SOUTH DAKOTA
NONPOINT SOURCE
PROGRAM MANAGEMENT PLAN

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Watershed Protection
Water Resources Assistance Program
South Dakota Department of Environment and Natural Resources
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Introduction

Nonpoint source pollution control was included in the 1987 reauthorization of the Clean Water Act. The State of South Dakota's first Section 319 Nonpoint Source Pollution Management Plan was approved during 1988. The plan was updated during 1993 and 1999.

The 1999 amendment incorporated the program elements the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) determined as critical to effectively reducing and preventing nonpoint source (NPS) pollution. The elements are:

1. The state program contains goals, objectives, and strategies to protect surface and ground water.

2. The state strengthens its working partnerships and linkages to appropriate state, interstate, tribal, regional, and local entities (including conservation districts), private sector groups, citizen groups, and federal agencies.

3. The state uses a balanced approach that emphasizes both statewide nonpoint source programs and on-the-ground management of individual watersheds where waters are impaired or threatened.

4. The state program (a) abates known water quality impairments from nonpoint source pollution and (b) prevents significant threats to water quality from present and future nonpoint source activities.

5. The state program identifies waters and their watersheds impaired by nonpoint source pollution and identifies important unimpaired waters that are threatened or otherwise at risk. Further, the state establishes a process to progressively address these identified waters by conducting more detailed watershed assessments and developing watershed implementation plans, and then by implementing the plans.

6. The state reviews, upgrades, and implements all program components required by Section 319(b) of the Clean Water Act, and establishes flexible, targeted, and iterative approaches to achieve and maintain beneficial uses of water as expeditiously as practicable. The state programs include:

    - water quality and/or technology based programs designed to achieve and maintain beneficial uses of water, and
    - nonregulatory and regulatory financial and technical assistance as needed to achieve and maintain beneficial uses of water as expeditiously as practicable.

7. The state identifies Federal lands and activities that are not managed consistently with state nonpoint source program objectives. Where appropriate, the state seeks EPA assistance to help resolve issues.

8. The state manages and implements its nonpoint source program efficiently and effectively, including necessary financial management.

The revised South Dakota NPS Pollution Management Program Plan:

- was developed by the South Dakota Department of Environment and Natural Resources with input from the South Dakota Nonpoint Source Task Force,
- addresses the required program elements,
- incorporates amendments to the plan approved since the 1999 revision, and
- establishes objectives and tasks designed to provide direction for how the South Dakota NPS Program will develop and implement total maximum daily loads (TMDLs) for impaired waterbodies during the next five years.

The plan is the "road map" of how the South Dakota NPS Program will reach the objectives and move toward attaining the goal established by the department with input from the South Dakota Nonpoint Source Task Force:

> **Maintain a balanced program focused on the restoration and maintenance of the beneficial uses of the State's water resources impaired by nonpoint source pollution by developing and implementing workplans to attain the TMDLs for listed waterbodies.**

The goal was established to guide implementation of the program mission:

> **Protect or restore the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of the waters of the state by promoting locally sponsored projects where waters are threatened or impaired due to nonpoint sources of pollution.**

To attain the goal, objectives were established for the following seven program areas:

- Program Structure and Management
- Assessment,
- Implementation,
- Technical and Financial Assistance,
- Coordination,
- Information and Education, and
- Monitoring and Evaluation.

The plan is divided into eight sections:

- Section I: Program Structure and Management.
- Section II: Water Quality Assessment – watershed assessment methods.
- Section III: TMDL Implementation - prioritization and implementation strategies.
- Section IV: Financial and Technical Assistance – types and delivery of assistance.
  Section V: Coordination - development and maintenance of program partnerships.
- Section VI: Information/Education - outreach and information dissemination.
- Section VII: Monitoring and Evaluation - program and project monitoring/evaluation.
- Section VIII: Program Elements Addressed – how the plan address the elements.

The tasks, products, and milestones outlined in Sections I – VII were selected to reach the objectives established for each program area.

Section I
Program Structure and Management

The South Dakota Nonpoint Source Pollution (NPS) Program is implemented through the Watershed Protection work group housed in the South Dakota Department of Environment and Natural Resources' (DENR) Water Resources Assistance Program (WRAP). NPS pollution activities completed and/or coordinated by program staff are selected to improve, restore and maintain the water quality of the state's lakes, streams, wetlands, and ground water in partnership with other organizations, agencies and citizens. For information about the Watershed Protection workgroup's activities visit:

http://www.state.sd.us/denr/DFTA/WatershedProtection/wpprg.htm

The South Dakota Nonpoint Source Task Force is the department's primary partner for the implementation of the South Dakota NPS Program. The task force is a citizen's advisory group with a membership of approximately eighty agencies, organizations and Tribal representatives. The task force:

- provides a forum for the exchange of information about activities which impact nonpoint source pollution control,
- assists DENR NPS program staff with the development of guidance and application procedures for funding NPS source control projects,
- reviews Section 319 project applications and makes funding recommendations to the South Dakota Board of Water and Natural Resources,
- serves as the coordinating body for the review and direction of federal, state, and local government programs to ensure the programs facilitate NPS source pollution control in an efficient manner,
- facilitates the development and distribution of NPS pollution information, education, and public awareness materials and activities,
- provides oversight of and prioritizes NPS control activities, and
- serves as a forum for the discussion and resolution of NPS program conflicts.

For additional information about the task force visit:

http://www.state.sd.us/denr/DFTA/WatershedProtection/npstf.htm

Since the reauthorization of the Clean Water Act during 1987, the South Dakota NPS Pollution Program has used Section 319, 104(b)(3), 106, and 604(b) funding to support nearly 210 NPS projects. Refer to the most current South Dakota Nonpoint Program Annual Report for a listing of the projects. An electronic copy of the report is available by visiting:

http://www.state.sd.us/denr/DFTA/WatershedProtection/NPS_ANNUAL_REPORTS.htm

Historically, South Dakota NPS projects have focused on reducing NPS pollution originating

from agricultural operations. During recent years, an increasing portion of the funds have been used to support local initiatives that:

- develop and implement total maximum daily loads (TMDLs) for impaired waterbodies,
- determine sources and causes of NPS pollution within priority watersheds,
- provide local project partners with assistance for planning and identifying sources of funding for the installation of NPS control best management practices (BMPs), and
- evaluate water quality conditions in urban as well as rural areas.

During 2005, it was determined that successfully addressing priority NPS pollution issues and sources in the state required that DENR refocus use of its resources. As a result, DENR networked with its state, federal, and local financial assistance partners to develop and implement a policy that directed the use of 319 funds to:

- projects that develop or implement a TMDL or cluster of TMDLs and
- specific implementation project activities:
  1. planning, administration, salaries, travel, and monitoring/evaluation;
  2. information and education;
  3. animal nutrient management system design and construction with a 25 percent minimum landowner contribution required; and
  4. riparian buffers, shoreline stabilization and practices required to exclude livestock.

During FFY 2006, criteria for cost sharing the manure management components of monoslope barns and hoop structures were developed in cooperation with the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) and the South Dakota Department of Agriculture (SDDA). The criteria are:

- cost share is based on $75.00/head with a maximum award of $150,000 and
- additional assistance may be authorized on a case-by-case basis to bring the assistance to the level that would be needed to construct a conventional system at a new location when a relocation is necessary to address the required pollution reduction.

With the change, funding for other project activities and many of the BMPs previously cost-shared using 319 funds was moved to other funding sources such as the USDA conservation programs, the South Dakota Coordinated Soil and Water Conservation Fund Grant Program, US Fish and Wildlife Service, and private organizations such as Ducks Unlimited and Pheasants Forever.

While the size, target audience, and structure of South Dakota's NPS projects vary, all share common elements:

- increase awareness of NPS pollution issues;
- identify, quantify, and locate sources of nonpoint source impairment;

- reduce/prevent the delivery of NPS pollutants with emphasis on meeting targets established through TMDLs;
- comply with threatened and endangered species, historic preservation, storm water construction control, and 404 and 401 permit requirements;
- implement TMDLs on a watershed basis; and
- disseminate information about NPS pollution solutions.

Project applications are developed:

- on a watershed basis to develop or implement a cluster of TMDL(s) or support TMDL development or implementation;
- in partnership with local, state and federal agencies and organizations; and
- with assistance from DENR.

Applications are solicited by:

- ads in daily newspapers;
- mailings and other correspondence to the NPS task force members, conservation districts, other agencies and private organizations; and
- posting the request for proposals on the Watershed Protection website home page:

  http://www.state.sd.us/denr/DFTA/WatershedProtection/wpprg.htm

The website also contains EPA and South Dakota 319 project guidelines, application information and deadlines for submitting applications to DENR.

Project applications are reviewed using a competitive process. The initial review is by the NPS task force. The task force provides its recommendations to the South Dakota Board of Water and Natural Resources (BWNR), the governmental entity that provides South Dakota's 319 funding recommendations to EPA. In addition to recommendations from the task force, the BWNR considers input from DENR NPS staff and concerned citizens who are present at board meeting or have provide written comments. The board periodically conducts meetings using video conferencing to reduce travel costs and facilitate greater participation in the decision making process. Video conference meetings normally have three remote sites, one in western South Dakota; two in eastern South Dakota in addition to the main studio located in Pierre.

The projects selected for funding fit one of three categories:

- assessment/project development,
- information and education (I&E), or
- watershed implementation.

Although most projects fit one of the three categories, several have included components of each.

The primary purposes of an assessment/development projects include:

- identify beneficial use impairments or threats to specific water bodies,
- determine the extent to which the threats or impairments originate from NPS pollution, and
- develop TMDLs.

Priority is given to waterbodies on the South Dakota 303(d) list of impaired water bodies. The current list is contained in the state's *2006 Integrated Report for Water Quality Assessment*. A copy of the report is available from DENR or may be accessed at:

http://www.state.sd.us/denr/DFTA/WatershedProtection/tmdl.htm

TMDLs are developed as a part of an assessment project. The department prefers to develop the TMDLs in 12 digit hydrologic unit or larger clusters that include all NPS TMDLs needed for a river basin. For larger basins, such as the Big Sioux, studies are completed by dividing the basin into sub-basins.

