

NPS Program Implementation Matrices

The NPS program has identified specific objectives and tasks that are linked to the Watershed Program’ and the WQCD’s goals and are used as guidelines toward achieving and maintaining beneficial uses of water. The program has also identified tactics and indicators that will be used to implement and assess the program’s success in achieving its goals and objectives. The following tables capture the tasks, tactics and indicators of success that define how each program objective will be address. Desirable outputs are also defined.

Objective 1 - To protect water quality from potential impact from nonpoint source pollution generated by anthropogenic activities.

Table 1 – Tasks and Tactics to Implement Water Quality Protection

Tasks	Tactics	Indicators of Success	Outputs	Timeframe
1 - Provide financial and technical support to watershed groups to develop / update watershed-based plans.	Continue to implement strategy to encourage partners to develop / update watershed-based plans.	All relevant stakeholders are involved; watershed is characterized and water quality issues are identified and prioritized; potential implementation projects and funding are identified.	Watershed Plans that are not older than 10 years (and preferably 5 years).	Ongoing effort.
2 - Provide technical assistance, education and training at the local level.	Education and training opportunities on water quality protection and watershed project planning; project effectiveness monitoring. This is achieved primarily via the PIP and SAPP development process.	Proposals and projects that more clearly align with the strategic goals of the WQCD and NPS program; projects are implemented correctly.	Increased technical knowledge; EPA grant requirements are met; measurable results are gathered.	Ongoing effort.
3 – Fund and implement projects that protect water quality, aquatic life and habitat integrity.	Continue to implement strategy to engage partners to address protection of water quality, aquatic life and habitat integrity.	Water quality, aquatic life and habitat integrity are maintained or improved in project area.	BMPs implemented correctly and as designed.	Every year as approved via the project solicitation process.

Objective 2 - To restore water quality in streams, rivers, lakes, reservoirs and groundwater that are impaired due to nonpoint source pollution generated by anthropogenic activities.

Table 2 – Tasks and Tactics to Implement Water Quality Restoration

Tasks	Tactics	Indicators of Success	Outputs	Timeframe
1 – Prioritize restoration activities to meet NPS program priorities and WQCD strategy to address impaired waters.	Identify pollution loading sources; utilize TMDLs when available; utilize watershed models and assessment tools to characterize watershed; identify and engage potential local partners.	Readily available information on where investment of limited resources will likely achieve water quality improvements; information accessible to potential local partners.	Prioritized list of impaired waters, restoration sites and potential local partners; data sets and data assessment reports.	Draft Priority List in 2 years; revisited every year as a living document.
2 - Provide financial and technical support to watershed groups to develop / update watershed-based plans.	Develop and launch strategy to encourage partners to develop / update WS-based plans that include EPA Nine Elements for a Watershed Plan to fully address impaired waters.	Every implementation project addressing impaired segments is identified in a complete and recently updated watershed plan.	Watershed Plans that address, at a minimum, all EPA Nine Elements for a Watershed Plan and that are not older than 10 years.	Ongoing effort.
3 – Fund and implement projects that address impaired waters, and improve aquatic life and habitat.	Develop and launch strategy to engage partners to address prioritized list of impaired waters.	Meet targets agreed upon with EPA in the Performance Partnership Agreement.	Majority of incremental funds is applied to projects in priority watersheds; successfully implemented restoration projects, including targeted outreach and education tasks.	Every year as approved via the project solicitation process.
4 - Encourage land and resource management agencies, NGOs and Tribes to identify and mitigate nonpoint source pollution impacts in the context of their program plans.	Strengthen working relationships with alliance, agencies, NGOs and tribes to encourage collaborative decision making and watershed-scale implementation of Best Management Practices. Emphasis placed on projects within priority impaired watersheds and to implement priority projects identified in a locally-driven Watershed Plans.	New strategies identified and implemented resulting in maintenance of water quality or reduced pollutant loadings.	Participation in planning efforts of federal and state agencies (e.g., planning, federal action reviews); leveraging of funding opportunities with other funding sources.	Ongoing effort.
5 - Implement BMPs that restore water quality and aquatic life and habitat.	Proactively fund projects to maintain beneficial uses.	Pollutant load reduction; trends that indicate water quality and aquatic life and habitat improvement.	BMPs implemented correctly and as designed.	Ongoing effort.

