

# West Branch Susquehanna Subbasin Survey

*A Water Quality and Biological Assessment,  
July - November 2002*



**SUSQUEHANNA RIVER  
BASIN COMMISSION**

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**Report By:**  
**Susan R. LeFevre,**  
*Biologist*

The Susquehanna River Basin Commission (SRBC) conducted a Year-1 survey of the West Branch Susquehanna Subbasin from July to November 2002, which included point-in-time samples of the water quality, macroinvertebrate community, and habitat. This report provides an assessment of that data. SRBC monitors and assesses the six major subbasins (Figure 1) of the Susquehanna River Basin on a rotating schedule. The previous surveys of the West Branch Susquehanna Subbasin were conducted in 1985 and 1994. An assessment of the data from the 1994 survey also is included in this report for comparison purposes. Historical data from these surveys, as well as all other subbasin surveys, are available from SRBC.

- Subbasin survey information is used by SRBC staff and others to:
- evaluate the chemical, biological, and habitat conditions of streams in the basin;
  - identify major sources of pollution and lengths of stream impacted;
  - identify high quality sections of streams that need to be protected;
  - maintain a database that can be used to document changes in stream quality over time;
  - review projects affecting water quality in the basin; and
  - identify areas for more intensive study.

SRBC will conduct a Year-2 study of a priority watershed within the West Branch Susquehanna Subbasin during 2003 and 2004. The priority watershed will be selected based on results from the Year-1 survey and input from local interests. SRBC will work with area groups to provide additional data to aid in remediation or protection efforts.



**Figure 1.** The Susquehanna River Basin Subbasins

*West Branch Susquehanna River  
near Wetham, Clinton County*



D. Gavin

S. LeFevre