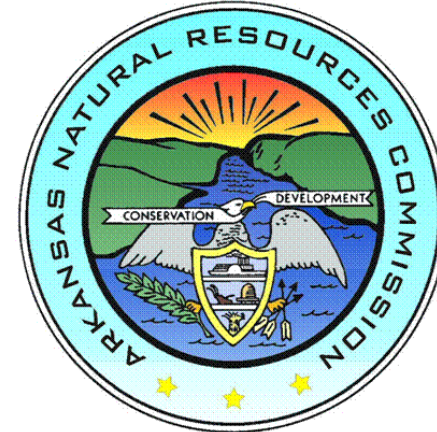
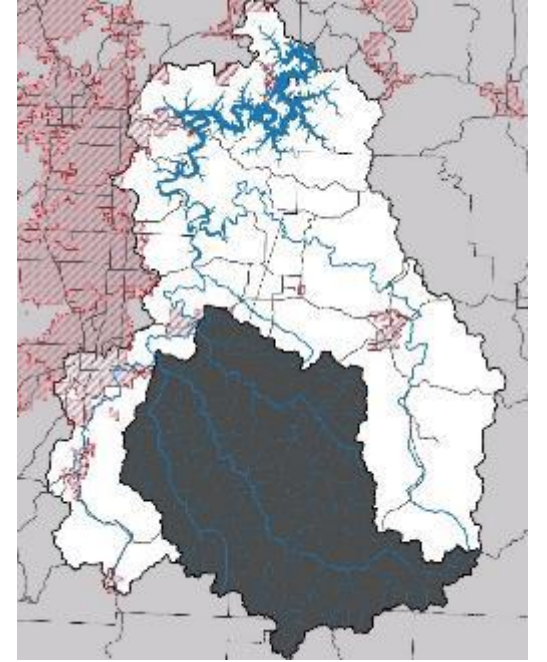


# White River and Richland Creek Watershed Opportunity Assessment

Project FY16-500

Melissa Welch



# Project Overview

- Project Goals/Objectives:

*To raise White River and Richland Creek landowners' awareness and knowledge of the importance of riparian areas and engage them in adopting individual best management actions through public outreach, education, and demonstration programs.*

- October 2016 to June 2019

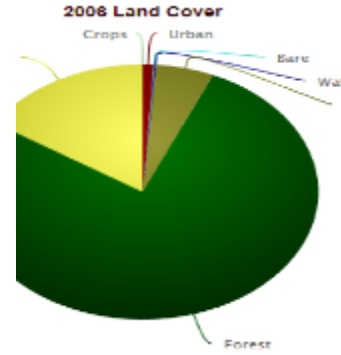
- Project Costs: \$438,251 (57% Federal, 43% Match)



# White River-Richland Creek Watershed

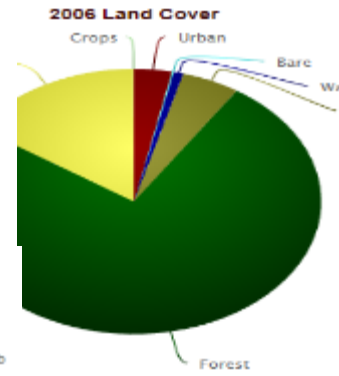
## Middle Fork-White River

- 48,410 acres
- 156.5 mi of roads & 99 mi of streams
- Pasture 16%, Forest 77.5%, Urban 1%



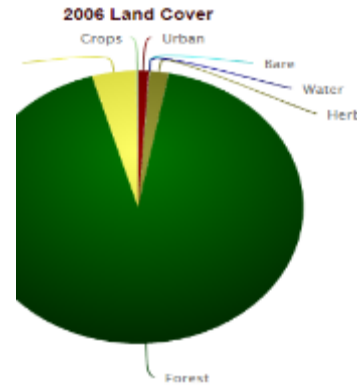
## Lake Sequoyah-White River

- 70,838 acres
- 206 mi of roads & 143 mi of streams
- 490 acre man-made lake (recreational fishing)
- Pasture 16%, Forest 75%, Urban 3%



