Nutrient Management Plans: *Can We Make Them Simpler and Easier to Implement?*

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What Do YOU See?

What Is Landowner Objective?

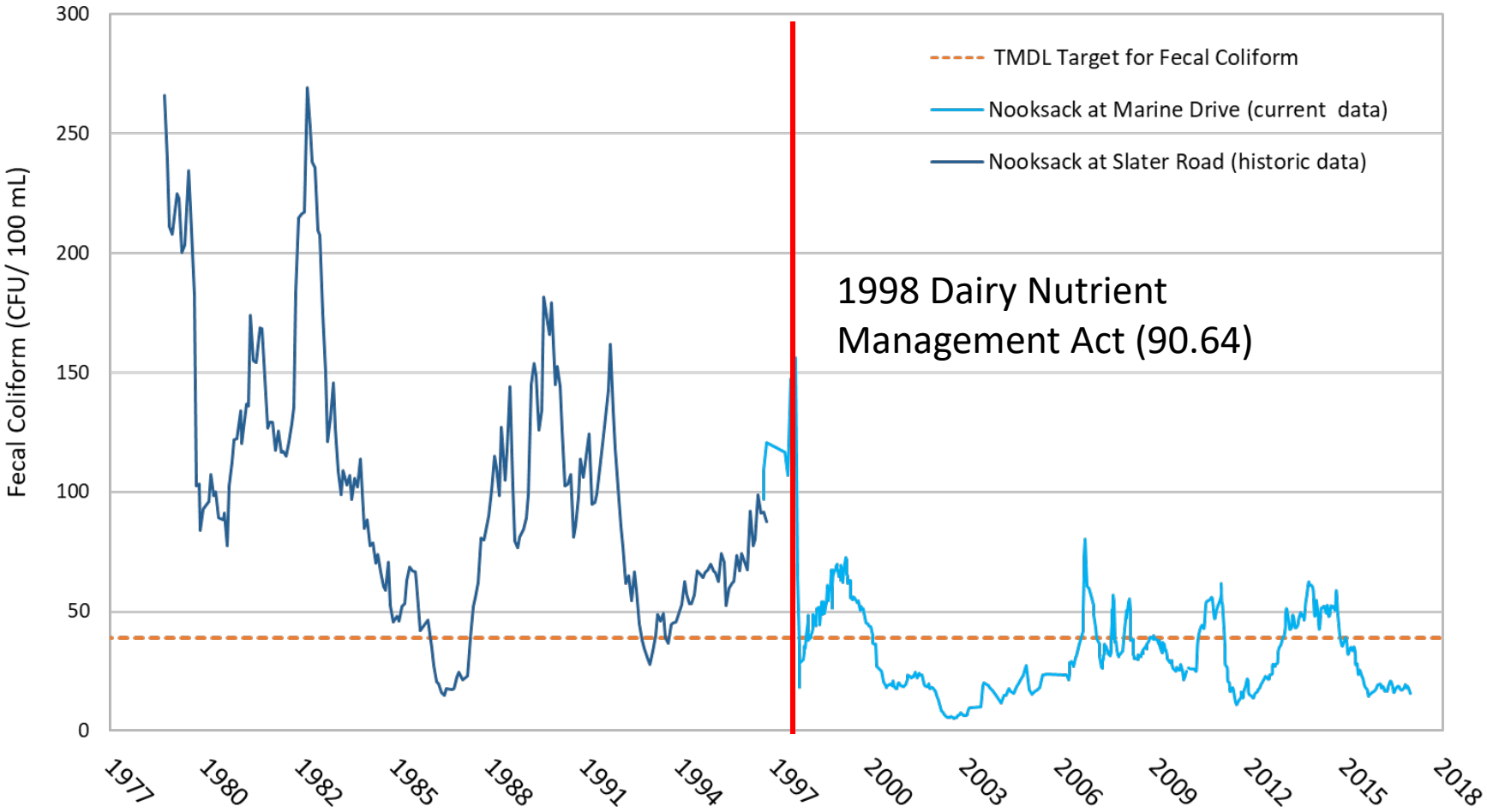
NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT =
AGRONOMICS

