

Joint USDA-EPA Proposal on Land Based Sources of Pollution

The U.S. Coral Reef Task Force has identified land-based sources of pollution as one of the key threats facing coral reef ecosystems.

EPA and USDA have a number of tools that can provide state and local stakeholders with additional means to protect their natural resources, including coral reef ecosystems, from the impacts of point and non-point source pollution.

USDA and EPA, therefore, propose to co-lead an effort to address the key CRTF focus area of land based sources of pollution. We invite all interested members of the Task Force to join this effort, which initially will involve creation of a planning committee that will include representatives of local and regional stakeholder groups.

As a next step, EPA and USDA will consider the coordination and hosting of regional workshops to be held in the Pacific and in the Caribbean/Atlantic regions. The purpose of the workshops is to coalesce on-going local efforts to address land based sources of pollution, and provide support to local jurisdictions to develop and implement action strategies to address this key focus area.

Within 45 days, USDA and EPA will produce the framework to more fully develop this proposal.