



Welcome and ATTAINS Tribal Overview

ATTAINS Tribal Training
September 19, 2023

Welcome

- First meeting with pilot, phase 1, and phase 2 tribes
- 36 tribes participate in ATTAINS including 11 tribes across Regions 5,6,8,9, and 10 that are in phase 2
- 28 tribal participants attending this meeting

ATTAINS Tribal Training 2023

Tuesday, September 19th

Link:

8:30-9:00 am - Welcome and Introductions *Jesse Boorman-Padgett*

9:00-10:00 am – ATTAINS Tribal Overview *Jesse Boorman-Padgett*

10:00-10:30 am – **Break**

10:30-11:30 am – How's My Waterway *Jesse Boorman-Padgett*

11:30 am-12:30 pm - **Lunch**

12:30-2:00 pm – Understanding Water Quality Standards and the Criteria Search Tool *Cristina Mullin*

2:00-2:30 pm – **Break**

2:30-4:15 pm - The Basics of Assessment *Selena Medrano*

4:15-5:00 pm – Hands on with the Assessment Methodology Document *Selena Medrano*

Wednesday, September 20th

Link:

8:30-9:30 am – Data Analysis and Assessment Tools Discussion led by *Cristina Mullin*

9:30-10:00 am - **Break**

10:00 am-12:00 pm – Hands on with ATTAINS *Jesse Boorman-Padgett*

12:00-1:00 pm - **Lunch**

1:00-2:00 pm - Considerations for Sharing/Using/QAQC'ing Data *Cristina Mullin*

2:00-2:30 pm - **Break**

2:30-4:00 pm - Hands on with TADA *Cristina Mullin*

4:00-5:00 pm – Mentor/Mentee Time and Office Hours

Thursday, September 21st

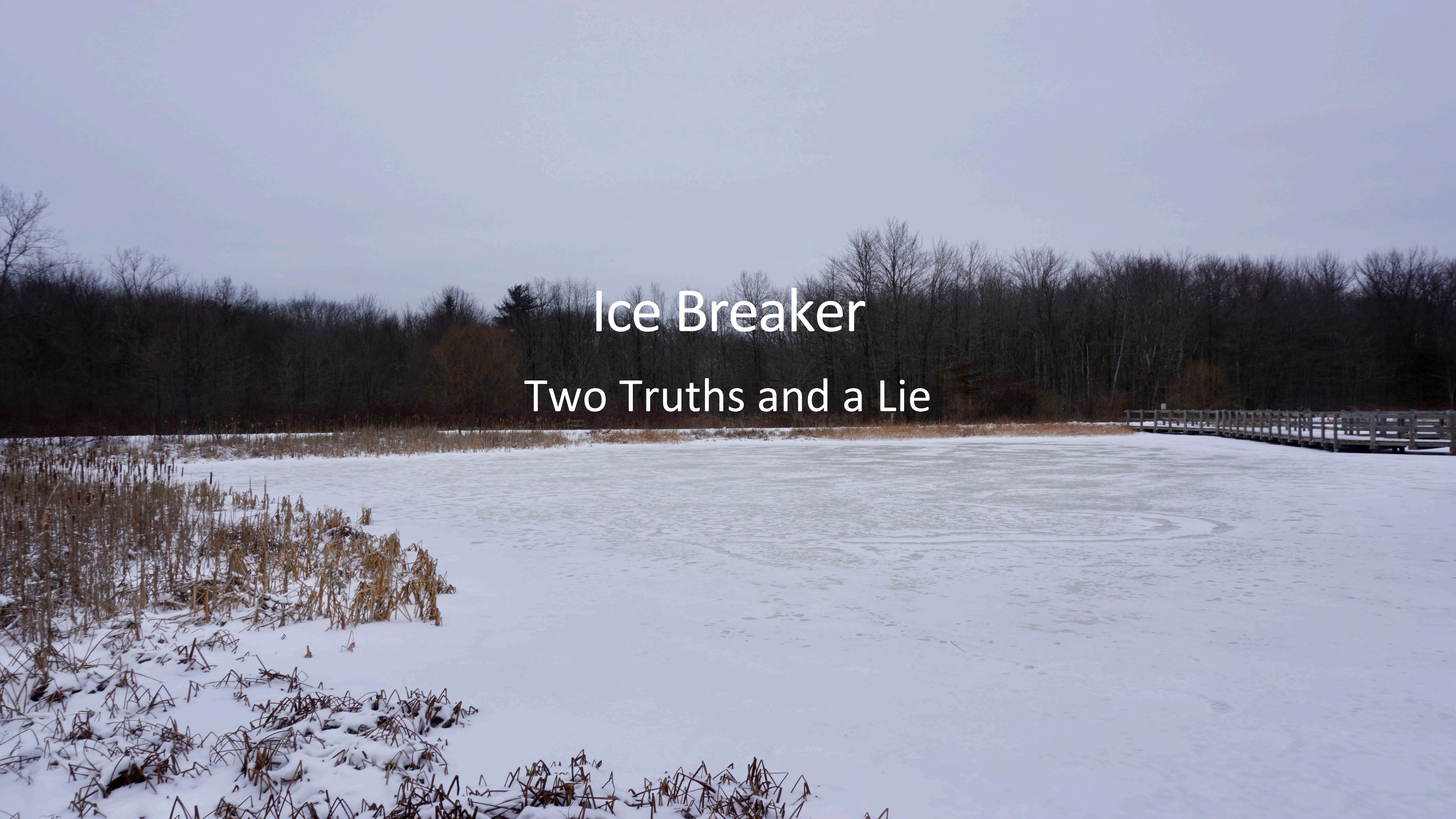
Link:

8:30-9:30 am – Tribal Experience and Lessons Learned Discussion led by *Phillip Cravatt*

9:30-10:00 am - **Break**

10:00-11:00 am – Timeline and Next Steps Discussion *Jesse Boorman-Padgett*

11:00 am-12:00 pm - Wrap Up and Depart *Jesse Boorman-Padgett*

A wide-angle photograph of a frozen pond in a winter setting. The foreground and middle ground are covered in a layer of snow. In the lower-left corner, there are clumps of dry, brown reeds or grasses protruding from the snow. The pond's surface is a flat, light blue-grey color, showing some subtle textures of ice. In the background, a dense line of bare trees stretches across the horizon under a pale, overcast sky. On the right side of the image, a wooden walkway or bridge with railings extends from the shore into the pond.

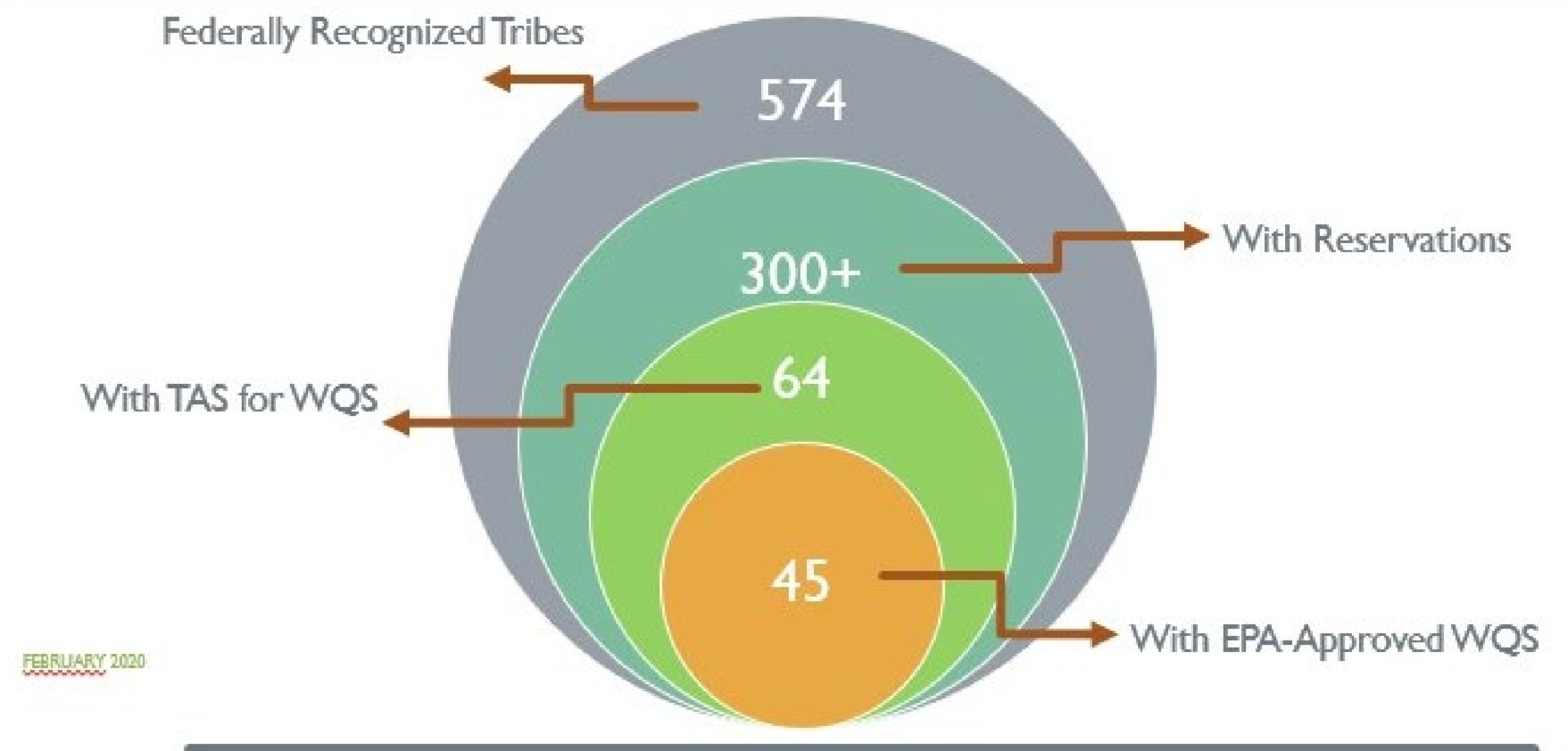
Ice Breaker

Two Truths and a Lie

Water Quality on Tribal Lands

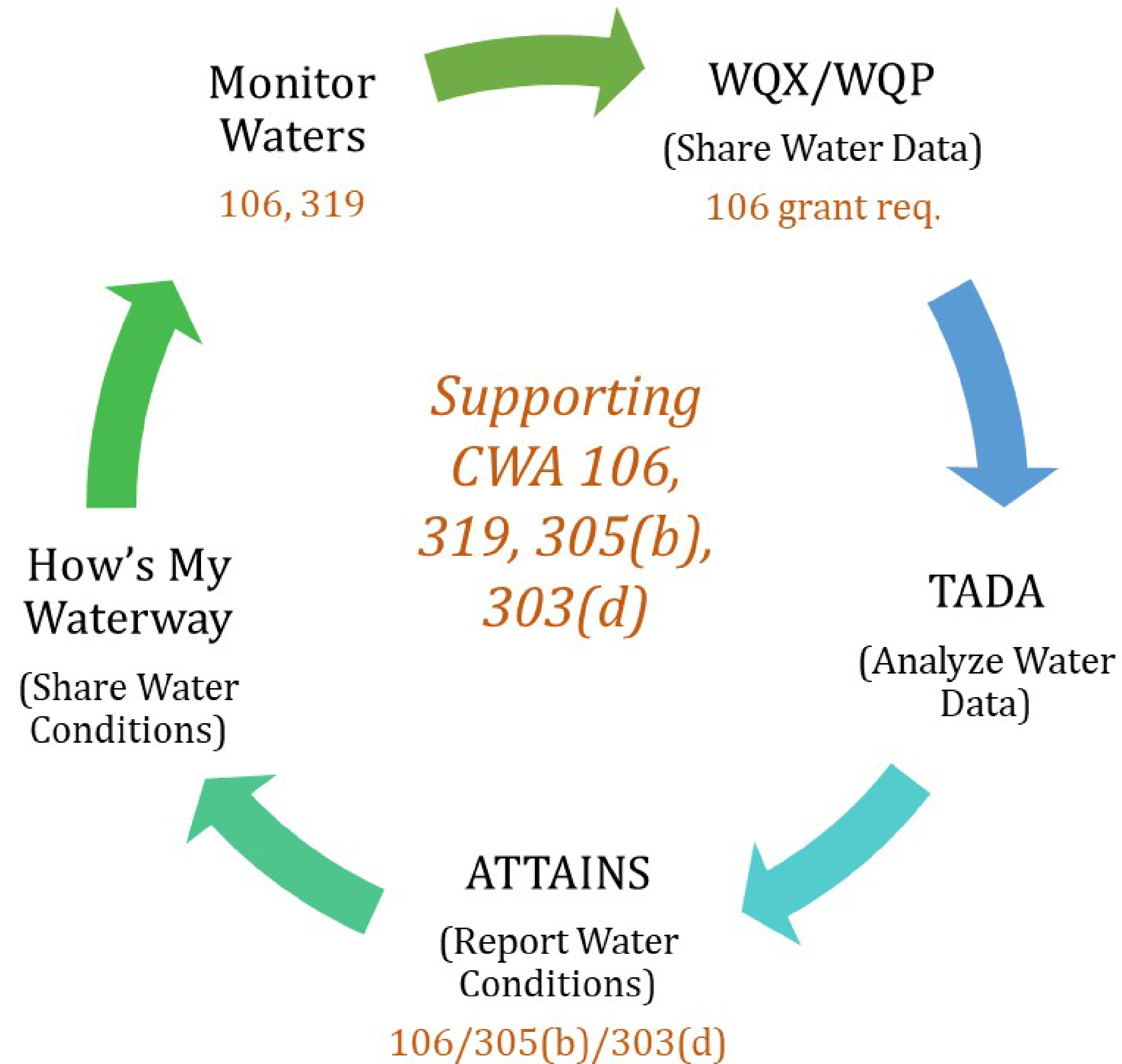
- 574 federally recognized tribes
- Over 300 have reservations
- 241 tribes submit data to WQX
- These are requirements for ATTAINS
- In addition, as of February 2020, 64 tribes have TAS for WQS, some of which are in ATTAINS
- 2 ATTAINS tribes are planning to apply for TAS for 303(d)