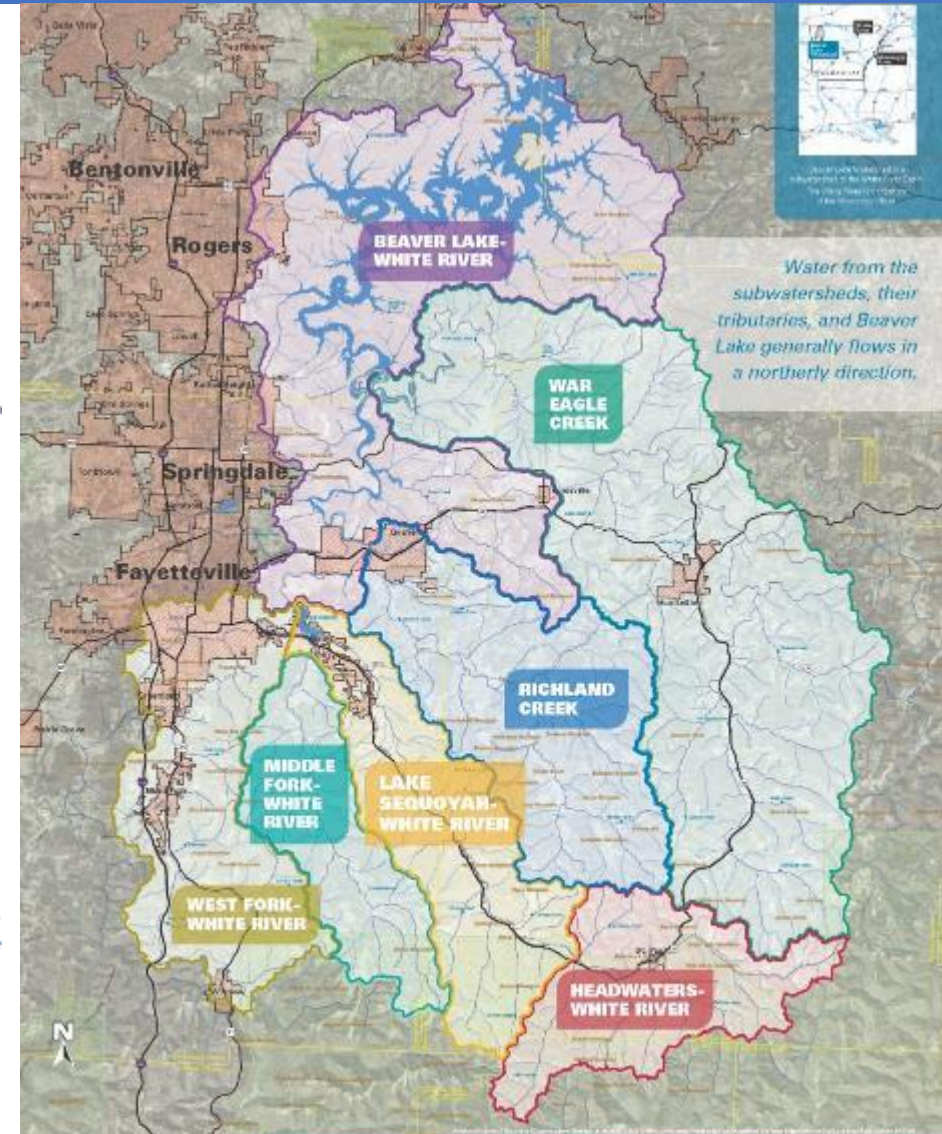
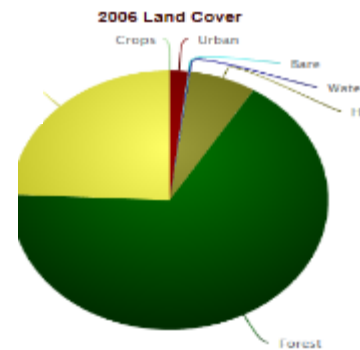
## Headwaters-White River

- 58,206 acres
- 134 mi of roads & 114.75 mi of streams
- Pasture 4.3%, Forest 92.5%, Urban 1%



