



EPA Region 10 Tribal 319 Program

Watershed-Based Plan Fact Sheet

[http://yosemite.epa.gov/R10/ecocomm.nsf/Watershed+Collaboration/State+Tribal+NPS/\\$FILE/Tribal-319-FS.pdf](http://yosemite.epa.gov/R10/ecocomm.nsf/Watershed+Collaboration/State+Tribal+NPS/$FILE/Tribal-319-FS.pdf)

Adapted from Tribal 319 2007 Guidelines, Section V. Watershed-Based Plans

EPA Encourages Tribal Watershed-Based Plans

EPA encourages Tribes to use Clean Water Act Section 319 funding to develop and implement watershed-based plans to protect and restore watersheds. Implementing scientific-based watershed plans is the best way to prevent and resolve nonpoint source (NPS) problems.

Scope and Scale

EPA has promoted the watershed approach for many years. This approach recognizes the interconnections of watershed processes in a scientifically sound and economical manner, avoiding single segment efforts or narrowly defined projects. A watershed-based plan provides a coordinating framework for the watershed approach by :

- Reinforcing partnerships.
- Providing a geographic focus.
- Relying on science.
- Setting priorities and integrating solutions.

The scale of the watershed should be manageable, allowing for successful implementation. In addition, the plan should address a large enough area to include all significant sources and causes of threats and impairments.

Nine Elements of a Watershed-Based Plan

1. Causes and sources of pollution
2. NPS management measures
3. Water quality-based goals
4. Technical and financial assistance
5. Information and education
6. Schedule
7. Milestones
8. Criteria
9. Monitoring

For a detailed explanation see [Nine Element Fact Sheet](#)

Tribes face jurisdictional limitations in watersheds outside their reservation. We encourage you to use the development of a watershed-based plan to engage partners outside your reservation.

The Nine Elements

Watershed-based plans developed or implemented

using CWA §319 funding must address nine essential planning elements. While the nine elements form the basis for the plan, you should also include information on the watershed history, size, soils, stream flow, land uses, and planning processes.

EPA recognizes that it is difficult to develop the precise information for all nine elements. However, it is important at the NPS [subcategory level](#) that you try to:

- Identify significant sources of pollution.
- Identify management measures that effectively address the sources.
- Estimate watershed and water quality-based goals.

Using this information to provide focus and direction, you can effectively identify areas for protection or address the sources of impairment.

Living Documents

Even with reasonable steps to obtain and analyze relevant data, you may need to modify

preliminary information and estimates over time after the plan is certified. The planning process is dynamic and iterative. You should move ahead with implementation even though some information is imperfect and will need to be modified over time. We realize it may take many years to achieve your goals.



Greater Flexibility for Tribes

The nine elements are the same for Tribes and States with one exception. The state guidelines call for specific load reduction estimates, while Tribes may set “water quality-based goals”. We allow this flexibility because not all Tribes have established water quality standards. If you have specific load estimates or you develop them later, we encourage you to incorporate them into your plan.

Existing Information

You may reference existing information in your watershed-based plan. Information can come from NPS Assessment

Reports and Management Programs and existing plans. You do not need to duplicate processes or information; however, it is useful to pull relevant information into one stand-alone plan.

Connection to 319 Program

While a NPS Assessment Report and Management Program provide long-term program guidance, a watershed-based plan focuses multi-year planning in a priority watershed. It includes more detail than a Management Program and could be considered a subset of the Management Program. Depending on the watershed and the partners involved, the plan may encompass lands up and down stream of a reservation to include all nonpoint sources.

You may use base funding to develop a plan and implement specific portions. We also encourage you to submit proposals to develop and implement plans through the competitive funding process. Each fall EPA issues a [request for proposals](#) with details on the process, due dates, and ranking criteria. Please remember, CWA 319 funding can only be used off reservation if the activities pertain to the protection and maintenance of the waters of the reservation. We encourage you to look for

multiple sources of funding.

Submitting Plans to EPA

EPA Region 10 reviews plans to ensure they contain the nine elements. Please see the [Nine Element Fact Sheet](#) for additional information. Please attach the [Nine Element Check List](#) to plans submitted to Region 10.

Tools and Information:

[EPA's Handbook for Developing Watershed Plans to Restore and Protect Our Waters:](#)
http://www.epa.gov/owow/nps/watershed_handbook/#contents

[EPA's Watershed Plan Builder:](#) an on-line planning tool. For assistance with the nine elements, indicate you will be using §319 funding.
<http://iaspub.epa.gov/watershedplan/watershedPlanning.do?pageId=48&navId=35>

[EPA Tribal 319 Web Page](#)
<http://www.epa.gov/owow/nps/tribal/index.html>

[Nine Element Fact Sheet](#)
[http://yosemite.epa.gov/R10/ecocomm.nsf/Watershed+Collaboration/State+Tribal+NPS/\\$FILE/Tribal-319-Nine-Elements.pdf](http://yosemite.epa.gov/R10/ecocomm.nsf/Watershed+Collaboration/State+Tribal+NPS/$FILE/Tribal-319-Nine-Elements.pdf)

[Nine Element Check List](#)
[http://yosemite.epa.gov/R10/ecocomm.nsf/Watershed+Collaboration/State+Tribal+NPS/\\$FILE/Tribal-319-Checklist.pdf](http://yosemite.epa.gov/R10/ecocomm.nsf/Watershed+Collaboration/State+Tribal+NPS/$FILE/Tribal-319-Checklist.pdf)

R10 Tribal 319 Coordinator:
Krista Mendelman
USEPA Region 10
(OWW-137)
1200 6th Ave. Suite 900
Seattle, WA 98101
Mendelman.Krista@epa.gov