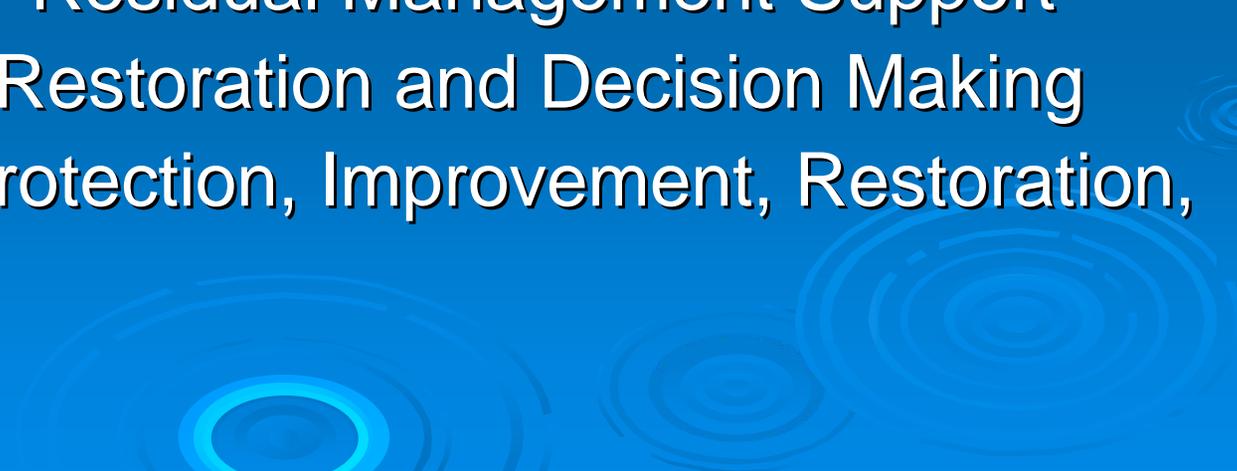


Thoughts from the Office of Water on the Strategic Direction of ORD's Ecological Research Program

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Potential Links to Drinking Water and CWA Program Decision Making

- Standards
 - Effluent Guidelines
 - Wastewater-Residual Management Support
 - Watershed Restoration and Decision Making
 - Wetlands Protection, Improvement, Restoration, Creation
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- The background of the slide features several concentric, glowing blue circles that resemble ripples on water, positioned in the lower right and bottom center areas.

Key Water Program Issues and Opportunities

- Changing water use patterns and flows
- Continued population growth and concentration
- Emerging contaminants including PPCPs
- Climate change impacts on current ecosystems
- Common and more sensitive metrics, indicators, measures, and ecological assessment tools

Ecological Research Program MYP

➤ Benefits to the Office of Water:

- Support development of metrics, measures, and assessment tools
- Focus on wetlands and coral reef ecosystems and on nutrients processes and impacts
- Improve federal, state and local water program decision making

➤ Explicit effort needed to:

- Connect MYP concepts to regulatory and non-regulatory programs
- Establish common terminology

Anticipated Links to Water Program Implementation

- National Water Quality Assessments (MYP LTG 2: National Mapping, Inventory, and Modeling)
- Watershed Management (MYP LTG 1: Effective Decision Support; LTG 4: Ecosystem Assessment and LTG 5: Place-based Demonstration Projects)
- Nitrogen Pollution (MYP LTGs 3: Nitrogen Assessment, LTG 4: Ecosystem Assessment, and LTG 5: Place-based Demonstration Projects)
- Place-based Approaches (MYP LTG 5: Place-based Demonstration Projects)

Progress and Next Steps

- Endorsement of the direction – continued collaboration on the details
- ORD and OW (headquarters and Regions) have come a long way toward understanding each others' mandates
- We need to continue:
 - To identify and address terminology that impedes understanding the new paradigm, its strategic outputs and outcomes, and its potential to impact the program.
 - To complete implementation plans and APMs