Getting Started

SAVE OUR STREAMS

IZAAK WALTON LEAGUE OF AMERICA

Big picture – National Volunteer Monitoring

- Citizens involved in data collection
- US: 1968 – 2017
- 48 out of 50 states have active programs
- Over 1,700 programs
- 1.3 M people

Save Our Streams (SOS)

- 48 Years of Engaging Citizens in Watershed Stewardship
- 1969-2017

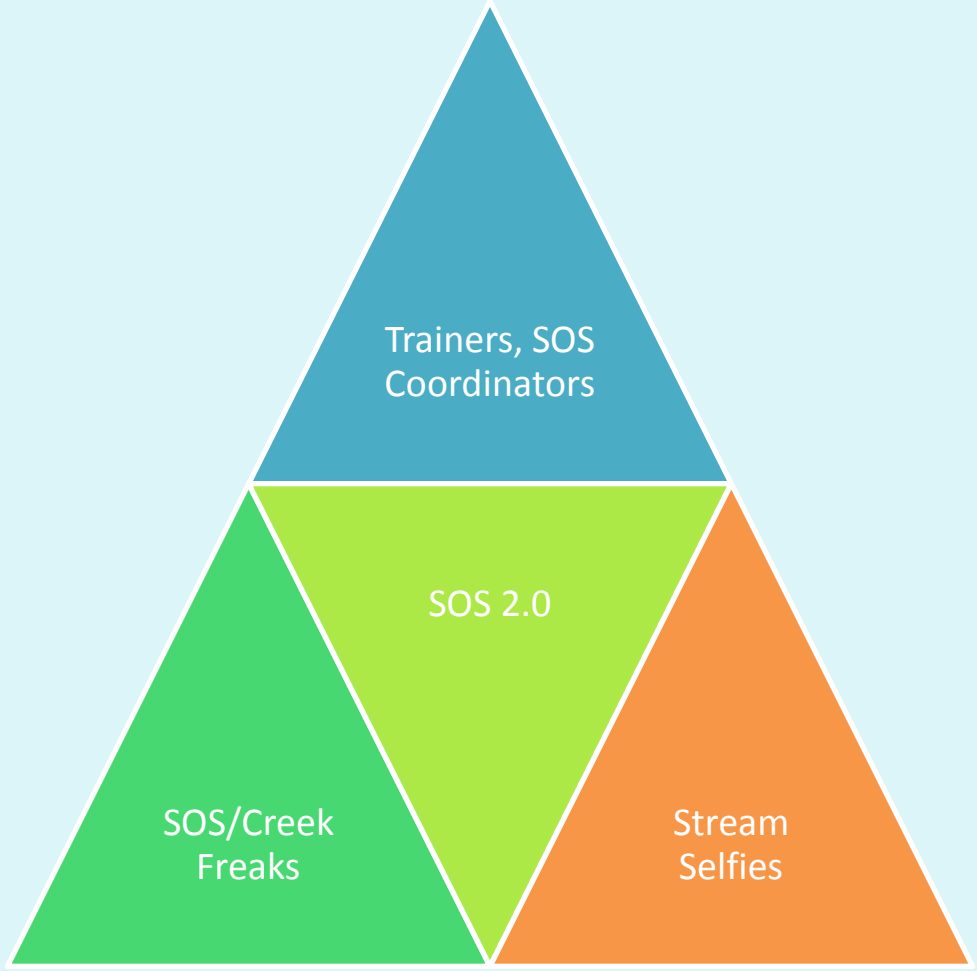
Virginia Save Our Streams (VASOS)

- 500 monitors/200 sites/30 regional trainers and coordinators
- Highly respected scientific protocol
- Data accepted by VA DEQ at level 2 (VA SOS provides 12% of VA DEQ's data)
- www.vasos.org

