Estimating Load Reductions using STEPL

(Spreadsheet Tool for the Estimation of Pollutant Load)

Before You Get Started

- Sort out your 12-digit HUC information
 - How many 12-digit HUCs had BMP implementation this year?
 - Organize BMPs installed by HUC.
 - Which ones have BMPs that will have load reduction estimates?
- Determine how many stream bank protection projects were implemented for the year, and which 12-digit HUC(s) they are in.

Overview of the STEPL Process

- 1. Download and Install the latest version of STEPL program
- 2. Gather standard land use information about the project for use in the STEPL calculations.
- 3. Run the STEPL program with appropriate BMPs selected and the gathered land use info copy/pasted into the necessary spots.
- 4. Pull the total estimates from the STEPL Total Load page to submit as your project's load reduction numbers.

STEPL PROCESS DIAGRAM

Download STEPL 4.3 Installation Package
(at http://it.tetratech-
ffx.com/steplweb/models\$docs.htm)

Install STEPL 4.3

Collect appropriate land use information

Run the STEPL program

(from Start menu, Programs folder, STEPL folder, 🔀 STEPL

Enter the land use information into the STEPL Input fields

Select the BMPs installed in the project area, and enter percentages of the total land use area that the BMP(s) cover

If needed, use the BMP Calculator to get values for "Combined Watershed BMP Efficiencies", when multiple BMPs are being applied within a single land use area

Pull load reduction totals (not the %) for reporting form

Downloading the STEPL **Program**

1. Go to: http://it.tetratech-ffx.com/steplweb/ and click on "Models and Documentation" in left menu to find the latest version of the model. Or

Search "EPA STEPL" in Google, Bing, etc.



Downloading the STEPL Program

- 2. Click on STEPL 4.3 Installation Package
 - Choose to save the STEPL403.zip file on your computer in an easy to find location.
- 3. The Winzip software must be installed on your computer in order to open the .zip file:
 - Locate the file you just saved and double click it.
 - Click the "Extract" or "Unzip" button in Winzip, and choose a location to save the files extracted from this .zip file.
 - After extracting the files, go to the folder and double click the STEPLSetup.exe file to begin the installation process.

Installing the STEPL Program

- 4. Once you have double-clicked the STEPLSetup.exe file in the folder where you saved the STEPL files, go to step #2.
- 5. When the setup wizard opens, click "Next", and repeat clicking "Next" few more times until a window provides an "Install" button. Click the "Install" button and then when it gets done installing, click the "Finish" button it provides.
- 6. The program is now installed and available in the STEPL folder in the Programs folder on the Windows Start menu.

Gathering Land Use Information

Note: During this process each step will require the webpage to reload. It is vital to let the page load fully to avoid malfunctions and having to restart from the beginning.

- Open EPA's STEPL web page: http://it.tetratech-ffx.com/steplweb/
- 2. Click on the left side link titled "STEPL Data Server for Sample Input Data".

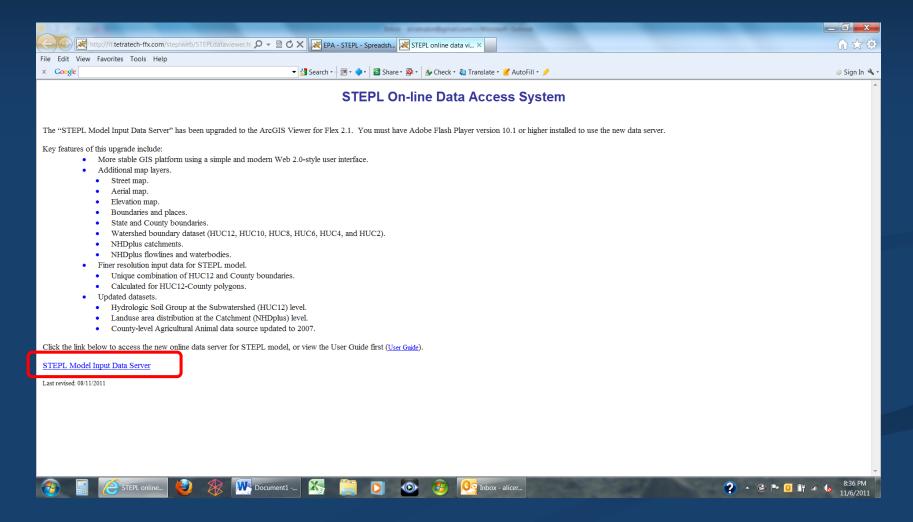


Spreadsheet Tool for Estimating Pollutant Load (STI and sediment loads from different land uses and the loa

