

Restoration Alternatives

Beginning with the 2016 Integrated Report, the EPA and states launched a new vision for meeting the goals of CWA Section 303(d). The [new vision](#) includes 6 goals: Engagement, Integration, Protection, Prioritization, Alternatives, and Assessment. To implement the vision, EPA has provided a new adaptive management tool to achieve water quality standards. An alternative restoration approach is a near-term plan of actions with a clear schedule for achieving a set of milestones. In certain impairment situations, restoration alternatives can be more immediately beneficial than a TMDL, because restoration implementation can begin immediately. An important aspect of having watersheds selected as restoration alternatives is that these watersheds are in areas where state and local governments and watershed groups are actively engaged in activities to restore waters.

The Category 5alt section of this Integrated Report details DEP's current list of restoration alternatives. The focus of restoration alternatives is currently on statewide siltation impairments. However, as plans progress and more information becomes available, any impaired watershed may move from the standard TMDL process to an alternative restoration. Although siltation is the focus, watersheds with other causes of impairment were also selected because stakeholders are interested in working together to improve the watershed. Several watersheds have pollution impairments listed on Category 4c that do not require a TMDL; however, for waters selected for restoration alternatives, these impairments are likely to be addressed through the alternative restoration plan. It should be noted that any of the waters selected either for TMDL or restoration alternative may ultimately be switched from one track to the other because of new information or lack of progress towards achieving water quality standards.

To date, there have been three alternative restoration plans (ARPs) completed. They are for the Kishacoquillas Creek, Chiques Creek and Fishing Creek watersheds. These ARP documents and future restoration alternatives are available on [DEP's website](#). Current and planned restoration alternatives can also be found within this Integrated Report.