



Public Participation Plan

**Northern State Multi Service Center
Cleanup Site
Sedro-Woolley, WA**

Toxics Cleanup Program

Washington State Department of Ecology
Northwest Regional Office
Shoreline, Washington
July 2023



Publication Information

This document is available on the Department of Ecology's [Northern State Multi Service Center cleanup site page](#).¹

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Related Information

- Cleanup site ID: 10048
- Facility site ID: 65415931

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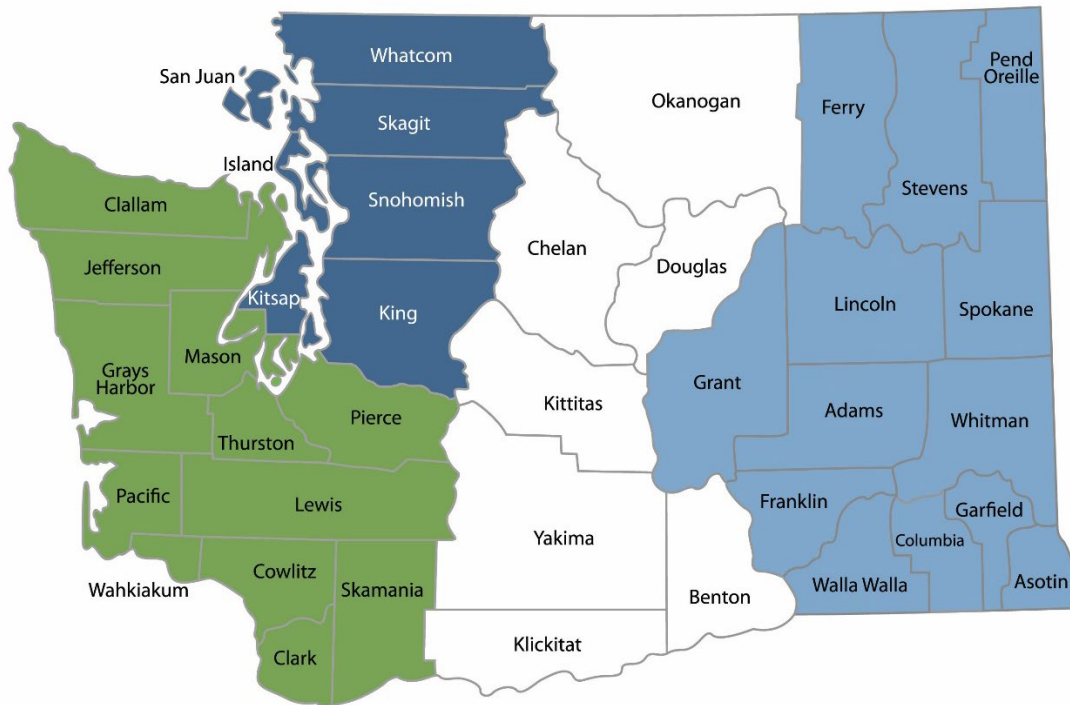
To request an ADA accommodation, contact Ecology by phone at 360-407-6831 or email at ecyadacoordinator@ecy.wa.gov. For Washington Relay Service or TTY call 711 or 877-833-6341. Visit Ecology's website for more information.

¹ <https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/cleanupsearch/site/10048>

² <https://ecology.wa.gov/About-us/Contact-us>

Department of Ecology's Regional Offices

Map of Counties Served



Southwest Region 360-407-6300	Northwest Region 206-594-0000	Central Region 509-575-2490	Eastern Region 509-329-3400
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Region	Counties served	Mailing Address	Phone
Southwest	Clallam, Clark, Cowlitz, Grays Harbor, Jefferson, Mason, Lewis, Pacific, Pierce, Skamania, Thurston, Wahkiakum	PO Box 47775 Olympia, WA 98504	360-407-6300
Northwest	Island, King, Kitsap, San Juan, Skagit, Snohomish, Whatcom	PO Box 330316 Shoreline, WA 98133	206-594-0000
Central	Benton, Chelan, Douglas, Kittitas, Klickitat, Okanogan, Yakima	1250 W Alder St Union Gap, WA 98903	509-575-2490
Eastern	Adams, Asotin, Columbia, Ferry, Franklin, Garfield, Grant, Lincoln, Pend Oreille, Spokane, Stevens, Walla Walla, Whitman	4601 N Monroe Spokane, WA 99205	509-329-3400
Headquarters	Across Washington	PO Box 46700 Olympia, WA 98504	360-407-6000

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DEPARTMENT OF
ECOLOGY
State of Washington

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Public Involvement in Contamination Cleanup

The Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) developed this public participation plan (plan) in cooperation with the Port of Skagit, the party responsible for cleanup costs. The purpose of the plan is to promote meaningful community involvement during cleanup.

The plan describes ways Ecology will inform the public about contamination investigations and cleanup options throughout the cleanup process. Ecology encourages the public to learn about and get involved in decision-making opportunities. This plan identifies how and when the public can get involved during different stages of the investigation and cleanup of contamination.

Site contacts

To be included in the site record, comments about the cleanup process must be submitted during comment periods. Questions and informal comments or information about the site's history are welcome anytime.

Ecology

Northwest Regional Office
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Burlington, WA 98233
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heatherr@portofskagit.com

Public Participation Grants

Grants may be available to neighborhood committees, non-profits, and other groups interested in the site. For contaminated sites, these funds can be used to:

- Hire an expert to help interpret technical information³
- Conduct activities that enhance the public's understanding of, and participation in, the cleanup process

For more information about public participation grants, please contact Faith Wimberley at 425-275-7285 or faith.wimberley@ecy.wa.gov. You may also visit the [Public Participation Grant website](#).⁴

³ Ecology currently does not have a citizen technical advisor for providing technical assistance to citizens on issues related to the investigation and cleanup of the site.

