

Elk River – E. Coli Bacteria: Survey of Reduction Strategies

In order to meet the water quality goals for the Elk River a **73 percent** reduction in E. Coli bacteria is required. This is a difficult goal to reach but doable. The quality of water will improve with the implementation of each best management practice. It will be up to everyone to help improve water quality. We want to develop an implementation plan that works for both the SWCD and the landowners who will be implementing the practices. This is not going to be a plan that sits on the shelf, this is going to be a working document, please do your part and fill out the survey below to help us effectively develop our strategies. Please answer each question as it pertains to you. For each question please let us know what "barriers" you may have to implementing the practice.

Would you be interested in:

Urban/Rural Landowners:

1. Installing a buffer of native vegetative cover along the river or ditch to deter geese:

Yes Maybe No Have done this

Barriers: _____

2. Learning about pet waste management:

Yes Maybe No Have done this

Barriers: _____

Agricultural Landowners:

1. Installing a buffer of native vegetative cover (instead of cropping or pasture) along river, lake, or ditch:

Yes Maybe No Have done this

Barriers: _____

2. Installing a buffer of native vegetative cover (instead of pasture) along river, lake, or ditch and practicing flash grazing.

Yes Maybe No Have done this

Barriers: _____

3. Developing an alternative source for watering livestock:

Yes Maybe No Have done this

Barriers: _____

4. Developing a comprehensive manure/nutrient management plan:

Yes Maybe No Have done this

Barriers: _____

Everyone:

1. Upgrading a septic system

Yes Maybe No Have done this

Barriers: _____

2. What are preferred methods to educate the public on Best Management Practices needed to improve water quality?

Other/comments: _____

If you would like to be contacted to learn if you qualify for a best management practice please give us your name and phone number, someone will contact you as soon as possible.

Thank you for participating in developing this plan to improve water quality!

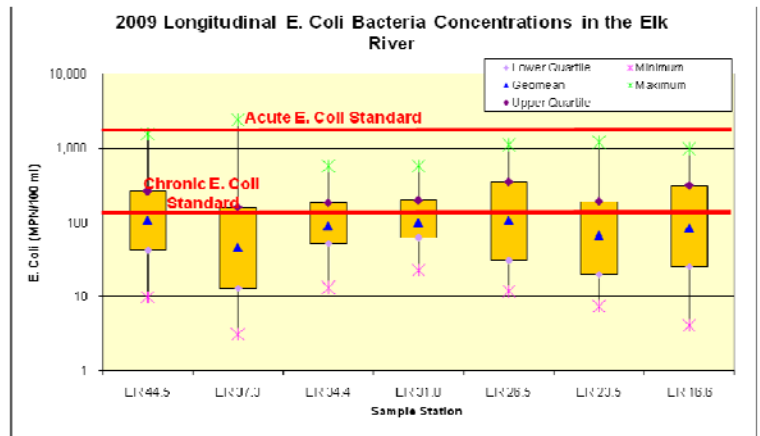
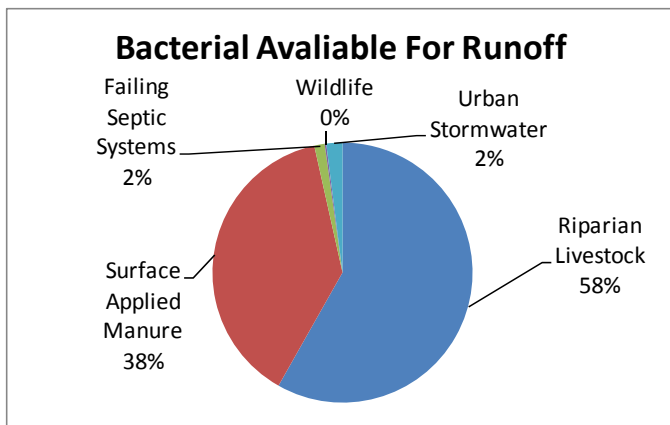
Elk River (Big Elk Lake to St. Francis River)



Impairment: **Bacteria**

High levels of bacteria in water from human or animal fecal material can cause illness in humans if ingested. Bacteriological standards for surface waters are designed to protect swimmers from getting sick if they consume small quantities of water.

An E. Coli Bacteria load reduction of 72.5% is required within the listed reach to meet the State standards. The bacteria standard is applicable from April 1 through October 31. E. Coli Bacteria levels in the Elk River regularly exceed the state standard from June-September 2009.



Reduction Strategies For E. Coli Bacteria

Based on *E. Coli* bacteria available in the watershed, the primary implementation strategies will focus reducing bacterial input from riparian areas below Big Elk Lake including:

Watershed :

- Pet waste/stormwater management
- Vegetative buffers along ditches, streams and lakes
- Livestock exclusion
- Alternative Watering Sources
- Manure and nutrient management
- Septic system compliance

Other:

- Education

