



Watershed-Based Approach

EPA Region 6 Tribal Nonpoint Source
Workshop
Pueblo of Acoma, Sky City
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How Do We Restore Our Lands?

Many landscapes have been altered and often do not adequately support water quality resources

- The **watershed approach** is a tool that can be used to heal and restore the bonds between the community and the land



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Targeting Best Management Practices (BMPs)

- Until you have quantitative knowledge of:
 - a) The nature and source of the WQ problem
 - b) Your water-quality based goals
 - c) The BMPs most effective at solving your impairments....

YOU'RE NOT READY TO IMPLEMENT BMPS

..... Unless you're lucky!

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The Watershed Approach

- NPS Program Priority
- Focus on the Watershed Approach
 1. Diverse, well integrated partnerships
 2. A specific geographic focus
 3. Action driven by water quality objectives and strong science and data
 4. Coordinated priority setting and integrated solutions

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Watershed Plans

(2000 Madison Report)

- Convergence of opinion that “watershed plans are necessary precedents for successful watershed management, protection, and restoration interventions..”
- In a recent study,.. “the use of watershed plans was the only factor with a high correlation with potential positive environmental outcomes.”

(Trout Unlimited & Pacific Rivers Council)



NINE Elements of Tribal Watershed-Based Plans (WBP) for NPS Program

- a) Identification of causes and sources at the sub-category level that need to be controlled to achieve WQ goals
- b) Description of the NPS management measures needed for implementation to achieve *water quality-based goals* and ID critical areas
- c) An estimate of *water quality-based goals* expected to be achieved (quantitative or narrative)
- d) Estimate of needed technical & financial resources

NINE Elements of Tribal watershed-based plans for NPS Program, cont.

- e) Information/education component
- f) Schedule (who does what, when?)
- g) Description of measurable milestones for implementation
- h) Criteria to determine whether *water quality-based goals* are being achieved over time (adaptive management component)
- i) Monitoring component to evaluate effectiveness of implementation efforts

Reference: FY 2007 Tribal 319 Guidelines

<http://www.epa.gov/owow/nps/tribal/>

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Watershed Size?

- Tend to focus at the 10 or 12-digit HUC level

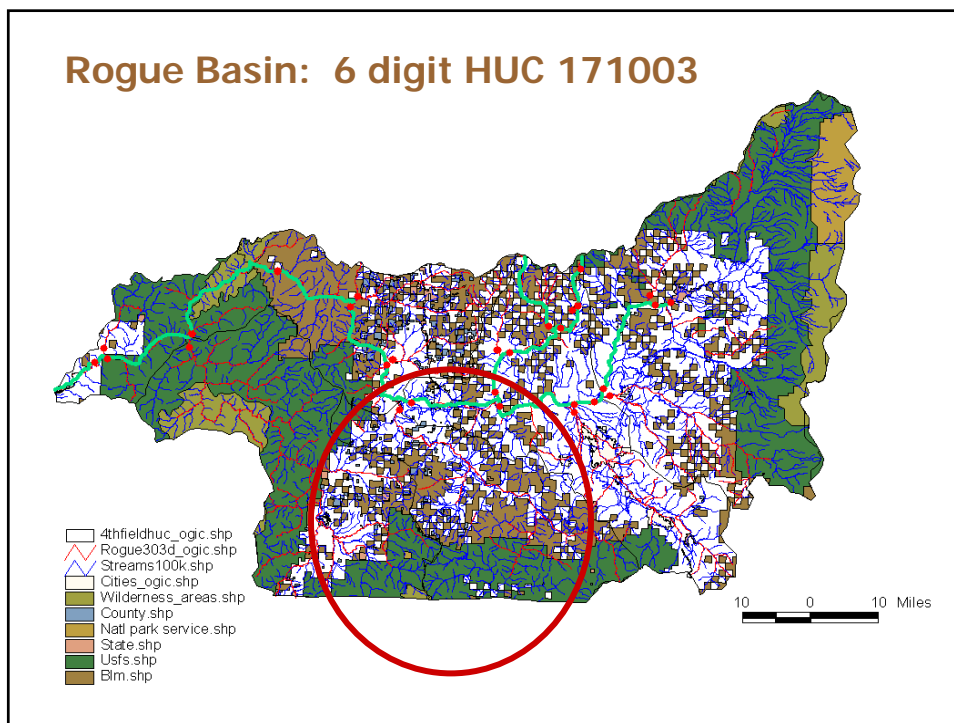
Key: Ensure that the area is small enough to manage, but large enough to address water quality impairments and concerns of stakeholders

