

A.) Yes, many of the TMDL requirements for ranchers are also included in the ITP. Landowners who develop and implement ranch plans for riparian protection, tailwater management and water conservation will be working to comply with both programs. The SVRCD will be assisting landowners to comply with the TMDL and the ITP.

11.) Q: Will there be further implementation actions or reporting requirements?

A.) The objectives in the first year relate to range and riparian land management and tail water. In the second year landowners will be asked to examine and improve water conservation practices. They should be prepared to consider ways to conserve water and protect and enhance water quality by:

- Capturing and reusing or recycling tailwater for irrigation.
- Dedicating cold water instream flows into the Shasta and tributaries.

*For more information please contact
Andy Baker at 707-576-2690
abaker@waterboards.ca.gov*

Restoring the Shasta River Watershed



Shasta River TMDL Annual Reporting Requirements for Ranchers Frequently Asked Questions



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Shasta River TMDL Introduction

The Shasta River TMDL is a long term strategy to improve water quality and enhance salmon and steelhead habitat in the Shasta River. Currently, low dissolved oxygen levels and high stream temperatures are impacting fish habitat. Salmon and steelhead in the Shasta Basin need cold, clean water to thrive.

Ranching activities may impact water quality. There are a number of management activities and practices that can be undertaken to minimize impacts, including:

- Installing exclusionary fencing to prevent livestock from damaging streams and riparian vegetation.
- Planting/maintaining riparian vegetation to help shade streams to cool water temperatures.
- Reducing tailwater discharges.
- Minimizing water contact with animal manure.
- Dedicating cold water to the river where opportunities are available.

Many landowners are working together to solve water quality problems in the watershed and to improve the health of the river.

If you are a landowner within the Shasta River watershed, and you irrigate, ranch, or conduct other agricultural activities on your land, then you will need to comply with specific TMDL requirements related to land management practices and compliance reporting.

This year, Regional Water Board staff are advising landowners of their obligations under the TMDL and requesting that landowners indicate their intentions regarding TMDL compliance by completing and returning a Letter of Intent.

Questions and Answers

1.) Q: I received a letter to comply from the Water Board and don't own land in the Shasta River Watershed...

A: Please check the appropriate box on the letter of intent to indicate you do not own land in the Shasta Valley, sign and return the letter.

2.) Q: I own land within the Shasta Watershed but I don't irrigate or graze livestock near streams.

A: Please check the appropriate box on the letter of intent to indicate that you do not conduct these activities on your land, sign and return the letter.

Q: I have been working with the Resource Conservation District (RCD), the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), or some other entity, and already have a ranch management plan

A: Please check the appropriate box on the letter of intent to indicate you have an existing Ranch Plan, sign and return the letter.

Q: I have not yet prepared a ranch management plan, but I would like to comply with the TMDL and prepare a ranch management plan this year.

A: Please check the appropriate box on the letter of intent to indicate that you would like assistance in preparing a Ranch Plan, sign and return the letter.

5.) Q: I have submitted a signed letter indicating that I would like to prepare a ranch management plan this year. What do I need to do next?

A.) Contact the Resource Conservation District (RCD) or Andy Baker at the Regional Water Quality Control Board office, for assistance in complying with the TMDL.

Shasta Valley RCD (530) 842-6121 x106
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6.) Q: Can I receive financial assistance for developing my ranch management plan?

A.) Limited funding and assistance is available through the Shasta Valley RCD.

7.) Q: Are my ranching activities contributing to water quality problems?

A.) Ranching activities can negatively impact water quality. For answers to questions specific to your ranch, contact the Shasta Valley RCD or Andy Baker at the Water Board.

8.) Q: What happens if I do not send in the letter of intent to comply with the Shasta TMDL?

A.) Under the recently enacted California Non-point Source Policy, all non-point source activities including livestock grazing and tailwater discharges must be regulated under a permit or waiver. The Shasta River TMDL contains a conditional waiver for ranching/farming activities such as livestock grazing, irrigating and tailwater discharges. As long as landowners comply with the conditions in the TMDL they are not subject to individual permits or associated fees.

9.) Q: What types of ranching activities are not covered under the Shasta River TMDL waiver?

A.) Work in a stream or wetland (dredging, filling activities) may require permits from DFG and the Regional Water Board.

10.) Q: Will the requirements in the Shasta TMDL also help fulfill future requirements contained in the Department of Fish and Game's Coho Salmon Recovery Plan and Incidental Take permit (ITP).