WQS IN INDIAN COUNTRY



What is ATTAINS

Assessment and TMDL Tracking and Implementation System



Why share data using ATTAINS?

1. WE USE IT!!!! Availability increases utility
2. Eliminates paper reporting
3. Reduces reporting time and burden
4. Aligns tribal and state assessment reporting
5. Prepares tribes interested in CWA 303(d) authority to make and report listing decisions



ATTAINS Tribal Pilot

- 2016-ATTAINS Tribal Pilot started
- October 2017-ATTAINS training for pilot tribes
- December 31, 2017-First ATTAINS submissions due from 13 pilot tribes
- Pilot tribes have continued to submit through ATTAINS

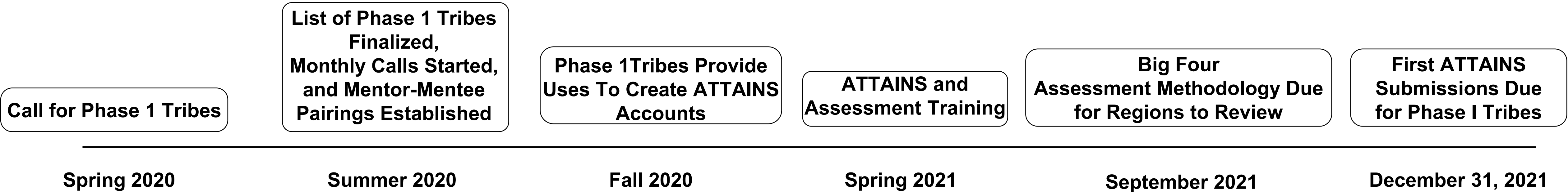
Objectives

- Test whether ATTAINS can serve as an alternate reporting mechanism for tribal water quality assessment reporting
- Capture programs as they exist, can be used regardless of whether tribe has WQS or TAS for 303(d)
- Understand the water quality on tribal lands



