



David Ward
info@loudounwatershedwatch.org
Loudoun Watershed Watch
38659 Bolington Rd
Lovettsville, VA 20180

April 28, 2016

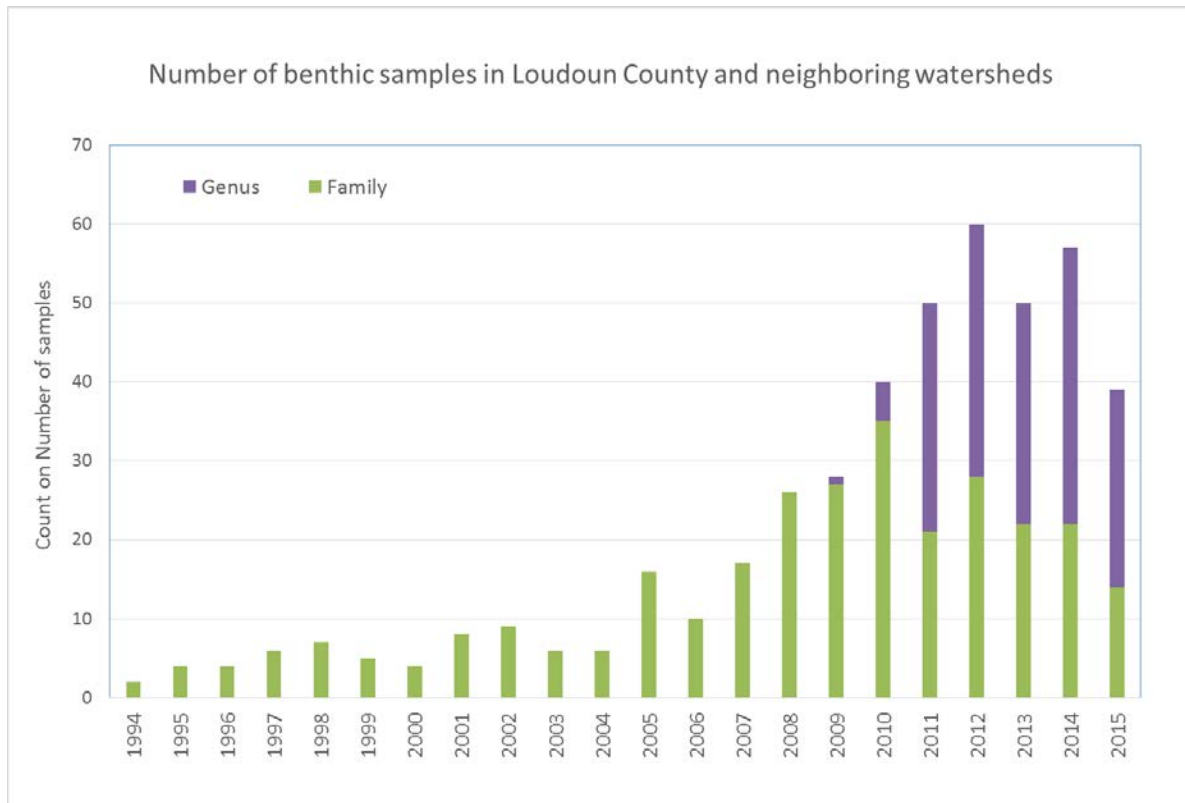
Mr. Stuart Torbeck, Water Quality Data Liaison
Virginia Dept. of Environmental Quality
629 East Main Street
Richmond, VA 23219

Sent via E-mail: charles.torbeck@deq.virginia.gov

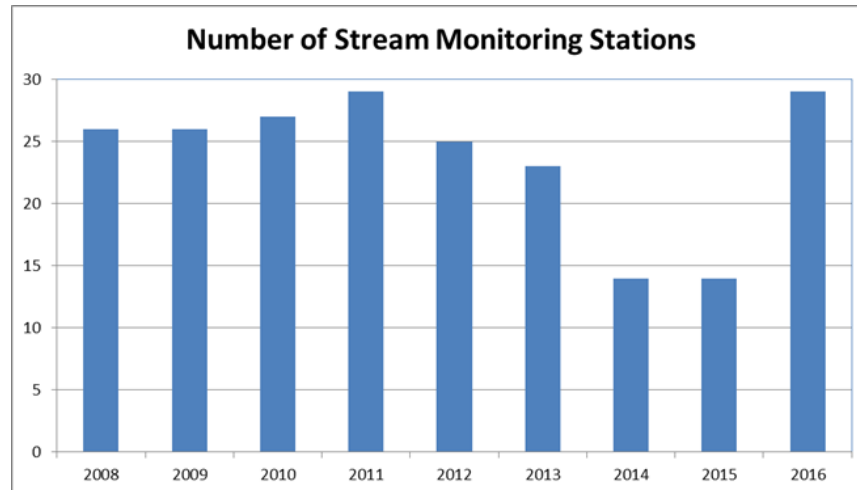
Subject: Citizen Nomination for Stream Monitoring

Dear Mr. Torbeck:

Loudoun Watershed Watch is pleased to provide several nominations for additional stream monitoring locations to be considered for inclusion in DEQ's Water Quality Monitoring plan for calendar year 2017. We believe that this year's submission of sites is especially important in that the total number of benthic samples in the Loudoun County region has changed over the years. The number of planned sites for CY2016 is greater than 2014 and 2015. We understand the rotating watershed strategy used by DEQ to optimize coverage. It appears that emphasis in 2014 and 2015 was not on Loudoun County and that in CY2017 will have Loudoun "in focus".



