

## **ADVANCE RESTORATIONS PROGRAM**

Beginning with the 2016 Integrated Report, the EPA and states launched a new vision for meeting the goals of CWA Section 303(d). The [new vision](#) included 6 goals: Engagement, Integration, Protection, Prioritization, Alternatives, and Assessment. To implement the vision, EPA provided a new adaptive management tool to achieve water quality standards. An advance restoration approach is a near-term plan of actions with a clear schedule for achieving a set of milestones. In certain impairment situations, an advance restoration plan (ARP) can be more beneficial than a TMDL, because restoration implementation can begin immediately. An important aspect of having watersheds selected for ARPs is that these watersheds are in areas where state and local governments, along with watershed groups and other nongovernmental organizations are actively engaged in activities to restore waters.

The 303(d) section of this Integrated Report details DEP's current list of ARPs. The focus of ARPs is currently on statewide siltation impairments. However, as plans progress and more information become available, any impaired watershed may move from the standard TMDL process to an advance restoration approach. Although siltation is the focus, watersheds with other causes of impairment were also selected because stakeholders are interested in working together to improve the watershed. Several watersheds have pollution impairments listed on Category 4c that do not require a TMDL; however, for waters selected for ARPs these impairments are likely to be addressed through the ARP. It should be noted that any of the waters selected either for TMDL or ARP may ultimately be switched from one track to the other based on new information or lack of progress towards achieving water quality standards.

To date, there have been four ARPs completed for the following watersheds: Kishacoquillas Creek, Chiques Creek, Fishing Creek, and Hammer Creek. These ARP documents and future ARPs are available on [DEP's website](#). Current and planned ARPs can also be found within this Integrated Report.