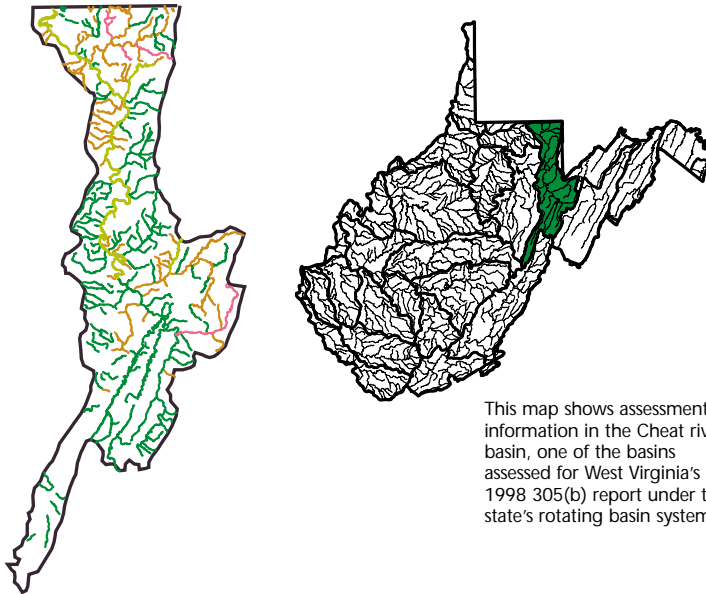


# West Virginia



- Segment 80% - 100% Fully Supporting
- Segment 50% - 79% Fully Supporting
- Segment 20% - 49% Fully Supporting
- Segment 0% - 19% Fully Supporting
- Basin Boundaries  
(USGS 6-Digit Hydrologic Unit)

This map depicts aquatic life use support status.

This map shows assessment information in the Cheat river basin, one of the basins assessed for West Virginia's 1998 305(b) report under the state's rotating basin system.

For a copy of the West Virginia 1998 305(b) report, contact:

## Mike Arcuri

West Virginia Division of  
Environmental Protection  
Office of Water Resources  
1201 Greenbrier Street  
Charleston, WV 25311  
(304) 558-2108  
e-mail: marcuri@mail.dep.state.  
wv.us

The report is also available on the Internet at: <http://www.dep.state.wv.us/wv/pubs.html>

## Surface Water Quality

West Virginia reported that 51% of their assessed river and stream miles have good water quality that fully supports aquatic life uses, and 82% fully support swimming. In lakes, 32% of the assessed acres have good water quality that fully supports aquatic life uses and 100% fully support swimming.

Metals and siltation are the most common water quality problems in West Virginia's rivers. Nutrients, pH, oxygen-depleting substances, and pathogens also

impair a large number of river miles. In lakes, siltation, turbidity, metals, and nutrients impair the greatest number of acres. Resource extraction, primarily abandoned mining, impaired the most stream miles, followed by agriculture, forestry, and municipal point sources. Petroleum activities were the leading source of degraded water quality in lakes, followed by agriculture, forestry, and construction.

West Virginia reported that fish consumption advisories are posted for the Kanawha River, Pocatalico River, Armour Creek, Ohio River, Shenandoah River, North Branch of the Potomac River, the Potomac River, and Flat Fork Creek. Five of the advisories were issued because of elevated dioxin concentrations in bottom feeders or nonsport species. The other advisories address PCBs, chlordane, and dioxin in suckers, carp, and channel catfish.

West Virginia did not report on the condition of wetlands.

## Ground Water Quality

West Virginia ranked mining and mine drainage as the highest priority source of ground water contamination in the state, followed by municipal landfills, surface water impoundments (including oil and gas brine pits), abandoned hazardous waste sites, and industrial landfills. West Virginia has documented or suspects that ground water has been contaminated by pesticides, petroleum compounds, other organic chemicals, bacteria, nitrates, brine/salinity, arsenic, and other metals.

