

3 February 2009



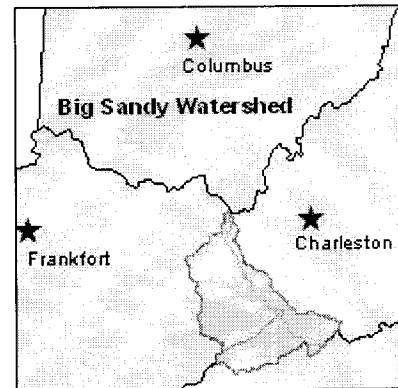
**US Army Corps  
of Engineers**  
Huntington District

## Big Sandy Watershed Re-evaluation Study

**POC:** Amy Frantz, Chief, Plan Formulation Section, 304-399-5845

### Points of Emphasis

- Reallocation of water storage at six reservoirs in Kentucky and Virginia
- Comprehensive study to address watershed demands
- Re-evaluation study driven by request for additional whitewater releases from Flannagan Lake and industrial development in Virginia
- Study will evaluate all project purposes, including water supply, for reallocated uses
- Water supply feasibility investigation at Dewey Lake (City of Prestonsburg) authorized by WRDA 07 (P.L. 110-114), Section 4043



### Congressional Interest:

#### Senate

Senator Mitch McConnell  
Senator Jim Bunning  
Senator Mark Warner  
Senator Jim Webb  
Senator Robert C. Byrd  
Senator John D. Rockefeller IV

#### House of Representatives

Congressman Geoff Davis (KY-04)  
Congressman Hal Rogers (KY-05)  
Congressman Nick J. Rahall II (WV-03)  
Congressman Rick C. Boucher (VA-09)

**Project Name in Appropriations Bill:** Big Sandy Watershed Re-evaluation, VA & KY

**Authorization:** Section 216 of the Flood Control Act of 1970

**Project Sponsor:** To be determined

**Project Location:** The Big Sandy River Basin headwaters originate with the Levisa Fork in western Virginia and eastern Kentucky and the Tug Fork in southern West Virginia and western Virginia. The Levisa Fork has a length of approximately 164 miles, of which 34 miles is in Virginia and 130 miles in Kentucky. The boundary between West Virginia, Kentucky and a portion of Virginia is formed by approximately 101 miles of the Tug Fork. The Tug Fork then extends into West Virginia for an additional 59 miles.

**Project Stakeholders:** Users of the water resources in the Big Sandy Watershed, West Virginia Conservation Agency, Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS), and Whitewater Industry

**Project Background:** Project purposes for the original lakes in the Big Sandy Watershed were formulated based upon existing and future scenarios for the watershed's water resources. Current day requirements may have changing demands for the storage in the lakes for alternative purposes.

Therefore, this study will identify if a reallocation of the original project purposes is necessary.

**Project Description:** There are six reservoir projects in the Big Sandy Watershed. Flannagan and North Fork of Pound Lakes are located in Virginia. Fishtrap, Dewey, Paintsville, and Yatesville Lakes are located in Kentucky. In 1992, operational changes were implemented to provide Fall recreational whitewater releases from Flannagan Lake.

**Project Status:** There are presently no funds available to initiate a re-evaluation study to address the changing water resource demands within the Big Sandy Watershed. However, WRDA 07 (Section 4043) authorized a feasibility investigation for water supply at Dewey Lake and a Whitewater Advisory Board was formed in support of releases from Flannagan Lake for purposes of whitewater recreation.

**FY 2009 Funding:** To Be Determined

**FY 2009 Activities:**

- Obtain Federal Funding
- Initiate re-evaluation study
- Initiate collaborative planning efforts between stakeholders of Kentucky and Virginia

**FY 2008 Funding:** \$0

**FY 2008 Activities:**

- On hold due to lack of Federal funding

**Current Phase:** Special Study

**Current Appropriation:** General Investigations