

Elements of an Effective TMDL State Program: Overcoming Internal Obstacles

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NMED-SWQB
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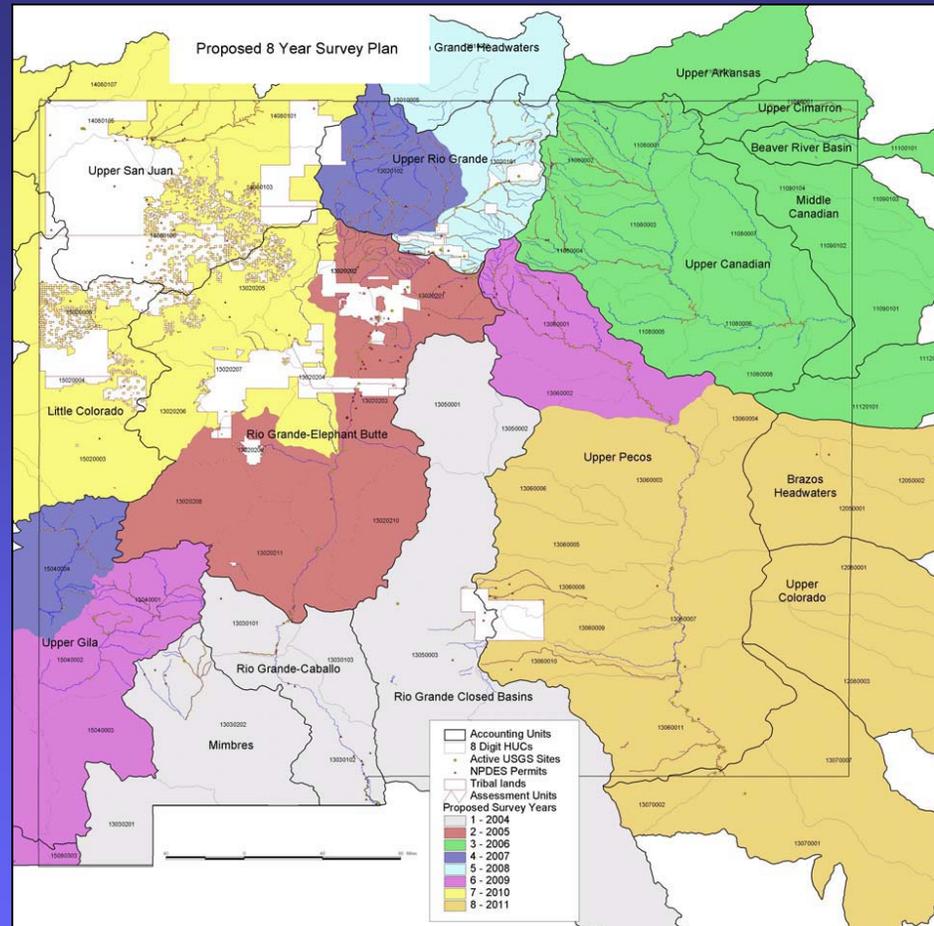


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Background

- NMED functions on a limited budget and serves a large state with a sparse population.
- SWQB is responsible for TMDL and 303(d)/305(b) development, surface WQS, NPDES permitting (with EPA R6), CWA §319(h) Program, as well as all chemical and physical monitoring and assessment of streams, rivers, lakes, and wetlands in the State.
- Consent Decree issued in 1997 and completed by NM in 2007.



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NMED-SWQB Structure

- The NPDES Program is responsible for regulating point source discharges of pollutants to surface watercourses. EPA has administered the program in New Mexico with assistance and oversight by the State.
- The WQS, Planning and Reporting Team oversees the development of WQS as well as the QAPP and other QA/QC activities.
- The Watershed Protection Section is responsible for organizing all federal CWA §319(h) related activities in watersheds with TMDLs or with assessed data. Organized efforts include outreach, facilitation, administration and oversight of CWA §319(h) projects.
- The Monitoring and Assessment Section is responsible for the continual collection, integration, and assessment of water quality data for all lakes and streams in New Mexico as well as TMDL development.