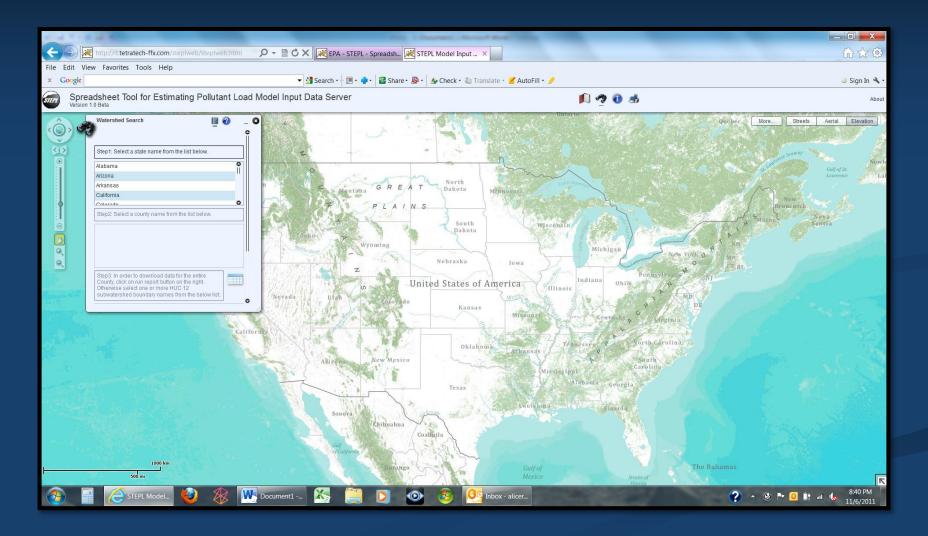
Gathering Land Use Information

- 3. Click the bottom link to open the STEPL Model Input Data Server.
- 4. Select Washington State.
- 5. Select the County where BMPs were installed. If the BMPs are located across multiple counties, you will need to repeat all these Land Use Gathering steps for each county.
- 6. Scroll down and select the all sub watersheds (same as 12-HUCs) where the BMP work was done. Select multiple watersheds by holding down the Ctrl key while clicking in the list.

