

THE FACT SHEET



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CLEAN WATER

Clean water is essential to life, yet 40 percent of the nation's assessed streams, lakes, and estuaries are not clean enough to support fishing and swimming. And those numbers reflect fewer than 20 percent of America's waterways—the other 80 percent are not even monitored. To members of the Izaak Walton League, this is simply unacceptable. That's why we are committed to improving the health of America's waterways through local action and national advocacy.

MONITORING AND RESTORING STREAMS

For more than 40 years, the League's Save Our Streams program (www.iwla.org/SOS) has taught thousands of citizens how to monitor and restore the health of local streams. Guided by our publications, workshops, expert consultation, and other tools, citizens become active stewards of their local waterways. In addition to assessing water quality, our volunteers take action, such as notifying state agencies of pollution problems or planting trees along stream banks to reduce erosion and improve fish habitat.

CONNECTING KIDS WITH CLEAN WATER

Kids plus water equals more than fun—it equals outdoor education, citizen science, and information that can improve stream health. The League's Creek Freaks program helps connect youth with the outdoors, not by telling them to choose between technology and the natural world but by harnessing technology to forge those connections. Children can post information on the Creek Freaks Web site (www.creekfreaks.net) about the streams they explore, including photos, video, data, and their own stream stories.



RESTORING CLEAN WATER ACT PROTECTIONS

The Clean Water Act was signed into law in 1972 to safeguard our country's most precious natural resource, and did so successfully for decades. But after Supreme Court decisions in 2001 and 2006 led to badly flawed administrative policies, at least 20 million wetland acres and nearly 60 percent of stream miles in the continental United States—around 2 million miles—lost clearly defined protections against draining, filling, and polluting simply because they are smaller or farther upstream than other waters. Moreover, these small streams contribute to drinking water supplies for 117 million Americans. The League is working to restore protections for small streams and wetlands and ensure America's waters are safe for fishing, swimming, and other uses.

LEARN MORE ABOUT OUR CLEAN WATER PROGRAM

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