevier County and Little River County Conservation Districts met regarding the development of a Watershed Restoration Action Strategy (WRAS) for the Lower Little River watershed. A steering committee was organized to perform the following tasks:

- Develop a list of potential groups or stakeholders to be asked to participate.
- Investigate and select a form of organization for the coalition.
- Secure input on the water quality issues from appropriate sources including state and federal agencies.
- Make recommendations on additional assessments and inventories to be completed.
- Develop management measures to be implemented for each issue.
- Complete an implementation schedule including the estimated costs.
- Assist coalition members in seeking resources to implement the schedule.
- Prepare an annual Watershed Status Report for the ASWCC and the public.

The findings, recommendations and schedules will be combined into a document referred to as the Lower Little River Watershed Restoration Action Strategy.