Activities completed during a TMDL assessment and development project typically include an inventory of existing data and information and supplemental monitoring to identify the sources of water quality impairment. DENR and its project partners use the information to:

- determine the extent to which beneficial uses are impaired,
- identify specific sources and causes of the impairments,
- establish pollution reduction goals or TMDL endpoints, and
- identify management practices and alternatives that will reduce the pollution at its source(s) and restore or maintain the beneficial use(s) of the water body.

Assessment/development projects typically range from one to three years in length.

For information about the location, status and results of South Dakota assessment projects visit:

http://www.state.sd.us/denr/DFTA/WatershedProtection/tmdl.htm

Information and education (I & E) projects are designed to provide information about NPS pollution issues and solutions or develop BMPs. While most I & E projects range from one to three years in length; BMP development and assistance projects may extend to four or five years.

Information transfer tools typically used by the department and its project partners include brochures, print and electronic media, workshops, "how to" manuals, tours, exhibits, and demonstrations. Many of the publications are available on the department's website at:

http://www.state.sd.us/denr/DFTA/WatershedProtection/wpprg.htm
After accessing the site, click on publications in the box located on the left side of the screen.

BMP development projects are, for the most part, completed through partnerships with the academic community, South Dakota Cooperative Extension Service, United States Department of Agriculture, Natural Resource Conservation Service (USDA NRCS), and private consultants.

To ensure the BMPs developed are accepted by the resources managers who will install the practices, industry and producer groups are involved in planning the projects and commonly provide financial assistance. The South Dakota Cattlemen's, Pork Producer's and Corn Grower's associations, Grassland Coalition, South Dakota Black Hills Forest Resources Association, and South Dakota Association of General Contractors are examples of commodity groups and trade associations, respectively that have been involved in BMP development and training activities.

Watershed implementation projects are the most comprehensive projects implemented through the South Dakota NPS Pollution Program. Implementation projects are typically of long-term duration and designed to implement clusters of TMDLs on a 12 digit or larger hydrologic unit basis. Implementation project objectives include:

- protect/restore impaired beneficial uses through the promotion and voluntary installation of best management practices (BMPs) that prevent/reduce NPS pollution,
- disseminate information about NPS pollution and solution alternatives, and
- evaluate project progress toward use attainment or NPS pollutant reduction goals using models and targeted monitoring.

Most South Dakota watershed implementation projects range from four to ten years in length with the duration dependant on the size of the watershed and extent of the NPS pollution that must be addressed. During 2004, the department determined that funding projects for longer than three to four years was not an efficient use of financial resources nor did it allow the flexibility needed to install practices needed to attain TMDLs for large watersheds. As a result, an incremental funding strategy was initiated.

Projects that require longer than three or four years to complete are funded in segments. The initial request for funding contains an outline of the practices needed to attain the TMDL/water quality goal established during an assessment project. Subsequent funding requests are modified to address progress toward the goal and ongoing evaluations of the practices needed to attain the goal. A final report is required for each project segment. The reports summarize the accomplishments of the project segment and the cumulative accomplishments of previous segments. The report for the final segment is, therefore, a comprehensive document of all activities completed and contains an evaluation of success in attaining the TMDL(s).

The implementation of incremental funding for large projects has proven to be a sound strategy from both a financial and BMP installation aspect:

- projects are funded adequately for the short term with long term needs identified,

- DENR and local staff are able to more effectively monitor project progress and make necessary changes to the types and quantities of BMPs required to attain the project goal and TMDLs and the installation milestones, and
- projects that are not progressing are identified sooner and can be closed with unexpended funds redirected to address other priorities.

Section II.
Water Quality Assessment

Both the assessment and implementation strategies outlined in the previous management plan had been amended to address the development and implementation of TMDLs. The department established a goal of:

> **Develop 11 TMDLs and implement five work plans each year to achieve the TMDLs for all of the state's impaired waters over a 13 year period.**

Waterbodies assessed are selected from the South Dakota 303(d) list of impaired waterbodies. The selection is based on the need for a TMDL and priority. The results of the assessments are used to develop TMDLs and project implementation plans (PIPs) to implement the TMDLs.

The 303(d) list is included in the Integrated Report (combined 303(d) and 305(b) reports). The information included in the report is developed using data collected by the DENR Watershed Protection Work Group and Surface and Ground Water Programs, universities, state and federal resource management agencies, and the South Dakota Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring Network. Examples of State and Federal Agencies providing data are the South Dakota Geologic Survey and United States Geological Survey.

The 2006 South Dakota Integrated Report indicates there are 9,937 miles of perennial rivers and streams in the state. Of the total, 7,532 miles had been assessed during the five years preceding the report. Fifty percent of the assessed miles were found to fully support all assigned beneficial uses; the other half did not. The most common causes of nonsupport were total suspended solids and fecal coliform bacteria from agricultural nonpoint sources. See Table 1 (page 11) for categories and subcategories of NPS pollution.

The report also states that there are 573 publicly owned lakes and reservoirs covering nearly 205,000 acres in South Dakota. Nearly 140 have been assessed. These lakes account for 70 percent of the state's total lake acres. Fifty-four fully support all assigned beneficial uses; 84 do not. Of the 84 not fully supporting all beneficial uses, sediment and nutrients originating from agricultural lands were identified as the most common cause of nonsupport.

There are approximately 2.2 million acres of wetlands and 24 aquifers in South Dakota. Groundwater quality is monitored primarily by a net work of wells installed and maintained for that purpose by the South Dakota Geologic Survey.

TMDL assessments have been completed for 52 South Dakota waterbodies (2006 Integrated Report),. EPA has approved 47 nonpoint source TMDLs for 31 waterbodies. DENR is currently assessing 61 waterbodies. In addition, 25 stream segments or lakes have been delisted as a result of data available to prepare the 2006 Integrated Report. The TMDLs are available by visiting:

http://www.state.sd.us/denr/DFTA/WatershedProtection/tmdl.htm

The state's original (1998) milestone relative to TMDL development was 11 TMDLs each year with completion of all TMDLs during a 13 year period ending in 2011. As the TMDL process is dynamic, the milestone has been revised to "develop an average of 11 TMDLs each year so that the TMDL for a listed waterbody is completed within 13 years of listing."

Table 1. NPS Pollution Source Categories and Subcategories[1]

Category	Subcategory
Agriculture	Nonirrigated crop production Irrigated crop production Pasture grazing – riparian and upland Animal Feeding operations Rangeland - riparian and upland
Construction	< 1 acre highway/road/bridge construction projects Land development Channelization
Habitat Modification	Removal of riparian vegetation Drainage/filling wetlands
Hydromoficiation	Dredging Upstream impoundment
Resource Extraction	Surface mining Subsurface mining Petroleum activities
Silviculture	Harvesting, restoration, residue management Forest management Logging road construction/maintenance Bank or shoreline stabilization
Urban Runoff	Surface runoff Highway/road/bridge runoff
Other	Dam construction Golf courses Atmospheric deposition Waste storage/storage tank leaks Spills Erosion and sedimentation

1 From: *2006 South Dakota Integrated Report for Surface Water Quality Assessment*

Objective 1: Complete activities that lead to the development and approval of TMDLs for listed waterbodies in South Dakota impaired by pollutants originating from nonpoint sources within 13 years of listing."

Task 1: Develop and complete water quality assessments for 303(d) waterbodies listed as impaired by pollutants originating from nonpoint sources.

Selection of waterbodies will be based on inclusion on the 303(d) list as in need of a TMDL and assigned priority. Assessment projects will be:

- structured to address 12 digit or larger HU clusters of waterbodies and TMDLs,
- accomplished through a partnership with a local governmental subdivision, agency or organization over a two to three year period,
- designed to identify target areas for best management practice (BMP) installation to implement the TMDL, and
- completed using:
    1. procedures contained in DENR's *Standard Operating Procedures for Field Samplers* (*http://www.state.sd.us/denr/document.htm#Watershed%20Protection*) and
    2. models to include but not limited to Annualized Agricultural Nonpoint Source (AnnAGNPS), Bathtub, FLUX and Hydrologic Simulation Program Fortran (HSPF).

See Task 5, Section III for procedures that will be followed to provide assistance and monitor progress toward completion of implementation projects.

Products: Assessment reports.
TMDLs for listed waterbodies.

Milestone: An average of 11 TMDLs which lead to the development of five TMDL implementation or implementation support projects/year.

Evaluation: Approved TMDLs that lead to the development of TMDL implementation
or implementation support projects.

Task 2: Continue the South Dakota Lakes Ambient Monitoring Program.

The South Dakota Ambient Lakes Monitoring Program is designed to monitore water quality of South Dakota's lakes and reservoirs. Approximately 135 lakes are sampled as part of the South Dakota Statewide Lakes Assessment. Twenty-five percent of the lakes are sampled each year. Water quality parameters measured include both nutrient and solids parameters. The sample, along with field measurements collected using a water quality sonde, are sent to the State Health lab for analysis. All data is stored in the department's water quality database. Monitoring will be completed using procedures contained in DENR's *Standard Operating Procedures for Field Samplers*:

(*http://www.state.sd.us/denr/document.htm#Watershed%20Protection*)

Products: Ambient water quality data for 133 South Dakota lakes for use in tracking water quality trends in the state's major lakes.

Milestone: Twenty-five percent (average 33 lakes) sampled each year.

Evaluation: Lakes sampled according to milestone schedule.

Water quality data collected facilitates determination of:

1. water quality trends and support of designated uses for 133 selected South Dakota lakes,
2. inclusion or removal from the state's 303(d) list, and
3. determination if TMDL development is required.

Task 3: Provide the public and resource management professionals with water quality information and the opportunity to participate in the TMDL approval process.

