



REGIONAL STATUS AND TREND MONITORING PROGRAM

What is it?

The purpose of this study is to identify the current status and trends of North Coast water quality. This monitoring will evaluate the geographic and seasonal trends of North Coast watersheds and evaluate a number of key water quality constituents. The goal is to determine whether there is any evidence that beneficial use protection of North Coast waters, particularly known impacted beneficial uses, such as aquatic life, are currently being met and whether the trends in water quality are improving or not.

This status and trend monitoring program rotates annually between four key watershed groupings in northern California: (1) the Russian River watershed, (2) the Eel River watershed, (3) Coastal River watersheds, and (4) the Klamath and Trinity River Basins. In 2012, the North Coast Region monitored the Coastal River watersheds. The Klamath and Trinity River Basins are being monitored in 2013 as part of this program.

Why is it important?

The results from this status and trend monitoring program provide valuable information for determining whether beneficial use protections are improving in the various watersheds located throughout the North Coast Region. It also provides useful information on human and environmental health issues that concern everyone. This monitoring was designed specifically to address local watershed concerns, including impacts to recreation, aquatic life, irrigation supply, and drinking water beneficial uses.

How will this information be used?

The North Coast watersheds support multiple beneficial uses (e.g., drinking water, aquatic life, irrigation, water supply, and recreation). Data collected as part of this study provided background water quality information which was used in combination with other available data to assess water quality impairment for the Clean Water Act Sections 305(b) and 303(d) Integrated Report (2010).

This report assesses overall water quality within the North Coast watersheds and identifies impaired water bodies that do not meet their beneficial use designations. The findings within this report can help determine future program design by focusing resources toward identified concerns.

For more information, please contact Rich Fadness at (707) 576-6718 or email at rich.fadness@waterboards.ca.gov.