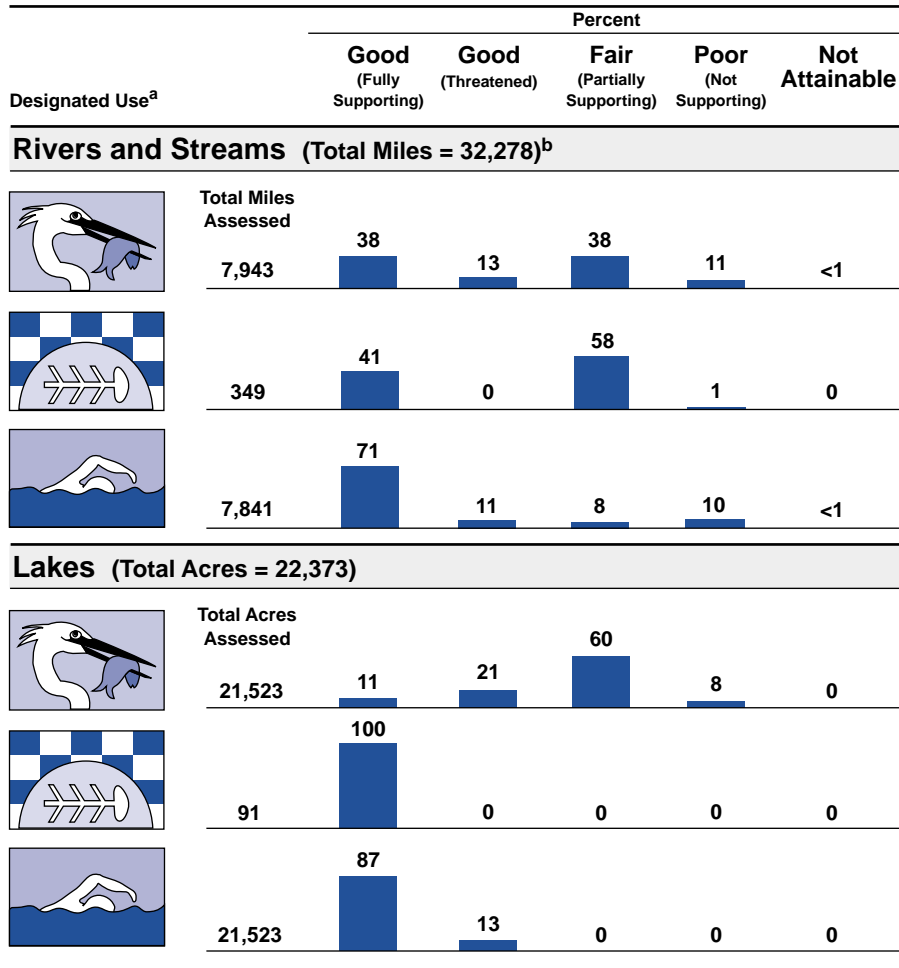
## Programs to Restore Water Quality

The Office of Water Resources (OWR) is the lead agency for West Virginia's nonpoint source program. OWR works with other cooperating state agencies to assess nonpoint source impacts, then develops and implements projects designed to reduce pollutant loads from agricultural, forestry, resource extraction, urban runoff, hydromodification, and construction activities. Program initiatives are based on education, technical assistance, financial incentives, and demonstration projects. Current projects address nutrient management from livestock operations, erosion control, neutralization of acid mine drainage, pesticide usage, and road stabilization.

## Programs to Assess Water Quality

West Virginia's surface water monitoring program includes compliance inspections, intensive site-specific surveys, ambient water quality monitoring, monitoring of contaminant levels in aquatic organisms, benthic and toxicity monitoring to assess perturbations, and special surveys and investigations. The state's Watershed Assessment Program (WAP) is charged with evaluating the health of West Virginia's watersheds. WAP assesses the health of a watershed by evaluating as many streams as possible, as close to their mouths as possible. The program collects and interprets water quality and biological information on watersheds on a 5-year rotating cycle. WAP began evaluating random sites in each watershed beginning in 1997.

## Individual Use Support in West Virginia



<sup>a</sup> A subset of West Virginia's designated uses appear in this figure. Refer to the state's 305(b) report for a full description of the state's uses.

<sup>b</sup> Includes nonperennial streams that dry up and do not flow all year.

Note: Figures may not add to 100% due to rounding.