

## EPA Clean Water Programs and Partnerships for Land Protection



**Monday, December 16, 1:00pm – 3:00pm Eastern**

### **Speakers:**

- **Steve Epting**, National Nonpoint Source Program, U.S. EPA
- **Alison Souders**, Clean Water State Revolving Fund, U.S. EPA
- **Kira Jacobs**, Source Water Protection Program, U.S. EPA Region 1 (New England)
- **Jesse Boorman-Padgett**, Water Data Integration Branch, U.S. EPA

## Watershed Academy Webinar

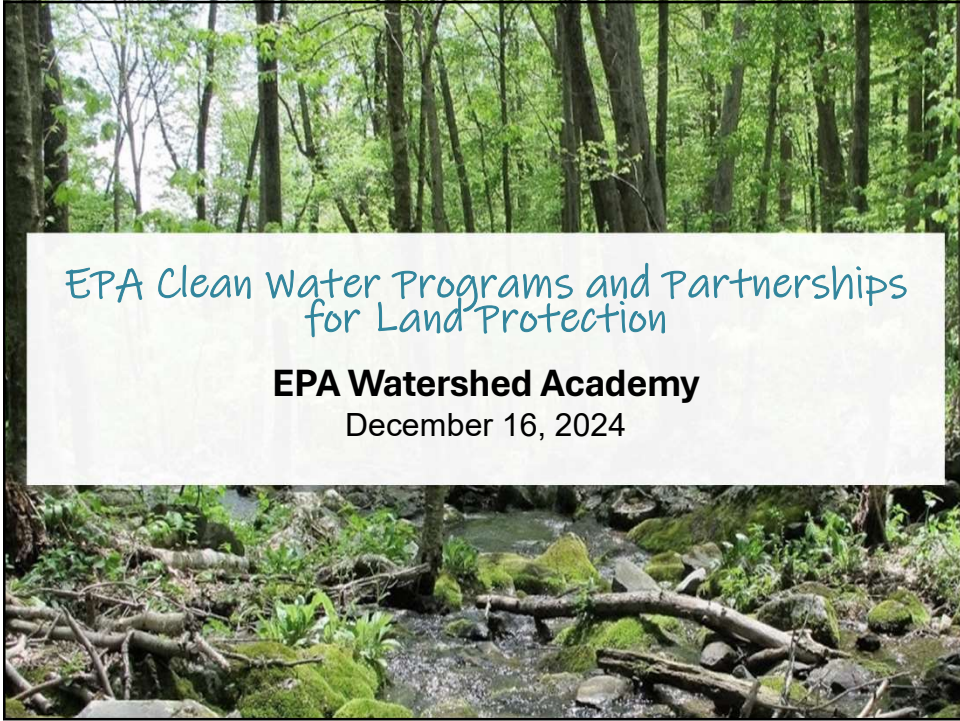
- The slides for today's presentations will be posted on the Watershed Academy webpage.
- A recording of the webinar will be posted within the next month.

[www.epa.gov/watershedacademy](http://www.epa.gov/watershedacademy)

## Webinar Logistics

- **To Ask a Question** – Type your question into the “Questions” tool box on the right side of your screen and click “Send.”
- **To Report any Technical Issues** (such as audio problems) – Type your issue in the “Questions” tool box on the right side of your screen and click “Send” and we will respond by posting an answer in the “Questions” box.

## Audience Polling



## EPA Clean Water Programs and Partnerships for Land Protection

### **EPA Watershed Academy**

December 16, 2024



## Session Outline

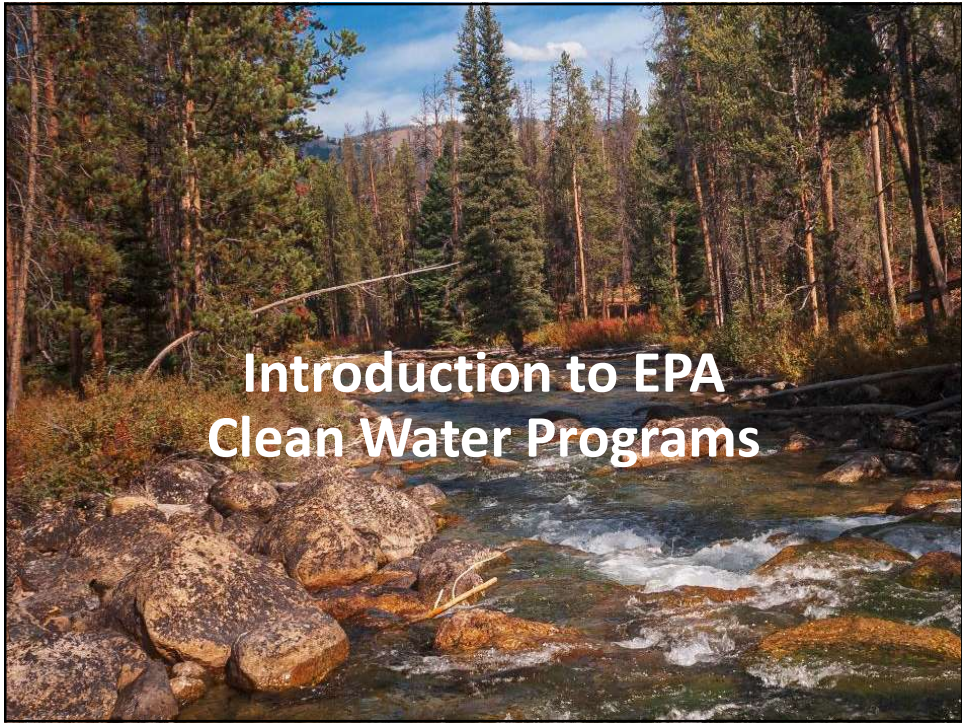
### **1. Introduction to EPA Clean Water Programs**

- National Nonpoint Source Program
- Clean & Drinking Water State Revolving Funds
- Source Water Protection Program

### **2. Rolling it All Together: EPA *How's My Waterway* Demo**

Coastal South Carolina  
Native Homelands of the Kusso





# Introduction to EPA Clean Water Programs

## Definitions To Guide Today's Discussion

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Clean Water Programs</b></p> <p>Focus on protecting and restoring waters to achieve public health &amp; environmental goals.</p> <p>*May serve as funders, partners, etc.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Water Quality</b></p> <p>Measured by instream pollutant concentrations or other quantitative indicators</p> <p><b>Protection:</b> Actions to remove threats to maintain healthy waters</p> <p><b>Restoration:</b> Actions to return natural/historic functions to degraded waters</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Planning</b></p> <p><b>Organization/Program-Level:</b> e.g., Land Trust Strategic Plan; State Water Program Plan.</p> <p><b>Watershed/Waterbody-Specific:</b> e.g., Watershed-Based Plans; Total Maximum Daily Loads; Source Water Protection Plans</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Protection</b></p> <p><b>Land Protection:</b> Permanent protection of lands via fee purchase or easements.</p> <p><b>Watershed Protection:</b> Suite of mgmt activities to achieve watershed-level goals.</p>



## Clean Water Programs

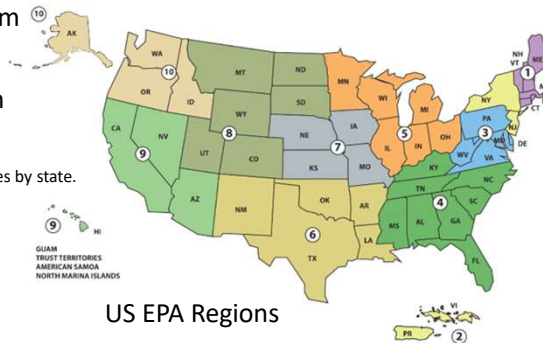
Focus on protecting and restoring waters to achieve public health & environmental protection goals. Includes both regulatory (e.g., permitting) and non-regulatory (e.g., grants) programs

- **Clean Water Act (CWA):** Focuses on restoring and maintaining the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of the nation's waters so they can support the "protection and propagation of fish, shellfish, and wildlife."
- **Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA):** Regulates drinking water quality and protects drinking water sources.

**Each state manages the following Clean Water Act & Safe Drinking Water Act Funding Programs (among others):**

- Clean Water Act Section 319 Nonpoint Source Program
- State Revolving Funds
- Source Water Protection

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\*Land protection eligibility/priority varies by state.



