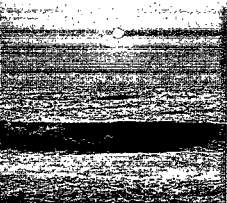


Clean Water Action Plan

The Second Year Report: Progress Through Partnerships

February 2000



"Every child deserves to grow up with water that is pure to drink, lakes that are safe for swimming, rivers that are teeming with fish. We have to act now to combat pollution challenges with new protections to give all our children the gift of clean, safe water in the 21st century."

President Clinton, referring to the Clean Water Action Plan on February 19, 1998.



Restoring &
Protecting
America's Waters

*"People [have] understood the importance of
clean water from the very beginning. It is
about more than a precious natural resource.
It is about more than our lakes and rivers and
streams. It is about the fabric of life itself."*

*Vice President Gore, announcing the Clean Water
Initiative on October 18, 1997.*

Department of Agriculture

Department of the Interior

Department of Defense

Army Corps of Engineers

Department of Commerce

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Environmental Protection Agency

Tennessee Valley Authority

Department of Energy

Department of Transportation

Department of Justice

Introduction

For two years, nine Federal agencies have joined together in a new partnership dedicated to improving water quality in communities across the Nation. Cooperating under the Clean Water Action Plan, announced by President Clinton in February 1998, these agencies have developed strategies and built upon existing programs to address water quality problems by concentrating on watersheds most in need of attention. The opportunity to work together has led to innovative successes; a foundation for continued collaboration; new partnerships with States, Tribes, local governments, and the private sector; and a Federal Government that is more responsive to the needs of its citizens. The many key actions achieved during these first two years have brought us closer to our goal of cleaner water across America.

The Action Plan has provided a focal point for Federal action to assess watershed conditions, establish watershed restoration and protection priorities, and involve local stakeholders. From establishment of conservation buffers to protection of coasts and restoration of wetlands, the record of accomplishment in the two years since the announcement of the Action Plan covers a wide range of watershed issues.

The real strength of the Action Plan is its focus on encouraging Federal agencies to leverage their skills, technical abilities, and resources to solve water quality problems in partnership with communities. Agencies with diverse missions and a variety of programs continue to come together to solve water pollution problems. In 1999, twelve Federal coordination teams formed around the country to foster collaboration on regional and State levels and discuss work in common watersheds. Our partnerships with the private sector have provided opportunities for people to make a difference in their watersheds.

The Action Plan has led to important changes. Focusing on watersheds has revitalized existing programs and increased our effectiveness in cleaning up America's waters. This is a legacy we know will endure.

KEY ACTION

NEW: Throughout this document you will find boxes like this one highlighting major accomplishments in 1999 of key actions described in the Action Plan. Key actions are numbered in the order they appear in the original Action Plan.

KEY ACTION

UPDATE: Updates like these highlight continued progress from the key action accomplishments in 1998. Again, key actions are numbered in the order they appear in the original Action Plan.

You can find out more about the Clean Water Action Plan at www.cleanwater.gov or by contacting one of the partner agencies listed on the inside back cover. To find out more about a specific key action or program, visit our website and click on the Accomplishment box.



The Four Components
of a Watershed

What Is a Watershed?

A watershed is nature's boundary for water resources. It consists of the land within which water drains to a common area. Rainfall and snowmelt flow into streams, rivers, wetlands, lakes, and eventually to the ocean. Or, the water may percolate through the soil to become ground water. As it flows, water picks up contaminants, sediment, and debris. Therefore, the physical, chemical, and biological processes within a watershed, including human activities, may affect the quantity and quality of water in the receiving waterbodies.

Watersheds may be as small as just a few acres, or as large as several States. The U.S. Geological Survey has divided the Nation into 2,149 moderately sized watersheds, which average approximately 1,700 square miles. This scale is useful for observing watershed conditions across the Nation.

This second year report is organized to reflect the components of a watershed. We begin with community involvement and the importance of work needed at all levels to make our water cleaner and safer.

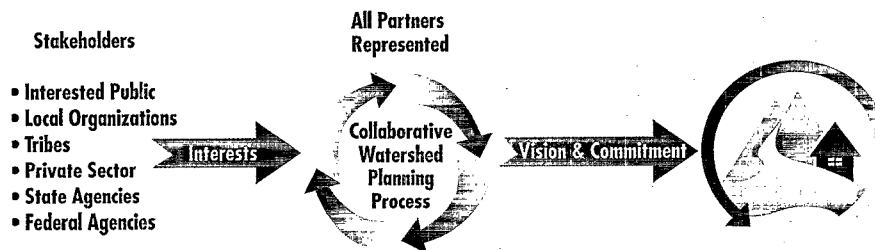
Throughout the report, we recognize those significant key actions that strengthen the science, data, and information on which to base watershed restoration activities. We report on key actions according to the part of the watershed they affect. Successful key actions are grouped into actions that address: the land that encompasses the waters; the wetlands and riparian areas that border waterways; the rivers, lakes, and streams into which runoff flows; and the beaches, coasts, and oceans that are our water's "final destination."

By addressing water quality problems on a watershed scale, our efforts become more effective with comprehensive and more lasting results. The Action Plan encourages communities; Federal, State, and local government agencies; Tribes; and the private sector to share ideas, strategies, resources, and information. Improvements in the health of our watersheds will mean improvements in the quality of life for many generations to come.

Community Involvement

Community involvement is the driving force behind the Action Plan. Ensuring healthy watersheds is not an easy task, nor is it a job that any single government agency, community group, or professional organization can do alone. Together, Federal agencies, States, Tribes, local watershed groups, private businesses, and communities bring their energy and resources to successfully improve watershed health.

