

Livestock and Water Quality Site Visit

Site Visit Information	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> First Visit	<input type="checkbox"/> Follow-up Visit
Prepared by: Mak Kaufman	Arrival Time: 10:00 1/16/2013	Departure Time: 12:55 1/16/2013
Date: 1/16/2013 - 1/17/2013	Current Weather Conditions: Clear and cold ca. 35°F	

Owner/Operator Information	
Name: Lola Lang	Street: 21463 Little Mountain Rd
City: Mt. Vernon WA	Zip Code: 98273
Phone: (360) 424-7630	Email: langshorseandponyfarm@hotmail.com

Site Information	
County: Skagit	Watershed: Carpenter Creek which flows to Skagit River
General site description (include information about nearby water bodies and description of farm conditions) and discharges to Skagit Bay	
<p>This was a complaint driven inspection (ERTS 646334) concerning manure management and wetland fill of construction debris. The complainant is a disgruntled family member; however the property owner openly admits water quality problems exist on the property and has requested technical assistance to correct the conditions on her farm that are causing ongoing contaminated discharges into state surface waters. This two-day long inspection was conducted in two phases due to the complexity of the site and the numerous contaminated areas on the site that required documentation. Water sample results indicate extremely high levels of bacterial pollution flowing off of the farm and into state waters. Ms. Lang has been open, honest and cooperative with Dept of Ecology and has taken quick action to correct the ongoing contaminated discharges flowing off of the property into state waters.</p>	
Site Evaluation	

Stream Corridor and Areas Near Surface Water	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Evaluated	<input type="checkbox"/> Not Evaluated
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Bare, exposed, eroding soils <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Contaminated run-off (active or potential) <input type="checkbox"/> Slumping stream banks and erosion <input type="checkbox"/> Overgrazing of grasses	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Absence of woody vegetation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Manure accumulations <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Animal access to surface water <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Livestock paths and trails along riparian areas wetland	

Comments: Although we did not have enough time to thoroughly inspect the areas manure-contaminated areas on property Ms. Lang has control over that is located on the South side of Little Mountain road. We could observe several manure contaminated areas that appear to drain directly to Carpenter Creek during rainfall events. Ms. Lang has agreed to implement temporary BMPs to prevent manure or manure.

Contaminated soils from coming into contact with rainfall. ~~at~~

This complaint also cited wetland fill violations and oil contamination of wetlands. Ms. Lang openly showed us both of these areas. I explained that Ecology's Wetland Scientist would be required to conduct a qualified delineation and we would refer the oil contamination to Skagit County Health Dept.

Confinement Areas	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Evaluated	<input type="checkbox"/> Not Evaluated
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Distance to surface water (0 ft)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Polluted run-off reaching surface water	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Presence of mud and manure	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Roof runoff water flows to confinement areas	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Signs of previous runoff reaching surface water	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adjacent land slopes toward surface water	

Comments: There were four animal confinement areas ^{we} observed at the time of the initial inspection. They were located on ~~the~~ different parts of the property, but all four of these confinement areas had manure-contaminated muddy areas that were actively discharging contaminated water to state surface waters at the time of inspection. Ms. Lang had already decommissioned one of these confinement areas before we had returned to complete the second day's inspection.

Stock Water	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Evaluated	<input type="checkbox"/> Not Evaluated
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Distance to surface water (0 ft)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mud and standing water at tanks	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Overflow from tanks on to the ground	<input type="checkbox"/> Animals access stream for stock water	

Comments: _____

Upland Pasture Areas	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Evaluated	<input type="checkbox"/> Not Evaluated
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Animal access to stream corridors	<input type="checkbox"/> Signs of overgrazing and erosion	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Distance to surface water (0 ft)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Manure accumulations and bare ground	

Comments: Pasture areas are located on parcels of land located on the south side of Little Mountain Road. These areas need to ~~be~~ have manure-contaminated mud scraped up and placed under ~~over~~ tarps to prevent contact with rainfall, as ~~temporary~~ a temporary measure. Ms. Lang thought that locating a farm on the East side of the state might solve this issue more permanently.