ATTAINS National Tribal Rollout Timeline

Where We've Been Phase 1



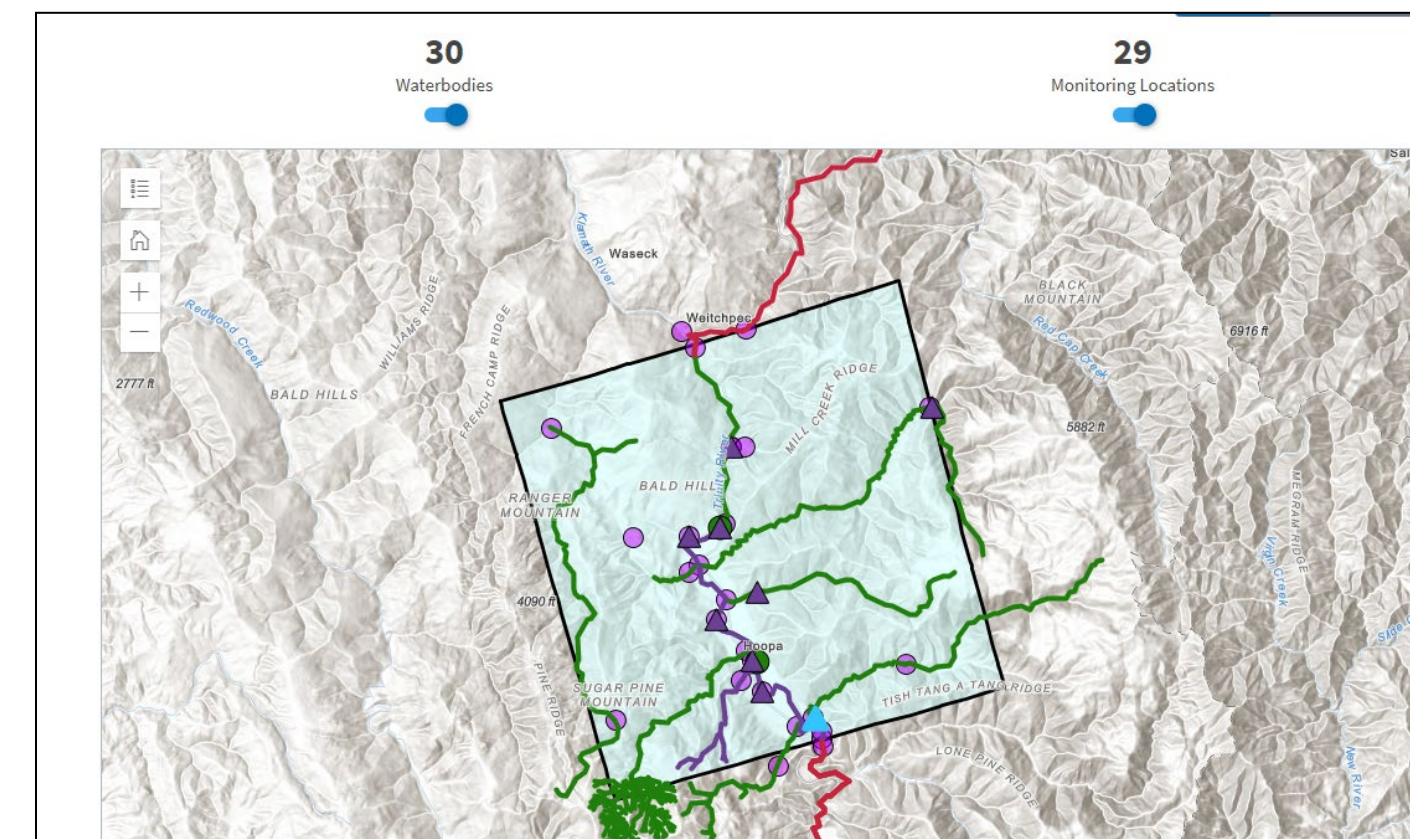
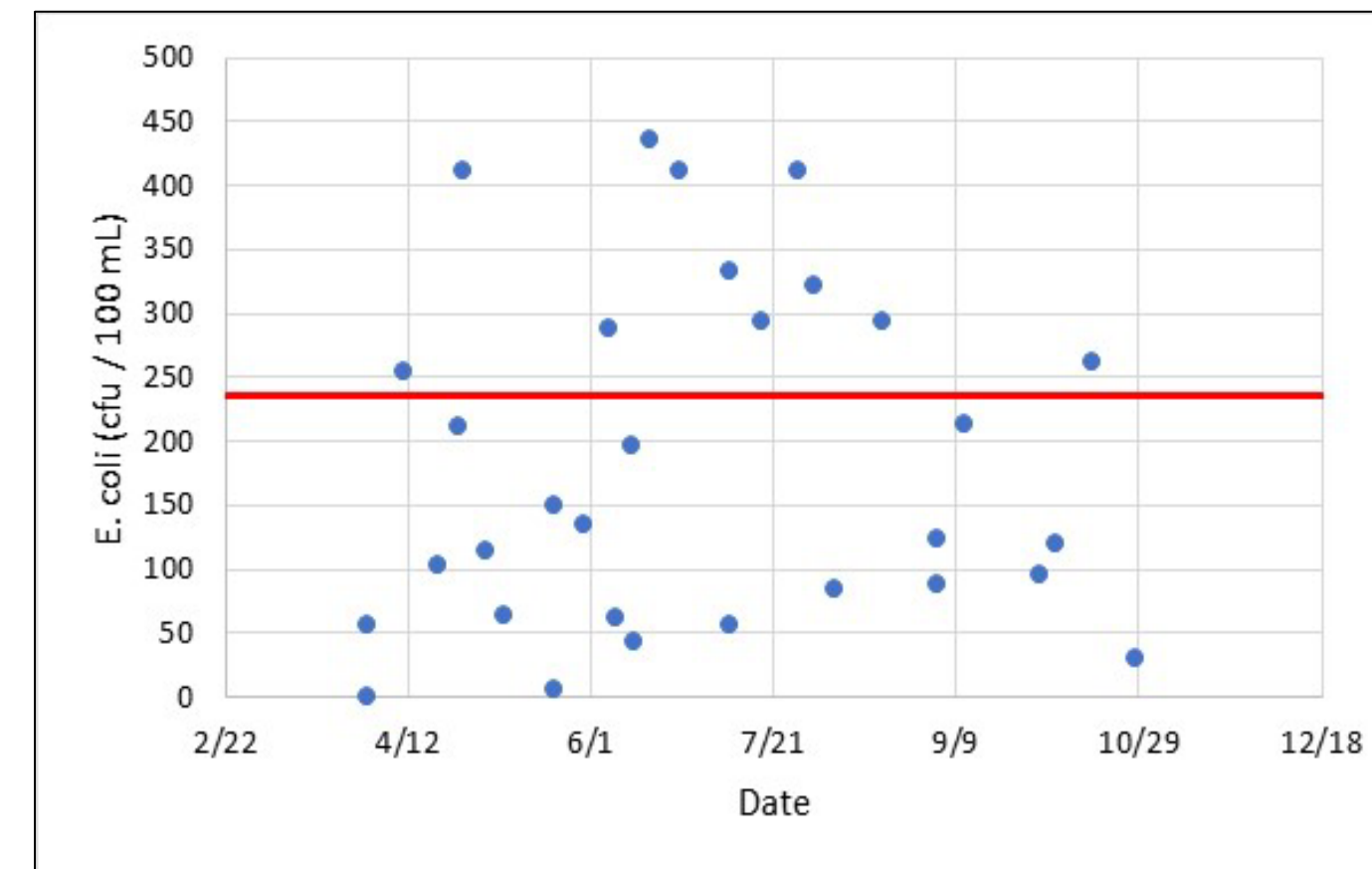


