Baseline information on nitrogen and phosphorus loading in Tennessee streams Anne Hoos (retired) and Victor Roland, U.S. Geological Survey

USGS Regional assessments of nutrient sources and stream loads mass transported each year



Objective: Build understanding of how human activities and natural features influence nutrient loads in streams <u>Construct model</u>

Practical applications: Estimates of nutrient loads in all stream reaches Rankings by river basin or state

Estimates of source shares of stream loads

# Estimates of stream nutrient loads not just for the 59 load monitoring sites ...







# Estimates of contribution from each nutrient source to the load in each reach



# **SPARROW\* Model Concept**



\*<u>SPA</u>tially <u>R</u>eferenced <u>R</u>egression <u>O</u>n <u>W</u>atershed Attributes

### **SPARROW Model Framework**



### **SPARROW Model Framework**



# Sources accounting for instream <u>nitrogen</u> load in the Southeast



# Sources accounting for instream phosphorus load in the Southeast



## Transport variables in nutrient models



Monitored load

#### TOTAL NITROGEN

#### **TOTAL PHOSPHORUS**



SPARROW results are useful ...
where assessments need to be extrapolated across a large region (need consistent data and methods over wide areal extent)



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 SPARROW results are useful ...
where assessments need to be extrapolated/applied across a large region (need consistent data and methods over wide areal extent)

 where decision-making is based on relative contribution of different watershed sources
<u>Tennessee Nutrient Reduction</u>
<u>Framework</u>

**≊USGS** 

# Tennessee mapper (USGS-TDEC)

#### https://sparrow.wim.usgs.gov/sparrow-tennessee/





# Select Nutrient and Area of Interest



#### SPARROW Tennessee



# Select scale for reporting results



SPARROW Tennessee

# Select load/yield term to be displayed



# Nitrogen yield from each HUC10 delivered to the Ohio River (lb/yr/acre)

Nitrogen

Area of Interest

State

Cumberland River

HUC8

**Clear Area of Interest** 

SPARROW Tennessee

Displayed Metric

Yield from HUC10 delivered to c

Group Results By

HUC10

.II Show Chart

Show Table



#### **≥USGS** SPARROW Tennessee

# Phosphorus yield from each HUC10

# delivered to the Ohio River (lb/yr/acre)

|            | CONTRACTOR OF CONTRACTOR |  |
|------------|--------------------------|--|
| $\bigcirc$ | Nitrogen                 |  |

Area of Interest

State

Cumberland River

HUC8

**Clear Area of Interest** 

**Displayed Metric** 

Yield from HUC10 delivered to c

Group Results By

HUC10

I Show Chart

Show Table



#### **≥USGS** SPARROW Tennessee

# Phosphorus yield from each HUC10

delivered to the Ohio River (lb/yr/acre)





#### SPARROW Tennessee



### SPARROW Tennessee

### Phosphorus yield from each HUC10

## delivered to the HUC10 outlet



### **SPARROW Tennessee Phosphorus yield from each HUC10**

## delivered to the HUC10 outlet





# Select a single HUC8 area to map/chart: 05130204 – Harpeth River - Phosphorus



Ranked by HUC10

. .

## 05130204 – Harpeth River - Nitrogen

Hovering over bar highlights the map unit and reports load/yield from individual source

Nitrogen Yield from HUC10 delivered to HUC10 outlet (lb/yr/acre)

Atmospheric deposition yield from HUC10 delivered to HUC10 outlet (lb/yr/acre)

Х

- Manure yield from HUC10 delivered to HUC10 outlet (lb/yr/acre)
- Fertilizer yield from HUC10 delivered to HUC10 outlet (lb/yr/acre)
- Urban-land yield from HUC10 delivered to HUC10 outlet (lb/yr/acre)
- Wastewater yield from HUC10 delivered to HUC10 outlet (lb/yr/acre)



# Enrichment factor: inverse of percent contribution from 'background'



 SPARROW results are useful ...
where assessments need to be extrapolated/applied across a large region (need consistent data and methods over wide areal extent)

 where decision-making is based on relative contribution of different watershed sources

 where a future scenario is evaluated for its effect on nutrient delivery downstream

# Second Tool: The Tennessee "SPARROW nutrient calculator" (Excel spreadsheet)

|            |  | Wastewat  |          | Atmosph   | Manure_  | Fertilizer |
|------------|--|-----------|----------|-----------|----------|------------|
|            |  | er_LBpery | Urban_S  | ericDep_L | Lbperyea | _LBperye   |
| HUC10_comb | PNAME  | ear       | QMI      | Bperyear  | r        | ar         |
| 0513010103 | GREASY CR  | 0         | 0.160428 | 41998.67  | 3179.569 | 4705.431   |
| 0513010103 | CUMBERLAND R   | 19504.031 | 0.317382 | 42974.21  | 2822.178 | 3612.556   |
| 0513010103 | STRAIGHT CR  | 0         | 0.045252 | 6415.835  | 384.6401 | 617.2716   |
| 0513010103 | 0513010103     STRAIGHT CR     69.51166       0513010103     STRAIGHT CR, LEFT FK     69.51166 | 69.511669 | 0.382016 | 138198.7  | 10387.27 | 1413.713   |
| 0513010103 |  | 0         | 0.299041 | 89317.19  | 8145.079 | 556.5563   |

 User modifies source amounts; the spreadsheet then calculates and charts change in stream load delivered to HUC10 and HUC8 pour points and downstream targets

# West Harpeth River, 0513020402, Nitrogen



### Reduce agricultural input to West Harpeth River HUC10 <u>by 40%</u>



# SPARROW products for Tennessee developed by USGS, in collaboration with TDEC

> Online mapper:

https://sparrow.wim.usgs.gov/sparrow-tennessee/ (Google chrome compatible)

- SPARROW nitrogen and phosphorus calculators: https://doi.org/10.5066/P96RWGU0
- Paper describing development of the Tennessee SPARROW models from the Southeast region model: https://doi.org/10.1016/j.envsoft.2019.01.001

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# Questions ??





# **Model limitations**



Sources of error:

- Not accounting for all nutrient source categories
- Input estimates incorrect (for some reaches)

Prediction error is smaller for larger areal units (HUC10, HUC8) than for individual reaches