Water quality data collected during TMDL assessment and lake monitoring activities and generated by the South Dakota Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring program will be:

1. entered into a data base for transfer to STORET/WQX and
2. used to determine inclusion on the South Dakota 303(d) list, develop TMDLs or delist the waterbody.

The TMDLs developed will be:

1. offered for public comment,
2. sent to EPA for approval, and
3. posted on the Watershed Protection home page.

http://www.state.sd.us/denr/DFTA/WatershedProtection/TMDL.htm

The page also contains a schedule and status of TMDL completion.

Products: Data in STORET/WQX and NPS section in the *Integrated Report*.
TMDL public notice process.
TMDL page within the Watershed Protection home page.

Milestones: Eleven TMDLs offered for public comment and sent to EPA each year.
Quarterly downloads to STORET/WQX.
TMDL information on DENR web site is current.

Evaluation: Data entered in STORET, project annual and final reports completed and entered on the Grants Reporting and Tracking System as required by programmatic conditions and workplans.
NPS section of the Integrated Report completed within established timelines.
TMDLs entered on the TMDL home page and offered for public comment according to established guidelines.

Section III
TMDL Implementation

Implementation projects selected for development and funding are those that:

- implement a TMDL or cluster of TMDLs,
- protect water quality in the state's 21 high water quality lakes from becoming impaired,
- develop or test the effectiveness of a BMP, or
- provide NPS technical or outreach assistance to several projects or on a statewide basis.

While the size of the project area can be expected to vary with the size of the watershed(s) included in multiple TMDL implementation projects, South Dakota implementation projects will be:

- developed and implemented at the 12 to 8 HU level, and
- guided by watershed based plans that address elements A - I listed in Section III D of the US EPA NPS Program and Grants Guidelines for State and Territories.

Because of project area size, implementation of a cluster of TMDLs is usually scheduled for completion using a series of two to three year segments. A final report is required for each project segment with each succeeding segment carrying load reductions and other project accomplishments realized from previous segments forward. The interim reports also include a comparison to the planned versus actual accomplishments and evaluate progress toward attaining the TMDLs.

To provide funding for activities that have the greatest probability to result in water quality improvements and encourage the use of resources available from other stakeholders, implementation project activities funded using Section 319 funds are limited to:

- planning, administration, salaries and travel and monitoring/evaluation;
- information and education;
- animal nutrient management system design and construction
    1. requires a 25 percent minimum landowner contribution and
    2. cost share for manure handling components of monoslope and hoop structures is based on $75.00/head with a maximum award of $150,000 with additional assistance authorized on a case-by-case basis to bring the assistance to the level that would be needed to construct a conventional system at a new location when a relocation is necessary to address the required pollution reduction.
- riparian buffers, shoreline stabilization and practices required to exclude livestock.

Cost share criteria for monoslope barns and hoop structures were developed in cooperation with the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) and the South Dakota Department of Agriculture (SDDA)

The availability Section 319 funds is announced using:

- mailings and other correspondence to the NPS task force members, conservation districts other agency and private organization entities expressing an interest;
- box ads in daily newspapers; and
- posting the request for proposals on the Watershed Protection website home page:

  http://www.state.sd.us/denr/DFTA/WatershedProtection/wpprg.htm

The website also contains EPA and South Dakota 319 project guidelines, application information and deadlines for submitting applications to DENR.

Implementation project applicants are commonly:

- resource management agencies and organizations,
- state and local governmental agencies and subdivisions, or
- interest groups such as livestock and other commodity associations and the South Dakota Grassland Coalition.

The project sponsor is responsible for preparing the project application and presentation during the review process. DENR and other natural resource agencies assist the sponsor with application preparation and presentation.

NPS project sponsors in South Dakota typically have limited resources and, therefore, rely on multiple funding sources to complete a project. Locating financial and technical assistance resources is part of the project planning process. To facilitate the process, DENR publishes a guide to sources of financial and technical assistance entitled *South Dakota Watershed Project Funding and Technical Assistance Guide*. The guide is available electronically. Access

http://www.state.sd.us/denr/DFTA/WatershedProtection/wpprg.htm

then, click on publications. See Section 4 for financial and technical assistance related activities.

The primary sources of financial assistance accessed to compliment Section 319 funds include:

- South Dakota Coordinated Soil and Water Conservation Fund Grant Program,
- South Dakota Clean Water Consolidated Water Facilities Construction Program,
- South Dakota State Revolving Fund NPS Incentive Rate Loans,
- South Dakota Department of Game, Fish, and Parks Private Lands Programs,
- USDA Farm Program,
- US Fish and Wildlife Service Private Lands Programs, and
- organizations such as lake associations, Ducks Unlimited, and Pheasants Forever.

Landowners and managers pay a portion of the cost of the BMPs installed on their property.

A benefit of partnerships, beyond increased resource availability, is that projects undertaken more fully address the resource needs. See Table 2 for a list of partnerships.

Project applications are reviewed using a competitive process. The initial review is by the NPS task force. The task force provides recommendations to the South Dakota Board of Water and Natural Resources (BWNR). The BWNR is the designated governmental entity that provides South Dakota's 319 funding recommendations to EPA. In addition to recommendations from the task force, the BWNR considers input from DENR NPS staff and concerned citizens who are present at the board meeting or provide written comments. Once approved by the BWNR, the applications are submitted to EPA for final review and approval. The EPA approval process includes compliance reviews for threatened and endangered species.

Objective 2: Develop and complete watershed projects that implement clusters of TMDLs at multiple waterbodies in 12 digit or larger HU watersheds.

Task 4. Develop and begin implementing project implementation plans (PIPs) for approved TMDLs within two years of approval.

Project development will be accomplished through partnerships with governmental subdivisions, resource management agencies, qualified nonprofit organizations, or Tribes with one of the partners acting as the lead partner and project sponsor. Project development will follow state, EPA Region VIII, and National NPS Program Guidance requirements. The guidance documents are available from DENR or by accessing:

http://www.state.sd.us/denr/DFTA/WatershedProtection/319.htm

See Section I for information regarding solicitation of project proposals.

After the review process is complete, proposals are converted to PIPs and submitted to the EPA Region VIII project officer for coordination of threatened and endangered species compliance review with UFWS and final approval. When approved by EPA, DENR will execute an agreement with the project sponsor for implementation of the PIP. The agreement includes compliance with EPA grant conditions.

Products: EPA approved project implementation plans (PIPs).
Grant agreements with local project partners.

Milestones: Five TMDL implementation project proposals developed and PIPs approved within two years of approval of the TMDLs.
Grant agreements with local project partners complete within three months of notice of funding award from EPA.

Evaluation: Number of 12 digit or larger HU implementation projects initiated within

two years of TMDL approval.

Task 5. Provide assistance and oversight to ensure the completion of watershed projects that attain TMDL implementation goals according to the milestones established during the project planning period. (Note – Procedure also applies to assessment projects.)

Project oversight and assistance will be provided by Watershed Protection staff.

Program staff will monitor and track project success and provide assistance using:

- the South Dakota NPS Management Tracking System (the "Tracker"),
- STEPL, RUSLE2, AnnAGNPS and water quality monitoring to estimate load reductions from BMPs installation,
- onsite visits/audits,
- written and electronic communication,
- annual project reviews,
- annual/ semi-annual reports, and
- final project reports.

The South Dakota NPS Management System ("Tracker") is an electronic project management program. The program was developed by DENR to provide consistent 319 project management and facilitate generation of financial documents, to include requests for payment; data relative to milestone completion status; and progress toward TMDL goal attainment. The program also includes subroutines that facilitate preparation of reports for entry into the EPA Grants Reporting and Tracking System (GRTS) and the final project report. The Tracker program manual is available at:

https://www.state.sd.us/applications/NR88BMPExpenseTracking/secure/login.asp

Logging onto the system requires a password. Contact the Watershed Protection Program to obtain a password or copy of the program manual.

Onsite visits will include a review of project records and visits to BMP installation sites. The standard is a minimum of two onsite visits each year. For compliance purposes, most BMPs installed will have a life span of greater than 10 years. Those practices which have a life span less than 10 years will be subject to compliance checks only during the life span identified for the practice. Project sponsors will be responsible for verifying compliance for the duration of the project period. NRCS also checks compliance for those practices which receive USDA funds. Post project compliance checks of BMPs with life spans exceeding the length of the project will be the responsibility of the USDA if USDA funds were used for the practice

Annual reports for entry in the EPA Grants Reporting and Tracking System (GRTS) are

required for all projects. Projects that are substantially behind schedule will be required to submit a mid-year report. The reports are to be submitted using a format provided by DENR. The report template and instructions are available by accessing:

http://www.state.sd.us/denr/DFTA/WatershedProtection/GRTS.htm

The annual report must include load reductions realized from BMPs installed. DENR recommends using the Spreadsheet Tool for Estimating Pollutant Load Region 5 Load Estimation Model (STEPL). Access to the program and a South Dakota specific user guide are available at the web site referenced above.

The information gained during the onsite visits and required reports will be used to complete an annual internal review of all projects. The review will involve the assigned DENR project officer and administrative staff. Results of the review will be used to identify implementation plan changes necessary to ensure the project attains the TMDL in a timely manner. Another outcome of the review might be the decision to terminate a project if it is apparent the chance of success is remote. Taking this action allows the department to redirect limited resources to TMDL implementation activities that will yield results while revisiting how to address the TMDL needs in watersheds where projects are less than successful.

A final report will be required for each project. The report will follow the format provided by DENR. The format is based on that developed by EPA and provided to the states at a workshop held during April 2000. The format is available by clicking on Final Project Report after accessing:

http://www.state.sd.us/denr/DFTA/WatershedProtection/GRTS.htm

Products: Projects that attain TMDL goals completed according to established milestones.

Milestones: Projects are on schedule.
Reports are submitted on time, in the required format, and provide the required information.
Final report is submitted within 90 days after the project is complete.

Evaluation: Project/TMDL goal(s) are attained within established project milestones.