⁴ <https://ecology.wa.gov/About-us/Payments-contracts-grants/Grants-loans/Find-a-grant-or-loan/Public-participation-grants>

Washington's Cleanup Law

Ecology uses the Model Toxics Control Act (MTCA) and accompanying regulations for cleanup activities.

This plan is required under MTCA, a law that passed in 1989. MTCA provides guidelines for contaminated site cleanup in Washington State and sets standards to ensure the cleanup protects human health and the environment.

MTCA began as a grassroots citizen's initiative in 1988 and started the process of systematically cleaning up contaminated sites in Washington. Under MTCA, a current or past property owner or operator may be held responsible for cleaning up contamination on, or coming from, their property to standards that are safe for human health and the environment.

Ecology enacts MTCA and oversees cleanups in the state and issues regulations and guidance governing those cleanups. The regulations are found in Chapter 173-340 Washington Administrative Code (WAC).⁵ Ecology investigates reports of property contamination, and if the contamination is seen as a significant threat to human health or the environment, the contaminated property is placed on the Confirmed and Suspected Contaminated Sites List for further assessment. The cleanup process can begin at any time after a release of a hazardous substance to the environment has been discovered.

Public participation is an important part of cleanup under the MTCA process. Participation needs are assessed at each cleanup site according to the level of public interest and the degree of risk posed by the contamination. Individuals who live near the site, community groups, businesses, government, other organizations, and interested parties have the opportunity to get involved by commenting on the cleanup process.

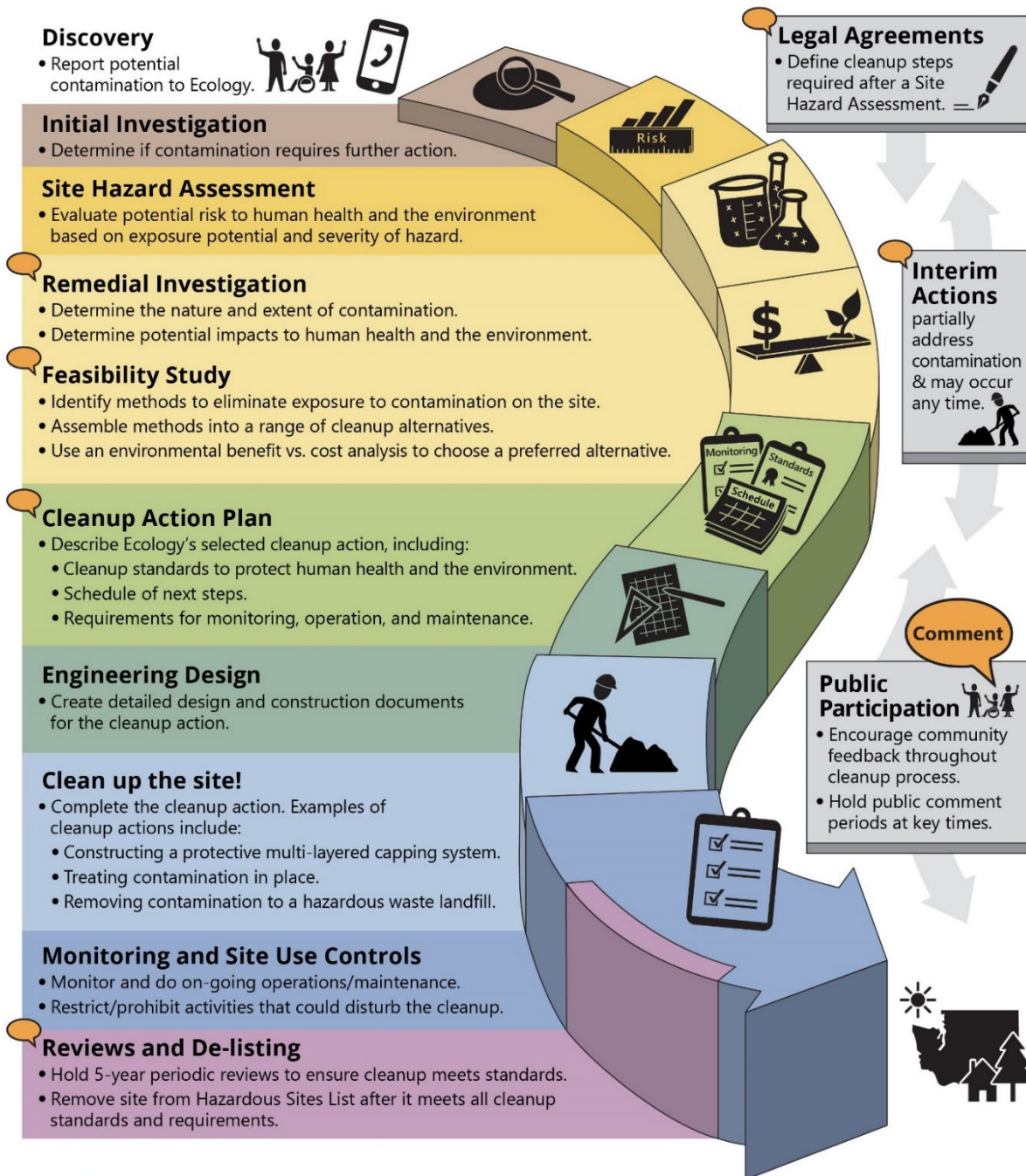
Under the MTCA, the cleanup process generally includes multiple steps (see Figure 1), with opportunities for the public to review and comment on cleanup documents. In addition, a partial cleanup (called an interim action) can occur at any time during the cleanup process. The public is provided an opportunity to review and comment on planned interim action work as well.

MTCA cleanups also require evaluation under the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA; Chapter 197-11 WAC)⁶. Under SEPA, the potential for significant adverse environmental impacts from a project or action must be evaluated by state and local agencies when making decisions. This evaluation is subject to public review and comment in parallel with cleanup documents.

