

A COMPARATIVE APPROACH TO THE HAN RIVER AND THE POTOMAC RIVER MANagements

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Abstract

Comparing two capital cities of the United States and Korea from the water resources management has not been attempted. This is the first attempt. Comparative study will make knowledge more scientific and more desirable. Two cities have the same mandate to reduce point- and non-point sources of pollutants, e.g., urban runoff and upstream farming runoff. However, Washington offers a lesson to Seoul: Regional river basin approach and privatization. Washington, D.C. and its suburbia jointly run the Blue Plains Wastewater Plant, Montgomery County and Prince George's County run the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission as a private utility firm manages drinking water and wastewater. Fairfax County Water Authority manages drinking water as a private utility firm.

Seoul is the capital of South Korea that is the center of the nation's political, economic, cultural and educational activity. The Seoul metropolitan area is the residence of 20 million Korean people, half of all South Korean people. The Han River flows about 320 miles (514 km) through Seoul, starting from a spring in Mountain Odae in Kangwon province and exiting to the Yellow Sea. The River supplies drinking water for more than 20 million people. It flows through Kangwon Province, Kyunggi Province, Seoul and Incheon cities. The South Han River flows through the Kangwon Province, and Chungchung North Province before it joins the Han River at Paldang Reservoir, man-made dam designed for the major source of drinking water for the Seoul metropolitan area residents. Han River often means North Han River that is contrasted with South Han River.

Washington, D.C. is the seat of the United States government. This federal district covers only 68 square miles along the Potomac River between Maryland and Virginia. See Figure 1. The District of Columbia is the residence of 600,000 people, but it is the center of the Washington Potomac River metropolitan area of three million people. The Potomac River flows through Washington, D.C. which supplies drinking water for three million people. The River starts from a spring in West Virginia Alleghenies Mountains, flows about 500 miles (800km) through West Virginia, Virginia and Maryland, and exists to the Chesapeake Bay, the United States largest, and most productive estuary in North America.

This paper compares Seoul and Washington, D.C. in the water resources management. The Washington metropolitan area has 60 years regional cooperation for water resources management that can be an educational lesson to the Seoul metropolitan area. The Han River and the Potomac River are known for their beauty and their association with many historical events of the two nations.

Potomac River: Mainstem and Major Tributaries

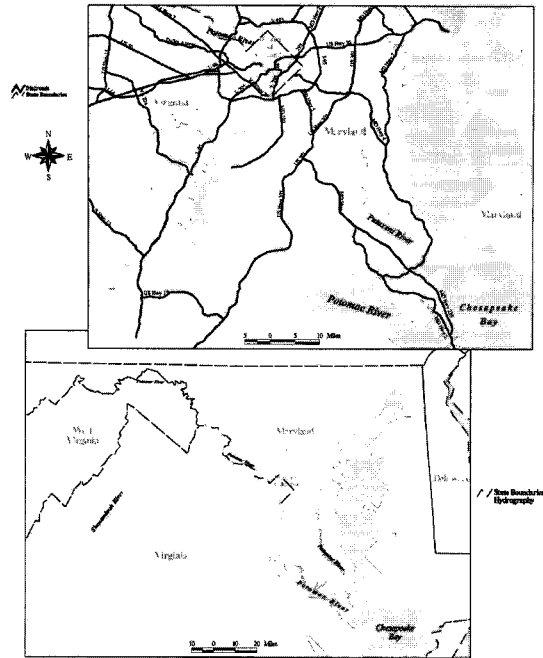


Fig. 1 Potomac River