

Life Cycle of a Volunteer Water Monitoring Program and Implications for Credibility... a Case From Alabama

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USDA-CSREES National Water
Conference Research, Extension and
Education for Water Quality and
Quantity

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Savannah, Georgia

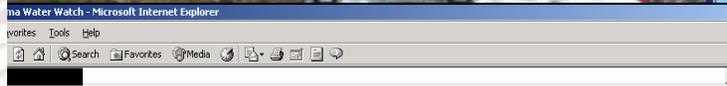


Alabama Water Watch



A Program dedicated to Citizen Volunteer Monitoring of Alabama's Lakes, Streams and Coasts

With partial funding from:
U.S. EPA, Region 4
Alabama Department of Environmental Management
Alabama Agricultural Experiment Station
Alabama Water Watch Association
Alabama Cooperative Extension System



Alabama Water Watch

About AWW | Data Entry | Calendar | Monitor Resources | Image Gallery | Water Data

A program dedicated to developing citizen volunteer monitoring of Alabama's lakes, streams and coasts.

[Click on map to search water data](#)

Rivers of Alabama

This AWW sponsored website brings Alabama rivers to life by examining each watershed individually and in-depth.
[Visit the website to learn more about your watershed.](#)

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AWAWARENESS
AWW's online Newsletter

Recertification Workshop in Smith Lake
Thank you to Deb and Bob Berry for their hospitality hosting the recertification and AWW personnel.
[Click here to see image gallery.](#)

New Waterbody Report Available
The new waterbody report featuring activities of the Smith Lake AWW volunteer monitoring groups is available now.
[Click here to find more about it](#)

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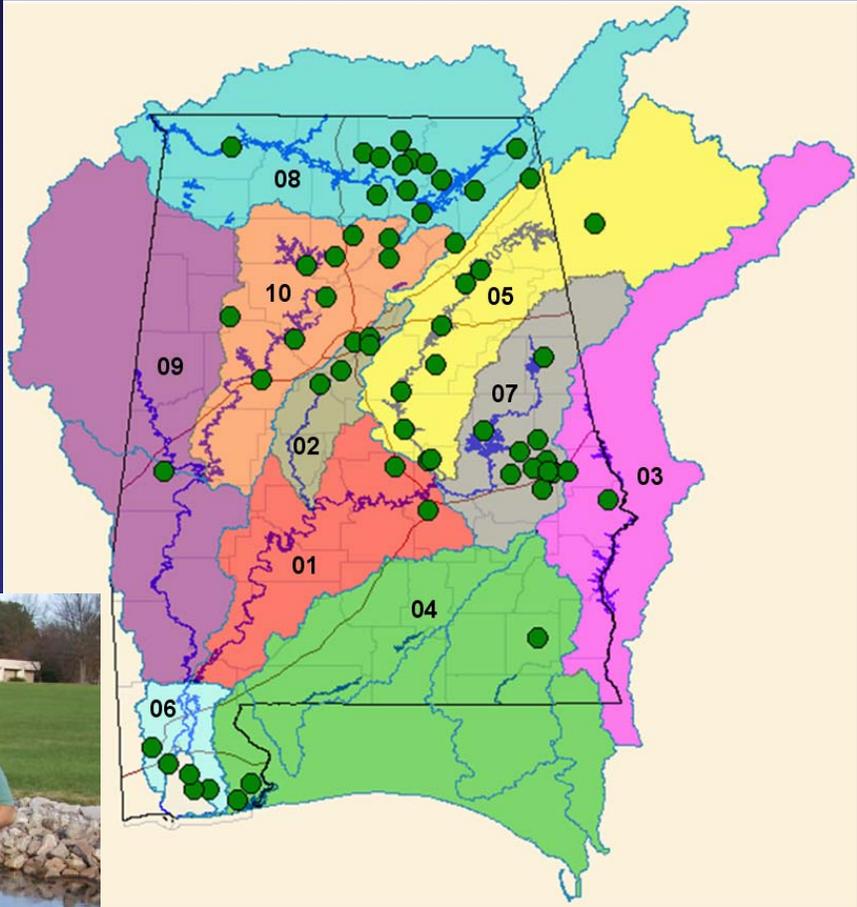
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Alabama Water Watch



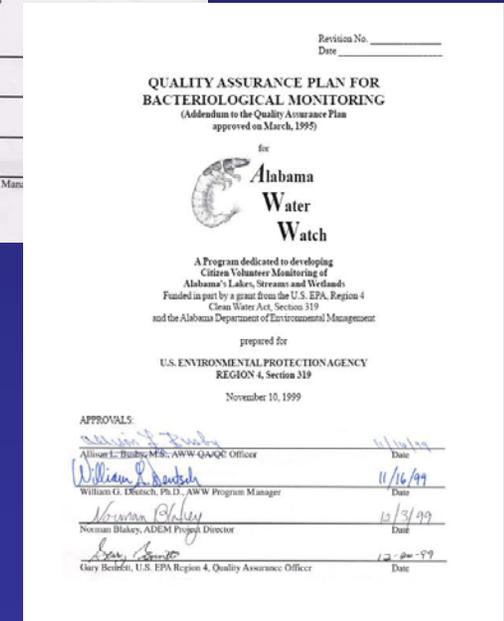
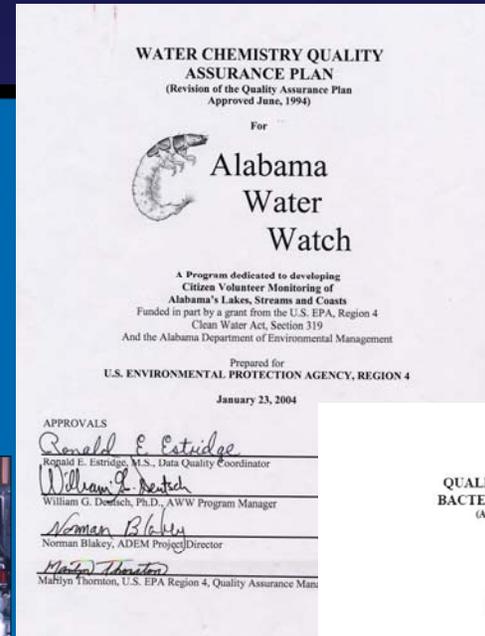
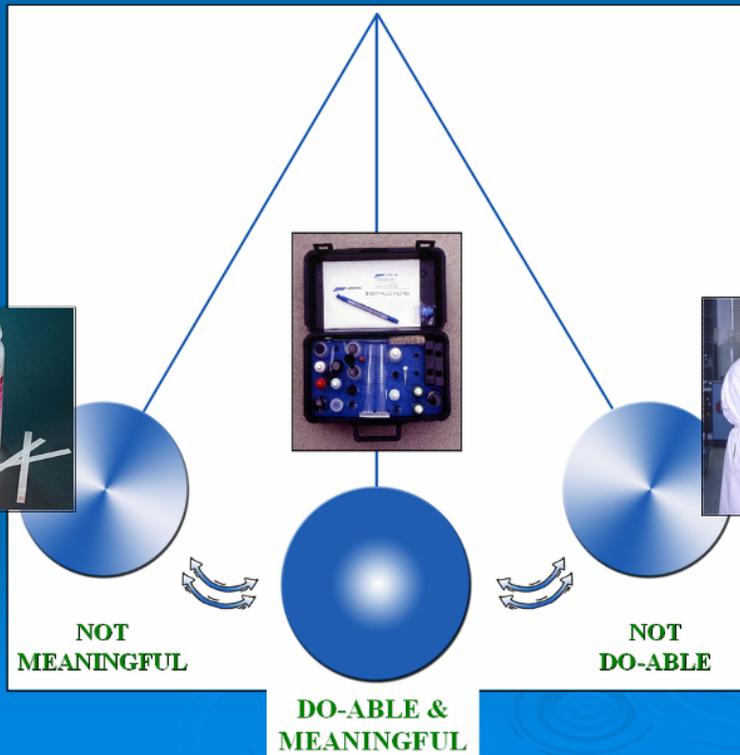
Water Chemistry Monitoring



