Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation

Nonpoint Source Water Pollution Prevention and Restoration Management Plan

State Fiscal Years 2026-2030

(July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2030)

Jordan Creek lower green belt nature-based stormwater infrastructure post installation. Juneau, AK.

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Acronyms

ACOE	United States Army Corps of Engineers
ACMP	Alaska Coastal Management Program
ACWA	Alaska Clean Water Actions
ADFG	Alaska Department of Fish and Game
ADNR	Alaska Department of Natural Resources
ADOT&PF	Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities
APDES	Alaska Pollutant Discharge Elimination System
BEACH	Beaches Environmental Assessment and Coastal Health Act, EPA
BLM	Bureau of Land Management
BMP	Best Management Practice
CWA	Clean Water Act
CWSRF	Clean Water State Revolving Fund
DCCED	Alaska Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development
DEC	Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation
DWSRF	Drinking Water State Revolving Fund
EPA	United States Environmental Protection Agency
FEMA	United States Federal Emergency Management Agency
GRTS	Grant Reporting and Tracking System, EPA
MS4	Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System permit
GSI	Green Stormwater Infrastructure
MSGP	Multisector Stormwater General Permit
NFHAP	National Fish Habitat Partnership
NOAA	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NPDES	National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System
NPS	Nonpoint Source
NPSMP	Nonpoint Source Management Plan
NRCS	Natural Resource Conservation Service, USDA
NWQI	National Water Quality Initiative
OSG	Sewer Overflow and Stormwater Reuse Municipal Grant, EPA
PPA	Performance Partnership Agreement
PPG	Performance Partnership Grant
SWCD	Soil and Water Conservation District
TCD	Tribal Conservation District
TMDL	Total Maximum Daily Load
USDA	United States Department of Agriculture
USFS	United States Forest Service
USFWS	United States Fish and Wildlife Service
USGS	United States Geologic Survey
USNPS	United States National Park Service
WQS	Water Quality Standards

Introduction

Alaska's *Nonpoint Source Water Pollution Prevention and Restoration (NPS) Management Plan (NPSMP)* describes Alaska's statewide nonpoint source (NPS) program protecting Alaska's natural resources from polluted runoff. The NPSMP specifically addresses NPS pollution, as opposed to point source pollution which comes from point source (end of pipe) discharges and is regulated under a state or federal permit.

The purpose of Alaska's NPSMP is to develop dynamic programs and adaptive management actions to prevent NPS pollutants from entering surface water. Alaska's NPSMP balances protecting watersheds that currently have minimal pollution and watersheds where water pollution is documented, and restoration efforts are needed. The NPSMP seeks to improve the capacity of local governments, Tribes, and other community partners to manage NPS pollution combined with state prevention, restoration, and stewardship efforts.

The Clean Water Act (CWA), in Sections 319(b) and 319(h), provides funding to states to implement activities in their Nonpoint Source Management Program. Funding appropriated under Section 319 can be used to implement state NPS program activities including technical assistance, financial assistance, public education, planning, training, technology transfer, and implementation of best management practices (BMPs) to meet water quality goals.

This NPSMP will be reviewed and revised as needed every five years. The revision is not necessarily a comprehensive update unless significant program changes warrant a complete revision; instead, updates will target parts of the program that have changed during the 5-year period. At a minimum, this includes updating annual milestones and the schedule for program implementation, so that they remain current and oriented toward achieving water quality goals.

As Alaska's lead water quality agency, the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) Division of Water is responsible for developing and implementing water quality protection and improvement programs required under state and federal laws. The Alaska legislature transferred authority to DEC in State Statute Title 46 to "conserve, protect and improve its [Alaska's] natural resources and environment and control water, land and air pollution in order to enhance the health, safety and welfare of the people of the state and their overall economic health and social wellbeing." DEC manages both regulatory and non-regulatory programs and collaborates with local, state, Tribal, and federal agencies to

protect and improve Alaska's water quality. Within the Division of Water, the Nonpoint Source Section oversees planning and implementation of the NPSMP.

What is Nonpoint Source Pollution?

The leading causes of water pollution in Alaska, and in the United States overall, derive from nonpoint sources. Unlike pollution from point sources, such as industrial and sewage treatment plants, NPS pollution comes from many diffuse sources. It is caused by rainfall or snowmelt moving over and through the ground and picking up natural and human-made pollutants, such as fertilizer, road salt, sediment, hydrocarbons, toxic metals, bacteria, and other pollutants along the way. These contaminants often end up in waterbodies like creeks, rivers, lakes, and coastal waters.

Alaska's primary and secondary nonpoint source pollution categories and sources are listed in Table 1. Due to Alaska's vast size and limited resources, category prioritization is based on water quality outcomes, project readiness, and partner engagement, among other things (see Appendix B). Unlike other states where agricultural activities drive NPS pollution priorities, in Alaska, stormwater runoff is one of the primary focus areas.

Table 1. Alaska's Nonpoint Source Pollution Categories[1] in order of Alaska's priorities

Primary Nonpoint Source Category	Secondary Nonpoint Source Categories
Urban Runoff/Stormwater	Commercial; Highway/Road/Bridge Runoff; Post-Development Erosion & Sedimentation; Residential; Salt Storage Sites
Marinas and Recreational Boating	Boat Maintenance; Fueling; Other On-Vessel Discharges; Pumpouts; Sanitary On-Vessel Discharges; Shoreline Erosion
Hydromodification	Removal of Riparian Vegetation; Streambank or Shoreline Modification/Destabilization; Other Habitat Modifications
Construction	Highways/Roads/Bridges; Land Development or Redevelopment

[1] These categories are standardized across all states and are defined in the federal Grant Reporting and Tracking System.

Historical Pollutants	Contaminated Sediments; Other Historical Pollutants
Silviculture	Harvesting/Residue Management; Road Construction/Maintenance
Resource Extraction	Dredge mining; Mill Tailings; Mine Tailings; Placer Mining; Sand/Gravel Mining; Surface Mining
Land Disposal/Storage/Treatment	On-site/Decentralized Wastewater Treatment; Wastewater

In Alaska, NPS pollution is primarily addressed via application of voluntary best management practices. The approaches and resources described in this NPSMP are the state's primary vehicle for engaging Alaska's citizens and fostering stewardship of our water resources. Although DEC is the lead agency for the state's NPS Program, many other agencies, entities, and individuals have a part in the implementation of this NPSMP. Through communication, collaboration, and shared resources, Alaskans work together to effectively protect and restore water quality from the harmful effects of NPS pollution.

Program Goal and Objectives

Alaska's generally healthy waters are a distinguishing characteristic that makes Alaska unique among the states. Clean water is critical to Alaskans' way of life and health, whether it is for subsistence, recreational, commercial, domestic, or industrial activities. Maintaining good water quality can only be achieved when all sources of pollution in a watershed are taken into consideration and resources are focused on the highest priorities so that people work together to prevent pollution and achieve clean water goals. Hence, maintaining healthy watersheds is a key element of Alaska's NPS Program.

The overall long-term goal of Alaska's NPSMP is to:

Protect and restore Alaska's water quality from the harmful effects of nonpoint source pollution.

Alaska's Water Quality Standards (WQS) are found in the Alaska Administrative Code, Title 18, Chapter 70 (18 AAC 70). The WQS define the water quality goals of a waterbody and include designated uses, criteria to protect those uses, and antidegradation requirements. Alaska's WQS serve as the basis for most NPS Program water quality decisions and implementation goals.

Nonpoint source pollution tends to increase in areas where land disturbance has occurred and is especially observed in Alaska's urban areas (Anchorage, Fairbanks, Juneau, Kenai/Soldotna, and Palmer/Wasilla). Other nonpoint source focus areas may be watersheds with increasing resource extraction or coastal areas with harbors and marinas. Alaska's most common pollutants include pathogens, sediment, residues, and toxic and other deleterious substances[2].

The five primary objectives of Alaska's NPSMP are:

1. Restore Impaired Waters and Protect Healthy Waters
2. Monitor Waters for Nonpoint Source Pollution or Effectiveness of Best Management Practices
3. Develop and Strengthen NPS Partnerships
4. NPS Public Outreach and Education
5. Share Information (Reporting and Accountability)

Each objective is described in detail in the next NPSMP sections. Measurable outcomes (milestones and deliverables) for each objective are described in Appendix A. Activities may include watershed planning, designing and installing best management practices, providing technical assistance, or monitoring high priority waters. Activities may be occurring simultaneously in the same watershed.

Alaska uses an adaptive management approach in implementing actions designed to improve or protect water quality. Adaptive management is an approach where monitoring and source controls are used to provide more information for development or adjustment of milestones. This process recognizes that water quality monitoring data and knowledge of watershed dynamics change as more information or data become available. An adaptive management strategy seeks to collect additional monitoring or waterbody data to better understand how systems react to implemented actions such as BMPs and reduced pollutant loading. Information from an adaptive management process can then be used to refine future actions.