⁵ <https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/publications/publications/9406.pdf>

⁶ <https://apps.leg.wa.gov/wac/default.aspx?cite=197-11>

Washington's Formal Cleanup Process



 **Washington's
Cleanup Law**
Model Toxics Control Act (MTCA)

MTCA defines the cleanup process. This public-initiated environmental law directs upland cleanups (on land or in groundwater) and sediment cleanups (in freshwater or marine environments). Ecology enacts MTCA and regulates the cleanup process.

September 2019
Ecology Publication 19-09-166

Figure 1: Steps in Washington's Cleanup Process⁷

⁷ <https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/publications/SummaryPages/1909166.html>

Site Information

Land Use

Location, history, and ownership

The approximately 225-acre property is located on the eastern edge of Sedro-Woolley in Skagit County. It was formerly known as Northern State Hospital, constructed in 1912, and was owned and operated by Washington State. The hospital treated psychiatric patients until it closed in 1973. The Northern State Hospital is on the National Registry of Historic Places⁸.

In 2015 the City of Sedro-Woolley (City) annexed the Northern State property (see Figures 4 and 5). In 2018, Washington State transferred ownership of the Northern State property to the Port. Many of the property's buildings are currently leased to tenants. The Northern State property is currently zoned as "Public" with the land parcels surrounding the property to the east as "Urban Reserve Public Open Space" and to the west as "Residential-5" (see Figure 5).

The Port, City, and Skagit County are working together to revitalize the property as the Sedro-Woolley Innovation for Tomorrow (SWIFT) Center, a mixed-use campus for innovation and technology.