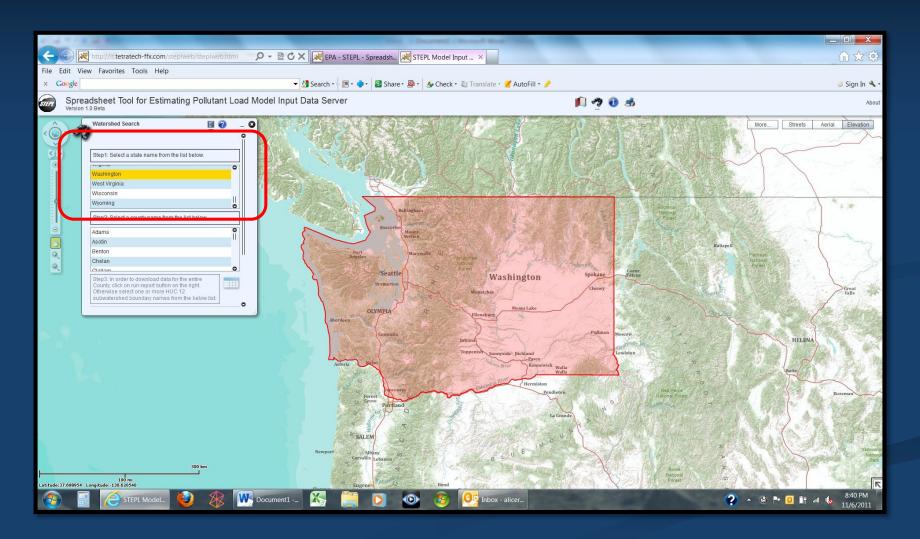
STEPL Data Server



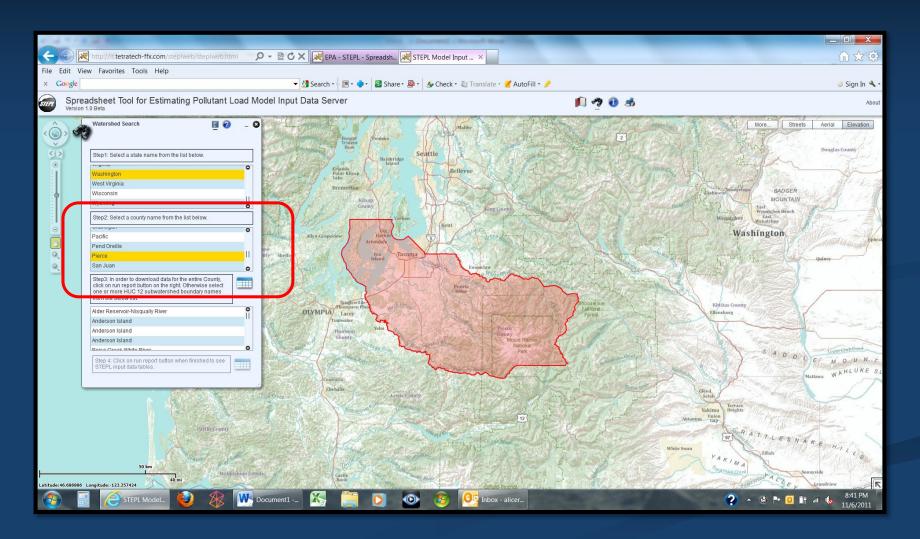
Load the STEPL Data Server



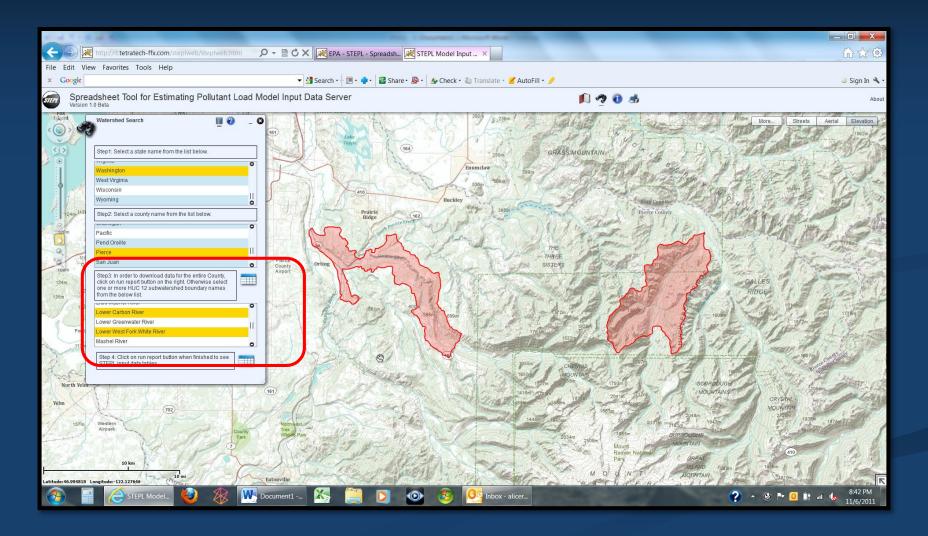
Step 1: Select the state



Step 2: Select the county



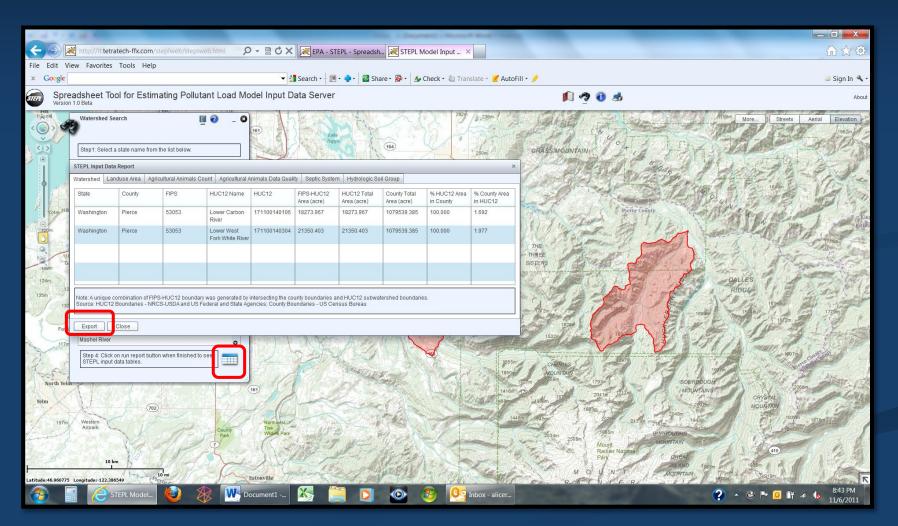
Step 3: Select the watersheds



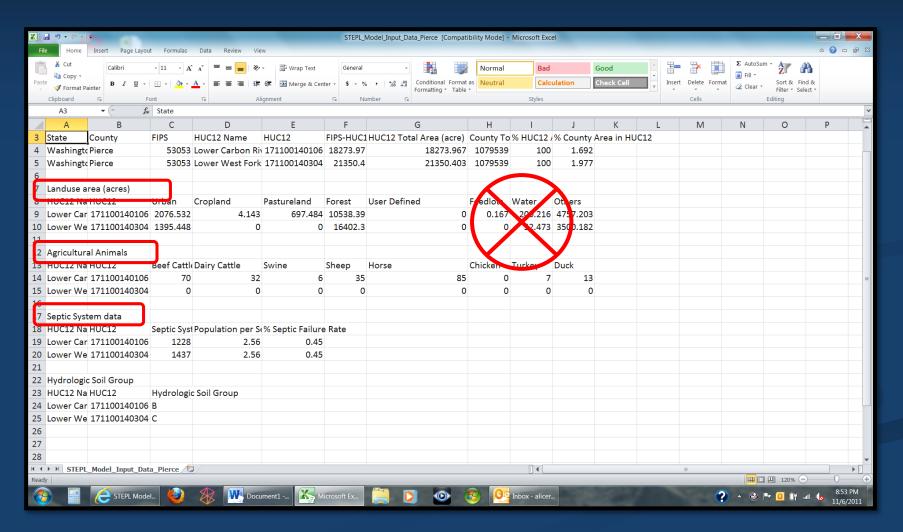
Gathering Land Use Information

- 6. Once you have the sub watersheds selected, click on the report button.
- 7. Click the Export button in the lower left corner of the Report screen. If the watersheds need to be revised, click the close button on the report box, reselect sub watersheds, and rerun the report.
- 8. Save the Land Use Data report and remember where you saved that Excel file for later use in the STEPL process.
- 9. Now its time to run the STEPL program to get load reduction estimates for installed BMPs.