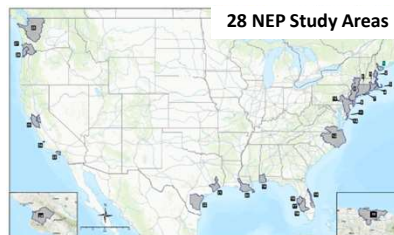
## 12 EPA Geographic Programs

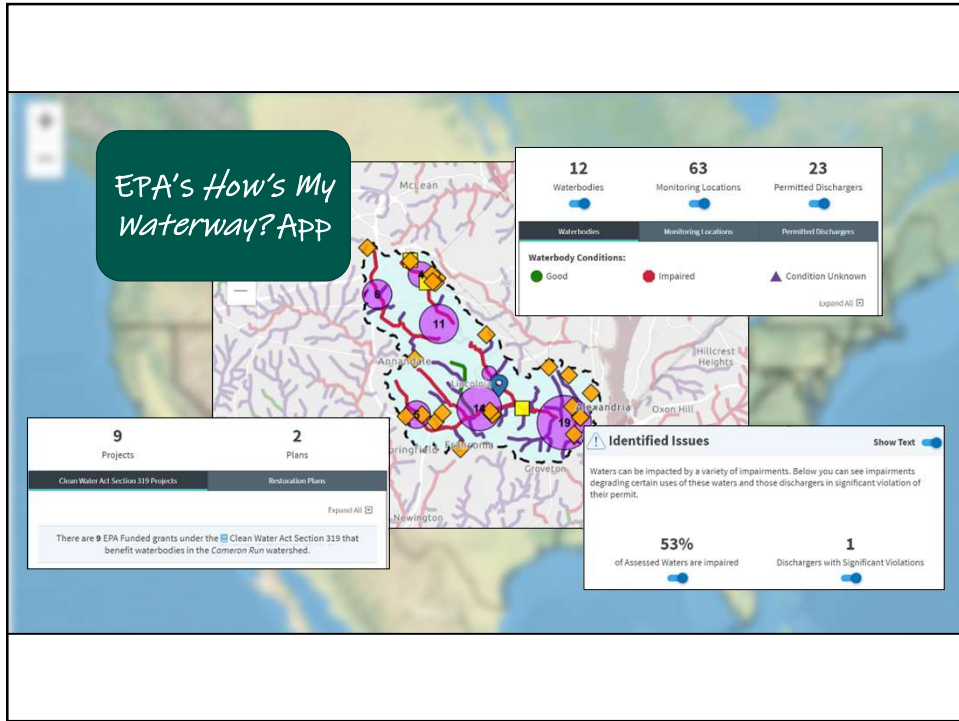


- Columbia River Basin
- Chesapeake Bay
- Great Lakes Restoration Initiative
- Gulf of Mexico
- Lake Pontchartrain
- Lake Champlain
- Long Island Sound
- Pacific Northwest
- Puget Sound
- San Francisco Bay
- South Florida
- Southeast New England Program (SNEP)

## Other EPA Place-Based Programs

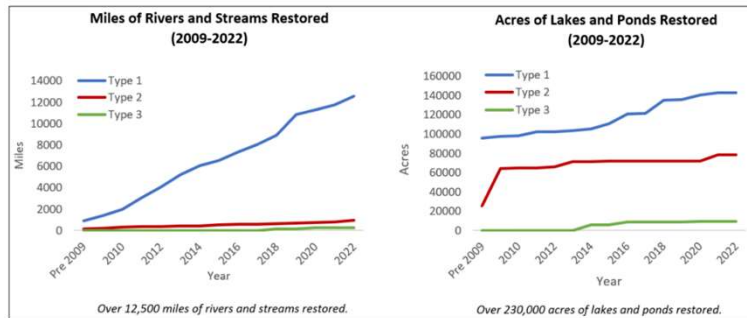
- National Estuary Program (NEP)
- Urban Waters Federal Partnership Program
- Gulf Hypoxia Program
- Everglades
- Deep Water Horizon Oil Spill Restoration





**Nationally, we've seen progress in restoring waterbodies.** But this work is expensive\*, challenging, and requires persistent work over many years.

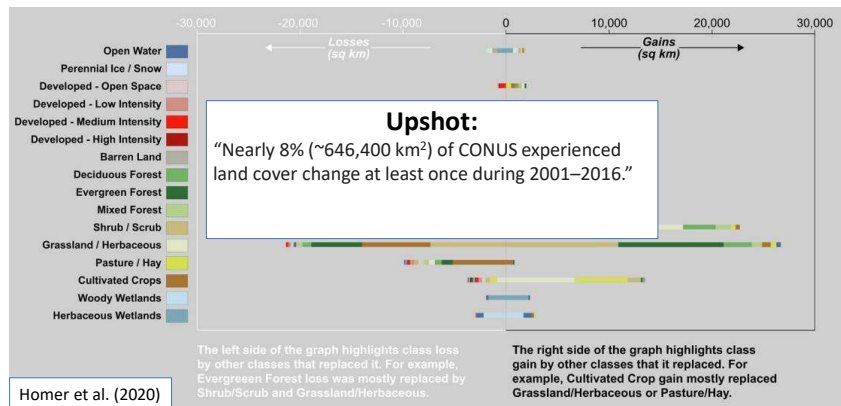
\*\$94.4 Billion in total needs to address nonpoint source pollution (2022 EPA Clean Watersheds Needs Survey)



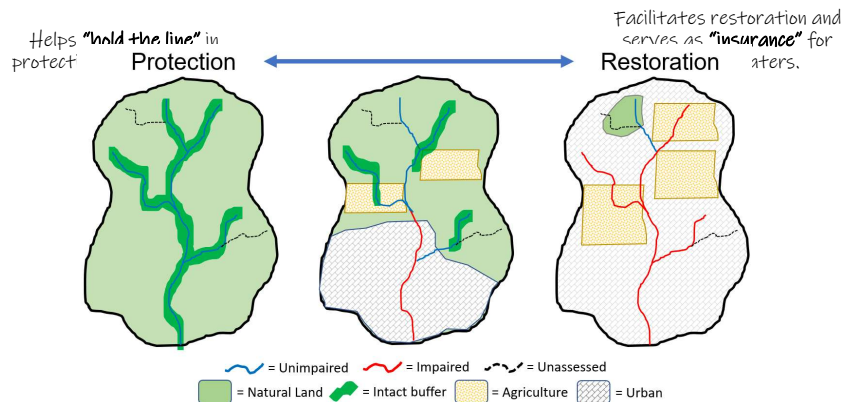
Source: [EPA Fiscal Year 2022 Nonpoint Source Success Story Recap](#)



And much of that work is occurring within **watersheds** experiencing land use change.



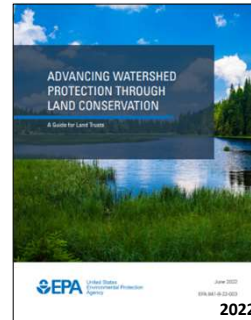
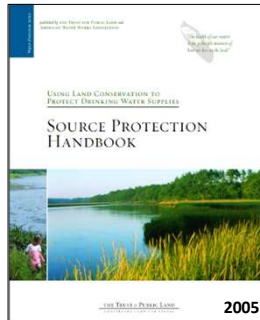
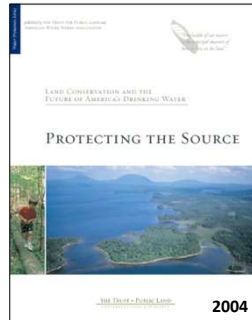
### Land Protection: A key tool across watershed gradients







## EPA resources related to land protection for water quality



[www.epa.gov/hwp/advancing-watershed-protection-through-land-conservation](http://www.epa.gov/hwp/advancing-watershed-protection-through-land-conservation)