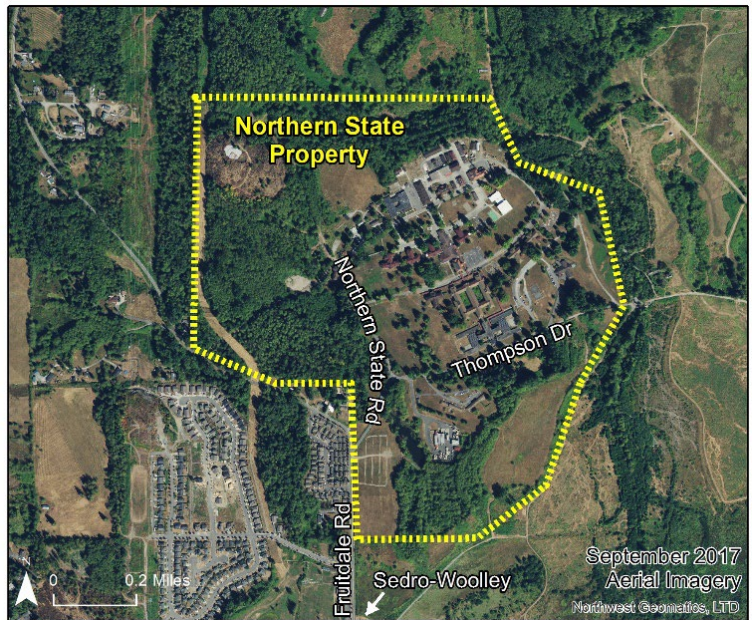


Figure 2: Aerial view of Northern State property, September 2017



Figure 3: Northern State Hospital dedication, May 1912; Washington State Archive

⁸ <https://catalog.archives.gov/id/75613149>

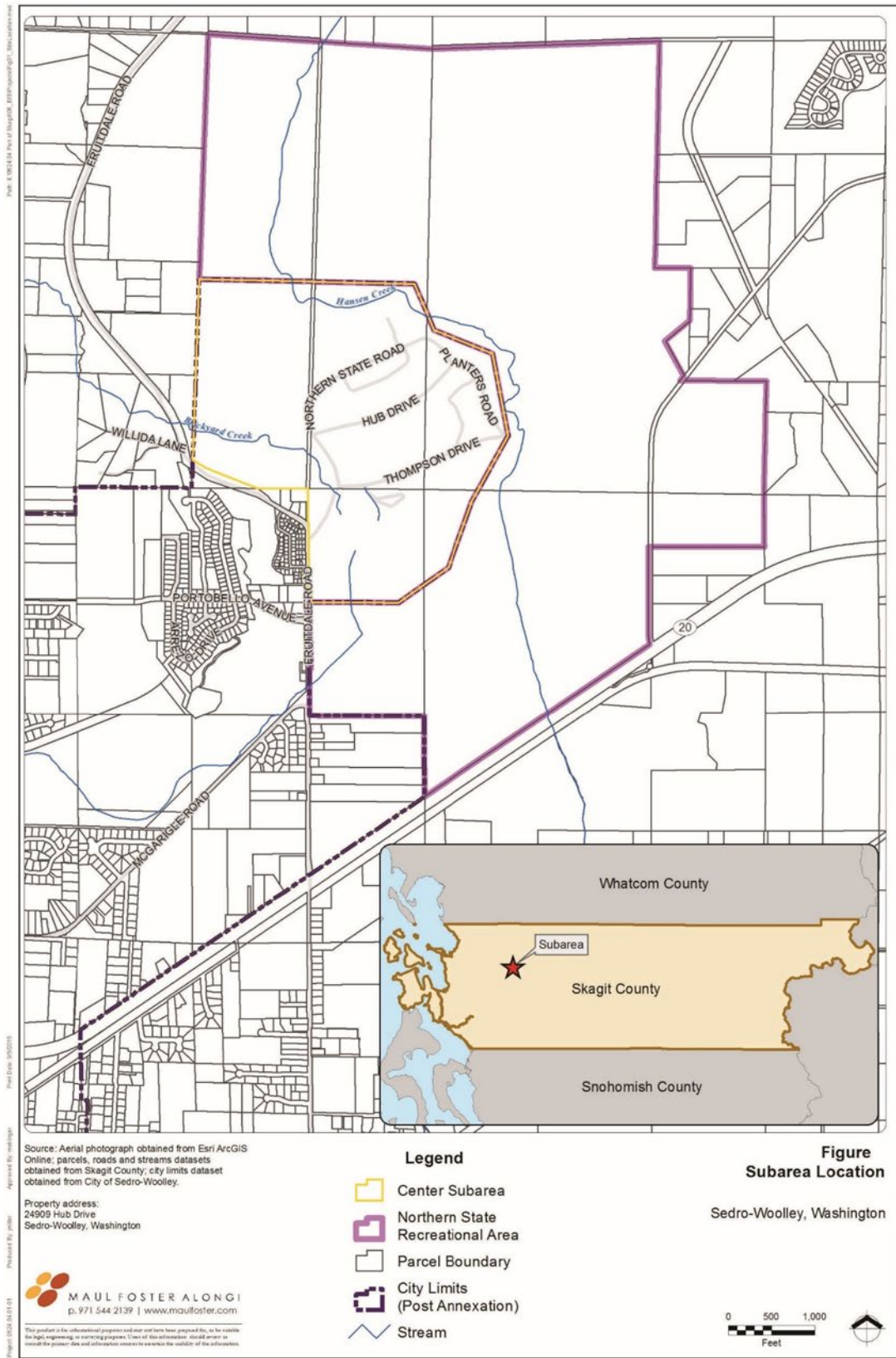


Figure 4: SWIFT Center 2015 Subarea Plan Location Map

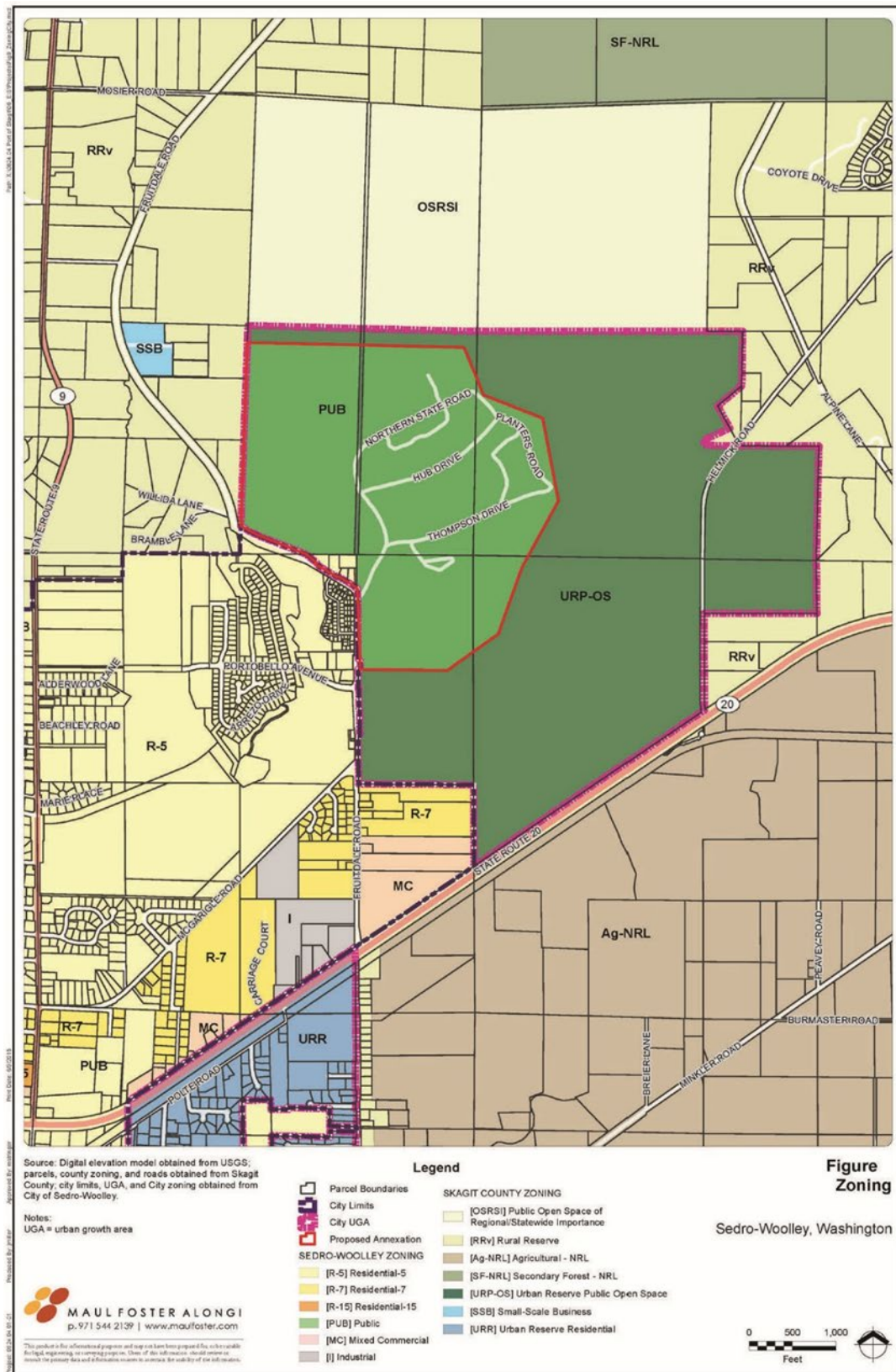


Figure 5: SWIFT Center 2015 Subarea Plan Zoning Map

The Port⁹, City¹⁰, and County entered into an interlocal agreement¹¹ (and amendment¹²) with the following redevelopment goals¹³:

- Encourage the private sector to create and sustain jobs at the SWIFT Center benefitting all of Skagit County and its citizens and that are compatible with all the other goals.
- Continue and promote public recreational use of the property.
- Protect the environmentally sensitive areas of the property, in particular Hansen Creek.
- Acknowledge and protect the historic significance of Northern State Hospital to the local community, the wider region, and the State of Washington.
- Acknowledge and respect the neighboring Upper Skagit Indian Tribal Nation's interests in the property.