Considerations and Lessons Learned

- Make sure you are still meeting all of your grant obligations and make sure data are loaded in WQX
- ATTAINS does not make the attainment decision for you, it holds the attainment decision you make
- Creating the Assessment Methodology is the longest part
 - Very beneficial to tribes

Where We Are Now

- 20 pilot and phase 1 tribes currently have data in ATTAINS
- Starting to train phase 2 tribes
- ATTAINS is an accepted reporting mechanism in upcoming revised 106 guidance
- Created assessment trainings, parameter factsheets, & assessment methodologies
- Tribal data is How's My Waterway!



FACTSHEET ON WATER QUALITY PARAMETERS

Dissolved Oxygen

Dissolved oxygen (DO) is the amount of oxygen in water that is available to aquatic organisms. DO is necessary to support fish spawning, growth, and activity.

Why do we measure dissolved oxygen?

DO is an important indicator of the overall biological health of a waterbody and is required for a waterbody to support aquatic life. It is generally measured in the field along with water temperature, turbidity (clarity), specific conductance, and pH. This information is then assessed against water quality standards to determine whether the water is fit for aquatic life.

while other species such as aquatic worms and snails can tolerate lower DO concentrations. Hypoxic (low DO concentration) or anoxic (virtually no DO) conditions do not support fish or macroinvertebrate populations.

