

# Conclusion

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The above compendium of activities demonstrates significant implementation of nutrient reduction practices in 2015-16 through existing local, state and federal programs, as well as through non-governmental action. Measurable progress has been made in reducing phosphorus from point sources and agricultural nonpoint sources, and the point source compliance options of adaptive management/water quality trading, as well as TMDL implementation, are catalyzing collective action by point and nonpoint sources in key watersheds. Further, farmer-led efforts in many watersheds are putting a spotlight on how the agricultural community can successfully both minimize nutrient losses and be profitable—a key dynamic needed for effective nonpoint source pollution control. Wisconsin's investment in and focus on improving water quality in its rivers, lakes and streams will also reduce nutrient losses to the Mississippi River and Gulf of Mexico.

## Future Steps

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### *Measurement/Tracking of Nonpoint Source Progress*

The ability to measure and track implementation of nutrient reduction BMPs at the watershed scale is critical to the ability to evaluate progress in reducing the nonpoint source component of nutrient loading. This is necessary for reporting progress regarding the Nutrient Reduction Strategy, but also for determining whether the load allocations for particular TMDLs are being achieved. Work continues on developing a tracking tool for implementation funded through all state programs; project completion is expected in 2017. However, additional steps will be needed to capture BMP implementation funded through federal programs, notably Farm Bill programs administered by NRCS, and implementation that occurs outside of government programs. Some states have successfully entered into data-sharing agreements with NRCS and this may be an option for Wisconsin. Other states have developed approaches to capturing private nutrient BMP implementation data that Wisconsin may explore.