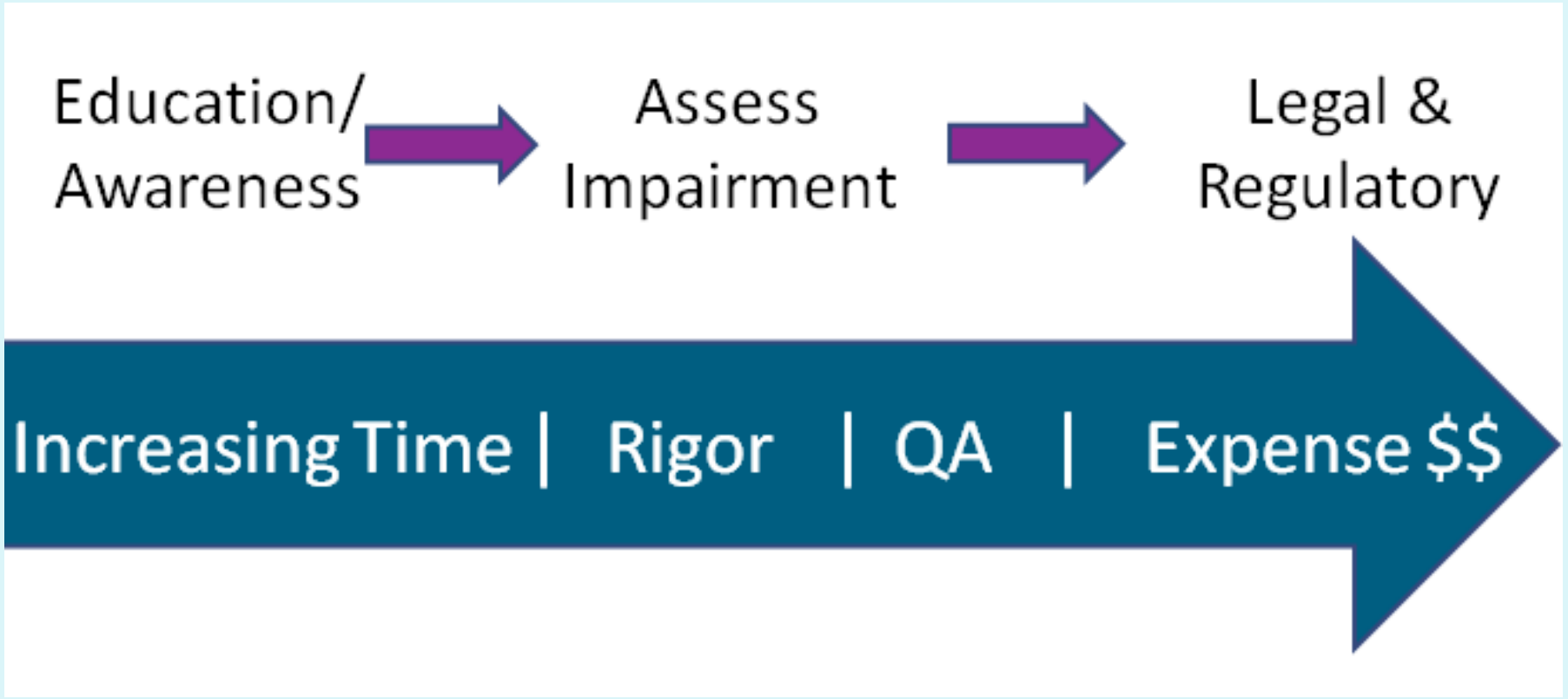
Group Exercise – Start a Monitoring Program!

- You're starting from nothing – what do you need?

Menu Of Options



Data Use Continuum



Barriers to Data Use

"…some government scientists have a lingering bias against volunteer data. We have come a long way and this is a non-issue in some states, but it remains a significant constraint in other states…"

IWLA's Commitment to SOS

- Training
- Resources
- Marketing & communications assistance
- raise visibility
- Move data from paper to electronic
- Turning data into actions
- What can we do with the Information once we have it?

