

## **Elks Run 319 Incremental Project**

- Suzy Lucas, WVCA

Elks Run and its major tributary, Elk Branch, were listed on the 303(d) list as impaired for biological criteria and fecal coliform bacteria. The Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) for Selected Streams in the Potomac Direct Drains Watershed, West Virginia (January 2008) addressed these impairments for Elks Run and Elk Branch. It linked the biological impairment to organic enrichment and sedimentation, and prescribed fecal coliform and sediment load reductions from various sources in each of its 11 subwatersheds.

In 2011, WVCA received 319 funding for an incremental project in the Elks Run watershed in Jefferson County, WV. This project is intended to reduce fecal coliform and sediment loads in Elks Run watershed, Jefferson County, WV. The fecal coliform reduction goal is  $7.67 \times 10^{13}$  counts/year, through repair or replacement of 12 onsite sewage systems (septic systems). This grant offers cost share opportunities of 50% up to \$3,000 to upgrade or repair Class I septic systems, and will cost share 50% up to \$4,000 for Class II systems. This project is also providing funding for The Conservation Fund-Freshwater Institute (TCF-FI) to continue developing the GIS and septic risk model it has established to help determine where to implement these and other Best Management Practices (BMPs) with the most success. It will fully fund a small streambank stabilization project, up to \$10,000, which will also provide partners with better information about load reductions that can be expected from future streambank restoration projects in the watershed. In support of this project, the streambanks of the mainstem of Elks Run have been assessed in order to enhance the Watershed Based Plan and identify streambank restoration opportunities. ***A Watershed Based Plan is required for Elks Run Watershed and will be completed soon.***

The Eastern Panhandle Conservation District is administering this grant and continuing to perform education outreach in the watershed in support of the project. The West Virginia Conservation Agency is coordinating the implementation of BMPs, reporting, and the management of the 319-Incremental Grant.