

## PROJECT SUMMARY

Tribes monitor, collect, and assess water quality on their lands under section 106 of the Clean Water Act. Tribes and EPA used E-Enterprise shared governance to successfully pilot the Assessment, Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Tracking and Implementation System (ATTAINS) to report water quality assessments electronically.

## PROJECT LEADS

### **Laura Shumway**

U.S. EPA Office of Water  
shumway.laura@epa.gov  
202-566-2514

### **Jesse Boorman-Padgett**

U.S. EPA Office of Water  
boorman-padgett.jesse@epa.gov  
202-566-2612

## RESOURCES

- [Overview of ATTAINS](#)
- [Factsheets on Water Quality Parameters](#)
- [Registration Instructions](#)

# E-Reporting Tribal Water Quality Decisions

## ATTAINS - The Assessment, Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Tracking and Implementation System

### Challenge

Historically, tribes have submitted paper reports of their water quality decisions, which makes it difficult to track water quality over time, both regionally and nationally. Tribes need a standard and simple way to report and track water quality decisions on tribal lands nationwide. To address this need, tribes and EPA initiated a pilot project to test using an electronic reporting process, ATTAINS, for reporting their conclusions on the status of their waters.

### Benefits

ATTAINS provides an easy way to access information on the status of a given water body and enables tribes and EPA to inform tribal communities of water quality issues that can impact fishing, swimming, and other activities. Benefits include:

- Standardized, simplified, and less burdensome reporting of water quality on tribal lands
- Improved environmental decision-making by states and territories, enabled by more accessible tribal water quality information
- Increased engagement of tribes in decision-making
- A more informed EPA regarding water quality issues on tribal lands, and
- Tribal water quality decisions available in [How's My Waterway](#) to tribes and the public.

### Accomplishments

- Completed an initial pilot with 13 tribes from EPA Regions 5, 6, and 9. The tribes that participated in the pilot are now mentees to the new tribes
- Began phased national rollout with 18 new tribes from Regions 1, 2, 5, 6, 7, and 8 to support ATTAINS adoption
- Integrated tribal ATTAINS data into [How's My Waterway](#), a service that helps people find information on the condition of their local waterways
- Developed assessment training modules to support new tribes in adopting ATTAINS, and
- Formed a new group that will develop recommendations to update the 106 Tribal Guidance section under the Clean Water Act to recognize ATTAINS as a valid reporting mechanism.

### Upcoming Milestones

- Finalize the first ATTAINS submission for the tribes in the first phase of the national rollout
- Create an individual page for each tribe in [How's My Waterway](#), and
- Put out call for tribes to participate in the next phase of the rollout.