The planned stations for CY2016 of almost 25 stations. We anticipate that CY2017 will be similar.



We are aware that only about 30 percent of the stream miles in Loudoun County have been assessed for aquatic life use through benthic monitoring of the macroinvertebrate community in the streams. We understand that VA DEQ began stream monitoring in Loudoun County in 1994. Over the years the number in sites has grown to about a dozen sites wherein a site is typically monitored in both the spring and fall as VA DEQ requires that two benthic sampling be conducted to be included in the water quality assessment. The site locations change around as DEQ seeks to maximize coverage and, in part, because of previous site nomination submitted by Loudoun Watershed Watch.

This year our maps include stream reach nominations to help guide the 2017 selection process. We are cognizant of resource limitations and have selected five locations seeking to monitor stream reaches across the county under a variety of conditions. We have leveraged several data sources including state, county and citizen stream monitoring.

This year we utilized the state EDAS Family and Genus MS Access files with data available through Fall 2015. The 2015 DEQ data was posted in April 2016. The Genus-level data began in 2012 and typically includes duplicate results which we have averaged. We chose to aggregate data for each station for each sampling period (spring and fall) into one score. We have also separately examined the Spring and Fall 2015 data. For each aggregated results, we have posted DEQ results on the maps.

We have also used the comprehensive DEQ-approved Loudoun County Stream assessment, conducted in the spring of 2009 (<http://www.loudoun.gov/streamassessment>). This provides high-quality results using DEQ-approved protocol for 200 locations.

Additionally in recent years two active partners of Loudoun Watershed Watch, specifically Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy and Goose Creek Association have provided additional locations and multi-year benthic assessments (2008-2014). Based on the benthic assessments, as well as the habitat assessments, we have assembled a series of priority site nominations as attached.

The goal of our site nominations is to suggest stream reaches that in our opinion are strategic to support identification of both “healthy” and potentially “impaired” (for aquatic life use) segments. Based on the 2009 Loudoun County stream assessment, 78% of the streams are statistically under stress or severe stress and would be designated as impaired, however, even with 200 monitoring events from the spring of 2009, this comprehensive survey does not provide sufficient coverage of all streams in Loudoun as the goal of the study was an overall assessment and was not designed to analyze each and every segment. Furthermore, the sampling was a one-time event and VA DEQ requires at least two events during the sampling window of the assessment cycle.

Regarding bacteria monitoring, we are not nominating any additional sites as we recognize that there is a high probability (80-90 percent) that streams within Loudoun County if sufficiently monitored would probably fail to meet the recreational use criteria established by VA DEQ.

Attached are sites that we believe are priority locations for benthic monitoring in CY 2017. The nominated stream reaches include:

1. South Fork Catoctin Creek
2. Middle Catoctin Creek
3. Sugarland Run
4. Russel Branch
5. Howsers Branch

We look forward to your response and continued efforts to evaluate stream health in Loudoun County.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David Ward", written in a cursive style.

David Ward
Loudoun Watershed Watch

REQUEST TO INCLUDE A WATER SEGMENT IN DEQ'S ANNUAL MONITORING PLAN

Name: David Ward, Loudoun Watershed Watch Date: April 28, 2015

Mailing Address: 38659 Bolington Rd
Street

City: Lovettsville State: VA Zip: 20180

E-mail address: info@loudounwatershedwatch.org

Telephone: Home: 540-822-5092 Business: _____ Fax: _____

Geographic description of the water body:

(1) Name of the water body or segment proposed for monitoring:

South Fork Catoctin Creek

(2) Description of the upstream and downstream boundaries of the water body proposed for monitoring. Attach a map (preferably a photocopy of a 7.5 minute quad USGS topographic map) which delineates the boundaries:

The South Fork Catoctin Creek receives upland water from rural western Loudoun County. The creek flows through the Town of Purcellville, travelling and several miles downstream where in Waterford becomes part of the State-designated Scenic River.

(3) Reason for requesting that this water body be monitored:

The creek runs through the Town of Purcellville which has experienced significant growth and commercialization. At the Chatman Demary Trail and the Nature Park there have been several years of citizen data as well as many events in recent years held by The Nature Generation. It is imperative to have DEQ monitor this reach as we anticipate continued land use changes over years.