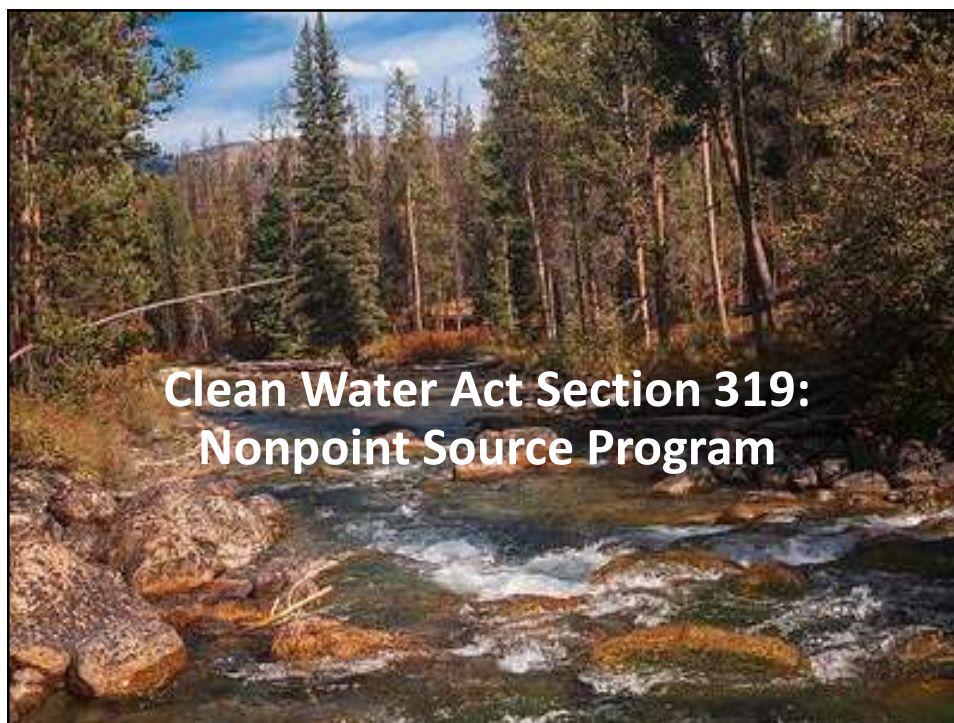
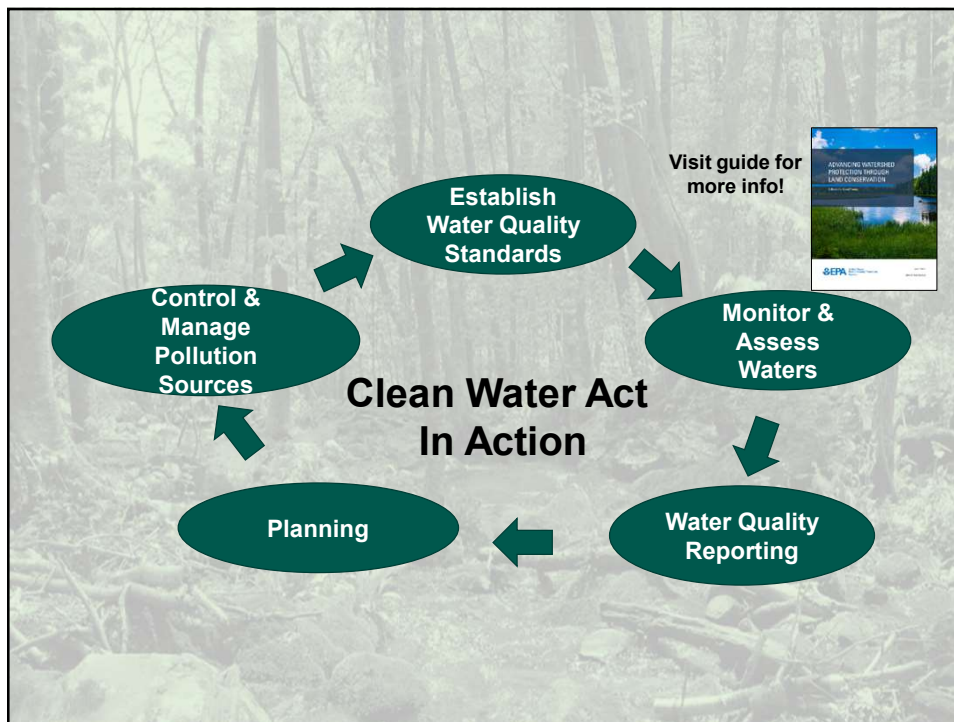
additional funding search tools and funding tips see [Appendix B](#)

Funding Program	Type	Land Trusts Directly Fundible?	ELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES										Award Amount Range	Match Requirement	Funding Cycle (e.g. annual)	
			Land Conservation	Watershed Protection	Water Quality	Stream Restoration	Wetland Restoration	Riparian Zone	Natural Infrastructure	Stewardship	Water Quality Monitoring	Riparian Zone				Watershed Assessment
Brownfields Program... Assessment Grants	Cooperative Agreement	Yes	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	Community-wide up to \$500,000, site-specific up to \$200,000*	None	Annual
Brownfields Program... Cleanup Grants	Cooperative Agreement	Yes	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	Up to \$500,000*	20%	Annual
Clean Water Act 501(c)(2)(B) Grant Program for States & Territories	Grant	Yes	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	Varies	Varies	Annual	
Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) "Soft" Assistance	Loan	Yes*	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	-	None	Approx. annual, varies by state	
Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) "Soft" Assistance	Loan+ Grants/ Technical Assistance	Yes	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	-	None, Varies*	Annual	
Environmental Justice Collaborative Problem Solving Program	Cooperative Agreement	Yes	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	Up to \$200,000	None	Approx. annual	

### Key Components of a Watershed

- Headwater streams** strongly influence the health of downstream waters. Because many headwaters have been lost or altered due to human activities, they may be protection candidates.
- Natural infrastructure**, like forests and wetlands, support watershed health by reducing erosion and runoff, regulating pollutant export, preserving natural flow patterns, and minimizing flooding.
- Riparian Zones**: Healthy waterbodies have surrounding plants—grasses, shrubs, and trees—that help to absorb rainfall, slow stormwater, and filter runoff.
- Watersheds** can be defined at multiple scales. **Catchments** typically refer to small areas of land draining to a single waterbody or river/stream segment.
- Stewardship activities** on working lands and in developed areas are key to preventing and reducing polluted runoff from these areas.
- Water quality monitoring** helps quantify upstream pollution problems and assess progress towards watershed goals.





## Clean Water Act Section 319: Nonpoint Source (NPS) Program Overview

- Each state develops an EPA-approved NPS management program (5-year cycles)
  - Customized to the NPS pollution issues in each state
- EPA provides 'Section 319' grant funding each year. ~\$1 – 9 million/state
  - 40% non-federal match requirement. Can use land value to meet match
- EPA provides national guidance to states (\*updated in June 2024)
  - E.g., ≥ 50% of each Section 319 grant must be used for local watershed projects
  - Primary focus on restoring NPS-impaired waters, but now expanded flexibilities for states to also protect healthy (unimpaired) waters.

## Clean Water Act Section 319 Grants: Land Protection Project Eligibilities

### Federal Section 319 grants may be used for\*:

- Fee simple land purchase
- Purchase of conservation easements
- Land leasing

Land protection projects can also be used to meet states' Section 319 grant non-federal match requirement.

\*note: project eligibility may vary, per state policies

**EPA** Advancing Watershed Protection Through Land Conservation  
EPA 843-P-24-021 September 2024 Eligibility & Approaches in the Clean Water Act Section 319 Program

**Clean Water Act Section 319**  
 Congress enacted Section 319 of the Clean Water Act in 1987, establishing a national program to control nonpoint sources of water pollution. Through Section 319, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency awards grant funding to states, territories and tribes to implement their nonpoint source programs. NPS programs can include regulatory or non-regulatory programs, technical assistance, financial assistance, education, training, technology transfer, watershed projects and monitoring to assess the success of specific NPS implementation projects. Collectively, EPA and its partners have protected over 22,000 miles of rivers and streams and over 200,000 acres of lakes and other waters across the United States.

**Non-Federal Match**  
 Each state implements its NPS program consistent with an EPA-approved NPS Management Program (NMP). States implement their NPS program with Section 319 funding support, which ranges from approximately \$5 million to \$2 million per state per year based on their NPS non-point source problem. States are required to provide 40 percent non-federal cost share/match to their Section 319 grant. Match funds, are subject to the same eligibility restrictions as Section 319 funds. Each state may use at least 50 percent of its Section 319 grant for local projects that support the implementation of watershed-based plans, or plans. Most states issue annual, semi-annual requests for proposals from local partners to implement Section 319 funded watershed projects. Consistent with 33 USC 319(c)(2), states primarily target Section 319 funding to address nonpoint source pollution from agricultural, urban, and residential sources. States may also use Section 319 funds to protect healthy waters, consistent with the goals of their NPS Management Program Plan. Land conservation can play a key role to efforts to protect healthy waters threatened by NPS pollution, as well as conservation work to restore NPS-impaired waters.

**Nonpoint source pollution**, which pollution from industrial and sewage treatment plants, comes from many different sources. NPS pollution is caused by rainfall or snowmelt moving soil and sediment off the ground, to the water bodies. It picks up and carries away natural and human-made pollutants, finally depositing them into lakes, rivers, streams, wetlands, coastal waters and groundwater.

**Land conservation** refers to the long-term protection and management of undeveloped lands to maintain conservation benefits such as water quality protection, wildlife habitat or recreation.

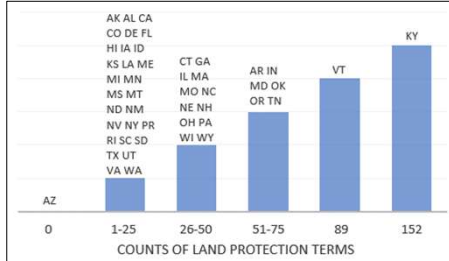
[EPA 319 Land Protection Fact Sheet \(2024\)](#)



## Land Protection in State NPS Management Plans

**Ohio (2019):** "Provide financial assistance for the acquisition of conservation easements on riparian parcels adjacent to identified high quality streams, preferably in critically threatened areas identified in approved TMDLs and watershed action plans."

