

JANUARY NEWSLETTER



Happy New Year Tara!

It's a new year and with that comes time for reflection and goal setting. I have big dreams for the direction of [NPDES Stormwater Training Institute](#) in 2024 and at the forefront of all of these dreams is you - a defender of clean water! I sit in gratitude and awe over the thousands of stormwater professionals we have trained.



People like you, who believe in our training and the message that comes with it. With every new course, every new student, every new question asked, we get one step closer to sustainably clean watersheds for all Americans and this is something we should all be very proud of.

We are planning many changes in 2024 (starting with the newsletter layout - what do you think?), including updated courses, a new online learning platform, and a farther reach to professionals across the country. Bottom line, I want this newsletter to be something that's full of great information, regulatory updates and helpful articles featuring consideration for design, installation and maintenance of commonly used, as well as new and improved best management practices (BMPs) so you can better protect America's watersheds while you make a good living! It's going to be a great year for us and we wish you all a very prosperous 2024 as well!
- Luke



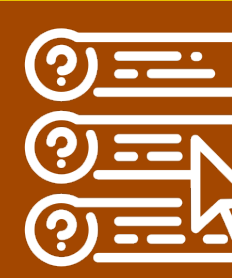
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HOW MUCH VEGETATIVE COVER DOES IT TAKE, REALLY?

When seeding and mulching to establish vegetative cover, the question arises: how much mulch should you use? The answer is, "it depends." Ideally, you should aim for about 75% ground cover.

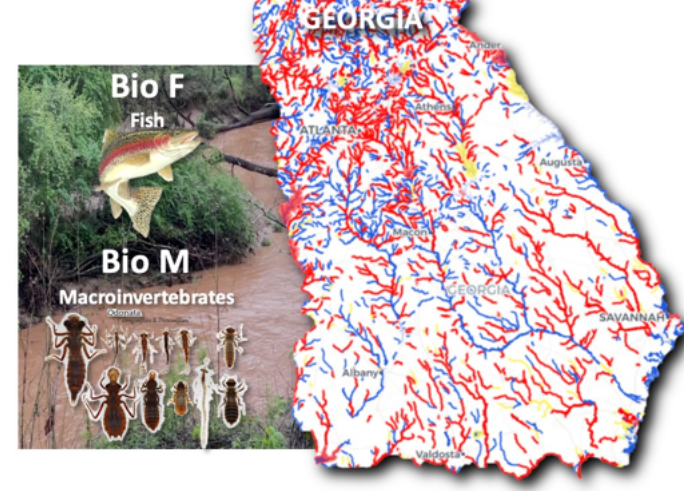
If you use too little, both the seed and the soil will lack protection from erosion, and moisture preservation will be compromised. On the other hand, if you use too much, the seed may struggle to germinate or reach sunlight. It is crucial to ensure that some soil is still visible through the mulch. Moreover, straw mulch, specifically from wheat, oat, barley, or rye, is preferable over hay.

Source: Perry Oakes, Alabama Erosion and Sediment Control Coordinator, Construction Stormwater Tip no. 61



SEDIMENT

#1 Non-Point Source Pollutant That Impairs Streams for Fish & Aquatic Bugs



WHAT IS AN IMPAIRED BODY OF WATER?

How does a water body receive designation, and what transpires once it is added to a state's 303d list of impaired waters? This article offers a comprehensive overview and addresses these queries by elucidating the development of Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) implementation plans designed to restore water bodies to acceptable quality levels.

In Georgia, if your construction project is poised to disturb an area greater than or equal to 1 acre, and is situated 1 mile upstream and within the same watershed as an impaired stream segment for macroinvertebrates and/or fish, the National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit mandates the inclusion of the Erosion Sedimentation and Pollution Control (ES&PC) Plan (*referred to as the SWPPP in other states*). This plan must incorporate at least four additional best management practices (BMPs) that are to be designed, installed, and maintained to prevent further impairment of the designated waterway by such projects. It's crucial to remember that the primary goal of the NPDES Permitting program is to uphold and enhance surface water quality. NPDES permits govern the discharge of stormwater into water bodies, and in instances of potential toxic discharge of sediment and/or other pollutants into an impaired stream, it is acknowledged that sediment poses a significant threat to the aquatic habitat.

"Our stormwater training is all about helping American's protect the cornerstone of our quality of life, which are clean creeks, rivers and lakes! The unity that comes from respecting and appreciating our individual roles in growing a strong and beautiful America is critical!"