Getting Started: Questions to Ask

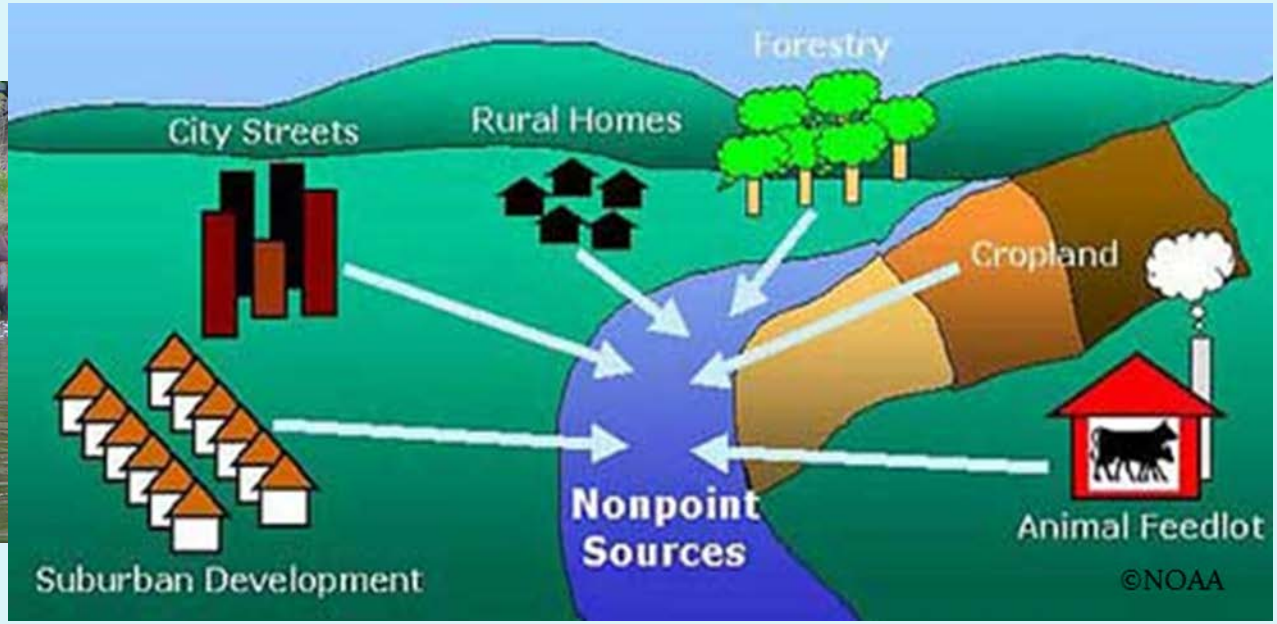
1) What are your Chapter's major objectives?

- Mission
- Major programs – Basic SOS? Education?
- How does monitoring help you achieve your organizational goals?

Getting Started: Questions to Ask

2) Why are you monitoring?

- Prioritize concerns
- What questions will monitoring help answer?



Getting Started: Questions to Ask

3) How will you use the data collected?

- What action will you take with data – will inform quality needed
- Remember: how will data fit in with objectives

Getting Started: Questions to Ask

4) What will you monitor?

- Watershed indicators that will help answer your question (biological, chemical, physical characteristics)
- Practical considerations:
  - Do you have the human & financial resources to measure it?
  - How difficult is it to monitor?
  - Does it help you understand a major component of the ecosystem?
  - Is it understandable and explainable to the target audience?

Getting Started: Questions to Ask

5) How will you monitor?

- If you're just getting started, the SOS basic monitoring protocol is the way to go!
  - We have the resources, training, materials, and technical support to get you going

Gear Needed for SOS

www.iwla.org/sos

SOS Equipment

Test the quality of your neighborhood streams today. Check our equipment list to see if you have what you need to get started.

Get the List

Kick Net (1/50 Mesh)

Kick Net (1/32 Mesh)

D-Frame Net

Replacement Bag

Sieve Bucket

Hand-held Magnifier Lens

Magnifier

Aquatic Thermometer

1.5" Magnifier Box

1" Magnifier Box

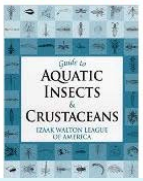
MacroLens

Forceps (large tweezers)