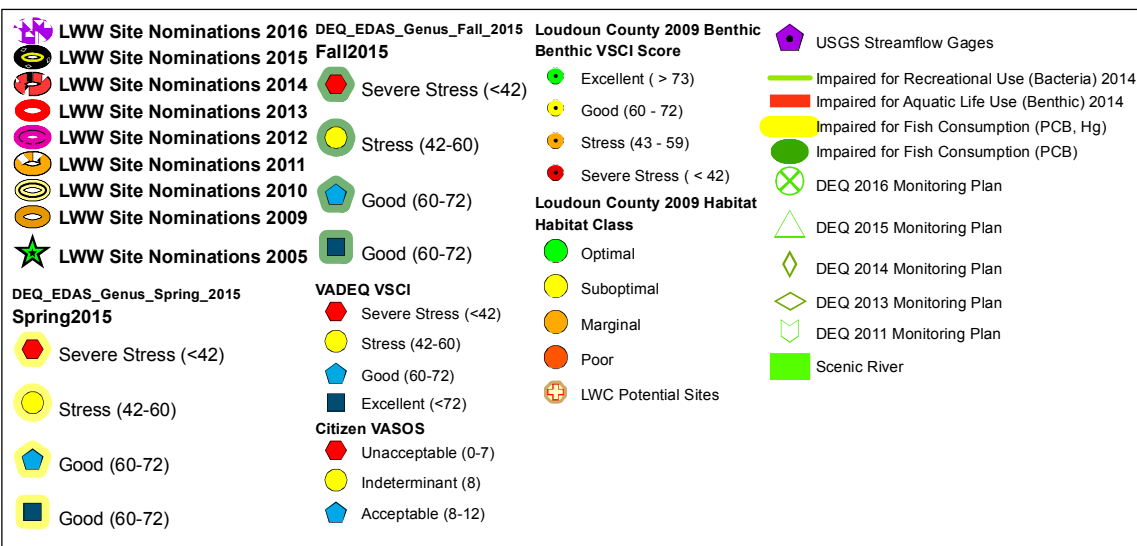
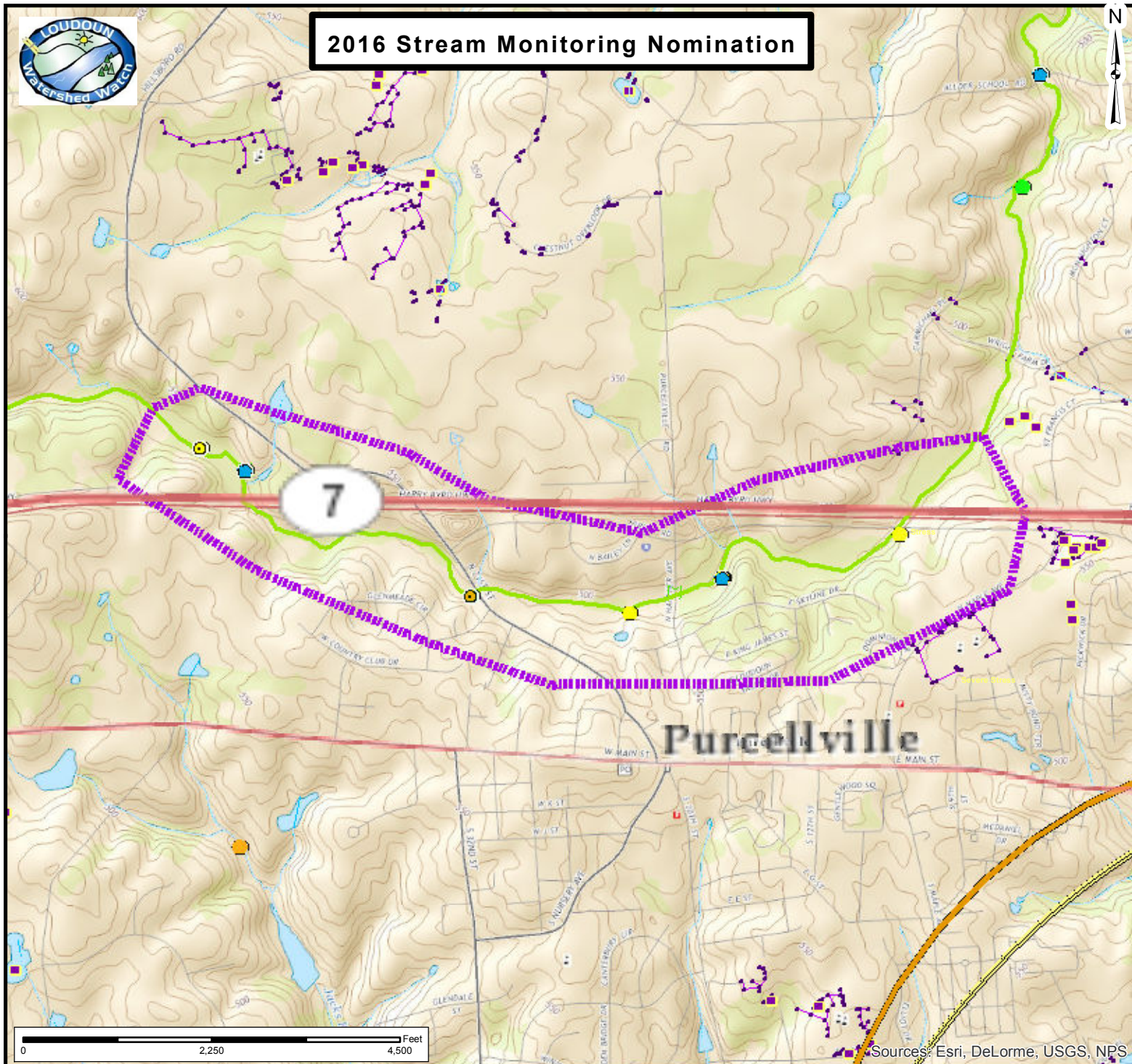
(4) Attach any water quality data that you have collected or compiled. Include the name of the organization/entity that generated the data.

