

## **LANDOWNER STREAM ACCESS PERMIT PROGRAM**

**Purpose:** The Landowner Stream Access Permit Program (LSAPP) is a regional permit process designed to provide landowners the opportunity to complete certain types of stream activities with technical assistance from the West Virginia Conservation Agency (WVCA). By cooperating with WVCA, the often-cumbersome permit application process is streamlined, and the landowner is given expert technical advice regarding their proposed stream activities, which may include a project design if necessary.

### **Eligible Activities Include:**

1. Excavation
2. Streambank stabilization
3. Debris removal
4. Channel restoration
5. Maintenance

**Review Process:** The process is started by the landowners contact with their local Conservation District Office. After consultation with the appropriate resource providers, the need for a permit is assessed, and if it is necessary, the landowner develops a plan with WVCA to perform the work. In about two weeks, a WVCA review team will recommend the best course of action for the landowner.

This permit program is promoted as a one-stop shop because the WVCA notifies all other government agency permit programs that may be involved in the process. This would normally require many months of planning and preparation on the part of the landowner.

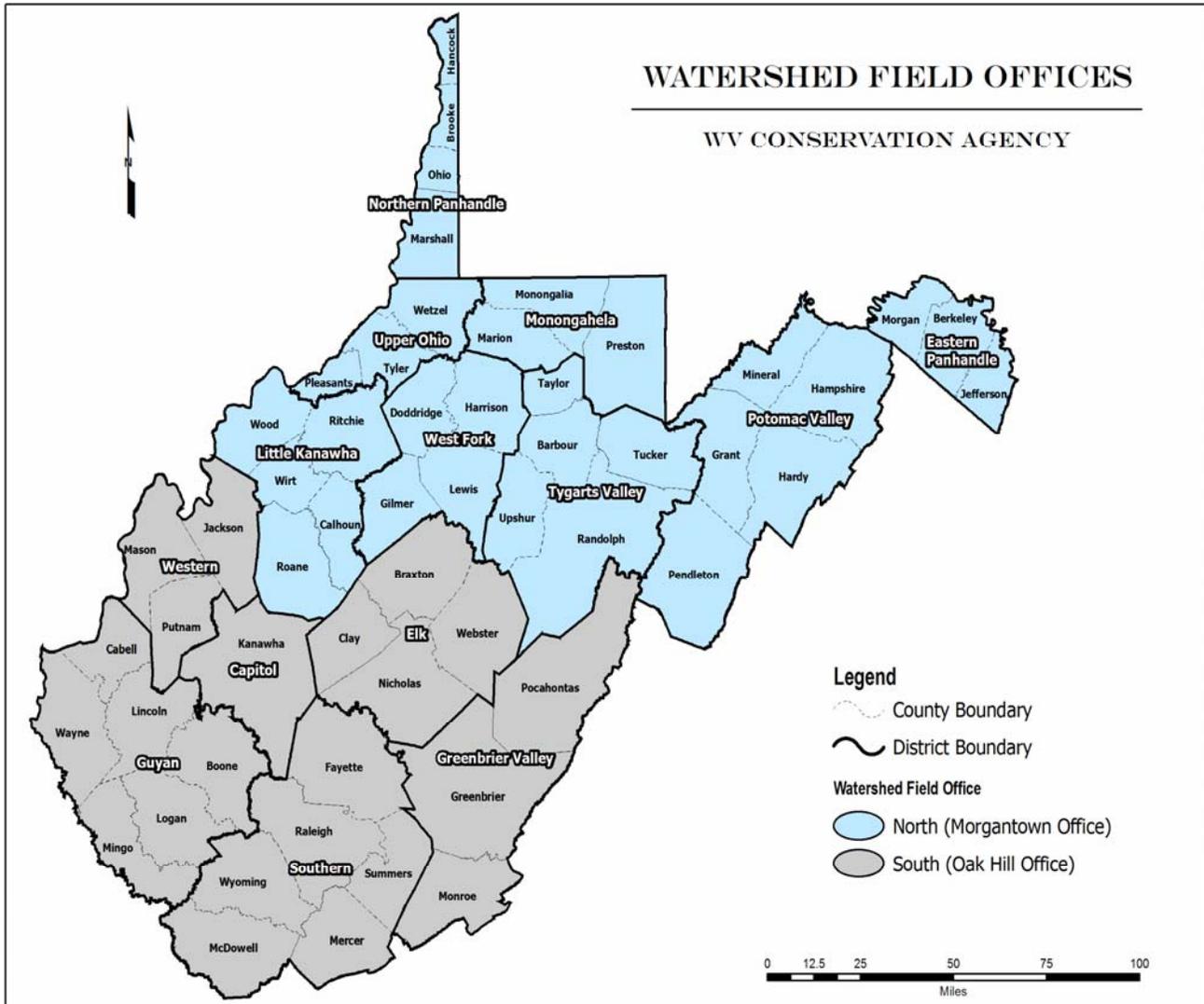
The agencies notified include the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources, Fish Biologists, Stream Design Specialists and Public Lands Corporation; West Virginia Department of Environment Protection's 401 Certification Program; US Army Corps of Engineer's 404 Permit Program; and the US Fish and Wildlife Service, if endangered or threatened species are impacted. In addition, the State Division of Culture and History is notified if important state or cultural resources are known or identified. The WVCA does not notify county floodplain managers or other local organizations.

Following recommendations by the review team, the WVCA submits a plan of work to the appropriate Army Corp of Engineers District and other government agencies. After all parties review the plan, the landowner will receive an approval letter from the Corps of Engineers. Once the landowner receives the letter, work can begin. This process may take as long as one to three months to complete.

**Restrictions and limitations:** There are certain restrictions and/or projects that may not qualify through the LSAPP. Most of these restrictions are based upon the size of the project. Larger projects such as those encompassing greater than 1000 linear feet of stream or the excavation of more than 3000 cubic yards of material will not qualify for the LSAPP. In addition, there are certain restrictions regarding the removal of woody vegetation. In most cases riparian buffer plantings and no disturbance of existing vegetation are important aspects of all projects. Islands that have woody vegetation cannot be disturbed.

**Permit Cost:** There are no fees for this permit program.

**Contact Information:** To find your local Conservation District Office, visit the WVCA on the Internet at: <http://www.wvca.us/districts.cfm> or call the appropriate Watershed Field Office (WFO). The map below indicates the area of coverage for each field office.



Morgantown WFO (304) 285-3118 Servicing Northern WV and the Eastern Panhandle	Oak Hill WFO (304) 469-6415 Servicing Southern WV
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LSAPP information is provided on the Internet at <http://www.lrh.usace.army.mil/permits/>; click on **Regional Permits**. This is a PDF of the public notice document that describes the types of stream restoration work to be performed by the West Virginia Conservation Agency.