

WASHINGTON (REGION 10)

A Snapshot of Washington's TMDL Program (November 2008)

The Basics

Key Agency/Department & website

Washington Department of Ecology
www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wq/tmdl/index.html

TMDL Program Structure/Placement

Housed in Water Quality Program / Watershed Planning Unit

By the Numbers

Number of Impaired Waters 1,714

Number of Causes of Impairment 2,306

Top Five Causes of Impairment

1. Temperature
2. Pathogens
3. Organic Enrichment/Oxygen Depletion
4. Pesticides
5. pH

Approximate Number of TMDLs Developed Annually 50

Total Number of TMDLs Approved (1995 to present, incl. any est'd by EPA) 830

Total Number of TMDLs Approved in 2005/2006/2007 196/73/250

2008 303d/Integrated Report Submission Status (Date) 8/1/2008

Approximate Number of FTEs Working on TMDL Issues 50

TMDLs

EPA Under Consent Decree to Develop TMDLs? Y

Broad-Scale? (*e.g.*, watershed, multi-jurisdictional, etc.)

Non-TMDL Options

Use of Non-TMDL Options to Address Impaired Waters? Y

Funding

Approximate Annual Budget for TMDL Program \$5 million.

Primary Source(s) of TMDL Program Funding EPA grants; state general funds

TMDL Implementation

TMDL Implementation Required? N

Innovations

Example(s) of Any Innovative Approach(es) Employed

we try to streamline TMDL development as much as possible by using existing data instead of starting data collection all over again; because for our NPS TMDLs, we come up with the same solutions over and over again, we are trying to sell the idea of developing minimum standards for various land uses, the idea being that if you implement the minimum suite of BMPs, we

will consider you in compliance with state WQSs unless we find out otherwise; also, for watersheds in which the source of pollution problems is clear, we are moving straight to implementation without doing a TMDL; we are using this approach in eastern Washington with ag producers and are having real success; as a result of this work, we are placing 49 impaired segments into category 4b this year

TMDLs that Represent a Particular Achievement

a TMDL complicated by the combination of PS and NPS pollution, permits issued for Idaho affecting Washington waters (still in progress); did result in a phosphorus ban for the state
http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wq/tmdl/spokaneriver/dissolved_oxygen/index.html

Barriers

Top Three Barriers to TMDL Development

1. lack of staff
2. lack of money
3. a sneaking feeling that often a TMDL is not the best pathway to clean water

Top Three Barriers to TMDL Implementation

1. lack of staff
2. lack of money
3. lack of political will, especially if it would require enforcing against NPS polluters