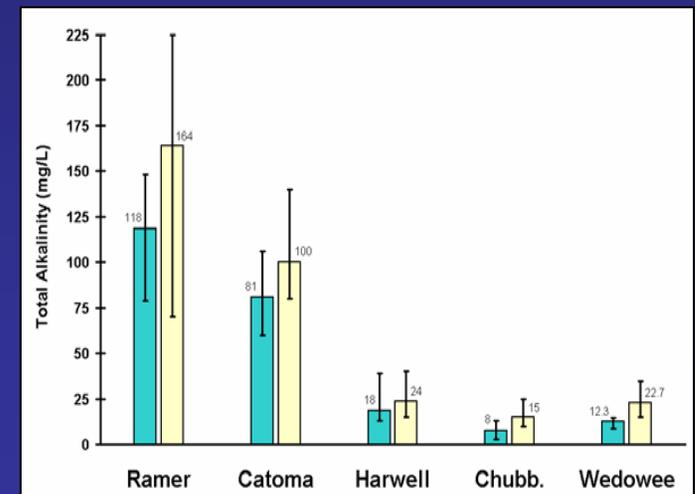
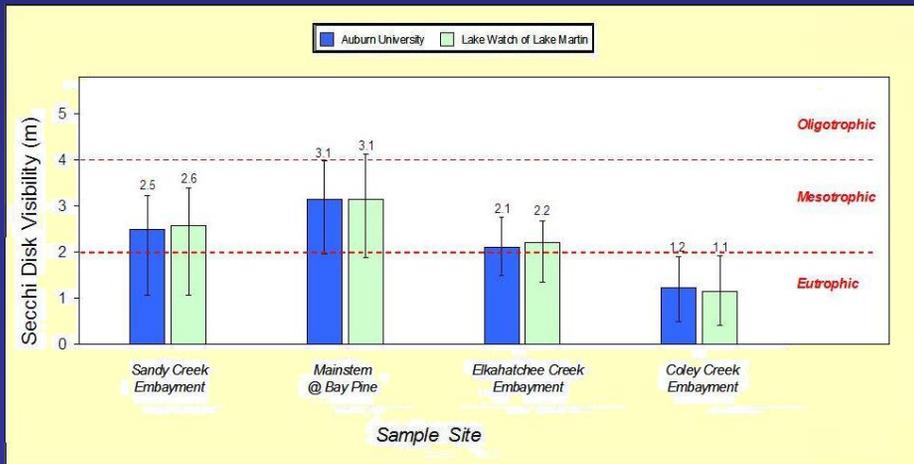
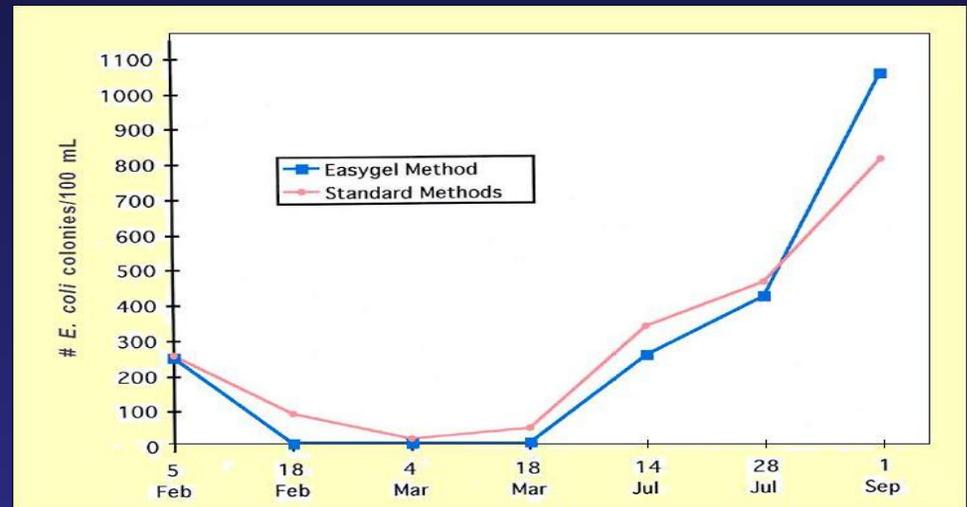
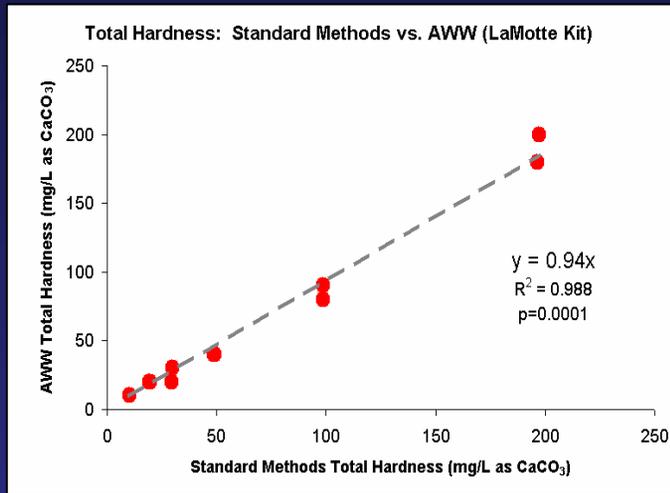