The Action Plan promotes community involvement and collaboration. For example, under the Watershed Assistance Grants Program described in the Action Plan, River Network, a national nonprofit organization dedicated to helping people protect their watersheds, has awarded grants to 47 local communities. These grants support new watershed partnerships and build outreach, education, monitoring, and planning capabilities at the local level. The Action Plan promoted the development of new Internet sites that have put important information into the hands of citizens to help them make practical, knowledgeable decisions about their health and their environment.



KEY ACTION

UPDATE: Watershed Assistance Grants and Coordinators #103, 109 – With more than 800 requests from 49 States, interest in the grants program exceeded available funds in 1999. Approximately \$643,000 in Watershed Assistance Grants was awarded to watershed groups.

KEY ACTION

UPDATE: Water Information Network #92, 93 – The first version of the Water Information Network was released in March 1999 on the Internet at www.cleanwater.gov/win. The site provides comprehensive sets of information from many Federal agencies to the public on the condition of resources, projects underway within each watershed, and how to obtain Federal technical and financial assistance for watershed restoration and protection efforts.

The Action Plan encourages Federal agencies to provide opportunities for local, State, and Tribal officials to formulate watershed restoration and protection plans. Regional watershed roundtable meetings across the country have enhanced communication and promoted integrated action among local watershed stakeholders. These include civic organizations; businesses; agriculture; Tribes; and local, State, and Federal Government agencies that are working to better protect, manage, and restore the Nation's watersheds. A national watershed forum in 2001 will bring government leaders and local watershed stakeholders together to discuss new directions for cooperative actions. Strengthening and building these new partnerships will sustain watersheds throughout this new century.

KEY ACTION

UPDATE: Watershed Roundtables #108 – Regional watershed roundtables convened in the Southeast, Alaska, California, and Delaware River Basin. Several more plan to meet by spring 2000.

KEY ACTION

UPDATE: Assistance to Tribes #101 – Federal partners worked together to provide technical assistance to Tribes in a series of five workshops around the country. More than 80 Tribes developed unified watershed assessments to help identify solutions to watershed problems.

KEY ACTION

NEW: Watershed Awards #105 – In the spirit of the Action Plan, CF Industries honored three communities and one corporation in its annual National Watershed Awards. Recipients were recognized for innovative local partnerships that seek to improve water quality by balancing a watershed's environmental and economic needs.

"A watershed is almost like a house, with walls of hills and mountains, a floor of rivers and lakes, and a roof of rain clouds." –

Port Graham/Nanwalek Watershed Council



USDA-Bob Nichols



USDA-Bob Nichols

Uplands



What happens on the land affects our water. Everything we do—in our neighborhoods, in industrial areas, on roads, and in our cities—can alter the quality of our rivers, lakes, aquifers, and coastal waters. The “upland” area of a watershed is just that, the land that surrounds the water — the high forests, rangelands, plains and deserts. These areas play important roles in the overall health and condition of not just the river or stream below, but the entire watershed.

Uplands are some of the entry points for many contaminants and pollutants in our waters—pollution works its way over the land and through the ground into our waters with the assistance of rain and snowmelt. The Action Plan describes initiatives that address sources of water pollution that start on land, including initiatives to address polluted runoff.

KEY ACTION

UPDATE: Cutting Pollution From

Abandoned Hardrock Mines #29 — The Action Plan encourages partnerships among Federal, State, Tribal, and local land managers to address watershed pollution from abandoned hardrock mines, using a watershed approach. Cleanup efforts at ten project sites are completed and work has begun at 120 new sites in 31 watersheds across 12 States. These projects are multi-stakeholder and multi-year investments.

KEY ACTION

UPDATE: Reducing Pollution From

Abandoned Coal Mines #31 — As anticipated in the Action Plan, Clean Streams Initiative efforts to neutralize acid mine drainage pollution from abandoned coal mines were stepped up in 1999. Eight projects (in Ohio, Pennsylvania, Indiana, Maryland, and Kentucky) were completed during the year — a 100-percent increase over 1998. Two important new elements of the Clean Streams Initiative were introduced in 1999 — a watershed cooperative agreement program to directly fund locally sponsored projects and a summer internship program to assist local groups.

Activities to address polluted runoff have gained momentum since 1998. The Action Plan highlights Federal activities to address the effects that highways, animal feeding operations, abandoned mines, and storm water have on watershed health. Other projects work to protect the quality of drinking water nationwide, including identification and protection of areas that are sources of drinking water and studies of aquifers and streams.

KEY ACTION

UPDATE: Protecting Sources of Drinking

Water #15 — Seven new projects have been initiated since 1998 to assist States with assessments of their drinking water sources. An additional 30 projects supported assessment goals.

KEY ACTION

UPDATE: Animal Feeding Operations

Strategy #81, 82 — The unified national strategy for animal feeding operations was announced by Vice President Gore in March 1999. This strategy proposes to address polluted runoff by using a combination of voluntary and regulatory approaches under existing authorities to help animal feeding operation owners and operators reduce threats to public health and water quality, and remain economically viable.

KEY ACTION

UPDATE: Watershed Management on

Federal Lands #19 — A proposed unified Federal policy will provide a framework for Federal agencies to take a unified approach in assessing watershed health and for natural resources management on Federal lands.

KEY ACTION

UPDATE: Risk Management #68 – Five risk management insurance products are now available from private industries for agricultural producers who use best management practices, such as integrated pest management, nutrient management, and conservation tillage. Six more integrated pest management products are expected to be available in 2000.

KEY ACTION

UPDATE: Continuing To Combat Polluted Runoff With State Revolving Fund Loans #73 – In 1999, \$170 million from the clean water State revolving loan fund was spent by States and local communities to target high-priority polluted runoff and habitat projects, including removal of leaking underground storage tanks, correction of failed septic tanks, conservation easements, and wetlands restoration.