Section IV
Financial and Technical Assistance

While Section 319 funds provide the base financial and technical assistance for NPS projects in South Dakota, the successful development and completion of the project depends on accessing resources available from other sources. The *South Dakota Watershed Project Funding and Technical Assistance Guide* was developed to serve as a reference to these resources. The guide is available electronically by accessing:

http://www.state.sd.us/denr/document.htm#Watershed%20Protection

Watershed projects are best managed by a local sponsor. Local sponsors:

- take ownership,
- are best equipped to deliver services to the local landowners,
- know the BMPs will be acceptable to producers in the project area, and
- are in the best position to employ staff that will be accepted by the project area residents.

DENR encourages that project sponsors to form a "project advisory/steering committee". The committee assists the sponsor with:

- coordinating project activities among the partners,
- establishing the local cost share docket, and
- providing feedback to and obtaining input from the partners.

Local sponsors generally have limited financial resources and need technical services to implement watershed projects. DENR and NRCS work closely with the sponsor throughout the assessment and development project phases to identify practice needs and help develop implementation plans, budgets and grant applications that access several financial and technical assistance sources.

NRCS financial and technical assistance to provided to South Dakota NPS pollution projects usually includes land use assessments, farm unit planning, office space, equipment, and training. During PIP development, the State and Assistant State Conservationists review project plans to determine the level of NRCS assistance that can be provided to the projects. The review ensures the required NRCS assistance will be available. Financial assistance from the agency's Environmental Quality Incentives (EQIP) and Conservation Reserve CRP) Programs is essential to meeting NPS project goals and objectives. NRCS personnel also assist with local public meetings and other outreach activities.

At each stage of the TMDL assessment and implementation process, DENR ensures that other agencies and organizations are given the opportunity to contribute financial and technical resources. Technical assistance provided by DENR begins prior to development of a TMDL assessment

project and continues through completion of the final report for the TMDL implementation project. The assistance includes:

- discussion of the need to develop a TMDL with watershed residents and resource agencies,
- development and implementation of a TMDL assessment PIP,
- presentation of the results of the assessment and approval of the TMDL,
- development of a TMDL implementation strategy and project proposal, and
- completion of the workplan(s) to implement the TMDL and preparation of the final report.

Financial assistance is often not available from potential project partners until a TMDL implementation workplan is approved. Therefore, the primary sources of financial assistance for TMDL assessment projects are typically:

- Section 319, 604(b), and 106 funds and
- state funds.

State funds used for assessments are often those appropriated for he Environment and Natural Resources Fee Fund.

Watershed projects are designed to address documented NPS pollution impacts on a watersheds basis. The project goal is accomplished by:

- promoting the voluntary application of BMPs;
- disseminating information on effective solutions to NPS pollution impacts; and
- evaluating the project's progress and benefits.

Local sponsors use Section 319 and funds available from project partners to administer the projects, plan and cost-share BMP installation, conduct outreach activities, and monitor and evaluate project outputs and outcomes.

BMPs cost shared are practices that:

- prevent pollutants from leaving a specific area;
- reduce/eliminate the introduction of pollutants,
- protect sensitive areas; and/or
- prevent the interaction between precipitation and pollutants.

BMPs approved for use in South Dakota are:

1. practices recognized by the USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service, other federal agencies and the South Dakota Conservation Commission as effective in preventing or controlling NPS pollution from urban and rural sources. Design and construction to NRCS specifications is the standard used for BMP installation;

2. Sediment removal; and
3. purchase of short (5 – 15 years), long term (30 year) and perpetual easements when such purchase is deemed an effective practice to abate or control nonpoint source pollution to surface and ground water from agricultural, silivicultural, stream/riparian or urban sources

The BMPs installed are dependent on the:

- the NPS pollutant(s) being addressed,
- sources and causes of NPS pollution,
- NPS pollution delivery mechanisms, and
- resource managers and/or landowners' willingness and ability to implement the practices.

To be accepted and installed, the BMPs must fit the landowners/operators needs and be sustainable. These considerations are addressed during the initial planning sessions held with the landowner/operator.

The financial and technical assistance is provided through the project sponsor. Sources of assistance commonly accessed are shown in Table 2. The table also includes information relative to the type of assistance provided. The *South Dakota Watershed Project Funding and Technical Assistance Guide*, referenced previously, provides information regarding opportunities for financial and technical assistance partnership in South Dakota.

The level of financial assistance provided to landowners and managers is determined by the project sponsor within the limitations imposed by the state and federal NPS Program (see introduction and links to program web site) and other provider program guidelines. For example, both the EQIP and South Dakota Coordinated Soil and Water Conservation Fund Grant Programs have approved cost share dockets that are reviewed annually. Each project maintains a docket of eligible assistance rates. Total federal cost share for any BMP may not exceed 75 percent.

Table 2. Financial and Technical Assistance Sources.

Assistance Provider/Program	**Type of Assistance Provided**				
	Financial	**Technical**			
		BMP Development/ Testing	**BMP**		**Water Quality Monitoring**
			Planning	**Implementation**	
Federal					
NRCS					
EQIP	X		X	X	
CCIG	X	X	X	X	
Partnership Contribution			X		

Table 2. Financial and Technical Assistance Sources Continued.

Resource Conservation and Development Associations	X		X	X	
US Fish and Wildlife Private Lands	X		X	X	
EPA					
Regional Priority	X			X	
Targeted Watershed	X			X	
US Geologic Survey					X
Bureau of Land Management				X	
Bureau of Reclamation	X		X	X	X
State					
SD Dept. of Agriculture					
Soil and Water Fund	X	X	X	X	
Resource Conservation and Forestry		X	X	X	
DENR					
Surface Water			X		X
Ground Water			X		X
SD Geologic Survey			X		X
SRF NPS Incentive Loan	X			X	
Program	X				
Consolidated Construction Grants				X	
SD Dept. of Game, Fish and Parks	X		X	X	
Private Lands Program	X		X	X	X
Fisheries Program					
University	X	X	X		X
Local					
Conservation Districts	X	X	X	X	X
Water Development Districts	X		X	X	X
Commodity Groups/Associations	X		X		
SD Grasslands Coalition	X		X		
SD Cattlemen's Association	X		X		
SD Pork Producers	X	X	X		
SD Corn/Soybean Council		X	X	X	
SD No-Till Association					
Black Hill Forest Resource Assoc.					
Organizations					
Ducks Unlimited	X			X	
Lake Associations	X		X	X	X
SD Discovery Center			X		X
Northern Prairies Land Trust				X	

Recipients of Section 319 practice installation cost-share assistance are responsible for the operation and maintenance of the practices. The term maintenance refers to actions necessary to maintain the BMPs in a "workable condition" for its expected functional life. The life span is the minimum number of years the BMP should serve its purpose with normal maintenance. Operation and maintenance of the BMPs will be monitored by the project sponsor under the terms of the agreement for assistance executed prior to installation of the BMP. The return of cost share funds will be required if the recipient fails to operate and maintain the BMP during its life span, unless a release is approved by the DENR.

Information and education projects are designed to inform the public of and provide opportunities for involvement in NPS activities. I & E activities are a required component of all TMDL development and implementation projects awarded funding through the South Dakota NPS Program. South Dakota's strategy for information/education is addressed in Section VIII of this plan.

Project Sponsors/Partners and Assistance

Although other entities serve as project sponsors, sponsorship and management of NPS projects is most often provided by conservation districts (CDs) and water development districts (WDDs). See Table 3 for a list of agencies and organizations that have served as Section 319 project sponsors in South Dakota

Table 3. Agency and Organization Project Sponsors or Cosponsors.

Organizational Level	Agency/Organization
Local	Cities Counties Conservation Districts SD Association of Conservation Districts Livestock and Crop Commodity Groups/Associations Lake Associations Water Development Districts
State	Universities SD Department of Agriculture
Federal	Resource Conservation and Development Associations

Section 319 funding is awarded at a 60 percent Section 319 and 40 percent nonfederal ratio. The nonfederal funds (match) are:

- provided in the form of cash and/or in kind services and
- generally from several local partners based on activity or BMP as determined during the planning process and allowed by the provider's fund source criteria.

Objective 3: Provide financial and technical assistance to identify water quality impairments originating from NPS pollution and develop and implement TMDLs to restore and/or maintain the beneficial uses of water bodies impacted by NPS pollution.

Task 5: Maintain a working relationship with financial and technical assistance partners.

Working relationships developed by the program will be maintained and expanded to ensure availability of the financial and technical assistance resources need to develop and implement TMDLs. Partnership building activities include:

- invitation to partners and potential partners to participate in the NPS Task Force;
- presentations by project partners at NPS project coordinator and water quality workshops, conferences and training events;
- participation in water quality events hosted by project partners:
  1. member of planning committees and
  2. presentations at workshops, training sessions and conferences.
- continued involvement with NRCS:
  1. member of the
     - State Technical Committee;
     - Environmental Quality Incentives (EQIP), Grasslands Reserve (GRP), Wildlife Habitat Incentives (WHIP), Wetlands Reserve (WRP), Conservation Security (CSP) and Conservation Reserve (CRP) workgroups and subcommittees;
     - State Conservationists' Conservations Partners committee;
     - grant review teams (Conservation Innovation -CIG and Rapid Watershed Assessment -RWA) and;
     - special workgroups and committees formed to address specific issues;
  2. practice standard reviewer;
  3. meet periodically to coordinate, ensure to the consistency of and prioritize the delivery of financial and technical assistance through common project partners; and
  4. participation in training to acquire skills and tools needed to coordinate efforts.
- serving as a NPS resource source to agencies, organizations and stakeholder groups;
- continued member of the South Dakota Conservation Commission Advisory Board;
- attendance at South Dakota Association of Conservation Districts Association (SDACD) board meetings; and
- Increased involvement of South Dakota Cooperative Extension Service in NPS activities.

Product: Project partnerships.

Milestones: Representation at:

- NRCS committee, subcommittee, and partner meetings,
- South Dakota Conservation Commission meetings, and
- SDACD board meetings.

Presentations and or displays at two workshops/conferences sponsored by project partners each year.

Presentations by project partners at NPS workshops and training events.

