

MILL CREEK SURVEY RESULTS

JULY 10, 2007

A mail survey was designed for riparian landowners along Mill Creek in Berkeley County, West Virginia. The objectives of this survey were to: (1) elicit interests in potential stream improvement projects; (2) determine landowner perceptions of problems in Mill Creek; and (3) raise awareness of efforts to improve water quality in Berkeley County. A two page survey was developed by the faculty in Agricultural and Resource Economics at West Virginia University. Opequon Creek Project Team members reviewed and commented on this survey. This team is a watershed organization that consists of Berkeley County residents and West Virginia state agency personnel who are dedicated to improving the quality of water in the Opequon Creek watershed.

In April 2007, mail surveys were sent out to 85 individuals, organizations, families, or corporations who owned land adjacent to Mill Creek. This survey was sent out with a cover letter from the Opequon Creek Project Team and surveys were returned to West Virginia University for analysis. Mailing addresses were obtained from the Berkeley County Assessor's Office. Of the 85 mail surveys, seven were returned due to inaccurate mailing addresses. After a second mailing, a total of 40 surveys were returned for an effective response rate of 51%. Thirty-one of the 40 responses were from landowners along Mill Creek. A total of 20 responses provided contact information in order to be informed about future activities of the Opequon Creek Project Team.

Alan Collins, Professor of Agricultural and Resource Economics at West Virginia University, provided technical and analysis assistance for this survey.

Funding for this survey was provided by the Mid-Atlantic Regional Water Program.

MILL CREEK SURVEY JULY 10, 2007
ALL LANDOWNERS (N=31)

3. Currently, how do you use your land along Mill Creek? (*check all that apply*)

- 41.9% Agriculture (crop or pasture)
- 67.7% Home or residence
- 3.2% Commercial or business property
- 19.4% Land is currently idle
- 6.5% Recreation
- 9.7% Wildlife habitat enhancement

4. Which of the following stream improvement projects would you like more information about? (*check all that apply*)

- 32.3% Streambank restoration
- 29.0% Tree planting along a stream
- 19.4% Fencing to exclude domestic livestock
- 6.5% Allowing public access for fishing and recreation
- 16.1% Conservation easements
- 41.9% None of the above

5. If you had more information, which of the following stream improvement projects would you consider doing at your own expense on your land? (*check all that apply*)

- 22.6% Streambank restoration
- 25.8% Tree planting along a stream
- 12.9% Fencing to exclude domestic livestock
- 3.2% Allowing public access for fishing and recreation
- 12.9% Conservation easements
- 45.2% None of the above

6. If you had more information, which of the following stream improvement projects would you consider doing with a government cost share on your land? (*check all that apply*)

- 29.0% Streambank restoration
- 25.8% Tree planting along a stream
- 19.4% Fencing to exclude domestic livestock
- 6.5% Allowing public access for fishing and recreation
- 22.6% Conservation easements
- 38.7% None of the above

MILL CREEK SURVEY JULY 10, 2007
ALL LANDOWNERS (N=31)

7. What are your concerns about this stream or creek? (*check all that apply*)

- 61.2% Stream pollution
 - 44.8% Streambank erosion
 - 17.2% Stream course changes
 - 58.6% Trash in the stream
 - 24.1% Flooding
 - 24.1% Wildlife
 - 10.2% Recreational users (fishing, kayaking, canoeing, etc.)
 - 20.7% Other, please explain _____
-

8. A total maximum daily load (TMDL) is a written water quality improvement plan created by the West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection with input from local residents. This plan specifies the maximum amount of pollution that a creek, like Mill Creek, can receive and still be considered clean. Are you aware that a TMDL is being developed for the Opequon Creek Watershed, including Mill Creek? (*check one*)

- 3.3% Yes
- _____ No

9. Before receiving this survey, were you aware of the Opequon Creek Project Team? (*check one*)

- 16.7% Yes
- _____ No

10. Would you like more information about the activities of the Opequon Creek Project Team? (*check one*)

- 56.2% Yes
- _____ No

MILL CREEK SURVEY JULY 10, 2007
AGRICULTURAL LANDOWNERS (N=13)

3. Currently, how do you use your land along Mill Creek? (*check all that apply*)

- 100% Agriculture (crop or pasture)
- 76.9% Home or residence
- 7.7% Commercial or business property
- 0% Land is currently idle
- 15.4% Recreation
- 23.1% Wildlife habitat enhancement

4. Which of the following stream improvement projects would you like more information about? (*check all that apply*)

- 30.8% Streambank restoration
- 30.8% Tree planting along a stream
- 23.1% Fencing to exclude domestic livestock
- 0% Allowing public access for fishing and recreation
- 15.4% Conservation easements
- 61.5% None of the above

5. If you had more information, which of the following stream improvement projects would you consider doing at your own expense on your land? (*check all that apply*)

- 23.1% Streambank restoration
- 23.1% Tree planting along a stream
- 7.7% Fencing to exclude domestic livestock
- 0% Allowing public access for fishing and recreation
- 15.4% Conservation easements
- 61.5% None of the above

6. If you had more information, which of the following stream improvement projects would you consider doing with a government cost share on your land? (*check all that apply*)

- 38.5% Streambank restoration
- 23.1% Tree planting along a stream
- 23.1% Fencing to exclude domestic livestock
- 0% Allowing public access for fishing and recreation
- 23.1% Conservation easements
- 46.2% None of the above

MILL CREEK SURVEY JULY 10, 2007
AGRICULTURAL LANDOWNERS (N=13)

7. What are your concerns about this stream or creek? (*check all that apply*)

54.5% Stream pollution

46.5% Streambank erosion

18.2% Stream course changes

65.6% Trash in the stream

9.1% Flooding

9.1% Wildlife

0% Recreational users (fishing, kayaking, canoeing, etc.)