How the site became contaminated

The materials used during the former state hospital operations from 1912 to 1973 caused soil and groundwater contamination. To protect human health and the environment, the contamination must be addressed in accordance with Washington's cleanup law, the Model Toxics Control Act (MTCA).

Contamination

Between 2014 and 2021, testing found contamination in the following media.

- **Soil:** metals, carcinogenic polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (cPAHs), tetrachloroethene (PCE), and petroleum products.
- **Groundwater:** metals, PCE, trichloroethene (TCE), and petroleum products.
- **Soil Vapor:** PCE and TCE

Contaminant levels at the Site are present at potentially harmful levels and must be addressed under MTCA.

Cleanup plans

The Site is in the beginning phases of the formal cleanup process shown in Figure 1 on Page 8.

In 2019, Ecology held a public comment period for an Agreed Order (legal agreement between Ecology and the Port). This agreement requires the Port to characterize the Site (with a Remedial Investigation), analyze cleanup options (with a Feasibility Study), identify a cleanup remedy (with a draft Cleanup Action Plan), and complete two interim actions (early partial cleanups). For more

⁹ <http://www.portofskagit.com/skagit-advantage/swift-center/>

¹⁰ https://www.ci.sedro-woolley.wa.us/departments/planning/northern_state.php

¹¹

https://cms5.revize.com/revize/sedrowoolley/Departments/Finance/Agreements/2014/20140113_IA_between_City_and_County_and_Port_re_Northern_State.pdf

¹²

https://cms5.revize.com/revize/sedrowoolley/Departments/Finance/Agreements/2015/20150227_Amendment_to_IA_between_City_and_County_and_Port_re_Northern_State.pdf

¹³ https://www.sedro-woolley.gov/departments/planning/northern_state.php

details, review the 2019 Agreed Order and the 2023 Agreed Order Amendment on the [Northern State Multi Service Center](#)¹⁴ cleanup site page listed under legal documents.

Preliminary testing identified contamination within seven areas of concern (AOCs) across the Site. The two AOCs with interim actions are:

- AOC 1: Former Laundry Building
- AOC 4: Former Ward Building Area and Athletic Fields

In 2023, Ecology is holding a public comment period for an Amendment to the Agreed Order and a Revised Interim Action Work Plan. The Amendment to the Agreed Order changes the original scope of work for the interim action at AOC 1 and updates the applicable laws and requirements for the Site. The Revised Interim Action Work Plan outlines the revised scope of work and schedule for the interim action at AOC 1.

Interim actions at AOC 1 aim to mitigate inhalation exposure risk of potentially contaminated indoor air and are planned for the winter of 2023-2024.

The status of the original Interim Action Work Plan for AOC 4 is as follows:

- Removal and disposal of arsenic-impacted soil near the former ward building and athletic fields is complete.
- Surface restoration work is underway with completion expected by the end of 2023.

The Port will continue work on the Remedial Investigation, Feasibility Study, and draft Cleanup Action Plan. These cleanup documents and future legal agreements will be available for public review and comment.

Community Profile

Neighborhood

The community of Sedro-Woolley has been actively involved during the redevelopment of the Northern State property into the Sedro-Woolley Innovation for Tomorrow (SWIFT) Center, a mixed-use campus for innovation and technology. The property was annexed within the city limits of the City of Sedro-Woolley in 2015 (see Figures 4 and 5). It is currently zoned as “Public” with the land parcels surrounding the property to the east as “Urban Reserve Public Open Space” and to the west as “Residential-5” (see Figure 5). Community members frequent the grounds for recreation, including picnics, walking, and birding.

Regular public meetings have been held by the inter-agency partnership (Port of Skagit, City of Sedro-Woolley, and Skagit County) to engage the community during the redevelopment of the Northern State Multi Service Center. Therefore, Ecology will offer similar public meeting options during public comment periods, which may include in-person and/or online meetings.

¹⁴ <https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/cleanupsearch/site/10048>

Economic Trends

The SWIFT Center 2015 Subarea Plan¹⁵ characterizes the area's market conditions and trends as follows (and listed on page 28 of the plan):

“Adaptive reuse of the Center will be strongly influenced by the demographic and economic trends of the county and the city. In general, the county has a relatively small population that has experienced modest but steady growth. The county's economy is driven in large part by manufacturing, with 36 percent of the county's gross domestic product (GDP) coming from this sector. The manufacturing sector is primarily driven by nondurable goods such as food and petroleum. While the county's economy did not fare as well as others during the Great Recession, it has recovered, with the 2012 GDP only 2 percent less than it was when it was at its peak in 2005. This economic activity, along with moderate population growth and improving employment figures, indicates that the local economy is stabilizing.”

Environmental Justice, Demographics, and Language Needs

Ecology strives to better understand the environmental and demographic information of the community surrounding cleanup sites through multiple tools. Our research helps us properly plan for public outreach and provide information in other languages as appropriate following federal guidance¹⁶.

Washington Environmental Health Disparities Map

The Washington Environmental Health Disparities Map¹⁷ is managed by the WA State Dept of Health. This interactive mapping tool evaluates environmental health risk factors and identifies disparities in communities across the state. It estimates an environmental health impact score on a scale of 1-10 (low to high) for each census tract. The score reflects pollutant exposure and factors that affect people's vulnerability to environmental pollution.

The WA Environmental Health Disparities Map shows the Northern State Multi Service Center cleanup site within census tract 9509 with a relatively low score of 3 (see Figure 6). It borders census tract 9515 with a score of 4. These scores reflect low environmental risks compared to other areas of the state.

¹⁵

https://cms5.revize.com/revize/sedrowoolley/Departments/Planning/Northern%20State/20151209_CIT_FINAL_Approved_Subarea_Plan.pdf

¹⁶ Guidance to Environmental Protection Agency Financial Assistance Recipients Regarding Title VI Prohibition Against National Origin Discrimination Affecting Limited English Proficient Persons, 69 Fed. Reg. § 35602 (June 15, 2004).

