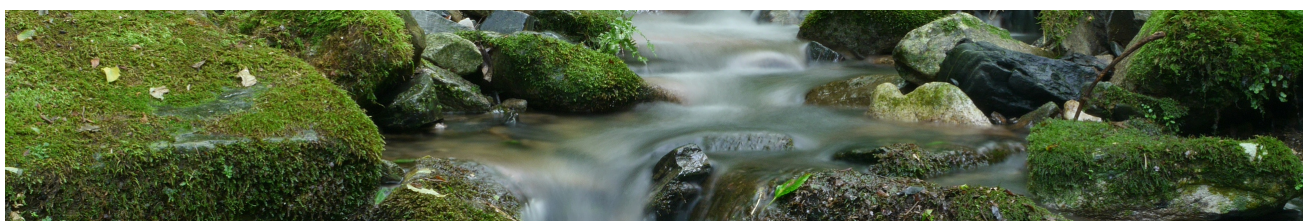




FORESTS AND WATERSHEDS BENEFIT FROM THE EPA'S 319 Nonpoint Source Grant Program

The Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) grants for non-point source pollution prevention, known as Section 319 funds, support the implementation of state-defined best management practices (BMPs) for protecting water resources.

Forestry BMPs are effective and practical ways to protect water quality before, during, and before silvicultural activities. Since the 1970s, state forestry agencies have been testing and improving BMPs. Today, all states have forestry BMPs that, on average nationally, are used appropriately and when needed by loggers 92% of the time.



Twelve forestry BMP projects supported by Section 319 grants were active as of March 2022. These projects were awarded \$2.8 million in 319 funds between 2017 and 2021 and garnered an additional \$5.2 million in non-federal matching funds (more than satisfying the 60:40 match requirement). Their work included: (1) **training loggers, landowners, and governmental entities on BMPs**; (2) **restoring shorelines and stream channels**; and (3) **implementing sediment control measures**. An additional 19 grants during the same time period included forestry work as a project component.



In Montana's Swan Lake watershed, numerous 319 grants have supported the implementation of forest road BMPs to reduce erosion and sedimentation. As a result of these BMPs—which included installing cross drains, rolling dips, and flapper bars; upsizing and replacing culverts; and blading, reshaping, realigning, and decommissioning roads—the state proposed de-listing Jim Creek as sediment/siltation impaired in 2018.



In Mississippi's Long Creek-Fannegusha Creek watershed, a 319 grant was combined with USDA NRCS Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) funds to implement BMPs and mitigate sedimentation and nutrient runoff from farming, forestry, and ranching activities. The water quality in Fannegusha Creek was so improved that the state removed it from its list of impaired waters in 2018.



In Idaho's North Fork Coeur d'Alene River subbasin, a 319 grant was used to reduce sediment pollution and restore coldwater fisheries habitat by decommissioning or repairing eroding forest roads, removing or upgrading stream crossings and culverts, restoring riparian areas and wetlands, and adding large woody debris to stream channels. Water quality in the subbasin improved so significantly that 168 miles of streams have been de-listed as impaired waters.