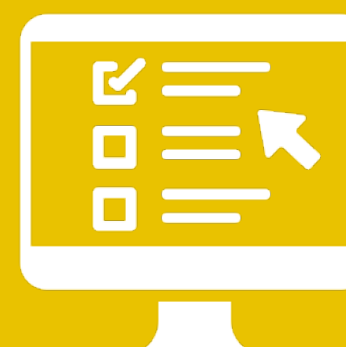
Luke Owen
Owner, NPDES Training Institute

Upcoming Courses



In-Person

- [Level 1A Fundamentals](#)
- [Level 1B Advanced Fundamentals](#)
- [Level II Introduction to Design](#)
- [Level 1A/1B & Level II Recertification](#)
- [MS4 Compliance & Enforcement Certified Inspector \(MS4CECI\)](#)
- [MS4 Green Infrastructure Technician \(MS4GIT\)](#)
- [MS4CECI Recertification](#)
- [HVPS & Industrial Site Stormwater Inspections](#)

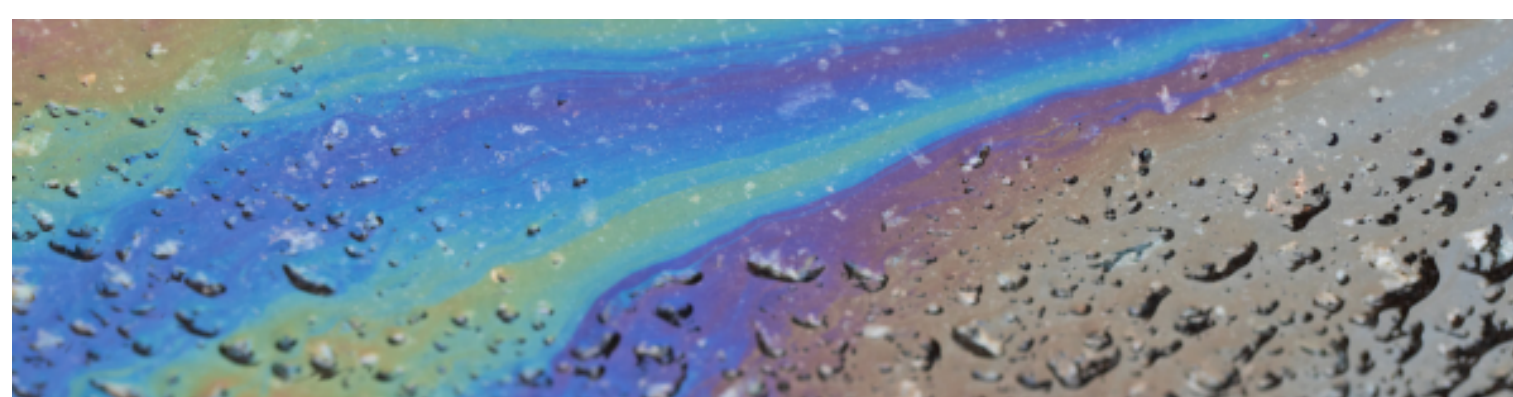


Online/Zoom

- [Level 1A \(Blue Card\) Recert w/Trees, Design & Construction](#)
- [Level 1A \(Blue Card\) Recert w/GEOS & NPDES General Permit](#)
- [Level 1B \(Red Card\) Recert w/Trees, Design & Construction](#)
- [Level 1B \(Red Card\) Recert w/GEOS & NPDES General Permit](#)
- [Level II \(Tan/Grey Card\) Recert w/Trees, Design & Construction](#)
- [Level II \(Tan/Grey Card\) w/GEOS & NPDES General Permit](#)
- [MS4 Stormwater Inspector](#)
- [MS4CECI Renewal Course](#)
- [1A/1B/II Recertification \(ZOOM\)](#)

Course Spotlight

HVPS & Industrial Site Stormwater Inspections



In this 4-hour training, attendees will not only meet the MS4 training requirements set forth in the NPDES Permit, but just as importantly will leave with the education, training, and materials needed to perform an effective stormwater inspection that will help prevent illicit discharges, thereby protecting the residents, visitors and aquatic organisms living in neighboring watersheds. Upon completion of this Inspection course, you will learn how to perform your field inspections with confidence every time, no matter the facility being inspected.

The course will answer many common questions, a few of which are listed below.

- Can misunderstanding the definition of an "outfall" or a stormwater "structure" cause your site inspection to be ineffective?
- How do you deal with difficult people during your site inspection?
- Should a HVPS facility be inspected differently than an Industrial Facility? If so, how?
- What is a highly visible pollutant source (HVPS) versus an industrial facility, really?
- What makes the restaurant industry more of a potential watershed polluter than the manufacturing industry?
- What forms and/or questions should the MS4 inspector ask when performing their inspection?

Upcoming HVPS & Industrial Site Stormwater Inspections Courses:

- March 25, 2024 (Buford)
- October 16, 2024 (Buford)

[Register for the HVPS Course Now](#)

Resources, Tips, Insights

For the NPDES Permittee, being able to demonstrate your intent to comply is paramount if you are to be protected from regulatory enforcement actions or third party lawsuits! WaterWatchPRO provides the first step in that regard by relaying daily rainfall data, without you as the superintendent having to worry about recording it yourself. Check it out, hundreds of people have and they love it!



Every time you go fishing, or jump in a lake to take a swim, be grateful for our NPDES permitting program that makes it all possible. Respecting our neighbors downstream is what America is all about and it's the NPDES permit that helps us do that.

America's past water pollution problems and the pollution we find today in regions like Asia, the Middle East and South America are just another reminder of how important it is that we comply with the Clean Water Act's water quality rules and regulations.



Permit compliance is an investment in our nation's future generations so that our children will also have an equally great place to live, swim, fish, boat and hunt tomorrow!

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