¹⁷ <https://fortress.wa.gov/doh/wtnibl/WTNIBL/>

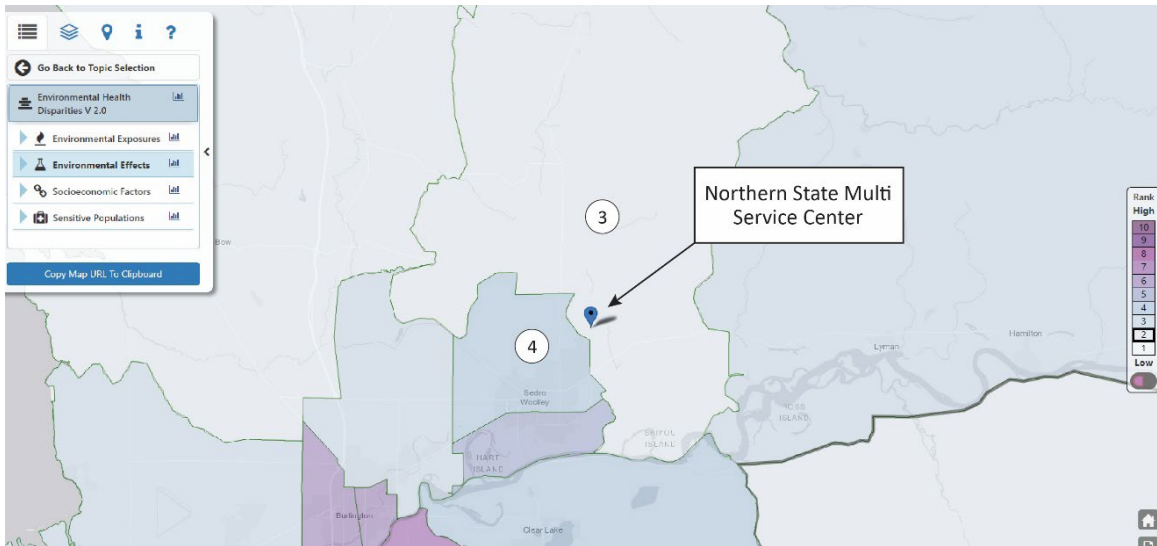


Figure 6: Washington Environmental Health Disparities Map – The Site census tract and the neighboring census tract have relatively low rankings, indicating a community facing lower environmental risk factors.

EJScreen

The Environmental Justice Screening and Mapping Tool (EJScreen)¹⁸ is a tool developed by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). It is based on nationally consistent data and an approach that combines environmental and demographic indicators in maps and reports. Ecology uses this information to tailor its communications to the needs of communities through various means. These include developing language translations and identifying the need for interpreters. Ecology translates materials like fact sheets into languages that are spoken by 5% or more of the local community.

For this Site, Ecology is using the EJScreen to capture community information within a one-mile radius of the cleanup site (see Figure 7). This area is larger than the required quarter-mile radius per the MTCA law, due to the distance of residential and business areas in relation to the Site.

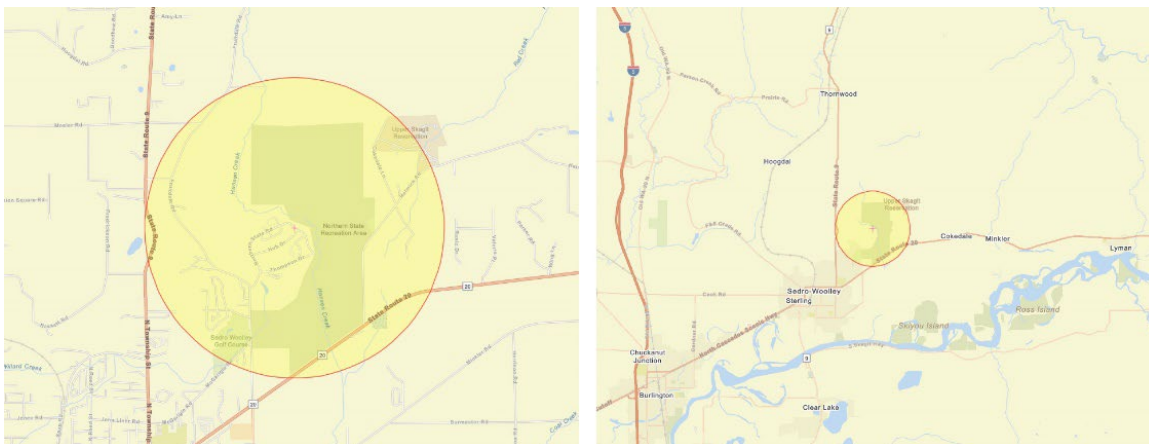


Figure 7: US EPA EJScreen – Maps of Northern State Multi Service Center showing a one-mile radius around the Site

¹⁸ <https://ejscreen.epa.gov/mapper/index.html>

EJScreen Report

The report findings show no significant demographic indicators above the EPA 80th percentile threshold in the area surrounding the Site (see Figure 8).