Field Guide to Aquatic Macroinvertebrates

Watershed Stewardship Action

Guide to Aquatic Insects and Crustaceans



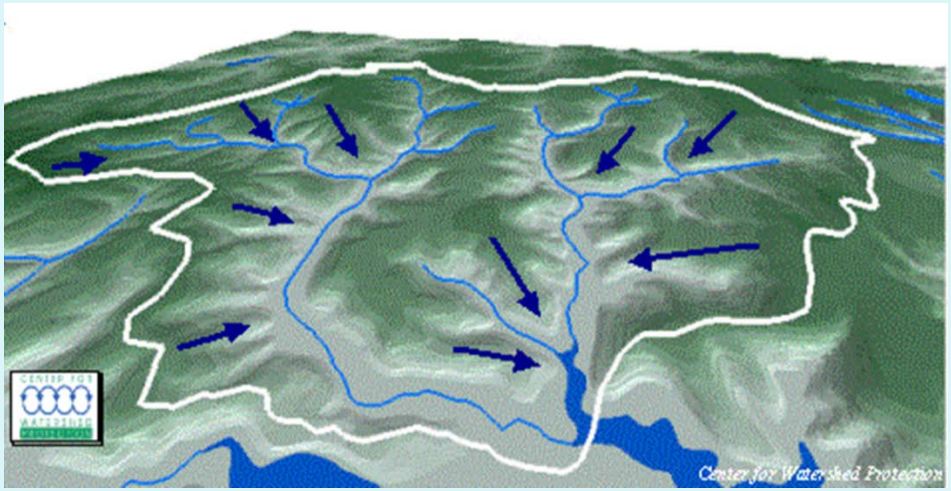
Scientific Collection Permits

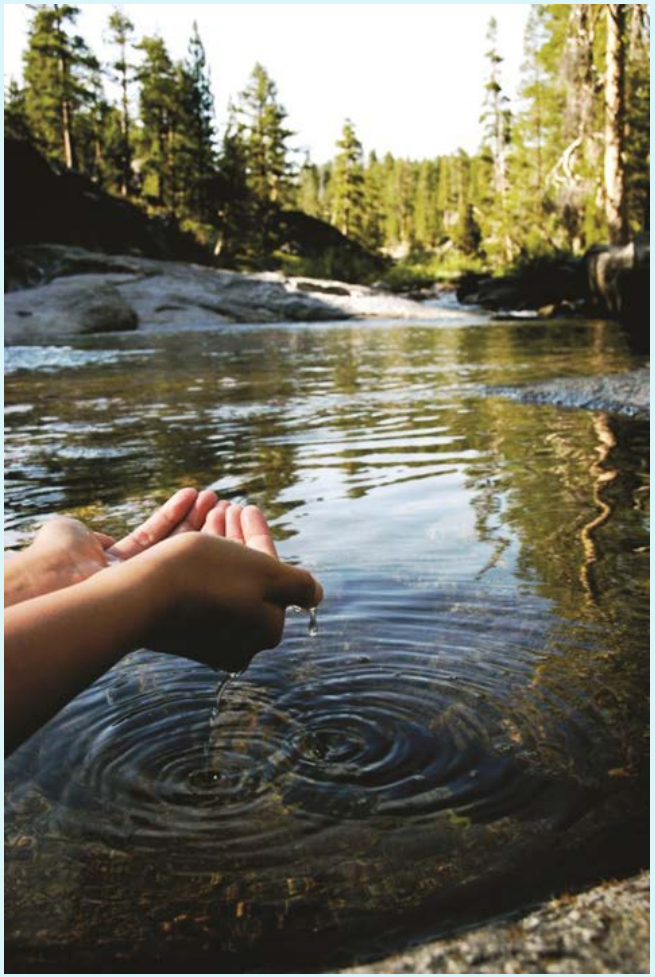
- Available on a state by state basis
- Generally free or inexpensive ($10 per year)
- Can have multiple people monitoring under one permit
- Available through DNR, DEC, etc.

