



Virginia
WATER RESOURCES
Research Center

We offer funding to outstanding undergraduate and graduate students attending Virginia's colleges and universities

We support interdisciplinary water resources research and educational projects

We provide water resources information to citizens, elected officials, and water professionals

THE VIRGINIA WATER RESOURCES RESEARCH CENTER IS:

One of the nation's 54 water centers established at land grant universities by a congressional act

The Commonwealth of Virginia's Water Center, established in 1965

A state agency authorized by the Virginia General Assembly in 1982

Based at Virginia Tech and affiliated with the College of Natural Resources



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**Discovery
Learning
Outreach**

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At Virginia Tech since 1965

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Discovery

The Water Center has provided **funding** to hundreds of researchers from Virginia's colleges and universities. **In-house research** is conducted to address water resource challenges faced by the state. The Water Center also helps form **inter-disciplinary** teams for **collaborative water resource research programs**. Current research projects and initiatives include:

- Sediment Source Tracking Using Tracers in Restored Streams
- Interactions Between Climate and Forest Management with Implications for Headwater Stream Hydrology
- Water Quality Implications of Biofuel Intercropping at a Watershed and Regional Scales
- Hydrology of the Hubbard Brook Long Term Ecosystem Research (LTER) site
- Freshwater Nutrient Criteria for Wadeable and Non-Wadeable Streams/Rivers
- Guidelines for Siting Effective Riparian Forest Buffers for Nutrient Removal
- Flowpaths and Solute Retention in Northern Forest Ecosystems



Projects of Note:

Effects of Coal Mining on Water Resources

The Water Center has embarked on several new research projects in headwater streams affected by coal mining in southwest Virginia and West Virginia. These projects include understanding the linkages between total dissolved solids (TDS) and aquatic benthic organisms in streams originating from mines, evaluating ecological functions in restored coal mine streams, and estimating watershed-scale hydrologic change using stable water isotopes. These efforts aim to provide scientific information to miners, regulators, and others involved in mountaintop-removal and other forms of coal mining.

Virginia Stormwater Best Management Practices (BMP) Clearinghouse

The Water Center is working in partnership with the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation and the Virginia Stormwater BMP Clearinghouse Committee to produce a publicly accessible web site to serve as the commonwealth's reference site for stormwater BMPs. The Virginia Stormwater BMP Clearinghouse web site will link to the Virginia Stormwater Management Handbook and will provide supplemental information about BMPs, BMP selection tools, research protocols to validate performance claims for manufactured BMPs, and manufactured BMPs certified for use in Virginia

Learning

The Water Center offers **educational opportunities** for graduate and undergraduate students attending Virginia's colleges and universities. Year-round **assistantships** are given to many of the students participating in the center's research programs. Statewide competitions include the center's graduate and undergraduate **fellowship awards**. The Water Center serves as a liaison for the Virginia **internship** program offered through the U.S. Geological Survey.

Outreach

The Water Center produces **Virginia Water Central**, a **newsletter** that is distributed to state agency representatives, faculty and students across Virginia, interested citizens, etc. Typical content includes feature **articles** on water-related policy or law, summaries of recent **water conditions** in Virginia and **news briefs** about water issues. The center also publishes and distributes free of charge through its **website** special **reports, bulletins, and symposium proceedings**.

The Water Center hosts an **annual water symposium**, providing an excellent opportunity to present and learn about water research relevant to Virginia and neighboring states. The conference is open to the public and especially geared for state and local government professionals, university faculty, experts from environmental consulting and environmental law firms, and other groups with an interest in water resources.

Virginia Water Radio

This new radio show and podcast presents news and information that relate to Virginia's waters, from the Cumberland Gap to the Atlantic Ocean. The show is produced weekly by the Virginia Water Center and is available in a variety of formats: On the air or online every Wednesday, between 3 - 4 p.m., during "The River Roundtable" on WEHC 90.7 FM; on the web anytime at www.virginiawaterradio.org; via the RSS feed; or download to your iPod via the podcast feed.