Data, reports, maps, presentations and animations are presented at www.loudounwatershedwatch.org and www.loudounwatershed.org

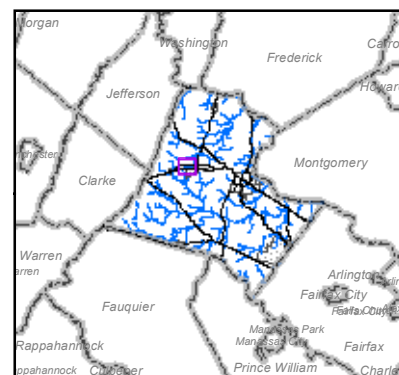
Additional reports and interactive maps of 2009 comprehensive field surveys are presented at www.loudounwatershedwatch.org/maps.



2016 Stream Monitoring Nomination



South Fork Catoclin Creek



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Street

City: Lovettsville State: VA Zip: 20180

E-mail address: info@loudounwatershedwatch.org

Telephone: Home: 540-822-5092 Business: _____ Fax: _____

Geographic description of the water body:

(1) Name of the water body or segment proposed for monitoring:

Middle (Mainstem) Catoctin Creek

(2) Description of the upstream and downstream boundaries of the water body proposed for monitoring. Attach a map (preferably a photocopy of a 7.5 minute quad USGS topographic map) which delineates the boundaries:

The mainstem of Catoctin Creek extends from the Village of Waterford, through the Village of Taylorstown and discharges to the Potomac River. The reach is part of the State-designated Scenic River.

(3) Reason for requesting that this water body be monitored:

Historically DEQ has not sampled the mainstem of Catoctin Creek. This is in part due to the limited access cross roads, although we believe that Featherbad Lane bridge could offer a good and strategic location for stream monitoring. Currently VDOT is planning to restore or renovate the bridge and existing conditions should be established.

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2016 Stream Monitoring Nomination



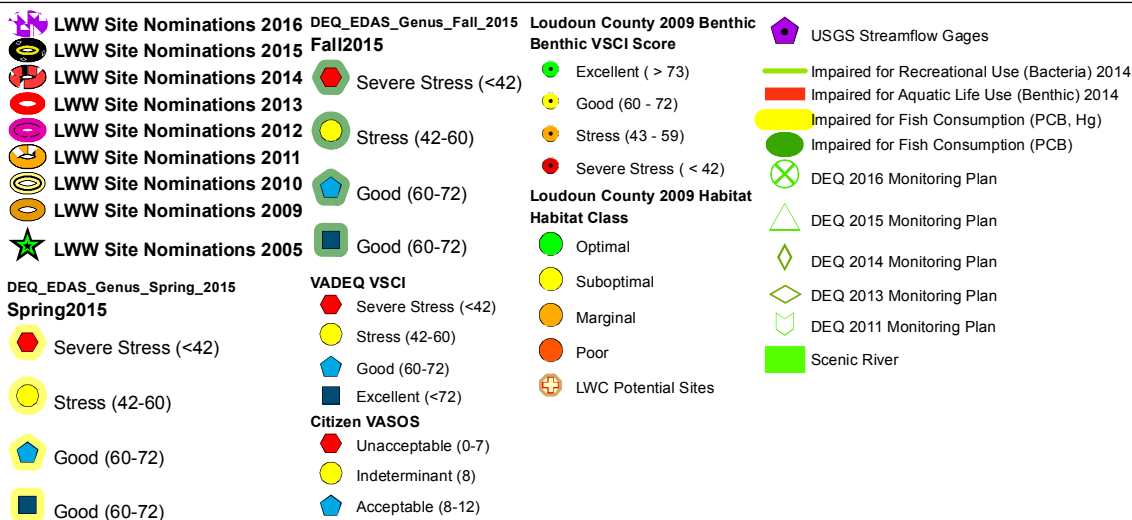
Milltown Creek Category: 4A
First Listed: 2006
TMDL Scheduled: 2018

Catoctin Creek Bridge

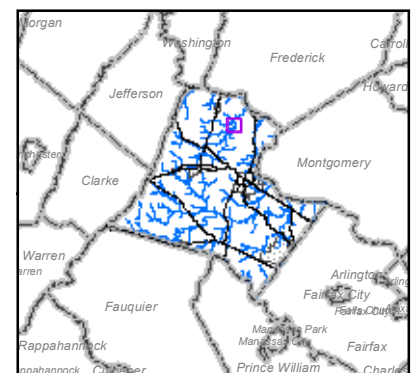
LOUDOUN CO

0 1,875 3,750 Feet

Sources: Esri, DeLorme, USGS, NPS



Middle Catoctin Creek



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Geographic description of the water body:

(1) Name of the water body or segment proposed for monitoring:

Sugarland Run

(2) Description of the upstream and downstream boundaries of the water body proposed for monitoring. Attach a map (preferably a photocopy of a 7.5 minute quad USGS topographic map) which delineates the boundaries:

Sugarland Run originates in the Town of Herndon in Fairfax County and flows north through subdivisions in Loudoun County which were built mostly in 1990's and 2000's.

(3) Reason for requesting that this water body be monitored:

Sugarland Run has not been monitored by DEQ for benthic and only limited citizen data from more than a decade ago. While little land use changes are anticipated a baseline needs to be established especially now that stormwater retrofit projects will likely be developed over the next decade. This data will also confirm recovery from Colonial Pipeline spill a few decades ago.

