



The challenge of Co-managing programs with EPA



Creating a marriage of equals



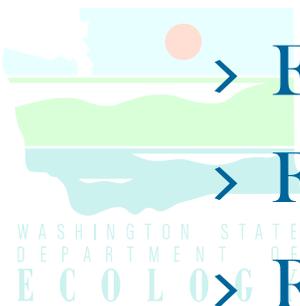
EPA Region 10 TMDL Program

Late 1990s, EPA-State Relationship was bumpy

> EPA micromanaged TMDL development

> Found problems with “final” TMDLs

> Relationship was adversarial





The TMDL Redesign 1999

- Define a consistent process that allows for flexibility
- Use a “division of labor” model, rather than an “oversight” model
- Collaborative approach to technical & policy differences.
 - All TMDLs will be categorized - and high expectations don't necessarily mean high EPA involvement
 - EPA's involvement will be early in the process, allowing approval to be expedited.



11 Years Later

We actually co-manage

- Ecology is the acknowledged lead agency
- EPA focuses on approval issues, and technical support
- Roles and Responsibilities of each Agency are clear.
- EPA and Ecology meet annually to strategize EPA's level of involvement (high, medium, low)
- High level of trust and cooperation among EPA staff and managers
- Yes, there are still “bumps,” but we work through them successfully.





NEP Grants

EPA has a large amount of money to give away.

State as well as others eligible to apply.

State is lead agency on water quality policy, but—

Co-management isn't possible if state is a grant applicant.





The Unfortunate Grant

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- EPA awards grant to a CD for \$700,000 to use a risk management tool that would allow winter manure application.



- Ecology objects to grant award—

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- > **Water quality risk:** scale too large, poor location, inadequate monitoring, concern over surface and groundwater contamination, winter manure application not OK.



- > **Authority:** Ecology requires specific BMPs to address violations, EPA grant undermines Ecology on this issue.

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What went wrong?

Ecology's perspective:

The project is likely to harm water quality, and doesn't address the county's most significant issue--carrying capacity. EPA is unaware of Ecology's enforcement activities and efforts to improve manure management and address agricultural pollution. Ecology is not valued or listened to.

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EPA's perspective:

The project may improve water quality by shifting application times and adding additional limitations/ protections. EPA was not able to consult with Ecology on the grant application because Ecology was also an applicant for NEP funds. EPA believes it has made changes that address Ecology's major concerns.

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Is this the best we can do?

Communication problem has created bad feelings between our agencies.



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People both agencies work with in agriculture world will play us against each other if they can.

We need to plan ahead to be partners so we won't be taken by surprise.



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Maybe we found a solution by accident—lead agency idea



Co-management requires a relationship between equals.