Water Quality Protection and Restoration Approaches

Reducing NPS pollution is the result of a myriad of individual actions throughout a watershed often not adequately addressed by existing laws. As such, efforts to encourage more widespread voluntary use of best management practices (BMPs) and other non-

[2] http://dec.alaska.gov/water/water-quality/integrated-report/

regulatory activities are a vital component of Alaska's statewide NPSMP. Non-regulatory programs often involve providing technical assistance, BMP training, and outreach to municipal governments, Tribal organizations, individuals, businesses, and non-governmental organizations. The NPSMP utilizes demonstration and pilot projects to promote the use of practices to prevent or reduce NPS pollution through examples that could be used in other areas of the state.

In addition to statewide stewardship programs, Alaska also uses a targeted watershed approach to restore and protect waters. Through a watershed priority-setting process (see Appendix B), DEC identifies watersheds that are most in need of improved NPS control efforts and where there is considerable opportunity to make substantial progress restoring or protecting a waterbody. The Alaska Clean Water Actions (ACWA) program, a collaboration between DEC and the Alaska Departments of Fish and Game (ADFG) and Natural Resources (ADNR), works to set priorities for water quality, aquatic habitat, and water quantity issues. The ACWA program also includes a biennial grant program which funds implementation of projects statewide to protect and improve water quality. Figure 1 illustrates Alaska's approaches for addressing NPS pollution.

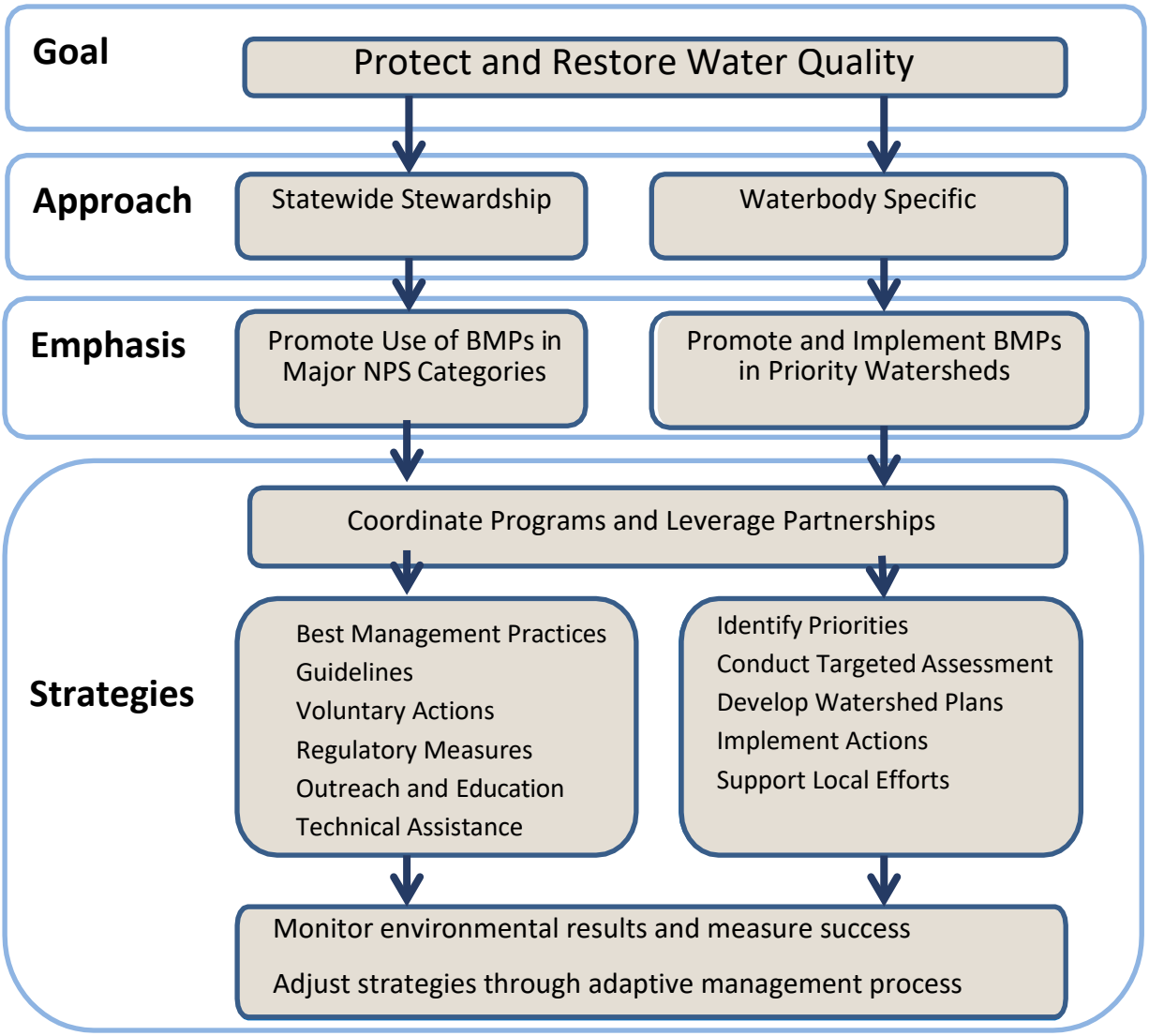


Figure 1. Statewide and waterbody specific approaches to address NPS pollution

Restore Impaired Waters and Protect Healthy Waters

In 2024, Alaska developed a 10-year prioritization framework as part of the national *2022 - 2032 Vision for the Clean Water Act Section 303(d) Program* ("2022 Vision"). The 2022 Vision highlights opportunities to implement CWA Section 303(d) water quality restoration or protection activities in Alaska including planning and best management practices. This NPSMP incorporates several NPS implementation activities that align with the goals discussed in Alaska's 2022 Vision. The 2022 Vision outlines a framework to organize program activities; it does not constitute regulation, policy, or new mandates.

Alaska's 2022-2032 Vision encourages flexible and innovative approaches to implement CWA Section 303(d) water quality restoration plans, identifying ways to use limited resources to leverage partnerships, and encouraging development of solutions to emerging and challenging water quality restoration and protection work. Alaska's prioritization framework focuses on two primary approaches: 1) restoration of impaired waters, and 2) protection of waters attaining WQS.

Restoring impaired waters from NPS pollution is the top priority for DEC's NPS program. For impaired waters, Alaska uses three different types of water quality restoration plans: 1) Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL), 2) Category 4b alternative to a TMDL restoration plan, or 3) Category 5 Advance Restoration Plan (ARP). Determining which planning process to use depends on the source(s) of the impairment, resources available, and level of community interest and involvement.

The second approach in the prioritization framework focuses on protecting waters or pollutants that are attaining WQS. This approach uses the Alaska Clean Water Actions program for watershed prioritization, agency coordination, watershed planning, and awarding community grants.

Often, even in a watershed with a water quality impairment, there are opportunities for protection activities alongside restoration activities. DEC applies combined protection and restoration plans that include actions for restoring degraded or at-risk waters as well as actions for protecting healthy waters.

This NPSMP emphasizes watershed-based planning as a means of coordinating watershed protection and restoration efforts; fostering watershed associations; and encouraging partnership among agencies, Tribes, nongovernmental organizations, and the public. DEC strongly encourages watershed planning processes to be community driven. The outcomes of watershed planning efforts typically include tangible actions for protection and restoration that may be eligible for nonpoint source funding through the ACWA grants program. Depending on watershed issues, planning efforts may produce different types of watershed plans including Restoration and/or Protection Plans, 9-Element Watershed Plans, TMDLs or Alternatives as described in EPA's NPS Program Guidance[3]. DEC developed a watershed planning guidance, available on our website, to assist organizations with completing a protection-based watershed plan or a 9-element watershed plan.

[3] Nonpoint Source Program and Grants Guidelines for States and Territories, U.S. EPA, May 2024

Given the relatively high proportion of attaining waters to impaired waters in Alaska, DEC prioritizes and balances the use of available NPS resources to protect lakes, streams, and nearshore marine waters. Prevention of water pollution is a daunting challenge for watersheds facing increased development pressures. Since prevention is far more feasible and typically more cost effective than restoration of an already impaired waterbody, DEC allocates significant program resources for projects that help communities protect waters considered threatened or most at risk.

Monitor Waters for Nonpoint Source Pollution or BMP Effectiveness

Alaska has more than 40% of the nation's surface water resources, most of which are pristine. DEC is responsible for overall assessment of the State's waters. Although the cost of monitoring all its waters is logistically impossible due to Alaska's size and remoteness, DEC monitors the water quality conditions of a subset of priority waterbodies including rivers, lakes, and nearshore marine waters to determine if they meet designated uses for recreation, swimming, fishing, shellfish harvesting, and drinking water supply, and if the waters support healthy habitats for fish and wildlife. Appendix B describes Alaska's process for prioritizing waters for monitoring.