Step 4: Get the land use data for the selected watersheds



Land use Information will be used in the model



Sample data for example

Landuse ar	rea (acres)								
HUC12 Na	HUC12	Urban	Cropland	Pastureland	Forest	User Defined	Feedlots	Water	thers
Lower Car	171100140106	2076.532	4.143	697.484	10538.39	0	0.167	200.276	1757.203
Lower We	171100140304	1395.448	0	0	16402.3	0	0	52.473	3503.132
Agricultura	al Animals								
HUC12 Na	HUC12	Beef Cattle	Dairy Cattle	Swine	Sheep	Horse	Chicken	Turkey	Duck
Lower Car	171100140106	70	32	6	35	85	0	7	13
Lower We	171100140304	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Septic Syst	tem data				
HUC12 Na	HUC12	Septic Syst	Population per Se	% Septic Failure	Rate
Lower Car	171100140106	1228	2.56	0.45	
Lower We	171100140304	1437	2.56	0.45	

Using the STEPL Model for Load Reduction Estimates

1. Go to the Start menu, Programs folder, STEPL folder, and click on STEPL.



- 2. Click Start A Settings Option window follows. Using the information you put together before you started:
 - Set "Number of Sub watersheds" to the number of sub watersheds (12-digit HUCs) you selected in the Data Server (where the BMPs were installed). This gives you the right amount of spaces needed for the spreadsheet data. Add an extra watershed/line if you'd like.
 - Set Gully formation and Impaired stream bank to the number of streambanks or gullies where BMPs were installed.
 - Under Option for Initialization-click on "Set initial land use areas and animal numbers to zeros".
 - Click "OK".

3. Ensure security settings are set to allow STEPL to be fully functional. STEPL provides directions for Excel macros settings in a pop-up window. **Steps can vary by software version.

(Excel 2013: Options>Trust Center>Trust Center Settings>Macro Settings>Enable all macros)

- 4. The "Save As" box appears. STEPL automatically sets the file name, NutrTool1.xls to be saved in the STEPL folder where the program stores your information and makes calculations.

 Accept the name and location provided by the program and save.
 - Click continue each time the compatibility checker appears.

(If the program asks, click "Yes" to replace the existing NutrTool1.xls file.

This will reset any previously saved data.)

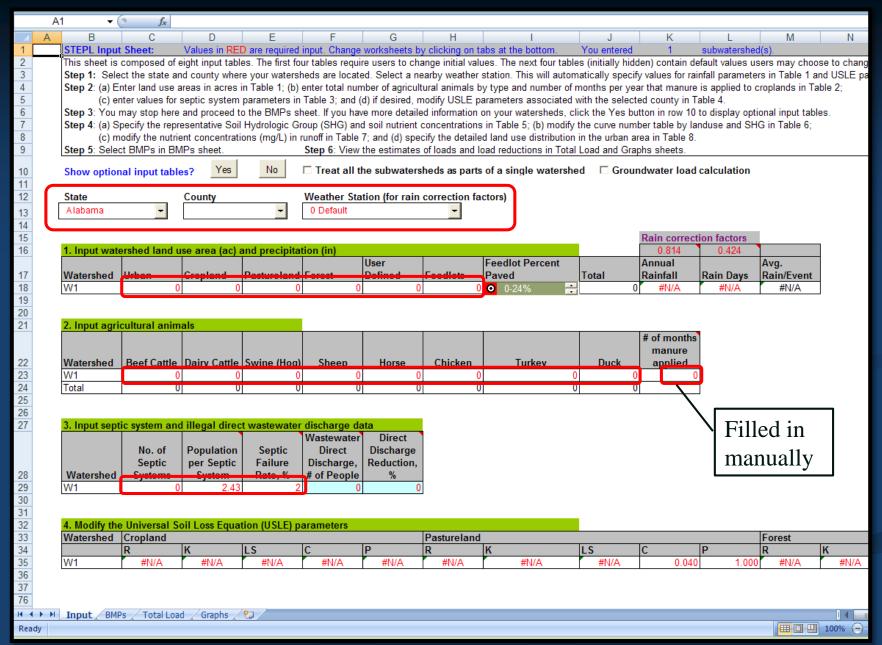
This NutrTool1.xls file is important if you encounter complications where you may need to retrieve the data before reinstalling the program.

5. The spreadsheet will open. Start on the "Input" worksheet tab.
Select the weather station closest to your BMP sites and insert
the land use information from the Data Server.

Complete the following before going to the next worksheet tab:

- "State", "County", and "Weather Station".
- Sections 1, 2, and 3.
- Months per year that manure is applied to cropland (in #2).
- 6. Select the <a> radio button next to the item in order for it to be activated.

