

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT

# Nonpoint Source, Point Source, and the NPDES permit

Tiffany Eastman

EPA Region 9 Tribal NPS Program Coordinator



What is the difference between  
Point Source and Nonpoint Source  
Pollution?

## What is Point Source (PS)?

- Distinct conveyances such as pipes or man-made ditches



# What is Nonpoint Source (NPS)?

- Occurs when rainfall, snowmelt, or irrigation runs over land or through the ground, picks up pollutants, and transports them into surface waters or ground water.



If the project site is:

- More than 1 acre, polluted runoff is called **Point Source (PS)**
- Less than 1 acre, polluted runoff is called **Nonpoint Source (NPS)**





Photo courtesy of USDA NRCS







# Point Source & NPDES Permit

- If the construction site is more than one acre, an NPDES permit is required
- The Best Management Practices (BMPs) to be implemented to address polluted runoff are identified within the NPDES permit or the Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP)

# Compliance Assistance

- Available to help the regulated community understand and meet its obligations pursuant to environmental regulations (such as NPDES permit)

EPA Region 9 Compliance Assistance Coordinator

Hillary Hecht

415-947-4266

[hecht.hillary@epa.gov](mailto:hecht.hillary@epa.gov)

## NPS & NPDES Permit

- If the construction site is less than one acre, an NPDES permit is not required
- Water quality impacts by polluted runoff are similar to point sources of pollution and project sites more than 1 acre
- Best Management Practices (BMPs) to be implemented are the same as for PS

# NPS Grant Program for Tribes

- Clean Water Act Section 319 – Provides funds for eligible tribes to develop and implement polluted runoff control programs
  - Eligible activities included implementing BMPs that address stormwater runoff
- Funding is available on an annual basis at the national level through EPA to all eligible tribes



Hopland Band of Pomo Indians to decrease sedimentation to nearby creek



Washoe Tribe of NV & CA to decrease runoff and sedimentation

# Watershed-Based Plan

- EPA encourages tribes to address polluted runoff at a watershed level – thinking outside of the box approach
- CWA Section 319 funds can be used for the development and implementation of a Watershed-Based Plan
  - Addresses both PS and NPS



# Any Questions?

Tiffany Eastman

EPA Region 9 Tribal NPS Program Coordinator

[eastman.tiffany@epa.gov](mailto:eastman.tiffany@epa.gov)

Audrey L. Johnson

[johnson.audreyl@epa.gov](mailto:johnson.audreyl@epa.gov)

415-972-3431