

Mitchell, Williams, Selig, Gates & Woodyard, P.L.L.C.

2025 Beaver Lake Watershed Protection Strategy: Beaver Watershed Alliance Announces U.S. EPA Acceptance

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The Beaver Watershed Alliance (“BWA”) announced in its February newsletter that the United States Environmental Protection Agency (“EPA”) had accepted the 2025 Beaver Lake Watershed Protection Strategy (“Strategy”).

BWA describes the organization’s mission as to:

... proactively protect, maintain, and enhance the water quality of Beaver Lake and the integrity of its Watershed.

BWA states that EPA’s acceptance:

... reaffirms the strategy’s role as a key 9-Element watershed management plan to protect water quality and source water for the Beaver Lake watershed.

The Strategy is described as an updated document that builds on decades of:

- Science-based analysis.
- Partnership work.
- Adaptive management.
- Supporting:
- Best management practices.
- Education/outreach.
- Monitoring to address priority issues that include:
- Sediment and land use changes in the watershed.

The Strategy is stated to incorporate:

- Long-term monitoring data from the Beaver Water District and Arkansas Water Resources Center.
- Critical area identification.
- Targeted best management practices to:
- Reduce pollutant inputs.
- Support drinking water protection consistent with Arkansas Regulation 2.509.

Key findings referenced by BWA from the Strategy include:

- Sediment is still the key parameter of concern for lake water quality and streams.

- Wetter, warmer climate can be expected.
- Pressure on water quality continues to increase.
- Recommended focus areas of work are shifting.
- Core conservation practices remain as recommendations.
- The current approach is working.
- Partnerships have widely expanded; local programming is becoming fine-tuned to align with land use and needs within the watershed and BWA is better equipped with local data to inform decision-making.

A copy of the Strategy can be found [here](#).