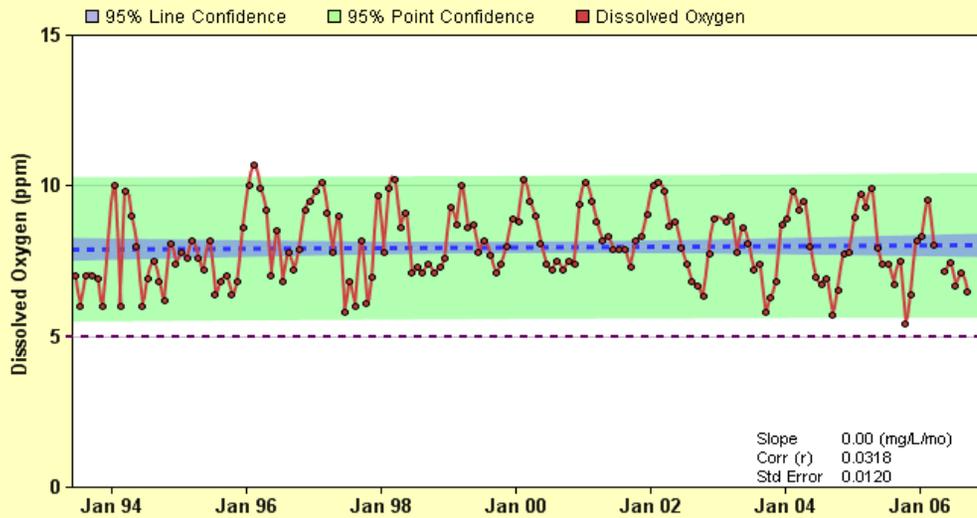
Sampling Protocols and QA

The AWW Approach

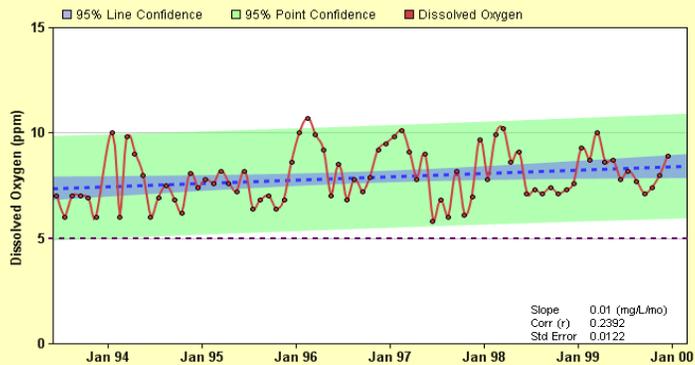


Credibility Checks

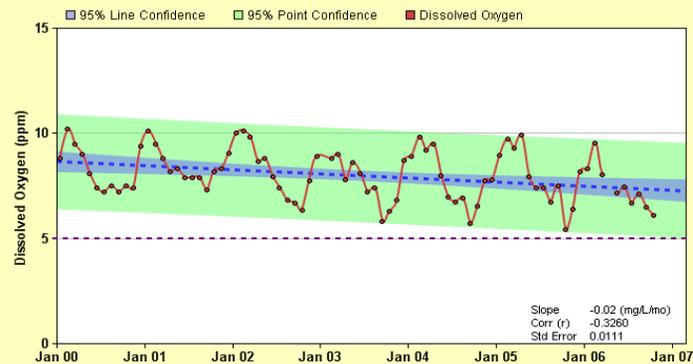




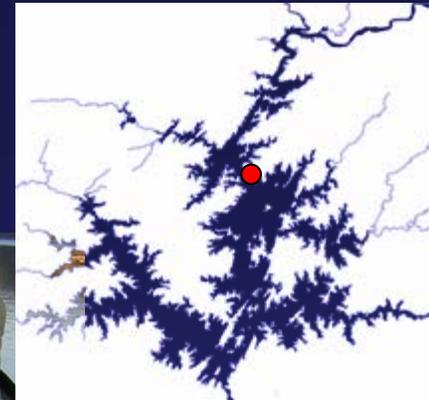
Dissolved Oxygen at site 07001003 in Tallapoosa County, AL
 Lake Martin (Tallapoosa Watershed) 158 samples
 Latitude: 32.843191 N, Longitude: -85.886966 W Hydrologic Unit Code (HUC11): 03150109180
 - - - 5 ppm minimum Dissolved Oxygen required for Fish and Wildlife Classification



Dissolved Oxygen at site 07001003 in Tallapoosa County, AL
 Lake Martin (Tallapoosa Watershed) 78 samples
 Latitude: 32.843191 N, Longitude: -85.886966 W Hydrologic Unit Code (HUC11): 03150109180
 - - - 5 ppm minimum Dissolved Oxygen required for Fish and Wildlife Classification



Dissolved Oxygen at site 07001003 in Tallapoosa County, AL
 Lake Martin (Tallapoosa Watershed) 81 samples
 Latitude: 32.843191 N, Longitude: -85.886966 W Hydrologic Unit Code (HUC11): 03150109180
 - - - 5 ppm minimum Dissolved Oxygen required for Fish and Wildlife Classification



Data Applications...