With support from partners, DEC biennially produces the Integrated Water Quality Monitoring and Assessment Report[4] (Integrated Report) that fulfills Clean Water Act reporting requirements under Section 305(b), Section 303(d) (list of impaired waters) and Section 314 (Clean Lakes Report). All waters with data that meet minimum criteria will be assessed against the most recent version of Alaska's Consolidated Listing and Assessment Methodology (CALM) and pollutant specific Impairment Listing Methodologies. The Integrated Report provides a summary of the status of the state's waters and identifies impaired waters that are not meeting one or more of their designated uses. The Integrated Report lists waters in one of five categories of attainment (Figure 4).

In addition to evaluating waterbodies for supporting designated uses, DEC uses targeted watershed monitoring to evaluate nonpoint source pollution inputs and the effectiveness of the performance of installed BMPs (or past restoration activities) in improving water quality and making progress towards meeting WQS.

[4] http://dec.alaska.gov/water/water-quality/integrated-report/

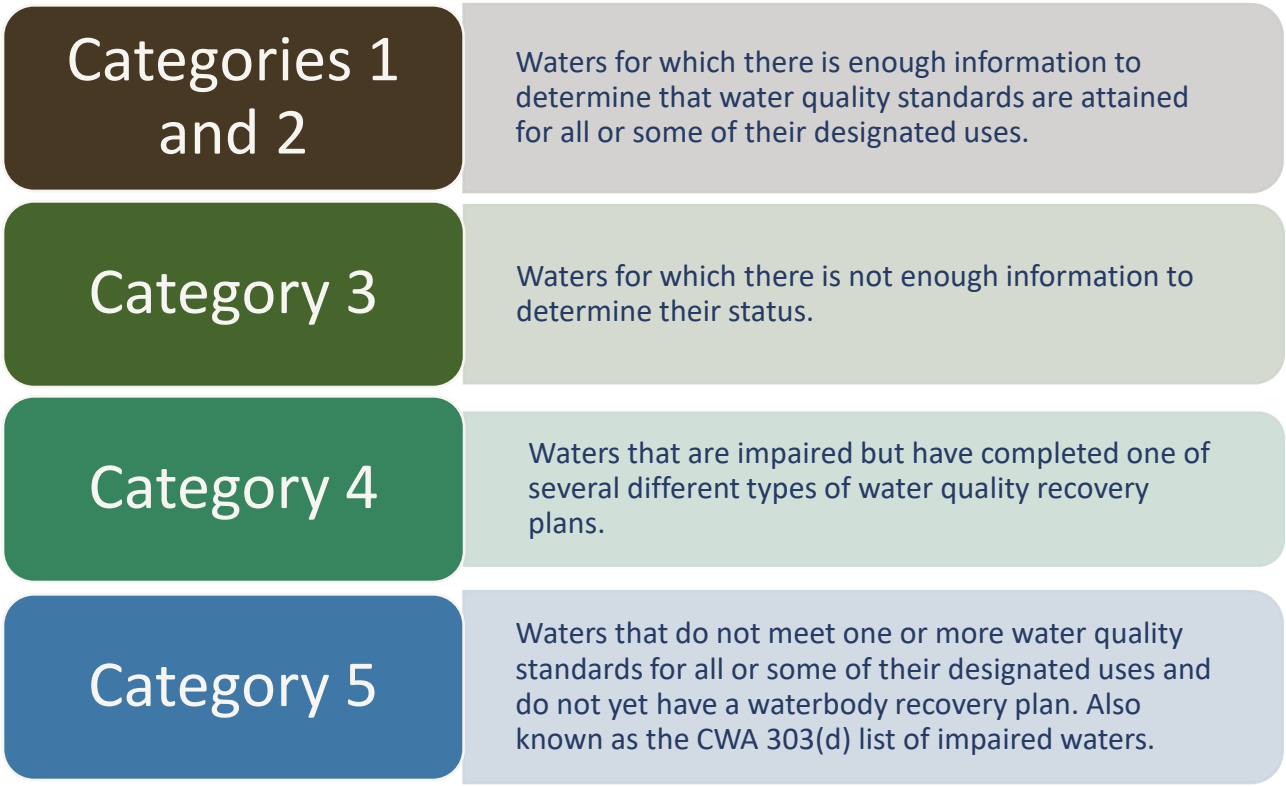


Figure 4. Alaska's Integrated Report categories

DEC carries out several programs that promote voluntary adoption and use of BMPs to address NPS pollution. One example is through the ACWA community grants program where a community may implement nature-based solutions such as such as green stormwater infrastructure (GSI) for implementing stormwater BMPs. Measurable improvements in water quality have been documented using these types of techniques in several waters around the state. One example is Granite Creek in Sitka where voluntary BMP installations over several years reduced sediment runoff in the watershed, improved the creek's water quality, and led to increased salmon populations.[5]

DEC recommends organizations, especially DEC funded sub-award projects, take into account how runoff volume and timing have been changing in recent years and to design and construct BMPs that are correctly sized and durable for years to come. Nature-based or GSI projects funded by DEC must be designed and engineered to not only capture and treat stormwater runoff, but to also protect groundwater resources. Another important message supported by DEC's water quality program is maintaining healthy and robust

[5] See EPA's Success Stories https://www.epa.gov/nps/success-stories-about-restoring-water-bodies-impaired-nonpoint-source-pollution

riparian areas to protect the health and ecological function of lakes, wetlands, streams, and rivers.

The intent of using BMPs is to protect or improve water quality from various sources of NPS pollution. Evaluation of BMPs helps DEC and partners determine if BMPs are working as intended or if there should be design or other modifications to improve efficiencies. Data on the effectiveness of BMPs provide quantitative data supporting (or not) their use in future applications. To the extent practicable, DEC collects standard information to compare and evaluate BMP installations. Basic BMP evaluation criteria is included in the ACWA grant solicitation information.

Targeted monitoring will be conducted in high priority watersheds and additional areas as resources allow. Monitoring will be conducted for a minimum of two years, to meet data evaluation minimums[6] for assessing attainment of water quality standards. Water quality data on NPS pollution will also be solicited from other partner agencies and organizations as part of the Integrated Report call for data.

Develop and Strengthen Partnerships

Success of the NPSMP depends on maintaining existing and forging new partnerships with state, interstate, Tribal, regional, and local entities; private sector groups and businesses; citizens groups; and federal agencies. Partnerships strengthen the program by attracting new ideas and input, increasing understanding of NPS problems, and building commitment to implementing solutions. Partner organizations may be completing actions for different reasons but have the environmental benefit of supporting the goal and objectives of this NPSMP.

DEC's Water Quality Program engages with communities in several different ways including community watershed planning, BMP implementation to protect or improve water quality, and identifying areas or topics of concern to the community as related to stormwater runoff, erosion and sediment control, and water quality. Through the DEC Division of Water's Performance Partnership Grant with the EPA, when possible, DEC waives some or all the sub-award matching fund requirements for the Alaska Clean Water Actions grant program. This waiver has opened new partnerships and projects in rural or underserved communities in the state. Establishing community relationships is critical to nonpoint source water quality project success.

[6] See Alaska's Consolidated Assessment and Listing Methodology (CALM) and individual Listing Methodologies for specific minimum data requirements.

DEC's participation may be intensive and short-term, or spread out over many phases, whichever is more appropriate and supportive of local implementation addressing NPS pollution. See detailed description of partners including local governments, community organizations, state agencies, Tribal organizations, and federal agencies that are important partnerships for addressing NPS pollution in Appendix C.

Public Outreach and Education

Public education and outreach can assist governmental agencies, Tribal organizations, non-governmental organizations, and the public in understanding NPS pollution, ways NPS pollution can be prevented and reduced, and how to get involved in watershed activities to protect and restore water quality. The ACWA grant program supports outreach and education campaigns on topics including clean boating, importance of riparian areas, onsite septic system maintenance, and picking up pet waste at public parks and trails near waterways.

Some of the main outreach activities used by DEC and its partners are described below in Table 3 and Table 4. DEC also utilizes GIS maps, story maps, brief project articles for the web, social media posts, and other tools to reach the audiences of interest.

Table 3. NPS Categories and Outreach Objectives

NPS Category	Target Audience	Outreach Key Objectives
Marinas and Recreational Boating	Recreational Boaters	**Clean Boating:** Protect fish and reduce pollution in Alaska's marine waters, rivers, and lakes by using good boating practices.
	Harbormasters and Harbor users	**Clean Harbors:** Reduce nonpoint source pollution from harbors and marine boating activities.
Resource Extraction	Miners	**Placer Strategy:** Reduce nonpoint source pollution from current and historic placer mining.
		Placer Mining Resources Network Interagency Group: Interagency committee led by the USFWS

		developing resources and tools for placer miners to protect water quality during mining operations.
Urban Runoff/Stormwater; Construction; Land Disposal/Storage/Treatment; Hydromodification	Homeowners, Small Business Owners, and Recreationists	**Salmon Smart:** Reduce nonpoint source pollution from homes and business properties for protection of riparian habitat, water quality, and fish habitat. **Septic Smart:** Reduce nonpoint source bacterial pollution from onsite septic systems. **Pet Waste:** Reduce pathogen related nonpoint source runoff pollution at public parks and trails near waterways by encouraging picking up pet waste through bag stations, signage, and trash receptacles. **Nature-based stormwater solutions:** Reduce NPS stormwater pollution by encouraging the use of designed systems to capture and treat runoff pollution before discharge to waterways.
Land Disposal/Storage/Treatment	Recreational Beach Users	**BEACH:** Reduce nonpoint source bacterial pollution at recreational beaches and notify community when levels exceed state standards.