**Michigan (2019):** "The NPS Program will target long-term protection of 5,000 acres and 140,000 linear feet of river, lake, and wetland in priority watersheds. Conservation easements are the primary form of long-term protection."



**Search Terms:** easement, 'acqui' (for acquisition, acquired), parcel, purchase, land conservation, land protect, trust, conservancy, fee, conservation restriction, perpetual

**Kentucky (2019):** Coordinate annually with Wild Rivers program and Heritage Land Conservation program to prioritize land for conservation.

**Vermont (2021):** "River Corridor Conservation Easement grants target critical river corridor and floodplain property to allow for the restoration of channel stability over time to reduce flood hazards, improve water quality, and enhance riparian habitats."

## Watershed-Based Planning

### EPA 9-Element Watershed-Based Plans:

- National planning framework to guide local NPS work
- Typically cover 12-digit Hydrologic Unit Code watershed (~36 sq mi) planning area
- Prerequisite for receiving Section 319 project \$ (alternative plans allowed in some cases)

### Nine Elements:

- Causes and sources of pollution
- Target pollutant loading reductions
- ID management actions for critical areas
- \$ and technical assistance needed
- Education/outreach plan
- Project schedule (~10-15 yr period)
- Milestones
- Indicators to measure progress
- Monitoring Plan

\*Plans typically cover 10-15 year implementation period



5-Year Plan



Watershed-Based Plan



Project

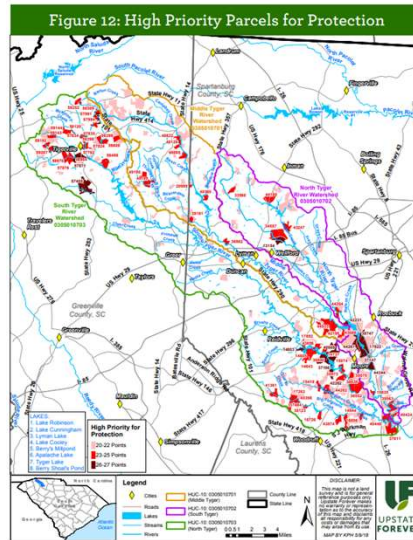


**Watershed Based Plan for the South, Middle, and North Tyger Subwatersheds (2018)**  
Upstate Forever (South Carolina)

**Land protection prioritization criteria:**

- In critical watershed area?
- Stream order (headwaters = more points)
- Intersects high-quality designated stream?
- In highly sensitive riparian buffer area?
- *And others...*

*\*Upstate Forever partnered with a local university for technical support.*



**Tyger River Watersheds Projects**  
(South Carolina, 2018 + 2021 grants)



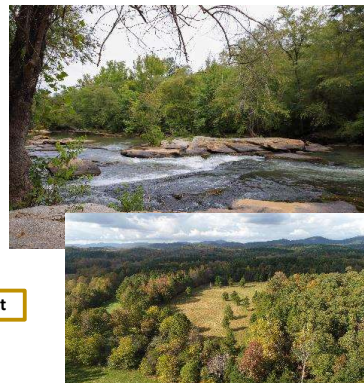
\$1.3M project (\$773K in 319 funds + \$587K in match) that supported costs associated with:

- 451-acres total in conservation easements
- Other restoration work (septic repair, streambank stabilization, etc.)

Annual pollutant loads prevented as a result of conserved lands:

<b>1,309 lbs Nitrogen</b>	<b>122 lbs of Phosphorus</b>	<b>30.2 tons Sediment</b>
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Images provided by Upstate Forever. Top: Tyger River confluence frontage included in conservation easements. Bottom: Aerial image of farm property included in conservation easements.

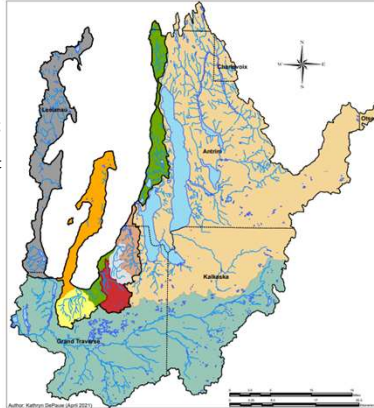


**Partnerships** advancing water quality protection and restoration in  
**Grand Traverse Bay Watershed (Michigan)**

**The Watershed Center  
 Grand Traverse Bay**

- Watershed planning
- Research & water quality monitoring
- On-the-ground projects
- Advocacy & community engagement

**And many others!**



**Grand Traverse Regional  
 Land Conservancy  
 &  
 Leelanau Conservancy**

- Land protection expertise for watershed planning
- Land protection and stewardship
- Community engagement

**Skegemog and Petobego Preservation Project**  
 (Michigan, 2019)

- 192-acre conservation easement with 900' of frontage to Lake Skegemog and 1,400' of tributary frontage.
- \$1.8M project: \$550K state funds; \$950K private donations/fundraising; \$335K donated parcel value.

Annual pollutant loads prevented:

**537 lbs Nitrogen**

**67 lbs of Phosphorus**

**3 tons Sediment**



## Back Creek Watershed Protection Plan (WV, 2014)

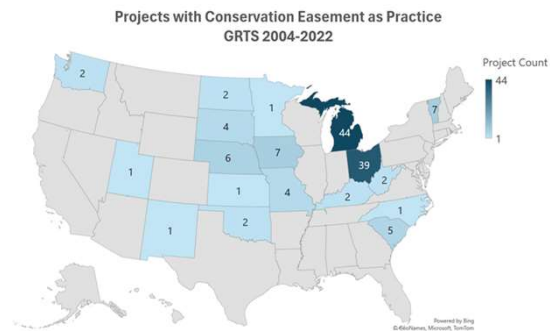
### Stakeholder Input During Planning:

- Landowners need to talk to other landowners about benefits of easements
- Get easement data from Berkeley County Farmland Protection Board
- Compare historical and present-day land use
- Prioritize Core Habitat for preservation.
- Revisit Scenic River designation.
- "Zoning is brought up and voted down every 6 years or so. Bringing it up is a sure way to get opposition to your work."

*\*From Plan Appendix*



## Grants Reporting and Tracking System Analysis Conservation Easements 2004-2022 Overview



- 131 projects in 18 states with conservation easements as practice
- 958 easements protecting 102,154 acres
- 319 Program Funding: \$27,180,130
- Funding from other sources: \$45,560,211

Source: Hallie Schwab, Open Space Institute





## How are States Advancing Land Protection in NPS Management Programs?

- Prioritizing **water quality protection** in 5-year NPS Management plans
- Indicating **eligibility of land acquisition or purchase of conservation easements** in NPS Project Request for Proposals
- **Highlighting funding programs** that can be used to support land protection and **key partners** to support implementation
- Encouraging inclusion of **protection strategies in Watershed-based Plans**
- **Requiring conservation easements on private lands** where restoration will occur



## NPS Program: Wrap-Up Thoughts

### In your local watershed:

- There are certain to be NPS pollution issues.
- There may be past 319 projects (check *EPA's How's My Waterway* tool).
- Watershed planning can help initiate collaborations.

### Your state's nonpoint source program:

- May already be thinking about land protection.
  - If not, opportunity to discuss how land protection can achieve **water quality outcomes**.
- If not investing directly with 319/match funds, may have connections to other programs (e.g., SRF).

Thanks!

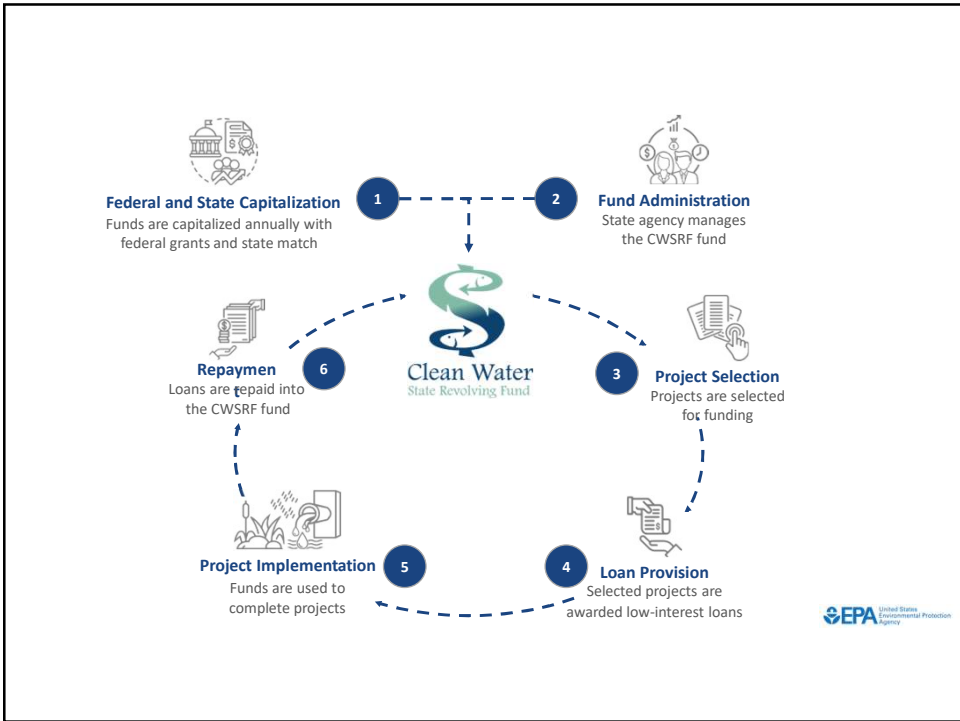
Steve Epting  
[epting.steve@epa.gov](mailto:epting.steve@epa.gov)