Objective 3 - Implement the Colorado NPS program to achieve measurable water quality improvement.

Table 3 – Tasks and Tactics to Evaluate Environmental Results

Tasks	Tactics	Indicators of Success	Outputs	Timeframe
1 - Establish monitoring tools to evaluate environmental measures and indicators of success.	Continue to develop and implement Measurable Result Project to assist project sponsors in SAPP development, provide for pre- and post- project monitoring outside the timeline of the contract with the sponsor as necessary.	Field verified BMP placement for the appropriate pollution source; sampling effort identified and implemented; long-term sustainable monitoring strategy.	Toolbox of standardized monitoring methods and assessment techniques, SAPPs developed using NPS program template, completed end of project monitoring reports; accurate reporting of load reductions.	Complete in the 1 st year.
2 - Develop or support a watershed assessment tool that identifies or helps identify water quality trends (DSN or e-RAMS).	Develop and gather shapefiles, develop and/or support a data repository (DSN can be an option), identify, support and /or develop a GIS, web-based site; generate assessment and analyses; prepare watershed-based reports.	Data are identified and readily available for use; the assessment tool is functional; the NPS program posts electronic analyses at the npscolorado site.	A user-friendly Website-based, GIS-based watershed assessment tool that is accessible and open to all users.	Ongoing phased effort; significant cumulative deliverables per year; for the 1 st year, deliverable will be the long-term tool development plan.
3 – Update BMPs library and create field BMPs template.	Develop a BMP implementation template; complete a review of categorical BMPs and update following the programmatic priorities and using project data; make library available on the npscolorado site.	Field BMP template is easily available and is used by project sponsors; BMP library is systematically updated.	Field BMP template; updated BMP library.	Ongoing phased effort; significant cumulative deliverables per year; for the 1 st year, deliverable will be the BMP priority outline and the template.
4 – Ensure that project data are uploaded to DSN / STORET	Develop procedures to upload project data; support and advise data tracking and uploading to DSN / STORET.	Data are uploaded and used in the watershed assessment tool; interested public accesses and uses the data.	Data are uploaded in DSN / STORET	Ongoing effort; procedure will be done at the end of the 1 st year; data are uploaded to STORET at the end of each project.

Objective 4 – Implement the Colorado NPS program to meet EPA guidelines.

Table 4 – Tasks and Tactics to Implement the Colorado NPS program

Tasks	Tactics	Indicators of Success	Outputs	Timeframe
1 - Ensure that funds are awarded and spent appropriately within EPA and State guidelines.	Develop and maintain spreadsheets to keep track of project and grant expenditures and match accrual; develop and maintain an internal process to submit complete invoices to the Fiscal Unit.	Federal grants closed out on 5-year cycle; project implementation plans are developed and approved no later than 1 year following annual CWA section 319 grant is awarded; reimbursement requests from projects are approved and submitted for processing within 10 days of receipt from the project sponsor.	No funds are left unspent; grants are over-matched;	Ongoing effort; grants are closed on the end dates; every year one grant closes and one grant opens.
2 - Ensure the Grant Reporting and Tracking System (GRTS) is up-to-date for all NPS projects.	a - Pre-award information is entered; b - fully contracted project information is entered; c - semi-annual reports are loaded into GRTS by NPS project; d - load reduction information is entered.	EPA Dashboard has no identified errors in end-of-year evaluation.	GRTS is complete and up-to-date by all EPA required due dates.	Ongoing effort; every December GRTS is complete and with no errors; a – 3 months after grant award; b and c – in December of every year; d – in February of every year.
3 – Utilize GRTS enhanced functions to develop analytical and reporting documents.	Attend annual GRTS training; ensure quality and completeness of data entered in GRTS; request assistance from Headquarters to develop Colorado-specific reports as needed; generate analyses and reports.	Reports are utilized in Annual Reports to EPA; also in updates to the IR and in updates to WQCD, unit workplans and Management Plan; other status reports as appropriate.	Status and Analytical Reports as appropriate.	Ongoing effort; reports included in Annual Report every year by January.
4 - Provide educational and information materials to interested entities and project partners on a variety of water quality issues.	a - Maintain website with educational materials; b – Maintain information dissemination efforts; maintain distribution list; conduct annual workshop.	Citizens and/or project partners have easy access to educational materials of water quality issues.	a - Updated website; b - Updated educational materials and information; annual workshop trainings.	a – 1 to 2 years (depending on funding availability) b – Ongoing effort.

