

Livestock and Water Quality Site Visit



Site Visit Information	<input type="checkbox"/> First Visit	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Follow-up Visit
Prepared by: Chris Luerkens	Arrival Time: 11:10	Departure Time: 12:05
Date: 12/10/13	Current Weather Conditions: Light snow, calm	

Owner/Operator Information	
Name: Harold Carter	Street: 2040 Thornton St.
City: Ferndale	Zip Code: 98248
Phone: 360-384-3695	Email:

Site Information	
County: Whatcom	Watershed: Lower Nooksack

General site description:
This visit followed up our initial inspection, conducted on 4/25/2013. The purpose of this visit was to review progress you have made to address pollution from your livestock and evaluate any additional actions needed. A light snow had fallen prior to my visit and specific pasture conditions were partially obscured.

Since my previous visit you have taken several steps to address pollution, including:

- Two horses have been removed from the property. You said that you will not have more than two horses on the property at a time.
- Horses have been excluded from the western portion of the property.
- You have obtained property behind your residence from an adjacent property owner. This area will be used to confine your horses. A portion of your pasture was traded to the adjacent owner.

During our meeting we discussed several issues that still need to be addressed:

- Bare soil and manure remain on the western portion of property. The slope between pasture and stream has little vegetation. Grass should be established in this area.
- Horses continue to use the eastern pasture. This pasture is mostly bare and contains manure accumulations. This pasture slopes steeply toward Thornton Road and there is evidence that during rains surface water does flow off the pasture towards surface water along Thornton Road. Pasture management measures are needed to improve and maintain conditions that will protect water quality. This includes establishment of a vigorous growth of grass and excluded animals from overgrazed areas.
- You will confine two horses behind your residence on land you have recently secured from your neighbor. The stream is located west of this area and several improvements are needed to prevent mud and manure from discharging to the creek. Heavy use area protection, covered manure storage, and regular collection of manure are appropriate improvements needed.

During our meeting you agreed to continue to make work towards addressing the issues described above. You also agreed to keep me informed of the status of your progress, and you will contact the Whatcom Conservation District to request technical assistance in addressing these issues.

Site Evaluation

Stream Corridor and Areas Near Surface Water	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Evaluated	<input type="checkbox"/> Not Evaluated
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<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 type="checkbox"/> Absence of woody vegetation <input type="checkbox"/> Manure accumulations <input type="checkbox"/> Animal access to surface water <input type="checkbox"/> Livestock paths and trails along riparian areas
Comments: Animals have been excluded from the steep slope adjacent to the stream. Although some vegetation has grown in this buffer, significant bare soil remains.	

Confinement Areas	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Evaluated	<input type="checkbox"/> Not Evaluated
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Distance to surface water (50 ft) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Presence of mud and manure <input type="checkbox"/> Signs of previous runoff reaching surface water	<input type="checkbox"/> Polluted run-off reaching surface water <input type="checkbox"/> Roof runoff water flows to confinement areas <input type="checkbox"/> Adjacent land slopes toward surface water	
Comments: Mr. Carter has obtained land behind his residence from an adjacent property where his horses will be confined. A fence has been built, however, additional improvements are needed including a shed, heavy use area protection, and covered manure storage. The stream is located west of the confinement area. Manure should be managed to ensure that contaminated surface water does not discharge from the confinement area to the stream.		

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

Upland Pasture Areas	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Evaluated	<input type="checkbox"/> Not Evaluated
<input type="checkbox"/> Animal access to stream corridors <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Distance to surface water (35 ft)	<input type="checkbox"/> Signs of overgrazing and erosion <input type="checkbox"/> Manure accumulations and bare ground	
Comments: West pasture. Horses had been kept on west pasture since October 2013. This area is generally bare of vegetation. Bare soil and manure cover this area and riparian vegetation or grass should be established. This pasture is within 35 feet of a stream. Horses will not be kept in this pasture in the future. East pasture remains mostly bare or overgrazed. Manure is present throughout pasture. Much of this area slopes steeply toward the road and surface water flows toward a ditch located on the property to the east. Grass needs to be established on this pasture and the pasture needs to be managed to ensure a robust growth of grass. Horses continue to have access to this area and may need to be excluded to establish grass.		

Manure Management	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Evaluated	<input type="checkbox"/> Not Evaluated
Current manure management plan? NO	Manure stored on covered, impervious surface? NO	
Manure collected and stored? NO	Applied during growing season? NO	
Manure storage properly sized? NA	Manure applied during non-growing season?	
Manure storage covered? NA	Vegetated buffer when manure is applied?	
Manure being collected often? NO	Manure applied or stored off site? NO	
Comments: Manure should be collected often from the confinement area and stored under cover.		

Other Areas of Concern
Comments:

Corrective Actions
<input type="checkbox"/> Install livestock exclusion fencing to keep animals at least ft from surface waters (35ft minimum)
<input type="checkbox"/> Install off-stream stock water watering facilities and locate them at least ft from surface to prevent risk of water quality impacts (minimum of 75ft)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Collect manure frequently and store it in a dry, covered area with an impervious floor or deck. Manure should be collected regularly from the confinement area.
<input type="checkbox"/> 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)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Site and design confinement and manure storage areas to prevent pollution of surface and ground water.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Provide heavy use protection in confinement areas and at stock tanks to prevent run-off. During our meeting you stated that you intend to contact the Whatcom Conservation District for technical assistance in designing the confinement area and heavy use area protection.
<input type="checkbox"/> Construct stream-crossings and emergency water locations in ways that protect the stream
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other Actions: Grass should be planted on the eastern pasture and animals should be managed to ensure a robust growth of grass.

Photos Taken: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Sample Taken: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
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Additional Comments

Comments: Please contact me to discuss progress you have made and steps you have taken to work towards making improvements that will protect water quality.

Ecology Contact Information

Name: Chris Luerkens

Regional Office: Bellingham Field Office

Phone: 360-715-5220

Email: clue461@ecy.wa.gov

Physical Address: 1440 10th St., Suite 102
Bellingham, WA 98225-7028

Mailing Address: 1440 10th St., Suite 102
Bellingham, WA 98225-7028

Inspector Signature: _____

Chris Luerkens

Date: _____

12/18/13