Department of Ecology EIM Environmental Information Management

# EIM Help – Spring and Seep Data

Version 2.0
December 2018

## What are springs and seeps?

### Spring

A **spring** is where groundwater discharges to land surface or a surface water body at a well-defined point or points. Spring volumes range from small, intermittent trickles to millions of gallons per day, depending on the groundwater source and hydraulic head.

### Seep

**Seeps** are similar to springs, except they don't have a well-defined point or points of discharge and are usually very low flow. Seeps are common along riverbanks and in marine shoreline intertidal zones. Low tides expose seeps. We often sample seeps for tracking contaminants from septic systems or cleanup sites.

### EIM treats springs and seeps the same

For EIM data entry, we treat springs and seeps the same.

## How do I know if I sampled a spring/seep or surface water?

### Spring/seep

If you sampled **at or very near the groundwater discharge point**, the Sample Source is *Spring/Seep*.

### Surface water

If you sampled **away from the groundwater discharge point**, the Sample Source is *Fresh/Surface Water*. In marine intertidal environments, The Sample Source is *Brackish Water* or *Salt/Marine Water*.

### Your intent

Your intent is also important. Did you intend to sample a spring or seep, or did you intend to sample a stream headwaters?

# How do I enter spring/seep data into EIM?

Use this table together with the Location help and Result help documents to fill out your Location and Result templates. Go the EIM Help Center to find the templates.

| | Location Template | | Result Template | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **What did I sample or intend to sample?** | **Location Setting** (column C) | **Location Description** (column D) | **Sample Matrix** (column X) | **Sample Source** (column Y) |
| Water from a spring/seep discharge point. | *Spring/Seep* | Describe where your sampling location was (intertidal, land), what it looked like, and how close you sampled to the discharge point. | *Water* | *Spring/Seep* |
| Sediment from a spring/seep discharge point. | *Spring/Seep* | Describe where your sampling location was (intertidal, land), what it looked like, and how close you sampled to the discharge point. | *Solid/Sediment* | *Freshwater Sediment* |
| Water from a spring/seep, but flowed over land before you sampled. | *Stream/River* | Describe how far from the discharge point you sampled. | *Water* | *Fresh/Surface Water* |
| Water seeping out of an inlet bank at low tide. | *Spring/Seep* | Describe where your sampling location was (intertidal, land), what it looked like. | *Water* | *Fresh/Surface water** *Brackish Water** *Salt/Marine Water** |

*In marine intertidal environments, we commonly sample seeps for salinity to determine degree of mixing with salt/marine water. If you have salinity data, submit it in the Result template.

# Document revision history

| Revision Date | Revision No. | Summary of Changes | Reviser(s) |
|---|---|---|---|
| 11/3/15 | 1.0 | Original document. | KC, CN |
| 08/15/17 | 1.1 | Updated links. | KC |
| 12/12/18 | 2.0 | Revised how we enter springs and seeps. | KC, CN |