27.3% Other, please explain _____

8. A total maximum daily load (TMDL) is a written water quality improvement plan created by the West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection with input from local residents. This plan specifies the maximum amount of pollution that a creek, like Mill Creek, can receive and still be considered clean. Are you aware that a TMDL is being developed for the Opequon Creek Watershed, including Mill Creek? (*check one*)

8.3% Yes

_____ No

9. Before receiving this survey, were you aware of the Opequon Creek Project Team? (*check one*)

16.7% Yes

_____ No

10. Would you like more information about the activities of the Opequon Creek Project Team? (*check one*)

50.0% Yes

_____ No

MILL CREEK SURVEY JULY 10, 2007
NON-AGRICULTURAL LANDOWNERS (N=18)

3. Currently, how do you use your land along Mill Creek? (*check all that apply*)

- 0.0% Agriculture (crop or pasture)
- 61.1% Home or residence
- 0% Commercial or business property
- 33.3% Land is currently idle
- 0% Recreation
- 0% Wildlife habitat enhancement

4. Which of the following stream improvement projects would you like more information about? (*check all that apply*)

- 33.3% Streambank restoration
- 27.8% Tree planting along a stream
- 16.7% Fencing to exclude domestic livestock
- 11.1% Allowing public access for fishing and recreation
- 16.7% Conservation easements
- 27.8% None of the above

5. If you had more information, which of the following stream improvement projects would you consider doing at your own expense on your land? (*check all that apply*)

- 22.2% Streambank restoration
- 27.8% Tree planting along a stream
- 16.7% Fencing to exclude domestic livestock
- 5.6% Allowing public access for fishing and recreation
- 11.1% Conservation easements
- 33.3% None of the above

6. If you had more information, which of the following stream improvement projects would you consider doing with a government cost share on your land? (*check all that apply*)

- 22.2% Streambank restoration
- 27.8% Tree planting along a stream
- 16.7% Fencing to exclude domestic livestock
- 11.1% Allowing public access for fishing and recreation
- 22.2% Conservation easements
- 33.3% None of the above

MILL CREEK SURVEY JULY 10, 2007
NON-AGRICULTURAL LANDOWNERS (N=18)

7. What are your concerns about this stream or creek? (*check all that apply*)

66.7% Stream pollution

44.4% Streambank erosion

16.7% Stream course changes

55.6% Trash in the stream

33.3% Flooding

33.3% Wildlife

16.7% Recreational users (fishing, kayaking, canoeing, etc.)

16.7% Other, please explain _____

8. A total maximum daily load (TMDL) is a written water quality improvement plan created by the West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection with input from local residents. This plan specifies the maximum amount of pollution that a creek, like Mill Creek, can receive and still be considered clean. Are you aware that a TMDL is being developed for the Opequon Creek Watershed, including Mill Creek? (*check one*)

0% Yes

_____ No

9. Before receiving this survey, were you aware of the Opequon Creek Project Team? (*check one*)

16.7% Yes

_____ No

10. Would you like more information about the activities of the Opequon Creek Project Team? (*check one*)

61.1% Yes

_____ No

MILL CREEK SURVEY

1. As a confirmation of our information, do you own land along Mill Creek in Berkeley County, West Virginia? (*check one*)

- Yes
 No (*skip to question 7*)

2. Please place an "X" on the attached map to indicate the approximate location or locations of the land that you own along Mill Creek.

3. Currently, how do you use your land along Mill Creek? (*check all that apply*)

- Agriculture (crop or pasture)
 Home or residence
 Commercial or business property
 Land is currently idle
 Recreation
 Wildlife habitat enhancement

4. Which of the following stream improvement projects would you like more information about? (*check all that apply*)

- Streambank restoration
 Tree planting along a stream
 Fencing to exclude domestic livestock
 Allowing public access for fishing and recreation
 Conservation easements
 None of the above

5. If you had more information, which of the following stream improvement projects would you consider doing at your own expense on your land? (*check all that apply*)

- Streambank restoration
 Tree planting along a stream
 Fencing to exclude domestic livestock
 Allowing public access for fishing and recreation
 Conservation easements
 None of the above

6. If you had more information, which of the following stream improvement projects would you consider doing with a government cost share on your land? (*check all that apply*)

- Streambank restoration
 Tree planting along a stream
 Fencing to exclude domestic livestock
 Allowing public access for fishing and recreation
 Conservation easements
 None of the above

MILL CREEK SURVEY

7. What are your concerns about this stream or creek? (*check all that apply*)

- Stream pollution
- Streambank erosion
- Stream course changes
- Trash in the stream
- Flooding
- Wildlife
- Recreational users (fishing, kayaking, canoeing, etc.)
- Other, please explain _____

8. A total maximum daily load (TMDL) is a written water quality improvement plan created by the West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection with input from local residents. This plan specifies the maximum amount of pollution that a creek, like Mill Creek, can receive and still be considered clean. Are you aware that a TMDL is being developed for the Opequon Creek Watershed, including Mill Creek? (*check one*)

- Yes
- No

9. Before receiving this survey, were you aware of the Opequon Creek Project Team? (*check one*)

- Yes
- No

10. Would you like more information about the activities of the Opequon Creek Project Team? (*check one*)

- Yes
- No

If you checked yes, please provide your name and address below:

E-mail address: _____

Thank you for your time in answering the questions above. PLEASE USE THE ENCLOSED ENVELOPE TO RETURN THIS SURVEY. NO POSTAGE IS REQUIRED. In the space below, please write down any other concerns or comments that you have about Mill Creek or any other stream located near your land.
