

# Clean Water Act Section 319 Funding

## *Issue*

Increasing (or at least maintaining) EPA's budget for funding grants to states to prevent nonpoint source pollution (NPS).

## *Problem*

With passage of the 2002 Farm Bill and the increases in funding for the Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) the administration has proposed reductions in EPA's budget for grants to states to prevent nonpoint source pollution.

## *How this would affect your constituents*

Utah has developed a successful NPS 319 program and uses EPA grant funds to assist landowners improve the state's water quality. The funding needed to develop and implement EPA mandated TMDLs in Utah's 144 water bodies classified as impaired is greater than the funding now available. This year's reduction (\$273,000) means approved projects will not be funded such as TMDL development. Also, the expansion of nonpoint source pollution prevention needs is increasing beyond the agricultural component to include storm water, urbanization, mining, riparian corridors, etc.

In Utah EPA monies, EQIP and state appropriations have and are being used to assist 385 owners of animal feeding operations classified as potential CAFOs. Utah's partner agencies are working with the owners of these operations to assure that they are in full compliance by EPA's 2006 deadline to avoid further regulation.

Without the EPA grants or the other sources of funding there would not be sufficient monies to maintain the Utah NPS 319 program needed to implement best management practices for nonpoint source pollution prevention in the impaired watersheds now being worked on in the state.

## *What you can do about this issue*

Help the administration understand that EQIP funds are not mandated for water quality problems since other resource issues such as wildlife may be a higher resource priority. Ask that the administration increase its budget for EPA State Management Grants for NPS 319 in FY 2006 to \$300 million.

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