



# Nine Elements of Watershed Based Planning

A Watershed Based Plan (WBP) provides a non-regulatory, stakeholder driven, voluntary approach to addressing nonpoint source pollution impacts to water quality within a designated watershed. A WBP is not based on legal obligations; it is a general blueprint for a comprehensive, watershed-wide restoration program.

A watershed approach to restoration is considered most effective due to the integration of the wide variety of issues between land use, climate, hydrology, drainage, and vegetation within a watershed basin.

These are the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Nine Elements of Watershed Based Planning associated with 319(h) Nonpoint Source Pollution grants.

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1. Identification of the causes and sources of nonpoint source water pollution that will need to be controlled
  2. Estimation of load reductions expected for the management of measures used to achieve water quality goals
  3. A description of the management measures that will need to be implemented to achieve pollution load reductions, i.e., implementation of pollution control and natural resource protection measures
  4. Funding needs to support the implementation and maintenance of restoration measures
  5. The public outreach method(s) and structure that will be used to engage and maintain public and governmental involvement including local, state, federal, and tribal governments
  6. A schedule for implementation of needed restoration measures and identification of appropriate lead agencies to oversee implementation, maintenance, monitoring, and evaluation
  7. A description of interim, measurable, milestones for the actions to be taken and desired water quality goals and outcomes
  8. A set of criteria that can be used to determine whether load reductions are being achieved over time and substantial progress is being made towards achieving water quality standards
  9. Any monitoring and evaluation activities need to refine the problems or assess progress towards achieving water quality goals