## Clean Water State Revolving Funds

December 16, 2024







## CWSRF Assistance Types

- **At or below market interest rate loans**
  - Terms up to 30 years or the useful life of the project (whichever is less)
- **Buy or refinance local debt**
- **Guarantee or purchase of bond insurance for local debt obligations**
- **Additional subsidization (e.g., loan principal forgiveness)**



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## What types of projects are eligible?



Squalicum Creek, Washington Stream Re-Route

- Centralized and decentralized wastewater treatment
- Stormwater management
- Implementation of 319 Nonpoint Source Management Plan and 320 National Estuary Program Activities
- And more...

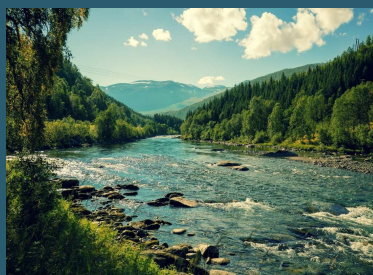
Operations and Maintenance expenses are **not** eligible for CWSRF assistance.

A full list of CWSRF eligibilities can be found and downloaded at:  
<https://www.epa.gov/cwsrf/overview-clean-water-state-revolving-fund-eligibilities>



## Eligible Land Conservation Projects and Practices

- Conservation Easements
- Leasing of Land
- Fee Simple Purchase of Land
- Amenities that improve water quality on purchased land- such as pervious trails, and tree plantings
- Source Water Protection
- Habitat Restoration/Riparian Buffers
- Planning/Assessments and Monitoring
- BMPs to reduce pollution from silviculture activities



<https://www.epa.gov/cwsrf/clean-water-state-revolving-fund-cwsrf-habitat-protection-and-restoration-and-silviculture>

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## Who is Eligible?



### Eligibility varies by state and project type.

Can include communities, nonprofits, tribal governments, watershed groups, land trusts, soil and conservation districts, private entities, and individuals\*.

*\*Some states do not fund private systems/private entities.*



### How can you confirm eligibility?

- Check your state's intended use plan (IUP)
  - Spells out program goals and operations
  - A good place to look to get an overview of your state program and what it funds
- Contact your state's staff to confirm eligibility

<https://www.epa.gov/cwsrf/state-cwsrf-program-contacts>

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## What are the benefits of using the CWSRF to finance a project?



### Versatile and reliable funding

- Wide range of project sizes
- Covers up to 100% of total project costs
- Can be used as grant match
- Many co-funding opportunities available
- Funds project development and planning
- Can be used as interim financing
- Multiple forms of assistance
- Technical assistance available



### Attractive terms

- Terms up to 30 years or project useful life
- Below market interest rates as low as 0%
- Sculpted debt service options available
- Loan forgiveness and grants available
- Deferred payments of principal and interest
- Repayment starts one year after project completion
- Many possible revenue sources for loan repayments

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## Flexible Repayment Options

Identifying a repayment source can be challenging for watershed and land conservation projects...

- Usage based wastewater bill charges
- Special assessments
- Timber harvest revenues
- Environmental credits
- Stormwater district fees
- Nonprofit membership fees
- Home-owner association fees
- For profit company revenue
- Property tax revenue
- Hunting license fees



This generates revenue



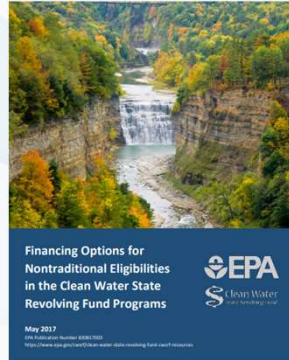
This generally doesn't

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## CWSRF Financing for Land Conservation

- Co-Funding
- Grant Match
- Sponsorship Financing
- Programmatic Financing
- State Incentives
- Linked Deposit
- Pass-Through Lending



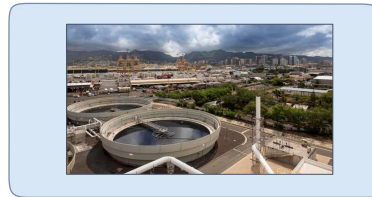
<https://www.epa.gov/cwsrf/clean-water-state-revolving-fund-cwsrf-nontraditional-financing>

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## The Sponsorship Lending Model:

### How it Works

- A typical sponsor would be a wastewater utility willing to fund a nonpoint source project that costs significantly less.
- CWSRF can finance both the POTW project and the NPS project **in one loan and offer an incentive rate**. To the sponsored project, the financing feels like a grant.



	Loan Amount	Interest Rate	Total Repayment Over 20 Years
CWSRF Loan	\$1,000,000	3.8%	\$1,463,707
CWSRF Loan w/ Sponsored Project	\$1,393,442	0.3%	\$1,463,707

<https://www.epa.gov/cwsrf/sponsorship-lending-and-clean-water-state-revolving-fund>

## Ohio's Water Resource Restoration Sponsorship Program (WRRSP) Medina Marsh Land Conservation Project



CWSRF can finance both a wastewater treatment works project and a nonpoint source project **in one loan and offer an incentive rate**. To the sponsored project, the financing feels like a grant.

**Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District (NEOSD) received 0.06% discount on standard rate in exchange for sponsoring land protection**

- Sponsored acquisition of 87-acre Medina Marsh with partners Western Reserve Land Conservancy and Medina County Park District
- Protects 1,450 linear feet of floodplain and forested buffer along the Rocky River, 32 acres of high-quality wetlands, and various habitats

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## Common Challenges to Using CWSRFs

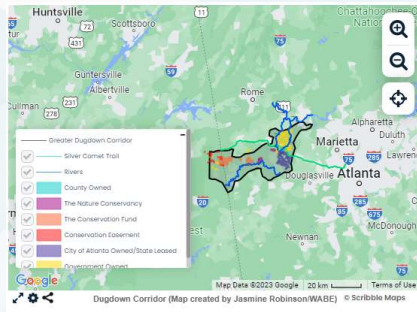
- Finding ways to pay back the loan (repayment options)
- Timing issues – quick sale of available properties is out-of-sync with the loan funding application/payment cycle
- Eligibility constraints
- Application does not score high enough

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## Repayment Options: Timber Sales



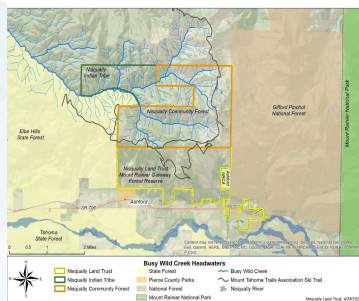
### Georgia – Dugdown Corridor

- 2022
- \$4.6 million loan to the Nature Conservancy (TNC) to purchase approx. 300,000-acre corridor in the southern Appalachians for permanent conservation
- Partnerships: TNC in GA and AL, The Conservation Fund, Georgia Department of Natural Resources, and others
- Specific parcels will be used for timber harvesting

<https://gefa.georgia.gov/press-releases/2021-08-24/georgia-communities-receive-infrastructure-loans-totaling-39-million>

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## Addressing Timing Issues



### Washington – Mashes River Protection Project

- 2019
- \$14.2 million CWSRF loan to the Nisqually Tribe to conserve 1,240 acres of land along the North Fork of Busy Wild Creek
- Grant funding (Community Forest program, Streamflow Restoration program) was also used.
- Sustainable forest management - local logging crews send the logs to local mills.
- After one land acquisition fell through, the funding remained available for the tribe to make other land purchases

[www.epa.gov/system/files/documents/2024-09/mashes-river-protection-project\\_cwsrf-case-study.pdf](http://www.epa.gov/system/files/documents/2024-09/mashes-river-protection-project_cwsrf-case-study.pdf)

