

EPA Source Water Protection Technical Field Assistance Program In Washington State

August 30, 2004

Goal:

To assist communities served by public water systems with highly or moderately susceptible drinking water sources to reduce or eliminate potential risks to drinking water supplies through development and implementation of Source Water Protection Plans.

Emphasis On:

- Rural, small communities;
- Voluntary participation;
- In-field technical assistance (as opposed to administrative tasks);
- Coordination of source water protection with existing watershed planning and pollution prevention programs in Washington State;
- Community planning model based on public participation and local decision-making;
- Facilitation and mediation between various cross-jurisdictional organizations and agencies at the local level;
- Preventative measures (as opposed to regulatory), such as land acquisition to protect water quality and quantity, and public education.

Measurable Objectives:

- Implement source water protection measures in at least three different watersheds annually;
- Watersheds must include 5-15 different entities (agencies, governments and tribes, organizations, water systems);
- A minimum of 15-45 water sources (i.e.: well, surface water intake, spring, or other public drinking water source) will be protected annually;
- Source Water Specialist must provide a minimum of 300 hours of on-site technical assistance annually

For more information about EPA's Source Water Protection Program in Washington State, please contact Gary Rhoades, Evergreen Rural Water of Washington, (360) 462-9287.