

BEAVER WATERSHED  ALLIANCE



2020

SPEAKER SERIES



Investing in Water Supply Protection in NWA
It's good for business, agriculture, recreation, nature, and you!

**Utilizing NRCS Programs to Restore Streams,
Riparian, and Wetlands in the
West Fork White River Watershed**

Thursday, December 2
12:00 noon - 1:00 pm

Online Event
Zoom Webinar

Live Q&A
Will be recorded

Please RSVP:

This is a free program, and registration is required.
[Click here to register](#)

Questions? [Email us](#)

Beaver Watershed Alliance will be hosting its Quarterly Speaker Series on Thursday, December 3rd, from 12:00 noon to 1:00 pm in webinar format. The Watershed Conservation Resource Center (WCRC) worked with 14 partners and was awarded \$8.7 million in 2016 through the USDA Natural Resource Conservation Services (NRCS) Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) to restore reaches of river and streambanks in the West Fork White River (WFWR) watershed. As part of the RCPP project, the WFWR Watershed Initiative, the WCRC and the NRCS developed a WFWR Watershed Plan to address accelerated streambank erosion found throughout the watershed.

The planning process included watershed assessment results in which reaches of river and individual streambanks were identified and prioritized for restoration. The NRCS PL-566 program was used to address reaches of river (with several eroding streambanks) that required multiple landowners' participation and financial support that was beyond the reach of other NRCS programs. The Watershed Plan addresses the accelerated streambank erosion and reduces sediment loadings to the WFWR watershed and restores both terrestrial and aquatic habitat. The WFWR is a major tributary within the Beaver Lake watershed, so the project also helps to protect the drinking water source for Northwest Arkansas. In addition to establishing a path to conduct large river restoration, the WCRC worked with the local and state NRCS to utilize EQIP funding to restore small-scale streambanks. Guest speaker, Sandi Formica, Executive Director for the Watershed Conservation Resource Center will present on the RCPP project that has resulted in creating a WFWR PL-566 watershed with two large river restoration projects underway and several successful streambank restoration projects through EQIP.

The West Fork White River (WFWR) is one of six major tributaries to the White River, which forms Beaver Lake, the primary drinking water source in Northwest Arkansas for over 500,000 residents and a state nonpoint source priority for sediment reduction. The WFWR has been on the Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality's (ADEQ) 303(d) list of impaired streams since 1998 for not supporting its 'aquatic life' use because of excessive silt loads and turbidity. An ADEQ WFWR comprehensive watershed assessment estimated 66% of average annual sediment loads were from accelerated streambank erosion. Based on watershed assessments and stakeholder-led, watershed planning, the WFWR is a priority in Arkansas and Beaver Lake watershed for sediment reduction and water quality improvements.

One of the main objectives of a current grant program, the WFWR Watershed Initiative, is to work with multiple landowners to restore reaches of river and tributaries along with the riparian areas to improve water quality, enhance fisheries and other wildlife, and protect valuable pasture and forested lands in the WFWR watershed. These river restoration projects will help to address accelerated streambank erosion found throughout the WFWR watershed, protect a primary drinking water source - Beaver Lake and are a federally assisted action authorized by the Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act, Public Law 83-566 (PL-566).

We encourage water quality professionals, municipal and county staff, utility managers, design and landscape professionals, science and engineering communities, property managers, and landowners to attend. This presentation is free and open to the public. **The program is free, but registration is required. Click the button below to register.**

The 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 our [website](#).

Beaver Watershed Alliance is working with watershed landowners, universities, scientist, government agencies, local businesses, utilities, conservation organizations and water quality groups to achieve conservation objectives, including reducing the amount of sediment and nutrients entering streams, improving fish habitat, and reducing 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 dollars annually in tourism and recreation dollars for the local economy. The Alliance

developed the Quarterly Speaker Series to share the rationale behind investing in watershed protection that will benefit the future of our entire region.

[Register Here](#)

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About Beaver Watershed Alliance

Beaver Watershed Alliance was formed in 2011 to proactively protect, maintain, and enhance the water quality of Beaver Lake and the integrity of its watershed through outreach and education, voluntary best management practice implementation, and scientific investigation. The Alliance represents a diverse stakeholder group from conservation, education, water utilities, technical and science, agriculture, recreation, business, and local government groups working together for the goal of clean water.



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December 3

Thursday

12:00 noon - 1:00 pm

Zoom Webinar

Live Q & A

Will be recorded

Registration required

Call or email for link

479-750-8007

info@beaverwatershedalliance.org

TOPIC:

Utilizing NRCS Programs to Restore Streams,
Riparian, and Wetlands in the West Fork
White River Watershed

The Watershed Conservation Resource Center worked with 14 partners and was awarded \$8.7 million in 2016 through the USDA Natural Resource Conservation Services Regional Conservation Partnership Program to restore reaches of river and streambanks in the West Fork White River watershed.

Guest speaker Sandi Formica will present on the RCPP project that has resulted in creating a WFWR PL-566 watershed with two large river restoration projects underway and several successful streambank restoration projects through the NRCS Environmental Quality Incentive Program.

PRESENTED BY:

Sandi Formica
Executive Director
Watershed Conservation Resource Center



Your financial contribution will help the Alliance fulfill our mission to proactively protect, maintain, and enhance the water quality of Beaver Lake and the integrity of its watershed through outreach and education, voluntary best management practice implementation, and scientific investigation.

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Beaver Watershed Alliance
 614 E. Emma Ave. Suite M438

Springdale, AR 72764
Phone: 479-750-8007



[Click Here To Contact Us](#)

Beaver Watershed Alliance | 614 E. Emma Ave, Suite M438, Springdale, AR 72764

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