Watershed Management Plans



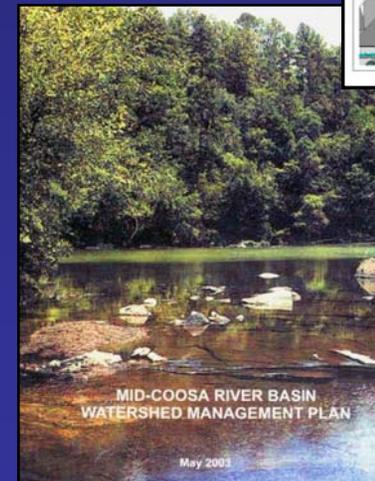
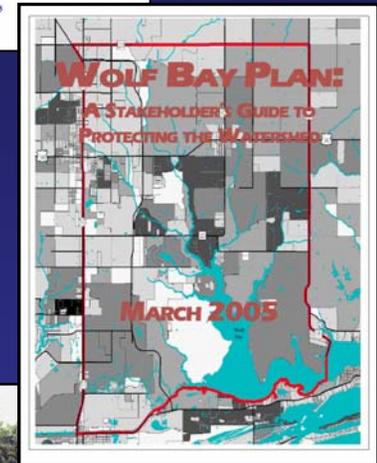
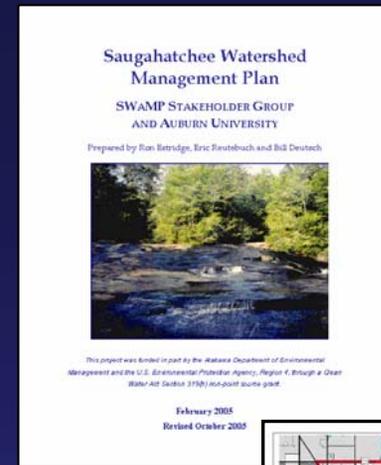
Alabama
CLEAN WATER
PARTNERSHIP

Working Together to Protect and Preserve Alabama's Water

The Alabama Clean Water Partnership was established to encourage environmental education, protection and restoration by bringing point source and non-point source interests together to solve water quality problems through non-regulatory means.

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SITE MAP



“citizen volunteer monitoring and assessments and public education and outreach are essential components of this Plan and may be the most effective management practices”

