



DEPARTMENT OF
ECOLOGY
State of Washington

Ecology's Nonpoint Program

August 26, 2025

Ecology's Nonpoint Program overview

To support both statewide coordination and local efforts on the ground staff are based out of:

Lacey Headquarters



&

Regional Offices



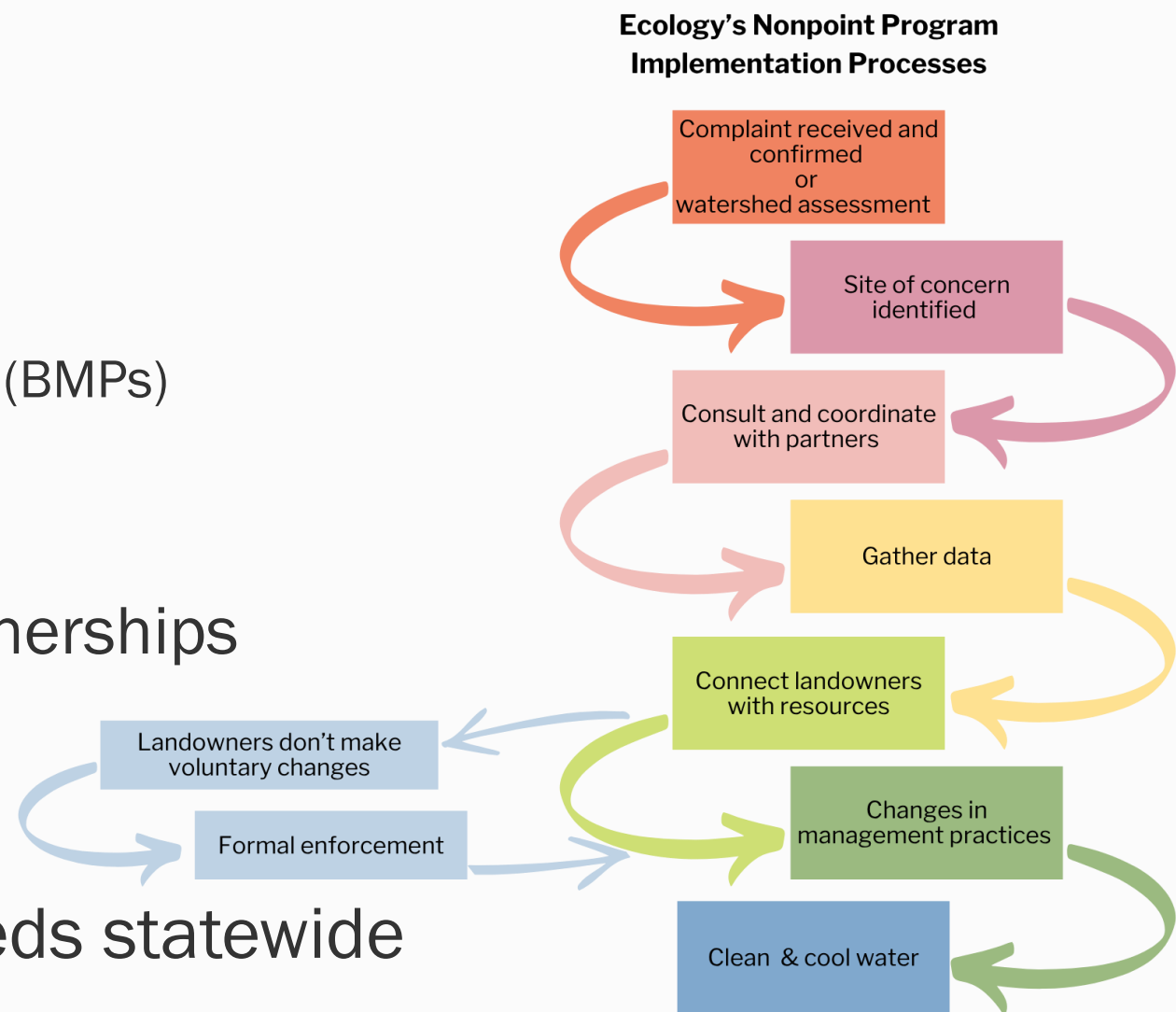
Program Summary

- Approximately 20 Nonpoint compliance staff work out of regional offices
 - Collaborate with local partners, develop knowledge of watershed issues, engage with landowners to achieve compliance with state water quality law, and help implement Best Management Practices (BMPs) on the ground
- Priority watersheds statewide
 - Informed by TMDLs and watershed cleanup plans
 - Focus staff effort, resources, and partner engagement



