

WYOMING (REGION 8)

A Snapshot of Wyoming's TMDL Program (August 2008)

The Basics

Key Agency/Department & website

Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality
<http://deq.state.wy.us/wqd/watershed/Downloads/TMDL/tmdlinfo.htm>

TMDL Program Structure/Placement

Housed in Water Quality Division / Watershed Program,
Watershed Planning (NPS Planning and Grants)

By the Numbers

Number of Impaired Waters 122

Number of Causes of Impairment 190

Top Five Causes of Impairment

1. Pathogens
2. Metals (other than mercury)
3. Chlorine
4. Ammonia
5. Salinity/TDS/Sulfates/Chlorides

Approximate Number of TMDLs Developed Annually 0-10

Total Number of TMDLs Approved (1995 to present, incl. any est'd by EPA) 342

Total Number of TMDLs Approved in 2005/2006/2007 39/16/38

2008 303d/Integrated Report Submission Status (Date) 6/2/2008

Approximate Number of FTEs Working on TMDL Issues 3

TMDLs

EPA Under Consent Decree to Develop TMDLs? N

Broad-Scale? (*e.g.*, watershed, multi-jurisdictional, etc.)

Non-TMDL Options

Use of Non-TMDL Options to Address Impaired Waters?

Funding

Approximate Annual Budget for TMDL Program \$650,000

Primary Source(s) of TMDL Program Funding WY/EPA PPA;
federal 319 funds;
non-federal 319
match

TMDL Implementation

TMDL Implementation Required? N

Innovations

Example(s) of Any Innovative Approach(es) Employed

Early in our program, citizen input asked for local control in
addressing impaired waters; local watershed planning was

identified as the method for letting local stakeholders address the impairments in their watersheds prior to the need for a TMDL to ever be written; concerns were that the TMDL would not only polarize citizen and landowner groups in the watershed, but also be the foundation for possible regulatory action on NPS pollutant load sources; the state placed TMDL development on waters under active watershed planning as “low” to enable the efforts of these local groups to be implemented; this planning process still needed to work under EPA’s TMDL development timeliness guidance of development within an 8-13 year time period

Ten years into this effort, WY has added a number of additional waters onto the Section 303(d) list, while only a few waters have been removed from the list due to WQ restoration; there is presently a significant TMDL backlog that the state now needs to address

Possible reasons for local stakeholder watershed planning to have not restored waters within a 10-year period: 1) NPS pollutant loading sources are much more widespread and complex than originally thought; 2) local watershed planning efforts may have focused on the “palatable” NPS fixes and avoided the more sensitive, but potentially water-quality restoration limiting, NPS problems; or 3) passive thinking by local stakeholders that once the watershed plan was approved, the TMDL issued disappeared

Barriers

Top Three Barriers to TMDL Development

1. citizen buy-in to the TMDL process
2. staffing levels
3. financial commitment

Top Three Barriers to TMDL Implementation

1. absence of TMDLs developed
2. reluctance of stakeholders to participate in identification of load sources
3. reluctance of stakeholders to accept models or anything less than complete, definitive monitoring data to determine sources and load reductions