



Flood Cleanup Continues; Greenbrier Channel Restoration Planned

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The West Virginia Conservation Agency, with its federal, state and local partners, is continuing efforts to clear and stabilize streams in flood-devastated areas of the state.

Over the next four weeks, excavating contractors LD Hanna and Son will clear streams in affected areas of Greenbrier County. The firm is based in Lewisburg. WVCA technicians will oversee the work and provide technical assistance.

Of particular concern in Greenbrier County is Howard's Creek, a stream that runs through the heart of White Sulphur Springs and was improved and stabilized in the late 1980s to better handle stormwater. The WVCA and Greenbrier Valley Conservation District are currently conducting the first phase of streamside cleanup of the channel. In addition, WVCA and GBVCD **will restore the channel** to its original condition as part of the second phase of flood recovery. The project is expected to take about 200 days.

WVCA Executive Director Brian Farkas said cleanup will take time, but emphasized that the WVCA is putting all available resources to the task.

The Kanawha County Commission has taken the lead in hiring excavating contractors for stream work. The WVCA will provide support and technical assistance to contractors in Kanawha County.

Twenty-two of the WVCA's flood control watershed dams were affected by the massive storm, and all performed as they were designed. **No dams were breached during the flood.**

Gene Saurborn, WVCA director of watershed projects, said the devastation would have been much worse if not for the dams, which hold back massive amounts of flood water and allow them to slowly drain over time.

"The Howard's Creek No. 12 dam (known locally as Tuckahoe Lake) particularly performed as designed under heavy rains, and it saved the White Sulphur Springs area from further damage," Saurborn said.

The dams affected are: Brush Creek Nos. 4, 5, 6, 7A, 9, 10, 12, 14, 15, and 19A; Daves Fork/Christians Fork 1-3; Saltlick Creek 4, 6, 7, 8 and 9; Big Ditch Run; Elk Twomile Creek 12-14; and Blakes Armour.

To report a stream blockage call 1-866-UC-FLOOD (823-5663).