14 Years of Alabama Water Watch

**Who is monitoring
the water?**

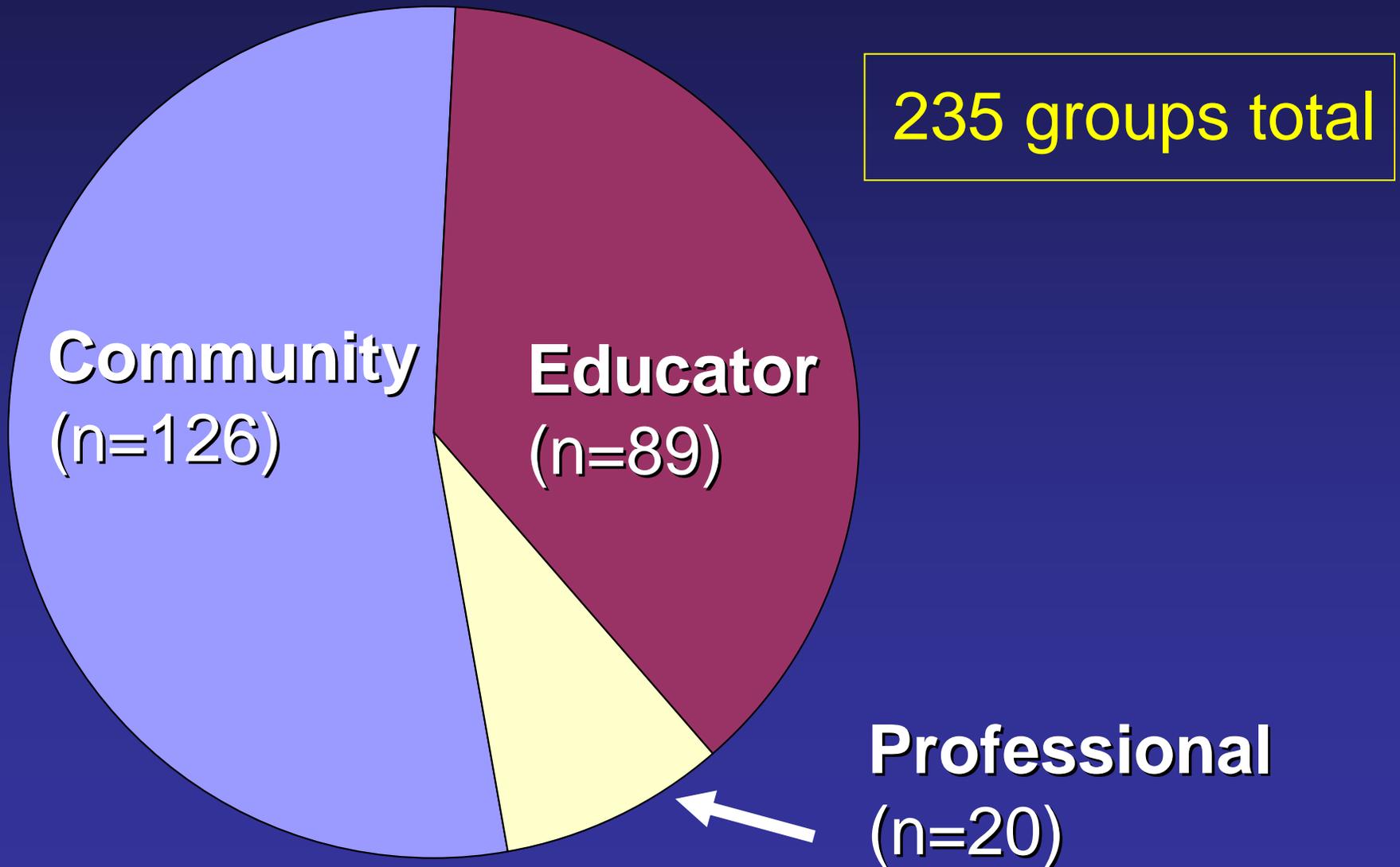
**Life cycle of the
AWW program**

14 Years of Alabama Water Watch

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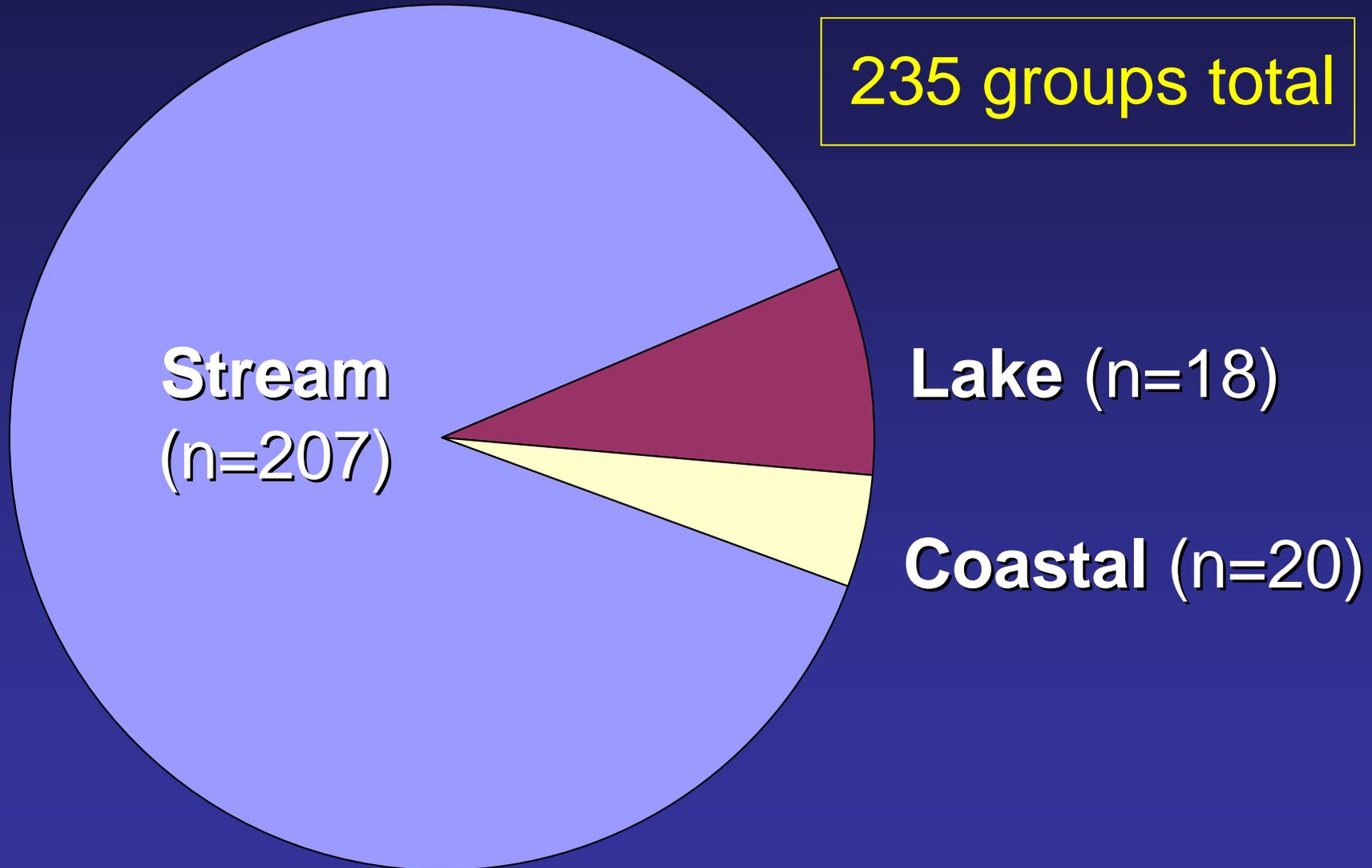
Life cycle of the
AWW program

Types of Monitoring Groups 1993-2006



Type of Water Body 1993-2006

235 groups total



Who is still active?

Of the **235** monitoring groups **61** are active.

