

### **Boone Watershed Partnership Receives a Stream Restoration Project Grant for Sinking Creek**

The Tennessee Department of Agriculture has awarded the Boone Watershed Partnership with a EPA funded, 319 grant of \$300,000 to address nonpoint source pollution on Sinking Creek, which runs through Washington County and Carter County in Tennessee. The Boone Watershed Partnership is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that works with local users, regional, state and federal entities, educators and others to identify and address water resource issues in the Boone Watershed, an area of about 686 square miles lying in Sullivan, Washington and Carter Counties of Tennessee and Washington County of Virginia. The total cost of the project will be \$517,000, with the rest of the funding being provided by local partners, including the City of Johnson City, the Boone Watershed Partnership, TVA, volunteers and others. This 3 year project which started on October 2008, is addressing all nonpoint sources of pollution on Sinking Creek, a state-listed 303(d) listed stream (A 303(d) listed stream is a one that is impaired). Sinking Creek is listed because of high levels of E. coli and is posted, warning the public to avoid contact with the water. The restoration plan includes extending sewer lines, addressing failing septic tanks, establishing buffer zones along the stream, providing assistance to farmers for livestock Best Management Practices, and public outreach and education.