



It's Our Water!

(Join us and schedule a workshop TODAY!)

N.C. Division of Water
Resources

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Your Drinking Water Supply



Water systems have to submit water supply plans to the N.C. Division of Water Resources every five years. These plans are an assessment of a water system's current and future water needs and its ability to meet those needs. As part of these plans, water supply systems outline where the system gets its water (surface or wells). They also have projections of how future demand compares to that water supply over the next 50 years.

You can view these plans at: www.ncwater.org. Please note that the 2008 plans are still becoming available. If you do not see your community water system, please scroll to the 2002 plans.

When you are studying the larger river basin your IOW study stream lies within, check out how your drinking water fits into that system. Does it come directly from your adopted waterway, from a larger river or does it come from groundwater? What is the demand for that water as compared to the available supply? Is your water system likely to experience water shortages in the near or distant future? What effects might that have on your community and your study stream? What options does your community have to make its water go farther?

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"Acts of conservation without the requisite desires and skills are futile. To create these desires and skills and the community motive, is the task of education."

-- Aldo Leopold





In the News: What is an Interbasin Transfer?



Municipal water systems that use surface water provide drinking water to cities and towns by withdrawing raw water (from a river, stream, or reservoir), treating it at drinking water plants, and then sending it through water lines to be used by the community. Once the water is used, it is often sent through a network of collection systems to a wastewater treatment plant where it is treated and then discharged to a nearby water body. In this way, most of the water removed from a river or stream is somehow returned, if not to the same river, then to the same river basin from where it was first removed. The water remains available for aquatic life, other drinking water systems, hydroelectric power and recreation.

In an interbasin transfer, water is moved from one river basin to another. Transfers come about because many cities and towns in North Carolina are large enough to span multiple basins. The water treatment plant may be in one part of the community, but the wastewater treatment plant may be across town in a different portion of the community and in an entirely different river basin. Or a town may become so large that it outgrows its water supply and needs to find other resources for its residents.

Interbasin transfers can be very controversial, because they permanently remove water from one river basin and provide it to another. This reduction can potentially pose a number of both ecological and economic concerns to the source basin. These concerns can include effects to water supply, wastewater assimilation, water quality, aquatic life, and others.

Because of these concerns, North Carolina's Legislature has adopted laws to govern interbasin transfers. These laws ensure that transfers are handled in such a way that they have minimal impact on downstream users and the environment. For more information in interbasin transfers, visit: www.ncwater.org.

This article was written by Toya Ogallo, a water resource engineer with the N.C. Division of Water Resources. She is responsible for working with communities that apply for interbasin transfer permits. This is just one career path for those students that wish to pursue degrees in natural resource management or engineering.



N.C. Division of Water Resources

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It's Our Water!...

- Is a North Carolina-specific high school Earth/ Environmental Science curriculum and resource guide for North Carolina students and teachers. It covers the importance of water quality and quantity, monitoring and maintaining water quality, and the impacts individual choices and actions have on water quality.
- Centers around field activities in a local stream that leads to a final report and recommendations by the class, coordinated with a series of videos, demonstrations, classroom activities, homework and quizzes.
- Is aligned with the new (2004) North Carolina Standard Course of Study for **high school Earth/Environmental Science**.

Would You Like to Host an It's Our Water! Workshop?

All you need to do is...

- Gather up 10 high school science teachers from your school or district.
- Pick a workday or other day you can meet for 6 — 10 hours.
- Find a place to have this meeting.
- Ask the school district or another sponsor to pay \$25 each for your materials (Including: It's Our Water! DVD and Curriculum Guide, Project WET, Healthy Water Healthy People Testing Kit Manual, and NC River Basin Booklet with inserts and posters, and more).
- Contact Holly Denham (holly.denham@ncdenr.gov), who will arrange for another facilitator or herself to come to your facility and work with your group learning about It's Our Water!



Educators learn about macro-invertebrate sampling in a local stream.