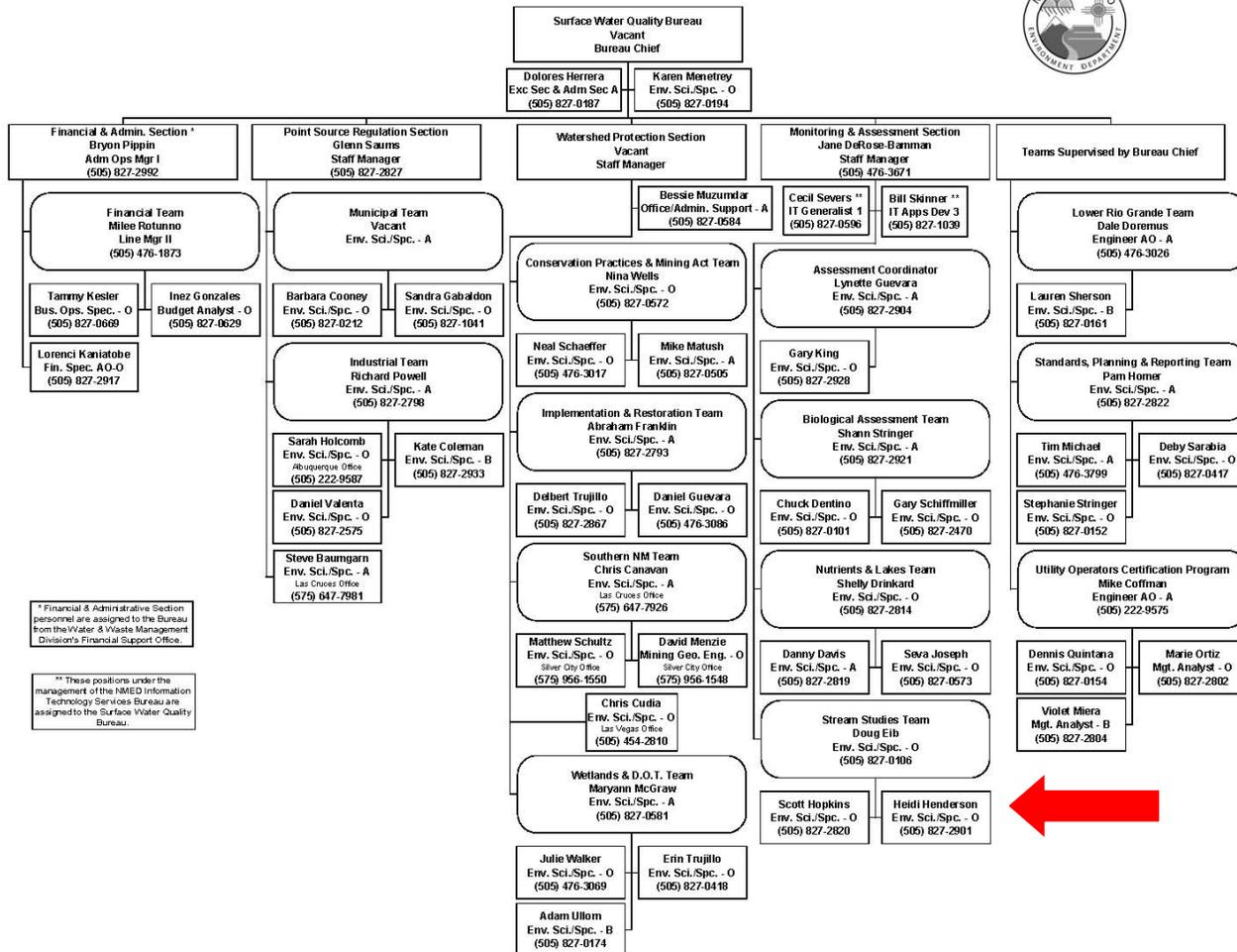
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Where the TMDL Program fits in...

May 19, 2008

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* Financial & Administrative Section personnel are assigned to the Bureau from the Water & Waste Management Division's Financial Support Office.

** These positions under the management of the NMEED Information Technology Services Bureau are assigned to the Surface Water Quality Bureau.

Where the TMDL Program fits in...

- The Monitoring and Assessment Section includes four teams:
 1. Biological Assessment Team
 2. Stream Studies (Chemistry) Team
 3. Nutrients and Lakes Team
 4. Assessment Coordinator
- The TMDL Coordinator is on the Chemistry Team. Both the Nutrients and Lakes Team Leader and the Assessment Coordinator also write TMDLs.
- TMDLs are developed full-time by the TMDL Coordinator and part-time by the other two TMDL staff.