Getting Started: Questions to Ask

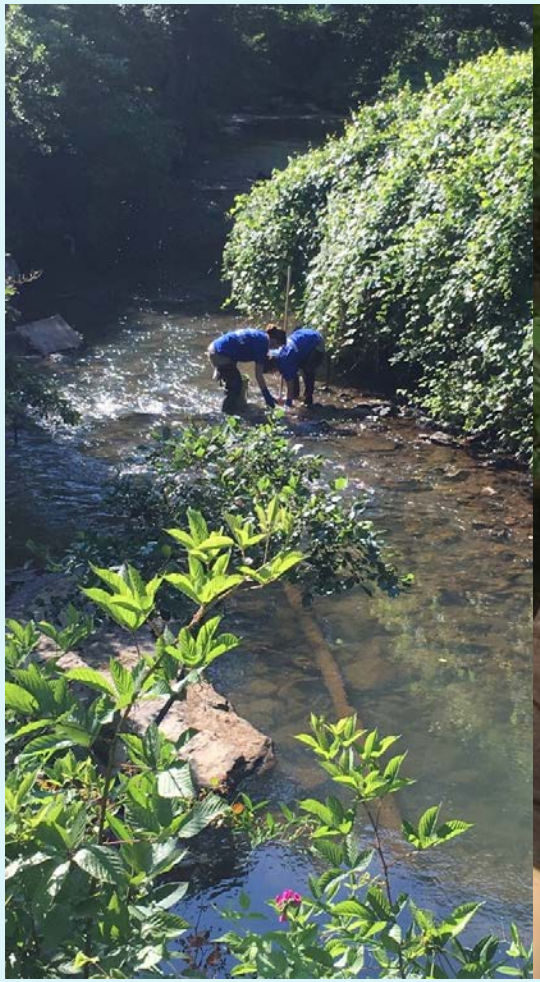
6) Where will you monitor?

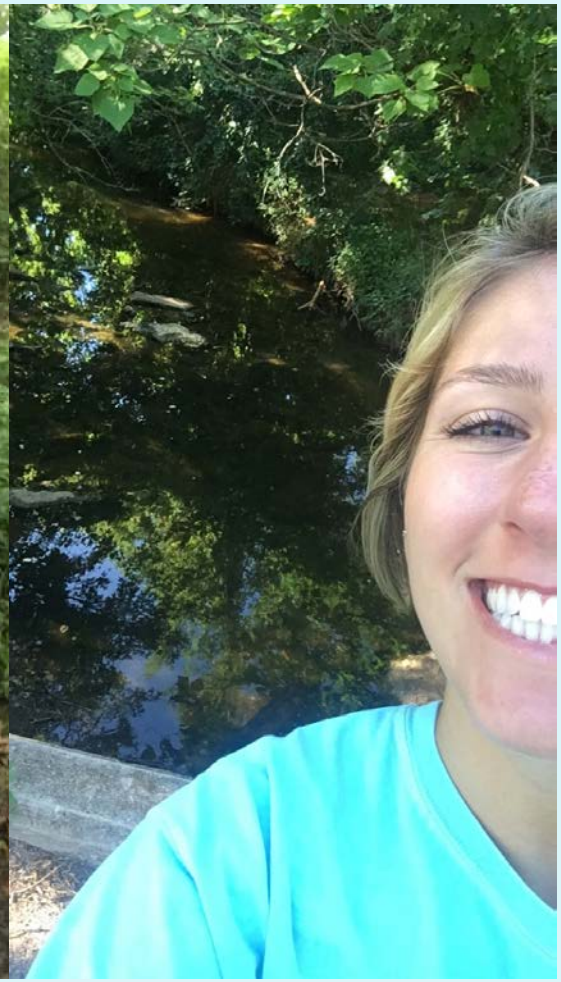
- Consider safety & accessibility, potential water quality impacts, reference locations, stream designated uses.





Enter Your Sites on Stream Selfie!





Getting Started: Questions to Ask

7) When will you monitor?

- Consider safety & accessibility, potential water quality impacts, reference locations, stream designated uses.
- For SOS, monitor twice a year (Spring and Fall).

