How is your field and lab data stored and managed?

Paper records or Word documents

Spreadsheet(s)

Database(s)

A combination of these...

lack

Paper data records and electronic Word documents are cumbersome to manage and analyze.

Recommendations:

- Convert your data to an electronic format such as the STORETcompatible data template to allow for full use of your data
- Request that your lab submit data in an electronic format which matches your field data (provide the STORET-compatible template as a guide)

Properly formatted spreadsheets can be transmitted to the STORET warehouse via WebSIM or WQXWeb.

Recommendations:

- Organize your data in columns (not rows) to facilitate use of WebSIM/WQXWeb
- Use the template to guide which parameters should be included in your spreadsheet
- Develop a storage plan for naming and tracking spreadsheet revisions, and back up your data in case of accidental loss

Databases ensure data consistency and functionality, but management and operation can be difficult.

Recommendations:

- Use the template to guide which parameters should be included in your database
- Combine field and lab data into a single database for full use of your water quality data
- Back up your data in case of accidental loss, and devise a system for tracking updates and uploads

Conversion of your data into a single electronic system is ideal for optimal use of your water quality data.

Recommendations:

- Consider your Tribe's data management objectives, and devise a system which meets your needs and grant reporting requirements
- Consider use of the STORET-compatible data template as a first step in your data management process