Cooperative extension represented at new project development and coordination meetings.

Evaluation: Current project partnerships are maintained and new partnerships

established as evidenced by:

- partners continue to participate in and provide assistance for the development and completion of TMDL development and implementation projects,
- additional project partners become involved in project planning and implementation,
- projects developed include financial and technical resources provided by multiple entities,
- Cooperative Extension participation in development and implementation of new projects, and
- DENR is the recognized leader in addressing NPS issues in SD.

Task 6. Provide financial and technical assistance to project partners for the development and adoption of tools needed to develop and complete TMDL development and implementation projects.

The development of tools and methods needed to install and evaluate BMPs, and, in some cases, develop a BMP will be completed through contractual agreements with the academic community, private consultants and other governmental agencies except for a limited number of cases when program staff will complete the activity.

The main areas anticipated to be address during the next few years include:

- computer based project planning, management, and evaluation programs; and increased livestock management related BMPs and load reduction determination capability.

Products: Grassland BPM load reduction determination model.
Increased GIS and remote sensing capabilities.
Expanded electronic project management and tracking capabilities.
Animal Nutrient Management alternatives:

- Vegetative Treatment Areas (VTA),
- Manure placement, and
- Soil P saturation curves for major agronomic soils in South Dakota.

Milestones: Grassland BPM load reduction model developed - September 2008.
Increased GIS and remote sensing capabilities and expanded electronic project management and tracking capabilities – ongoing.
VTA system evaluation and recommendation for full adoption as an ANM system BMP by December 31, 2008.
Completion of soil P saturation curves for eight additional soils by December 31, 2007 (Total major ag soils characterized in state = 13).

Evaluation: Completion of project activities according to established milestones and adoption/use of information by both assistance providers and producers to more effectively reduce and track reduction of NPS pollution associated with livestock production as evidenced by:

- grassland NPS pollution and load reduction model developed, adopted by DENR for use in tracking TMDL development and implementation, and transferred to other users groups;
- agreement among assistance providers and producers regarding operation and site parameters for when VTAs are an acceptable ANMS alternative; and
- expanded use of soil P saturation curves by the regulated and nonregulated communities in determining when to change from N to P based nutrient management plans.

Task 7: Provide financial and technical assistance for the development and completion of water quality assessment projects that lead to the development of a TMDL or cluster TMDLs in 12 to 8 digit HUs.

Financial and technical assistance will be provided to local agencies, organizations and groups for the development of assessment strategies and/or sampling and analysis plans (SAPs) for waterbodies requiring development of TMDLs. Watershed assessment strategies and/or SAPs will describe the monitoring and assessment goal, objectives, and tasks, sampling procedures, costs, milestones, quality assurance/quality control requirements, and responsible parties,

Waterbodies to be assessed will be selected from the South Dakota 303(d) list. Priority will be given to projects that will develop clusters of TMDLs in a 12 to 8 digit HUs. Project sponsor will be selected based on ability to lead and coordinate project partner and stakeholder activities. Technical assistance will be provided for the summarization of monitoring and assessment data and development of the reports identifying beneficial use impairments, sources and causes of NPS pollution, and pollutant reduction targets. Based on the department's assessment of the ability of the local sponsor to complete the analysis, project report, and draft the TMDLs, completion of these activities may be completed by consultants or department staff. The decision of which; sponsor, DENR staff, or consultant; will be identified in the project application and PIP and considered during the review process.

Product: Assessment projects that lead to the development of TMDLs in a 12 to 8 digit HU watershed.

Milestone: Eleven TMDLs per year.
Evaluation: Assessment projects:

- are completed according to established milestones,
- lead to the development of TMDLs that are approved by EPA, and
- result in development of five TMDL implementation workplans/year.

Task 8: Provide financial and technical assistance to local sponsors for the development and completion of projects that implement TMDLs or clusters of TMDLs on a 12 to 8 digit HU basis.

Project implementation plans will be developed on a 12 to 8 HU basis using the results of water quality assessment projects and TMDLs. Development will be completed through local project sponsors working with a committee comprised of watershed stakeholders and assistance providers. See tables 1 and 2. As multiple conservation districts will be involved, the sponsors will be encouraged to enter cooperative agreements with other districts in the project area for BMP "sales" and installation oversight.

The lead project sponsor will complete project administrative duties and ensure compliance with grant requirements. Oversight and assistance with task completion will be provided by DENR. Projects initiated will be required to:

- use DENR's electronic NPS Management Tracking System and STEPL or comparable program as approved by DENR for reporting load reductions;
- secure 401,404 and stormwater construction permits prior to installation of BMPs;
- comply with cultural resources and threatened and endangered species clearance requirements;
- send project coordinators and or other staff to training as scheduled by DENR;
- submit an annual report for entry into the Grants Reporting and Tracking Program using the format provided by DENR (mid-year also required for projects that are behind schedule.); and
- participate in onsite project reviews and audits.

Product: New and continuation project TMDL implementation plans

Milestone: Five TMDL implementation project workplans developed and funded/year.
Projects are on schedule and attaining the project and TMDL goal(s).
Training attended as scheduled by DENR.
Two onsite project review/audits by the assigned project officer each year.

Evaluation: Five TMDL implementation projects funded/year.
Project staff is implementing the workplan according to milestones.
Projects are on schedule as evidenced by milestone comparisons and attainment of the project and TMDL goal(s).

Task 9: Support post-project management efforts and document water quality improvement

made/maintained.
The level of financial and technical assistance to monitor/evaluate post-project water quality trends and maintenance of restored beneficial uses following the completion of a project will vary. The extent and duration of the assistance will be determined on a project by project basis with full post-project assessments being limited to selected TMDL segments. In areas not selected, post-project evaluations will rely on the South Dakota ambient water quality and volunteer monitoring network programs. For links to volunteer monitoring programs the web site listed below then click on volunteer activities located under Links on the bar at the left of the page.

http://www.state.sd.us/denr/DFTA/WatershedProtection/wpprg.htm

Product: Documentation of water quality trends and/or conditions within project areas following project completion during the three year "post-project evaluation period" - 1 - 2 reports/year.

Milestone: Data collected and entered for use in preparing the Integrated Report

Evaluation: Data is collected to support ongoing evaluation of post-project TMDL status of waterbodies included in implementation projects.

Section V
Coordination

Coordination with other resource management agencies and organizations ensures that financial and technical assistance are available to develop and implement TMDLs. The NPS program coordinates building and sustaining partnerships through:

- the South Dakota NPS Task Force;
- meetings and communication with resource management agencies, groups, and organizations;
- the inclusion of project partners in program training and informational workshops; and
- program staff attendance at training and informational workshops and conferences provided for partner staff, especially NRCS.

Nonpoint Source Task Force

Since its formation during 1988, the South Dakota Nonpoint Source Task Force has become the program's cornerstone for building and sustaining long term partnerships. See Section I for summary of task force activities.

For additional information about the task force and a list of the "core" agency/organization membership visit:

http://www.state.sd.us/denr/DFTA/WatershedProtection/npstf.htm

The task force also provides a forum for gaining consensus on a water quality issues, NPS Program direction, and DENR policy regarding issues such as animal waste management and wetlands.

Task Force membership is:

- open to agencies, Tribes and interest groups that have either land management responsibilities or programs that effect the cause or control of NPS pollution and
- gained by attending a meeting and asking to be included on the general membership role.

Agencies, groups, individuals, and Native American Tribes are invited to participate in Task Force activities and encouraged to request voting membership. Task Force members must attend at least one half of the meetings held each year to retain membership. To become a core member with voting rights, a prospective member must petition the core membership group. The criterion for acceptance is that the petitioning member will represent a group or issue not presently represented. Current voting membership totals 29 agency, organization, and Native American Tribes groups with the groups comprised of a total of nearly 80 individual entities and individuals.

The frequency of Task Force meetings is determined by the issues that need to be addressed. Prior to each meeting, notices are sent to representatives of the member agencies and other

organizations and individuals expressing an interest. Task Force meeting dates, agendas and minutes are also posted on the DENR web site. The members and interested individuals are also notified of special NPS opportunities such as grants or technical assistance as they become available.

The task force forms special issue committees as it determines necessary. Two special issue committees currently exist:

- information and education advisory committee and
- water quality standards review committee.

The Task Force maintains a close working relationship with federal agencies, particularly NRCS. Many of the agencies and organizations represented on the Task Force are also members of the NRCS State Technical Committee.

Because of the partnership with USDA agencies, most of the state's Section 319 projects are able to acquire funding through USDA Programs such as EQIP and continuous CRP. Refer to Section III for practice cost share information.

To foster continued program success through the NPS Task Force, NPS Program staff will assist the task force with operation, maintaining existing and attracting new members, and offering opportunities that increase the level of stakeholder involvement in the program.

Coordination with Project Partners

Coordination at the project level is accomplished through direct contact with sponsors, coordinators, resource managers, and project advisory committees. DENR project officers provide the coordination and project oversight using a combination of:

- onsite visits,
- electronic and written communications, and
- review of payment request and required reports.

Local coordination and project development and implementation is, and will continue to be, accomplished primarily through project advisory committees. Committee membership, outlined in the PIP, usually includes representatives from the sponsoring entity, partners providing financial and/or technical assistance, and producer representatives. While membership is identified in the PIP, sponsors are encouraged to revise committee membership as the project evolves during implementation of the workplan.

While the specific duties of advisory committees vary from project to project, each is advisory in nature and subject to local policies and contractual obligations to which the sponsor must adhere.

Responsibilities common to most advisory committees include recommendations to the project sponsor relative to:

- project implementation plan (PIP) development,
- management and administration,
- delivery of technical and financial assistance to cooperating landowners and producers,
- outreach and information transfer activities,
- financial support for the project, and
- evaluation.

DENR staff maintains a partnership relationship and coordinates activities with other resource management agencies and organizations. The coordination level varies from:

- involvement through NPS task force activities to,
- project planning and implementation related activities or issue specific concerns to,
- participation in training opportunities, and to
- scheduled interaction.