Required items for the Input Tab are bound in red



STEPL Weather Stations

Western Washington



▲ STEPL Weather Station

STEPL Weather Stations

Eastern Washington



▲ STEPL Weather Station

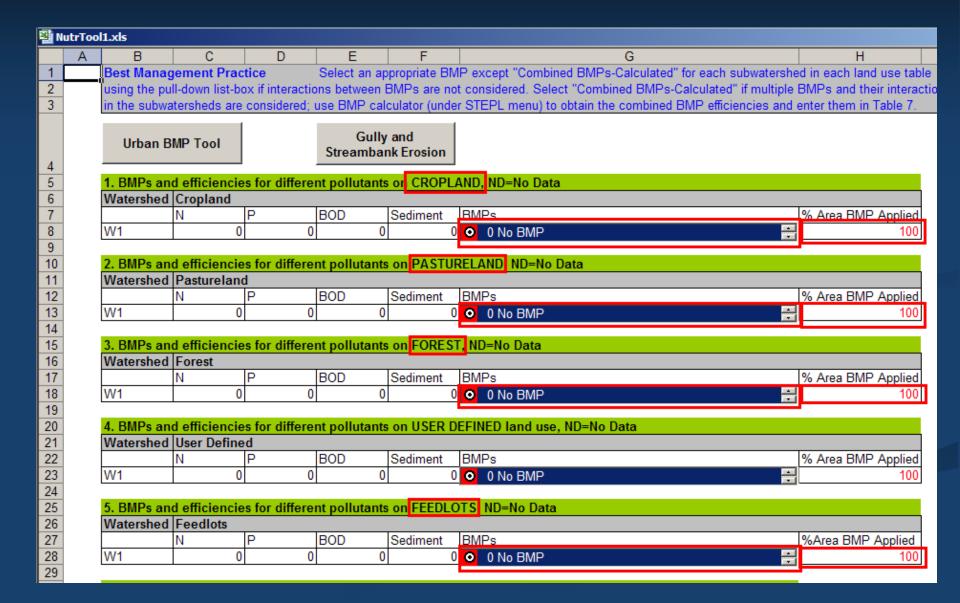
- 7. Now open the Excel file saved from the Data Server, and fill in the required data for the Input tab.
 - Under "1. Input watershed land use area", copy the numbers for the different Land Use areas (in acres) directly from your Excel data sheet over to their respective columns ("Urban" through "Feedlots"), with each row used for each one of the sub watersheds.
 - Repeat for "2. Input agricultural animals".
 - Based upon your knowledge of the project area, fill in the "# of months manure applied" box with your best estimate.

 Repeat for "3. Input septic system and illegal direct wastewater discharge data".

Next Step

8. Go to the BMPs worksheet tab in the spreadsheet.

BMP category/section headings, as well as required field to complete, are bounded in red

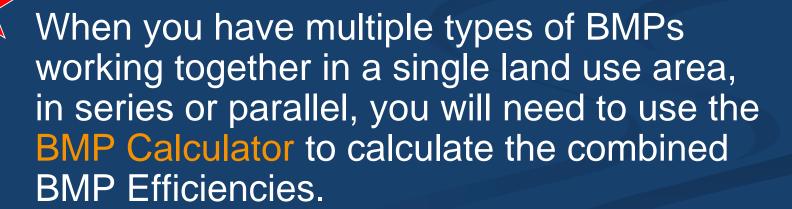


- Select the most appropriate land use category where your BMP(s) were installed. Scroll through the BMP options in the dropdown list and select the type of BMP installed.
 - Be sure to click the round radio button
 the BMP for it to be selected.
 - If the BMPs that were installed are not listed in the land use category, you may add additional BMPs.
 - See next steps.

- 10. Add additional BMPs to land use category
 - There may be additional BMP selections that you will want to use that are not listed under a land use category.
 - Click on the Add-Ins tab from the main menu (at top) to get the STEPL menu.
 - Select "View/Edit BMP List" from dropdown.
 - Insert a row under the land use heading where you would like to add the new BMP option.

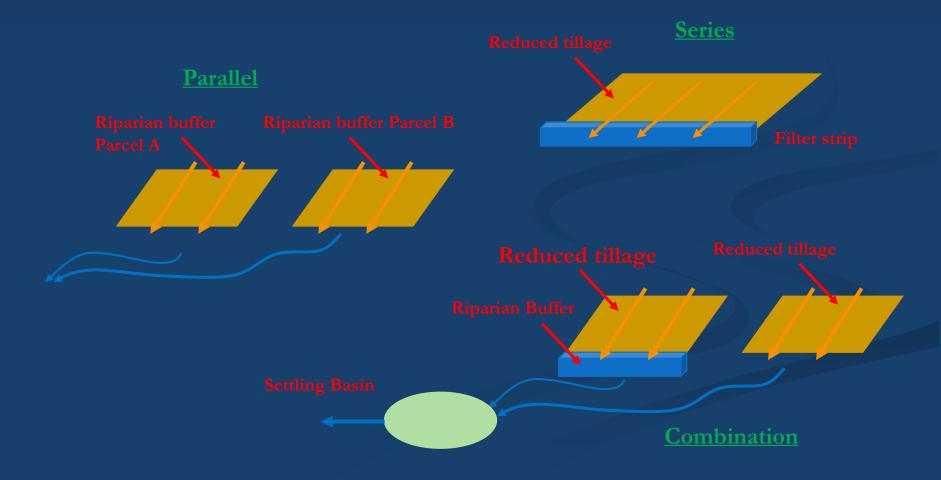
- 10. Add additional BMPs to land use heading (continued)
 - Copy and paste the BMP name and efficiency data you want from another land use category. Make sure the land use label is correct.
 - Click the "Update BMP Data" button for info to be updated in BMP tab.
 - Click "Save Updates" for changes to be saved permanently for the next time you use STEPL.