WASTE MANAGEMENT =
WASTE DISPOSAL

Nutrient Management Plans & Planning
Example: Washington State

Image: Cutting Through the Crap 2010

Surface Water Quality: Nooksack River, Whatcom County



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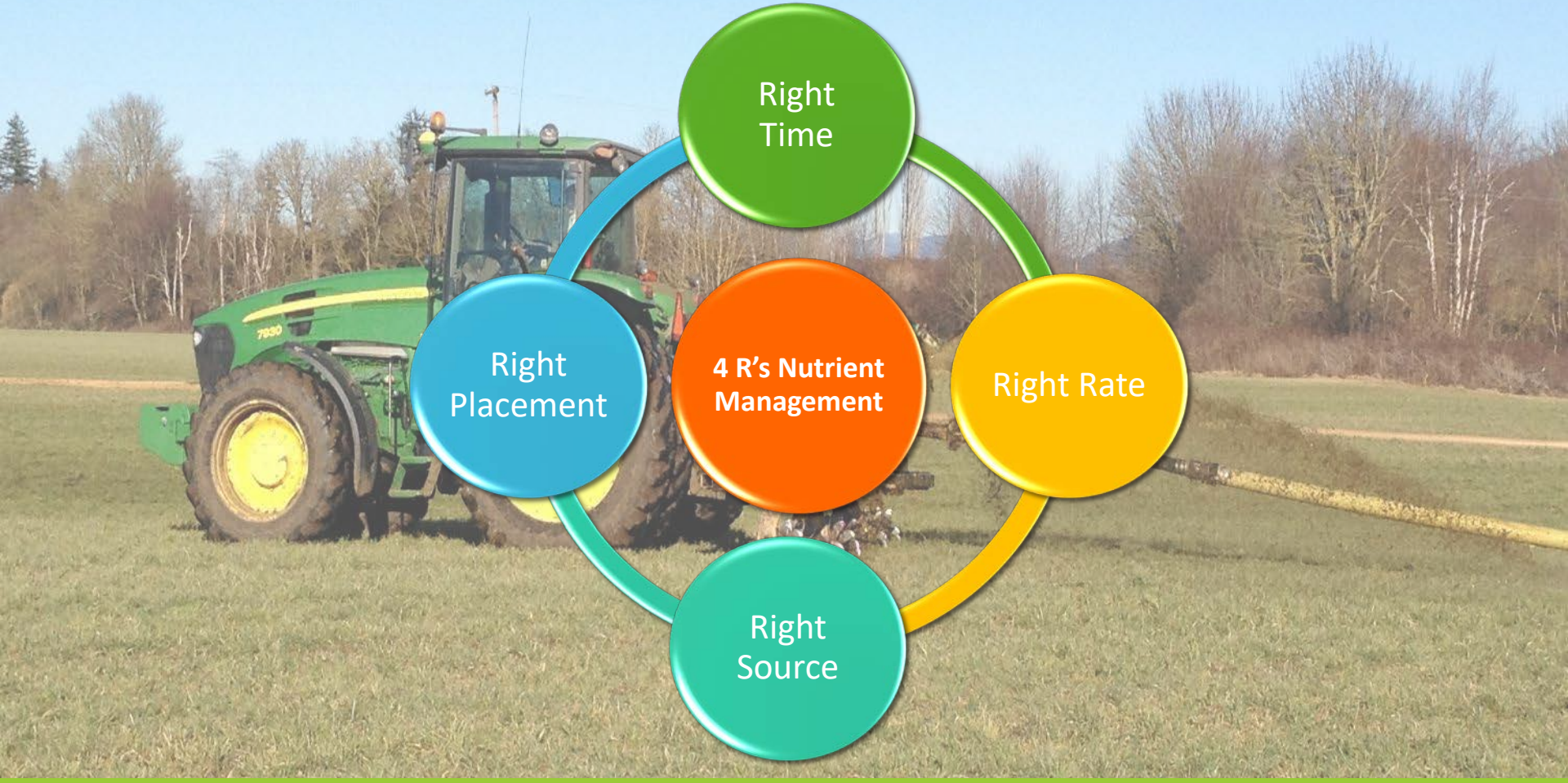
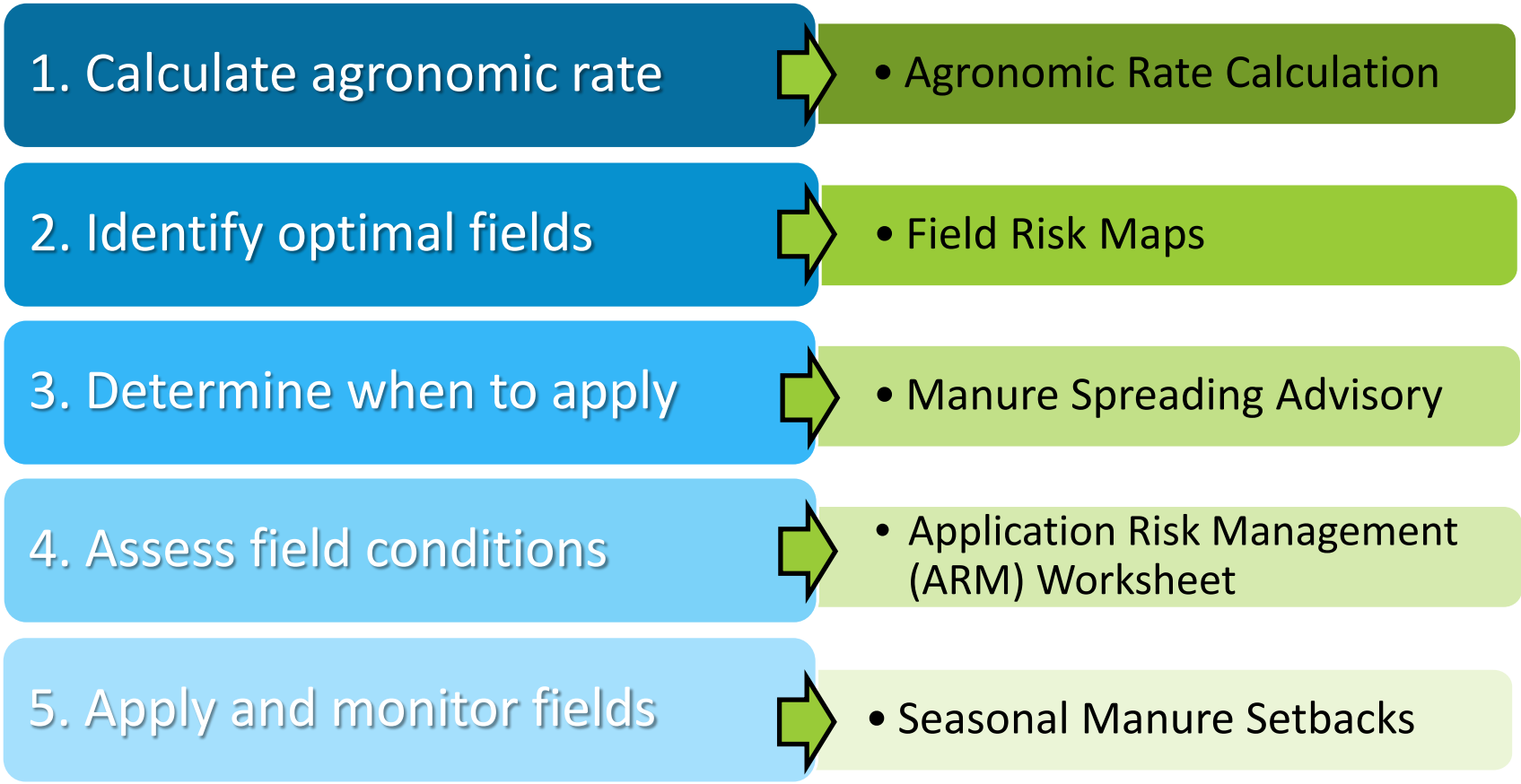
4 R's of Nutrient Management