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## Utilizing Partnerships



Photo Credit: The Nature Conservancy

### Virginia Clinch Highlands Conservation Easement

- Largest open space easement ever recorded in the Commonwealth
  - 22,856 acres protected in perpetuity
- \$20,125,000 loan from VA CWSRF at 3% interest rate
- 20-year loan term
- Partnership between Nature Conservancy, VA Dept. of Forestry, and VA Dept. Environmental Quality

[www.epa.gov/system/files/documents/2024-08/clinch-river-valley-land-conservation-cwsrf-case-study.pdf](http://www.epa.gov/system/files/documents/2024-08/clinch-river-valley-land-conservation-cwsrf-case-study.pdf)

U.S. EPA Clean Water Programs and Partnerships for Land Protection

## Utilize Partnerships & Check for Eligibility Updates

- Some states do not allow nonprofits to receive CWSRF loans - encouraging the development of partnerships with public entities (e.g., water utilities, municipalities, local government units) that can serve as the loan borrower
- Vermont and Maryland - recent legislative changes to allow for expanded eligibilities and borrowers



Maryland the Beautiful Act – signed into law on May 8, 2023

U.S. EPA Clean Water Programs and Partnerships for Land Protection

## Application Competition Strategies

- Recognize that there are competing interests for SRF funding (again, be familiar with state priorities and ensure your project aligns with those)
- Projects may score higher if they:
  - demonstrate connection to waterbody (more advantageous is the waterbody runs through the parcel as opposed to one where the waterbody is not fully integrated);
  - demonstrate they will be effective at addressing water quality impairment (consider the upfront value of protection versus long-term restoration);
  - are parcels within priority watersheds;
  - are larger parcels;
  - leverage partnerships (e.g., municipalities, counties, tribes, conservation districts)
  - build trust through relationships with different agencies/departments in the state who administer these funds
  - have sources of revenue and collateral or additional sources of funding (check with other state agencies)

U.S. EPA Clean Water Programs and Partnerships for Land Protection



## Engage in Early Communication/Preparation

- Communicate early with your state SRF (e.g., application deadlines, funding cycles, state priorities)
- Prepare as much as you can ahead of time (e.g., background property info.)

*"I found a lot of efficiencies by working with [CWSRF] staff, which helped to identify what exact information was needed to take each step and kept things moving."*

-SRF Borrower, 2021 SRF Focus Group

State	Contact	Phone	Email	State CWSRF Website
Alabama	Pat Smith	205-253-7888	psmith@al.gov	Alabama Department of Environmental Management (DEM)
Arizona	Carla Baker	602-944-1244	carla.baker@arizona.gov	Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ)
Arkansas	Heather Jones	501-224-2224	heather.jones@ark.gov	Arkansas Department of Environment (ADE)
California	Michael Dwyer	916-227-9948	mdwyer@calwater.org	California State Water Resources Control Board (CSWRCB)
Colorado	Stephanie	303-239-2424	stephanie@colorado.gov	Colorado State Water Resources Control Board (CSWRCB)
Connecticut	Joe Scipione	203-261-0244	scipione@ct.gov	Connecticut State Water Resources Control Board (CSWRCB)
Delaware	Geneva	302-834-2244	geneva@delaware.gov	Delaware State Water Resources Control Board (DSWRCB)

<https://www.epa.gov/cwsrf/state-cwsrf-program-contacts>


U.S. EPA Clean Water Programs and Partnerships for Land Protection



## Additional Resources

Overview of CWSRF Eligibilities	<a href="https://www.epa.gov/cwsrf/overview-clean-water-state-revolving-fund-eligibilities">https://www.epa.gov/cwsrf/overview-clean-water-state-revolving-fund-eligibilities</a>
CWSRF Webinars	<a href="https://www.epa.gov/cwsrf/cwsrf-webinars">https://www.epa.gov/cwsrf/cwsrf-webinars</a>
CWSRF Fact Sheets	<a href="https://www.epa.gov/cwsrf/clean-water-state-revolving-fund-cwsrf-factsheets">https://www.epa.gov/cwsrf/clean-water-state-revolving-fund-cwsrf-factsheets</a>
State CWSRF Websites	<a href="https://www.epa.gov/cwsrf/state-cwsrf-program-contacts">https://www.epa.gov/cwsrf/state-cwsrf-program-contacts</a>
Financing Options for Nontraditional Eligibilities	<a href="https://www.epa.gov/cwsrf/clean-water-state-revolving-fund-cwsrf-nontraditional-financing">https://www.epa.gov/cwsrf/clean-water-state-revolving-fund-cwsrf-nontraditional-financing</a>
Sponsorship Lending and the CWSRF	<a href="https://www.epa.gov/cwsrf/sponsorship-lending-and-clean-water-state-revolving-fund">https://www.epa.gov/cwsrf/sponsorship-lending-and-clean-water-state-revolving-fund</a>
Creating Watershed Financing Partnerships with the CWSRF	<a href="https://www.epa.gov/system/files/documents/2024-05/watershed-financing-partnerships.pdf">https://www.epa.gov/system/files/documents/2024-05/watershed-financing-partnerships.pdf</a>
CWSRF Best Practices Guide for Financing Nonpoint Source Solutions	<a href="https://www.epa.gov/system/files/documents/2021-12/cwsrf-nps-best-practices-guide.pdf">https://www.epa.gov/system/files/documents/2021-12/cwsrf-nps-best-practices-guide.pdf</a>
CWSRF Project Case Studies	<a href="https://www.epa.gov/cwsrf/clean-water-state-revolving-fund-projects">https://www.epa.gov/cwsrf/clean-water-state-revolving-fund-projects</a>





Clean Water  
State Revolving Fund

Please reach out with any questions

✉ [CWSRF@epa.gov](mailto:CWSRF@epa.gov)    🌐 [www.epa.gov/cwsrf](http://www.epa.gov/cwsrf)

📺 Watch this and other CWSRF webinars:  
<https://www.epa.gov/cwsrf/cwsrf-webinars>



# LAND CONSERVATION & DRINKING WATER PROTECTION

Innovative approaches to incorporating land conservation  
into source water protection

## Presented by:

Kira Jacobs  
EPA Region 1  
Source Water Protection Coordinator  
Drinking Water Program  
Boston, MA

## My Background:

- 27 years at EPA
- 23 years working in Source Water Protection in the Northeast



**Outline of Presentation:**

- ❖ EPA's role nationally in protecting drinking water sources
- ❖ How EPA and partners work with land trusts to protect drinking water
- ❖ Case study of the Salmon Falls Watershed Collaborative
- ❖ How can YOU work with water partners?



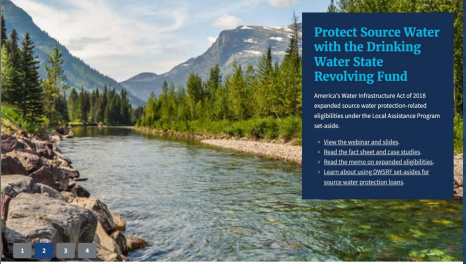
**Goal of Presentation**

- 1) provide an overview of how EPA works with land trusts and other partners for source water protection;
- 2) offer some case studies and ideas for how to collaborate with land trusts
- 3) Inspire you to seek out new partners!



*Photo courtesy of Providence Water*

**Source Water Protection**



**Protect Source Water with the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund**

America's Water Infrastructure Act of 2018 expanded source water protection-related eligibilities under the Local Assistance Program authority.

- View the webinars and slides
- Read the fact sheet and case studies
- Read the press releases and eligibility lists
- Learn about using DDFIC and SDFIC for source water protection loans

**Learn About Source Water**

- Basic Information
- How Can You Help Protect Source Water?
- Participations
- Common Construction
- Resources available

**Assess, Plan, and Protect**

- Source Water Assessments and Planning
- Developing Water Quality Regulations to Protect Source Water (DWRQs)
- State Source Water Protection Projects
- Prepared for Emergencies
- Resources

**Funding Info**

- Source Water Protection Funding
- EPA's Drinking Water Intervention Tool for States and Cities
- Webinars on Source Water Protection Funding
- Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Case Studies
- Locating SDF Funds, Part One and Case Study

**Related Topics**

- Public Water Utilities
- Underground Injection Control (UIC)
- The Lead and Copper Rule (LCR)
- Consent to Drinking Water
- Hazardous Air Pollutants
- Safe
- Private Wells
- Protect Water Quality
- Collaborative Quality Criteria to Address Persistent Pollutants in Lakes and Reservoirs
- Human Health, Ecological Health, and Source Water Protection & Support

**EPA'S SOURCE WATER PROTECTION PROGRAM**

- EPA Headquarters staff
- 10 regional offices, with Source Water Coordinators
- Resources available at: [www.epa.gov/sourcewaterprotection](http://www.epa.gov/sourcewaterprotection)