- 10. Add additional BMPs to land use heading (continued)
 - Click the BMPs worksheet tab. The added BMPs should be listed under the land use category where they were entered.



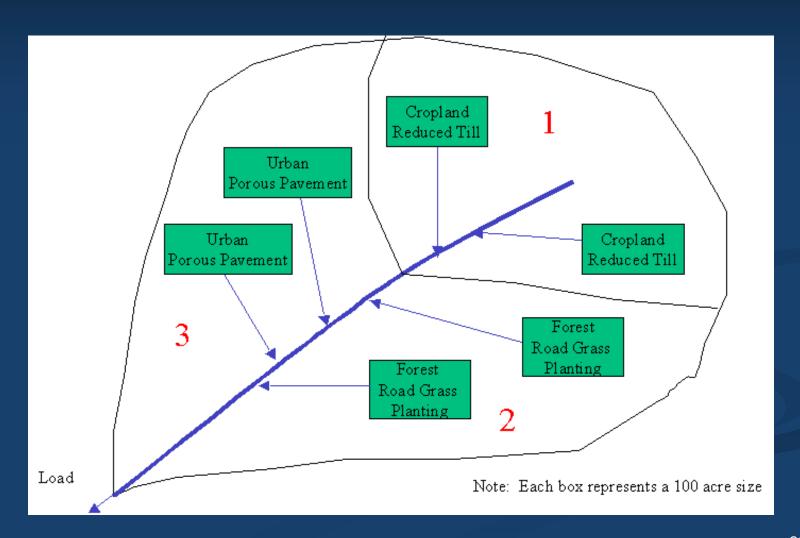
STEPL BMP Calculator

Calculates combined efficiency of multiple BMPs for a given land use.
 The use of BMP calculator requires the understanding of BMPs and their placement in the watershed.



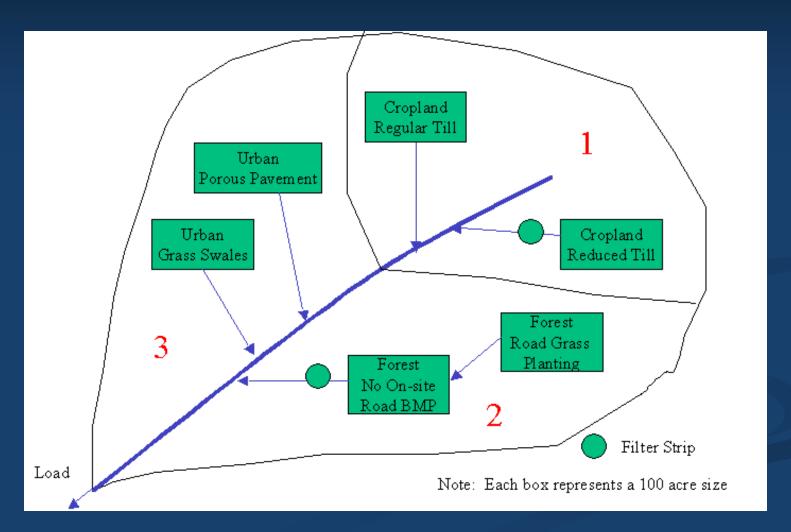
Example: BMP Calculator Not Needed

A land use category has only one type of BMP.



Example: BMP Calculator <u>Is</u> Needed

A land use category has more than one type of BMP.



11. Running the BMP Calculator (if needed):

- Examples: reduced tillage system and a filter strip or riparian buffer; waste storage facility and stream bank stabilization and fencing (riparian buffer).
- STEPL describes it as the "Watershed Combined BMP Efficiencies" for that land use area.
- In this scenario, select "Combined BMPs-Calculated" under the appropriate land use area (in either table #1, 2, 3, 4, or 5 on the BMPs worksheet tab). Then run the BMP Calculator. The combined BMP efficiencies will be entered in table #7 on the BMPs tab worksheet.

11. Running the BMP Calculator (continued):

- Go to the STEPL menu option (top of the Excel window under Add-Ins menu tab).
- Select the BMP Calculator → opens a blank box to perform the calculation.
- Click on the Add BMP button to insert a box for each BMP working together in the land use area. Each click inserts a single box.
- Now click one more time to add a placeholder box for the Combined BMP Efficiencies (total).

Tip: To delete a box, click it and press the DELETE key on keyboard.

Next-enter data into the boxes representing BMPs.

- 11. Running the BMP Calculator (continued):
 - For each BMP placeholder box (except the total box):
 - 1. Double-click on the box.
 - 2. Click the drop-down list and select the BMP with land use category that most closely matches this placeholder's BMP.
 - 3. Enter the BMP area (in acres) into the Total Pollutant Load or Area box. The efficiency rates will automatically populate.
 - 4. Click the OK button to close that BMP's data entry window.

11. Running the BMP Calculator (continued):

Now, establish the relationship between the BMP boxes you've created.