Key actions described in the Action Plan promoted innovative ways to protect our water resources through new incentives, resources, and efficient planning into the future. Some communities are integrating 'smart growth' principles into their development plans, helping to ensure that growth and expansion are managed sustainably, with an eye toward protecting the environment and improving water quality.

KEY ACTION

NEW: New Curbs on Storm Water Runoff #79 – A new rule was issued under Clean Water Act authorities in November 1999 to protect America's waterways by curbing storm water runoff. The new storm water regulation expands coverage to include smaller construction sites between one and five acres and municipal storm sewer systems in urbanized areas serving populations of less than 100,000.

KEY ACTION

NEW: National Forest Roads #21 – The Action Plan encourages a temporary moratorium on new road construction in America's national forests. In February 1999, construction on unroaded areas was suspended until a new analysis and management policy is issued. In October 1999, President Clinton directed development of an environmental impact statement and regulations to permanently prohibit new roads on nearly 40 million acres.

KEY ACTION

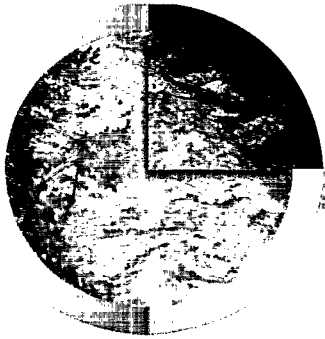
NEW: Smart Growth #83, 84 – Smart growth is an important component of the Action Plan. The Interagency Work Group on Sustainable Communities has completed its work to examine the challenges our communities face and some of the innovative ways they are meeting those challenges. A final report identifies current tools and resources provided by the Federal Government.



USDA-Arson Eglin

*that encompass
the waters*

Wetlands and Riparian Areas



Wetlands and riparian areas play crucial roles as fish and wildlife habitat. They also act as filters to trap pollution from upland sources before it reaches rivers, streams, and lakes.

Wetlands perform many functions essential to the overall health of a watershed. They regulate the flow of water by controlling runoff and erosion, cycle nutrients through a host

of unique plant and animal species, and act as a "storage" area for excess nutrients, sediment, and other pollutants that could degrade our waterways. Riparian areas are broadly defined as those areas that border a waterbody. They range in size from a few feet on either side of a small stream to several miles wide on large river segments. Riparian areas are rich in biodiversity and form critical links between land and water.

KEY ACTION

UPDATE: Expanding Wetlands Reserve #38 — An additional 119,994 acres of wetlands were voluntarily enrolled by farmers in the Wetlands Reserve Program in 1999. In addition, more than 14,800 acres of high-priority wetlands were restored with the help of private sector partners through other Federal programs.

KEY ACTION

UPDATE: Conservation Buffers #62, 63, 64 — More than 720,000 miles of buffers on agricultural lands along rivers, streams, and field borders have been established since 1998.

Many riparian areas have been degraded, causing erosion, habitat loss, and more pollution. The Action Plan addresses this rapidly disappearing resource and the importance of healthy ecosystems by encouraging Federal agencies to dedicate Federal funds to showcase demonstration projects. Agencies have also taken steps to strengthen wetlands mitigation and restoration projects. The Challenge 21 Initiative, supported by the Action Plan, combines flood hazard mitigation with river restoration. Communities, Tribes, and local



EPA Steve Delaney

watershed groups are also mobilizing in an effort to protect, restore, and expand the Nation's wetlands and riparian areas. The Action Plan sets a goal of establishing 2 million miles of conservation buffers on agricultural lands and a commitment to achieve a net annual gain of 100,000 acres of wetlands per year to improve water quality, enhance wildlife habitat, and restore biodiversity.

KEY ACTION

UPDATE: Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) Guidance and Assistance to States #65, 66 – Two additional States have signed up to participate in the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program, which targets water quality, soil erosion, and wildlife habitat issues related to agricultural use. This brings the total to eight States, with agreements pending in two more States.

KEY ACTION

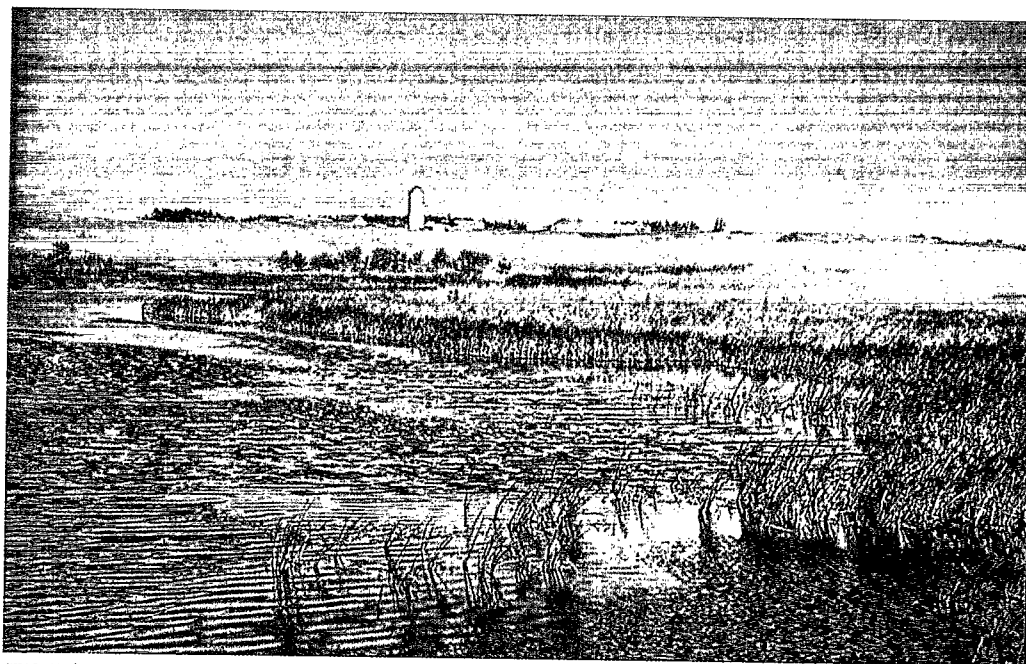
UPDATE: Wetlands Mitigation and Community Restoration #41, 42 – The Five Star Grant program provides assistance to support community-based wetland and riparian restoration projects, education, and training. In 1999, \$500,000 was awarded for 50 projects, involving more than 1,500 partner groups.