Application Risk Management (ARM)



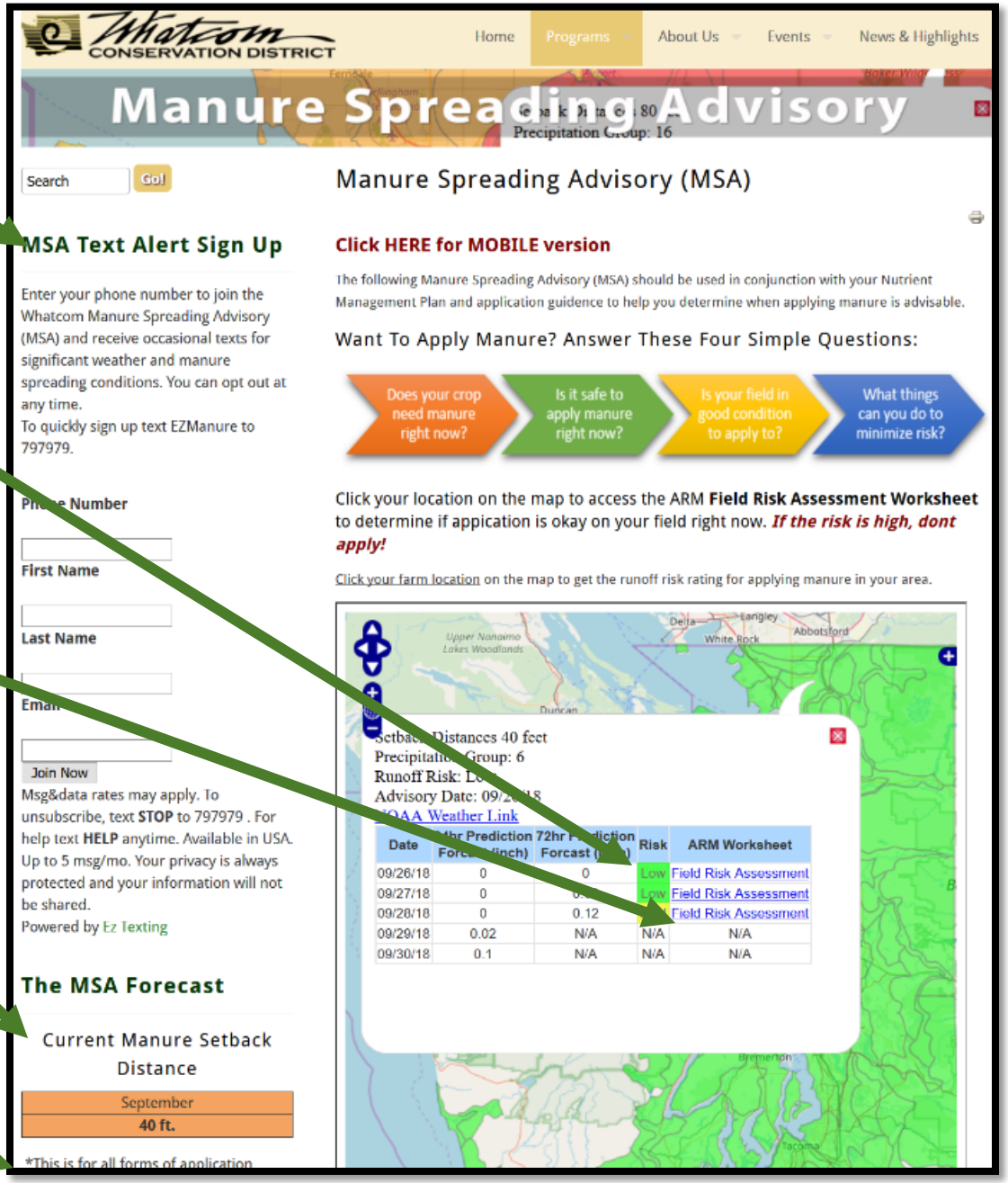
MSA Alert Text System

Real-time Runoff Risk Level

Link to Field Level Assessment Form

Seasonal Setback Distance

Current Advisory Discussion and Links



www.wadairyplan.org/MSA

Washington Dairy Plan Framework

Regulatory Framework

- 1998 Dairy Nutrient Management Act
- WSDA Mandatory inspection process
- WSDA Regulatory support
- Regulation of non-dairy farm types by DOE, County
- Working on cross boundary coordination

Technical Support

- NRCS Practice Standards & Planning Process
- NRCS & State (CTD) Dairy Planner Certification & training
- State and partner $upport for planners
- Dairy Plan template collaboratively created and updated