NPS Program staff currently maintains scheduled coordination meetings with three program partners:

- South Dakota Association of Conservation Districts (SDACD),
- South Dakota Department of Agriculture, and
- USDA NRCS

Coordination with SDACD includes attendance at SDACD Board of Directors meeting and participation in area meetings and committee meetings at the association's annual convention.

Coordination with the South Dakota Department of Agriculture (SDDA) primarily occurs through SDDA's Division of Resources Conservation and Forestry. Activities include:

- completing projects which involve both agencies through joint powers agreements and memoranda of understanding,
- serving as a South Dakota Conservation Commission Advisory Board and Forest Stewardship committee member,
- reviewing Coordinated Soil and Water Conservation Fund Grant applications, and
- appointing program staff or representatives to serve on the others committees/workgroups formed to develop program policy and procedures that affect both programs.

In accordance with 319 Guidance regarding coordination with NRCS programs, the South Dakota Nonpoint Source program has developed a working relationship with NRCS at the local, area and state levels. DENR invites NRCS to participate in NPS program activities that:

- select priority watersheds,
- plan and complete TMDL development and implementation projects,
- develop applications for assistance,
- review of applications for project grants, and
- develop practice standards and policies common to both agencies' mission.

In addition to the activities listed, DENR is a member of the NRCS State Technical Committee and EQIP subcommittee.

Coordination of the three group's activities occurs at quarterly meetings of the South Dakota Conservation Partners Working Group. Organized under the auspices of the NRCS State Conservationist, the partners identify assistance needs, share program plans, provide for the uniform delivery of assistance opportunities on a statewide basis, and identify solutions to situations that might adversely affect delivery of assistance.

South Dakota NPS Program staff also meets and communicates with other agencies and organizations and the academic community. Among these are the:

- South Dakota State University Cooperative Extension Service and Ag Research Station,
- South Dakota School of Mines and Technology,
- South Dakota Department of Game Fish and Parks,
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS),
- Bureau of Reclamation (BOR),
- U. S. Forest Service (USFS),
- Bureau of Land Management (BLM), and
- US Geological Survey.

The nature of interagency coordination varies by agency or organization. Topics commonly include:

- BMP and TMDL development and implementation,
- public outreach,
- program consistency,
- delivery of financial and technical assistance,
- development of programs within priority watersheds,
- management plan development or revision, and
- threatened and endangered species issues.

As described in Section IV, the *South Dakota Watershed Project Funding and Technical Assistance Guide* contains information describing the assistance available through these and other NPS program partners. The guide is available electronically by accessing:

http://www.state.sd.us/denr/document.htm#Watershed%20Protection

Table 4 contains a list of selected agencies and organization partners included in the publication with which the NPS Program maintains partnerships and coordinates activities.

Table 4. South Dakota Nonpoint Source Project Partnerships.

Project Partner			
Private Organizations	Governmental Agencies		
	Local	State	Federal
Ducks Unlimited	Conservation Districts	Colleges and Universities	BOR
Izaak Walton League	County Government	Cooperative Extension Service	BLM
Northern Prairies Land Trust	Irrigation Districts	SD Dept. of Agriculture	USDA NRCS
Project Learning Tree	Municipalities	SD Dept. of Game Fish and Parks	USDA RC&Ds
SD Assoc. of Conservation Districts	Planning Districts	SD Dept. of School and Public Lands	EPA
SD Corn and Soybean Councils	Water Development Districts	SD DENR Surface and Ground Water Programs	FS
SD Cattlemen's Association			FWS
SD Certified Crop Advisers			EPA
SD Discovery Center and Aquarium			USGS
SD Grasslands Coalition			USGS Earth Resources Observation and Science
SD Lakes and Streams Association			
SD Pork Producers			
SD Stockgrowers Association			

Table 5, located on page 34, contains a list of selected assistance programs described in the booklet, and other assistance opportunities local partners are made aware of during project planning and implementation coordination activities.

To maintain and improve coordination between Section 319 projects, agencies, and private organizations, the NPS Program sponsors training and workshops for project coordinators and sponsors. Project partners are invited to participate in the sessions both as participants and presenters. The training and workshops are structured to provide project management, BMP installation, stakeholder coordination, monitoring and evaluation, and reporting information. Project sponsors are also offered the opportunity to share experiences and exchange information regarding project successes or failures. NPS specific training or workshops are held either annually or biannually as determined necessary based on:

- changes in program requirements and/or opportunities and
- other training opportunities or workshop offered that provided the same information.

Maintaining and expanding the South Dakota NPS Program's coordination activities will be accomplished through the activities included in Objective 4.

Table 5. Selected Financial and Technical Assistance Programs.

Program	Coordinating Agency/Organization			Program Offered
	Local	State	Federal	
Resource Conservation & Development Assoc.	RC&D Council		NRCS	Assoc. Districts
Small Watershed Protection Project (PL566)	Conservation Districts		NRCS	NRCS Approved Area
Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP)	Conservation Districts		NRCS	Statewide
Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP)	Conservation Districts		NRCS	Statewide
Wetland Reserve Program (WRP)	Conservation Districts		NRCS	Statewide
Conservation Security Program (CSP)	Conservation Districts		NRCS	Selected HUs
Grassland Reserve Program (GRP)	Conservation Districts		NRCS	Selected Counties
Partnership Contribution Program	Conservation Districts	SDACD	NRCS	Statewide
Technical Service Provider Program	Eligible Applicant	SDACD	NRCS	Statewide
Conservation Cooperative Innovation Partnership Program (CCPI) – Includes RWA	Eligible Applicant		NRCS	Statewide
Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)	Conservation Districts		FSA	Statewide
SD Information and Education Minigrant Program	SD Discovery Center & Aquarium	DENR		Statewide
CWA Sections 104(b)(3) and 106	Project Sponsor	DENR		Statewide
State Clean Water Revolving Loan Fund (SRF)	Eligible Borrowers	DENR		Statewide
Consolidated Water Facilities Construction Program	Governmental Subdivisions	BWNR		Statewide
Water & Environment Fund	Project Sponsors	BWNR		Statewide
Coordinated Soil & Water Conservation Fund	Conservation Districts	SDDA		Statewide
Private Lands Initiative	Area GFP Offices	SD GFP		Statewide
Historic Preservation Clearance	Watershed project	DENR		Watershed Project Areas
EPA Region 8 Priorities Grant Program			EPA	Selected by Application
Watershed Planning and Assistance	SDACD	DENR	EPA	Selected TMDL Watersheds
Grassland Planning and Management Assistance	SD Grassland Coalition	DENR	EPA	Statewide
BMP & TMDL Development	Extension Service and Universities	DENR		Statewide
CWA Section 404/401 Permits	Project sponsor	DENR	USCOE	Statewide
USDA SARE Grant			USDA	Selected by Application
Ducks Unlimited Programs	Ducks Unlimited			Statewide
Riparian Easements	Northern Prairies Land Trust			Selected Areas
Partners for Wildlife	UFWS Program Staff		USFWS	Statewide

Objective 4: Coordinate project development and implementation efforts with local, state, and federal agencies; Tribes; and private organizations involved with natural resource management in the South Dakota to sustain a NPS pollution program that supports attaining the state's NPS Program goal.

Task 10: Maintain a program structure and communications network that supports nonpoint Source program involvement and coordination in South Dakota.

At the state level, the base organizational unit is the Nonpoint Source Task Force. Membership and participation in the task force by project partners, stakeholders and other groups provides the common ground from which individual partnerships are maintained, expanded, or developed. Task force structure, membership, and policies are available by accessing:

http://www.state.sd.us/denr/DFTA/WatershedProtection/npstf.htm

At the local level, the organizational unit will be 12 digit or larger HUs. The organizational unit is expected to:

- include multiple TMDLs,
- several waterbodies, and
- cross county/conservation district boundaries.

The communications network will include:

- the DENR web site,
- electronic and surface mailings,
- ad in daily newspapers, and
- press releases.

The web site will include general program information, program guidance, notices of opportunities for funding through DENR and project partners, copies of 319 project applications, and reports.

Periodic mailings and electronic notices will be used to notify task force members of meetings and convey program information to project sponsors and coordinators and project partners.

Ads in news papers and press releases will be used to notify the general public of opportunities for program involvement and significant program accomplishments or other issues.

Meetings will be attended as regularly scheduled by/with SDACD, SDDA, NRCS and the Conservation Partners. Meetings with other agency, Tribal and organization project partners will be scheduled as determined necessary to coordinate program activities and provide for program consistency.

A minimum of two coordination meetings with local project sponsors and advisory groups is the standard operating procedure followed by department project officers. The meetings are scheduled to coincide with onsite project visits and audits.

Products: Participation by resource management agencies, organizations, and Tribes.
Coordination of program related activities and policies with resources management agencies, organizations and tribes.
Request for proposals (RFP).
Program page within DENR web site.

Milestones: Two NPS Task Force meetings/year.
Four Conservation Commission meetings/year.
Three SDACD Board meetings/year; area meeting based on agenda.
Four State NRCS Technical Committee meetings/year.
Four EQIP subcommittee meetings/year.
Four conservation partners meetings/year.
One Board of Water and Natural Resources meeting/year.
One training session or workshop/year; every two years joint with ND.
Two project coordination meetings/project/year.
Coordination meeting with other agencies/organizations as necessary.
Three press releases (one related to RFP).
One ad in each of four different daily newspapers (RFP).
Program home page that provides program information and guidance.
Three mailings to NPS Task Force and program partners/year.

Evaluation: NPS task Force provides a forum for resource agencies and organizations and tribes that coordinates efforts, provides DENR and other resource management
agencies input and/or direction regarding water quality program requirements, structure, and management as evidenced by:

- participation in task force activities;
- TMDL development and implementation projects are completed on a watershed basis using the combined, coordinated resources of agency, organization, and Tribal stakeholders; and
- The task force is asked to provided input/comments and/or participate when member agencies, organizations or the Tribes are developing NPS related activities.