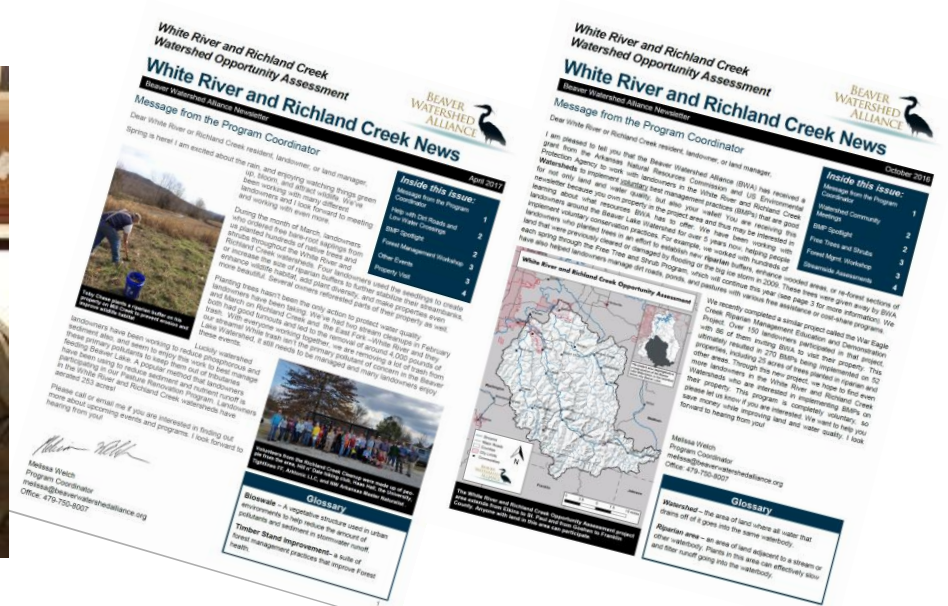
## Richland Creek

- 93,333 acres
- 283.3 mi of roads & 189 mi of streams
- Pasture 24%, Forest 67%, Urban 2%



# Our Approach

- In the beginning
  - 14 Focus Group Meetings
  - Established connections with major stakeholders in watersheds
  - 47 Attendees
- 7 bi-monthly newsletters sent to over 4,500 landowners
- 9 monthly eNews sent to landowners



# Learning Process

- Watersheds have different perspectives
  - Headwaters more reserved
  - Richland Creek, Lake Sequoyah, and Middle Fork Watershed Landowners more open
  - All are excited about protecting water quality
  - Why care about Beaver Lake?
    - Don't have rural water



# Building Connections

- Network of Landowners was Slow Building
  - Landowners talked to neighbors
  - Some watersheds have closed off communities
- Tree and Shrub Program
  - Interested the majority of landowners
  - 30 landowners utilized our bare-root seedling giveaway



# Successful Programs

- **Forest Management Workshop - December 2016**
  - 44 participants listened to presentations from AGFC, NRCS, and Devereux & Associates LLC
- **Streamside Management Workshop - March 2017**
  - 50 participants listened to presentations from WCRC, U.S. Fish and Wildlife, and BWA
- **Forest and Wildlife Management Demo – May 2017**
  - 9 participants learned about thinning and other TSI practices



# Successful Programs

- Five Major Cleanups

- Lake Sequoyah Cleanup
- Richland Creek Cleanup – 2,920 lb
- East Fork-White River Cleanup – 400 lb (20 lb)
- Middle Fork-White River Cleanup – 500 lb (80)
- Headwaters of the White River Cleanup – 700 lb





# Supplemental Rain Garden Program

- Rain Garden Academy- April 2017
  - 17 participants learned about the rain gardens and how they improve water quality
- BWA offered rain garden-mini grants to landowners
  - 2 landowners in the White River and Richland Creek watersheds applied for funding



# Community Presence

## County Calendar Madison County

### Bluegrass Gospel Jam in St. Paul

There will be a Bluegrass Gospel Jam in St. Paul at the Activity Center beginning at 6 p.m., March 18. Potluck style snacks appreciated.

### Madison County Quorum Court meeting

The Madison County Quorum Court will meet for its monthly meeting at 6 p.m. on Monday, March 20, at the Madison County Courthouse.

### 3rd annual White River Cleanup

The Beaver Watershed Alliance will host the 3rd Annual East Fork of the White River Cleanup, to be held from 9 a.m. to noon on Saturday, March 25. Volunteer check-in will be at Bunch Park in Elkins and the cleanup will take place along targeted areas of the river. Lunch and door prizes will be available for volunteers after the

**Discovery Farm Day**  
Saturday, April 19  
9 am - 12 pm  
Elkins, AR

Learn about the Discovery Farm Program and Protecting Water Quality on Your Farm!

Beaver Watershed Alliance  
Please RSVP 479-750-8007  
info@beaverwatershedalliance.org

Arkansas Discovery Farms

THURSDAY, MAY 18, 2017

THE MADISON COUNTY RECORD

## Volunteers needed for May 27 cleanup

Submitted Volunteer check-in begins

6D SUNDAY, MARCH 19, 2017

### River cleanup needs workers

The third annual East Fork of the White River Cleanup will be held from 9 a.m. to noon Saturday.

Volunteers will register at Bunch Park in Elkins. Then they will fan out to stations along the river. Volunteers will be provided lunch and have the chance to win door prizes from local sponsors.

All participants will be supplied with trash bags,

District, Patagonia, Butterball, Boston Mountain Solid Waste District, Cargill, Pack Rat, Arkansas Natural Resources Commission, EPA, and Coca-Cola.

To volunteer, please call or email Melissa at 479-750-8007 or melissa@beaverwatershedalliance.org.

