

Media Contact:

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**Fast Facts:**

- Beaver Watershed Alliance Quarterly Speaker Series to focus on “The Importance of Fire: Sustainability and Resiliency of Forests and Source Water Protection” August 22.
- Seeking land managers, elected officials, decision makers and landowners who want to learn more about our Ozark forests to attend. They will hear how proper management can sustain these forests and benefit downstream streams and lakes in terms of water quality improvements.

Investing in Water Supply Protection Quarterly Speaker Series “Funding Mechanisms for Water Infrastructure and Source Water Protection” (409 Words)

Beaver Watershed Alliance will be hosting a quarterly Speaker Series on Thursday, August 22 from 11:30 am to 1 pm at the Hobbs State Park Visitor Center, 20201 AR-12, thirteen miles east of Rogers on Arkansas Highway 12. Guest speakers will include Levi Horrell with the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission and Raven Lawson with Central Arkansas Water. They will be speaking on the importance of fire to Ozark forests, and providing a case study of fire and its impact on lake water quality. Fire is probably the most misunderstood and underrated tool available for watershed management. Controlled burns not only maintain underbrush and prevent far more devastating crown fires, they are designed to mimic the natural fire regime of our southeastern forests. Come learn about the importance of fire to the history of Ozark forests, and the tremendous benefits to protecting our drinking water that properly managed fire provides. Source water protection is at the core of the Alliance’s work; this includes activities that protect Beaver Lake such as controlled burns, stream bank restoration, low impact development, planting native plants with extensive root systems, and providing education programs on water conservation and protection.

Land managers, elected officials, decision makers and landowners who want to learn more about our Ozark forests are encouraged to attend the Speaker Series on August 22. They will hear how proper management can sustain these forests and benefit water quality in downstream streams and lakes.

Beaver Watershed Alliance is working with local, state and federal agencies, local corporate sponsors and other nonprofit organizations to reduce the amount of sediment entering streams, improve fish habitat, and reduce flooding, all essential services for all of Northwest Arkansas. Beaver Lake supplies 1 in 6 Arkansans (nearly a half million people) with clean drinking water and provides over forty million in tourism and recreation dollars for the local economy. The Alliance developed this quarterly speaker series to share the rationale behind investing in watershed protection that will benefit the future of our entire region.

The program is free. Lunch will be provided, sponsored by the Arkansas Forestry Association Education Foundation. Please RSVP by calling the Alliance office, (479) 750-8007 or by emailing the Alliance at info@beaverwatershedalliance.org. The Beaver Watershed Alliance is a nonprofit organization focused on maintaining high quality drinking water in Beaver Lake and improving water quality within the Beaver

Lake Watershed. For more information about the Alliance, the speaker series, or how you can help protect water quality, visit www.beaverwatershedalliance.org.

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