



Title: The Role of the Land-Grant University in the TMDL Process

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Organization: Virginia Tech

State: VA **Region:** Mid-Atlantic

Year of Funding:

Theme: Watershed Management

Situation: The Commonwealth of Virginia and EPA are mandated under a 1998 consent decree to develop 636 TMDL plans by 2010. Most of the impairments to be addressed in these plans are due to nonpoint source (NPS) pollution. The case study presented here discusses the Linville Creek TMDL developed by Virginia Tech's Biological Systems Engineering Department. This paper discusses the data, tools, and procedures used to develop the Linville Creek TMDLs and the role Virginia Tech has and continues to play developing TMDLs in Virginia.

Objectives: To improve the science and procedures used to develop, evaluate, and implement TMDLs, and to facilitate participation in the TMDL process by increasing awareness and understanding of NPS pollution and water quality issues.

Methods: The Biological Systems TMDL development group has developed more than 25 TMDLs. As a part of this process they have conducted more than 50 public meetings to engage and educate stakeholders. The group has developed and delivered TMDL development training sessions to variety of audiences and has prepared supporting TMDL-specific extension publications.

Partnerships: Partnerships have been developed with other academic departments on campus, with local watershed groups, with state and local government officials, and with engineering consulting firms involved in developing TMDLs.

Research: The BSE department's involvement with TMDLs has been, and continues to be, motivated by the desire to improve the scientific basis for, and methodologies used in, the development, implementation, and evaluation of TMDLs. The TMDL development team includes faculty with research, teaching, and extension appointments. All faculty are involved in outreach activities, delivering short courses, conducting public meetings, etc. A graduate level TMDL development course has been developed and is currently being taught again by all faculty on the Development team.

Resources: Not applicable. The proposed paper is broader than a single project.

Results: The TMDL development team has developed more than 25 TMDLs, conducted more than 50 TMDL public meetings designed to engage and educate stakeholders in specific watersheds, authored several TMDL-specific papers and publications, developed and delivered several TMDL development short courses, and is currently offering a graduate level course in TMDL development.



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