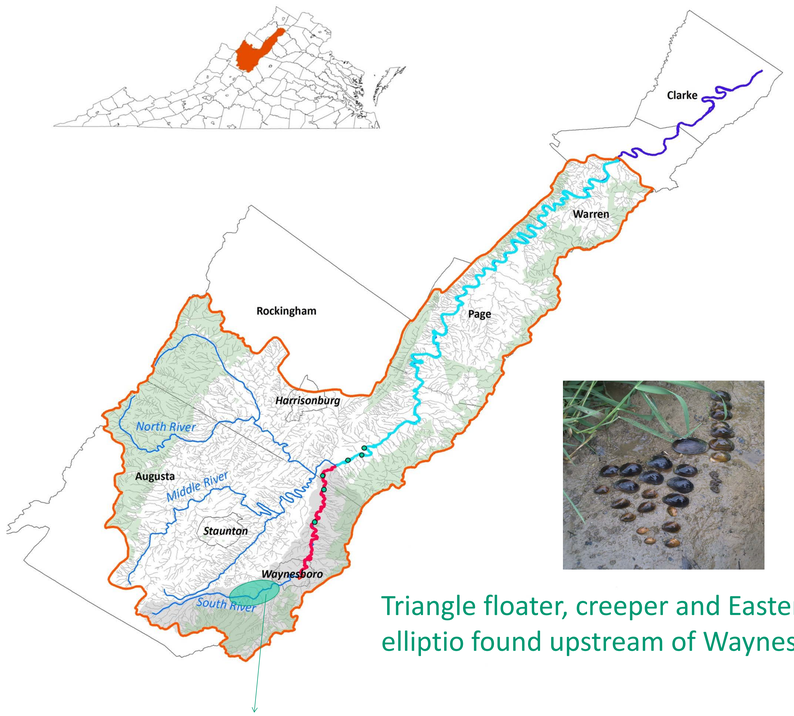
Freshwater Mussel Restoration – Propagation and Restocking

RESOURCES:

Several species of mussels were historically present in South River, South Fork Shenandoah River, Shenandoah River and tributaries. Recent surveys show no mussels downstream of Waynesboro on the South River.



Suitable mussel habitat.

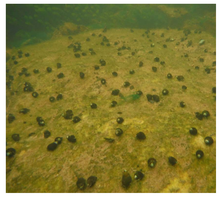
Triangle floater, creeper and Eastern elliptio found upstream of Waynesboro.

GOAL:

Target 9 species at densities of 2.26 mussels/m^2

EXPECTED BENEFITS:

- Improve water quality
- Stabilize river bottoms
- Enhance habitat for host fish and sport fish
- Provide habitat for prey items (insect larvae)
- Benefit mussels, sediment, fish, aquatic organisms, some birds and mammals

PROPOSED PROJECT:

- Multi-year propagation program at:
  - Freshwater Mollusk Conservation Center at Virginia Tech
  - Virginia Fisheries and Aquatic Wildlife Center at Harrison Lake National Fish Hatchery
- Translocation of mussels
- Restocking suitable locations within the South River, South Fork Shenandoah and their tributaries
- Monitoring activities to show success