

# Mad River Watch (MRW) Results - July, 13 2015

SITE LOCATION	SITE #	Water Temp. °F	<i>E.coli</i> per 100ml *
Blueberry Lake	BBL	74.0	22.8
Warren Falls (Mad River)	1	60.0	10.6
Warren Store (Freeman Brook)	4	62.0	13.4
Warren Riverside Park (Mad River)	7	62.0	16.0
Inferno Road Crossing (Clay Brook)	12	58.0	3.0
Lareau Swimhole (Mad River)	19	63.0	14.8
Couples Club Field (Mad River)	19.2	63.0	24.3
Waitsfield Covered Bridge (Mad River)	20	63.0	12.0
Moretown Village Swim Access (Mad River)	27	66.0	44.8
Ward Swimhole (Mad River)	29	69.0	78.9

\* > 235 *E.coli* /100ml = Not suitable for recreation, according VT Department of Health and EPA

## Flow and Weather Analysis

The flow condition of the Mad River at the time of sampling Monday morning was low and steady (LS), measuring approximately 96 cubic feet per second (cfs) at the USGS flow gage in Moretown, after nearly two weeks without substantial rain. The median flow for this date is 123 cfs. No sites tested above DOH/EPA safe *E. coli* level of 235 colonies per 100 mL of water. Following sampling, an afternoon thunderstorm caused the river to rise and likely elevated *E. coli* levels.

## River Flow

**LS - low and steady:** It has not rained in several days and the water is low.

## Thanks to this week's volunteers!

Samplers - Paula & Charlie Baldwin, Susy Deane, Chase Fortier, Fran & Gary Plewak, and Michael Ware

*E. coli* Lab Coordinator - Maryellen Kinhan

Posting Results - Sally Boudreau

Transporting Samples - Susanne & George Schaefer

# *Friends of the Mad River*



-- FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE --  
7/14/2015

Contact: Corrie Miller, Director, (802) 496-9127

## **Hot and Dry Weather Good for Safe Swimming**

Sampling results from the third round of *Friends of the Mad River's* 2015 Mad River Watch (MRW) volunteer water quality program show no sites with unfavorable swimming conditions Monday morning after nearly two weeks without substantial rain. It rained after sampling Monday afternoon, however, and likely washed sediments and pollutants from the land into the river and streams.

The flow condition of the Mad River at the time of sampling Monday morning was low and steady (LS), measuring approximately 96 cubic feet per second (cfs) at the USGS flow gage in Moretown, down slowly and steadily from about 1380 cfs on July 1. The median flow for this date is 123 cfs. None of the 36 sampling sites tested above DOH/EPA safe *E. coli* level of 235 colonies per 100 mL of water.

Remember, though, that rains can cause *E. coli* levels to fluctuate, even on a daily basis, as water carrying pathogens moves down the watershed. FMR's *E. coli* sampling results are intended to give you a sense of the conditions that lead to high pathogen levels in the water so you can be informed. **You** are your best protector - use common sense and don't swim for at least a full day after a rain.

*E. coli* is a type of coliform bacteria and is used as an indicator of pollution from human or animal waste and the potential presence of disease causing organisms. It is estimated that at the level of 235 colonies *E. coli* per 100 mL water, approximately 8 out of every 1,000 swimmers are likely to contract a water borne illness related to fecal contamination.

Many thanks to this week's Mad River Watch volunteers: Paula & Charlie Baldwin, Susy Deane, Chase Fortier, Fran & Gary Plewak, and Michael Ware. Thanks to Susanne and George Schaefer who drove water samples to the DEC's lab in Burlington for phosphorus and turbidity analysis, to Sally Boudreau for posting data at ten swimholes across the watershed, and to Maryellen Kinhan for completing the Wait House *E. coli* lab analysis. The Mad River Watch Program would not be possible without these dedicated volunteers!

For more information about *E. coli* and the Mad River Watch program and to view our most recent complete data report please visit the *Friends of the Mad River* website at [www.FriendsoftheMadRiver.org](http://www.FriendsoftheMadRiver.org). Results are also available on Facebook ("Friends of the Mad River") and on sign posts at swimholes across the Valley. *Friends* is a community-supported organization, and depends on the generous contributions of its members to continue the Mad River Watch and other important programs; learn how to become a member and donate securely online at our website.