

NEWS | FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE | August 18, 2026

Environmental Quality awards \$2.86 million to nine FY26 water quality project

BISMARCK, N.D. – The North Dakota Department of Environmental Quality has allocated \$2.86 million in fiscal year 2026 grant funding from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Nonpoint Source Program to support nine projects aimed at mitigating nonpoint source pollution. The focus of the approved projects include implementing best management practices, education, and/or offering technical and financial assistance to improve water quality across the state.

Sponsors and project descriptions include:

- **Upper Sheyenne Joint Water Resource Board:** Implement channel stability measures in high priority areas across the Upper Sheyenne River, from the headwaters in Sheridan County to Lake Ashtabula.
- **Stutsman County Soil Conservation District:** Implement best management practices to address water quality concerns, including occurrences of harmful algal blooms, in the Jamestown Reservoir and its tributaries.
- **Oliver County Soil Conservation District:** Implement best management practices to address water quality concerns in the Square Butte Creek Watershed, a tributary to the Missouri River in Oliver and Morton Counties.
- **Mercer County Soil Conservation District:** Implement best management practices to address water quality concerns in the Nine-Townships Watershed, a tributary to the Knife River in Mercer County.
- **Stark-Billings Soil Conservation District:** Implement best management practices to address water quality concerns in Plum Creek and Government Creek Watersheds, tributaries to the Heart River in Stark County.
- **Ransom County Soil Conservation District:** Implement best management practices to address water quality concerns in the Sheyenne River watershed throughout Barnes and Ransom County.
- **North Dakota Conservation Districts Employee's Association:** Develop and implement a statewide workforce development system that supports the conservation workforce to deliver technical assistance that result in measurable improvements to North Dakota's water quality.
- **North Dakota State University:** Support livestock and crop producers to implement livestock nutrient management practices reducing surface and ground water contamination.
- **International Water Institute:** Provide watershed, water quality and nonpoint source pollution education to high school and elementary students in the Red River Basin.

For more information about the Nonpoint Source Pollution program and the Section 319 grant visit

https://www.deq.nd.gov/WQ/3_Watershed_Mgmt/1_NPS_Mgmt/NPS.aspx

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