This Session Is

Managing Nonpoint Source Pollution:

How to Get from Assessment to Best Management Practices

a story in 3 parts
Part 1

When Should my Tribe Develop a Nonpoint Source Program (NPS or 319)?

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Just a Little Background

• Section 319 was part of the Clean Water Act Amendments of 1987
• At the same time Section 518 (c)
• Identified a specific focus
  – *Section 319(b)(4) Development on watershed basis* - A State/Tribe shall, to the maximum extent practicable, develop and implement a management program on a watershed-by-watershed basis.
Defining NPS pollution

Diffuse Sources

• Pollutants carried by rainfall, snowmelt, or air moving over and through the ground.

• Deposited into lakes, rivers, wetlands, coastal waters and ground waters.

• Sources can vary by ecoregion.
Two Approaches

**Restore** to address existing NPS WQ problems

**Protect** high quality waters

Assessing problems/threats:

- Data (yours or others) and observational information
- Causes and sources show up here

Taking Action

- Best management practices (BMPs) can be *structural* or *non-structural*
The Water Quality Problem

• Causes
  – Excess fertilizers, herbicides and insecticides
  – Oil, grease and toxic chemicals
  – Sediment
  – acid drainage
  – Bacteria and nutrients

• Sources
  – livestock, pet wastes and faulty septic systems
  – Agricultural practices
  – Urban runoff
  – Atmospheric deposition
  – Hydromodification
  – Eroding streambanks
  – Abandoned mines
Categories

- Agriculture
- Forestry
- Hydromodification/habitat alteration
- Marinas and Boating
- Resource Extraction (abandoned mine drainage)
- Roads
- Urban areas
- Wetland, riparian areas

Different types of land use will influence what types of Nonpoint Source water quality concerns affect a given waterbody.
The watershed approach

- **Is hydrologically defined**
  - geographically focused, includes all stressors (causes and sources)

- **Involves all stakeholders**
  - Includes public and private sectors, is community based, includes a coordinating framework

- **Strategically addresses priority resource goals**
  - Integrates multiple programs, based on sound science, uses adaptive management
How it is done

Plan addresses nine minimum elements

- Causes and sources
- What BMPs
- What load reduction for WQ
- How much assistance (technical and financial)
- Information and education
- Schedule
- Milestones
- Criteria for measuring progress
- Monitoring
Program Requires

• TAS

• Assessment Report

• Management Program Plan

Find help here and at your EPA Regional Office

www.epa.gov/nps/tribal
Program Structure

• Base funding depends on reservation size – 640,000 acre threshold
  – 30K below and 50K above

• A competitive process for amounts up to 100K, this amount has varied in the past and is different from the state program (budget this year might cause this to change)

• Successful projects can be found at https://www.epa.gov/nonpoint-source-tribal-award-projects