

## **OBJECTIVES AND POLICY**

### **Objectives of This WQMP and Handbook**

#### **Performance Standards**

1. To ensure that, on NFS lands in California, the quality and beneficial uses of water are maintained where they are in good condition, consistent with the federal and State anti-degradation/non-degradation policies, and the principles of conservation biology.
2. To ensure that, on NFS lands in California, the quality and beneficial uses of water are protected from further degradation where they are declining toward being listed as water quality limited pursuant to Clean Water Act Section 303 (d).
3. To make substantial progress toward eventual delisting of water body segments that have been listed pursuant to Clean Water Act Section 303(d) and that are located on, or receiving contributing pollutant discharges from, NFS lands.
4. To remediate legacy sources of pollution on NFS lands in California.
5. To ensure compliance with Federal and State water quality goals and legal requirements (with focus on the Clean Water Act and the Porter-Cologne Act) in the most efficient manner.
6. To ensure compliance with the SWRCB NPS Policy's Five Elements of Implementation and Enforcement.
7. To ensure compliance with Regional Water Quality Control Board Basin plans and with any issued Waiver permits.

#### **Administrative Processes**

1. To install specific planning procedures, contract/lease provisions and administrative processes to ensure the enforcement of WQMP performance standards.
2. To consolidate direction applicable to BMP use for NPS pollution control on NFS lands in California for the maintenance, protection, and recovery of beneficial uses of water.
3. To establish a uniform process of BMP implementation that will meet the intent of: 1) the Federal and State water quality laws, executive orders, and the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) directives, and 2) Water Board water quality standards, plans and policies that are applicable to activities on NFS lands in California.
4. To produce proven effective BMPs that can be applied specifically at the beginning of each project and reviewed both during project operation and at project completion to determine corrections or consequences of inadequate implementation.
5. To determine management practice effectiveness using statewide programmatic monitoring, watershed-specific monitoring and project-specific monitoring programs. Monitoring of installation, performance,

effectiveness, and completion are to be evaluated for each project with follow-up on corrective actions or failure consequences.

6. To ensure that this WQMP and the implementation thereof are effective in achieving these objectives by installing a science-based Adaptive Management program that meets the seven principles of adaptive management including transparent public involvement, is in compliance with NPS policy, and will be used to learn and make better informed decisions.
7. To enhance Forest Service performance as a water quality management agency, and increase and improve its responsibility, transparency and accountability in its relationships with the Water Boards and the public at every step of the process.