



# The Watershed Initiative



*Encouraging Successful Partnerships to Protect  
And Restore Water Resources*

*“Through policies and programs that recognize regional differences and empower individuals to be good stewards of the earth, we can and will meet the environmental challenges of the future”*

*President George W. Bush*

## What is the Watershed Initiative?

The Watershed Initiative was conceived to encourage successful community-based approaches to restore, preserve, and protect the nation’s watersheds. This new competitive grant program is a bold approach to watershed management in that it will provide needed resources to those watershed organizations whose restoration plans are ripe, and who are anxious to achieve quick, yet tangible environmental change. This year, Congress appropriated \$15 million for the Initiative.

## Selecting Outstanding Watersheds

EPA conducted a national competition to select up to 20 of the nation’s most deserving watersheds to receive this funding through Watershed Initiative grants. In August 2002, EPA invited Governors and Tribal Leaders to nominate their most meritorious watersheds. In response, EPA received 176 nominations including projects in every state, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. Regional and National experts reviewed and evaluated the nominations from this highly competitive field. The watersheds were chosen based upon the watershed organization’s demonstrated ability to achieve on-the-ground environmental results in a short time frame. Each proposal also had to exhibit strong partnerships with support, show innovation in their watershed plans, and demonstrate compatibility with existing governmental programs.

## The Selected Watersheds

Ultimately, 20 watersheds were chosen. These outstanding watersheds are: the Meduxnekeag River, Narragansett Bay, the Charles River, the Raritan River, the Susquehanna Headwaters, the Christina River, Dunkard Creek, the Upper Tennessee River, the Cumberland River, the Great Miami River, the Greater Blue Earth Watershed, the Manistee River, the Rio Puerco Watershed, the Bayou Bartholomew, Rathbun Lake, the Upper White Watershed, the Clark Fork-Pend Oreille Watershed, the Upper South Platte, Hanalei Bay, and the Lower Columbia River.

The winning watersheds cover more than 90,000 square miles of the nation’s lakes, rivers and streams. They represent our country’s unique and varied landscape – from the forests of Maine to the tropics of Hawaii. These watersheds reside in urban and rural areas, encompass agricultural land, and are often threatened by suburban sprawl. Funds will go toward restoration and protection projects, such as stream stabilization and habitat enhancement, implementing agricultural best management practices, and working with local governments and homeowners to promote sustainable practices and strategies. Grants will range between \$300,000 to \$1 million.



## Targeted Watersheds for 2003

Watershed Name	Lead Organization & Contact	Location
◆ The Meduxnekeag River	Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians Brenda Commander: 207-532-4273	ME
◆ Narragansett Bay	Partnership for Narragansett Bay <a href="http://www.ci.uri.edu/Projects/PNB/default.html">http://www.ci.uri.edu/Projects/PNB/default.html</a>	RI, MA
◆ The Charles River;	Charles River Watershed Association <a href="http://www.crrwa.org/">http://www.crrwa.org/</a>	MA
◆ The Raritan River Basin	Stony Brook - Millstone Watershed Association <a href="http://www.thewatershed.org/">http://www.thewatershed.org/</a>	NJ
◆ The Susquehanna Headwaters	Upper Susquehanna Coalition James Curatolo: 607-546-2528	NY, PA
◆ The Christina River;	Christina Basin Partnership <a href="http://www.wr.udel.edu/publicservice/chbasin.html">http://www.wr.udel.edu/publicservice/chbasin.html</a>	PA, DE
◆ Dunkard Creek	Greene County Watershed Alliance <a href="http://www.greenewatersheds.org">http://www.greenewatersheds.org</a>	PA, WV
◆ The Upper Tennessee River	Upper Tennessee River Roundtable <a href="http://www.uppertrriver.org/">http://www.uppertrriver.org/</a>	VA, TN, NC
◆ The Cumberland River	Cumberland River Compact <a href="http://www.cumberlandrivercompact.org/">http://www.cumberlandrivercompact.org/</a>	TN, KY
◆ The Great Miami River	Miami Conservancy District <a href="http://www.conservancy.com/">http://www.conservancy.com/</a>	OH
◆ The Greater Blue Earth	Three Rivers Resource Conservation and Development Council Joe Doherty: 507-345-7418	MN, IA
◆ The Manistee River	Little River Band of Ottawa Indians Paul Ripple: 231-723-1586	MI
◆ The Rio Puerco Watershed	Rio Puerco Management Committee Steve Fischer: 505-761-8993	NM
◆ Bayou Bartholomew	Winrock International <a href="http://www.winrock.org">http://www.winrock.org</a>	AR
◆ Rathbun Lake	Rathbun Land and Water Alliance <a href="http://www.rlwa.org">http://www.rlwa.org</a>	IA
◆ The Upper White	Upper White River Basin Foundation <a href="http://216.114.79.58/~uwrbf/index.shtml">http://216.114.79.58/~uwrbf/index.shtml</a>	AR, MO
◆ The Clark Fork-Pend Oreille	Tri-State Water Quality Council <a href="http://www.tristatecouncil.org/index.html">http://www.tristatecouncil.org/index.html</a>	MT, ID, WA
◆ The Upper South Platte	Coalition for the Upper South Platte <a href="http://www.uppersouthplatte.net/">http://www.uppersouthplatte.net/</a>	CO
◆ Hanalei Bay	Hanalei Heritage River Program <a href="http://www.hanaleiriver.org/">http://www.hanaleiriver.org/</a>	HI
◆ The Lower Columbia River	Lower Columbia River and Estuary Partnership <a href="http://www.lcrep.org/">http://www.lcrep.org/</a>	OR, WA

For more information on EPA's Watershed Initiative, please visit:  
<http://www.epa.gov/owow/watershed/initiative>