Group Type

Community – 33%

Educator – 16%

Professional – 25%

Water Body

Stream – 20%

Lake – 72%

Coastal – 60%

Average Life Span of Monitoring Groups

Active groups = **5.9** years

Inactive groups = **1.8** years

Group Type

Community – 3.3 years

Educator – 2.2 years

Professional – 2.7 years

Water Body

Stream – 2.3 years

Lake – 7.2 years

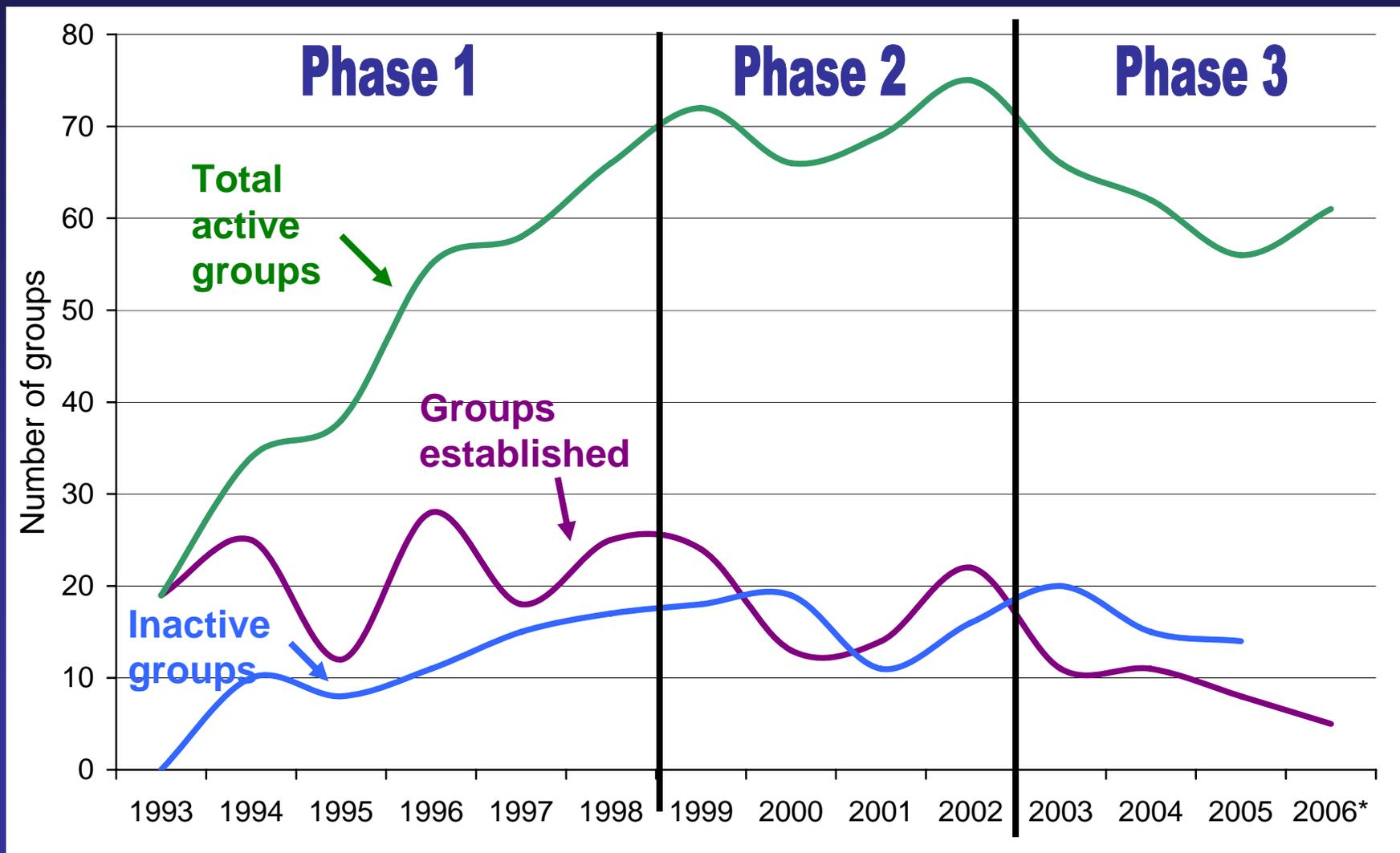
Coastal – 5.4 years

14 Years of Alabama Water Watch

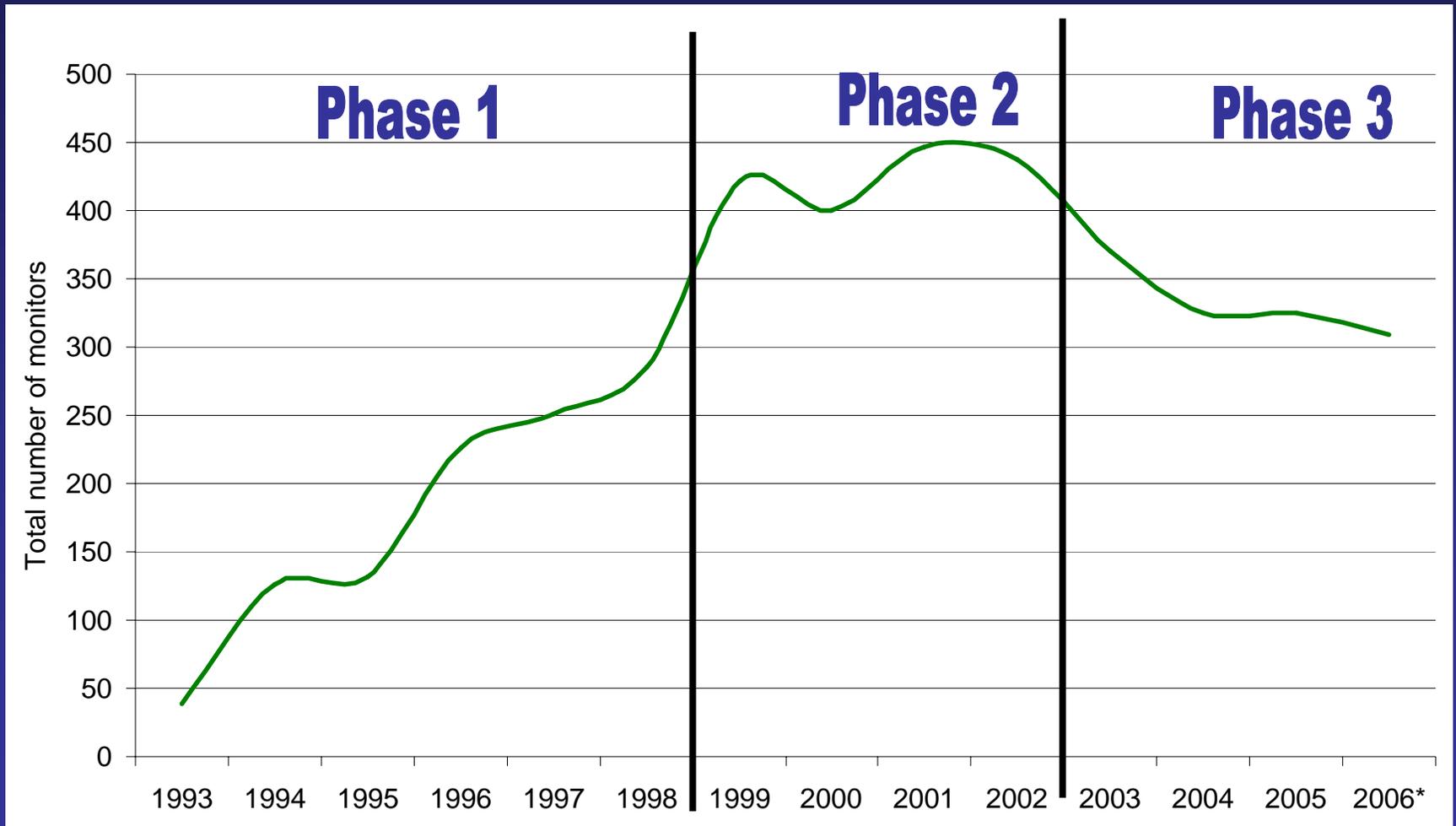
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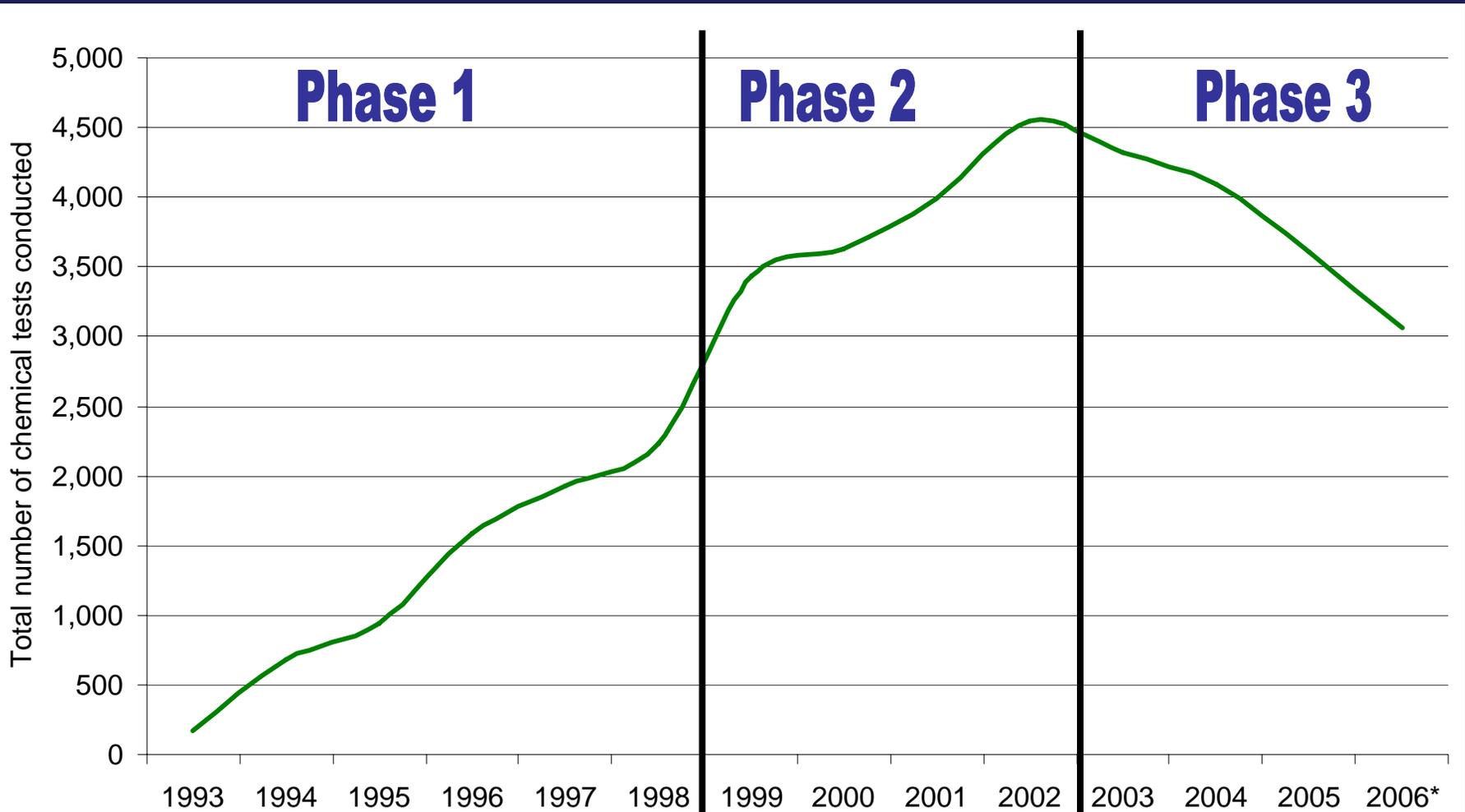
Established, inactive, and total active groups per year