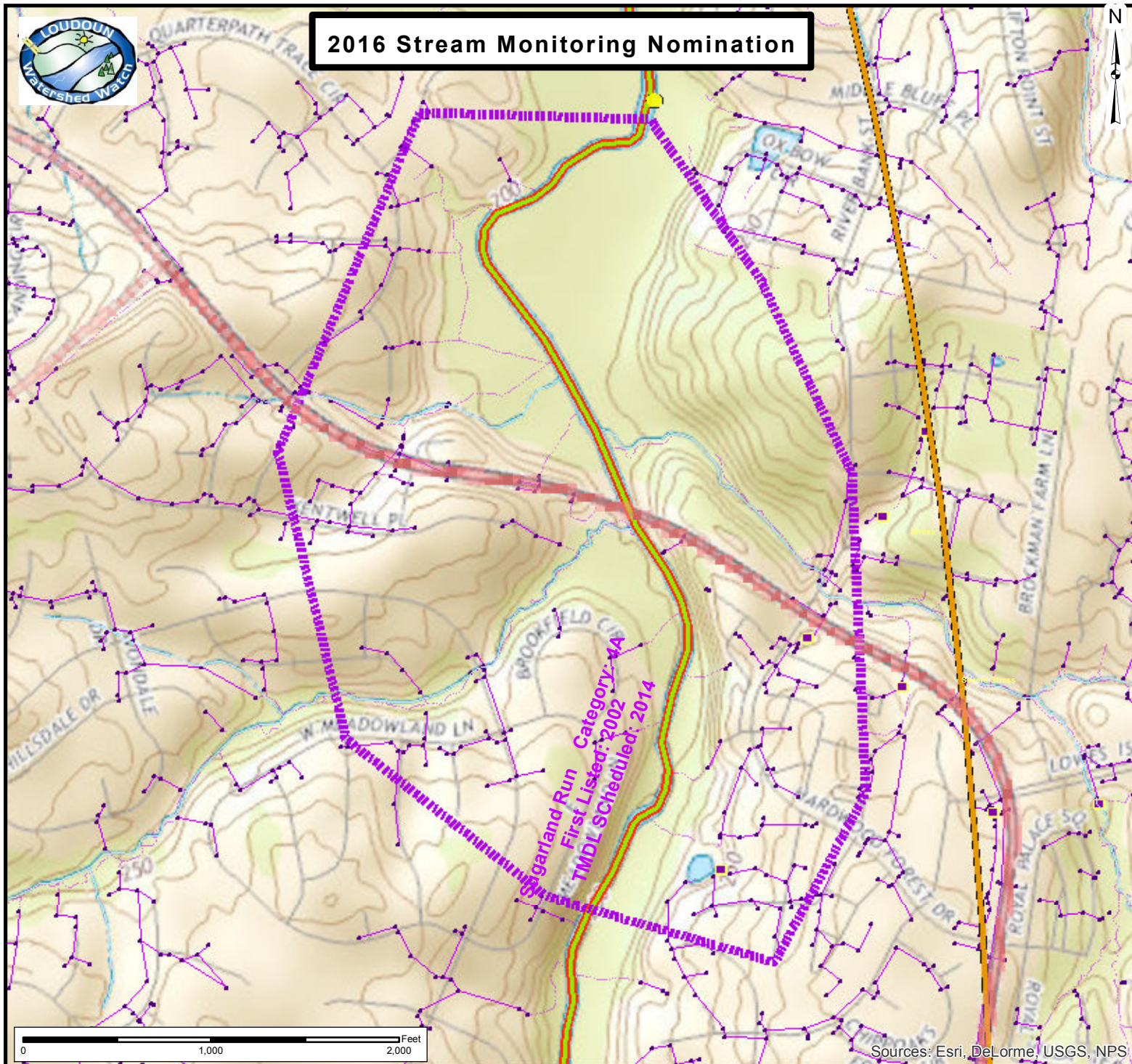
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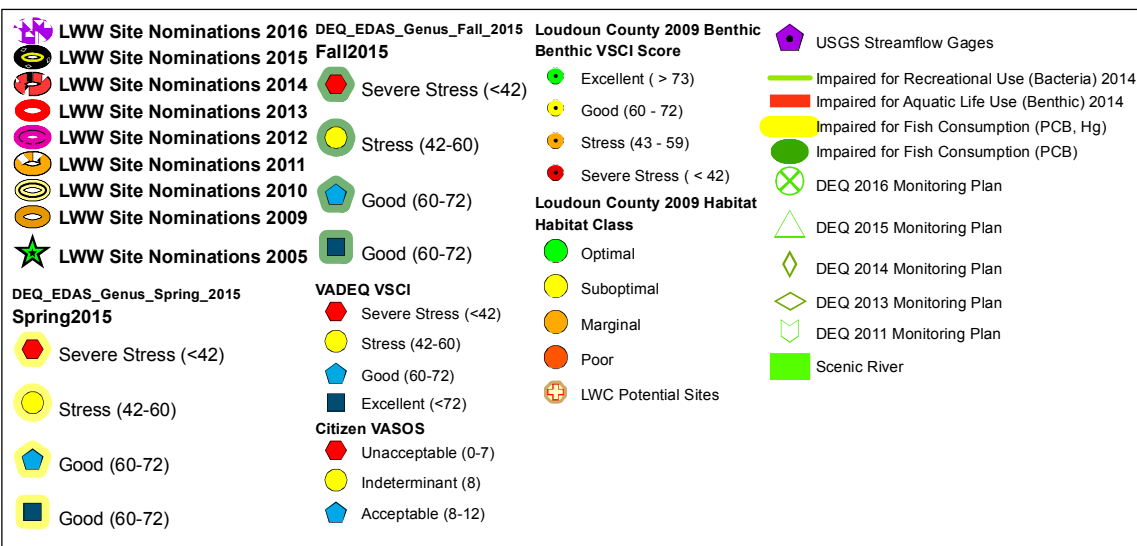
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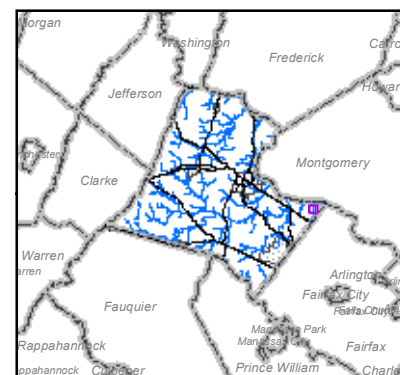
2016 Stream Monitoring Nomination



