

Important Short-Term Nutrient Program Efforts (Draft distributed at 3/25/13 Nutrient Mtg.)

Getting from Planning to Implementation

Finalize N&P Criteria for Headwaters

Over the next couple of months DWQ will be publishing the results of the functional and structural thresholds that we've established for streams. This report will provide the technical basis for numeric N&P indicators that will be promulgated for headwater streams.

Objectives

- Complete technical rationale:
 - Seek review from Tech Team
 - Broader public review
- Finalize N&P criteria recommendations: magnitude, duration, and frequency.
- Evaluate—and if necessary develop—related changes to standards.

Timeline

	2013				2014			
	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	
Tech Team review of indicator document	X							
Response to tech team comments		X						
Stakeholder comment on technical underpinnings		X						
Proposal of numeric criteria, and associated changes, for headwaters (Category 1)			X	X				
Public comment on Proposed changes to standards and associated technical basis				X				
Adoption of water quality standards					X			
Site-specific standard guidance document				X	X	X	X	

Monitoring and Assessment Approach

The nutrient plan depends upon DWQ's ability to identify sites with nutrient-related problems. DWQ envisions incorporating both functional and structural response metrics as independent lines of evidence. Once sites with nutrient-related problems are identified they will need to be evaluated to determine if they are habitat-limited. Field collection methods (AKA SOPs) and analytical methods have already been developed, but still need to be incorporated into DWQ's monitoring program.

Objectives

- Integrate more intensive "Tier II" monitoring approaches into monitoring program to identify nutrient-related impairments.
 - Pilot monitoring study in 2013
 - Solicit input from the "Tech Team"
 - Publish methods in 2014 *Integrated Report*
- Established classification procedures for habitat-limited waters.
 - Define "irreversible" habitat and hydrologic modifications
- Create prioritization scheme
 - Finalize recovery potential tool

Timeline

Quarter	2013				2014			
	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	
Draft SOPs (released in conjunction with standard technical rationale document)	X							
Summer monitoring pilot study		X						
Release of detailed assessment methods for comment		X						
Completion of Recovery Potential prioritization tool			X					
Publication of Integrated Report			X					
Development of irreversible habitat Modification assessment scheme		X	X	X				
Identify 2014 priority sites				X				
Ongoing Tier II monitoring and assessments					X	X	X	

POTW Tech-based Limits

The plan is to immediately seek P limits, followed by N limits unless it can be demonstrated that they are not needed. The general approach is pretty well established, but we need to work out several details (see questions in the charge for this workgroup).

Objectives

- Ongoing outreach
 - Complete economic benefit study
- Develop rules and detailed guidance the describes implementation considerations

Timeline

	2013			2014			
	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Complete economic benefit report	X						
Preparation of implementation details (see charge)	X						
Core team comment on implementation elements		X					
Outreach to communities throughout Utah		X	X	X			
Preparation of tech-based limit rule and Implementation guidance		X	X	X			
Board approval to proceed to rulemaking with proposed changes					X		
Stakeholder comment on proposed rules changes					X		
Adoption of technology-based rules					X	X	

Non-Point Source Reductions

This is obviously an ongoing program, yet approaches will be modified as part of Utah’s nutrient-reduction program. The most immediate need is to develop a planning and prioritization process to integrate NPS nutrient reduction efforts with the Agriculture Dept.’s good steward certification program (see issues identified in the initial charge). An important aspect of this planning effort is to continue to work with the legislature on a funding mechanism.

Objectives

- Continued outreach
- Develop prioritization process for implementation efforts
- Work with interim legislative sub-committee on funding proposal
- Draft proposed legislation

Timeline

	2013			2014			
	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Development of outreach strategy	X						
Outreach	X	X	X				
Work with interim legislative subcommittee on funding mechanism(s)		X	X				
Develop NPS implementation details		X	X				
Draft legislation			X				
Legislative consideration of funding proposal				X			
Develop procedures for site prioritization, funding requests, etc.					X		