EJScreen Report (Version 2.11)



1 mile Ring Centered at 48.532976,-122.204361, WASHINGTON, EPA Region 10

Approximate Population: 1,507

Input Area (sq. miles): 3.14

Selected Variables	Value	State Avg.	%ile in State	USA Avg.	%ile in USA
Pollution and Sources					
Particulate Matter 2.5 (µg/m ³)	6.05	7.85	4	8.67	4
Ozone (ppb)	31.8	35.3	26	42.5	4
Diesel Particulate Matter* (µg/m ³)	0.109	0.334	15	0.294	<50th
Air Toxics Cancer Risk* (lifetime risk per million)	30	35	47	28	80-90th
Air Toxics Respiratory HI*	0.4	0.51	32	0.36	80-90th
Traffic Proximity (daily traffic count/distance to road)	160	740	40	760	42
Lead Paint (% Pre-1960 Housing)	0.25	0.22	65	0.27	53
Superfund Proximity (site count/km distance)	0.028	0.18	18	0.13	26
RMP Facility Proximity (facility count/km distance)	0.17	0.64	39	0.77	32
Hazardous Waste Proximity (facility count/km distance)	1.1	2.2	54	2.2	58
Underground Storage Tanks (count/km ²)	1.4	6.3	48	3.9	53
Wastewater Discharge (toxicity-weighted concentration/m distance)	N/A	0.021	N/A	12	N/A
Socioeconomic Indicators					
Demographic Index	22%	28%	44	35%	38
Supplemental Demographic Index	10%	12%	47	15%	36
People of Color	24%	33%	45	40%	44
Low Income	20%	24%	48	30%	37
Unemployment Rate	5%	5%	63	5%	60
Limited English Speaking Households	0%	4%	0	5%	0
Less Than High School Education	6%	8%	49	12%	37
Under Age 5	6%	6%	57	6%	57
Over Age 64	18%	15%	64	16%	61
Low Life Expectancy	20%	18%	70	20%	54

Figure 8: US EPA EJScreen – Demographic indicators within a one-mile radius around the Site

EJScreen ACS Summary Report

Based on the EJScreen ACS Summary Report the population within a one-mile radius surrounding the Site is comprised of ~1507 individuals. 88% of the population is Non-Hispanic (see Figure 9). Of that 88%, 76% are White, 2% are Black, 4% are American Indian, 0% are Non-Hispanic Asian, 0% are Pacific Islander, and 5% identify by two or more races. The remaining 12% of the population is Hispanic (see Figure 9).

5% of the population (age 5+) speaks English “less than very well” (see Figure 10). This EPA threshold of 5% triggers a need for translated materials for those populations. It is difficult to determine what t are needed because there is no available data for the population by language spoken at home (see Figure 11). However, due to input from the city of Sedro Woolley and the Sedro Woolley School District, as well as the fact that 12% of the population identifies as Hispanic, we have determined a language need for Spanish.

Fact sheets will be available online and at the Central Skagit Sedro-Woolley Library in both English and Spanish. Mailed fact sheets or postcards to the surrounding community will include Spanish text directing readers to the online version.

We strive to involve the whole community in our public participation efforts and welcome your input on additional measures we can take to reach the nearby community.



EJSCREEN ACS Summary Report



Location: User-specified point center at 48.532976, -122.204361

Ring (buffer): 1-miles radius

Description:

	2016 - 2020 ACS Estimates	Percent	MOE (±)
Population by Race			
Total	1,507	100%	344
Population Reporting One Race	1,367	91%	573
White	1,210	80%	336
Black	33	2%	65
American Indian	62	4%	46
Asian	8	0%	38
Pacific Islander	5	0%	19
Some Other Race	50	3%	69
Population Reporting Two or More Races	141	9%	118
Total Hispanic Population	185	12%	179
Total Non-Hispanic Population	1,322		
White Alone	1,145	76%	337
Black Alone	33	2%	65
American Indian Alone	56	4%	46
Non-Hispanic Asian Alone	8	0%	38
Pacific Islander Alone	5	0%	19
Other Race Alone	0	0%	13
Two or More Races Alone	77	5%	83

Figure 9: US EPA EJScreen – Population by Race within a one-mile radius around the Site

	2016 - 2020 ACS Estimates	Percent	MOE (±)
Population Age 5+ Years by Ability to Speak English			
Total	1,421	100%	317
Speak only English	1,281	90%	346
Non-English at Home ¹⁺²⁺³⁺⁴	140	10%	166
¹ Speak English "very well"	67	5%	80
² Speak English "well"	18	1%	44
³ Speak English "not well"	22	2%	64
⁴ Speak English "not at all"	33	2%	88
³⁺⁴ Speak English "less than well"	55	4%	108
²⁺³⁺⁴ Speak English "less than very well"	73	5%	116

Figure 10: US EPA EJScreen – Population Age 5+ Yrs by Ability to Speak English within one-mile radius around the Site

	2016 - 2020 ACS Estimates	Percent	MOE (±)
Population by Language Spoken at Home*			
Total (persons age 5 and above)	N/A	N/A	N/A
English	N/A	N/A	N/A
Spanish	N/A	N/A	N/A
French, Haitian, or Cajun	N/A	N/A	N/A
German or other West Germanic	N/A	N/A	N/A
Russian, Polish, or Other Slavic	N/A	N/A	N/A
Other Indo-European	N/A	N/A	N/A
Korean	N/A	N/A	N/A
Chinese (including Mandarin, Cantonese)	N/A	N/A	N/A
Vietnamese	N/A	N/A	N/A
Tagalog (including Filipino)	N/A	N/A	N/A
Other Asian and Pacific Island	N/A	N/A	N/A
Arabic	N/A	N/A	N/A
Other and Unspecified	N/A	N/A	N/A
Total Non-English	N/A	N/A	N/A

Figure 11: US EPA EJScreen – Population by Language Spoken at Home within one-mile radius around the Site

Tribal Lands

Tribes that own land and rely on resources could be affected by the contamination at the Northern State Multi Service Center cleanup site. The following federally recognized tribes have been contacted regarding cultural resources associated with this Site: Upper Skagit Tribe, Sauk-Suiattle Indian Tribe, Stillaguamish Tribe of Indians, Swinomish Indian Tribal Community, Samish Indian Nation, and Tulalip Tribes. Ecology will ensure that these Tribes are engaged with any decision-making processes for this Site and have ample opportunity to be involved throughout the process on a government-to-government basis.

Public Participation Activities

Members of the public may ask questions, submit informal comments, or share site information at any time. Interested parties do not need to wait for a formal public comment period to contact Ecology.

