

NEW HAMPSHIRE'S NONPOINT SOURCE PROGRAM

PARTNERSHIPS AND PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

New Hampshire's NPS Program partners with many organizations using a variety of formal and informal mechanisms. These partners are identified, by milestone, in the Goals, Objectives, and Milestones section of each Nonpoint Source Pollutant Category beginning on page 25 of this Plan.

The state seeks involvement and solicits comment on significant proposed program changes from NPS program partners and stakeholders through a variety of ways, depending upon the change and the specific audiences involved. When soliciting input for programmatic changes, DES may form expert advisory groups, host informal meetings, attend stakeholder meetings, and solicit input via email or through social media. When announcing programmatic changes, DES may use social media, the DES Newsletter, press releases, stakeholder email, the NH Municipal EcoLink, or other outreach venues to inform stakeholders.

FUNDING

Funding for NPS activities in New Hampshire comes primarily from the Environmental Protection Agency under Section 319 of the Clean Water Act. DES administers the Watershed Assistance Grants Program to provide financial assistance (subgrants of Section 319 funds) to help subgrantees conduct on-the-ground NPS projects. NPS projects implement actions to restore or protect water quality and enhance the designated uses of the state's waters by addressing sources of NPS pollution, hydrologic modification of rivers and streams, and habitat losses.

DES has well-established financial management and programmatic systems to ensure that 319 dollars are used efficiently and consistently with the Nonpoint Source Grant Administrative Guidelines, last updated in March 2013 and available at http://des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/water/wmb/was/qapp/documents/qapp_319_attache.pdf. All statutory and grant conditions applicable to 319 grants received by the State are included in contracts and grant awards made to subgrantees so that all recipients must follow all federal requirements. Further, such requirements are included in grant project solicitations so that subgrantees are aware of them prior to commencing a project.

The State of New Hampshire has an integrated accounting system with separate accounts for individual programs. The accounts are reconciled monthly between the State of New Hampshire's accounting System (NHFIRST) and the agency's Legacy system (DES Ledger) to ensure the proper recording of financial transactions. Payment is then received via electronic transfer through ASAP (Automated Standard Application for Payments). Procedure manuals and approval processes are in place to strengthen internal controls and ensure the terms and obligations defined in the grant agreement are met.

Additional funding from partners may also be available to supplement or leverage 319 funds. These funds are subject to congressional approval or other authority, and may vary in amount from year to year. These include:

CLEAN WATER STATE REVOLVING LOAN FUND (CWSRF)

The 1987 amendments to the Clean Water Act created the Clean Water State Revolving Loan Fund (CWSRF), which provides low-interest loans to assist communities with the planning, design, and construction of eligible water pollution control infrastructure projects. Borrowers are typically municipal or other local government entities. Most communities with publicly owned wastewater systems or unlined landfills are eligible to apply for a loan to improve their wastewater system or close their landfill. Projects that address stormwater or nonpoint source pollution problems are also eligible. Each year, New Hampshire sets aside a portion of the CWSRF for “green infrastructure” projects.

NH DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, MARKETS, AND FOOD (NH DAMF)

MINI GRANT PROGRAM - Offers matching grants of up to \$500 to organizations to conduct projects focused on promoting New Hampshire agriculture.

AGRICULTURAL NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT (ANM) GRANT PROGRAM – ANM grants assist agricultural land and livestock owners with efforts to minimize adverse effects to waters of the state by better managing agricultural nutrients including commercial fertilizers, animal manures and agricultural composts. Applicants may apply for cost assistance of up to \$2,500 per year. The majority of funding is used for on-farm projects that address or prevent water pollution and some funding is available for educational projects. This grant program is administered through the NH DAMF, Bureau of Markets and is funded in NH DAMF’s budget.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY 604(B) WATER QUALITY PLANNING GRANTS

Water Quality Planning Grants are available to Regional Planning Commissions and/or the Connecticut River Joint Commissions for water quality planning purposes. Funding priority is given to projects developing watershed-based plans. A total award amount of \$80,000 is available every two years. Funds are available to NHDES through US EPA pursuant to section 604(b) of the Clean Water Act.