Manure Management	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Evaluated	<input type="checkbox"/> Not Evaluated

Current manure management plan? <i>plan in works at Skagit Conservation District</i>	Manure stored on covered, <u>impervious</u> surface? <i>portion of manure stored in uncovered concrete storage</i>
Manure collected and stored? <i>yes</i>	Manure is exposed to rainfall? <i>Don't know</i>
Manure storage properly sized? <i>NO</i>	Manure applied during non-growing season? <i>No</i>
Manure storage covered? <i>NO</i>	Vegetated buffer when manure is applied? <i>Don't know</i>
Manure being collected often? <i>yes</i>	Manure applied or stored off site? <i>yes</i>

Comments: *Ms. Lang has already been working with Skagit Conservation District to develop and implement a Farm management plan. An uncovered concrete undersized manure storage has been built, but there are four 20-30 cubic yard piles of manure on site. This seems to indicate a need for additional storage. Alternatively, Ms. Lang seeks to have all of the excess*

Other Areas of Concern

Comments: *manure regularly hauled off to a local permitted composting operation. Ms. Lang also wants to develop a small demonstration compost facility to teach the public about the composting process. Additionally, there are manure contaminated areas on parcels of land on the south side of Little Mountain Road that do not belong to the Langs, but they do have control of. I have advised them to take the same corrective actions to prevent future exposure of rainfall with manure or manure-*

Corrective Actions

contaminated areas. They have agreed to implement temporary measures to protect water quality.

- ☒ Install livestock exclusion fencing to keep animals at least 35 ft from surface waters (35ft minimum)
Permanent buffers function most effectively to protect water quality and prevent invasion by weeds when planted and maintained with native shrubs and trees suited to the soils and hydrology of the site.
- ☒ Install off-stream stock water watering facilities and locate them at least 75 ft from surface ^{water} to prevent risk of water quality impacts (minimum of 75ft)
- ☒ Collect manure frequently and store it in a dry, covered area with an impervious floor or deck
- ☒ Apply manure during the growing season at proper rates and times (minimum of 100ft setback from surface water, or the use of a 35ft vegetative buffer) *or have manure delivered to composter with permits*
- ☒ Site and design confinement and manure storage areas to prevent pollution of surface and ground water
- ☒ Provide heavy use protection in confinement areas and at stock tanks to prevent run-off
- ☐ Construct stream-crossings and emergency water locations in ways that protect the stream
- ☐ Other Actions:

Photos Taken: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Sample Taken: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
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This farm inspection meets the description of "Scenario [#]3 in the Ecy/Skagit CD MOA.

Additional Comments


Comments: Ms. Lang has inherited this property from her father and has spent a great deal of time and money cleaning up her property from years of her father's poor management of the property. She recognizes that a great deal of work remains to be accomplished to correct numerous ~~and~~ problem areas on her farm. Ecology has strongly recommended that she address the manure storage issues first by scraping up all manure-contaminated soils surrounding each of these piles and in the confinement areas. ~~then~~ placing all ~~manure~~ of the contaminated soils onto the existing manure piles and then covering the piles with tarps to prevent contact with rainfall. As a demonstration of Ms. Lang's commitment to correct these problems, she had already covered all of the manure piles by the time we had arrived on 1/17/2014 for the second day of this inspection. I explained that Ecology would NOT likely pursue formal enforcement if she continued to work cooperatively with Ecology and all of the natural resource agencies to correct all of the problems on her farm.

Ecology Contact Information

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Physical Address: 1440 - 10th Street, Suite 102, Bellingham, WA 98225	Mailing Address: 1440 - 10th Street, Suite 102, Bellingham, WA 98225

Conservation District Referral: ☒ Yes ☐ No
Skagit Conservation District
2021 E. College Way Suite 203,
Mt. Vernon, WA 98273-2373
(360) 428-4313
skagitcd@skagitcd.org

A copy of this inspection form will be provided to your local conservation district.

Inspector Signature: 

Date: 1/23/2014

Operator Signature _____

Date _____

Acknowledging Receipt

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