Table 4. Examples of Outreach Campaigns and Tools

Outreach Tools	Examples
Radio ads	Clean boating tips; Septic Smart; Kenai fish disposal; Public health tips at beaches; Nature-based stormwater solutions
Schools	Working with science classes; School field days
Surveys	Questionnaires for harbor users on barriers to using sewage pump-outs; Short surveys of park users on experience with a focus on pet and waterfowl waste
Community Engagement	Riparian setbacks and benefits; Nature-based stormwater solutions benefits, training, and installation; Turbidity monitoring training; Staffing booths at community events; Conversing with members of public while conducting water monitoring or working on a BMP project
Technical Assistance	Stormwater planning; Salmon habitat partnerships; Riparian setbacks; Placer Mining BMPs
Social Media	Water quality protection tips; BEACH pathogens notices; Septic Smart
Promotional Items	Clean fueling and boating tools; Dog waste pick-up bags and dispensers; Oil sorbent pads; Stickers; Clean Harbors related items
Brochures	Clean boating; Nature-based stormwater solutions; Fish waste disposal
Signage	Pet waste stations at public parks/trails; Don't feed the waterfowl; Importance of riparian areas to protect water quality; Clean boating tips; Rain Garden (nature-based solutions) benefits; Salmon habitat protection

Emerging Water Quality Issues

Emerging water quality pollutants are typically not covered by existing water quality regulations or have adopted water quality criteria. Other emerging environmental issues

may have related water quality criteria but may be difficult to address on a statewide basis (e.g. stream temperature due to a changing climate). Proactively protecting watersheds and waterbodies can help protect communities from emerging or future water quality threats.

DEC's Water Quality Program actively tracks and engages on several emerging issues including but not limited to:

- altered water flow regimes
- invasive species
- increased water temperature
- harmful algal blooms
- 6PPD-quinone tire particles
- microplastics
- ocean acidification
- thawing permafrost changes to water quality

DEC's Water Quality Program balances the need to track and respond to emerging issues with the need to restore impaired waters and other known water quality issues. As state priorities may change or new science becomes available, this NPSMP and adaptive management approach allows the program to pivot approaches as needed to address critical emerging environmental issues.

Appendix A: Annual Milestones

The following table outlines Measurable Milestones for each NPSMP Objective for state fiscal years 2026 – 2030. While many of the activities will be conducted by DEC, some are from outside entities that also address nonpoint source pollution. DEC will report annually on the accomplishment of the following activities. DEC will use an iterative approach to implementing the milestones and will work with EPA to adjust them as needed during the 5-year span of this NPSMP. Changes to the milestones will not require a new public process but will be handled between DEC and EPA.

Table A-1. Milestones for State Fiscal Year 2026 (July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2026)

SFY 2026 (July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2026)	Objective	Measurable Milestone
	Objective 1. Protect healthy waters and restore impaired waters	Map stormwater drainage areas in Chignik (protection)
		Complete planning and design for 2 GSI projects in Seldovia (protection)
		Draft engineering designs to remove/replace up to 11 culverts contributing sediment to Vanderbilt Creek (Category 4a)
		Draft report outlining Noyes Slough recovery recommendations (Category 4a)
		Complete year one of 2-year Vision Priorities (Category 5)
		Post online an updated watershed prioritization model interactive map
		One city per year will develop or implement stormwater management activities to reduce NPS. This includes MS4 communities with activities above and beyond permit requirements
		NPS staff will provide technical assistance to one municipal or Tribal government to address reducing NPS pollution
		Agency partners will hold at least 2 regional streambank restoration workshops per year and

		complete at least 2 streambank restoration projects per year
		Create a fact sheet about CWSRF NPS project options; post to DEC web page
		Complete TMDL prioritization/schedule, Katlian River attainment determination, Salt Chuck Bay 4b demonstration, Little Susitna River attainment determination, and submit 2026 Integrated Report to ATTAINS
		Complete a new draft Listing Methodology for Lingering Oil and apply it to Exxon Valdez Oil Spill (EVOS) beach segments
	Objective 2. Monitoring waters for nonpoint source pollution, BMP effectiveness, or water quality progress	Include revised list of EVOS impaired segments in the Integrated Report
		Establish a 6PPD-q working group specific to Anchorage as part of a 2-year interagency project
		Complete year 2 pathogen sampling Eagle River; submit data AWQMS; post water quality report
		Complete year 2 pathogen sampling Chena River; submit data AWQMS; post report
		Complete year 1 BEACH pathogen sampling Haines; submit data BEACON; post report
		Complete year 1 BEACH pathogen sampling Anchor Point & Homer; submit data BEACON; post report
		Participate in at least 2 meetings of the Region 10 Stream Temperature Working Group
		Complete year 1 BEACH pathogen sampling Juneau; submit data BEACON; post report
	Objective 3. Develop and strengthen partnerships	For each NPS region, participate in at least 1 planning process, technical advisory meeting, or other project with a state agency partner
		For each NPS region, participate in at least 1 planning process, technical advisory meeting, or other project with a federal agency partner

		For each NPS region, participate in at least 1 planning process, technical advisory meeting, or other project with a community partner (NGO, Tribal, or other)
		For each NPS region with a National Fish Habitat Partnership, participate in at least 1 planning process, technical advisory meeting, proposal scoring, or other partner project
		Participate in 3 CWSRF scoring committee meetings
		NPS staff participate in at least one national conference
	Objective 4. Protect or improve water quality through stewardship activities and public involvement	Implement Mat-Su's healthy riparian areas outreach plan through presentations at 3 community council meetings, mailing information to 500 landowners living near riparian areas, and complete at least 4 social media posts
		Complete 3 community outreach events for BEACH program (Juneau, Haines, and Homer)
		Alaska Clean Harbors – (re)certify at least 1 harbor
		Post at least 8 "Baby Salmon Live Here" signs at anadromous streams on the Kenai Peninsula
		Participate in at least 1 community outreach event such as Juneau Maritime Festival, NFHP symposium, Harbormasters Conference, or other
		Advertise tips to keep beaches clean on at least 3 Kenai Peninsula radio stations over weekends during the month of July
		Share via social media content for Septic Smart week
		Convene statewide 6PPD working group at least 2 times
	Objective 5. Share Information	Post online at least 4 program highlight articles
		Post at least 3 NPS social media posts to DEC's account
		Complete 319 sub-award project entry in GRTS within 60 days of project initiation/closeout
		Web post at least 3 water quality reports from either internal or sub-award projects
		Complete at least 1 Success Story using GRTS

		Report on progress every 6 months through the PPG biannual report
		By September 30 submit Alaska's annual NPS progress report to EPA
		Participate in National NPS Workshop with 1 person attending in person and other program staff virtually

Table A-2. Milestones for State Fiscal Year 2027 (July 1, 2026 – June 30, 2027)

SFY 2027 (July 1, 2026 – June 30, 2027)	Objective	Measurable Milestone
	Objective 1. Protect healthy waters and restore impaired waters	Complete desktop analysis and 6PPD-q risk assessment of Anchorage waterbodies
		Draft a 6PPD-q technical report for Anchorage waterbodies
		Participate in 6PPD-q working groups
		Complete 2 GSI installations in Seldovia; post project factsheet online
		Develop a stormwater management plan for Chignik (protection)
		One city per year will develop or implement stormwater management activities to reduce NPS. This includes MS4 communities with activities above and beyond permit requirements
		Agency partners will hold at least 2 regional streambank restoration workshops per year and complete at least 2 streambank restoration projects per year
		Distribute CWSRF NPS fact sheet to 5 communities that have impaired or threatened waters from NPS pollution
		NPS staff will provide technical assistance to one municipal or Tribal government to address reducing NPS pollution
		Complete engineering designs to remove/replace up to 11 culverts contributing sediment to Vanderbilt Creek (Category 4a)

		Complete year two of 2-year Vision Priorities and submit new 2-year Vision Priorities to ATTAINS
		Public notice Call for Data 2028 Integrated Report and evaluate water quality for category placement
		Track contaminated site recovery plan development progress on Kimshan Cove for an Alternative Plan in the Integrated Report
		Post final report outlining Noyes Slough recovery recommendations (Category 4a); include recovery actions in upcoming ACWA Request for Proposals (RFP)
	Objective 2. Monitoring waters for nonpoint source pollution, BMP effectiveness, or water quality progress	Coordinate with Drinking Water program to identify watershed areas that serve as drinking water sources, groundwater recharge and add to watershed prioritization map layers
		Complete year 1 pathogen sampling Wasilla Creek; submit data AWQMS; post report
		Complete year 1 pathogen sampling Thirtymile Slough; submit data AWQMS; post report
		Complete year 1 pathogen sampling Kasilof River; submit data AWQMS; post report
		Complete year 2 BEACH pathogen sampling Haines; submit data BEACON; post report
		Complete year 2 BEACH pathogen sampling Juneau; submit data BEACON; post report
		Complete year 2 BEACH pathogen sampling Anchor Point & Homer; submit data BEACON; post report
		Complete 5-year comprehensive report of marine water quality monitoring project and post online
	Objective 3. Develop and strengthen partnerships	Participate in 3 CWSRF scoring committee meetings
		For each NPS region, participate in at least 1 planning process, technical advisory meeting, or other project with a state agency partner
		For each NPS region, participate in at least 1 planning process, technical advisory meeting, or other project with a federal agency partner

