



March 2009

# Nonpoint Source Pollution Management Program

**MISSION:** "The North Dakota Nonpoint Source Pollution Management Program mission is to protect or restore the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of the waters of the state by promoting locally sponsored, incentive-based, *voluntary* programs where those waters are threatened or impaired due to nonpoint sources of pollution."

## What is Nonpoint Source Pollution?

In basic terms, Nonpoint Source (NPS) pollution can be a variety of contaminants (e.g., sediment, nutrients, pesticides, etc.) that are delivered to surface waters by way of runoff or leached downward into groundwater. Some common sources of NPS pollution include runoff from urban streets and parking lots, construction sites, and agricultural lands.



Photo courtesy of the Natural Resource Conservation Service.

## Who administers the program?

Section 319 of the Clean Water Act defines the scope of the NPS Pollution Management Program. In North Dakota, the Department of Health administers the program with input from the North Dakota NPS Pollution Task Force. The task force is comprised of representatives from state and federal natural resource agencies, commodity/producer groups, tribal councils, and private wildlife/natural resource organizations.

## How is the program funded?

Annually, federal funds are appropriated by the United States Congress to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for NPS pollution management. These "Section 319 Funds" are available to individual states based on an allocation formula. Section 319 funds in North Dakota are awarded to local projects through a competitive grant application process. Approved local projects receive 60 percent federal funds with a 40 percent local funding match requirement.

## Are the funds targeted?

Yes, funds are awarded to projects addressing waterbodies impaired by NPS pollution or projects addressing a major NPS issue in the state.

Given the size of the agricultural industry in North Dakota, a majority of the state's Section 319 funds have been directed toward locally sponsored projects promoting voluntary NPS pollution control on agricultural lands. These funds have generally been used to implement various information/education activities and/or provide the necessary financial and technical assistance to landowners implementing best management practices (BMPs) on their land.

## Who can sponsor an NPS project?

The North Dakota NPS Pollution Management Program is a voluntary program directed toward locally sponsored initiatives addressing NPS pollution impacts to the state's water resources. The success of the NPS Program is dependent on close coordination with many local/state/federal agencies as well as private organizations. Through this coordination and the formation of strong partnerships, the necessary financial and technical resources will be available to local sponsors to meet their goals and demonstrate that NPS pollution control/prevention can be accomplished effectively and voluntarily.



Photo courtesy of the Natural Resource Conservation Service.

Local project sponsors may include soil conservation districts, water resources boards, city councils, resource conservation and development councils, nonprofit organizations, and other natural resource-focused groups.

For more information about the Nonpoint Source Pollution Management Program contact:  
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