

Forest Practices and Clean Water

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Goals of Forest & Fish

- Compliance with CWA
- Compliance with ESA
- Harvestable runs of fish
- Viable timber industry



Forest and Fish Cooperators

- Forest industry (WFPA, WFFA)
- Tribes
- State resource agencies & Gov's office
- Counties
- Conservation caucus
- Feds (EPA, NOAA Fisheries, USFWS)

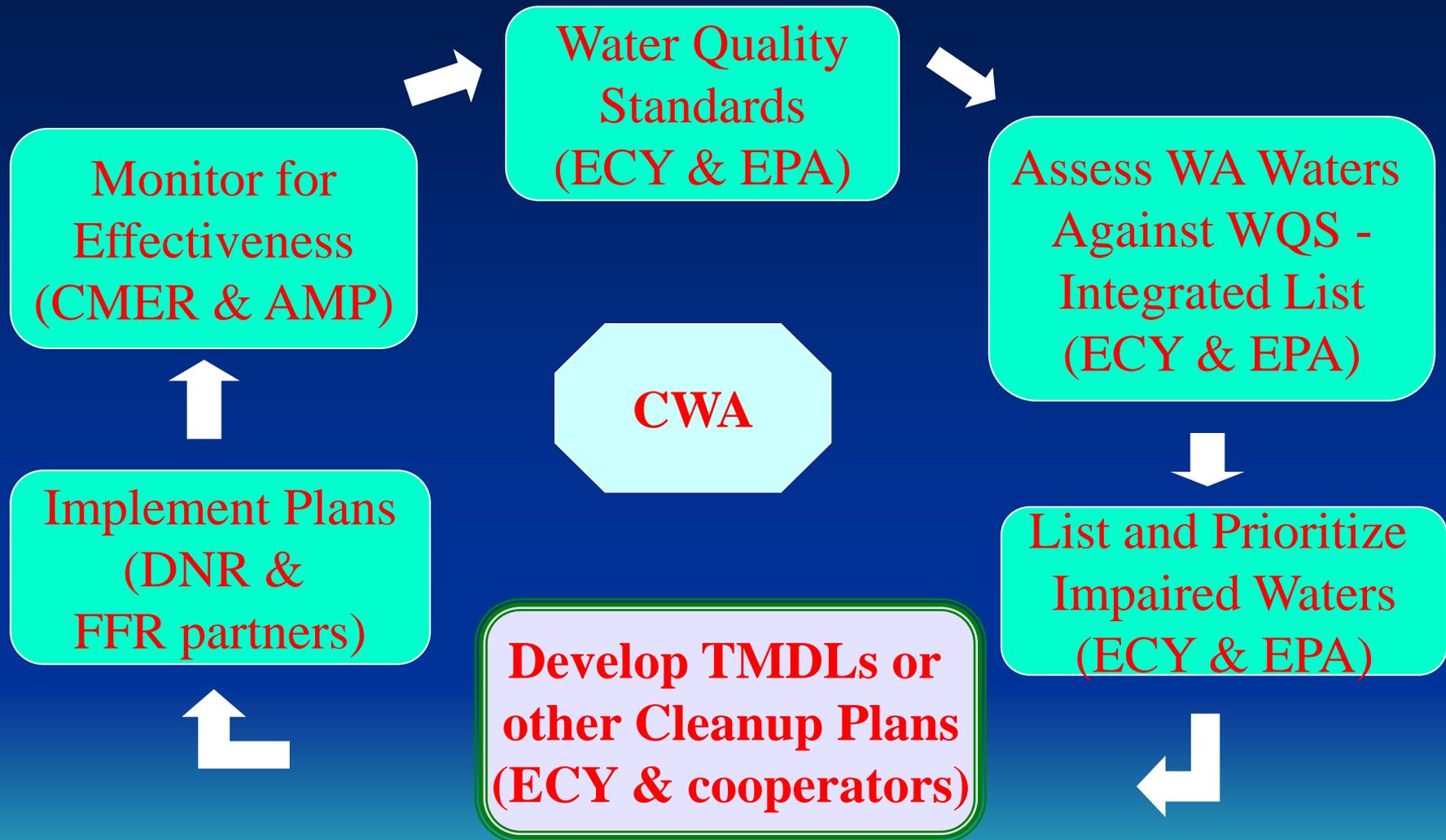


Link between FPA & CWA

- Forest practices program provides the main mechanism for preventing non-point pollution from forest lands in Washington.
- DNR lead for implementation, compliance & enforcement
- Forest practices rules that affect water quality must be agreed to by Ecology