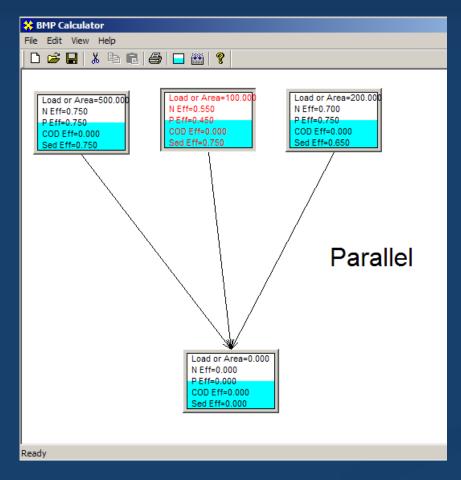
 Click and drag from one box to another. This creates an arrow between the BMPs to indicate the sequence in which the BMPs are applied.

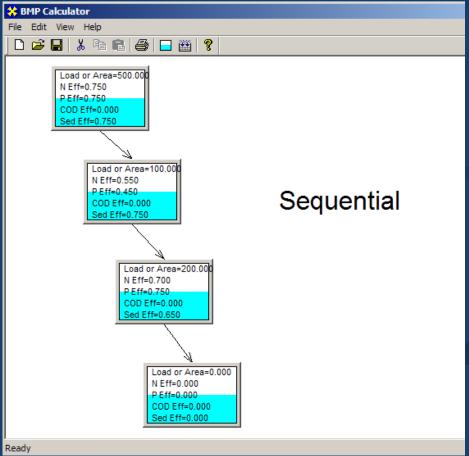
Two ways to align your BMP boxes:

- Parallel--independent of each other: each BMP/box has an arrow pointing directly to the Total box/placeholder.
- Sequential or Series--one following on another: arrows point from one BMP to the next (in the logical order) and finally pointing to the Total box/placeholder.

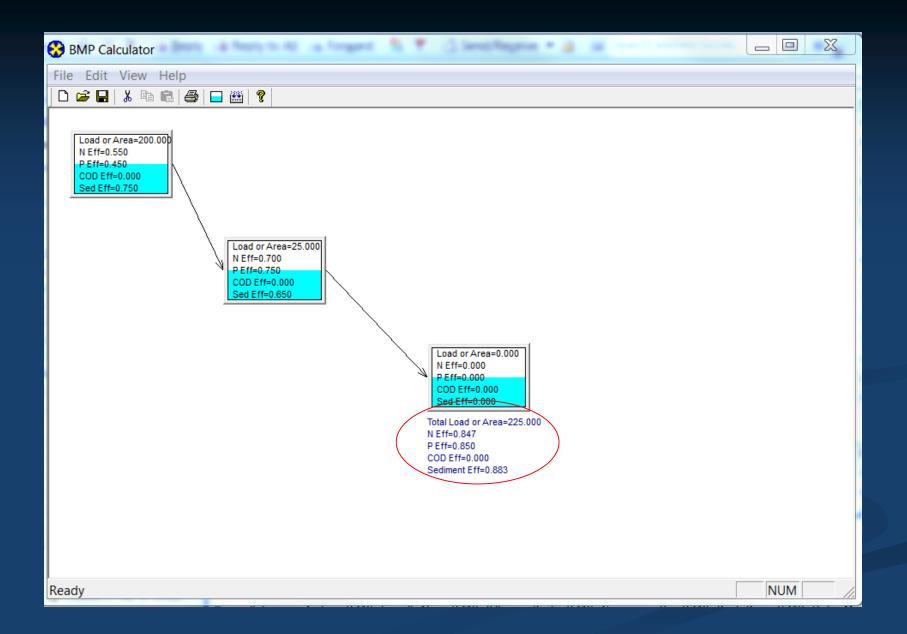
Tips: Dragging from inside the box will move the entire box. To delete an arrow, click it then press DELETE key on keyboard.

- 11. Running the BMP Calculator (continued):
 - Associating BMPs:



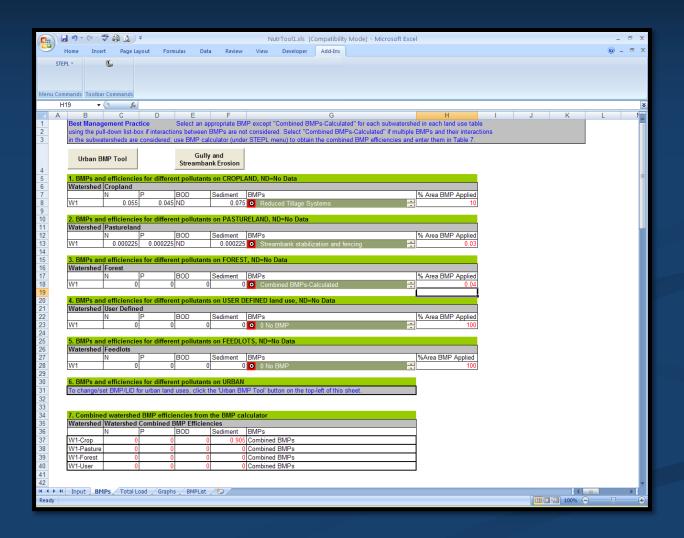


- 11. Running the BMP Calculator (continued):
 - Next, press the to calculate your Combined BMP Efficiencies in the Total box.
 - Totals will appear in blue text below the Total box.
 - Enter these calculated efficiencies (N, P, BOD, and Sediment) into their respective columns in table #7 on the BMPs tab. Be sure you are on the correct land use area row.



