



Project No. WRI - 119

Project Title: Development and Presentation of Current Water Quality Data for the Public

Recipient: West Virginia University

Principle Investigator: Paul Ziemkiewicz
paul.ziemkiewicz@mail.wvu.edu
(304) 293-2867 x 5441

Co-Investigators: Melissa J. O'Neal
melissa.o'neal@mail.wvu.edu
(304) 293-2867 x 5439

Funding: Total Value \$77,191.89

Project Duration: 3/1/2009 – 2/28/2010

Project Description:

While there is currently a great deal of water quality data available, and more is regularly collected by various organizations, there is no central clearing house or means to allow the public, or each other, to have access to it. The West Virginia Water Research Institute will work to identify and compile existing water quality data for the Monongahela River, collect additional data as necessary, and present this data in a useful and user friendly manner on a website using a Geographic Information System database.

The WVWRI will establish a working relationship between the WV Department of Natural Resources, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Allegheny Energy, the Morgantown Utility Board and watershed associations associated with the WV Watershed Network. Water quality data is useful to these groups as well as to anglers and other users of the Monongahela River who would benefit from having information about current water quality conditions. This database will compile available data and make it readily available to identify upsets in water quality, help to eliminate duplicative sampling efforts, allow evaluation of historic water quality trends, and provide a framework for other data sources. Identified data gaps and needs may then be filled by a monitoring program initiated through a cooperative effort between cooperators, researchers from the WVWRI and local watershed associations.

Statistical analysis will compare current water quality to historic conditions and determine a simple, user-friendly, color-coded ranking of the general health of the fishery in any given location. This will help anglers, for example, estimate fishing success on the Monongahela River, Tygart Lake, Cheat Lake or Stonewall Jackson Lake, all located in the Monongahela River Watershed. Besides providing this information in an easy to use format on a website, this information will also be presented in the Morgantown Dominion Post as part of the weekly "Go Fish (WV DNR)" article.