Water Quality Based Approach



TMDLs are technical studies that quantify how much human effect can be allowed and not violate the WQS. TMDLs set the targets for formal implementation requirements.

Authorities & Intent

- 76.09.010
 - Protect water quality
 - Comply with state & fed. water pollution laws
- 76.09.040 - rule adoption
 - Ecology's agreement needed on WQ rules
 - Ecology can propose rules



Authorities & Intent (con't)

- 76.09.100
 - Failure to comply with water quality protection
 - Ecology may appeal to FPAB if DNR does not take appropriate action
- 76.09.160
 - Ecology's right of entry



Authorities & Intent (con't)

- 76.09.285 & 90.48.420
 - Ecology solely responsible for setting water quality standards
 - Ecology, along with the AMP, monitor to see if forest practice rules meet standards, if not changes will be proposed.
 - Ecology may take independent enforcement
 - if forest practice not in compliance with rules
 - if give DNR notice first



Implementation of Forest Practices (operations)

- Asterisk rules (rules ECY has agreed to)
 - roads, water typing, RMZs, wetlands, alternate plans, shorelines of the state, etc.
- FPA applications/notifications
- Compliance & Enforcement



Ecology's Technical Expertise

- Teach foresters, loggers, land owners about water pollution, road practices
- **Interdisciplinary Teams**
- Wetlands, Shorelines
- Link forest land use to downstream impacts.



Interdisciplinary Teams

- Alternate plans
- Stream types
- Landslide prevention
- Road maintenance plan review
- Exceptions to the rules - flexibility



Partnership

- DNR to implement the forest practices rules
- Ecology is considered the agency of expertise for water quality
- Ecology supports DNR through technical assistance in water quality matters such as: wetlands, roads, unstable slopes, water typing, RMZs and shorelines.



Partnership (con't)

- Work together to make Forest & Fish successful
 - Early involvement on difficult issues
 - Training
 - Joint support on compliance & enforcement



How can Ecology make a difference to water quality?

- Correct the improper use of best available management practices



This can result in reducing chronic
delivery of sediment



Our water quality focus means we think about what happens “when you add water”



Small overlooked chronic problems can lead to substantial and dramatic problems



A small plugged culvert upstream in summer . . .



Can be a serious problem in the winter if not found and fixed



When stream culverts fail, the force can scour and bury stream habitat in sediment



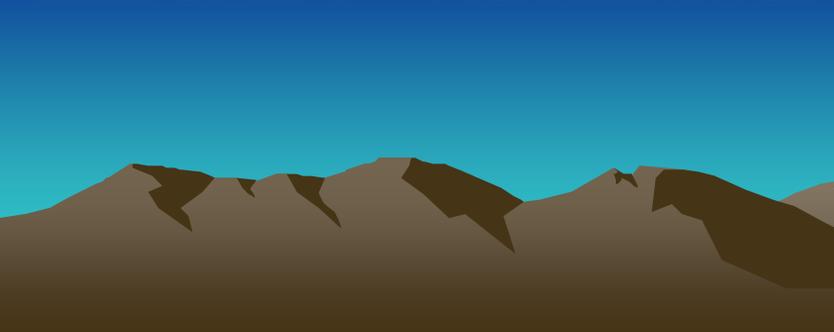
Once a major problem has occurred it is
easy to identify



Our expertise in stormwater control means we see where the chosen corrective actions may not be effective



Roads draining to the wrong place can be a real problem



Questions???