Getting Started: Questions to Ask

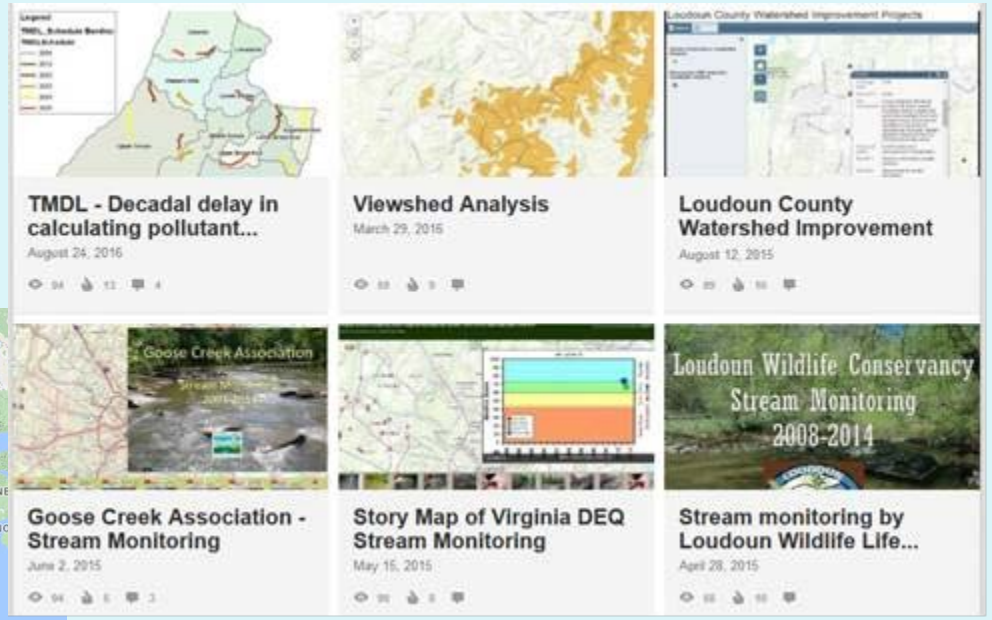
8) What are your Quality Assurance measures?

- Crucial piece!
- Training
- Equipment care and calibration
- How do you ensure the data are credible.
- Documentation, documentation, documentation – Study Design to data sheets.

Getting Started: Questions to Ask

9) How will you manage and present the data?

- Management
- Interpretation
- Communication



Getting Started: Questions to Ask

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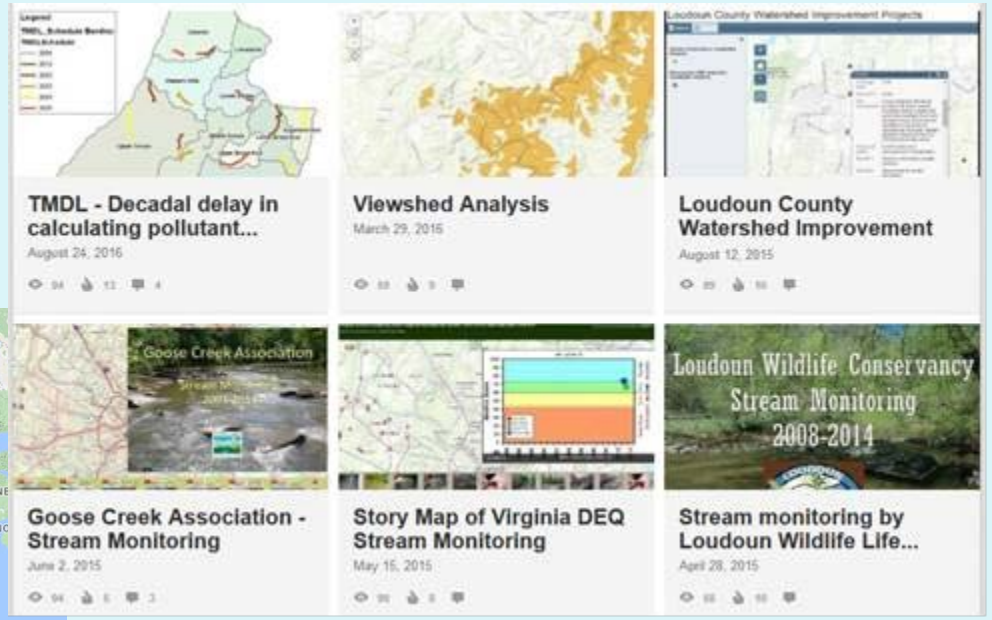


Getting Started: Questions to Ask

10) What are the tasks and who will do them?