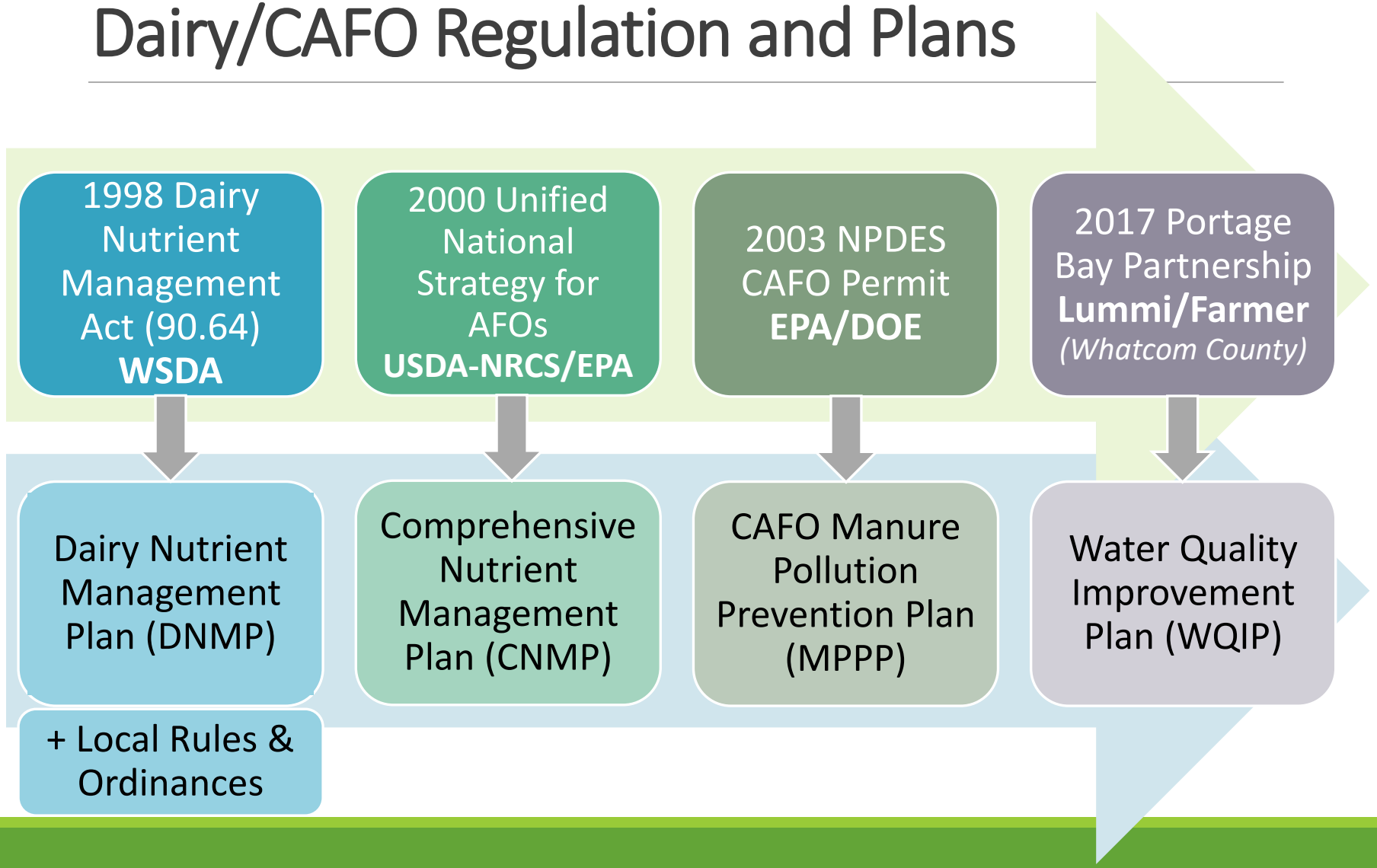
Expertise

- Conservation District dairy planners, nutrient experts, agronomists, scientists, engineers
- Non-regulatory relationships
- Real-time, decision support tools for 4Rs
- Nutrient education and outreach programs
- Share CD staff statewide

Supporting Programs

- Annual Manure Nutrient Training Event
- Local water quality monitoring
- Pollution Identification and Correction program for other farm types
- Coordinated agency communication, data analysis, & education programs

Dairy/CAFO Regulation and Plans

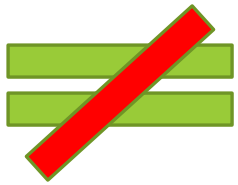


Plans! Plans! Plans!