However, to be included in the formal site record, comments about the site investigation, cleanup alternatives, or cleanups must be submitted during formal comment periods. In addition, the public is invited to review site documents before they become final. This is the most direct and influential way to learn more about the site and be involved in the cleanup’s decision-making.

How we share information with the community

During specific stages of the cleanup, Ecology will mail notices about public comment periods to residential and business addresses surrounding the site. The mailing list area will vary depending on the type of contamination and where it’s located, but the list will at least include addresses within a 1/4-mile radius of the site and other interested organizations and individuals. These notices will provide general information about the site, contact information for submitting

comments, times, and locations of public meetings (or hearings), and how to request a meeting if one is not yet scheduled.

Ecology may also develop documents outside of comment periods to keep the community updated on the site's status. These informational documents will be available online and at document repositories. Print copies may be mailed to the nearby community if we feel the message warrants the associated cost and resources.

Comment period notices and other site announcements may also be posted in various locations throughout the community (for example, local businesses, schools, libraries).

Postal mailing list

Ecology maintains a mailing list that includes addresses within a 1/4-mile radius of the site and relevant local, state, and federal government contacts.

All contacts receive public comment notices when draft documents are available.

We will add additional individuals, organizations, and other interested parties to the mailing list as requested. If you would like to be added to the mailing list for this site, please contact Kristen Forkeutis, Outreach Specialist, by phone at 425-240-4353 or email at Kristen.Forkeutis@ecy.wa.gov.

Site Register

Public comment periods, events, and other cleanup notices are published in Ecology's *Site Register*.¹⁹ To receive the *Site Register* by email, please [subscribe online](#),²⁰ or contact Sarah Kellington at sarah.kellington@ecy.wa.gov or 360-280-3167.

Newspaper display ads or legal notices

We announce public comment periods and events in ads or notices published in *The Skagit Valley Herald*. We will also publish notice on our [Public Input & Events Listing](#).²¹

Email lists

Ecology maintains an email list to update interested persons about this site. If you would like to be added to the email list for this site, please contact Kristen Forkeutis, Outreach Specialist, by phone at 425-240-4353 or email at Kristen.Forkeutis@ecy.wa.gov.

Ecology's website and social media platforms

We maintain a website for the [Northern State Multi Service Center Cleanup site](#).²² The website provides site information, and you may download cleanup documents.

¹⁹ <https://ecology.wa.gov/Regulations-Permits/Guidance-technical-assistance/Site-Register-lists-and-data>

²⁰ https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/WAECY/subscriber/new?topic_id=WAECY_118

²¹ <https://ecology.wa.gov/Events/Search/Listing>

²² <https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/cleanupsearch/site/10048>

We may also share information about cleanup sites through [news releases, our ECOconnect blog, and social media.](#)²³

Places to see print documents

During public comment periods when review locations are accessible, you can find print documents at the following location.

Central Skagit Sedro-Woolley Library
110 W State St
Sedro-Woolley, WA 98284
360-755-3985

You can also request documents by contacting Kristen Forkeutis, Outreach Specialist at 425-240-4353 or Kristen.Forkeutis@ecy.wa.gov.

Signs around the cleanup site

We may also install signs displaying information about project status, traffic impacts, and health risks around the cleanup site.

How to share information with us

At minimum, MTCA requires 30-day public comment periods for draft cleanup documents and 14-day comment periods SEPA documents. SEPA documents are often made available for public review with other cleanup documents. In that case, we combine the comment periods, and they last at least 30 days. We may hold comment periods longer than 30 days.

We may also identify public concerns and cleanup goals by meeting with and soliciting information from interested community members and organizations. To collaborate with us about this site, please contact Kristen Forkeutis, Outreach Specialist, at 425-240-4353 or Kristen.Forkeutis@ecy.wa.gov.

Public comment periods

Formal 30-day comment periods allow interested members of the public to comment on draft documents, legal agreements, and proposed cleanup actions. If there is significant interest, Ecology may extend the public comment period. When Ecology oversees SEPA determinations, we hold comment periods for at least two weeks and may extend to 30 days or more when other cleanup documents are concurrently available for review.

Following a comment period, we publish all the input we received and respond to significant comments and questions, as appropriate. If the comments result in significant changes to the cleanup documents, then the documents will be revised and re-issued for public review. If the comments do not result in significant changes, then they become final.

²³ <https://ecology.wa.gov/about-us/who-we-are/news>

Public events

We hold in-person and online public meetings, workshops, open houses, and public hearings based on community interest. If we have not scheduled a meeting, we will hold one if 10 people request it, and this may cause us to extend a public comment period, so the meeting occurs during it.

Events are held at locations close to the site that meet Americans with Disabilities Act standards. Public meetings, workshops, open houses, and hearings are always announced in advance using a variety of methods.

Americans with Disabilities Act

To request ADA accommodation for disabilities, or printed materials in a format for the visually impaired, contact the Ecology ADA Coordinator at 360-407-6831 or ecyadacoordinator@ecy.wa.gov, or visit our [ADA website](#).²⁴ People with impaired hearing may call Washington Relay Service at 711. People with speech disability may call TTY at 877-833-6341.

Plan Amendments

Ecology developed this plan following MTCA regulations (WAC 173-340-600). We review it as the cleanup progresses and amend it as necessary. You may suggest amendments to Kristen Forkeutis, Outreach Specialist, at 425-240-4353 or Kristen.Forkeutis@ecy.wa.gov.

This plan includes information for the public regarding opportunities for public involvement and comment. The outreach activities discussed in this section reflect Ecology's current plans for keeping the public informed and providing ways for those interested in the site to communicate their concerns and questions to us.

If you feel the planned outreach activities and mechanisms described in this plan are insufficient, or should otherwise be modified, we will work to find solutions. New outreach activities or outreach tools established as a result can be implemented right away, with or without amending this plan.

²⁴ <https://ecology.wa.gov/About-us/Accessibility-equity/Accessibility>