- Program Coordinator
- Quality assurance
- Purchase equipment
- Analyze data
- Recruit and organize volunteers
- Report findings
- Train field and lab volunteers
- Monitoring
- Evaluate your study design

Getting Started Advice

- Start small,
- Start simple,
- Seek out help and training,
- Ask a lot of questions,
- See what others are doing,
- Go to workshops and conferences
- SOS covers freshwater wadeable streams, not lakes/ponds/estuaries

2017-2018 Training Surge

Creek Freaks:

- 9/7 – IWLA Headwaters Chapter (OH)
- 9/15 – Fox Haven Farm and Learning Center (MD)
- 10/15 – IWLA Fredericksburg-Rappahannock Chapter (VA)

SOS Basic Trainings:

- 9/6 – IWLA Headwaters Chapter (OH)
- 10/7 – IWLA Wildlife Achievement and Division (MD)

VASOS/CMC Trainings:

- 9/9 – IWLA Arlington Fairfax Chapter (VA)
- 9/16 – IWLA Fredericksburg-Rappahannock Chapter (VA)
- 9/22 – Anacostia Riverkeeper Training, CMC (MD)
- 9/30 – Middle Susquehanna Riverkeeper, CMC (PA)
- 10/21 – IWLA Rockingham-Harrisonburg Chapter (VA)

2017-2018 Training Surge

- Contact us now if you are interested in a Spring of 2018 training! Fall is filled besides weekdays
- We can supply you with training flyers, links to sign up, and all of the monitoring gear, handouts, and presentation material
- Must have 12-15 sign up to participate

Staying Strong

SAVE OUR STREAMS

IZAAK WALTON LEAGUE OF AMERICA

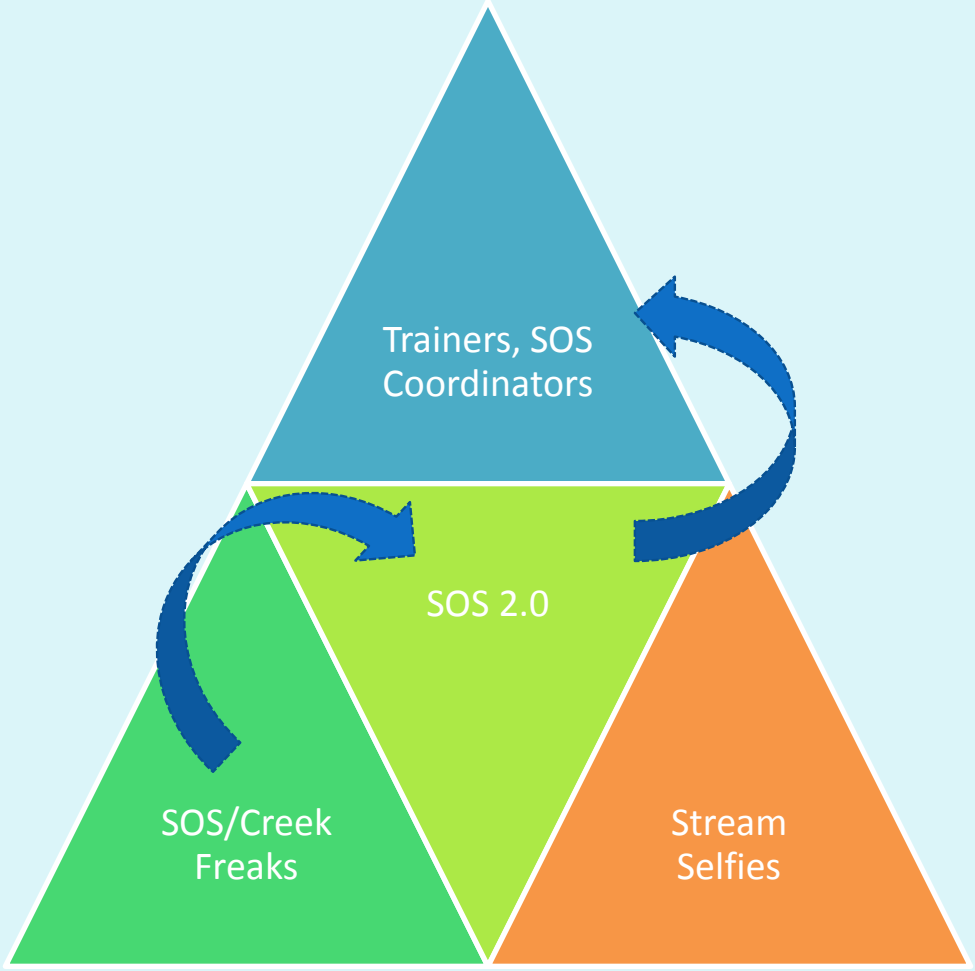
Group Exercise – Expand Your Program!

- How could you expand your SOS program?

