

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT



Upper White River

WHY IS THIS WATERSHED SPECIAL?

The Upper White River drains a large portion of the Ozark Mountains, an area highly valued for recreation, tourism, and biodiversity. The watershed is home to more than one million people in northwest Arkansas and southwest Missouri. The watershed stretches along 300 miles of river and is about one million acres in size (equal to the size of Rhode Island and Connecticut). The area is predominantly agricultural yet it faces some of the highest developmental pressure in the region.

ENVIRONMENTAL CHALLENGES

The Targeted Watersheds Grant will focus on the following environmental problems:

- Runoff from urban and rural sources, including nutrients and sediments from poultry operations and rapid urbanization.
- Nutrients and bacteria loadings to the lakes and groundwater from the growing reliance on conventional septic systems.

RESTORATION ACTIVITIES

The Upper White River Basin Foundation will use EPA Targeted Watersheds Grant funds to:

- Develop a watershed management plan by expanding partnerships and using the best scientific expertise.
- Monitor the water quality impact of eliminating septic tanks within a defined area.
- Create a unified Geographic Information System database of all available watershed data.
- Add new monitoring stations and improve data analysis to document environmental progress.

"It is in both agriculture's and tourism's best interest to have abundant sources of clean water."

– Floyd Grizow
Executive Director
The Upper White
River Basin
Foundation



A STRONG PARTNERSHIP FOR CHANGE

The Upper White River Basin Foundation, the lead organization, is partnering with several organizations to implement a bistate watershed plan that coordinates priority actions across the state boundaries of Arkansas and Missouri. Partners include:

- The Kings River Watershed Partnership
- The James River Basin Partnership
- Table Rock Lake Water Quality, Inc.
- Watershed Committee of the Ozarks
- Audubon Arkansas
- Numerous local stakeholders



Excess nutrients from agriculture and stormwater cause algal blooms.



The project will develop consensus recommendations from a broad range of stakeholders in both states to reduce nutrient loadings.

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EPA'S TARGETED WATERSHEDS GRANT PROGRAM

EPA's Targeted Watersheds Grant Program is a new, competitive grant program designed to encourage collaborative, community-driven approaches to meet clean water goals.

For more information about the selected watersheds, please visit:
<http://www.epa.gov/owow/watershed/initiative/>



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