

## Revised Project Activity Categories - 2007

The Project Assessment and Evaluation Plan (PAEP) groups activities into six major categories. They are:

- **Planning, Research, and Assessment**
- **Education, Outreach, and Capacity-Building**
- **Habitat Restoration**
- **Load Reduction**
- **Water Conservation, Supply Reliability Enhancement, and Recycling**
- **Flood Attenuation and Floodplain Protection**

*Planning, Research, and Assessment* includes activities that precede implementation of pollution prevention and reduction practices, restoration of habitat and watershed processes and functions (e.g., groundwater recharge, storm water conveyance, sediment transport), implementation of education and outreach activities, and integrated projects with multiple benefits. Planning, research, and assessment activities can include development of analytical methods for detection of sub-lethal adverse effects on aquatic organisms, testing of alternative hypotheses related to pollutant transport mechanisms or watershed functions, development and application of land use and mitigation forecasting models and other scenario-planning tools, development of quantifiable goals or benchmarks related to habitat protection, in-stream flow requirements, species recovery, or pollutant assimilative capacity, development of digital maps for geospatial analysis of impairment risks, and relating location of investments with beneficial use improvements. Activities in this category may also include characterization and assessment of watershed conditions, impairment assessment, analyses of limiting factors to beneficial use recovery, and linking management responses to improvements in watershed conditions.

*Education, Outreach, and Capacity-Building* includes activities that are primarily designed to increase awareness about human activities that contribute to beneficial use impairment and to change behavior in such a way that human-induced stressors on aquatic organisms or watershed processes and functions are reduced below critical threshold levels. They may include workshops for local elected officials and other land use decision-makers, building technical expertise and providing guidance in the preparation of Farm Plans, supporting under-represented communities to participate in decision-making and providing access to complex and technical information.

*Habitat Restoration* includes activities that directly improve the physical or biological condition of a water body, stream reach, or watershed area or restore critical landscape features essential for the maintenance of aquatic habitat and organisms dependent on it.

*Load Reduction* includes activities that directly contribute to preventing or reducing quantifiable amounts of pollutants from entering waterbodies and aquatic food webs and

are usually associated with Total Maximum Daily Load implementation plans or elements of comprehensive watershed management plans.

*Water Conservation, Water Supply Reliability Enhancement, and Recycling* includes activities that reduce reliance on imported water supplies, directly or indirectly restore in-stream flows for protection and restoration of aquatic life uses, develop required local policies, funding mechanisms, and infrastructure for beneficial re-use of water for irrigation, seawater intrusion prevention and remediation, and other purposes, and enhance storm water runoff infiltration and groundwater recharge.

*Flood Attenuation and Floodplain Protection* includes activities that (1) provide resilience to the effects of climate change, (2) enhance and protect groundwater recharge and storage functions of floodplains, (3) protect floodplain functions as wildlife and fish migration corridors and rearing habitat, and supporting riparian habitat, (4) contribute to reductions in flood peaks and flooding impacts. Projects in this category may also include application of Low-Impact Development (LID) techniques which mimic the natural hydrologic functions of a watershed to reduce the rate, volume and pollutant loading of runoff and impairment of aquatic life uses due to increased runoff rates, stream bed and bank erosion, and resulting in-stream habitat degradation. Examples of LID projects are vegetated bioretention swales, amending soil to retain runoff, tree-box filters, and other natural treatment systems. Projects could also include preservation of open space, which allows for natural recharge to occur across a large area. Projects which retain and infiltrate water onsite can also have economic benefits in terms of reduced end-of-pipe treatment or irrigation costs.