Challenges of Having Multiple Nutrient Management Plans

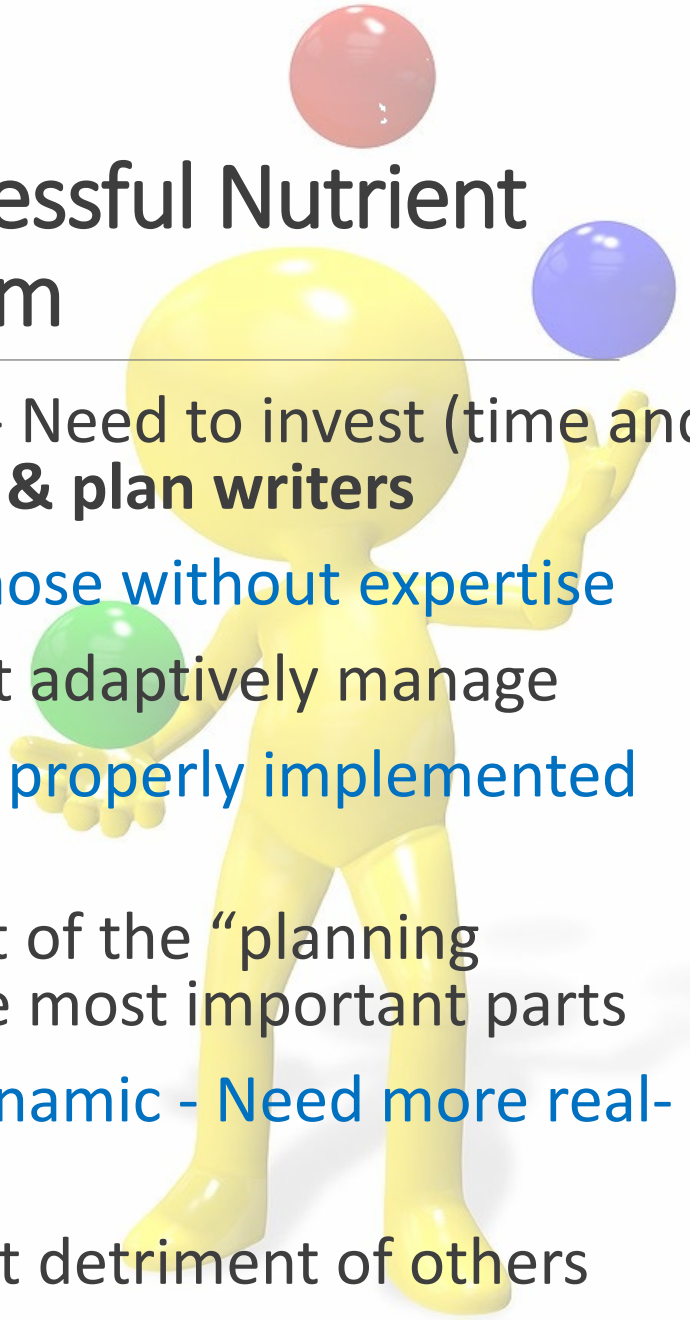
- Different plans can be duplicative…
- …or contradictory….but landowner still required to follow
- Typically little coordination between agencies on plan contents
- Producer needs to record a lot of information… but lack of tools (or too many!) to help
- Lack of qualified staff to write different plans
- Can take a long time to write plan(s) (60+hours)

Does the Plan Achieve the Goal?

