

Sediment Transport Analysis and Regional Training (START) Initiative

Under the Great Lakes Tributary Modeling Program 516(e), the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Michigan State University (MSU) and Purdue University developed web-based water quality management (sediment reduction) decision support tools. The primary goals of the 516(e) program are to reduce the loading of sediment and pollutants from watersheds to Great lakes tributaries, enhance Great Lakes water quality, help delist Great Lakes areas of concerns (AOCs), and reduce the sediment volumes for navigation dredging. The 516(e) program is 100% federally funded.



As part of the 516(e) program, USACE Buffalo District has developed the START initiative. The START initiative provides training to state and local agencies on how to use a combination of web-based water quality management tools and field investigations to complete reconnaissance level watershed assessments. The START initiative is an opportunity for agencies to gain a better understanding of localized sedimentation, erosion, and non point source pollution issues within their watershed at no cost to the agency. The START initiative will assist agencies in making informed decisions in regard to watershed management.

As part of the instruction for the START Initiative, USACE Buffalo District will assist local and state agencies with the following:

1. Tech Transfer or hands-on training of web-based tools
2. Once a watershed is selected, the Buffalo District 516(e) team will travel to the location and work with the sponsor on using the web-based tools and accompany them during the field reconnaissance.
3. Once a watershed assessment is completed, the Buffalo District will hold a training event to present the results of the assessment and how the web-based tools were utilized to all stakeholders within the watershed.
4. In the future, all Great Lakes watershed assessments and data will be housed in a centralized database that will be accessible to the public.

If you are interested in web-based tools training or an assessment of your watershed,

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