		For each NPS region, participate in at least 1 planning process, technical advisory meeting, or other project with a community partner (NGO, Tribal, or other)
		For each NPS region with a National Fish Habitat Partnership, participate in at least 1 planning process, technical advisory meeting, proposal scoring, or other partner project
		NPS staff participate in at least one national conference
	Objective 4. Protect or improve water quality through stewardship activities and public involvement	Specifically invite all of Alaska's 17 Tribal Conservation Districts to the 2027-2029 ACWA grant webinar
		ACWA grant RFP – identify priority watersheds and actions with a focus on restoring impaired waters; public notice RFP; public presentation; technical review and score proposals
		Participate in quarterly meetings of the Alaska Clean Harbors Advisory Board
		Share via social media content for Septic Smart week
		Develop and provide a virtual grants management training for ACWA sub-awardees
		Complete 3 community outreach events for BEACH program (Juneau, Haines, Homer)
		Alaska Clean Harbors – (re)certify at least 1 harbor
		Host or participate in at least 2 community events promoting healthy waters and salmon habitat
		Web post final outreach report for Mat-Su Borough's riparian setback campaign. Include measures of success
		Participate in at least 1 community outreach event such as Juneau Maritime Festival, NFHP symposium, or other
	Objective 5. Share Information	Complete at least 1 Success Story using GRTS
		Web post summary of awarded ACWA projects
		Web post at least 4 project highlight articles

		Post at least 3 NPS social media posts to DEC's account
		Complete 319 sub-award project entry in GRTS within 60 days of project initiation/closeout
		Web post at least 3 water quality reports from either internal or sub-award projects
		Report on progress every 6 months through the PPG biannual report
		Coordinate with Monitoring & Assessment to combine NPS and Monitoring GIS map layers for web posting
		By September 30 submit Alaska's annual NPS progress report to EPA

Table A-3. Milestones for State Fiscal Year 2028 (July 1, 2027 – June 30, 2028)

SFY 2028 (July 1, 2027 – June 30, 2028)	Objective	Measurable Milestone
	Objective 1. Protect healthy waters and restore impaired waters	One city per year will develop or implement stormwater management activities to reduce NPS. This includes MS4 communities with activities above and beyond permit requirements
		Agency partners will hold at least 2 regional streambank restoration workshops per year and complete at least 2 streambank restoration projects per year
		NPS staff will provide technical assistance to one municipal or Tribal government to address reducing NPS pollution
		Complete TMDL prioritization/schedule and submit 2028 Integrated Report to ATTAINS; include revised EVOS impaired beach segments
		Complete Anchorage waterbodies 6PPD-q assessment report and post online
		Revise Chester Creek and Little Campbell Creek TMDLs to include *E. coli* loading calculations
		Complete year one of 2-year Vision Priorities

		Review Ketchikan pathogen watershed plan implementation and progress to-date; make updates as needed
		Pullen Creek BMP implementation deliverable
		Vanderbilt Creek BMP implementation deliverables
	Objective 2. Monitoring waters for nonpoint source pollution, BMP effectiveness, or water quality progress	Complete year 2 pathogen sampling Thirtymile Slough; submit data AWQMS; post report
		Complete year 2 pathogen sampling Wasilla Creek; submit data AWQMS; post report
		Complete year 2 pathogen sampling Kasilof River; submit data AWQMS; post report
		Initiate at least one new NPS monitoring project; submit data to AWQMS; post water quality report
		Initiate at least one new BEACH pathogen monitoring project; submit data to BEACON; post report
		Complete year 1 pathogen sampling Gartina Creek (Hoonah); submit data to AWQMS; post report
	Objective 3. Develop and strengthen partnerships	Determine statewide schedule for communities developing or updating their Hazard Mitigation Plans. Report on progress in annual NPSMP
		Participate in 3 CWSRF scoring committee meetings
		For each NPS region, participate in at least 1 planning process, technical advisory meeting, or other project with a state agency partner
		For each NPS region, participate in at least 1 planning process, technical advisory meeting, or other project with a federal agency partner
		For each NPS region, participate in at least 1 planning process, technical advisory meeting, or other project with a community partner (NGO, Tribal, or other)
		NPS staff participate in at least one national conference
		For each NPS region with a National Fish Habitat Partnership, participate in at least 1 planning process, technical advisory meeting, proposal scoring, or other partner project

	Objective 4. Protect or improve water quality through stewardship activities and public involvement	Participate in at least 1 community outreach event such as Juneau Maritime Festival, NFHP symposium, or other
		Complete at least 2 community outreach events for BEACH program
		Share via social media content for Septic Smart week
	Objective 5. Share Information	Web post summary of awarded ACWA projects
		Web post at least 4 project highlight articles
		Post at least 3 NPS social media posts to DEC's account
		Complete 319 sub-award project entry in GRTS within 60 days of project initiation/closeout
		Web post at least 2 water quality reports from either internal or sub-award projects
		By September 30 submit Alaska's annual NPS progress report to EPA

Table A-4. Milestones for State Fiscal Year 2029 (July 1, 2028 – June 30, 2029)

SFY 2029 (July 1, 2028 – June 30, 2029)	Objective	Measurable Milestone
	Objective 1. Protect healthy waters and restore impaired waters	One city per year will develop or implement stormwater management activities to reduce NPS. This includes MS4 communities with activities above and beyond permit requirements
		Complete year two of 2-year Vision Priorities and upload new 2-year Vision Priorities to ATTAINS
		Agency partners will hold at least 2 regional streambank restoration workshops per year and complete at least 2 streambank restoration projects per year

		NPS staff will provide technical assistance to one municipal or Tribal government to address reducing NPS pollution
		Public notice 2030 Integrated Report Call for Data and evaluate water quality for category placement
		Use information learned from 6PPD study in Anchorage to identify at least one "hot spot" to add as GSI priority action in the ACWA grant RFP
		Implement BMP actions for Vanderbilt Creek (Category 4a)
		Implement BMP actions Pullen Creek (Category 4a)
	Objective 2. Monitoring waters for nonpoint source pollution, BMP effectiveness, or water quality progress	Complete year 2 on at least one NPS monitoring project; upload data to AWQMS; post water quality report
		Complete year 2 pathogen sampling Gartina Creek (Hoonah); submit data to AWQMS; post report
		Complete year 2 on at least one new BEACH pathogen monitoring project; submit data to BEACON; post report
	Objective 3. Develop and strengthen partnerships	Participate in 3 CWSRF scoring committee meetings
		For each NPS region, participate in at least 1 planning process, technical advisory meeting, or other project with a state agency partner
		For each NPS region, participate in at least 1 planning process, technical advisory meeting, or other project with a federal agency partner
		For each NPS region, participate in at least 1 planning process, technical advisory meeting, or other project with a community partner (NGO, Tribal, or other)
		NPS staff participate in at least one national conference
	Objective 4. Protect or improve water quality through	ACWA grant RFP – identify priority watersheds and actions; public notice RFP; public presentation; technical review and score proposals

	stewardship activities and public involvement	
		Participate in at least 1 community outreach event such as Juneau Maritime Festival, NFHP symposium, or other
		Complete at least 2 community outreach events for BEACH program
		Share via social media content for Septic Smart week
	Objective 5. Share Information	Web post summary of awarded ACWA projects
		Web post at least 4 project highlight articles
		Post at least 3 NPS social media posts to DEC's account
		Complete 319 sub-award project entry in GRTS within 60 days of project initiation/closeout
		Web post at least 3 water quality reports from either internal or sub-award projects
		Report on progress every 6 months through the PPG biannual report
		By September 30 submit Alaska's annual NPS progress report to EPA

Table A-5. Milestones for State Fiscal Year 2030 (July 1, 2029 – June 30, 2030)

SFY 2030 (July 1, 2029 – June 30, 2030)	Objective	Measurable Milestone
	Objective 1. Protect healthy waters and restore impaired waters	Complete TMDL prioritization/schedule and submit 2030 Integrated Report to ATTAINS; include waterbody attainments, recovery plans, or alternative plans as appropriate
		Complete year one of 2-year Vision Priorities
		Agency partners will hold at least 2 regional streambank restoration workshops per year and complete at least 2 streambank restoration projects per year