What affects dissolved oxygen?

The primary sources of oxygen in surface waters are transfer of oxygen from the air and by plants and algae in the water due to photosynthesis. When the water is in equilibrium with the atmosphere and is holding as much DO as expected for the temperature, barometric pressure, and salinity conditions, it is said to be saturated. Aeration or photosynthesis can cause DO concentrations to become even higher and exceed saturation (the water becomes supersaturated).

RANGE OF TOLERANCE FOR DISSOLVED OXYGEN IN FISH

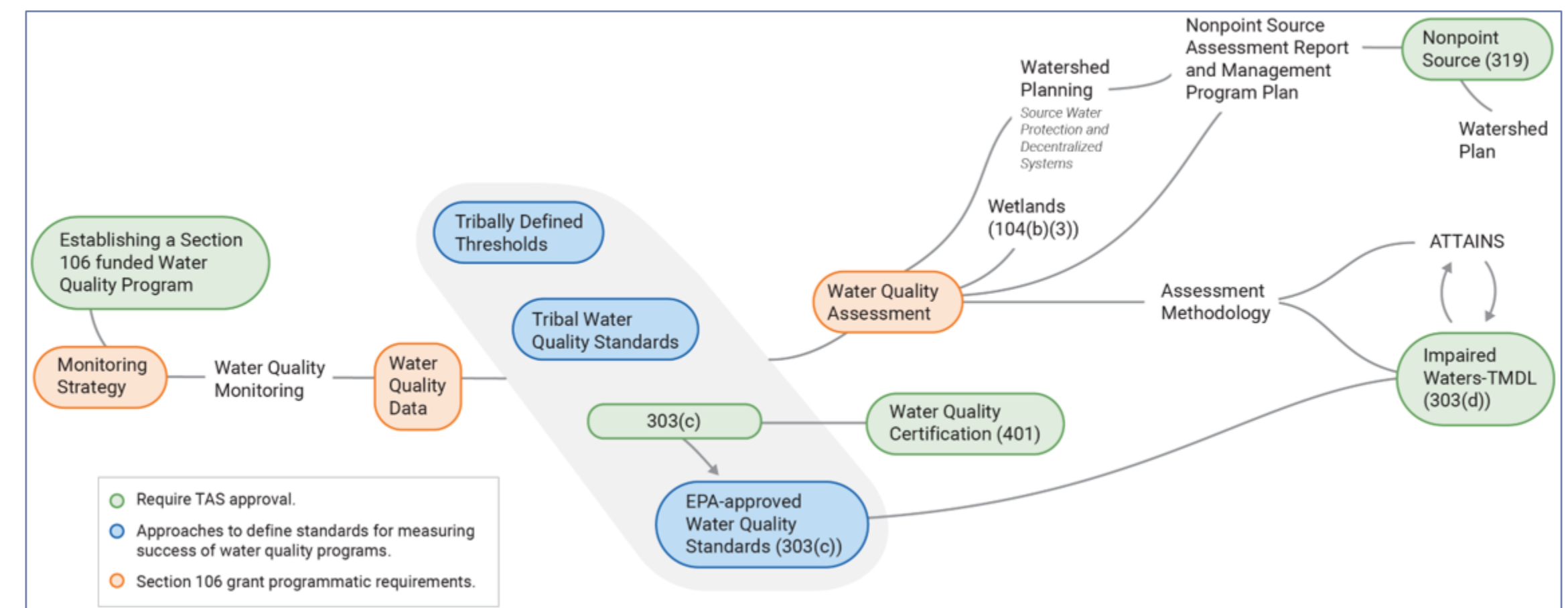
mg/L Dissolved Oxygen

mg/L Dissolved Oxygen	0	1.0	2.0	3.0	4.0	5.0	6.0	7.0	8.0	9.0	10.0	
Too Low	Red			Orange			Yellow			Green		
Stressful												
Supportive												

Figure 1. General freshwater fish tolerance for dissolved oxygen concentrations – tolerances vary by species.

For factsheets on other water quality parameters, visit: epa.gov/waters/factsheets/water-quality-parameters

For more information about the CWA Section 106 Grants Program, visit: epa.gov/water-pollution-control/section-106-grants





Questions?