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TMDL staff stay involved in the process



- TMDL staff are an integral part in the planning for watershed surveys and actively participate in field work throughout the year.
- TMDL staff perform assessments and are involved in other aspects of the 303(d)/305(b) List.
- TMDL staff participate in WQS development and associated data collection.
- TMDL staff stay connected to the watershed groups and participate in meetings and projects.
- TMDL staff stay in communication with NPDES staff both before, during, and after TMDL development.

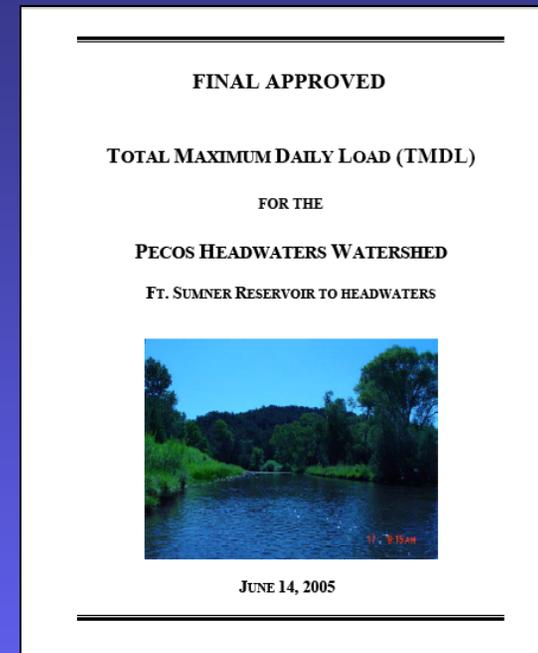


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An Efficient TMDL Program

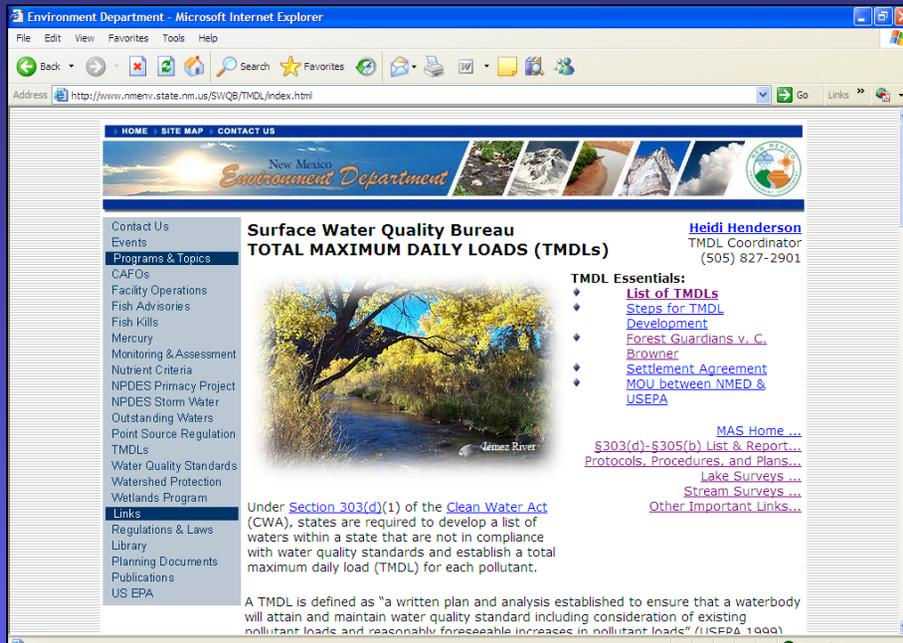
- TMDLs meet the basic requirements; they are simple and incorporate few models. A basic TMDL is more transparent to the public.
- Templates have been developed for most parameters as well as for the organization of the entire document.
- TMDLs are bundled by 8-digit HUC instead of duplicating efforts in separate documents.
- TMDLs are not developed in isolation. Stakeholders and staff are informed during TMDL process.
- TMDL staff participation during survey planning and sampling reduces data gaps when it comes time for TMDL development.



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