KEY ACTION

UPDATE: Stream Corridor Restoration Demonstration Projects #61 – Twelve demonstration project sites were designated in 1999 to showcase modern stream corridor restoration technologies. The sites represent a variety of geographic locations and conditions, with projects designed to improve multi-stakeholder partnerships, local communities, and the environment. Nationwide, Federal agencies also have helped restore and improve a significant number of miles of stream corridors and riparian habitats.



EPA-Steve Delaney

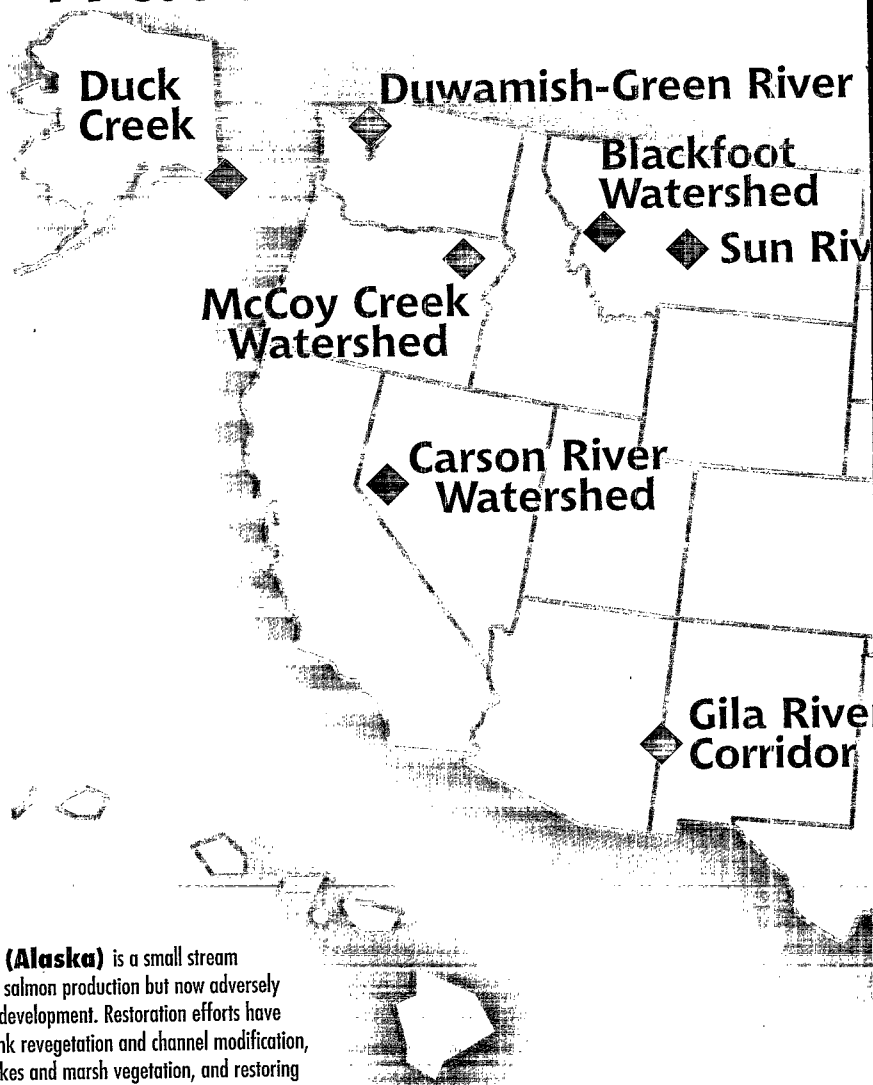


USDA-Erin W. Cole

*that border
the waterways*

Showcase Watersheds—

Under Key Action #61, twelve restoration projects, initiated before the Action Plan, were designated as showcase watersheds for their ongoing use of stream corridor restoration technologies to improve the community, the environment, and water quality. They represent a wide variety of geographic locations and conditions; a balance of management practice and technical design; strong local, Tribal, or State leadership; and Federal partnership in stream corridor restoration.



Duck Creek (Alaska) is a small stream once important for salmon production but now adversely affected by urban development. Restoration efforts have included streambank revegetation and channel modification, planting willow stakes and marsh vegetation, and restoring salmon spawning habitat by reconfiguring the stream channel, removing fine sediment, and increasing dissolved oxygen levels.

