

## UPDATED EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The state of Oregon is submitting this document to the United States Environmental Protection Agency in satisfaction of the nonpoint source pollution (NPS) control program update mandate under Section 1329(a) and (b) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, as amended by the Water Quality Act of 1987, and generally referred to as Section 319 of the Clean Water Act (or CWA). The State of Oregon has coordinated development of a single, unified NPS program document. The document represents a unified approach reflecting the fact that the State intends to continue to plan, implement and prioritize actions to address NPS problems on a statewide basis. This approach will also help to avoid undue duplication of effort, assist the State in its goal of developing a single and efficient program for addressing nonpoint source issues and will facilitate State efforts to focus available resources on priority issues.

The document is organized as follows:

Part One, Introduction, following this outline of the document's content, provides context and background information regarding the NPS programs prompting preparation of this plan.

Part Two, provides an overview of the State NPS strategy, and a detailed Phase I implementation (2000-2004) that outlines specific actions, organized by subbasin/priority. Text for this discussion is found in Chapter 2.

- It documents short and long term objectives. It introduces comprehensive programs such as the Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds, built around a set of interconnected water quality, wildlife habitat, and watershed health initiatives collectively. The Plan is an action-oriented approach that includes hundreds of specific objectives and action items and that unites in partnership all the relevant public and private interests. Every natural resource agency at the State and Federal level is involved in this Oregon Plan partnership, and most have of them made ongoing, high priority commitments to those objectives that relate to their particular missions and responsibilities.
- It discusses the Unified Watershed Assessment as a tool to prioritize statewide efforts dealing with watershed based strategies.

Part Three describes the means by which the State as a part of its 5-year strategy will implement its NPS goals. Heavily based on partnerships, the State of Oregon employs a variety of formal and informal methods to coordinate the water quality, watershed health and aquatic habitat related activities. There exist a myriad of partnerships engaged in work that addresses NPS control. Discussion of this strategy is found in Chapter 3, 5 and 6. The commitment to implement NPS goals by various agencies is detailed in Chapter 5 of this document. Although *The Oregon Plan* originally emerged as a way to address the habitat needs of threatened and endangered species, it developed over the years into a comprehensive program to address all issues relating to watershed health and functioning. In many ways, *The Oregon Plan* has

become the sort of instrument for NPS control that was only dreamed of when Oregon's first NPS Program Plan was being assembled in 1989 and 1990.

Part Four, The nine key elements of NPS required by Section 319 guidance is described throughout this document. Such elements serve as a general overview of the State's NPS program and its primary and short-term goals and objectives.

Nine Key Elements in Oregon's Updated NPS Management Program

***Key Element #1: Explicit short- and long-term goals, objectives and strategies to protect surface and groundwater.***

The Oregon Plan deliberately integrates a number of related initiatives, including the NW Forest Plan, the Forest Practices Act, the Agricultural Water Quality Act, the CZARA Section 6217 Coastal NPS Control Program, the National Estuary Program, the Healthy Streams Partnership, the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board grant program, drinking water and groundwater protection programs, and many other programs large and small throughout government and the private sector. Each of these programs contributes goals, objectives, resource condition assessments, management measures, funding sources, and other vital components to the overall Oregon Plan. The NPS program in Oregon has become enriched by all these initiatives, and it is the reason behind the mention of these strategies throughout the document. Please refer to Chapter 2 for a discussion on this theme.

***Key Element #2: Strong working partnerships and collaboration with appropriate State, interstate, Tribal, regional, and local entities (including conservation districts), private sector groups, citizen groups, and Federal agencies.***

A strong evidence of Oregon NPS partnership work is The Oregon Plan, placing an emphasis on watershed-scale organization, and on action-oriented objectives—in other words, on many of the same things that should characterize a State NPS control strategy. The extensive list of Oregon Plan objectives and tasks includes many that address NPS concerns. These objectives represent definite commitments to action made by the public sector partners, including the Federal land management agencies and the State natural resource agencies, and most of the resulting activities are high priorities with either full or significant funding. Because these attributes make *The Oregon Plan* a perfect basis for Oregon's updated NPS Management Program, much of the content of this document is borrowed from that Plan. Please refer to Chapter 2 for additional information on this theme.

***Key Element #3: A balanced approach that emphasizes both statewide nonpoint source programs and on the ground management of individual watersheds where waters are impaired or threatened.***

Chapter 5 of this document describes numerous Oregon Plan objectives and tasks, all relating to NPS control and watershed assessment, restoration, and protection. Progress toward achieving these objectives is reported several times a year to the Governor's office, which assembles the information into an annual "Oregon Plan Implementation Report." The report for 1999 is 160 pages long and is too big to fit into this document.

**Key Element #4:** The State program (a) abates known water quality impairments resulting from nonpoint source pollution; and, (b) prevents significant threats to water quality from present and future nonpoint source activities.

**Key Element #5:** An identification of waters and watersheds impaired or threatened by nonpoint source pollution and a process to progressively address these waters.

**Key Element #6:** The State reviews, upgrades, and implements all program components required by section 319 of the *Clean Water Act*, and establishes flexible, targeted, iterative approaches to achieve and maintain beneficial uses of water as expeditiously as practicable.

**Key Element #7:** An identification of Federal lands and activities, which are not managed consistently with State nonpoint, source program objectives.

***Key Element #8: Efficient and effective management and implementation of the State's nonpoint source program including necessary financial management.***

Chapter 7 references the intention of this NPS Program Plan to guide the expenditure in Oregon of CWA Section 319(h) grant funds, intended for the reduction and prevention of water pollution from nonpoint sources. Each year, the Department publishes one (or more) documents requesting proposals for 319(h) grant funding. These annual documents serve to reiterate and update NPS Program Plan objectives and priorities, assuring that the available Federal grant funds are focused each year on the most promising opportunities. The NPS Program Plan also provides clear guidance to the Department's NPS Program partners in the public and private sectors, identifying for them the programmatic and geographic objectives and priorities that must be pursued if water quality and the dependent aquatic beneficial uses are to be protected from NPS pollution. To a significant extent, this Program Plan documents commitments already made by the partners, but to be sure that these commitments, roles, responsibilities, priorities, and other key points of agreement are clear, new memoranda of understanding (MOUs) will be concluded during calendar year 2000 between the Department and several key partners.

***Key Element #9: A feedback loop whereby the State reviews, evaluates, and revises its nonpoint source assessment and its management program at least every five years.***

In 2004, the Department will evaluate the effectiveness of the NPS program to date and develop a second 5-year plan identifying on-going actions, and any additional implementation actions for 2005-2009. NPS program effectiveness is assessed at three scales: (a) statewide effectiveness, measured by the systems in effect to monitor water quality conditions (i.e. special studies, long term monitoring projects, ambient monitoring)