

BEAVER WATERSHED ALLIANCE

Our Mission The Alliance was formed in 2011 to proactively protect, maintain, and enhance the water quality of Beaver Lake and the integrity of its watershed.

75 Acres in Beaver Lake Watershed Protected in Perpetuity

Article contributed by Pam Nelson, Director of Land Protection with Northwest Arkansas Land Trust

Northwest Arkansas Land Trust (NWALT) is excited to announce that 75 acres in the Beaver Lake watershed along the banks of the meandering White River in southern Madison County are now protected in perpetuity. Herb Culver, a fourth-generation farmer, donated the conservation easement that will forever protect the integrity of the land.

"I chose NWALT for my conservation easement partly because they are accredited by the Land Trust Alliance but also because NWALT is specifically committed to preserving agricultural land in addition to natural features like native ecosystems and riparian zones," said Culver. "My goal is to maintain a healthy, diverse ecosystem where I can practice organic agriculture successfully."

Dedicated to regenerative agriculture, Culver is committed to building the soil and fostering his farm's biological diversity and resilience. He intentionally uses no-till practices to protect his soil from washing into the river since so much water moves through his property during rain events.

The importance of this particular easement cannot be overemphasized," said Pam Nelson, Director of Land Protection. "Beaver Lake watershed is the area that drains into Beaver Lake, which is the drinking water source for Northwest Arkansas. These 75 acres are located in our White River Headwaters priority area. Protecting it from future development and Herb's current agricultural practices will help keep our drinking water safe and clean."

Culver will still own the property, but the conservation easement will protect the land for future generations without fear of development. The acreage also includes smaller streams that flow into the river, flood plain, riparian forests, and pastures. According to Culver, "I love to visit the river with all her wildly various stages from raging floods to the lazy summer trickle gurgling over the gravel beds. I think my ancestors would be pleased with this easement."

About Northwest Arkansas Land Trust

The Northwest Arkansas Land Trust is the region's first local and accredited land trust dedicated to enhancing the quality of life through permanent land protection. By holding and managing

donated land and providing conservation easement services, the Land Trust protects water quality, local farms, wildlife habitats, and places for outdoor recreation while enhancing the quality of life for today and future generations. The service area of the Land Trust includes 13 counties in Northwest Arkansas, with a core focus on Benton, Washington, Madison, and Carroll counties. For more information, visit the land trust's website at www.nwalandtrust.org