Sources: Esri, DeLorme, USGS, NPS



Sugarland Run



REQUEST TO INCLUDE A WATER SEGMENT IN DEQ'S ANNUAL MONITORING PLAN

Name: David Ward, Loudoun Watershed Watch Date: April 6, 2015

Mailing Address: 38659 Bolington Rd
Street

City: Lovettsville State: VA Zip: 20180

E-mail address: info@loudounwatershedwatch.org

Telephone: Home: 540-822-5092 Business: _____ Fax: _____

Geographic description of the water body:

(1) Name of the water body or segment proposed for monitoring:

Russell Branch

(2) Description of the upstream and downstream boundaries of the water body proposed for monitoring. Attach a map (preferably a photocopy of a 7.5 minute quad USGS topographic map) which delineates the boundaries:

Russell Branch flows eastward through recently developed parcels and discharges to Broad Run. The area is significantly impacted by stormwater runoff, some of which is LID with minimal infrastructure.

(3) Reason for requesting that this water body be monitored:

No data has been collected by DEQ or Citizens. The one-time Loudoun County sampling in 2009 shows severe stress at several locations, and the reach requires DEQ monitoring for confirmation.

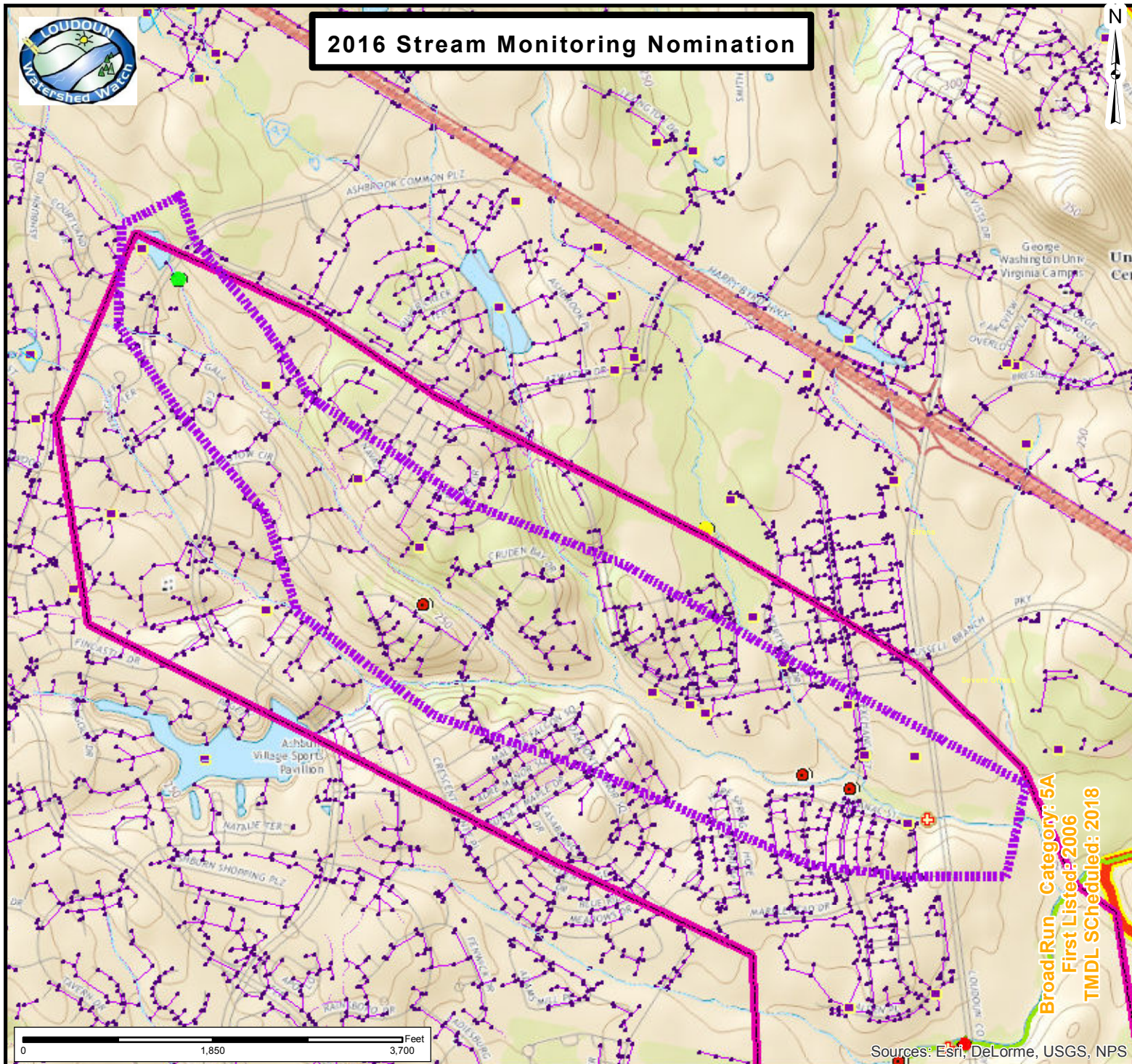
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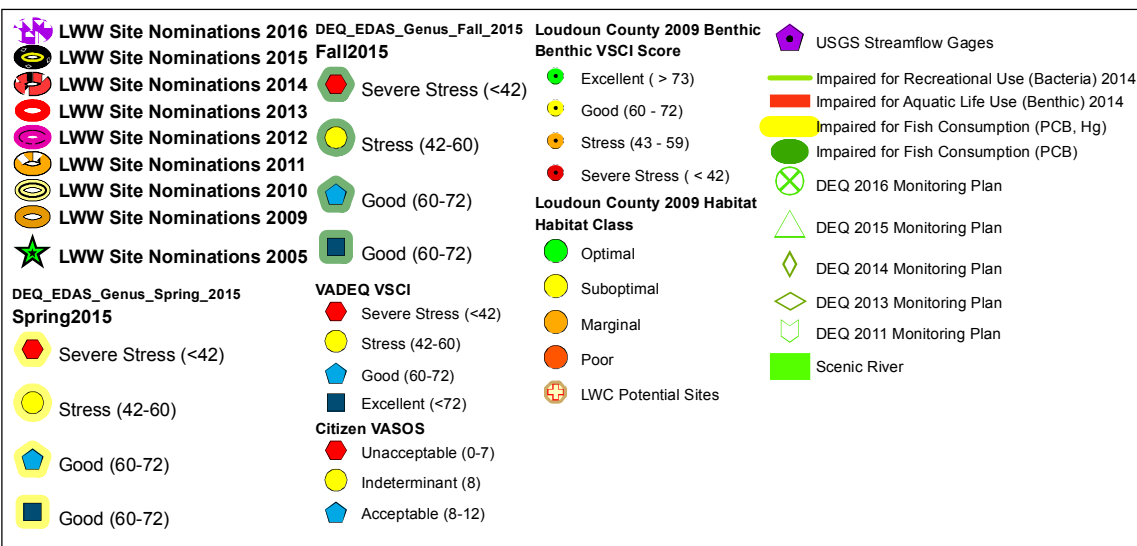


2016 Stream Monitoring Nomination

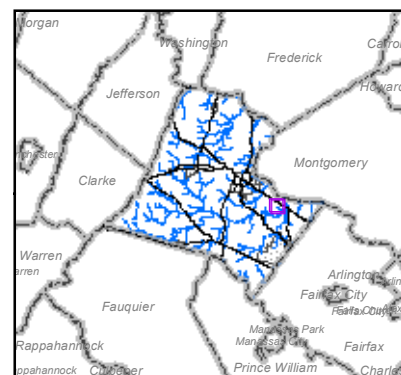


Broad Run - Category: 5A
First Listed: 2006
TMDL Scheduled: 2018

Sources: Esri, DeLorme, USGS, NPS



Russell Branch



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Geographic description of the water body:

(1) Name of the water body or segment proposed for monitoring:

Howzers Branch

(2) Description of the upstream and downstream boundaries of the water body proposed for monitoring. Attach a map (preferably a photocopy of a 7.5 minute quad USGS topographic map) which delineates the boundaries:

Howzers Branch flows northward towards Little River. The creek flows through rural areas and several conservation easements.

(3) Reason for requesting that this water body be monitored:

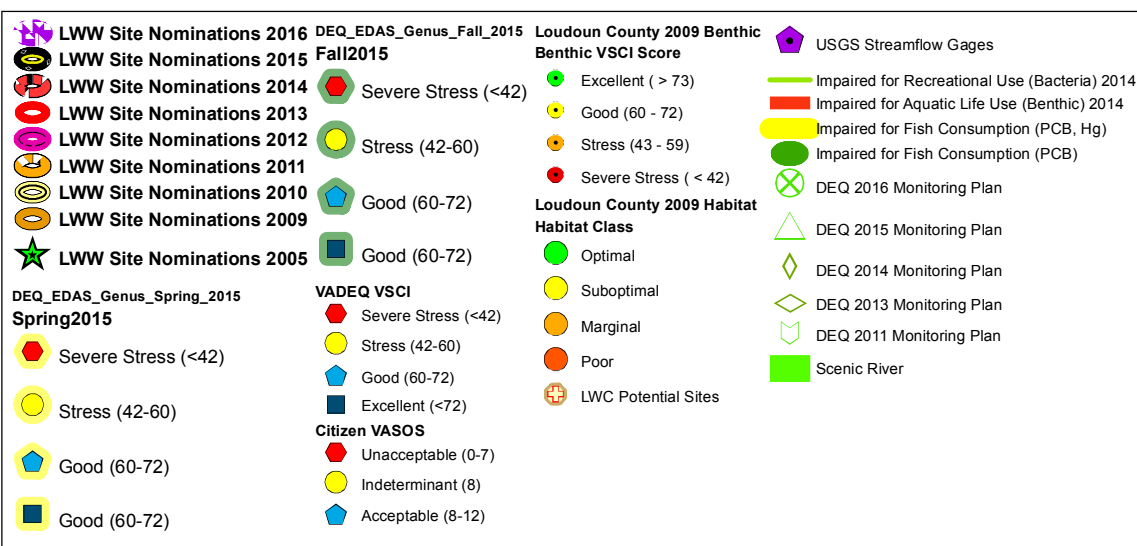
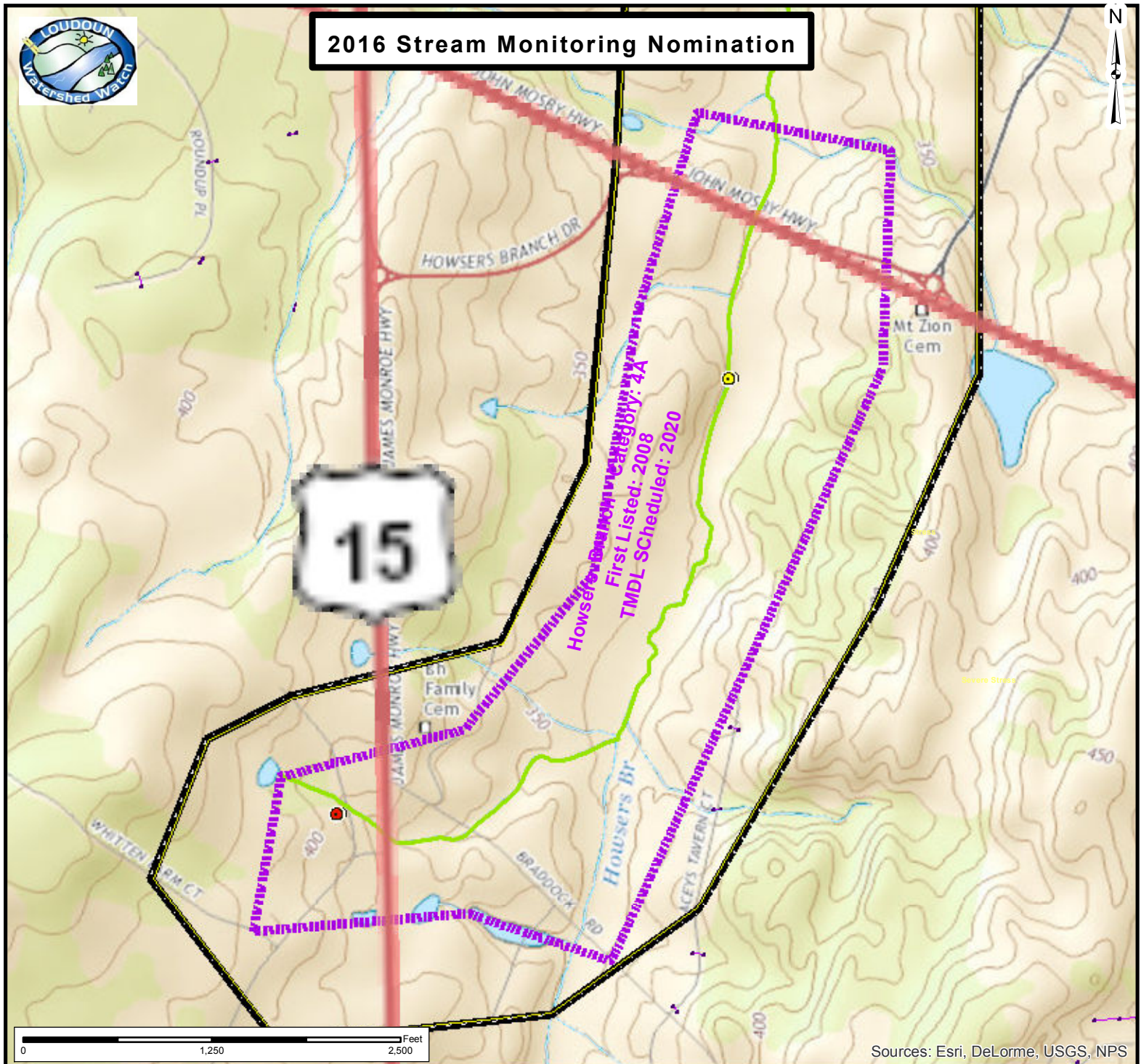
A baseline is need to support long-term trend analysis of a reasonably well conserved area. The Piedmont Environmental Council has begun citizen monitoring at three locations near Rt 50 in the headwaters for benthic and bacteria on the PEC Conservation Easement parcel. We suggest a one-or two-year effort to establish a baseline and return a decade later in order to assess conservation efforts.

(4) Attach any water quality data that you have collected or compiled. Include the name of the organization/entity that generated the data.

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2016 Stream Monitoring Nomination



Howsers Branch