NH DRINKING WATER SOURCE PROTECTION GRANTS

Source Protection Grants are available to public water suppliers for source water protection projects. The program, which began in 1997, has a total of \$200,000 available annually to award to eligible municipalities. Grant amounts vary from \$2,000 to \$15,000.

CONSERVATION LICENSE PLATE PROGRAM (MOOSE PLATE GRANT)

The Moose Plate Grant, administered through the State Conservation Committee, funds projects that enhance the environment by promoting the sustainability of the state’s public and private land, air, water, and cultural resources to prevent their pollution or degradation.

Eligible applicants include county conservation districts, cooperative extension natural resource programs, conservation commissions, schools, scout troops, nonprofit groups, and conservation organizations.

AQUATIC RESOURCE MITIGATION (ARM) FUND

The ARM Fund, administered through the NHDES Wetland Bureau, supports projects that provide resource restoration, preservation or improvement projects. ARM funds are provided through an in-lieu fee from compensatory mitigation requirements under RSA 482-A:28 and Env-Wt 800. Eligible projects include those involving land acquisition, wetland or stream restoration, culvert or dam repair or replacement, or invasive species management. Eligible applicants include NH communities within the Resource Mitigation Service Areas as well as county governments, regional planning commissions, watershed/river associations, state agencies, learning institutions, and nonprofit organizations.

NH COASTAL PROGRAM (NHCP) GRANTS

Coastal Program Grants address coastal resources, specifically water quality protection, habitat restoration, and climate change adaptation. Projects can be associated with coastal resource planning and management, coastal outreach and education, and construction and/or acquisition projects. Grants are offered to communities and organizations within NH's coastal zone. The funds are available through the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management (OCRM), pursuant to the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972. Total funds available each year are dependent on federal funding to OCRM.

EXOTIC SPECIES PROGRAM GRANTS

The Exotic Species Grants are funded through boater registration fees and include the following:

CONTROL GRANTS FOR EXOTIC AQUATIC PLANTS - Control Grants are awarded to local lake associations and municipalities for the control and treatment of exotic aquatic weeds, like milfoil and include the development of long-term management plans for each waterbody that requests funding.

MILFOIL AND OTHER EXOTIC PLANT PREVENTION GRANTS - Grant monies are available each year for forward-thinking strategies that seek to prevent new infestations of exotic plants, including outreach, education, Lake Host Programs, and other activities.

RESEARCH GRANTS - Grant monies are available for innovative research projects by institutions of higher learning (i.e., colleges and universities) that focus on issues associated with exotic aquatic plant management, control, biology, ecology or prevention, or other relevant projects.

NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE (NRCS) FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

U.S. Department of Agriculture, NRCS provides technical and financial assistance to private landowners, many of which are agricultural producers. Some of these "working lands programs" address resource concerns associated with agricultural operations. Applications for funding are ranked and prioritized based on the environmental benefits associated with the completion of

the best management practices (BMP's). Applications for program funding are accepted year round at seven Field Office locations (Epping, Milford, Walpole, Concord, Conway, Orford, & Lancaster). Additional information on New Hampshire NRCS can be found on their website (www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/site/nh/home/) or by calling the local field office. Local contact information can be found on the website.

319 PROGRAM

The 1987 amendments to the Clean Water Act (CWA) established the Section 319 Nonpoint Source Management Program. Under Section 319, the US EPA provides funding to states, territories and tribes to implement a wide variety of activities including technical assistance, financial assistance, education, training, technology transfer, demonstration projects and monitoring to assess the success of specific nonpoint source implementation projects.

The DES Watershed Assistance Section (WAS) in the Watershed Management Bureau administers New Hampshire's NPS Program. In addition to collaborating with NPS partners to implement statewide programs, WAS administers the Watershed Assistance Grants Program. Under the grant program, DES Watershed Assistance staff work with municipalities, universities, watershed associations and other organizations to develop and implement watershed based plans in priority watersheds as well as implement other water quality planning and implementation projects. These grants support local projects that implement actions to restore or protect water quality and enhance the designated uses of the state's waters by addressing sources of NPS pollution, hydromodification or rivers and streams, and habitat losses. The funding for these grants comes from the US Environmental Protection Agency under Section 319 of the Clean Water Act.