		NPS staff will provide technical assistance to one municipal or Tribal government to address reducing NPS pollution
		One city per year will develop or implement stormwater management activities to reduce NPS. This includes MS4 communities with activities above and beyond permit requirements
	Objective 2. Monitoring waters for nonpoint source pollution, BMP effectiveness, or water quality progress	Initiate at least one new NPS monitoring project; submit data to AWQMS; post water quality report
		Initiate at least one new BEACH pathogen monitoring project; submit data to BEACON; post report
	Objective 3. Develop and strengthen partnerships	Participate in 3 CWSRF scoring committee meetings
		For each NPS region, participate in at least 1 planning process, technical advisory meeting, or other project with a state agency partner
		For each NPS region, participate in at least 1 planning process, technical advisory meeting, or other project with a federal agency partner
		For each NPS region, participate in at least 1 planning process, technical advisory meeting, or other project with a community partner (NGO, Tribal, or other)
		NPS staff participate in at least one national conference
	Objective 4. Protect or improve water quality through stewardship activities and public involvement	Participate in at least 1 community outreach event such as Juneau Maritime Festival, NFHP symposium, or other
		Share via social media content for Septic Smart week
		Complete at least 2 community outreach events for BEACH program

	Objective 5. Share Information	Web post summary of awarded ACWA projects
		Web post at least 4 project highlight articles
		Post at least 3 NPS social media posts to DEC's account
		Complete 319 sub-award project entry in GRTS within 60 days of project initiation/closeout
		Web post at least 3 water quality reports from either internal or sub-award projects
		By September 30 submit Alaska's annual NPS progress report to EPA
		Report on progress every 6 months through the PPG biannual report
		By May 30, submit new 5-year NPSMP to EPA for review and approval

Appendix B: Priority Watersheds

Given Alaska's extensive water resources, watershed prioritization is an important part of Alaska's NPSMP. In 2001 the Alaska Clean Water Actions (ACWA) program was developed to prioritize watersheds statewide for water quality, water quantity, and aquatic habitat concerns through an interagency forum. Working cooperatively across three state resource agencies, this process identified Alaskan waters that were vulnerable to pollution; identified, prioritized, and scheduled restoration or protection actions; managed and shared information on water quality, water quantity and aquatic habitat; and described how Alaska will implement best available technology and management practices to prevent pollution. The partners in this process are the DEC, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADFG), and the Alaska Department of Natural Resources (ADNR).

Since 2001, the ACWA program has changed over time but the three ACWA partner agencies continue to have a technical advisory group called the Water Experts Group (WEG) that reviews watershed prioritizations, ACWA processes, and provides technical reviews on submitted ACWA grant proposals. The WEG serves as a coordinated effort of various programs to implement highest priority nonpoint source pollution (NPS) controls in a timely manner.

In 2022, with assistance from the WEG, DEC completed a new statewide watershed prioritization model that uses 17 Geographic Information System (GIS) data layers on a Hydrologic Unit Code (HUC) 12 watershed scale. The GIS layers are categorized as watershed Stressors or Values and an overall index score is calculated based on a weighted scale. The GIS-based tool modernized rankings that agency staff used to do by hand, removed bias, and increased efficiency creating a statewide index of 14,143 HUC12 watershed rankings Figures B-1, B-2, and B-3 illustrate the model outcomes.

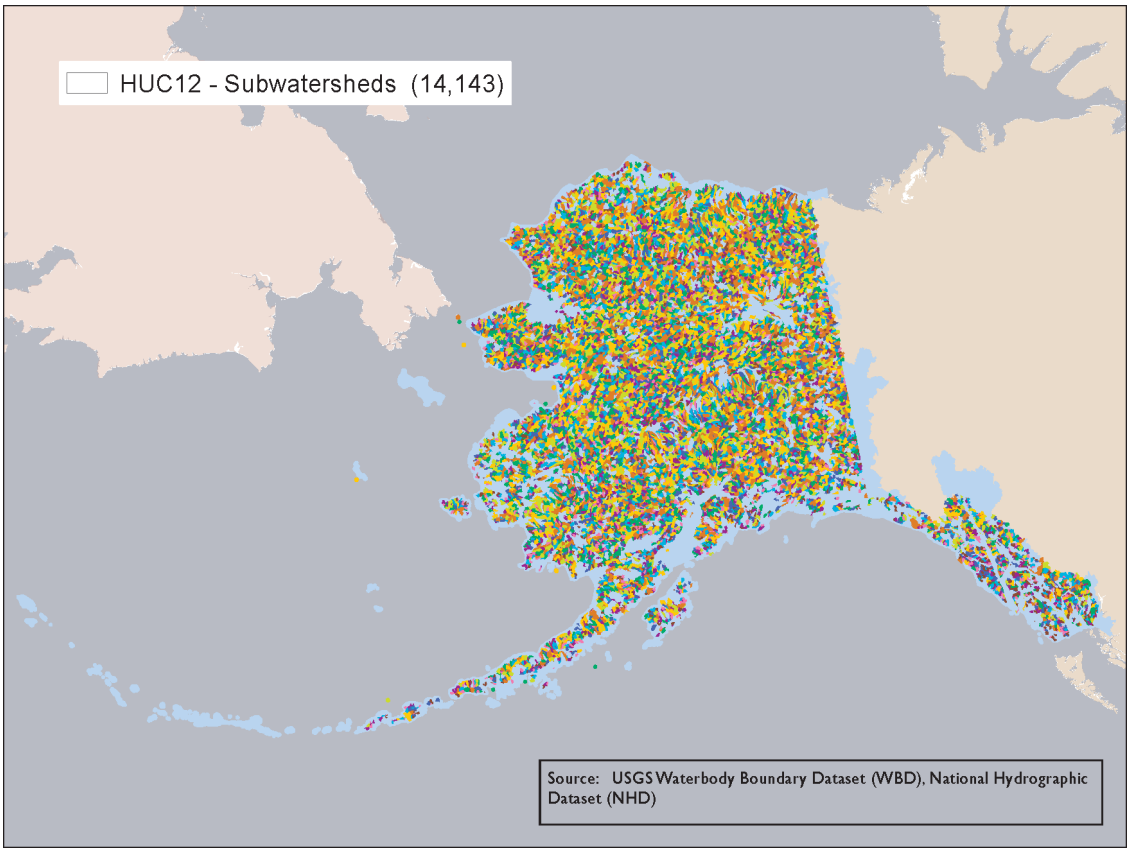
The ACWA program focuses resources on watersheds ranked with higher stresses and higher values as much as possible. Activities may include a combination of restoration and protection work. For watersheds with medium or lower rankings, water quality activities are typically protection focused[7].

Using finalized watershed rankings from the model, DEC awards available funds to water quality projects in high priority watersheds as much as possible. DEC considers and selects

[7] For more information on the watershed prioritization model and how it is applied for restoration and protection activities, see *Alaska's Prioritization Framework 2022-20232 Clean Water Act Vision for Section 303(d)*, January 2024. Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation.

appropriate tools, such as ACWA grants, contracts, or internal staff support, to complete protection, restoration, or monitoring work. DEC highlights several high priority watersheds and requested actions in the ACWA grant solicitation that occurs every two years (2026, 2028 and 2030 during this NPSMP). The watershed prioritization provides an opportunity to direct funds to communities and organizations to jump start new watershed efforts, prompt continued momentum on established projects, and/or protect against an imminent NPS pollution threat. Tables B-1 and B-2 highlight a subset of high priority watersheds that DEC anticipates focusing resources towards for watershed planning, protection, restoration, or NPS related monitoring over the next 5 years. Additional watersheds may be added or switched throughout the NPSMP period.

DEC will update the model at minimum every five years [8]or sooner if key GIS datasets become available or watershed conditions change dramatically. The watershed model provides increased objectiveness and highlights opportunities to work in communities throughout the state. Incorporating demographic information links priority watersheds to underserved or rural communities highlighting opportunities for further collaboration in these areas.



[8] DEC is currently updating the model with an expected completion in 2026.

