



Chapter 3 Getting Started

*“If you don't know where you are going,
any road will get you there”*

- Lewis Carroll

Parts of the Plan

Why do you want to monitor?

Where are you going to go?

When are you going to go?

Who will do the monitoring?

What are you going to test for?

How will the data be used?

Why do you want to monitor?

- Personal curiosity
- Work-related interest
- School or student project
- What do you want to know?

Where are you going to go?

Guidelines for Site Selection

- SAFETY!
- IOWATER Code of Ethics
- Approved collection device
- Representative area of the water body
- SAFETY!



Who will Monitor?

SAFETY!

Monitoring Frequency

I know where to go and what to do...now when do I go there?

- Time of Year
- Frequency
- Time of Day
- Weather Conditions

Important Questions

How will the data I collect be used?

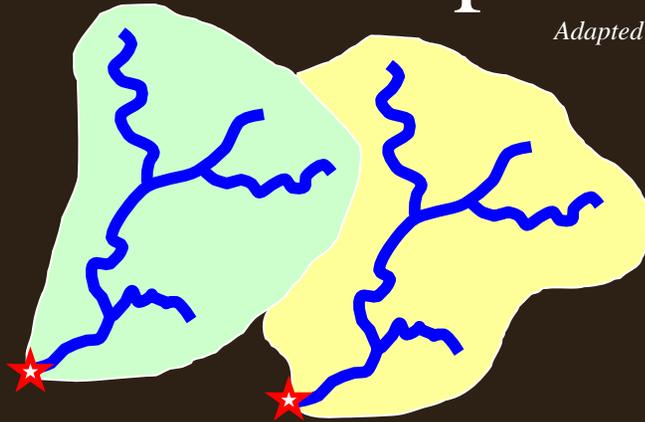
- Personal use/analysis
- Project-specific
- Used by others

Examples of Monitoring Plans

- Paired
- Nested
- Single Station
- Upstream/Downstream

Example: *Paired Watershed*

Adapted from North Carolina State University



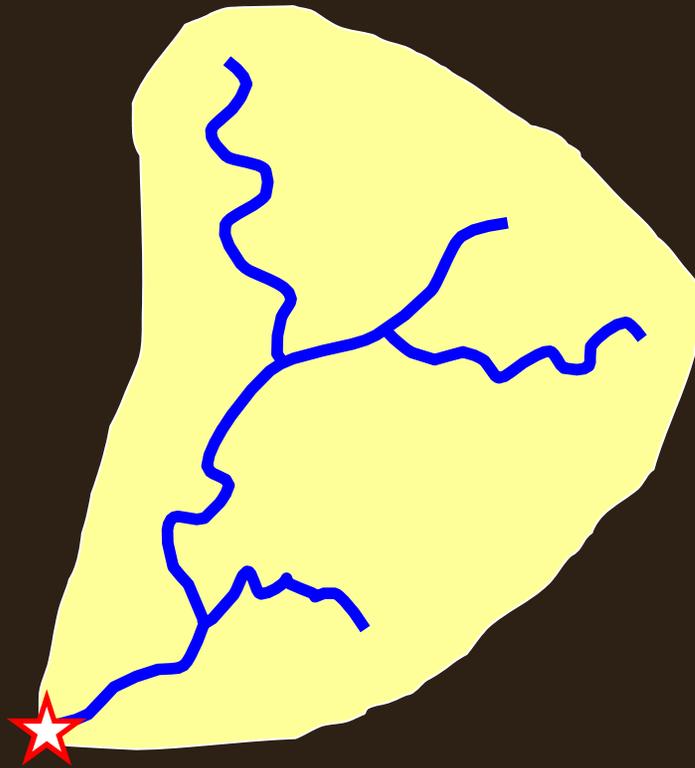
Site may be compared based on:

- Control/variable experiment-
- Different land uses/landforms-
- Other activities-



Example: *Single Station*

Adapted from North Carolina State University



**Site may be tested
before and after
changes in:**

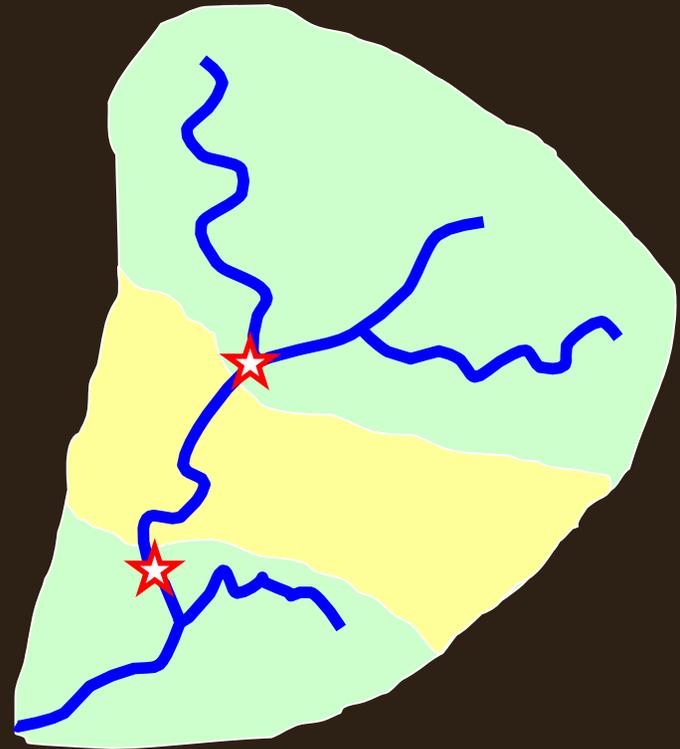
- Land use-**
- Season-**
- Other activities-**

Example: *Upstream/Downstream*

Adapted from North Carolina State University

Sites isolate a specific areas to measure:

- Differences above and below a specific location
- Impacts of sub-watershed activity & improvements



Important Considerations

Do I have to monitor for everything?

- Program is flexible
- Depends on what you want to know
- One piece of information may relate to another

What if I don't know what or where?

- IOWATER staff can assist
- Connect with a local conservation professional
- Connect with a local educator
- Start asking questions 😊

What if my site is dry?

- Any observation counts.
- Record “did not sample – no flow” in notes.
- Pay attention to habitat and streambanks.
- May become its own trend over time.



View of an Intermittent Stream

Credibility in Data Collection

Can you be credible but not knowledgeable?

Can you be knowledgeable but not credible?

Keys to Credibility

- **Interpret data carefully.**
 - Credibility may take years to build, but only an instant to destroy.
- **Adhere to IOWATER Code of Ethics.**
- **Contact IOWATER with any questions, comments, and/or concerns.**