The 319 Program in New Hampshire follows EPA's Nonpoint Source Program Grants Guidelines for States and Territories issued in April 2013 (<http://water.epa.gov/polwaste/nps/upload/319-guidelines-fy14.pdf>) and operates under the New Hampshire Section 319 Nonpoint Source Program Grant Program Quality Assurance Project Plan, updated August 23, 2013 (http://des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/water/wmb/was/qapp/documents/qapp_319.pdf).

NPS PROGRAM GOALS, OBJECTIVES, AND MILESTONES

Goals, objectives, and measurable milestones for New Hampshire's NPS Program are summarized in tables 7 through 14 and 17, and include:

- Clean Watersheds
- Partnerships
- 319 Program
- Statewide Programs: Agriculture, Chlorides and Road Maintenance, Developed Land, Hydrologic and Habitat Modification, Landscape and Turf Management, Subsurface Systems

TABLE 8. PARTNERSHIP (P) GOALS, OBJECTIVES, AND MILESTONES

Partnership (P) Goal. The NPS Program has strong partnerships with local, state, and federal agencies, as well as other organizations in New Hampshire.							
Objective	Milestone	Measure of Success	Schedule				
			2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Objective P-1 Existing and new NPS Program partnerships result in an increased understanding of NPS issues and the importance of clean water.	Milestone P-1.1 Existing and new NPS partners and stakeholders participate in statewide NPS programs and watershed projects. <i>Partners: DES, 319 Grantees, watershed organizations, municipalities, non-governmental organizations, universities</i>	Measure P-1.1a NPS Program staff participate in two NPS outreach activities per year.					
		Measure P-1.1b Host and solicit evaluations from one Watershed Roundtable event per year in 2016 and 2018.					
		Measure P-1.1c One outreach/training event is designed per year for 319 grantees in response to Watershed Roundtable evaluations.					
	Milestone P-1.2 NPS Program partners/ stakeholder audiences, including 319 grantees, have access to NPS information and are able to obtain answers to NPS-related questions. <i>Partners: DES, 319 Grantees, Municipalities, Watershed Organizations</i>	Measure P-1.2a Three 319 grant projects are promoted per year through various media, venues, and events.					
		Measure P-1.2b 16 environmental indicators are updated annually on the DES website.					
		Measure P-1.2c Quarterly updates provided to the Watershed Protection and Restoration Forum.					
	Milestone P-1.3 NH municipalities are familiar with low impact development practices, local stormwater regulations, technical assistance and other technical and financial resources. <i>Partners: DES, Natural Resource Outreach Coalition, Municipalities, Nashua, Manchester, and Seacoast Stormwater Coalitions</i>	Measure P-1.3a Participate four Natural Resource Outreach Coalition (NROC) meetings per year.					
		Measure P-1.3b Facilitate and/or attend two meetings with each of the stormwater coalitions.					
		Measure P-1.3c Coordinate one activity per year with MS4 and other municipalities to meet water quality goals.					

TABLE 8 (CONT.). PARTNERSHIP GOALS, OBJECTIVES, AND MILESTONES

Objective	Milestone	Measure of Success	Schedule				
			2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Objective P-1 (cont.)	Milestone P-1.4 Align priority watersheds with the Total Maximum Daily Load Study (TMDL) Program. <i>Partners: DES Watershed Assistance Section, DES TMDL Program</i>	Measure P-1.4a TMDL program uses the watershed priority list to identify priority watersheds for TMDL development.					
		Measure P-1.4b Watersheds with TMDLs are priorities for watershed-based plan development.					
	Milestone P-1.5 The State Revolving Fund (SRF) Program regularly funds stormwater and nonpoint source projects. <i>Partners: DES Watershed Assistance Section, DES SRF Program</i>	Measure P-1.5a At least \$2 million annually in SRF loans available for stormwater and nonpoint source projects.					
		Measure P-1.5b State Revolving Fund rules allow non-municipal applicants.					
	Milestone P-1.6 Explore the feasibility of dividing the single lake Winnepesaukee Assessment Unit ID (AUID) into a separate AUID for each bay. <i>Partners: DES Watershed Management Bureau, DES Water Quality Section, Lake Winnepesaukee Watershed Association</i>	Measure P-1.6 Moultonborough inlet is assigned an individual AUID.					
	Milestone P-1.7 Explore the feasibility of adding geomorphic integrity (incision) to the assessment criteria in the NHDES Consolidated Assessment and Listing Methodology. <i>Partners: DES Watershed Management Bureau, DES Water Quality Section, NH Geological Survey</i>	Measure P-1.7 Determination made.					
	Milestone P-1.8 Explore the options for addressing the dissolved oxygen criteria for Class A waters so that restoration of dissolved oxygen-impaired, Class A lakes can achieve successful restoration. <i>Partners: DES Watershed Management Bureau, DES Water Quality Section</i>	Measure P-1.8 Determination made.					