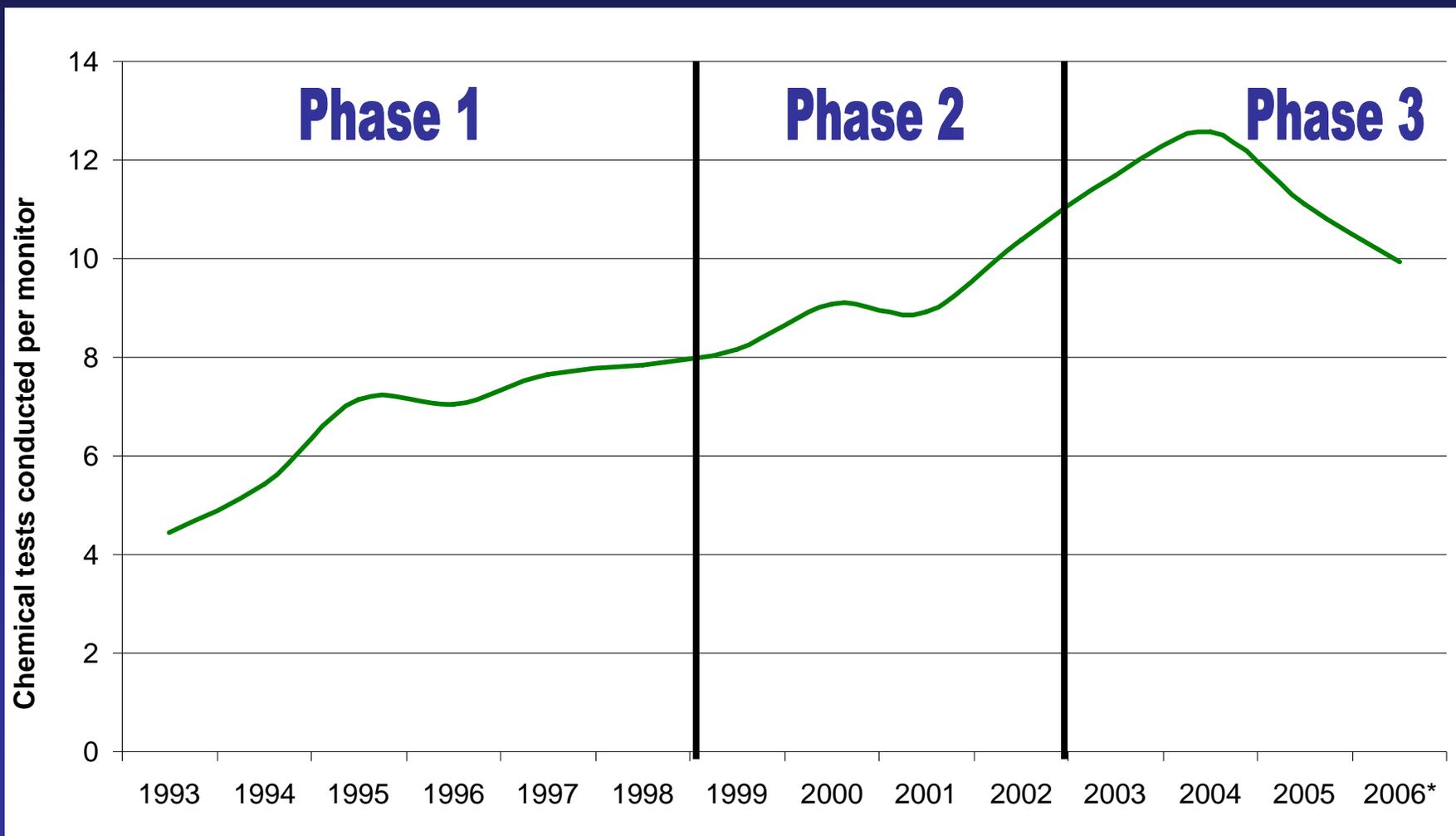
Total AWW monitors that submitted data per year



