

COLLABORATION CAN PROTECT SOURCES OF DRINKING WATER



Note: It's a good idea to find out who USDA NRCS work with in your state. We are using "private landowners and operators" as a general term in this infographic. NRCS may work with a variety of producers - farmers, ranchers, poultry and livestock producers, dairymen, forest landowners, including those who rent land.

SOURCE WATER PROTECTION & USDA CONSERVATION PROGRAMS: WHAT ARE THE OPPORTUNITIES?

WHAT IS SOURCE WATER?

Source water includes all current and future sources of drinking water:

- Surface water (rivers, streams, lakes and reservoirs)
- Ground water (aquifers)

WHAT IS SOURCE WATER PROTECTION?

Actions to prevent drinking water contamination to protect public health and local economy, and lower drinking water treatment costs.

HOW DOES SOURCE WATER PROTECTION WORK?

Problem identification: Assessments of potential threats, sources and vulnerability

Source Water Protection Plans: Community or subwatershed scale (HUC-12 or smaller), to address priority contaminants and their sources

State and Local Partnerships: Local, state, and federal policies, programs, and voluntary actions that together can keep contaminants from entering sources of drinking water

- **Local partners:** public water systems, community leaders and land-use decision makers, agricultural leaders, and the public
- **State partners:** state land use and water agencies
 - State drinking water programs implement source water programs; may be in environmental or public health departments
 - State clean water programs implement Clean Water authorities, e.g. 319 grants, TMDLs; generally in environmental or natural resources departments
- States can fund many source water protection activities through the Drinking Water and Clean Water State Revolving Funds (SRFs) and can work with other state and other federal funding programs to protect sources of drinking water when those programs develop priority ranking factors for projects that include drinking water source water protection

SOURCE WATER & CONSERVATION PARTNERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

- Developing updated state 590 standards
- Implementing National Water Quality Initiative in priority watersheds
- Implementing NRCS conservation programs and Landscape Conservation Initiatives
- State nutrient strategies
- Specific source water protection projects

HOW TO CONTACT YOUR FEDERAL AND STATE SOURCE WATER PROTECTION PROGRAMS

State Source Water Program Contacts:

www.asdwa.org/sourcewatercontacts

EPA Regional Source Water Protection Coordinators:

<http://water.epa.gov/infrastructure/drinkingwater/sourcewater/protection/epaheadquartersregionalandstatecontacts.cfm>