



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

September 10, 2018

The Arkansas Natural Resources Commission (ANRC) and the Illinois River Watershed Partnership announce a new agreement to improve water quality within the Illinois River Watershed.

Through a \$1.4 million grant from the ANRC, the Illinois River Watershed Partnership will administer a new project to assist landowners with implementing best management practices to improve water quality with a goal of 20 miles of riparian area protection or restoration within the Illinois River Watershed. The project will improve water quality through streambank restoration and riparian buffer protection. The Illinois River Watershed is a state priority watershed and considered a nutrient surplus area by ANRC.

“This new project is part of our continuing efforts to improve water quality within the Illinois River Watershed through incentive-based conservation programs. This program will further the work the State of Arkansas is doing to achieve necessary non-point source reductions within the watershed,” said Bruce Holland, ANRC Executive Director.

“We are very excited for the opportunity to partner with ANRC to implement additional best management practices for water quality improvement,” said Nicole Hardiman, IRWP Executive Director. “And we applaud the efforts of the States of Arkansas and Oklahoma, as well as the Cherokee Nation, for continuing to work together for water quality improvement in the Illinois River Watershed.”

The ANRC is the state agency responsible for developing and implementing the Arkansas non-point source management program and the State’s Nutrient Reduction Strategy.

The Illinois River Watershed Partnership is a non-profit watershed management group whose mission is to improve the integrity of the Illinois River through public education and community outreach, water quality monitoring, and the implementation of conservation and restoration practices throughout the watershed.

For more information about the program, please contact Nicole Hardiman by phone at 479-422-1014 or by email at director@irwp.org or Ryan Benefield at (501) 682-3962.