Nonpoint Program core work

- Nonpoint program focus
 - Cleaning up impaired watersheds
 - Identify nonpoint pollution sources
 - Implement best management practices (BMPs)
 - Proactively address pollution problems
 - Use regulatory authority when needed
 - Develop and strengthen local partnerships
 - Track BMP implementation and effectiveness monitoring
- Efforts focused by priority watersheds statewide

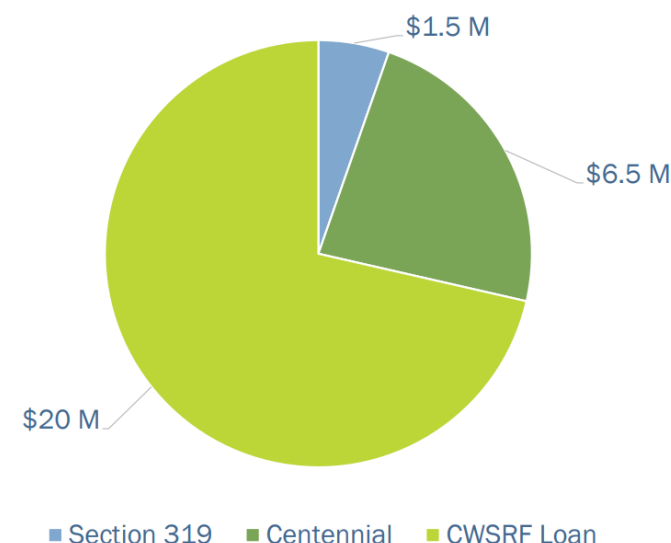


Projects funded through Ecology

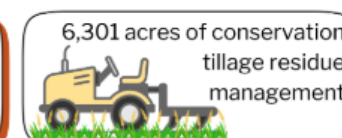
Nonpoint Projects Include:

- Stream restoration projects
- Agriculture BMPs
- Septic System repair and replacement
- Buffers - Riparian Management Zones
- Property acquisitions for preservation and protection

Projected Funding Available for Nonpoint in SFY 2027



Ecology BMPs funded from 2022 - 2024 under existing Nonpoint Plan



Forestry Work

- Adaptive Management Program:
 - CMER (Cooperative Monitoring, Evaluation, and Research Committee), TFW (Timber/Fish/Wildlife) Policy Committee, and Forest Practices Board Member
 - Working with Dept. of Natural Resources (DNR) on rulemaking package for new Type Np buffers
- Regional Forest Practices Specialists: Rules implementation
 - Participate in permit reviews, Interdisciplinary Teams, compliance monitoring &
 - Respond to environmental reports of concern and provide technical assistance
- MOA with Forest Service – agreement renewal in progress*

Best Management Practice Recommendations

- Voluntary Clean Water Guidance for Agriculture: science-based guidance that offers Best Management Practices (BMPs) to help farmers comply with state water quality laws
- Staff utilize guidance BMPs when addressing nonpoint pollution and offering assistance to landowners



Voluntary Clean Water Guidance for Agriculture

Introduction

Water Quality Program

Washington State Department of Ecology
Olympia, Washington

December 2022, Publication 20-10-008

Voluntary Clean Water Guidance for Agriculture

- BMP guidance for agriculture – based on scientific literature and technical guidance reviews.
- Focuses on practices that can be used to protect and restore water quality.
- The guidance is organized into 13 chapters (categories of BMP)
- Includes BMP effectiveness and implementation considerations.
- Developed in consultation with an external advisory group.

Clean Water Guidance chapters

Completed Chapters

- Pasture & Rangeland Management
- Tillage & Residue Management
- Riparian Areas & Surface Water Protection
- Sediment Control (Structural)
- Animal Confinement & Manure Management

