

The nine elements of a comprehensive watershed plan per FY03 EPA Guidance are:

- a. An identification of the causes and sources or groups of similar sources that will need to be controlled to achieve the load reductions estimated in this watershed-based plan.
- b. An estimate of the load reductions expected for the management measures described under paragraph (c) below.
- c. A description of the NPS management measures that will need to be implemented to achieve the load reductions estimated under paragraph (b) above and an identification (using a map or a description) of the critical areas in which those measures will be needed to implement this plan.
- d. An estimate of the amounts of technical and financial assistance needed, associated costs, and/or the sources and authorities that will be relied upon, to implement this plan.
- e. An information/education component that will be used to enhance public understanding of the project and encourage their early and continued participation in selecting, designing, and implementing the NPS management measures that will be implemented.
- f. A schedule for implementing the NPS management measures identified in this plan that is reasonably expeditious.
- g. A description of interim, measurable milestones for determining whether NPS management measures or other control actions are being implemented.
- h. A set of criteria that can be used to determine whether loading reductions are being achieved over time and substantial progress is being made toward attaining water quality standards and, if not, the criteria for determining whether this watershed-based plan needs to be revised or, if a NPS TMDL has been established, whether the NPS TMDL needs to be revised.
- i. A monitoring component to evaluate the effectiveness of the implementation efforts over time, measured against the criteria established under item (h) immediately above.

Evaluation of Nine Elements of a Comprehensive Plan

Elements and Evaluation Criteria	
1. Identification of Causes & Sources of Impairment	
	a. Sources of impairment are identified and described.
	b. Specific sources of impairment are geographically identified (i.e. mapped)
	c. Pollution loads are attributed to each source of impairment and quantified
	d. Data sources are accurate and verifiable, assumptions can be reasonably justified
	e. Watershed-level estimate of necessary pollution control is provided (i.e. overall load reduction goal)
2. Expected Load Reductions	
	a. Load reductions achieve environmental goal (e.g. TMDL allocation)
	b. Desired load reductions are quantified for each source of impairment identified in Element 1
	c. Expected load reductions are estimated for each management measure identified in Element 3
	d. Data sources and/or modeling process are accurate and verifiable, assumptions can be reasonably justified
3. Proposed Management Measures	
	a. Specific management measures are identified and rationalized (i.e. why this management measure will help achieve goals)
	b. Proposed management measures are strategic and feasible for the watershed
	c. Proposed management measures achieve load reduction goals
	d. Critical/Priority implementation areas have been identified
	e. The extent of expected implementation is quantified (e.g. x miles of streambank fenced, etc.)
	f. Adaptive management process in place to evaluate effectiveness of management measures
4. Technical and Financial Assistance Needs	
	a. Cost estimates reflect all planning and implementation costs
	b. Cost estimates are provided for each management measure
	c. All potential Federal, State, Local, and Private funding sources are identified
	d. Funding is strategically allocated - activities are funded with appropriate sources (e.g. NRCS funds for BMP cost share)
	e. Economic and environmental benefits are discussed and weighed against implementation costs
5. Information, Education, and Public Participation Component	
	a. A Stakeholder outreach strategy has been developed
	b. All relevant stakeholders (i.e. State, Federal, Local, Private) are identified and involved in outreach process
	b. Public meetings and forums have been/are scheduled to be held
	c. Educational/Outreach Materials will be/have been disseminated

6/7. Schedule and Milestones	
	a. Implementation schedule includes specific dates and expected accomplishments
	b. Implementation schedule follows a logical sequence
	c. Implementation schedule covers a reasonable time frame
	d. Measurable milestones with expected completion dates are identified to evaluate progress
	e. A phased approach with Interim milestones is used to ensure continuous implementation
8. Load Reduction Evaluation Criteria	
	a. Proposed criteria effectively measure progress toward load reduction goal
	b. Evaluation criteria are measurable and quantifiable
	c. Interim WQ Indicator milestones are clearly identified. (The Indicator parameters can be different from the WQ standard violation)
	d. Criteria include both: quantitative measures of implementation progress and pollution reduction; and qualitative measures of overall program success (including public involvement and buy-in)
	e. An Adaptive Management approach is in place, with threshold criteria identified to trigger modifications
9. Monitoring Component	
	a. Monitoring plan includes an appropriate number of monitoring stations
	b. Monitoring plan has an adequate sampling frequency
	c. Monitoring plan will effectively measure evaluation criteria identified in Element 8