



Nonpoint Source Program

Strategic Plan to Improve Water Quality

View the full strategic plan at: <http://mtwaterqualityprojects.pbworks.com>

The Nonpoint Source (NPS) Program works with federal, state, and local government and nonprofit groups to implement voluntary actions that protect and restore water quality from NPS pollution. These pollution sources are widely dispersed and their impacts are cumulative. Demonstrating watershed-scale improvements from NPS pollution reductions can be facilitated by focusing resources using three watershed prioritization levels.

Focus Watersheds

Concentrate technical and financial resources for 2-3 years in focus watersheds in order to demonstrate improvements in water quality and track related social and economic indicators

Focus Watersheds Characteristics

- ✓ Locally-developed Watershed Restoration Plans (WRPs) in place
- ✓ Stakeholder interest
- ✓ Opportunities to track changes in water quality and other indicators
- ✓ Cost-effective BMPs can remedy most NPS pollution
- ✓ Existing partnership with DEQ and ability to increase momentum
- ✓ Potential to reduce a community's point source treatment costs
- ✓ Coinciding priorities with programs internal and external to DEQ

WRP Watersheds

Track improvements and provide technical and financial support to build capacity and help with local water quality improvement actions

WRP Watershed Characteristics

- ✓ WRPs in place or under development; potential future focus watershed

Non-WRP Watersheds

Support landowner and community stewardship through local planning for water quality improvements

Non-WRP Watersheds Characteristics

- ✓ WRPs not in place or under development; potential future WRP watershed

How the NPS Program can Help

- WRP development assistance
- Project identification and prioritization
- Project funding
- Reviewing long-term project effectiveness
- Evaluating progress since TMDL publication
- Education and outreach
- Monitoring recommendations
- Documenting landowner and water quality successes

Visit deq.mt.gov/water/SurfaceWater/npspollution and contact us to find out more about improving water quality in your watershed.

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