

## Elkhorn Creek/Tug Fork River Watershed

### Introduction

The watershed is 210,347 acres (329 square miles) in size located in McDowell County. Residents in the Elkhorn Creek/Tug Fork River Watershed experience repetitive flooding because of steep topography, rapid runoff, narrow floodplains, and concentrated development in the valleys. Dams, floodwalls, stream realignment, dikes, and other structural options are not feasible. A voluntary floodplain buyout in designated areas is the recommended alternative.



### Watershed Project Information

Five areas were identified as priority areas for a voluntary floodplain buyout. Those areas include:

- Hunting Shirt Bottom
- Vivian Bottom/Landgraff/Eckman
- Roderfield
- Big Sandy
- Panther

The purpose of this project is flood prevention and flood damage reduction. The goal is to remove at least 30 properties through voluntary participation. The scope of the project is small to minimize social impacts to the communities and fiscal impacts to Local Sponsor.

**USDA NRCS is the lead federal agency**

**Total Project Cost \$2,824,600**  
**\$2,817,600 Federal / \$7,000 Nonfederal**

### Sponsors

#### SPONSORING LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS:

McDowell County Commission  
 Southern Conservation District of West Virginia

#### SPONSORED AND PREPARED BY:

Land Use and Sustainable Development Law Clinic,  
 West Virginia University College of Law

### Resource Concerns

The topography in the watershed consists of steep mountains with narrow ridgetops and deep valleys which are prone to destructive flooding. Other concerns in the watershed include health and safety of people, water quality, watershed resiliency, riparian and stream habitat damage, social and economic sustainability, cultural resources, and environmental justice.

### Benefits

- Reduced flooding to homes
- Reduced flood debris and cleanup costs
- Improved water quality and reduced fecal coliform pollution
- Improved safety for residents
- Reduced emergency services needs
- Improved potential for recreational use
- Improved stream habitat and watershed resiliency



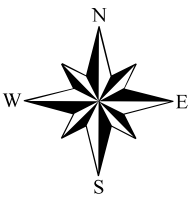
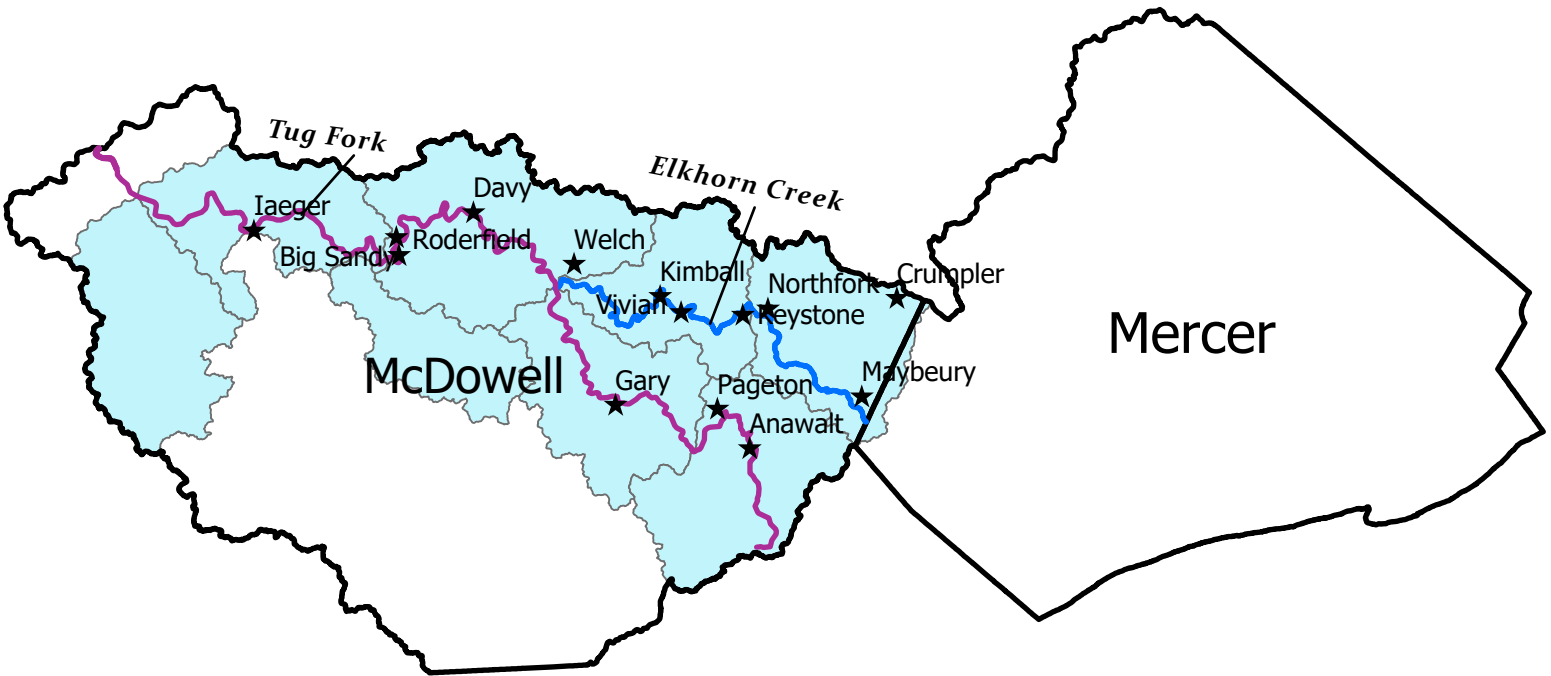
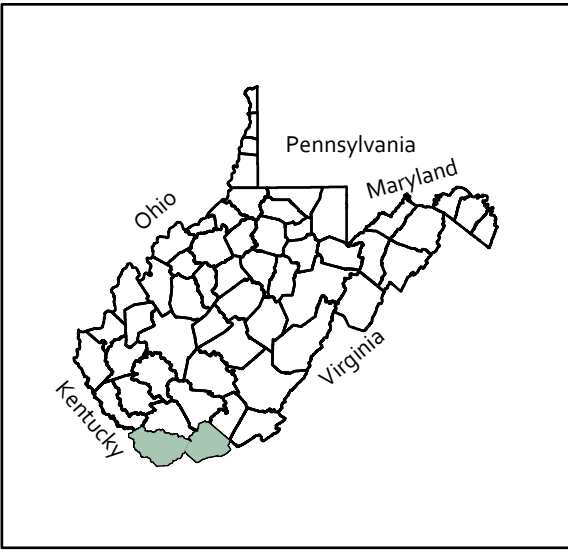
### Timeline

**Planning: 2018 through 2022**

**Application & Selection of Properties: Spring 2023**

**Acquisition and Demolition: Fall 2023 through 2024**





Elkhorn Creek-Tug Fork Watershed  
McDowell and Mercer Counties  
West Virginia