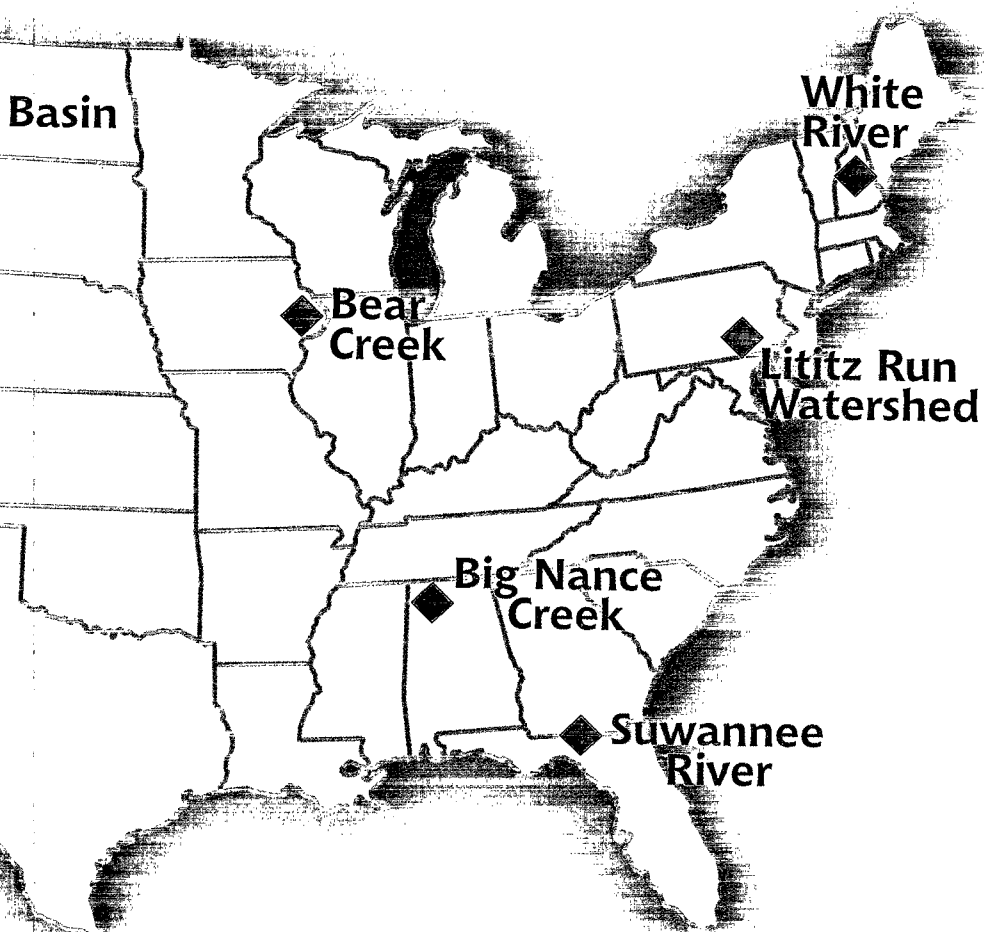
The Duwamish-Green River Watershed's (Washington) rivers are now being restored in a broad-based, ecosystem-oriented program with several projects. The Hamm Creek Project provided 6 acres of estuarine habitat along the Duwamish River to better support critical life stages of salmon. The Puget Creek Project restored a former estuary to productive fish and wildlife habitat. Other projects will restore off-channel habitats, create wetlands, nourish spawning gravels, and improve fish passage.

The McCoy Creek Watershed (Oregon) restoration project reconnected a channelized part of the creek to its former meandering channel and wet meadow, causing dramatic improvements in water temperature and volume of flow that should help increase salmon populations. The project's main partners included private ranch landowners; Tribes; a local watershed program; and local, State, and Federal agencies.

In the Carson River Watershed (Nevada) local concerns about erosion, sedimentation, and aquatic habitat degradation led to more than 70 districts, councils, service clubs, ranch organizations, environmental organizations, schools, youth groups, churches, and county, State, and Federal agencies joining forces to conserve this watershed. Groups working on the river have completed 10 miles of stream restoration through 30 projects, utilizing 15 different technologies.

The Blackfoot River Watershed (Montana) is being restored by a "grass roots" group called the Blackfoot Challenge, using an approach that combines education, non-native weed control, and habitat restoration projects. More than 83 miles of instream and riparian areas, 2,100 acres of wetlands, and 2,300 acres of native grasslands have been restored.

atershed



The White River Watershed

(Vermont) partnership's goal is to restore river corridors through collaborative public involvement, determining issues and desired future conditions, and restoration action. Restoration practices include restoration of large woody debris, riparian management and buffer establishment, bioengineering to stabilize banks, livestock exclusion and alternate water sources, rock and log vanes, and rock armoring.

The Lititz Run Watershed

(Pennsylvania) restoration project has engaged citizens, scientists, and local and State government agencies as local watershed alliance partners in a coordinated set of 15 restoration projects in key locations throughout the watershed. The community is improving its water quality through a comprehensive long-term watershed management strategy that combines techniques in natural resource management, land use planning, education, and community involvement in addressing polluted runoff.

The Bear Creek Watershed (Iowa)

restoration project has partnered university research and development with landowner cooperation in developing a stream restoration approach that includes a multi-species riparian buffer, soil bioengineering and grade control technologies for streambank stabilization, constructed wetlands to intercept and process runoff pollutants in agricultural drainage tile water, and rotational grazing systems that limit livestock access to the stream channel.

The Big Nance Creek Watershed

(Alabama) project builds on local leadership and landowner interests. One project has restored a floodplain stream segment and wetlands formerly in livestock production. Under local leadership, Federal, State, and private groups are working with private landowners to plant native hardwoods and vegetation, stabilize streambanks with bioengineering techniques, and hire a watershed coordinator to encourage conservation practices that reduce polluted runoff.

The Suwannee River Watershed

(Georgia-Florida) is a center for southeastern coastal plain riparian forest buffer research and demonstration. The main approaches for stream corridor restoration and protection in the watershed focus on agricultural lands in the headwaters areas and land acquisition along main channels in the downstream areas.

The Sun River Watershed's

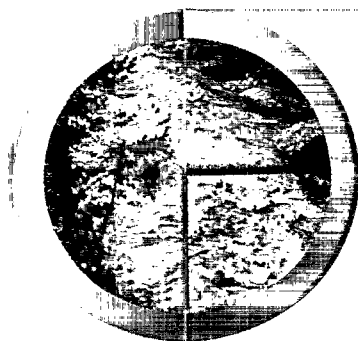
(Montana) spectacular wildlife and fish populations have become threatened by excessive bank erosion, reduced flow volume, and noxious aquatic weed problems. The restoration of this watershed is improving land management practices through education and installing restoration treatments such as brush mattresses and root wads to increase bank stability.

