

Ripple Effect # 55 - What Watershed Do You Live In?

No matter where we live on the earth's surface, we live in a watershed. If it rains, the water drains somewhere – often into a stream or river. The whole area drained by that river is called a watershed and is usually named after the river that drains it, like the Sheyenne River Watershed or the Red River Watershed.

Managing a watershed means having goals, goals like keeping the river clean or holding and releasing waters in a planned way during flood events. Managing a watershed also means “thinking downstream,” that is, remembering the communities and folks where the water goes next.

It's not easy to have goals for a river that wanders over county lines, state or provincial lines, even over the borders of countries! But with cooperation and integrated planning – and everyone on board – it can be done!

What watershed do you live in? What are its goals – and how can you help achieve them?

This Ripple Effect is brought to you by the Red River Basin Commission.