**sourcewater COLLABORATIVE**

**National Source Water Collaborative**  
[www.sourcewatercollaborative.org](http://www.sourcewatercollaborative.org)

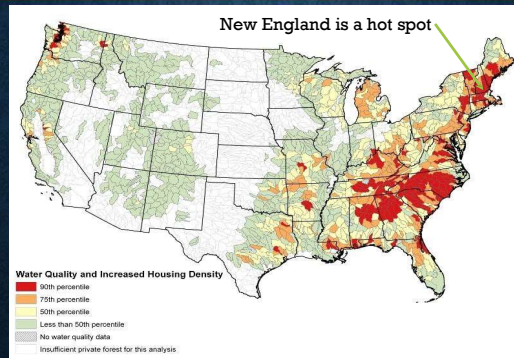
- 31 national organizations united to protect America's drinking water at the source
- Combines strengths and tools of diverse member orgs to protect drinking water sources
- Leverage resources, identify synergies, share tools and information, and support local, regional, and state collaboratives (*check out Connecticut's!*)






## Why are we focused on land conservation in New England?

Watersheds projected to experience the most change in water quality as a result of increases in housing density on private forested lands:



Source: 2009 U.S. Forest Service Report, "Private Forests, Public Benefit"

### Northeast Mid-Atlantic Partnership for Forests & Water

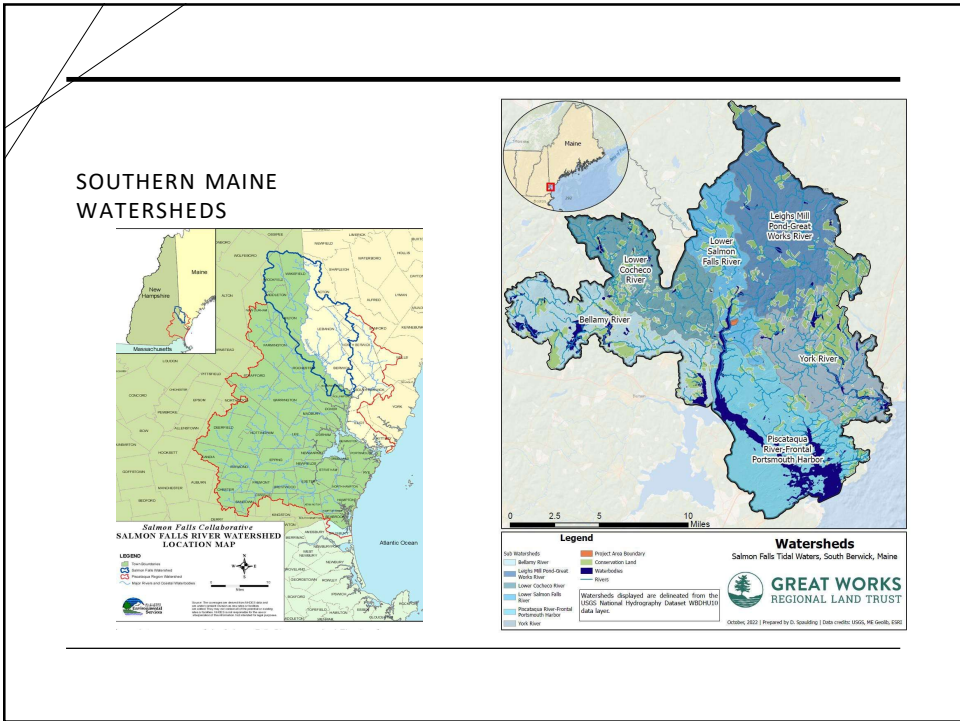
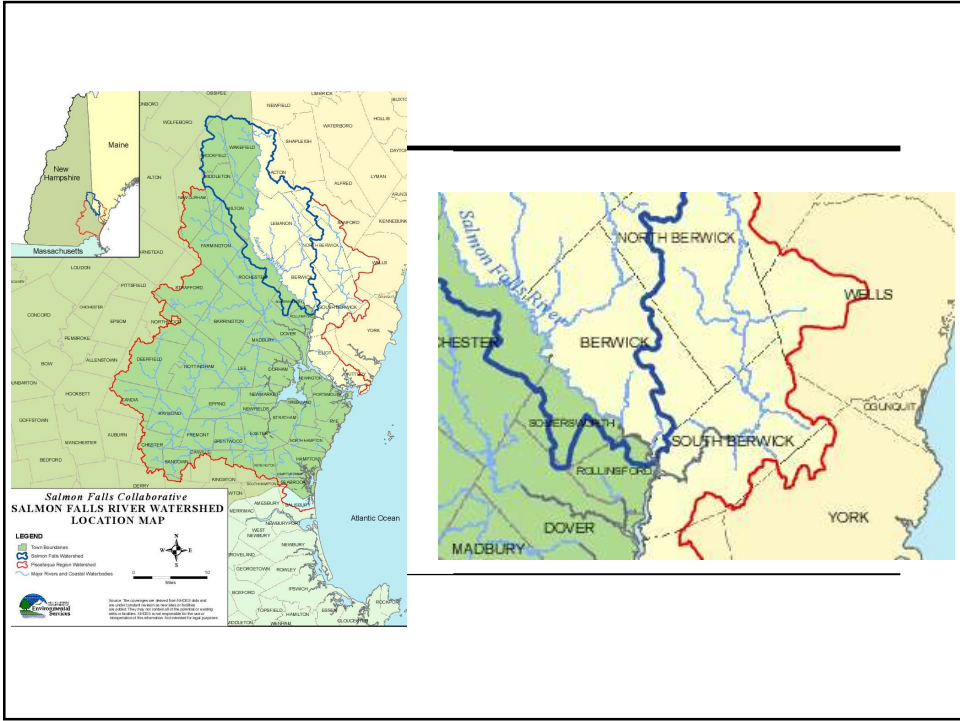
Established in 2022 by EPA, U.S. Forest Service (funder) and grant recipient, National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD)

[www.northeastmidatlanticpartnershipforforestsandwater.com](http://www.northeastmidatlanticpartnershipforforestsandwater.com)









## HOW DID WE WORK TOGETHER?

- ❖ The U.S. Forest Service data was the catalyst to begin working with the four land trusts in the Salmon Falls watershed in 2011
- ❖ We shared our mutual goals of conserving land for multiple ecosystem benefits and invited four land trusts in the watershed to join our effort
- ❖ NH and Maine NRCS funded landowner outreach and engagement evening meetings

*Photo courtesy of Strafford Rivers Conservancy*



### YOUR LAND, CLEAN WATER, YOUR LEGACY

**LEARN**

- ✓ Why your land is important to the protection of the Salmon Falls Watershed
- ✓ About proven practices than can preserve the watershed
- ✓ How to enhance and protect local:
  - Drinking Water
  - Recreational Areas
  - Property Values
  - Fish and Wildlife Habitat

**LISTEN**

To a panel of local landowners, foresters, and experts from state & local conservation organizations.

**GET HELP**

Find out where you can get **technical and financial assistance** for:

- Forest Management Plans
- Conservation Easements
- And more . . .

**ACT**

Join other local landowners and community leaders attending this important event to learn more.

Ask questions, view exhibits, talk one-on-one with experts.

**November 9, 6:00 - 8:30 p.m.**

**Governor's Inn**  
78 Wakefield Street  
Rochester, NH  
*Complimentary Refreshments*

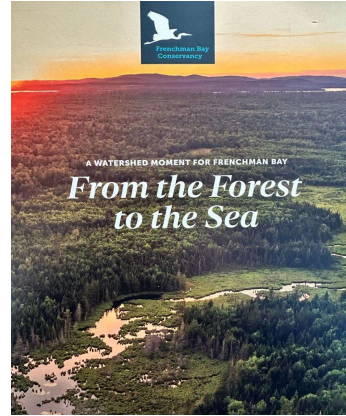
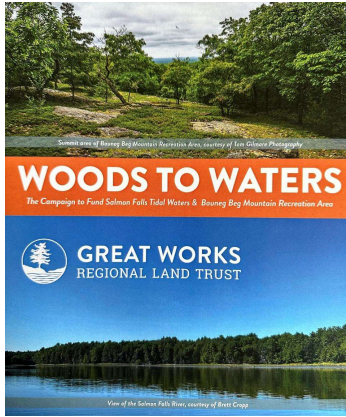
Register for this event by **November 2, 2011**

Call: 603.938.2000  
Email: Sharon.Hughes@nh.gov  
Phone: 603.938.2020  
Mail: Sharon Hughes, UHWT Cooperative Education, 200 North Hill, 133 Main St., Durham, NH 03824

Hosted by the Acton Wakefield Watersheds Alliance, Mason Mountain Regional Conservancy, the New Hampshire Association of Conservation Districts, the Salmon Falls Watershed Collaborative, and the Strafford Rivers Conservancy.