Table 4 – Tasks and Tactics to Implement the Colorado NPS program

Tasks	Tactics	Indicators of Success	Outputs	Timeframe
5 - Communicate Nonpoint Source program successes and lessons learned.	Document “success stories” or “lessons learned”; project sponsors provide information and graphics in their final reports for these stories; project sponsors provide project summaries: “Fact Sheets”; project and TMDL effectiveness documented and communicated to the public.	Success stories increase public awareness of these programs; final PIPs and associated BMPs reflect past successes and lessons learned. Potential delisting of segments.	Success stories per PPA measure WQ10 published at the epa.gov site. Project Fact Sheets.	Ongoing effort and at PPA due dates.
6 - Address NPS legislative mandate regarding the Integrated Report.	Include NPS data needs and considerations in basin-wide synoptic sampling and WQCD monitoring plans; include NPS data and assessments in the Integrated Report.	NPS data are available for State-wide Water Quality Assessments and TMDL development.	Legislative mandate addressing NPS Assessments is met.	Every year during Environmental Data Unit data calls.
7 – Implement program efficiently and consistently.	Develop and formalize the NPS program Procedures Manual; revise and update program documents and process.	Training tool for new employees; consistent and efficient implementation of the program.	Documents are revised and updated according to program priorities.	Ongoing phased effort; significant cumulative deliverables per year; for the 1 st year, deliverable will be the procedures priority list and outline.
8 - Broaden the impact of the Colorado NPS program goals and objectives.	Leverage partner’s resources to address quality concerns at the local level; increase communication with Alliance partners to capture broad participation via the Annual Report.	Greater accrual of match applied to NPS; water quality restoration/protection projects that are funded outside of NPS funds; reduced nonpoint source pollution Statewide.	Track Federal contribution to NPS projects; increased matching funds from partners above the 40% required; update information in Annual Report regarding projects funded by partners and not necessarily with 319 funds.	Ongoing effort.

Table 4 – Tasks and Tactics to Implement the Colorado NPS program

Tasks	Tactics	Indicators of Success	Outputs	Timeframe
9 - Implement appropriate strategy regarding stormwater-related projects.	The NPS program will continue to consider eligible: a) stormwater-related projects that do not require a permit and b) watershed-based plans that might include stormwater permitted areas (for example urban areas under an MS4 permit).	Incorporation of a LID/GI strategy as described in the SWQMP and as developed by the NPS program and the Alliance members.	Additional NPS funding and project solicitation guidance; specific activities in urbanized/developed areas that qualify for NPS funding are described in a document that is posted electronically at npscolorado site.	Ongoing effort; draft strategy will be delivered in the 1 st year.
10 - Continued Participation on CDPHE Multi-media Pollutants Task Forces.	Attend Department meetings and participate in discussions regarding development of strategies to address multi- media pollutants.	Consistent participation and contribution in the meetings and discussions.	Meeting agenda, minutes and reports capturing development of multi-media strategy.	Ongoing effort.
11 – Meet EPA program reporting	Develop and update the Annual Report template to reflect updated tasks; write and submit the annual report according to EPA 319 Program Guidelines.	Annual Reports submitted to EPA on due date and available electronically on the npscolorado site.	Updated Annual Reports reflecting all tasks and information.	Every year in January.