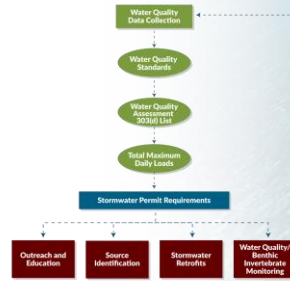


Improving Water Quality Assessment and Total Maximum Daily Load Programs

Interagency Project Team
Municipal Stormwater Conference
November 6, 2014

Permit Nexus



What brought us together?

- 303(d) list is easy to get on, but difficult to get off (de-listing).
- Listings and TMDLs based on questionable data.
- Addressing nonpoint pollution equitably.
- How are WQA and TMDL program decisions made?

What brought us together? Cont.

- TMDL methodologies need to be explicit and transparent.
- Uncertainty surrounding non-pollutant surrogate TMDLs.
- Need to implement alternatives to TMDLs more frequently.
- Lack of TMDL success stories.

Interagency Team

Clark, King, Kitsap, Pierce, Snohomish, and Thurston counties, and the Washington State Department Of Transportation.

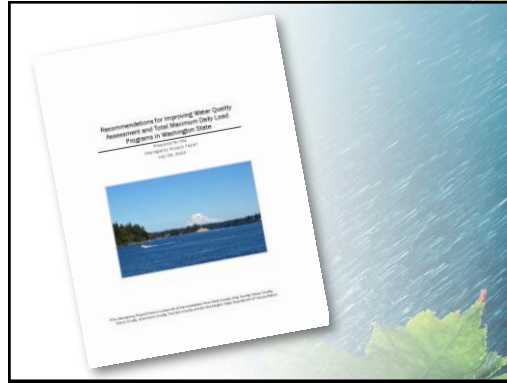
Project Goal

Improve accuracy, transparency, predictability, and consistency of policy and decision making.

Approach

Compare and contrast Washington State's WQA and TMDL programs to five other states.





Recommendations from Report

- Establish a multi-stakeholder Standing Committee to improve coordination and engagement with the regulated community.
- Refine water quality standards and water quality assessment methodologies.
- Improve and employ consistent processes for collecting, assessing, and utilizing credible data in WQA and TMDL development.
- Update current biological assessment and listing methodology.
- Define TMDL prioritization methodology, timelines, and process for public involvement.

Recommendations from the Report

- Refine water quality assessment categories to improve clarity and aid in defining priority water bodies.
- Implement existing regulatory authority related to unpermitted and nonpoint sources.
- Define TMDL development methodology; and Develop consistent TMDL implementation expectations.

Closing Remarks