Program coordination and consistency with program partners is maintained as evidenced by:

- Cost share dockets for financial assistance available through project partners are compatible;
- Resources are targeted to priority watersheds and NPS pollution sources:
    1. EQIP fund ranking criteria recognize 319 project areas,
    2. NRCS funded Rapid Watershed Assessments are completed in 319 project areas,

3. Conservation Security Program (CSP) eligible watersheds overlap 319 project watersheds,
4. South Dakota GFP and USFW private lands program and funds from organizations such as Ducks Unlimited are used for watershed project BMP installation, and
5. South Dakota Soil and Water Conservation Grants, South Dakota Consolidated Construction Program grants and CWSRF Loans are awarded/approved for watershed projects; and

- DENR and its program partners invite each other to review applications for funding from their respective agencies/organizations.

Interested stakeholders are informed of program involvement opportunities as evidenced by:

- Participation in the NPS Task Force;
- Program home page provides current and comprehensive program, water quality, and project application guidance information; and
- Participation in watershed projects as steering committee members and providers of financial and or technical assistance.

Task 11: Provide leadership needed to coordinate and maximize support for and the use of financial and technical resources available to develop and implement NPS TMDLs on a watershed basis.

Program staff will provide local project partners with the assistance necessary to develop and implement TMDLs on a watershed basis. The assistance will include but not be limited to:

- development of local project advisory/steering committees and participation at meetings,
- identification of resources that might be available to complete projects,
- coordination with potential project partners,
- training, and
- assistance with preparing project applications and managing subsequent projects, obtaining historic preservation and threatened and endangered species clearances and 4012/404 and stormwater construction permits.

Products: TMDL development and implementation projects completed on a watershed basis using the coordinated resources of agency, organization, and Tribal stakeholders.
Tools and skills necessary to complete a watershed project.

Milestone: Project advisory/steering committees established and functioning for each

watershed project funded.
Two onsite project assistance visits/year.
One training session or workshop/year; every two years joint with ND, and
Projects are on schedule.

Evaluation: Program home page provides current and comprehensive program, water quality and project application guidance information.
Projects are developed, implemented, and completed on schedule by a coalition of watershed stakeholders.

Section VI
Information and Education

The South Dakota NPS Information and Education (I & E) Program has been operational since the inception of the South Dakota NPS Program. The philosophy under which the I & E program evolved was and remains:

> The degree of success realized from NPS Program activities is related to providing land managers information relative to the management practices and options available to improve management that benefit both their enterprise and the environment.

Until recently, the program was implemented through the Water Resources Assistance Program and relied primarily on community based partnerships to deliver NPS information and education opportunities to the state's residents. This approach resulted in an outreach and information transfer mechanism that:

- is consistent with the Clean Water Action Plan,
- addresses priorities identified in the South Dakota – State- EPA Performance Partnership Grant (PPG),
- has broad-based support from agricultural and environmental groups and governmental agencies, and
- is holistic and sustainable.

Activities selected for completion through the I & E program are:

- based on local, state, and national priorities;
- chosen to complement other resource management group and agency actions;
- designed to reach target audiences; and
- part of a statewide NPS I & E Strategy adopted by the South Dakota Task Force.

The NPS priority areas addressed by the strategy include:

- animal feeding operations (AFOs),
- nutrient management, and
- TMDLs.

Staff availability to continue delivery of the program became limited beginning mid – FFY 2003. The limitation resulted in the decision to outsource primary responsibility for the implementation of statewide NPS I & E program to the South Dakota Discovery Center and Aquarium with DENR retaining coordinator training and responsibility for the NPS Program home page. See Coordination Section for information regarding training and home page activities.
The Discovery Center lead program uses a Section 319 grant and contributions from project

partners to fund NPS outreach activities. The Center uses a combination of project staff and a mini-grants program to continue many of the programs previously provided assistance and expand the target audience reached.

Information about the Discover Center lead 319 I & E program is available by accessing:

http://www.sd-discovery.com/watershed.shtm

DENR maintains a working relationship with the Discovery Center to ensure program milestones are met and notices of opportunities for participation in the mini-grants and volunteer monitoring programs are widely advertised. Information about the programs is provided at:

- NPS Task Force meetings,
- training sessions,
- Discovery Center outreach activities, and
- on the Watershed Protection home page at:

  http://www.state.sd.us/denr/DFTA/WatershedProtection/wpprg.htm

In addition to continuing to provide training and maintaining a program home page, DENR provides additional outreach related activities by:

- forming partnerships with resource management agencies and organizations and the Cooperative Extension Service to offer training and information to stakeholders:
  1. on an area and statewide basis,
  2. as a required component of all Section 319 projects, and
  3. through Section 319 projects that target specific areas and or practices such as :
     - Grassland Planning and Management,
     - Phosphorus Management based on Soil Phosphorus,
     - Evaluating the Vegetative Treatment Areas as an Alternative ANM System, and
     - 303(d) Watershed Planning and Assistance;
- providing links to NPS information and reports on the program home page;
- depositing project reports and documents in the State Library system; and
- entering project information and reports in the Grants Tracing and Reporting System (GRTS).

Objective 5. Provide for an outreach program that conveys information and participation opportunities to targeted segments of the state's urban and rural populations.

Task 12. Develop and implement an outreach program that provides information and participation opportunities to targeted segments of the state's population through partnerships and the department web site.

Products: Statewide 319 I & ER Program offered in partnership with the South

Dakota Discovery Center and Aquarium.
Training, NPS information, and assistance provided through partnerships.
Program home page within DENR web site.
Public access to NPS reports documents.
I & E component in 319 projects funded.

Milestones: Ongoing partnership with the Discovery Center for I & E Program Delivery.
One program related conference, workshop or training opportunity through external partnership/year.
All watershed projects have an I & E component.
Coordinator training and home page – See Section V.

Evaluation: Discovery Center grant completed on schedule with goal attained.
One program related conference, workshop or training opportunity offered through and external partnership/year that furthers the development and implementation of TMDLs as evidenced by:

- new partnerships formed,
- increased support for the 319 program, or
- awareness/acceptance of a new BMP.

Reports or documents produced are distributed and/or posted on the program home page as appropriate.
Training and home page – see Section V.
All watershed projects have an I & E component.

Section VII
Program Monitoring and Evaluation

Program success will be ultimately measured in terms of lakes, streams or wetlands restored and/or protected so that they support assigned beneficial uses on a 12 unit or larger HU basis. To obtain information required to evaluate success in those terms, a combination of surrogate measures, modeling and water quality monitoring modeling will be used.

Surrogate measures used will include:

- project and program completion according to milestones and objectives reached and goal attainment,
- BMPs implemented in priority watershed areas identified during TMDL assessment projects, and
- reporting requirements met.

Modeling used to evaluate success will include a comparison of calculated load reductions from the BMPs installed compared to that predicted during TMDL assessment and development using:

- RUSLE2,
- AnnAGNPS,
- STEPL, and
- HSPF.

Load reduction estimates will be included in the annual GRTS report following EPA guidelines.

Water quality monitoring will include activities associated with:

- DENR's surface water ambient monitoring activities,
- The South Dakota Statewide Ambient Lakes survey,
- Watershed assessment and implementation project monitoring and evaluation components,
- Other resource agency water quality monitoring activities, and
- The South Dakota Volunteer Monitoring Network.

All samples will be collected in accordance procedures contained in DENR's *Standard Operating Procedures for Field Samplers*:

http://www.state.sd.us/denr/document.htm#Watershed%20Protection

Analysis will be completed at certified labs.

Only data collected and analyzed using the aforementioned procedures will be entered in STORET and used in preparing the SD Integrated Report. Water quality samples not collected and analyzed following the procedures will be used only to confirm water quality trends or parameter levels or as indicators that further sampling might be needed before a conclusion can be reached relative to meeting a standard.

Evaluation of project and program success will also include:

- review of activities involving the NPS task force, implementation of the program, and project partners and
- the Program annual report.

Task force reviews will focus on:

- completion of activities relative to milestones identified in the management plan and
- identification of changes to the plan needed to address changes in resource management and priorities in the state.

Partner reviews will be planning in nature and include discussions of how the NPS Program can better coordinate efforts with the partner.

Monitoring results will be used to:

- report annual load reductions,
- prepare GRTS and final project reports,
- determine project goal attainment,
- evaluate water quality status relative to standards, and
- report information needed by EPA Region to compile data to report environmental and program progress.

Information gained from evaluation activities will also be used to amend and revise the management plan to ensure the plan provides effective guidance for the implementation of a NPS Program that restores and protects the designated uses of the states water resources.

Objective 6: Evaluate South Dakota NPS Management Program progress and success relative to TMDL development and implementation, load reductions, and water quality improvements realized from TMDL activities, and implementation of the management plan.

Task 13: Evaluate watershed project progress toward TMDL development and implementation and project goals.

Individual watershed projects will be evaluated using a combination of onsite visits

and reports to track accomplishments and progress toward goal attainment. Monitoring activities completed to make the evaluations will use methods described in project specific SAPs developed with the assistance NPS Program and approved by the program and department quality assurance officer and coordinator. Semiannual and annual project reports, prepared following guidance provided by DENR, will be used to monitor the success of local projects. Instructions for preparing the reports the report template are available at:

http://www.state.sd.us/denr/DFTA/WatershedProtection/GRTS.htm

Mid-year reports will be required only of projects that are behind schedule. Projects submitting reports indicating a behind schedule status will include a plan of how the sponsor intends to bring the project back on schedule. A cumulative final report, prepared following guidance provided by DENR, will be required for each project segment. The report format is available at the URL listed above. All reports will be entered into GRTS. The annual report will include load reduction data, allocated on a TMDL basis, determined using modeling or water quality monitoring.

Information regarding the GRTS file for completed projects that fully or partially restore designated uses will be provided to the department's assigned EPA Project Officer for use in compiling information and entry of a success story relative to measures WQ-16.