The Gila River Watershed (Arizona-

New Mexico) had been degraded through past logging and domestic grazing practices. Government agencies and public and private organizations undertook projects to restore riparian and upland areas through improved livestock management, control of off-road vehicles, and the use of bioengineering techniques and prescribed fire.

*The spirit of the clean
water action plan*

Rivers, Lakes, and Streams



Clean water is important to our health, our environment, our economy, and our way of life. This is especially true for our Nation's rivers, lakes, and streams. These waterbodies provide us with fish, recreation, transportation corridors, irrigation, and industrial inputs. At the same time, they support a wide variety of plant and animal species that thrive in unique ecosystems. When the quality of these water resources is compromised, the resulting effects can be widespread.

Many rivers, lakes, and streams remain in trouble, not meeting water quality standards and requiring health advisories to protect those eating fish caught in these polluted waters. Several agencies are supporting the goals of the Action Plan through enforcement initiatives. Under the Mississippi River Basin Enforcement Initiative, agencies are coordinating a multi-media effort under existing authorities to fight pollution. The Initiative has led to effective enforcement of the Clean Water Act's concentrated animal feeding operations, wetlands, and other provisions in States throughout the Basin. The Action Plan provides a

framework for key actions to restore polluted waterbodies. Many key actions have outlined opportunities to clean up pollution problems and set examples for effective water quality monitoring and assessment.

KEY ACTION

UPDATE: Watershed Assessments on Federal Lands #33 — More than 35 watershed assessment projects were initiated to help protect water resources in our national parks, monuments, recreation areas, and scenic riverways. Some of these projects will help to ensure safer swimming at beaches and safer drinking water; some will enhance baseline monitoring and assessments; others are designed to assess the effects of changing atmospheric deposition on lake chemistry. In 2000, more than ten new projects will be initiated.

KEY ACTION

UPDATE: Assessing Rivers and Streams #35 — Assessments of the quality of reservoirs and streams affected by reclamation operations were expanded to two additional sites in 1999, bringing the total to five. The projects are underway in Grand Coulee (Washington), Upper Klamath (California and Oregon), Angostura reservoir on the Cheyenne River (South Dakota), San Pedro River (Arizona), and Elephant Butte reservoir on the Rio Grande (New Mexico and Texas).

Protecting public health is an important focus of the Action Plan. In 1998, brochures were developed to highlight risks associated with cumulative effects of consuming large amounts of fish contaminated by toxins. A 1999 fish epidemiology study of exposure levels in certain populations



USDA-Dan Schuhart

found further health risks associated with eating contaminated fish.

KEY ACTION

NEW: Great Lakes Fish Epidemiology

Study #6 – Significant progress has been made in reporting and evaluating findings that address public health issues relating to exposure to contaminants in the Great Lakes Basin. Recent research was instrumental in implementing a uniform Great Lakes fish advisory now used by all eight Great Lakes States.

Excess nutrients are a major source of pollution in our waters. As anticipated in the Action Plan, a multi-year strategy for the develop-

ment and implementation of nutrient technical guidance and criteria has been issued. Key actions set ambitious plans for research, technical guidance, and monitoring of water quality. These plans will help form strategies for restoration and protection into the future.

KEY ACTION

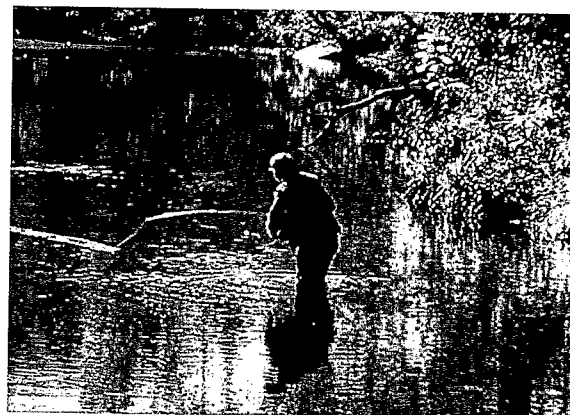
NEW: Nutrient Standards for Rivers and Streams #74

– As part of a multi-year strategy, a draft nutrient criteria technical guidance manual for rivers and streams was issued in October 1999. The draft guidance will help managers develop ecoregion- and waterbody-specific nutrient criteria for the Nation's rivers and streams.

KEY ACTION

NEW: Nutrient Modeling Report #89

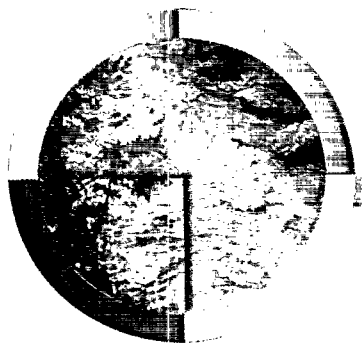
– Models were developed to evaluate the amount of nutrients entering the Chesapeake Bay watershed. Information in the report is being used to target nutrient-reduction areas and to design nutrient load reduction plans specific to each tributary.



EPA/Steve Delaney

*into which
runoff flows*

Beaches, Coasts, and Oceans



Many Americans derive benefits from our Nation's 95,000 miles of coastline that stretch along oceans, estuaries, and the Great Lakes. These living resources provide us with an important food source, raw materials for industry, new medicines to improve health, and unique recreational opportunities.

Estuaries are formed when fresh water from rivers and streams flows into the ocean, mixing with seawater. Sometimes called "nurseries of the sea," they are home to vast and diverse species in early, fragile stages of their lives. Pollution originating in other parts of a watershed is carried by our rivers and streams to our estuaries and oceans.