The Beaver Watershed Alliance is formed of a diverse

### Streamside Management Workshop to be held in Elkins Saturday

The Beaver Watershed Alliance (BWA) will be hosting a Streamside Management Workshop on Saturday, March 18, at Elkins Community Center, 162 Doolin Dr., Elkins, AR. Experts from a Streamside Management Center and the U.S. and NWS&C partners will

## Briefly

Kappa Alpha Theta recently celebrated their Founders Day with a luncheon at Springdale County Club. A donation was made to CASA.

### WATERSHED EKS HANDS

After the cleanup, volunteers will return to Goshen Community Building where they will be served a lunch provided by Weichert Realtors-The Griffin Company and will have the chance to win door prizes provided by event sponsors.

All participants will be supplied with trash bags, maps to cleanup locations and gloves. This event is open to families, church groups, scout groups, civic clubs, students and people of all ages. Volunteers can also conduct the cleanup by boat put-in and take-out information will be available.

Information: (479) 750-8007 or email info@beaverwatershedalliance.org.

### RSVP OFFERS TAX SERVICES

The WestArk RSVP, a local organization of volunteers 55 years of age or older, is proud to partner with the IRS to offer Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program (VITA) and Tax Counseling for the Elderly (TCE) services. This is the tenth year free tax assistance has been available from RSVP members. Last year WestArk VITA/TCE volunteers prepared and electronically filed 14% of

the free VITA federal tax returns in Arkansas. IRS certified VITA/TCE volunteers receive training to help prepare free basic federal and state (Arkansas and Oklahoma) income tax returns and also offer free electronic filing. Income limit for free tax assistance is \$54,000 unless you or your spouse is 60 or older, or received unemployment compensation in 2015, or is currently unemployed, or is active duty military. For a complete list of locations visit westarkrsvp.org. Information: (479) 783-4155.

## Rain Garden Academy

Saturday, April 1  
9 am - 12 pm  
Goshen Community Bldg., 244 Clark St. Elkins, AR

Please RSVP 479-750-8007 or becky@beaverwatershedalliance.org

BEAVER WATERSHED ALLIANCE

## County Calendar Madison County

### Coggins Clinic at the Huntsville Rodeo Grounds

The Huntsville Riding Club, along with the Huntsville Vet Clinic, will host a Coggins Clinic, Saturday, March 4, from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m., at the Huntsville Rodeo Grounds. Along with the equine vaccines, there will also be dog vaccines available. For more information, call: Aaron Baker 479-225-3035, Lesha Baker 479-422-7158 or Alyson Wilson 479-789-4523.

### Streamside Management Workshop

The Streamside Management Workshop, hosted by Beaver Watershed Alliance will be Saturday, March 4, at 9 a.m. at the Elkins Community Center (162 Doolin Dr.). Participants will learn how to establish and increase the health of their riparian buffers along streams and rivers

## Teamwork for trees

NWA Democrat-Gazette/ANDY SHULPE

Neta Winston (from left), Carol Gullay, Jan Judy and Danny Smith plant a willow oak tree Friday near Elkins High School. The group are members of the Washington County Master Gardeners and were working with the Beaver Watershed Alliance to plant trees on School District property

## 2017 FREE SPEAKER SERIES

Investing in Water Supply Protection in NWA

Elkins Community Center - 162 Doolin Dr., Elkins, AR

THURSDAY, FEB. 23 FROM 11:30 A.M. TO 1 P.M.

### Maintaining High Quality of Life in Your Community & Protecting Water Quality

Presentation by guest speaker Brian Teague, Owner Community by Design

## PLEASE RSVP - 479.750.8007

or info@beaverwatershedalliance.org

FREE LUNCH

# Project Numbers So Far

- 536 Participating Landowners
- 64 Site Assessments
- 136 BMPs Implemented
  - 1,005 acres Aerated
  - 7 acres of Riparian Buffer Established
  - 61 acres of Upland Habitat Reforested
- 26 Demonstration Sites Established
- Open-Space Neighborhood Collaboration



# Project Numbers So Far

- 751.75 Volunteer Hours
  - About \$17,700 of \$50,000 needed
- 3 Special Interest Meetings
- 5 Stream Cleanups
- 9 Native Tree Plantings
- 7 Newsletters and 15 Mass Mailings
- 4 Rain Garden Stewardship Events



# Big Issues



# Erosion Estimates



# Rounding the Corner

- Snowball Effect
  - More Site Visits
- Increasing the Number of Demonstration Sites
- More Programs Planned:
  - Forest Management Workshop
  - Beaver Lake Watershed Symposium
  - Streamside Management Workshop
  - 10 WROA Meetings
    - Maps being made
    - Areas not being reached?



# Thanks to Our Partners & Sponsors:



WATERSHED CONSERVATION  
RESOURCE CENTER



Beaver Water District



ARKANSAS WATER  
RESOURCES CENTER



Boston Mountain  
SOLID WASTE DISTRICT

