

One river Multiple uses Different standards!

Water Quality Standards

Water quality standards are measurements the state sets to protect its waters from pollution. These standards are designed to make sure a body of water remains clean enough to support its designated uses. Some of the most common standards include:

- Dissolved Oxygen
- pH
- Temperature
- Ammonia
- Turbidity
- Bacteria (Fecal Coliform)
- Toxic metals (including mercury, cadmium, and lead)
- Organic chemicals. Organics are carbon-based manmade chemicals found in solvents, industrial chemicals, and agricultural pesticides.

WVDEP sets West Virginia Water Quality Standards

The West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) is responsible for adopting water quality standards for the state's waters. Before the standards are put into effect, they must be approved by the State Legislature and the federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Water quality standards must be reviewed every three years and revised as needed.

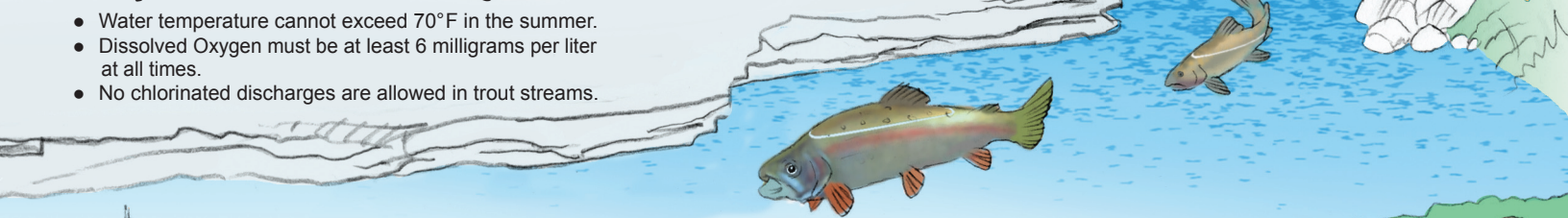
Upper reaches of the Greenbrier River

The upper reaches of the Greenbrier River are characterized by cold temperatures and high levels of oxygen. They provide a good habitat for brown trout, brook trout, and rainbow trout.

The standards for this river segment protect its use as a trout stream.

Examples of trout (cold) water fishery standards

- Water temperature cannot exceed 70°F in the summer.
- Dissolved Oxygen must be at least 6 milligrams per liter at all times.
- No chlorinated discharges are allowed in trout streams.



Lower reaches of the Greenbrier River

Downstream, the waters are less oxygenated. The river is wider, less shaded, and becomes warmer. As a result, the river is populated with bass, sunfish, and other warm-water species. The standards for this river segment protect its use as a warm-water fishery.

Examples of warm water fishery standards

- Water temperature cannot exceed 81°F in the summer.
- Dissolved oxygen must be at least 5 milligrams per liter.
- Residual chlorine cannot exceed 0.011 milligrams per liter.



The Greenbrier River is also used for agriculture, public drinking supply, and recreation.