OREGON (REGION 10)

A Snapshot of Oregon's TMDL Program (August 2008)

The Basics

Key Agency/Department & website

Oregon Department of Environmental Quality
www.deq.state.or.us/wq/TMDLs/tmdls.htm

TMDL Program Structure/Placement

Housed in Water Quality Program / Watershed Management Section

By the Numbers

Number of Impaired Waters		1,397
Number of Causes of Impairment		1,732
Top Five Causes of Impairment	1. Temperature 2. Pathogens 3. Metals (other than mercury) 4. Organic Enrichment/Oxygen Depletion 5. Sediment	

Approximate Number of TMDLs Developed Annually	50-120
Total Number of TMDLs Approved (1995 to present, incl. any est'd by EPA)	888
Total Number of TMDLs Approved in 2005/2006/2007	21/207/192
2008 303d/Integrated Report Submission Status (Date)	No 2008 submission
Approximate Number of FTEs Working on TMDL Issues	28

TMDLs

EPA Under Consent Decree to Develop TMDLs?	Y
Broad-Scale? (*e.g.*, watershed, multi-jurisdictional, etc.)	

Non-TMDL Options

Use of Non-TMDL Options to Address Impaired Waters?

Funding

Approximate Annual Budget for TMDL Program	$5,440,00
Primary Source(s) of TMDL Program Funding	state general fund; federal 106, 604, & 104(b)(3) funds

TMDL Implementation

TMDL Implementation Required?	Y

Innovations

TMDLs that Represent a Particular Achievement

--Willamette TMDL (represents a huge volume of work that is our current thinking on how to develop TMDLs)
www.deq.state.or.us/wq/TMDLs/willamette.htm

--Sandy TMDL (highlights of this TMDL include its handling of the dams and use of the Little Sandy as a surrogate for the Bull Run River; also, given the removal of the PGE dams, restructuring of how the City of Portland (COP) withdraws water for water supply v. downstream release (to meet CWA and ESA objectives), and active work by a variety of parties (BLM, River Conservancy, METRO…) to buy and restore/protect riparian areas, it will likely be one of the first basins to come in compliance with the temperature standard (or come awfully close—we need to see how close when COP completes its work around 2012); also, this TMDL received some funding from COP, USFS, and BLM to accelerate its development and was completed ahead of time)
www.deq.state.or.us/wq/TMDLs/sandy.htm

--Tualatin TMDL (The Tualatin Phosphate TMDLs (version I and II) have stood up well over the years and (because they were implemented) have resulted in substantial improvement in water quality)
www.deq.state.or.us/wq/TMDLs/willamette.htm

Barriers

Top Three Barriers to TMDL Development

1. limited resources for: monitoring and data acquisition; model development; no economy of scale, because analytical and modeling methods change or regulatory requirements change, which causes no TMDLs to be developed in the same way
2. addressing NPS parameters that either cannot or should not be expressed in terms of a daily load
3. lack of numeric standards for sedimentation and emerging pollutants (pharmaceuticals and personal care products, current use pesticides)

Top Three Barriers to TMDL Implementation

1. lack of staff within the agency for working with NPSs to implement the TMDL, and lack of resources for the designated management agencies that must meet the TMDL load allocations
2. MEP/TMDL connection for addressing urban storm water in MS4 permits
3. lack of good implementation mechanism for NPSs of pollution and effectiveness monitoring to determine BMP and restoration effectiveness