Perfect Plan *Implementation*  Resource Protection

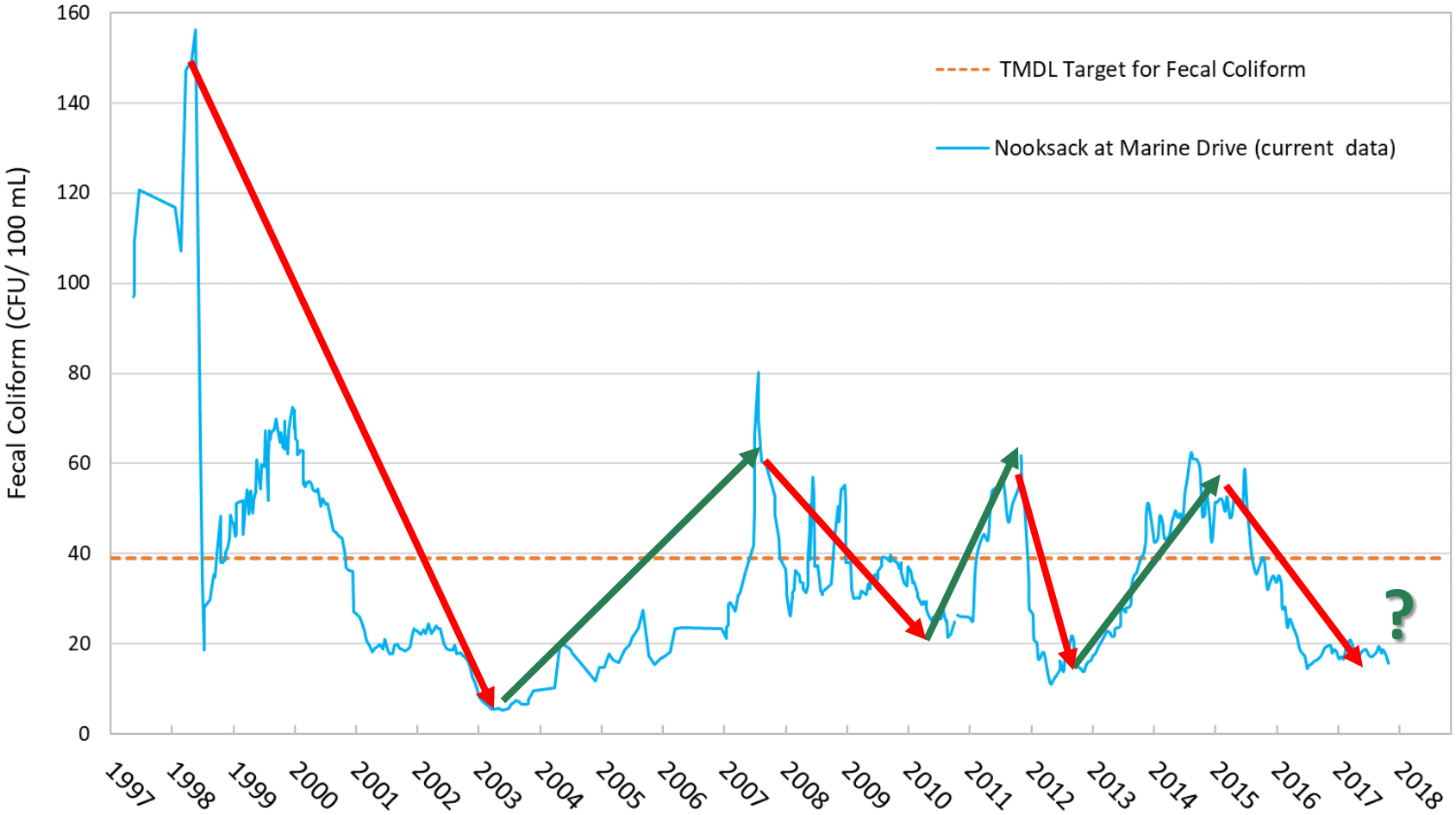
- ✓Education & Information to landowners
- ✓Technical Assistance and $upport
- ✓Good State/local agency relationships and program coordination
- ✓Strong, helpful, consistent regulatory enforcement

Common Barriers to Successful Nutrient Management Plan Program



- Lack of available staff/expertise - Need to invest (time and $) in training planners (2 years+) **& plan writers**
- Plans to ridged or designed by those without expertise
- Have funds to write plan, but not adaptively manage
- A perfect plan is worthless if not properly implemented and effectively enforced
- Outreach and education not part of the “planning process”, even though one of the most important parts
- Plan is static, but operation is dynamic - Need more real-time decision support tools
- Focus on one “obvious” source at detriment of others

Surface Water Quality: Nooksack River, Whatcom County



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The Success of Nutrient Management Plans Going Forward…

- The implementation of the plan is in the hands of the landowner…how do you support that?
- Need a singular, “building block” plan
- Regulations and plans vary between Agencies and States … need coordinated effort
- Agriculture is dynamic industry - Need flexible, site specific plan, annual planning, real-time tools
- Support planners/writers and technical assistance
- Education is imperative!
- Need good, regional science to support plan criteria

Thank Mooou!

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