

Livestock and Water Quality Site Visit



Site Visit Information	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> First Visit	<input type="checkbox"/> Follow-up Visit
Prepared by: Chris Luerkens	Arrival Time: Noon	Departure Time: 1:15 pm
Date: December 30, 2015	Current Weather Conditions: Sunny and very cold	

Owner/Operator Information	
Name: Landis Lutton	Street: 2242 Timon Road
City: Everson, WA	Zip Code: 98247
Phone: 318-4276	Email:

Site Information	
County: Whatcom	Watershed: Lower Nooksack (Kamm Creek)
<p>On December 30, 2015, I met with Landis Lutton and conducted an inspection of her livestock facility. Ms. Lutton rents the property and operates a horse boarding operation. Several cows are also kept on the property. I requested to meet to follow up on results of a water samples from downstream of this site that showed high concentrations of fecal coliform bacteria. I had been working since March of 2014 with the previous operator to address similar water quality concerns. During our visit we discussed some conditions that may contribute to discharges of manure contaminated water from this farm.</p> <p>The below site evaluation summarizes some of the conditions observed on the site related to management of the farm. I've also listed several general recommended corrective actions to help prevent contaminated runoff from discharging from the farm. During our visit I also informed Ms. Lutton that the Whatcom Conservation District had worked with the previous operator to develop a farm plan for the property. The WCD works confidentially with farmers to develop farm management solutions. The WCD may suggest additional or alternative management practices to help your management of the farm.</p> <p>We agreed to do some follow up sampling at different locations on the property to try to identify potential sources. I look forward to working cooperatively to identify and address the causes of pollution on this property.</p>	

Site Evaluation

Stream Corridor and Areas Near Surface Water		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Evaluated	<input type="checkbox"/> Not Evaluated
<input type="checkbox"/> Bare, exposed, eroding soils	<input type="checkbox"/> Absence of woody vegetation		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Contaminated run-off (active or potential)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Manure accumulations		
<input type="checkbox"/> Slumping stream banks and erosion	<input type="checkbox"/> Animal access to surface water		
<input type="checkbox"/> Overgrazing of grasses	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Livestock paths and trails along riparian areas		
Comments: Animals have until recently had access to the stream/ditch north of the barn. The area around the stream slopes steeply to the stream. Areas of the slope were saturated during our visit and contained manure. These conditions are likely to result in pollution from manure discharging to the stream. Cows have been confined off of this area following an earlier discussion.			

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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adjacent land slopes toward surface water	
Comments: Some animals are confined north of the barn. This area is perched above the stream. Runoff from areas where animals have access should not be allowed to flow to the stream.		

Manure Management	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Evaluated	<input type="checkbox"/> Not Evaluated
Current manure management plan? Manure collected and stored? Yes. Manure is collected from barn and stored outdoors in pile. Manure storage properly sized? Not evaluated. Manure storage covered? No. Manure being collected often?	Manure stored on covered, impervious surface? No. Applied during growing season? Manure applied during non-growing season? Vegetated buffer when manure is applied? Manure applied or stored off site?	
Comments: Manure and solid bedding are collected from stalls and stored on a cement pad outdoors. This material is removed from the property approximately every two weeks. The lagoon is not full. Liquid has been pumped to it only once this rainy season.		

Other Areas of Concern
Comments: All catch basins need to be identified. It needs to be determined if these drain to the ditch. If they do then manure contaminated water needs to be prevented from flowing into them. Catch basins were identified in the barn and pasture.

Corrective Actions

☒ Keep livestock off slopes that drain to the seasonal stream. Maintain exclusion fencing to keep animals at least 35 ft from surface waters (35ft minimum). Use of some of these areas may be appropriate during the dry season.

☒ Prevent runoff from areas north of the barn where animals are kept and manure is stored from flowing to the stream.

☒ Several catch basins are located in the barn and field. If these basins direct water to the ditch, then manure contaminated water needs to be kept from entering these basins. Additional testing should be done to determine if these direct water the ditch.

- Two catch basins are in the horse barn.
- At least one catch basin is located in a pasture.

☒ Manage the lane north of the barn to prevent developing muddy manure covered areas that flow to the stream. I recommend not confining animals in this area.

☒ Manage fields and pasture to maintain a vigorous growth of grass and prevent development of muddy manure contaminated areas that may discharge to surface water.

Photos Taken: ☒ Yes

☐ No

Sample Taken: ☐ Yes

☒ No

Additional Comments

Comments: The Whatcom Conservation District (WCD) developed a farm plan for this property recently. Although the previous operation is different than the current, the plan would like be very informative for the current operation. It could also be updated to reflect the current operation. WCD can be reached at 360-526-2381.

Ecology Contact Information

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Inspector Signature: _____

Date: January 7, 2016 _____