

Watershed Result Act

In order to improve watershed health effectively and efficiently, a coordinated approach that maximizes return on investment from conservation funding sources is needed. The Watershed Results Act will provide the direction and authority needed to ensure this coordinated approach is informed by precision watershed analytics. This allows the best combination of watershed improvement projects to be quickly identified for investment. A streamlined purchasing system helps deliver these funds to the ground rapidly to achieve desired watershed outcomes, like improved water quality and quantity, at the lowest cost to taxpayers.

The Watershed Results Act:

- Directs Interior to establish an Outcomes Fund and 2-5 pilot watersheds.
- Analyzes and identifies the best opportunities for watershed improvement, with funds then directed to the best projects.
- Provides \$15 million a year for pilot watersheds to purchase the best outcomes identified by the analytics. In addition to the seed money, the Watershed Results Act requires a coordinated cross-agency funding plan for each pilot, which must demonstrate how targets will be achieved. As part of these plans, agencies must modify, expand, and streamline eligibility and verification for existing federal funding sources.
- Combines and concentrates funds and provides market signals by requiring “minimum outcome prices” in pilot watersheds, and prompt payments via simple contracts right after project outcomes have been verified.