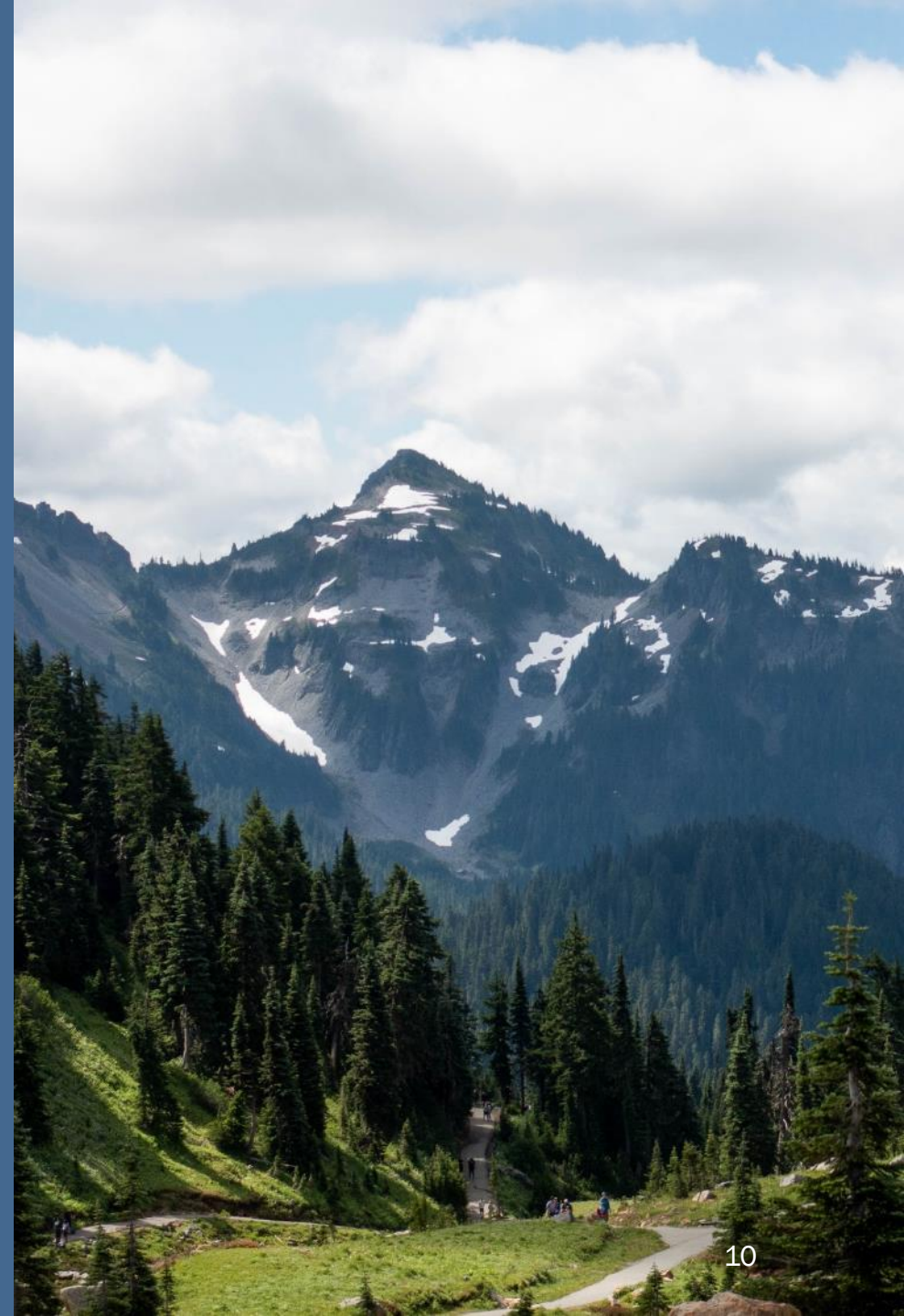
Remaining Chapters*

- Agricultural Facility Runoff Management
- Irrigation Management
- Sediment Capture (Vegetative)
- Nutrient Management
- Crop Systems
- Subsurface Drainage Management
- Pesticide Management
- Suites of Practices

**Remaining chapters to be submitted to EPA by Dec. 31, 2025*



Want a deeper dive
into Ecology's nonpoint
program and WA's work to
address nonpoint pollution?



Nonpoint Plan Overview

- Nonpoint Plan discusses:
 - Overview of nonpoint pollution in WA
 - WA's regulatory framework
 - Strategies for addressing NP pollution
 - Ecology's nonpoint and TMDL programs
 - Best Management Practices
 - Financial incentive programs
 - Non-Ecology programs
 - Monitoring
 - Water Quality partnerships
- Plan ensures funding eligibility



Washington's Water Quality Management Plan to Control Nonpoint Sources of Pollution

Water Quality Program

Washington State Department of Ecology
Olympia, Washington

December 2022, Publication 22-10-025

Want to know more about Ecology's Nonpoint work in your region?

- Every year we are required to submit an Annual Report to EPA.
- As of 2024, these are posted to our [Nonpoint Webpage](#)

Nonpoint Annual Report

We work with local partners across Washington to get solutions on the ground that support communities while achieving clean water.

Read our [2023 Annual Report](#) to learn more about our recent work.



To learn more....

Visit our webpages:

- Nonpoint Program: <https://ecology.wa.gov/water-shorelines/water-quality/nonpoint-pollution>
- Nonpoint Plan & Clean Water Guidance for Agriculture: <https://ecology.wa.gov/regulations-permits/plans-policies/plan-to-control-nonpoint-sources-of-pollution>

Read our blog: [Join the collaborative effort to protect Washington's waters - Washington State Department of Ecology](#)

Nonpoint Program:



Nonpoint Plan & CWG:



Blog:



Thank you

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