Figure B-1. Alaska's 14,143 HUC12 subwatersheds

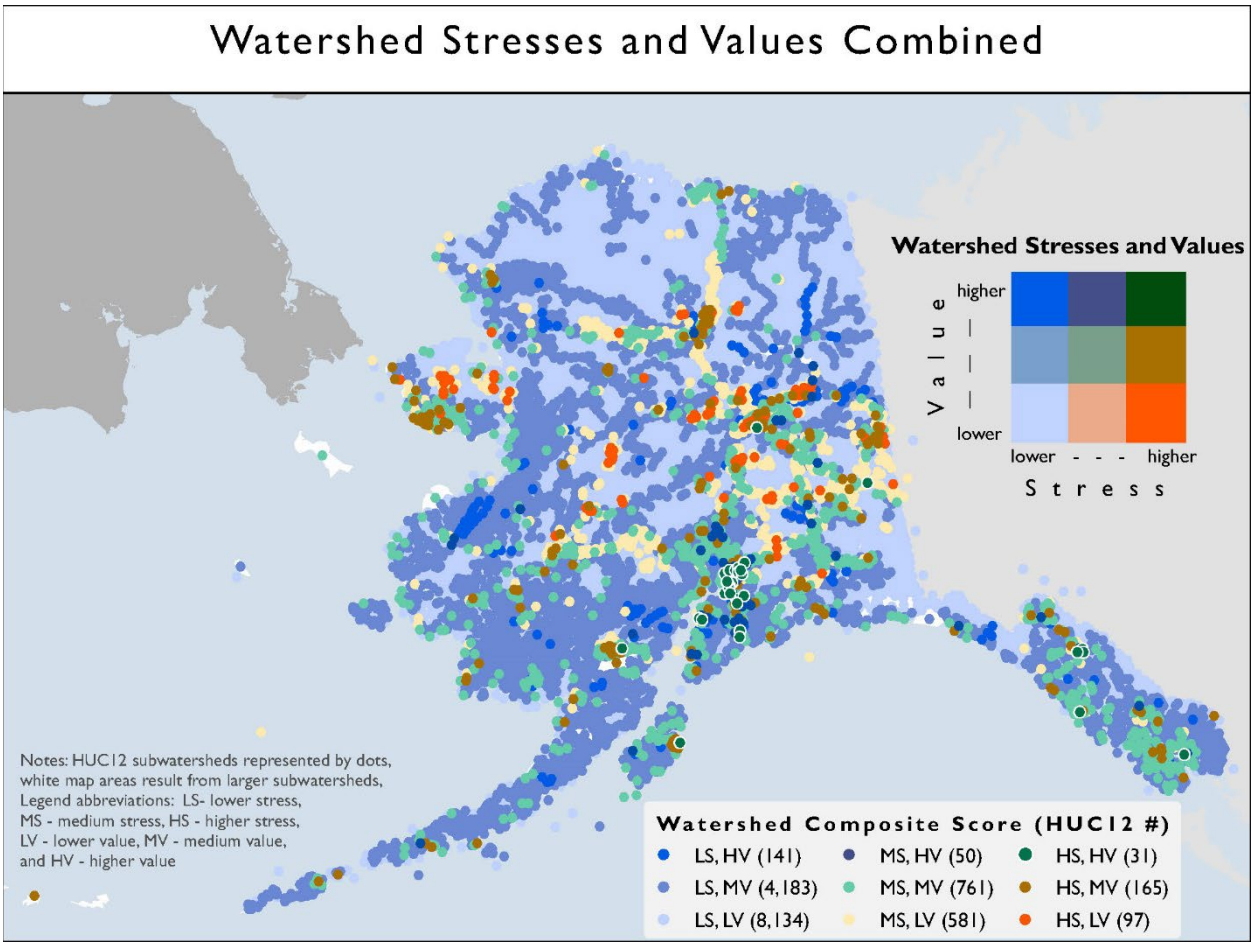


Figure B-2. HUC12 statewide watershed rankings based on watershed stressors and values based on the original model version. The number in parentheses indicates the number of HUC12 watersheds with that rank.

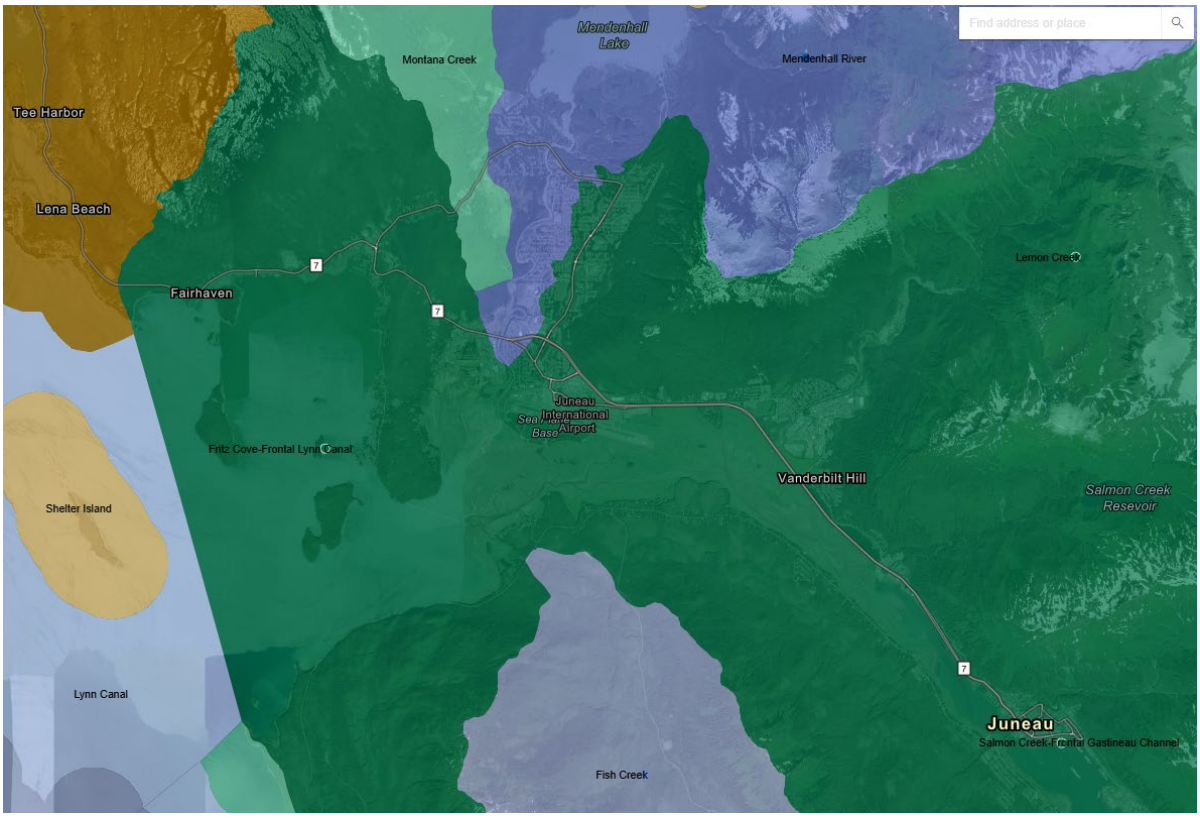


Figure B-3. Zoomed in watershed model priority HUC12 rankings for Juneau, AK. The different colors correspond to the stressor and value ranking outcomes.

Table B-1. Subset of ACWA High Priority Watersheds for Watershed Planning, Protection, and Restoration Activities

Region	Watershed
Interior/Northern	Chena River, Thirtymile Slough, Noyes Slough, Nome area watersheds, Salcha River, Gold Creek
Southcentral – Anchorage, Matanuska-Susitna	Campbell Creek, Wasilla Creek, Lake Lucile, Eagle River
Southcentral – Kenai Peninsula, Kodiak, Alaska Peninsula, Western	Chignik Bay, Soldotna Creek, Seldovia Creek, Kachemak Bay, Kasilof River, Kenai River, Anchor River, Red Devil Creek, Kuskokwim River

Southeast	Vanderbilt Creek, Pullen Creek, Ketchikan area waters, Jordan Creek

Table B-2. Subset of ACWA High Priority Watersheds for Targeted NPS Monitoring

Region	Watershed
Interior/Northern	Chena River, Thirtymile Slough
Southcentral - Anchorage	Eagle River
Southcentral – Mat-Su	Wasilla Creek
Southcentral – Kenai	Kasilof River, Anchor Point and Homer area beaches, Kodiak area beaches, Seward area beaches
Southeast	Haines beaches, Juneau beaches, Pullen Creek, Vanderbilt Creek, Gartina Creek, Valdez beaches

Appendix C: NPS Partners and Programs

Table C-1. Alaska's NPS Program partners

Affiliation	Agency	Program
State Departments	Environmental Conservation	Nonpoint Source
		Beaches Environmental Assessment and Coastal Health (BEACH)
		303(d) Impaired Waters and Recovery Plans
		Sewer Overflow and Stormwater Reuse Municipal Grant (OSG)
		Monitoring and Assessment
		Onsite Wastewater Systems
		Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF)
		Drinking Water Source Protection
		Mining
		Stormwater
		Wetlands
		Contaminated Sites
		Compliance and Enforcement

	Natural Resources	Community/Urban Forestry
		Mining
		Parks and Recreation
		Hazard Mitigation
		Agriculture
		Invasive Species
		State Historic Preservation Office
		Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act
	Fish and Game	Sport Fish
		Habitat
		Invasive Species
		Restoration and Enhancement
	Transportation and Public Facilities	Maintenance and Operations
		Design and Engineering Services
		Program Development
Multi-agency		Interagency Hydrology Committee for Alaska
Nongovernmental/Community Organizations		National Fish Habitat Partnerships
		Soil and Water Conservation Districts

		Watershed groups
Tribal		Tribal governments
		Tribal organizations
		Tribal Conservation Districts
		Other Tribal programs
University		Alaska Sea Grant
		Alaska Center for Conservation Science
		Other water related programs
Federal	Army Corps of Engineers	
	Bureau of Land Management	
	Environmental Protection Agency	
	Fish and Wildlife Service	
	Forest Service	
	Geologic Survey	
	National Park Service	
	Natural Resource Conservation Service	
	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration	
	Other Federal agencies	

Appendix D: NPS Potential Funding Sources

DEC is typically the lead in working with communities to find solutions to NPS pollution including providing technical expertise and funding options. Funding to address NPS pollution can come from a variety of sources. Although communities and local organizations often know the problems in their area, they may be unable to fix problems because of a lack of resources. Described below are funding sources which are often used to address NPS pollution. With limited funds available and limited discretionary spending, federal, state, and local government programs are rarely able to provide a single primary source of funding. Combined, these funding sources can result in environmental progress.

