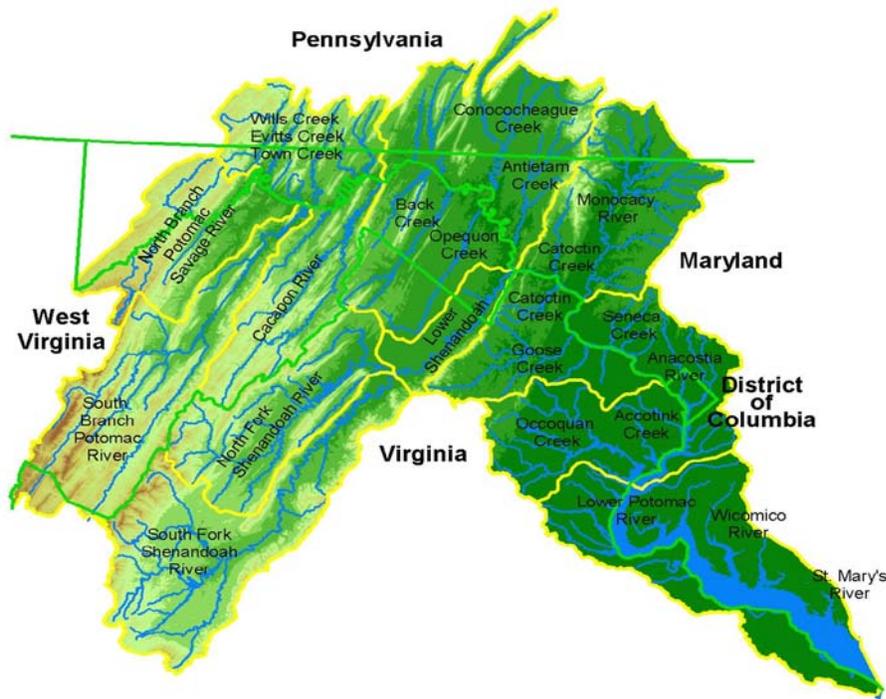




# INTERSTATE COMMISSION ON THE POTOMAC RIVER BASIN



## Potomac Basin Basics

**THE BASIN:** The drainage area includes approximately 14,670 square miles in the District of Columbia, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and West Virginia.

**MAINSTEM LENGTH:** 383 miles from Fairfax Stone (W. Va.) To Point Lookout (Md.); Tidal reach: 108 miles.

**MAJOR TRIBUTARIES:** Shenandoah, South Branch Potomac, Monocacy, Savage, Cacapon, Anacostia, and Occoquan rivers; Antietam and Conococheague creeks.

**POPULATION:** Approximately 5.3 million; 3.7 million in the Washington metropolitan area.

**FLOW:** Highest flow at Washington, D.C., in March 1936 was about 275 billion gallons per day. Lowest flow was in September 1966, about 388 million gallons per day. Average flow is about 7 billion gallons per day.

**WATER SUPPLY:** An average of about 487 million gallons is used daily for Washington metropolitan area public water supplies. Of that total, about 391 million gallons are taken directly from the Potomac, with the remainder taken from reservoirs on the Occoquan (Va.), and Patuxent (Md.) rivers. Approximately 181 million gallons per day of groundwater is used in rural areas.