Products: Evaluation of project progress toward PIP completion and goal attainment and revised PIPs.
Evaluation of project success and TMDL goal attainment and designated use restoration.
Data to support NPS annual report, WQ-16 reporting requirements, and use in preparing the Integrated Report.

Milestones: Two onsite visits to each project/year as scheduled by DENR project Officer.
Semiannual reports submitted to DENR by April 15; loaded on GRTS by May 15.
Annual reports submitted to DENR by October 15; loaded on GRTS by November 15.
Load reductions submitted to DENR by January 1; loaded on GRTS by January 30.
Information provided incorporated into South Dakota NPS Annual Report and submitted to EPA by January 1.
Update NPS section in the Integrated Report.

Evaluation: Project status and goal attainment will be evaluated using information provided by:

- data from GRTS and final reports,
- onsite visits, and
- ambient monitoring.

Annual report submitted by January 1 each year.
NPS section of the Integrated Report completed on schedule.

Task 14: Evaluate progress toward reaching Management Plan milestones and objectives and attaining the program goal identified in the plan.

The evaluation will be completed using input solicited from and/or provided by project sponsors, project partners, the NPS Task Force, program staff and administration, and EPA Region 8. Sponsor, partner, and task force input will consist of:

- verbal, written, and electronic correspondence regarding project effectiveness, responsiveness to requests for assistance, and complaints regarding program administration;
- information submitted as part of the GRTS and final project reports;
- observations made during onsite project audits, tours, and assistance visits;
- responses to requests for input;
- water quality samples submitted; and
- discussions during task force meetings and meetings with task force leadership.

Program staff and administration input will be generated using:

- staff performance appraisals and project reviews;
- comparisons of accomplishments to plan milestones, objectives, and goal; and
- evaluation of program administration relative to state and federal requirements.

EPA input will be obtained from/through the assigned Region 8 NPS Program officer and Program Team Leader. Input is anticipated to be in the form of:

- verbal, written, and electronic correspondence regarding project effectiveness; responsiveness to requests for assistance; and complaints regarding program administration;
- observations made during project tours;
- evaluation of program administration relative to requirements and grant conditions; and
- information shared during mid-year and annual program meetings.

Products: Evaluation of program performance.
Annual Report.
Amended management plan.
Revised management plan.

Milestones: Two onsite visits to each project/year as scheduled by DENR project Officer.
Semiannual reports submitted to DENR by April 15; loaded on GRTS by May 15.
Annual reports submitted to DENR by October 15; loaded on GRTS by November 15.
Project tour with EPA as scheduled with Region 8 Project Officer.
EPA – State mid-year review May – June Annually;
Region 8 Program annual meeting as scheduled by EPA.
Amended management plan as needs identified.
Annual Report and submitted to EPA by January 1.
Revised management plan on five year schedule.

Evaluation: Evaluation of program success will be based on:

- project progress and success in restoring/protecting designated uses on a 12 digit HU basis in relation to PIPs and EPA measures WQ - 16 as verified in GRTS and final project reports and ambient monitoring data;
- results of department administrative, NPS Task Force, project partners, and EPA reviews;
- plan milestones met and progress toward reaching plan objectives and attaining the plan goal; and
- NPS Program Management plan that provides guidance for the implementation of a NPS Program in South Dakota that restores and protects the designated uses of the states water resources.

Section VIII
Program Elements Addressed

How the South Dakota Nonpoint Source Pollution Management Plan implements the elements state programs must address is summarized in this section.

1. The state program contains explicit short and long term goals, objectives and strategies to protect surface and ground water.

The program mission statement and goal, located in the introduction, are consistent with the national goal for the Clean Water Act. The South Dakota NPS Management Plan has six sections. Each section includes program component specific objectives, tasks with products and milestones, and an evaluation component to determine if the component objective was reached. Section VII, Program Monitoring and Evaluation, describes how progress toward attaining the plan goal will be monitored and evaluated.

2. The state strengthens its working partnerships and linkages to appropriate state, interstate, Tribal, regional, and local entities (including conservation districts), private sector groups, citizen groups, and Federal agencies.

Section V, Coordination, addresses this element. State, area, and federal agency; Tribe; and organization program and project partnerships are facilitated through the South Dakota NPS Task Force and planned activities. Local groups, conservation districts are also active in the NPS program through the task force, participation in local NPS projects, direct contact and joint strategy and planning activities.

3. The state uses a balanced approach that emphasizes both state-wide nonpoint source programs and on-the-ground management of individual watersheds where waters are impaired or threatened.

This element is addressed throughout the plan, particularly sections III through VIII. In each section there are information and/or objectives and tasks describing state and local efforts that will address NPS pollution impacts to the state's water resources. Most of the activities center on coordination with local resource managers and are directed toward the development and implementation of locally lead, multiple NPS TMDL watershed projects.

South Dakota projects usually equal or exceed the area encompassed by a 12 digit HU.

4. The state program (a) abates known water quality impairments from nonpoint source pollution and (b) prevents significant threats to water quality from present and future nonpoint source activities.

Section III, TMDL Implementation, addresses how the state will continue controlling and

preventing NPS pollution in multiple TMDL and unimpaired, high quality watersheds respectively. Priority will continue to be given to waterbodies included on the 303(d) list. BMPs and the extent to be installed will continue to be identified through an assessment process that includes water quality monitoring and modeling. See Section II, Water Quality Assessment. Implementation projects will be developed and completed on a 12 digit or larger HU basis. Installation of BMPs, while voluntary, will be directed to those areas identified during the assessment as major sources of NPS pollution. Outreach activities, Section VI, completed at both the state and project level will be used to increase awareness of NPS pollution, BMPs that prevent NPS pollution and what the public can do to ensure the South Dakota's waterbodies continue or are restored to full support of their beneficial uses. The South Dakota lakes Protection Program, Section III, and volunteer activities offered through the South Dakota NPS Information and Education Program and the program's partners will continue to be strategies used to help prevent water quality impairment. In the event water quality impairments are a result of activities regulated by another program or agency, NPS Management Program staff will coordinate with the agencies to see the action is abated or the threat is prevented.

5. The state program identifies waters and their watersheds impaired by nonpoint source pollution and identifies important unimpaired waters that are threatened or otherwise at risk. Further, the state establishes a process to progressively address these identified waters by conducting more detailed watershed assessments and developing watershed implementation plans, and then by implementing the plans.

Section II, Water Quality Assessment, describes how the state identifies water quality impairments. Water bodies selected for study will be those included on the 303(d) list as in need of a NPS TMDL. The state goal for TMDLs, see Section II, is:

> "Develop 11 TMDLs and implement five workplans each year to achieve the TMDLs for all of the state's impaired waters over a 13 year period."

6. The state reviews, upgrades, and implements all program components required by Section 319(b) of the Clean Water Act, and establishes flexible, targeted and iterative approaches to achieve and maintain beneficial uses of water as expeditiously as practicable. The state programs include:

1. **A mix of water quality based and/or technology based programs designed to achieve and maintain beneficial uses of water; and**
2. **A mix of regulatory, non-regulatory, financial and technical assistance as needed to achieve and maintain beneficial uses of water as expeditiously as practicable.**

Sections II and III contain information relative to how South Dakota will prioritize, assess, and protect or restore the beneficial uses impacted by NPS pollution. Section IV describes the financial and technical assistance available to address identified use

impairments. Section VII identifies state and local process for evaluating success in addressing water quality improvements documenting beneficial use restoration.

Section IV, Technical and Financial Assistance, contains information relative to government and private sector programs that provide assistance for reducing and/or preventing nonpoint sources pollution in South Dakota. How delivery of the assistance will be coordinated is described in Sections V, Coordination, and VI, Information.

Milestones for each Management Program task are listed in Sections II through VII.

The NPS Management Plan will be amended during the five year plan revision schedule based on the results of task specific evaluations. The plan will be revised every five years as required by EPA. See number nine, this section, for additional information and Education.

7. The state identifies Federal lands and activities that are not managed consistently with state nonpoint source program objectives. Where appropriate, the state seeks EPA assistance to help resolve issues.

DENR, including NPS Management Program staff, regularly review, information, i.e. EIS, program policies, permit applications relative to other state and federal programs or projects to evaluate consistency with NPS Management Program goals and objectives. The state also has working relationships with state and federal land management agencies. Section V, Coordination, contains tasks that will be completed to ensure state and federal lands and programs are managed consistently with support attaining the goal of the South Dakota NPS Program.

8. The state manages and implements its nonpoint source program efficiently and effectively, including necessary financial management.

The South Dakota NPS Program takes steps to ensure the program is managed and coordinated in a manner that delivers effective activities that identify and address sources of impairment and evaluate and restoration efforts efficiently. Each section of the plan includes objectives and tasks that are related to the implementation of the NPS Management Program.

The NPS Management Program and the South Dakota Office of the State Auditor use EPA-approved programmatic and financial accounting systems to track the expenditure of Section 319, state, and local funds expended for NPS pollution management in the state. DENR uses the state accounting system as well as the DENR Management Information System (MIS) and "Tracker" Program which were developed to track Department and program projects and grants respectively.
Contractual agreements are used to identify state and project sponsor financial commitments and responsibilities related to implementation NPS projects. The expenditures made by

project sponsors are reviewed when requests for reimbursement are received, during the two onsite project reviews and audits completed by DENR Projects Officers each year, the annual review at the program level, when the final report is received. A series of internal accounting checks are also maintained within DENR. The "Tracker" Program allows tracking project expenditures by objective and tasks. This data base can be accessed at anytime by the assigned DENR Project Officer.

9. The state periodically reviews and evaluates its nonpoint source management program using environmental and functional measures of success, and revises its nonpoint source assessment and its management program at least every five years.

Objectives and tasks related to the review and update of the NPS Pollution Management Plan and Assessment Report are provided in Section VII. The department plans to comply with the five year revision schedule EPA has established. However, it is anticipated that amendments to the plan will be necessary between scheduled revisions to ensure the program continues to address local, state and federal needs. The decisions to amend will be based on the results of the evaluation component for each plan task and other information that might become available during the implementation of the plan.