

## **MISSION**

“The North Dakota Nonpoint Source Pollution Management Program’s mission is to implement a voluntary, incentive-based program that protects and restores the chemical, physical and biological integrity of waters where the beneficial uses are threatened or impaired due to nonpoint sources of pollution.”

## **What is nonpoint source pollution?**

In basic terms, nonpoint source (NPS) pollution can be a variety of contaminants (e.g., sediment, nutrients, E. coli bacteria, pesticides) delivered to surface waters by way of runoff or leached downward into groundwater. Some common sources of NPS pollution include runoff from urban streets and parking lots, construction sites, livestock confinement areas and agricultural lands.

## **What is the NPS Pollution Management Program and who administers it?**

Section 319 of the Clean Water Act defines the scope of the NPS Pollution Management Program. In North Dakota, the Department of Environmental Quality administers the program with input from the North Dakota NPS Pollution Task Force. The task force is comprised of representatives from state and federal natural resource agencies, agricultural groups and private natural resource organizations.

## **How is the program funded?**

Annually, federal funds are appropriated by the U.S. Congress to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for NPS pollution

management. These Section 319 funds are available to individual states based on an allocation formula. Section 319 funds in North Dakota are awarded to local projects through a competitive grant application process. Section 319 funds support 60 percent of costs, with a 40 percent nonfederal match requirement.



*Photo courtesy Natural Resources Conservation Service.*





Photo courtesy No-Till Farmer.

## Who can sponsor an NPS project?

The success of the NPS Program is dependent on close coordination with many local, state and federal agencies, as well as private organizations. The formation of strong partnerships help provide the financial and technical resources to project sponsors to meet their goals and demonstrate that NPS pollution control and prevention can be accomplished effectively and voluntarily.

Project sponsors may include organizations such as state agencies, soil conservation districts, water resource boards, city councils, universities, agricultural groups, counties, nonprofit organizations and non-government organizations.

## What type of projects are eligible?

Section 319 funds can be used to support watershed-based or statewide projects that:

- **Assessment:** Assess sources and causes of NPS pollution.
- **Watershed:** Implement practices that reduce or prevent NPS pollution.
- **Information/Education:** Disseminate NPS pollution management information.
- **Support:** Provide technical and financial assistance to address a major NPS pollution issue.

Given the size of the agricultural industry in North Dakota, most of the state's Section 319 funds are generally directed toward projects promoting voluntary NPS pollution control on agricultural lands. These funds are used to develop education activities and/or provide financial and technical assistance to landowners implementing best management practices (BMPs).

*Feel free to use this information, but please credit the North Dakota Department of Environmental Quality.*