



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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#### NEW PROGRAM ASSISTS LANDOWNERS IN THE KNAPPS CREEK WATERSHED WITH SEPTIC PROBLEMS

POCAHONTAS COUNTY, W.Va. - A new program is being offered to assist landowners in the Knapps Creek Watershed to address septic system issues. Applications are available at the Pocahontas County Health Department and will be accepted beginning March 2.

The Knapps Creek Septic Program is voluntary and will provide financial assistance to landowners in the Knapps Creek Watershed for 75 percent, up to \$5,000, for the cost of repairs or replacements of septic systems. In addition, the program will pay 50 percent, up to \$125, for the cost of pumping septic systems.

“Monitoring data has shown us that Knapps Creek is an impaired stream,” said Dennis Burns, conservation specialist with the West Virginia Conservation Agency. “The major pollutant in Knapps Creek is fecal coliform bacteria and one of the major contributing factors are failing septic systems in the watershed. The Knapps Creek Septic Program is designed to assist landowners in the watershed in replacing, repairing or pumping their failing septic systems.”

Knapps Creek has been listed by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) as a stream that is impaired for fecal coliform bacteria. One nonpoint source of this has been identified as failing septic systems. This program will provide a total of \$79,497 for cost share assistance with landowners who need to repair, replace, or pump failing septic systems. The EPA recommends that citizens have their septic tanks inspected and pumped out, on average, every three to five years by a licensed septic tank contractor. For more information about the Knapps Creek Septic Program, contact the Greenbrier Valley Conservation District at 304-645-6173 or the Pocahontas County Water Task Force at 304-653-4845.

The Knapps Creek Septic Program is a cooperative effort between the Greenbrier Valley Conservation District, Pocahontas County Health Department, Pocahontas County Water Resource Task Force, West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection, USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service and the West Virginia Conservation Agency.

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