Unfortunately, increasing pollution and development are upsetting the natural balance of our estuaries and oceans and threatening their health—resulting in beach and shellfish bed closings, harmful algal blooms (such as *Pfiesteria*), declines in fisheries, loss of aquatic habitats, and a host of other human health and natural resource problems.

Key actions provide a strong framework for responding to coastal pollution problems. In 1998, an emergency response system for major algal bloom outbreaks incorporated the technical and resource abilities of diverse Federal agencies. State and Territorial management plans were also conditionally approved to help control polluted runoff in our coastal regions.

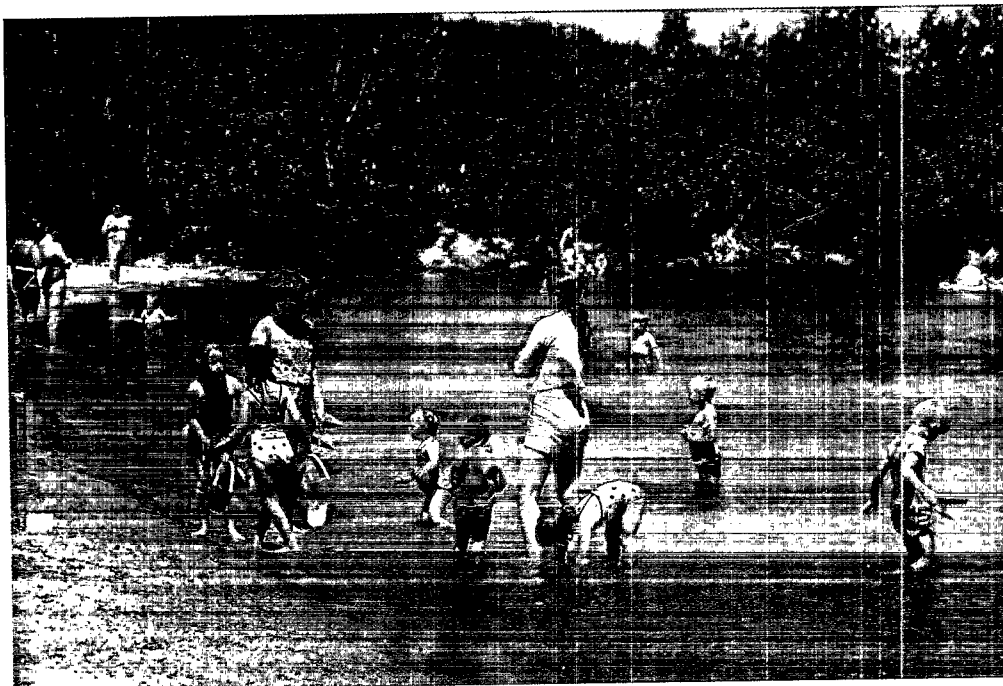
KEY ACTION

NEW: Efforts To Reduce Coastal Polluted Runoff #52 — In 1999, \$7.2 million was awarded to 33 coastal States and Territories to improve their ability to manage polluted runoff.

KEY ACTION

NEW: Implementation of Harmful Algal Bloom Strategy #53 — Harmful algal bloom monitoring studies were initiated in Maryland and Florida to identify environmental conditions that can lead to outbreaks of *Pfiesteria*. This program will expand into other coastal States in the future.

In 1999, the Action Plan encouraged additional research, monitoring, and funding to protect public health and coastal environments. Actions have focused on ensuring the safety of the fish we eat and the beaches we visit. As we learn more about the impacts of pollution in our coastal regions, we will better be able to protect these sensitive areas in the future.



EPA/Steve Delaney

KEY ACTION

NEW: National Commercial Shellfish Resources Classification #9 – A report and CD-ROM on the status of national shellfish bed conditions and the factors leading to harvest limitations were released in 1999. The national shellfish registry report assessed more than 4,000 shellfish growing areas around the country and identified measures needed to reopen closed or restricted shellfish beds.

KEY ACTION

NEW: Protecting Our Beaches #11 – The Beach Action Plan, released in April 1999, is a multi-year strategy to help States and localities protect public health at beaches and recreational

waters. Under the Plan, data will be collected on State and local monitoring and protection activities to assist State and local managers in strengthening water quality standards and improve the science that supports these efforts.

KEY ACTION

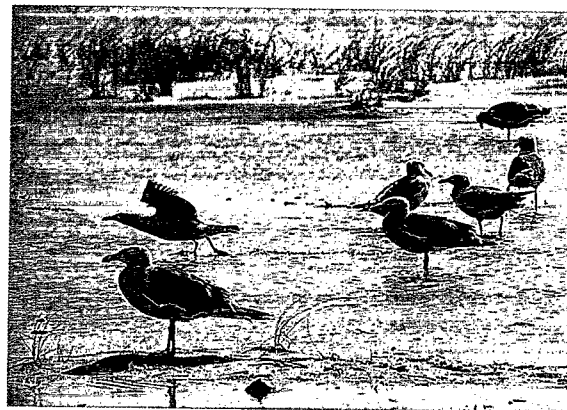
NEW: Identification of Essential Fish Habitat #54 – Essential fish habitat was designated for 39 of 40 Federal fisheries in the United States. Federal fishery management plans must now include measures that minimize to the extent practicable the adverse effects of fishing on these habitats.

KEY ACTION

NEW: Coastal Research Strategy #59, 60 – A draft strategy has been developed which provides a basic assessment of the Nation's coastal research and monitoring needs, and recommends an integrated framework to protect vital coastal resources.



EPA-Steve Delaney



EPA-Steve Delaney

*that are our Water's
“final destination”*

Outlook for the Future



The Action Plan continues to promote better coordination of Federal programs in whole watersheds that need to be protected and restored. Watershed solutions continue to gain momentum. To date, all 56 States and Territories and more than 80 Tribes have completed comprehensive unified watershed assessments, identifying more than 800 of the Nation's 2,149 watersheds as priorities for action beginning in 1999 and into 2000.

