

## **Kings River Watershed Management Plan Executive Summary**

The Kings River Watershed is located in northwestern Arkansas and southwestern Missouri and makes up a portion of the Upper White River Basin. The Kings River is the third largest tributary to Table Rock Lake in Missouri. This river drains approximately 591 square miles of a predominantly rural land area. There is only one incorporated city located entirely within the watershed boundaries, that being Berryville, Arkansas.

The lower reach of Osage Creek, the largest tributary of the Kings River, has been placed on the final 2002 Arkansas 303(d) list for not supporting its aquatic life designated use with the primary cause being total phosphorus. The draft TMDL written for this reach found that the primary source of elevated phosphorus concentrations is the City of Berryville wastewater treatment plant. The Kings River and all of its other tributaries are considered to be supporting their designated uses. However, the Kings River flows into Table Rock Lake, which is considered to be impaired due to excessive levels of nutrients (primarily phosphorus). The Arkansas Unified Watershed Assessment selected the Beaver Reservoir watershed, which includes the Kings River watershed, as the top priority for the implementation of watershed restoration practices.

The Kings River Watershed Partnership (KRWP), a nonprofit group committed to protecting the environmental and economic components of the watershed through a locally based effort, is striving to further scientific study, education, and the cooperation of all users of the Kings River and its tributaries. In 2004, the KRWP partnered with the Upper White River Basin Foundation to write a watershed plan for the Kings River Watershed. The KRWP held a series of 15 planning meetings and involved over 60 people in a two year process to determine water quality concerns, recommend restoration action strategies, and pin-point funding and partnering possibilities.

This watershed plan is meant to outline recommended educational curriculum, monitoring programs, and voluntary land use management measures coupled with the necessary scientific/technical analyses and cost estimates. This plan will primarily be used by the KRWP to direct and prioritize its activities to improve water quality in the most economically efficient and environmentally effective way possible. It is hoped that other partners and stakeholder groups within the watershed will implement the plan's recommended actions and take part in the activities of the KRWP as outlined in the plan.

Identified concerns include (listed in no particular order):

1. Sediment
2. Nutrients (primarily phosphorus)
3. Pesticides, Herbicides, and other Toxic Substances
4. Bacteria and other Pathogens
5. Habitat alterations
6. Illegal dumping
7. Education
8. Property Rights