TABLE 9. 319 PROGRAM GOALS, OBJECTIVES, AND MILESTONE

319 Program (319) Goal. The NPS Program is managed efficiently and effectively.							
Objective	Milestone	Measure of Success	Schedule				
			2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Objective 319-1 The Nonpoint Source Program Plan is up to date and used to track satisfactory progress.	Milestone 319-1.1 Completion of annual milestones, objectives, and goals in the NPS Management Program Plan are tracked and reported in the NPS Program Annual Report. <i>Partners: DES</i>	Measure 319-1.1 Documentation of completed plan elements in the NPS Annual Report, the Measures Tracking and Reporting System (MTRS), and other relevant reports and systems.					
	Milestone 319-1.2 The NPS Management Program is updated every five years to reflect program changes and success toward meeting NPS Program goals. <i>Partners: DES, NPS stakeholders to be determined</i>	Measure 319-1.2 The completed NPS Program update for years 2020 - 2024 is approved by EPA prior to October 1, 2019.					
	Milestone 319-1.3 Grant work plans are developed, applications for Section 319 funding are submitted, and required reports are completed. <i>Partners: DES, EPA, 319 Grantees, NPS Partners TBD</i>	Measure 319-1.3a NPS Program Annual Report submitted by December 31st.					
		Measure 319-1.3b Annual update of 319 staff work plans in Measures Tracking and Reporting System (MTRS) database with quarterly progress reporting.					
		Measure 319-1.3c Annual update and submittal of EPA's Priorities and Commitments (P&C) List.					
		Measure 319-1.3d Annual grant progress reports are submitted to EPA on an agreed upon schedule.					
	Milestone 319-1.4 NPS project documentation is accurate, well-maintained, and meets DES and EPA requirements. <i>Partners: DES, EPA</i>	Measure 319-1.4a NPS database is updated with improved reporting capabilities of project data, task progress, financials, BMP type, load reductions, and others.					
		Measure 319-1.4b Transfer to paperless or partially paperless records.					

TABLE 9 (CONT.). 319 PROGRAM GOALS, OBJECTIVES, AND MILESTONES

Objective	Milestone	Measure of Success	Schedule				
			2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Objective 319-2 Funding is adequate to fulfill NPS Program Plan objectives and dollars are used efficiently and are consistent with legal obligations.	Milestone 319-2.1 Apply and manage Section 319 funding from EPA as part of the DES Performance Partnership Grant (PPG) and continuing environmental program grant. <i>Partners: DES, EPA</i>	Measure 319-2.1 Grant dollars are spent by the grant end date and no later than five years from the start date.					
	Milestone 319-2.2 Streamline the Request for Proposal process. Determine the feasibility of developing an online, iterative grant application. Update review/scoring criteria and project eligibility requirements for 319 and other funded projects managed by the NPS Program. <i>Partners: DES, grantees, NH Dept of Information Technology (DoIT)</i>	Measure 319-2.2a Feasibility determination of online application process.					
		Measure 319-2.2b Annual review and update of grant application scoring and eligibility criteria.					
	Milestone 319-2.3 Request for Proposals (RFPs) for 319 sub-awards are released to allow ample time for state and EPA approval and the execution of 319 sub-awards by DES as soon as feasible after federal 319 dollars are made available. <i>Partners: DES EPA</i>	Measure 319-2.3 319 sub-awards are obligated within one year after the EPA grant award.					
Milestone 319-2.4 Coordinate and report on Disadvantaged Business Enterprises (DBEs) <i>Partners: DES</i>	Measure 319-2.4 Annual reporting on the utilization of minority and women-owned businesses.						