Total chemical tests conducted per year



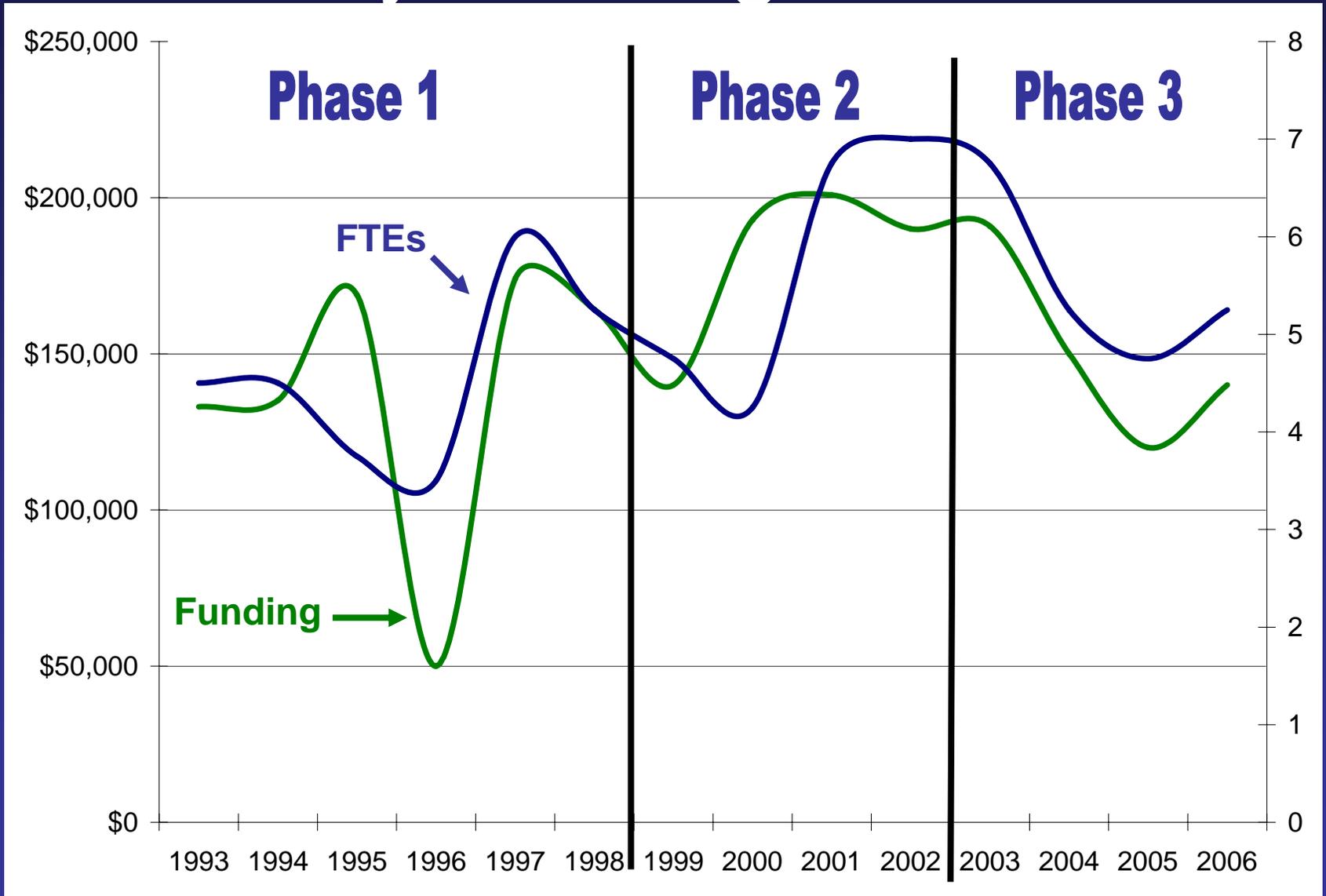
Total number of chemical tests conducted per monitor per year



Reasons for Phase 3?

1. Decreased core funding and staff

Primary Funding and FTEs



Reasons for Phase 3?

1. Decreased core funding and staff
2. Age of monitors
3. Declining interest in society
4. Saturation of market
5. Individuals make a difference
6. “Disillusionment factor”

Encouraging Signs of Phase 4

- Core funding increase for 2007 cycle
- Upsurge in AWW Association membership and grants
- New program staff
- New, related projects

Program goals, activities and cycles have a powerful influence on who participates, how long they stay active, and data credibility

Data credibility depends on a sustainable monitoring program and groups of dedicated volunteers who see the program as relevant and enjoyable in meeting their group's overall objectives of achieving clean water