Tricks of the Trade: Processes to Ensure NPS TMDLs are Implemented (Part I): Among State Programs

The Southwestern Perspective

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The TMDL Program in Transition
The NPS Problem:
Designing TMDLs for Implementation
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Arizona- it’s a dry heat!

Streams- 90% ephemeral
   6% intermittent
   4% perennial

Lakes- most man-made and shallow

Three physiographic provinces

Landownership- Private 16%
   Federal 43%
   State 13%
   Tribal 28%

Population- 6.5 million
Major Arizona Resources

- Copper
- Cotton
- Cattle
- Citrus
- Climate
Arizona’s NPS Program Structure

- ADEQ
  Surface Water Section
  Planning Section
  Groundwater Section

- University of Arizona
  Master Watershed Stewards
  NEMO

- USFS

- Intended TMDL Audience-
  General Public
  Federal and State Land Management Agencies
  Conservation, Environmental, Watershed Groups
Roadblocks To Implementation

- Arizona Revised Statute 49-234(G)- “Any reductions in loadings from nonpoint sources shall be achieved voluntarily”
- Limited use of existing “authorities”
- Conveying the implications of impairment to stakeholders
- Perception of government intervention in rural affairs
- Lack of motivation to take on a project
Roadblocks Continued

- Lack of motivation to take on a project
- Ability to fund a project
- Identifying critical sites within the watershed
- NPS responsibilities are dispersed among several programs
- Variable cross border water quality standards, permit requirements sources, and cooperation
Breaking Through

Internal communication
  Coordinate efforts between the various NPS related programs
  Prioritize impaired waters for 319 funding

Engage watershed partners
  Attend watershed group meetings
  Memorandums of Understanding/ Intergovernmental Agreements

Technical Support
  Support Master Watershed Steward educational opportunities
  Provide sample collection training and funding
  Develop watershed based plans for all 10 basins

Develop stronger 5-year NPS Plan
New ideas

- Measure the effectiveness of past 319 Projects
- Outcome based grants
- Targeted watershed grants
- Impaired Watershed Tracking Log
- Watershed approach
- Focusing education towards empowering watershed partners
Questions?