Work has begun in many of these priority watersheds. Already, more than 300 watershed restoration action strategies are guiding the design and implementation of projects that stem the various sources of

watershed pollution. Although it will take several years to complete action strategies for all high-priority watersheds, States, Territories, and Tribes are currently using their watershed restoration action strategies to coordinate their programs and plan for future restoration activities. Together, Federal, State, and local governments, Tribes, the private sector, and communities are working toward healthy watersheds for our future.

KEY ACTION

NEW: Watershed Restoration Action Strategies #98 – Many States, Tribes and local organizations are working on strategies to restore their watersheds based on new assessments or existing watershed, ecosystem, conservation, or other integrated plans. In fiscal years 1999 and

2000, Congress appropriated an additional \$100 million in Clean Water Act funding that was provided to States and Tribes to update polluted runoff programs and develop and implement watershed restoration action strategies for those watersheds with the greatest needs.

KEY ACTION

FUTURE: Watershed Restoration Progress Report #102 – By December 2000, a Watershed Restoration Progress Report will highlight restoration efforts across the Nation. This report will provide descriptions of effective interagency coordination, tips for building and sustaining partnerships at the local level, and feedback from roundtable meetings that have focused on watershed restoration efforts.



U.A. Baker, National Park Service

Action Plan Funding for the Future

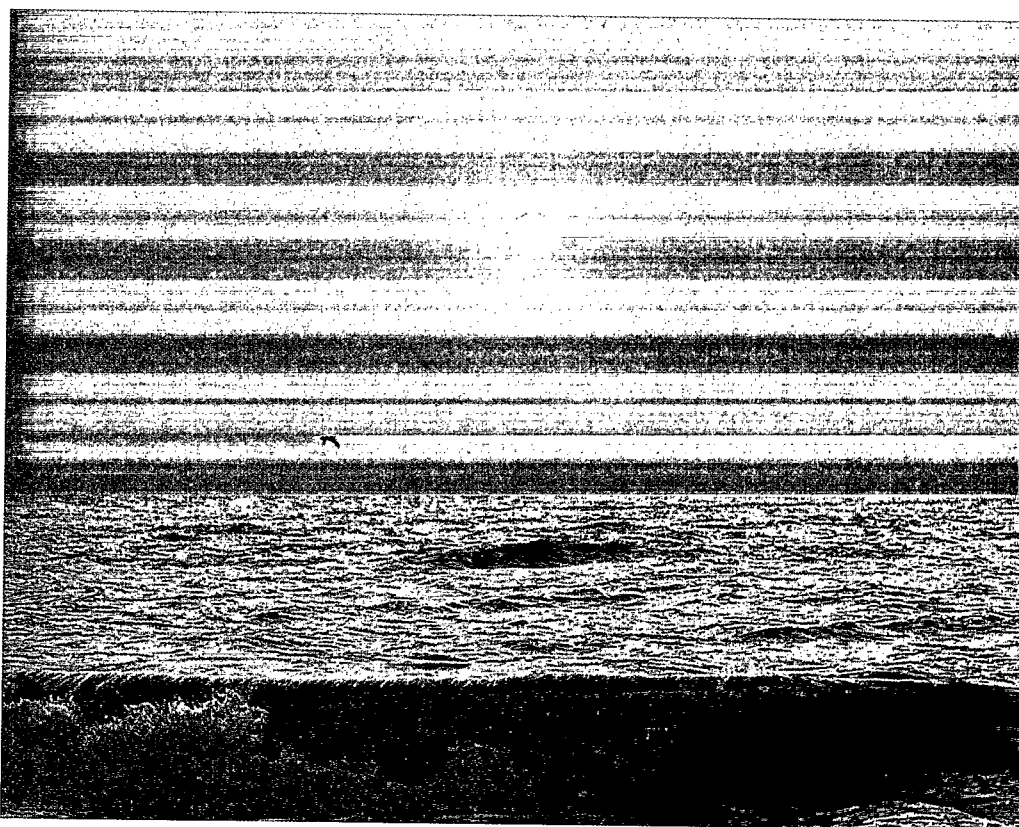
The President has requested almost \$2.8 billion, an increase of \$584 million, to support the key actions in the Action Plan in FY 2001.

Highlights include:

- \$794 million to help improve water quality on Federal lands;
- \$411 million in grants to States and Tribes for water programs;
- \$334 million for Florida Everglades restoration;
- \$325 million to help farmers address polluted runoff;
- \$73 million for technical assistance to animal feeding operations owners and operators;
- \$58 million to improve water quality and wetland habitats for migratory birds and other wildlife;
- \$50 million in new grants to help restore polluted Great Lakes "areas of concern";
- \$20 million to implement a newly authorized floodplain restoration initiative;
- \$32 million to help address water quality problems from abandoned mines;
- \$22 million to expand research, monitoring, and rapid response to harmful algal bloom outbreaks, and implement coastal polluted runoff programs.

In two short years, significant achievements have been accomplished as envisioned by the Action Plan. The foundation has been provided for new efforts as we move ahead in 2000 and beyond. The Action Plan promotes key actions that demonstrate how successful the watershed approach is in

assessing local conditions and achieving sustainable solutions for the future. Energized communities are building new partnerships to protect and restore the health of their watersheds. Clean water is important to all of us. Healthy watersheds mean healthy people.



EPA/Steve Delaney

Directory of Key Actions

The original Clean Water Action Plan includes 111 specific Key Actions.
The following Key Actions are numbered in order of their appearance on the pages of the Clean Water Action Plan.

{Bold reflects completed actions. Many of these actions are ongoing}

| Action # | Description | Page # | Action # | Description | Page # |
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Clean Water Action Plan Partnership



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