Abbreviated Monitoring Plan

Most grant projects include monitoring components to measure project effectiveness. If water quality data are to be collected and interpreted to determine effectiveness, a "sample analysis and quality assurance plan" (SAP/QAP) must be developed in accordance with state guidelines.

The preparation and use of this plan helps ensure the scientific reliability of the data. Water quality data includes, but is not limited, to samples and field measurements of: water, sediment/soil, air pollutants, macroinvertebrates, stream or lake vegetation, habitat or riparian conditions, and stream bank stability. When the grant includes funds for water quality monitoring, an *abbreviated monitoring plan* and associated documentation must now be submitted with the application. Since many worthy projects are not funded and development of a full and detailed SAP/QAP takes considerable time and effort, the full SAP/QAP is being delayed until the grant is awarded (a grant condition) and before monitoring is initiated. (A workbook for writing the full SAP/QAP can be obtained by contacting the Grant Program.) The abbreviated monitoring plan should only be 2-3 pages plus maps. Brief and concise information should be provided about the following topics. Notice that this information will be useful in building the final SAP/QAP too.

Abbreviated Monitoring Plan Components

1. Background and monitoring objectives

Most of the background information is already contained in the project proposal, so simply state the:

- a. Pollutant(s) of concern, and
- b. What the monitoring should be able to demonstrate (outcomes)
- c. General methods of data analyses, such as:
  - i. Comparison to: historic data, a pristine site in a matched watershed
  - ii. Comparison of upstream/downstream, or before/after at "key sites"
  - iii. Statistical method

2. Parameters and measurements
   - a. List of laboratory and field measurements to be collected
   - b. Describe why each group of parameters was chosen. (This is a key step.)
3. Sites
   - a. Criteria to select sites
     - i. Use of *key sites* where deterioration is apparent and progress can be measured
     - ii. Access issues?
     - iii. Flow conditions that affect site selection
     - iv. Past exceedances of surface water standards
   - b. Map of area (preferably USGS topographical map) with overlay of project implementations and monitoring sites, if known.
4. Schedule
   - a. Criteria for determining when monitoring will occur, such as:
     - i. Before and after the project
     - ii. Estimated time for the project to improve water quality

iii. If pollutants are associated with certain conditions or seasons, how will monitoring be scheduled to capture such events? (Consider safety issues, flow, rain events, end of summer)

5. Protocols, Equipment, and Training
    a. Reference protocol to be used for collecting data
    b. Describe equipment and resources required, including needs.
    c. Describe resources and support already available (existing experience, equipment, etc.)