Table D-1. Description of known and possible NPS funding sources

Funding Source	Description
Federal Funding Sources	EPA's Office of Water has developed the Catalog of Federal Funding Sources for Watershed Protection to inform watershed partners of federal monies that might be available to fund a variety of watershed protection projects. This searchable web site is a useful tool when looking for potential project funding and is available to all communities. Other specific federal funding sources that have been used by DEC (and partners): • USDA – Natural Resource Conservation Service, Environmental Quality Improvement Program • USFS – Community Forestry • USFWS – Clean Vessel Act • EPA – Section 319; Urban Waters; Sewer Overflow and Stormwater Reuse Municipal Grant (OSG), Beaches Environmental Assessment and Coastal Health Act (BEACH) DEC is continually on the lookout for additional funding opportunities as they become available and meet our project objectives.
Performance Partnership Grant and ACWA Grant Sub-awards	The primary source of state funding for DEC NPS activities and projects is an annual *Performance Partnership Grant* (PPG) administered by EPA that combines funding from a variety of sources authorized in the Clean Water Act (CWA). These include funding from CWA Sections 319 Nonpoint Source Control, 106

	Water Pollution Control, 106 Groundwater Protection, 104(b)(3), and 604(b)/205(j) grants. The PPG funds require approximately 40% match from non-federal sources, which comes from both state funding and from local sources. The scope of work in the PPG is negotiated annually with EPA and documented in a work plan that describes tasks to be accomplished. Overall goals and high priority actions are documented in the annual *Performance Partnership Agreement (PPA)*. DEC conducts focused work on NPS issues through the ACWA Grants Program. DEC administers a competitive pass-through grants program that awards and monitors sub-grants of EPA's CWA § 319, OSG, and BEACH funds to help communities identify NPS pollution sources, prepare watershed-based management plans, and take action to reduce or prevent NPS pollution. DEC grant managers are assigned to each sub-award to monitor grantee progress in implementing the project, to oversee the expenditure of grant funds according to grant requirements, and to provide technical support to help grantees successfully carry out projects. DEC administers the §319 grant award in accordance with 2 Code of Federal Regulations 200, Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards from the Office of Management and Budget. DEC enters all §319 pass-through grant funds into EPA's Grant Reporting and Tracking System (GRTS) data system for funding tracking and project deliverables.
State Revolving Fund Programs	The Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) and the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) are federal-state partnerships that provide communities an independent source of low-cost financing for wastewater and drinking water projects. Established by Congress under Title VI of the Clean Water Act (CWA) Amendments of 1987, the CWSRF provides low-interest loans for wastewater infrastructure projects and a wide range of NPS projects. The DWSRF, established by the 1996 Amendments to the Safe Drinking Water Act, provides funds for drinking water

	infrastructure projects and source water protection activities. In Alaska, the CWSRF and DWSRF programs are administered through the State Revolving Fund (SRF) Program within the DEC Division of Water. DEC receives annual capitalization grants from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), based on Congressional appropriation, to help fund the Alaska Clean Water and Drinking Water Funds with a 20 percent match provided by the state. The SRF Program provides loans to eligible borrowers, and the loan repayments are recycled back into the program to fund additional infrastructure and water quality improvement projects. The revolving nature of the program provides for an ongoing funding source intended to be available in perpetuity. The CWSRF provides low-cost loans to public agencies for the planning, design, or construction of various projects that prevent or mitigate water pollution. Examples of projects that may be eligible to receive financing through the CWSRF include: Publicly owned projects defined in § 212 of the CWA including wastewater collection and treatment, regulated stormwater, and the water quality portion of municipal landfill projects: • NPS pollution management programs established under CWA § 319 • National estuary program projects meeting the criteria of CWA § 320 • Decentralized wastewater treatment systems • Stormwater projects to manage, reduce or treat stormwater • Water conservation, efficiency, and reuse projects; and • Watershed pilot projects meeting the criteria of CWA §122. Through the DWSRF program, the DEC Drinking Water Program also provides technical assistance regarding source water protection needs. The SRF Program accepts questionnaires for new projects year-round. In addition to describing the project scope, applicants must

	provide information on water quality benefits and estimated costs. DEC reviews and scores all applications against specific criteria and lists projects for possible funding in rank order in the SRF Program Project Priority List. Applicants whose projects are placed on the Project Priority List must still complete all program requirements including a financial capacity assessment and an environmental review. All proposed NPS projects are also reviewed for their alignment and support of the goals established in this NPSMP.
Other Private Funding Sources	Funds are often available to non-governmental entities to address NPS pollution. For example, the National Geographic Society provides grants to reduce marine plastic pollution. The NPS Program may be a project partner or provide technical support to these types of funded NPS projects.
Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Hazard Mitigation Grant Program	Hazard Mitigation Grant Program funding can be used for mitigation planning activities and provides incentives for "green" approaches (nature-based solutions such as nature-based stormwater solutions, riparian restoration, etc.) to reduce hazards. FEMA requires that state, Tribal and local governments develop and adopt hazard mitigation plans as a condition for receiving certain types of non-emergency disaster assistance, such as the Pre-Disaster Mitigation Grant Program. Hazard mitigation funding can have the environmental benefit of also addressing NPS pollution. This is an emerging funding source and opportunity that DEC will be pursuing further in Alaska communities.
National Fish Habitat Partnership (NFHAP)	Under NFHAP, federal, state, Tribal, and privately raised funds are leveraged through regional partnerships to address fish habitat challenges. Much of the partnership funding comes from USFWS. Projects to address fish habitat frequently also address water quality and NPS pollution. In Alaska, there are four recognized partnerships (Mat-Su, Kenai, Southeast and Southwest). DEC partners with all NFHAP partnerships, even newer ones not

	officially approved by the National program such as in Fairbanks, to encourage activities that address NPS pollution.
Alaska Sustainable Salmon Fund (AKSSF)	AKSSF is administered by ADFG and manages Alaska's allocations from the federal Pacific Coast Salmon Recovery Fund (PCSRF). PCSRF was established by Congress in 2000 to protect, restore, and conserve Pacific salmon and steelhead populations and their habitats. Some AKSSF priorities also identify or address NPS pollution.

Appendix E: Reporting and Accountability

Accomplishments of the NPS program are reported throughout the year in a variety of ways both to the public and to EPA.

Table E-1. Reporting and Accountability

Tool	Description
Grant Reporting and Tracking System (GRTS)	GRTS is the EPA database for tracking CWA §319 grant fund expenditures, projects, programmatic work, deliverables and success stories. DEC enters information into GRTS throughout the grant period and uploads final deliverables within 30 days of sub-grants (ACWA grants) closing.
Performance Partnership Grant (PPG)	The annual PPG work plan outlines activities and deliverables DEC's Nonpoint Source section will accomplish along with other DEC Division of Water programs. DEC submits semi-annual PPG progress reporting to EPA.
Water Quality Project Highlights	DEC's Water Quality Program publishes project highlight articles to our website approximately every 6 weeks. These articles highlight different water quality protection and restoration work being accomplished by DEC staff and sub-award partners. The articles are often included in DEC's social media posts.
ATTAINS (Integrated Report)	The Assessment, TMDL Tracking and Implementation System (ATTAINS) is how DEC tracks waterbody progress through the Integrated Report categories and documentation. ATTAINS also tracks TMDLs, pollution prevention plans, TMDL alternatives, and 303(d) Vision priorities. DEC maintains an Integrated Report web page that contains resources and maps.
319 Satisfactory Progress Evaluation	DEC works closely with the EPA Region 10 Coordinator throughout the year as well as submitting regular reports and deliverables. EPA reviews and evaluates Alaska's NPS Program for meeting program requirements for satisfactory progress on at least an annual basis.
Public Outreach and	NPSMP actions are a public face of DEC and partner agencies who participate in community outreach events, trade shows and other venues, and social media. DEC staff also provide technical assistance

Tool	Description
Technical Assistance	to a variety of technical advisory committees statewide such as stormwater, nature-based stormwater solutions opportunities, aquatic invasive species, mining BMPs, transportation planning, and watershed planning. This type of community visibility adds accountability to efforts to reduce nonpoint source pollution under the NPSMP by working for the citizens of Alaska.
NPS Program Reporting	DEC reports annually to EPA for progress made on milestones in this NPSMP (Appendix A). The annual NPS report also includes a narrative overview of highlights and challenges.