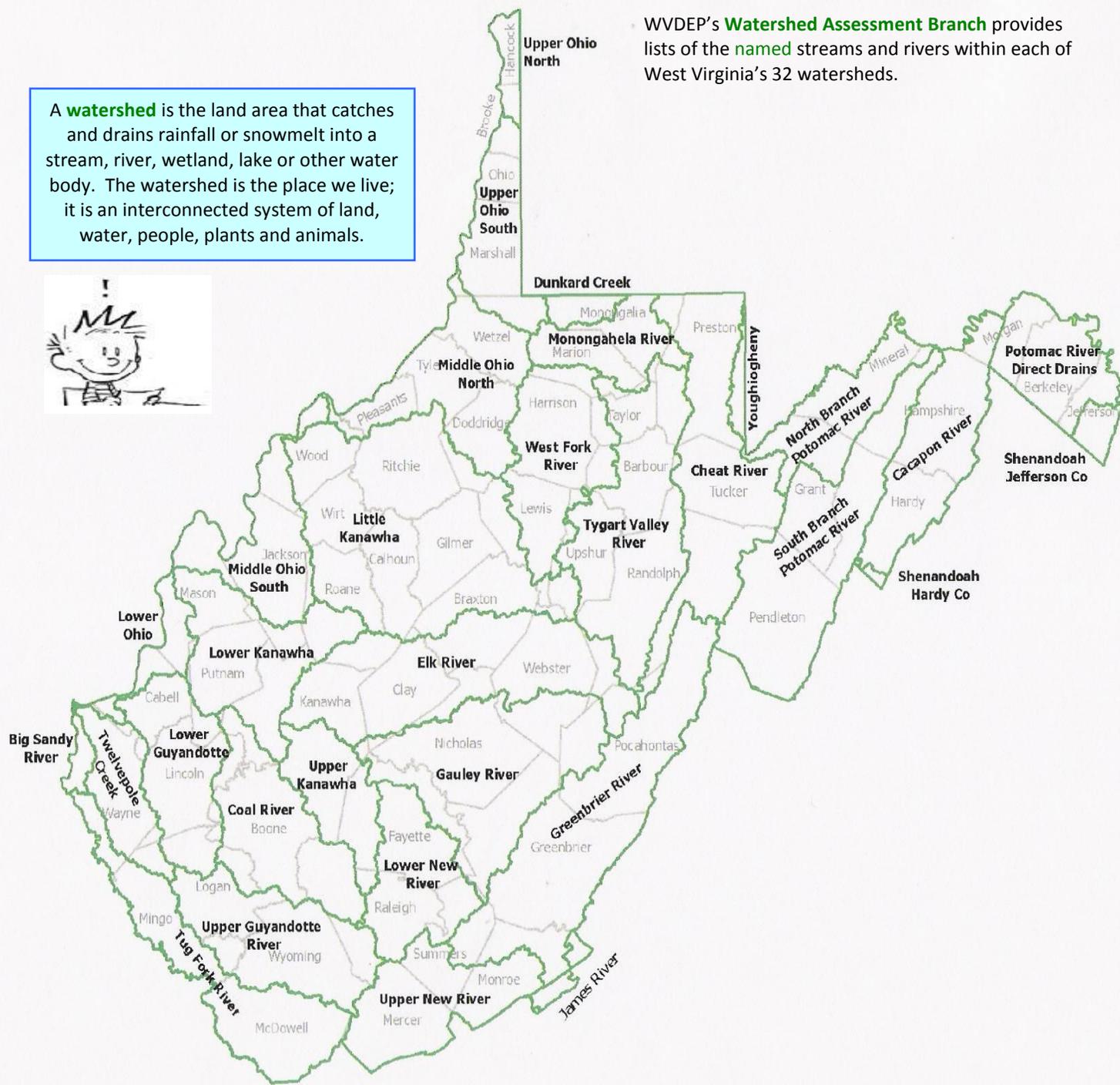


A **watershed** is the land area that catches and drains rainfall or snowmelt into a stream, river, wetland, lake or other water body. The watershed is the place we live; it is an interconnected system of land, water, people, plants and animals.



WVDEP's **Watershed Assessment Branch** provides lists of the **named streams and rivers** within each of West Virginia's 32 watersheds.



West Virginia has 32 watersheds divided according to the **USGS hydrologic unit codes (HUC)** that contribute to the **Chesapeake Bay** and the **Gulf of Mexico**. Most of the state's surface waters flow north and northwest into the **Ohio River**. The Ohio joins the **Mississippi River** at Cairo, IL. The Mississippi flows into the Gulf of Mexico at New Orleans, LA. Some of the surface waters flow north and **northeast** into the **Potomac River**. A few streams in the southeastern corner of the state flow southeast towards the **James River**. The James enters the Chesapeake Bay near Newport News, VA and the Potomac enters the Chesapeake Bay southeast of Washington DC.

**Ohio River:** The **Cheat River**, **Dunkard Creek**, **Monongahela River**, **Tygart Valley River**, **West Fork River** and the **Youghiogheny River** flow north into the Ohio River. The **Big Sandy River**, **Coal River**, **Elk River**, **Gauley River**, **Greenbrier River**, **Guyandotte River**, **Kanawha River**, **Little Kanawha River**, **New River**, **Tug Fork River** and **Twelvepole Creek** flow into the Ohio in a north, northwest and westward direction. Several direct drains of the Ohio (Upper, Middle and Lower) flow mainly in a westward direction.

**Chesapeake Bay:** The **Cacapon River**, the **North and South Branch of the Potomac** and the **Shenandoah River** flow northward into the **Potomac River**. Several streams in Hardy County flow south into the Shenandoah River. There are also many streams that flow north directly into the Potomac (Potomac Direct Drains). In the southeastern corner of the state is **Potts Creek**, which flows into the **James River**.