LAND TRUST PARTNER IN THE SALMON FALLS WATERSHED ON THE MAINE SIDE OF THE RIVER:  
GREAT WORKS REGIONAL LAND TRUST (GWRLT) SLIDES PROVIDED BY GWRLT



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GREAT WORKS REGIONAL LAND TRUST WOODS TO WATERS CAMPAIGN

**WOODS TO WATERS – Where We Stand as of September 18, 2023**  
GWRLT has raised over \$2.2 million to date from municipal, state, and federal sources. To successfully protect SFTW and deliver BBMRA for public enjoyment, we need to raise \$2.9 million.

The Salmon Falls and Boring Bog projects depend on and have received substantial grant funding from federal and state sources. These grants, while initially written by community volunteers and board members, require a great deal of technical information and support from staff. GIS maps that support these projects have been generated in-house by GWRLT's stewardship professionals. The Land Protection Coordinator completes the grant application submissions, working with the granting agency, often requiring sophisticated on-the-spot editing to meet technical submission requirements. These grants have detailed project contracts governing how land will be managed in perpetuity as well as annual reporting requirements. Staff coordinate community engagement initiatives to increase awareness of conservation success and opportunities, which rally integral community support to quantify the importance of our work to grantors. Stewardship staff are involved in planning out the public access, trail maintenance and invasive species management. Both SFTW and BBMRA have been in progress for two years and bring us here, to this moment when we need your support to deliver these projects to our communities.

Most grants do not permit their dollars to be spent towards the essential support of staff members. Some permit funding of hard infrastructure, such as parking areas, but not the staff time to hire and oversee the performance of contractors. Sustaining this support staff is an essential part of organizational capacity and continuity — thus the costs for staff are included in our individual project budgets as well as the Woods to Waters Campaign budget.

**WOODS TO WATERS CAMPAIGN: Budget Proportions: By Project**

GWRLT SUPPORT	\$192K
BBMRA	\$537K
SFTW	\$2.24M
<b>WZW</b>	<b>\$2.9M</b>

**WOODS TO WATERS CAMPAIGN: Cumulative Fundraising Progress**

FUNDS RAISED	\$2.2M
REMAINING NEED	\$767K
<b>WZW</b>	<b>\$2.9M</b>

GWRLT | info@gwrlt.org | P.O. Box 151 South Berwick, ME 03908 | (207) 646-3604 | PAGE 11

GREAT WORKS REGIONAL LAND TRUST WOODS TO WATERS CAMPAIGN

**CAN YOU HELP GWRLT CROSS THE FINISH LINE?**

Great Works Regional Land Trust is a member supported, independent 501(c)(3) nonprofit land trust. This means that support from individuals is an integral part of the organization. Your support as members, as individual contributors, as voters, and as concerned citizens is the foundation upon which we build our work. Your contributions enable us to coordinate and secure municipal, state, federal, and private foundation grants. But when opportunities for such large-scale grant funding have been exhausted, we turn to our communities for contributions to make projects such as BBMRA and SFTW a reality.

Here's how you can leave your mark on GWRLT's Woods to Waters Campaign:

Great Works Regional Land Trust will gratefully accept cash, securities and stocks. Values of stocks and securities will be determined on the day of transfer. Pledges may be made payable for up to three years.

- Donors of \$100,000 will be recognized with a trail named in their honor at the project of their choice.
- Donors of \$50,000 will be recognized with a bench at the project of their choice.
- Donors of \$10,000 will be recognized on a kiosk plaque to be installed at the project of their choice.
- All donors will be recognized in the GWRLT newsletter/newsletter which has a circulation of over 2000 households and businesses.

For more information or to arrange for your gift to GWRLT's Woods to Waters Campaign, please contact Executive Director Jordan Kelley at 207-646-3604 or email jkelley@gwrlt.org.

SCAN THE QR CODE TO MAKE YOUR CONTRIBUTION TODAY

GWRLT TAX ID: 22-2736228

Great Works Regional Land Trust preserves us on the traditional ancestral homeland of the Abenaki and Penobscot Peoples of the Wabanaki Confederacy. We acknowledge and honor with gratitude the lands, waterways, flora, fauna, and the Abenaki (people) who have stewarded these lands throughout generations. We recognize that every member of our six towns has, and continues to benefit from, the use and occupation of this land. Consistent with our deeper values of community, inclusion, and diversity, we have a responsibility to acknowledge and make visible GWRLT's relationship to the Native peoples. It is vitally important that we not only recognize the history of the land on which we stand, but also, we recognize that there are native people in Maine and the wider Wabanaki homeland today, and that their story has continued for more than 12,000 years.

GWRLT | info@gwrlt.org | P.O. Box 151 South Berwick, ME 03908 | (207) 646-3604 | PAGE 12





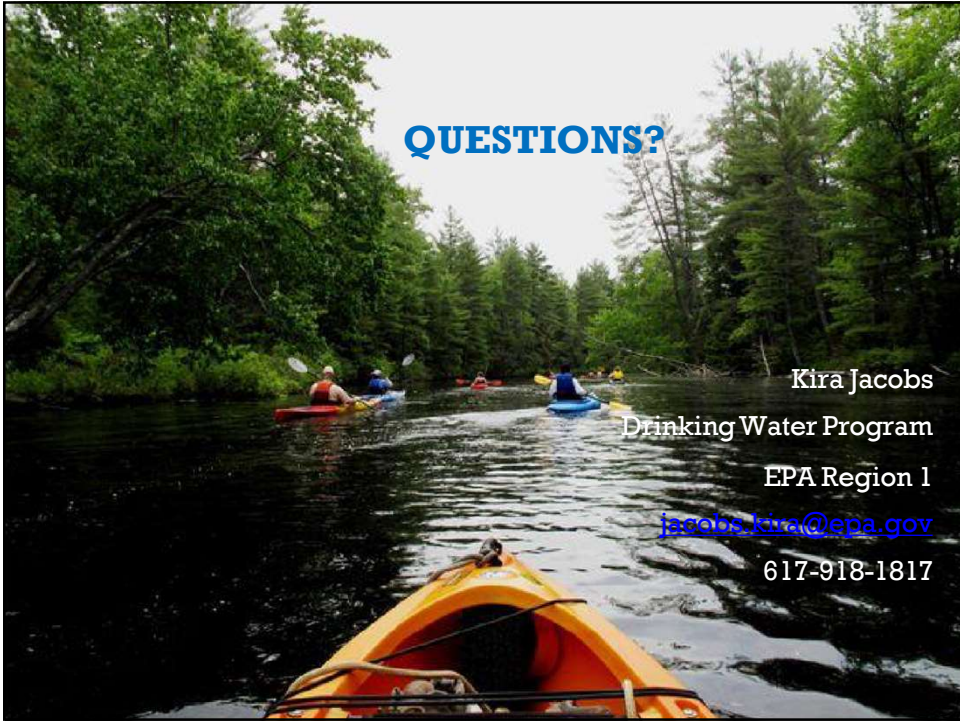
**How can you  
work with land  
trusts and  
related partners?**





**How can YOU work with land trusts and other source water protection partners?**

- Contact your state Source Water Protection Coordinator using this link: <https://www.asdwa.org/sourcewatercontacts/>
- Research which land trusts are located in your watershed: [www.landtrustalliance.org/land-trusts](http://www.landtrustalliance.org/land-trusts)
- Contact me to find EPA source water protection staff or to learn more about the information presented today: [jacobs.kira@epa.gov](mailto:jacobs.kira@epa.gov)



**QUESTIONS?**

Kira Jacobs  
Drinking Water Program  
EPA Region 1  
[jacobs.kira@epa.gov](mailto:jacobs.kira@epa.gov)  
617-918-1817

## Participation Certificate

- If you would like to obtain a participation certificate you can access the PDF in the **Handouts** section of your control panel.

Questions?

## Watershed Academy Webinars

More webinars coming soon!

The slides from today's presentations will be posted on the Watershed Academy webpage.

A recording of the webinar will be posted within the next month.

[www.epa.gov/watershedacademy](http://www.epa.gov/watershedacademy)

## Contact Information

- **Steve Epting**, National Nonpoint Source Program, U.S. EPA
  - [Epting.Steve@epa.gov](mailto:Epting.Steve@epa.gov)
- **Alison Souders**, Clean Water State Revolving Fund, U.S. EPA
  - [Souders.Alison@epa.gov](mailto:Souders.Alison@epa.gov)
- **Kira Jacobs**, Source Water Protection Program, U.S. EPA Region 1 (New England)
  - [Jacobs.Kira@epa.gov](mailto:Jacobs.Kira@epa.gov)
- **Jesse Boorman-Padgett**, Water Data Integration Branch, U.S. EPA
  - [Boorman-Padgett.Jesse@epa.gov](mailto:Boorman-Padgett.Jesse@epa.gov)



Thank You!