What Makes Our Program Strong?

- Good for youth and community engagement
- Great way to get people interested in streams
- Eyes and ears of the watershed
- Fun, easy, and informative

Taking the Next Step



We Need Your Help

- Potential partners in your community
- Promote CWC efforts
- Participate in SOS monitoring program
- Share far & wide

Chapter Liaison

- Designate an SOS minded person in your chapter to be the Chapter Liaison, who will assist with:
  - Communicating questions and updates to National
  - Sharing successes and data
  - Working with National for equipment and technical assistance

Chapter Liaison - FORM

CLEAN WATER/SAVE OUR STREAMS
LIAISON DESIGNATION FORM

The Izaak Walton League's Save Our Stream (SOS) program helps citizens across the country monitor water quality in local creeks and streams. The League is developing resources to help chapters start or expand local stream monitoring and communicate about their findings with the local community. We are asking each chapter to designate a Clean Water/SOS Liaison who can let chapter members know about tools received from the national organization and share information about chapter accomplishments.

Please provide contact information for your designated Clean Water/SOS Liaison below. Thank you!

Chapter Name and State: _____

Chapter President: _____

Clean Water/SOS Liaison Contact Information

Name: _____

Phone:

Local Partners

Gaithersburg

A CHARACTER COUNTS! CITY

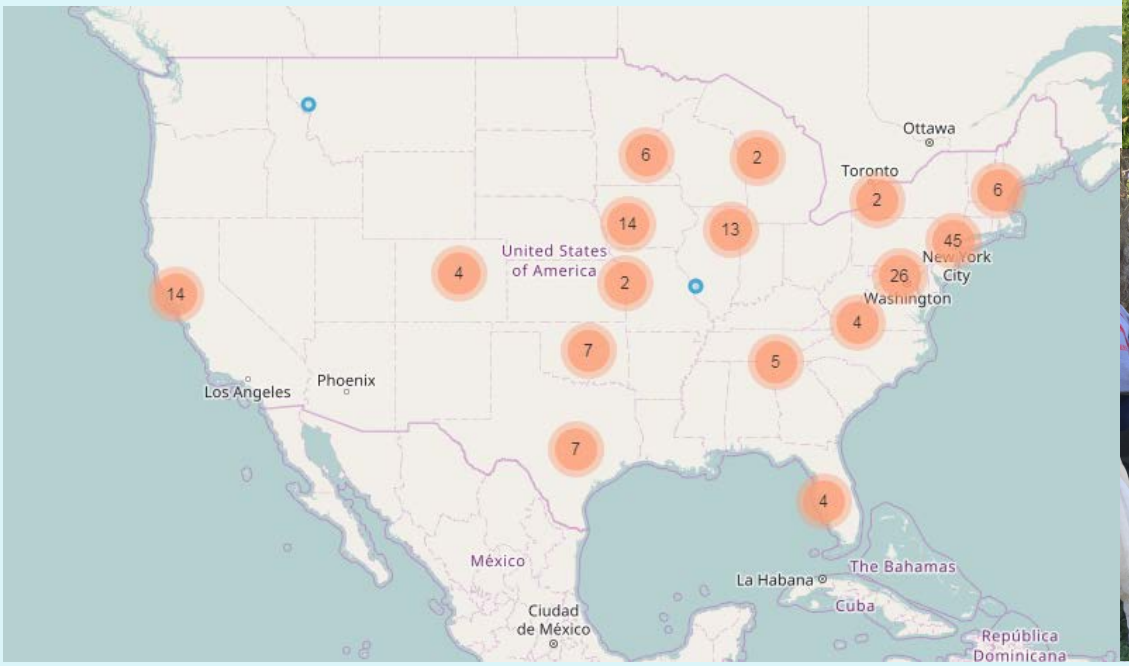
National Water Quality Monitoring Council Data

Moving Beyond Numbers

- Be the voice for your stream!
- Protecting our communities
- Sharing our passion

WE NEED YOUR HELP

- Share your stories!
- Share your data!
- Help us test new equipment for SOS 2.0!
- Raise awareness by promoting Stream Selfie!



QUESTIONS?

JOIN THE

CLEAN WATER CHALLENGE

IZAAK WALTON LEAGUE OF AMERICA