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FOR FURTHER INFORMATION,  
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### ***2003 Water Quality Report Available***

The Oklahoma Water Resources Board's comprehensive annual report of water quality data from throughout Oklahoma is now available on the agency's Web site at [www.owrb.state.ok.us](http://www.owrb.state.ok.us) and on compact disc by calling the OWRB at 405-530-8800.

The 2002-2003 report of the Beneficial Use Monitoring Program (BUMP) features detailed physical, chemical, and biological data collected from 130 designated lakes, each with at least four monitoring sites, and 99 stream sites. This year's BUMP report includes bathymetric maps for thirteen lakes: Atoka, Eucha, Frederick, Hefner, Hugo, McGee Creek, Murray, Overholser, Sardis, Spavinaw, Stanley Draper, Thunderbird, and Wister. The OWRB's bathymetric mapping team is currently working on projects at Grand, Walters, Lawtonka, Heyburn, and Ellsworth Lakes.

"I'm pleased to report that BUMP data indicate an overall improvement in the condition of Oklahoma's water and the quality of our lakes and streams is at its best since the program's establishment in 1998," according to Derek Smithee, chief of the OWRB's Water Quality Division. "And in those few areas where we see declining quality, we've identified problems at such an early stage that remediation measures can be much more successful."

Directed by the Board's Water Quality Division, the BUMP is Oklahoma's first truly comprehensive water quality monitoring effort. Water Board monitoring staff sample 99 rivers in the ambient site network annually and all lakes biannually. Data provided by the program plays an essential role in the state's water quality management decision-making process by helping to identify waters experiencing impairments as well as the cause of declining water quality. The BUMP is also invaluable to the development and refinement of Oklahoma's Water Quality Standards. Beneficial uses, the backbone of the Water Quality Standards, are assigned to individual lakes, streams, and stream segments based upon the primary benefits derived from those waters by the public.

According to Bill Cauthron, manager of the Board's Monitoring Section, BUMP data gathered during 2003 indicate that the major water quality concerns of Oklahoma lakes are dissolved oxygen, pH, and turbidity. Data also indicate that only four percent of sampled lakes were "hyper-eutrophic," which means they contain an excessive amount of nutrients that could lead to taste and odor problems. In improving order of quality, about 39 percent of sampled lakes were considered eutrophic, 53 percent were mesotrophic, and four percent were oligotrophic (waters relatively low in nutrients). Cauthron adds the vast majority of streams sampled within the past two years were suitable for uses related to public and private water supply. Inorganic turbidity, through sediments from runoff, was the primary detriment to fish and wildlife propagation, and bacteria were the major concern for recreation that involves primary body contact with the water. A small number of sampled streams had problems associated with dissolved solids, thereby limiting irrigation uses.

For more information on the OWRB's Beneficial Use Monitoring Program or to request the report on CD, call 405-530-8800 or visit the Water Board's Web site at [www.owrb.state.ok.us](http://www.owrb.state.ok.us).

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