

TASTR: A Trophic Assessment Screening Tool for Reservoirs.
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Decades of investment in watershed and reservoir research and data collection cannot fully benefit decision makers unless planners and resource managers have ready access to some of the expertise and information produced by these earlier investments. TASTR software is a System Wide Water Resources Program tool and a “first cut” approach that provides user-friendly, desktop (laptop) access to existing reservoir and watershed data and analyses. It allows quick, but approximate, assessment/prediction of water quality responses of reservoirs to nutrient inputs from the watershed and comparisons of differing input scenarios. TASTR is intended for use in the early stages of management and restoration plan formulations or TMDL (total maximum daily load) development. It uses stand-alone GIS (mapping) capabilities to locate and visualize reservoirs of interest and associated watershed information. The application is “web enabled” so that updates can be obtained automatically, but is not “web dependent” for routine execution. The response of reservoirs to differing inputs is based on simplified watershed relations and “pre-canned” runs of the Bathtub reservoir model; the user does no modeling. TASTR provides access to existing (or likely) water quality conditions, guidance for further analyses, and broad answers to simple, but basic “what if” questions.

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