

Agriculture and Water Quality Advisory Committee

Why did we start the committee?

“I believe we can achieve progress and see real improvement in water quality – if we roll up our sleeves and work together on this. This will be a venue for Ecology to receive the advice of farmers and ranchers so we can craft effective ways to protect water health on agricultural lands.”

-Director Maia Bellon

Ten Key Changes to Ecology's Watershed Evaluation Process

Themes:

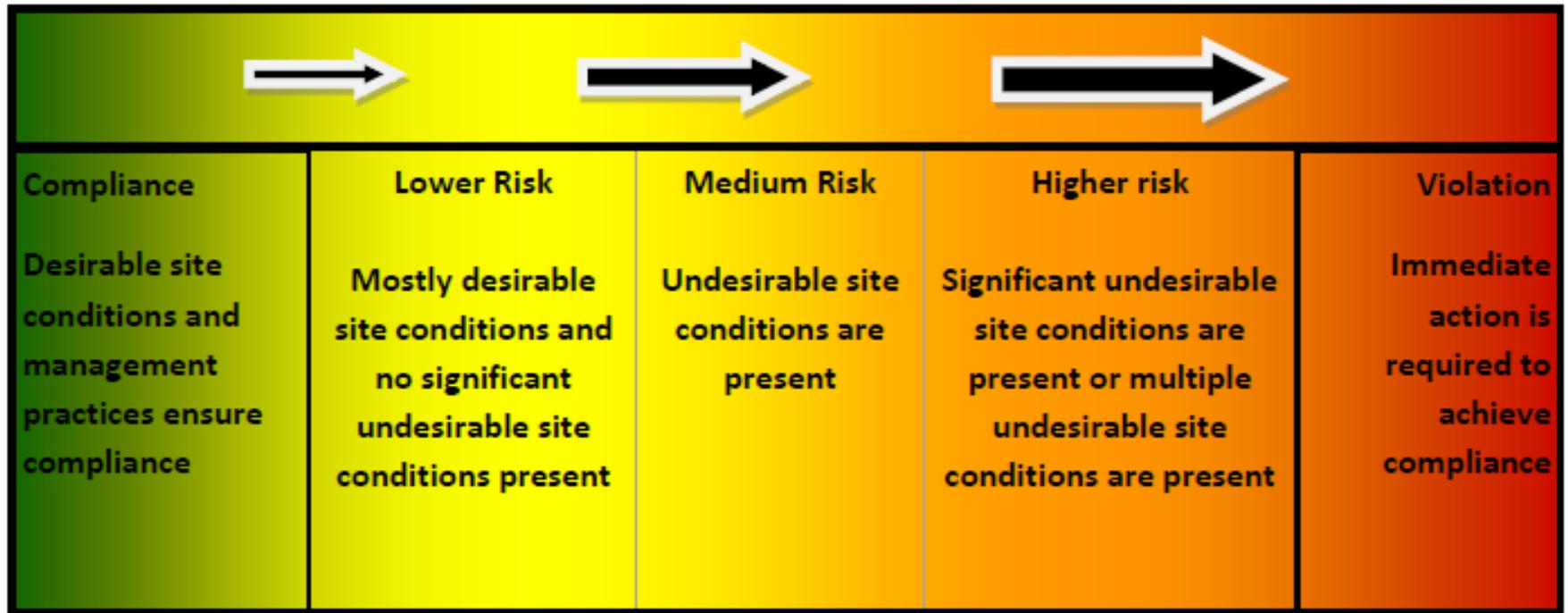
- Stay in a watershed and follow through. Do not jump around.
- Better upfront communication.
- Engage Producer Groups.
- More specificity in communications.
- Increased clarity around nonpoint pollution problems.
- Promote consistency between regions.
- Continue to emphasize the use of technical and financial assistance resources.

How we identify problems

Clean Water and Livestock Operations: Assessing Risks to Water Quality



Risk Continuum



What BMPs do we recommend?

Voluntary Clean Water Guidance for Agriculture

- Advisory group structure
- What type of information would be included in the guidance
- Look at effectiveness and implementation considerations
- General principles

Other Topics

- Sampling
- WOTUS
- Farmed Smart
- Roles of different agencies
- CAFO permit
- VSP
- Nonpoint Plan Update
- Clean Samish Initiative
- Dairy Nutrient Management Act Overview
- VSP
- Watershed Evaluation workshops
- Complaint Response
- RCPP



Where do we go from here?