



# West Fork White River Watershed Project

PL83-566



## OVERVIEW

The West Fork of the White River (WFWR) Watershed Project addresses critical watershed scale erosion and improves water quality, riparian areas, and aquatic habitats in the West Fork White River and its tributaries within the West Fork White River Watershed. This watershed flows into Beaver Lake in Northwest Arkansas, the primary drinking water source serving approximately 450,000 residents.

The project builds upon a 2016 Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) designed to address water quality concerns in the WFWR Watershed. The RCPP project provided financial and technical assistance to agricultural producers to implement conservation practices to address the resource concerns. Several stream and streambank restoration projects were implemented utilizing natural channel design principles on smaller tributaries utilizing EQIP.

The RCPP project also received PL-566 funds to develop a watershed plan and restore larger unstable sections of the WFWR including the channel, riparian, and riverine depressions utilizing natural channel design methods.

## PROJECT GOALS

Restoration of these areas will prevent the need for expensive water treatment in the future, restore aquatic and terrestrial habitat, improve water quality and promote recreational use



**(Above) Streambank erosion on the West Fork of the White River near the Fayetteville Executive Airport before (below) a PL-566 funded restoration project.**



of WFWR both locally and regionally.

Work on this project includes river restoration using natural channel design processes to prevent erosion, restoring and establishing aquatic habitats and improving water quality. Sections previously completed are showing significant reductions in sediment loadings to the watershed after restoration has been completed.

## **PARTNERS**

The project is a joint effort between the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Watershed Conservation Resource Center, Beaver Water District, Walton Family Foundation, Beaver Watershed Alliance, and several other partners who participated in the RCPP planning team. The watershed project builds upon 15 years of planning and design by established local partnerships to reduce sediment and improve water quality for the WFWR and Beaver Lake.

## **FOR MORE INFORMATION**

For more information about the West Fork of the White River Watershed Project or NRCS Watershed Program, contact Randy Childress at (501) 301-3131 or visit the NRCS Arkansas Web site at: [www.ar.nrcs.usda.gov](http://www.ar.nrcs.usda.gov).



**(Above) Streambank erosion on the West Fork of the White River. (Below) Restoration work through the PL-566 project reduces sediment in the WFWR.**



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