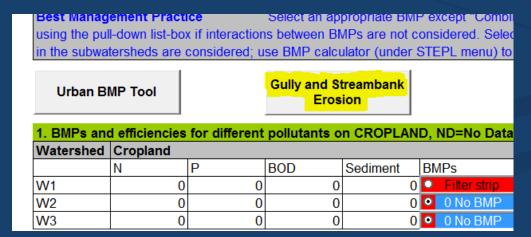
- 12. Enter "% Area BMP Applied" in the last column. This number is a best estimate of the percentage of area, of that particular land use type, that is benefiting from the BMP. 100% is STEPL's default number. (This is usually a small number.)
 - Example: If the pastureland (from Data Server) is 65.94 acres and your riparian buffer covers 1.5 acres, then (1.5 / 65.94) x 100 = 2.27%
- 13. All the required spaces should now be complete under the STEPL "Input" and "BMPs" worksheet tabs.

Example of a Filled-in BMPs Tab



14. Using the Stream bank and Gully Tool

- Use this tool for any stream bank stabilization project that was implemented.
- In the BMP tab click on the "Gully and Stream bank Erosion" button
- There should be the same number of rows available as the number of stream bank projects you indicated when first starting the STEPL software.



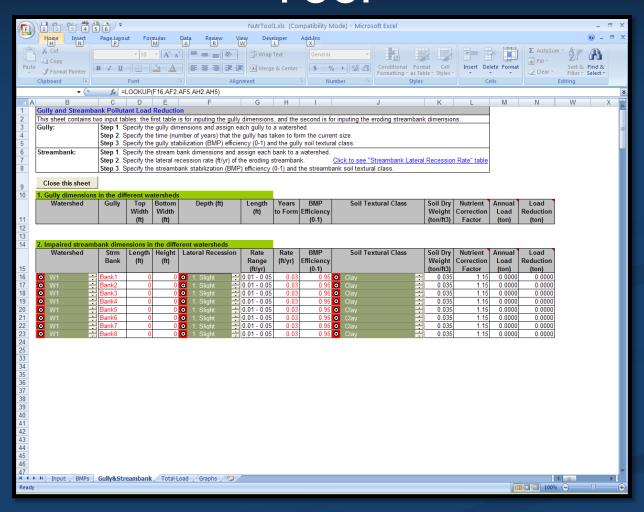
14. Using the Stream bank and Gully Tool

- Indicate the corresponding watershed/HUC (W1, W2, etc.) where the project occurred. It should correspond with the appropriate watershed from the Input tab.
- You can change the default name of the project (from Bank1, Bank 2, etc) if you want.
- Input the length and height of the stream bank.

14. Using the Stream bank and Gully Tool

- Select the appropriate description of the amount of lateral recession. At the top you can click on the link that defines the lateral recession rates. The recession rate will then be automatically filled in for you.
- You may adjust the BMP efficiency rate if it is known.
- Indicate the type of soils that compose the stream bank.
- This information will be reflected in the load reduction estimate when you are finished.

Example of Gully and Stream bank Tool



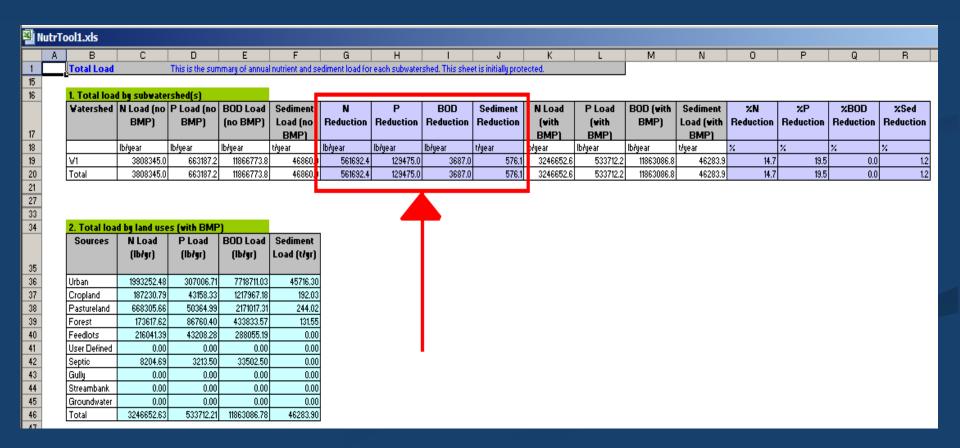
Using the STEPL Results

1. Now all the steps are complete and you've run the model.

2. Click the "Total Load" worksheet tab to get the results for the load reduction estimates. These were calculated based on what you entered in the Input and BMPs tabs.

Purple shaded boxes are the estimated load reductions based on selected BMPs, land use areas, and associated statistics.

The numbers in the red bounded area are the numbers needed for reporting purposes.



Using the STEPL Results

- 3. The numbers in the middle purple section (noted on the previous page) are the load reduction estimates for the project.
- 4. Enter these numbers onto the Load Reduction Reporting Form due to Ecology on January 15th.

Relax-It's over.