

## West Virginia Overview

Through the National Water Quality Initiative (NWQI), the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is offering financial and technical assistance to farmers, ranchers and forest landowners interested in improving water quality and aquatic habitats in priority watersheds with impaired streams. NRCS will help producers implement conservation and management practices through a systems approach to control and trap nutrient and manure runoff. Qualified producers will receive assistance for installing conservation practices such as prescribed grazing, streambank and shoreline protection, and heavy use area protection. For over 75 years, NRCS has provided agricultural producers with assistance to implement voluntary conservation practices that protect natural resources while maintaining production and profits.

## West Virginia Priority Watershed

Knapps Creek is a tributary to the Greenbrier River, located in Pocahontas County along the eastern border of West Virginia.

This watershed is in the Ridge and Valley physiographic province. The watershed begins just north of Frost, WV. Knapps Creek enters the Greenbrier River in Marlinton, WV. The drainage area of Knapps Creek to this point is 49 square miles (31,360 acres).

The dominant land use along the eastern slopes of the watershed is mostly forested lands of the Monongahela National Forest. Along the valley bottom and the western hill slopes the land is predominately



*Natural stream design techniques and tree planting in Knapps Creek Watershed in Pocahontas County, WV.*

photo credit:  
Angela Greene, NRCS

privately owned and managed for agricultural purposes. Historic alterations of the hill slopes, stream channels, and flood plains as well as current land management and channel maintenance practices have resulted in significant streambank erosion and sedimentation.

The stream is currently on the 303d impaired streams list for West Virginia.

*The National Water Quality Initiative will work in selected watersheds to help farmers, ranchers and forest landowners improve water quality and aquatic habitats in impaired streams.*

## Conservation Funding and Practices

NRCS conservation professionals will provide technical assistance and planning tools to determine which

conservation actions will provide the best results to improve soil and water resources on your land. Fence, watering facilities, stream crossings, pasture planting, and water wells are just some of the practices being offered as part of the National Water Quality Initiative. To help install these conservation practices, financial assistance to share in the cost of these conservation practices is available through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP).

## Partnerships

NRCS identified priority watersheds through the help of local partnerships and state water quality agencies including the NRCS State Technical Committee, The West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection, the West Virginia Conservation Agency and the Greenbrier Valley Conservation District. Partners sometimes offer financial assistance in addition to NRCS programs. NRCS will continue to coordinate with local and state agencies, conservation districts,

nongovernmental organizations and others to implement this initiative. This strategic approach will leverage funds and provide streamlined assistance to help individual agricultural producers take needed actions to reduce the flow of sediment, nutrients and other runoff into impaired waterways.

## Producer Benefits

Soil and water quality conservation practices benefit agricultural producers by lowering input costs and enhancing the productivity of working lands. Conservation investments are good for all Americans because well managed farms limit pollution from runoff, produce food and fiber, sustain rural economies, and provide food security to the Nation. All across the country—farmers, ranchers and forest landowners are voluntarily taking action and putting conservation on the ground to improve water quality on millions of acres!

## Public Benefits

NRCS is proud to be involved in a nationwide effort with landowners and communities to improve and protect our soil and water resources. The landowners and farmers participating in the initiative will receive conservation payments to work on the land in a sustainable way which provides cleaner water. In addition to the financial assistance, the land will remain productive into the future. Communities benefit by having clean waterways, safer drinking water and healthy habitat for fish and wildlife.

## How to Apply

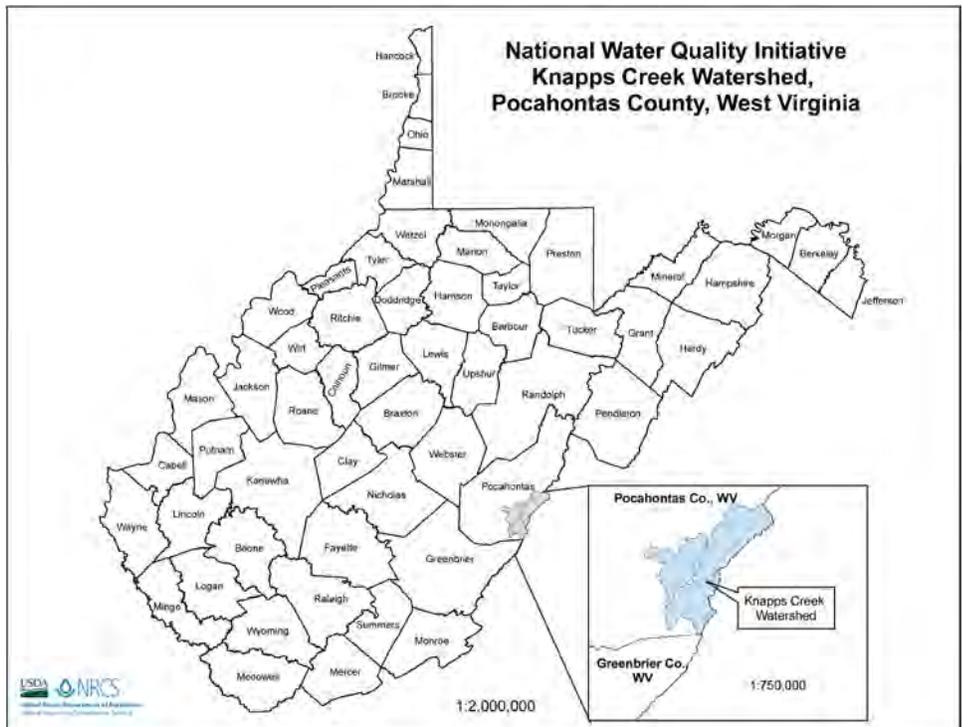
Almost every county in the Nation has a [USDA Service Center](#). To get started, make an appointment at the local office in Buckeye, WV. You will need to establish eligibility and farm records for your land. NRCS will help you complete an application while explaining which conservation practices are available in your watershed. Remember to check with your local NRCS office to see if you are located in a selected watershed. All applications for funding consideration during fiscal year 2012, must be received by June 15, 2012.

## For more Information

Buckeye Service Center  
NRCS Field Office  
RR. 2, BOX 51B  
Buckeye, WV 24924  
304-799-4317

The office is located on US Route 219 (just south of the middle school) in Buckeye, WV.

<http://www.wv.nrcs.usda.gov/>



The Knapps Creek Watershed is located in Pocahontas County. Knapps Creek is a tributary to the Greenbrier River.

Map Credit: NRCS