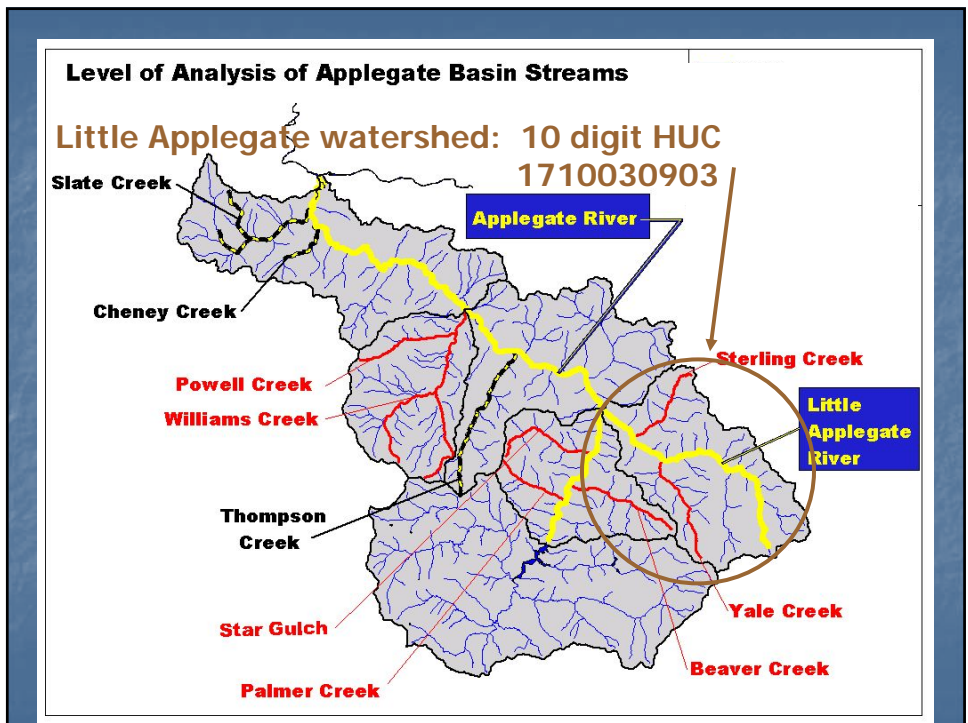


Watershed Hydrologic Unit Code (HUC) Breakdown Example



Rogue Basin: 6 digit HUC 171003





Invest in Partnerships



- ❑ Identification of stakeholders
- ❑ Increased public understanding
- ❑ Avoid redundancy
- ❑ Access to technical expertise and resources
- ❑ Leverage funding

Collaborative Problem-Solving

- **Vehicle through which traditional tools can be successfully applied to address:**
 - WQ impairments
 - endangered species
 - water allocations
 - flood and drought management
 - habitat restoration

In balance with..... Jobs, sustainable agriculture and forest management, urban/community development...

Collaborative Problem-Solving

Successful Collaboration Can:

- Address complex issues
- Leverage scarce resources
- Reduce conflict and litigation
- Promote innovation and integration

= **significant, measurable watershed improvements!!**



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Collaborative Problem-Solving

■ Potential Barriers:

- Multiple ownerships w/in a watershed
- Uncooperative partners
- Lack of funding/resources
- Staff turnover

Ever feel like there's no way out?



Collaborative Problem-Solving

- Potential Solutions:
 - Focus efforts on those partners willing to work with you—both inside and outside the reservation boundaries
 - Don't set yourself up for failure. Begin by developing NPS ed. programs for kids—as you develop your program and gain trust and success, go for the more controversial issues
 - Explore other funding opportunities outside 319, 106, etc. to augment program and support staffing

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Don't Re-invent the Wheel to develop a WBP

- Reference your Assessment and Management plan
- UWA plans
- Reference other relevant documents to develop plan (e.g. NEPA documents, state/watershed group WBPs, WQMPs, etc.)
- Various EPA watershed tools
- Consult with your friendly Region 6 EPA staff – will evaluate whether your WBP contains the minimum 9 elements

Take Home Message: Talk to people and look for existing information!

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One More Thing...

- Tribes are not required to do WBPs
- HOWEVER, for competitive 319 grants, the Review Committee may give priority consideration to high quality workplans that develop and/or implement WBPs

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One More Thing, part 2

- Watershed-Based planning is probably the best tool we have right now to restore watersheds
- Ensures that every precious penny put into the ground is used effectively (mostly!)
- Serves as a great negotiating tool – much like an “investment plan”

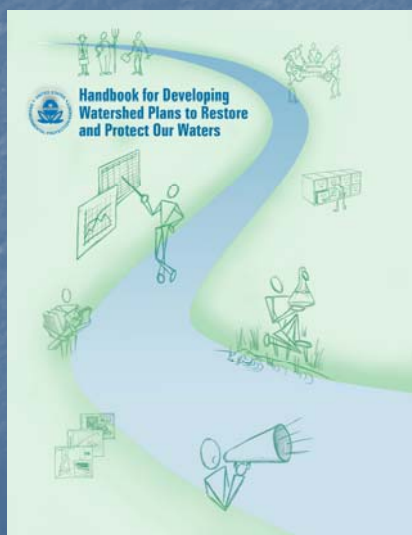


What's The Difference?



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For Greater Detail on Developing WBPs...



http://www.epa.gov/nps/watershed_handbook/

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Tribal Information | Polluted Runoff (Nonpoint Source Pollution) | US EPA - Windows Internet Explorer

http://www.epa.gov/owow/nps/tribal/

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Polluted Runoff (Nonpoint Source Pollution)

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Tribal Information Page

What is NPS Pollution

NPS Categories

Publications & Info Resources

Education Resources

Funding

Outreach

CWA Section 319

CZARA Section 6217

State-EPA NPS Partnership

Training/Meetings

Polluted Runoff
For K12E!

Tribal Funding

- Guidelines for Awarding Section 319 Base Grants to Indian Tribes and Request for Proposals from Indian Tribes for Competitive Grants in FY 2007 [HTML](#) | [PDE](#) (121 KB, 17 pp. [About PDFs](#))
[View RFP for the competitive portion of this grant](#)
 - [Questions and Answers on Awarding Section 319 Grants to Indian Tribes in FY 2007 \(PDF\)](#) (17KB, 1 pp. [About PDFs](#))
- [Past Section 319 Grant Guidelines](#)