

Recommendations for Water Withdrawals in Federally Listed Mussel Streams

Commitment to the following criteria will help protect mussels from impacts associated with water withdrawals. These recommendations are applicable for mussels in all streams unless further study determines otherwise.

1. Water withdrawals will cease if water flows reach a level that is 5 inches above the WVDEP recommended Passby Flow. (A staff gauge will be installed at the nearest downstream riffle and zeroed at the Passby Flow value. Once flows drop to 5 inches above this point, withdrawals will cease.)
2. The staff gauge(s) will be checked daily before withdrawing water to ensure adequate flow (i.e. as described above).
3. Regardless of flow, water withdrawals will cease if stream temperature reaches 27° C at 16:00 hours. Temperature will be monitored at the nearest downstream riffle and will be checked daily prior to withdrawing water. Withdrawals may resume when subsequent checks at 16:00 hours indicate water temperature has remained below 27° C.
4. Users will exercise caution and use common sense, particularly during drought or extended dry conditions, or in cases where multiple users may be withdrawing water from the same source.