

Jordan Lake Water Quality Trading Study: Incorporating Urban Stormwater Management into an Incentive-Based Watershed Permitting Framework: Draft Vision, Goals, and Critical Success Factors (Revised)

Project Vision

To develop, demonstrate, and evaluate an innovative water quality trading program for the Jordan Lake watershed that will enable more cost-effective water quality protection and implementation of the TMDL. This program will provide a model that can be evaluated for application in other watersheds within the Cape Fear River Basin, in North Carolina, and other areas of the country.

Project Goals

- Develop a trading and watershed permitting framework for the Jordan Lake watershed that builds on past successes in North Carolina and around the nation;
- Improve and protect water quality in the Jordan Lake watershed;
- Develop a trading and watershed permitting framework that provides point source and nonpoint source dischargers with options for implementing the TMDL in a more cost-effective manner;
- Include all point and nonpoint sources in the trading and watershed permitting framework, including urban stormwater and highway runoff;
- Demonstrate the utility of the trading and watershed permitting framework in selected watersheds; and
- Evaluate this trading framework and document lessons learned for application in the remainder of the Cape Fear River Basin and other watersheds around the country.

Successful Project Outcomes

- Development of a tool which enables the regulated community to evaluate options for meeting the TMDL requirements;
- Trading framework provides more flexibility cost-saving options for the regulated community within the Jordan Lake watershed than conventional TMDL implementation frameworks;
- Acceptance by NCDWQ, USEPA, and the public;
- Protection, maintenance and enhancement of water quality;
- Inclusion of process for documenting trades and tracking each participant's pollutant credits;
- Stakeholder participation in pilot program development and watershed trades; and
- Project completion within the schedule and budget established by USEPA.