

When it comes to the nation's water quality, it boils down to two basic issues: equity and priorities. Where equity is concerned, Americans strongly feel that whoever makes a mess should clean it up. And, as for priorities, most would agree that to complete the job the Clean Water Act started, we should target the biggest remaining problem – nonpoint source pollution – with a combination of better scientific data, new laws, tougher regulations and increased funding. The reason is simple. Fair, priority-driven, holistic approaches to control nonpoint source pollution will markedly improve water quality nationwide.



ROADS

Stronger laws and regulations, increased funding and further research aimed toward controlling nonpoint source pollution are essential. Without a comprehensive national plan that incorporates all of these, further water quality gains will be impossible. High quality water is important to everyone for different reasons. Unchecked, nonpoint source pollution threatens to degrade drinking water sources, fisheries and recreational waters – the chief uses of our waters.

**IF THIS COUNTRY VALUES CLEAN WATER,
THEN IT'S TIME TO GET TO THE NONPOINT.**



TOP 10

TOP TEN NONPOINT SOURCE POLLUTION SOLUTIONS – WHAT IT WILL TAKE

- 1 Water Quality Progress** – The nation’s water quality goals can only be achieved by addressing nonpoint source pollution.
- 2 Stronger Laws** – Federal requirements are inadequate in controlling nonpoint source pollution – the leading cause of water pollution in the U.S.
- 3 Enhanced Regulation** – The most common form of water pollution is the least regulated – nonpoint.
- 4 Increased Funding** – Stronger laws and regulations must be accompanied with adequate federal funding to support water quality progress.
- 5 Water Quality Research** – Although we know that BMPs work, research and data collection is needed to better quantify and predict pollution reductions from BMPs.
- 6 Further Economic Study** – We need firm estimates of what it will cost to control nonpoint source pollution nationwide.
- 7 Watershed-Based Water Quality Initiatives** – Flexible, watershed-based, priority-driven approaches will be the most effective and equitable in reducing nonpoint source pollution.
- 8 Education** – Americans need to better understand that actions and practices by nonpoint sources are the leading cause of water pollution.
- 9 People Power** – More state and federal staff must be devoted to nonpoint source pollution control.
- 10 Political Will** – Overnight water quality improvements cannot be realistically expected from stepped-up nonpoint source controls, but over time, with perseverance, the country will experience the same dramatic improvement realized during the first 30 years of the Clean Water Act.