

OUR MISSOURI WATERS INITIATIVE

Scope: Regional/Watershed

Location: Missouri

SCOPE:

- » Pilot program instituted by the Missouri Department of Natural Resources (MoDNR) to protect and improve water quality. Includes a Source Water Protection program called the Missouri Source Water Protection Program.
- » Focuses on three pilot watersheds in Missouri: the Big River Watershed, the Lower Grand River Watershed, and the Spring River Watershed. In total, the three watersheds comprise 3 of 66 eight-digit hydrologic units that occur within Missouri.
- » All 66 eight-digit hydrologic units have been organized within a five-year rotational pattern for targeting water quality improvements, synchronizing NPDES permits and organizing collaborative efforts within each watershed.
- » Organizes collaboration between regional stakeholders and state as well as federal partners.

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COLLABORATIVE FORMATION:

- » Preliminary summit meetings for each pilot brought together local and regional stakeholders with state and federal representatives.
- » Summit meetings reviewed water quality conditions and identified significant concerns within each watershed.
- » Each pilot was assigned a department coordinator to steer planning efforts.
- » Initial priority was to create a 'tool box' of resources for each pilot, including information on all relevant federal, state and other financial assistance programs and technical assistance

MEMBERS:

Members and partners on each project are too numerous to list here, but the below list is representative of participation within each watershed:

- » Missouri Department of Natural Resources
- » Missouri Department of Conservation
- » Missouri Department of Agriculture
- » Missouri Department of Economic Development
- » United States Environmental Protection Agency
- » United States Forest Service
- » United States Fish and Wildlife Service
- » United States Department of Agriculture
- » Natural Resource Conservation Service
- » Missouri Public Utility Alliance
- » Missouri Rural Water Association
- » Midwest Assistance Program
- » University of Missouri Extension
- » County Soil and Water Conservation Districts

- » County Commissions and other representatives
- » County Community Foundations
- » Regional Planning Commissions
- » Regional and local watershed protection groups
- » Regional and local public water systems (including privately owned and operated systems)
- » Cities and villages within each watershed
- » Missouri Stream Teams
- » Missouri State Parks
- » Various private consultants and engineering firms
- » Local private land owners
- » Local industrial leaders and representatives

WATER CONCERNS:

- » Surface water contamination due to agricultural runoff (Lower Grand River and Spring River).
- » Lead and heavy metal contamination of streams from nonpoint sources due to historic mining (Big River and Spring River).
- » High levels of TDS in local groundwater. However, most drinking water comes from surface sources (Lower Grand River).
- » Drought in northern Missouri leads to water scarcity (Lower Grand River).

STRATEGIES:

- » Provide stakeholders with “toolbox” of resources to address water quality concerns.
- » Help stakeholders identify federal, state, and other financial and technical assistance programs.
- » Missouri Source Water Protection Program is one component designed to improve drinking water quality.
- » Focus on community systems as building blocks toward protecting larger watershed.

RESULTS:

- » Results of each pilot’s preliminary summit meeting are being used to establish more targeted summit meetings in each watershed.
- » Activities within the three pilot watersheds are currently in progress, while lessons-learned from these pilots are being applied towards collaborative efforts that are under development within the FY15 focus watersheds.