DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY
State of Washington

Livestock and Water Quality Site Visit

Site Visit Information	☒ First Visit	☐ Follow-up Visit
Prepared by: Jessica Kirkpatrick	Arrival Time: 10:05 a.m.	Departure Time: 10:40 a.m.
Date: 2/20/2013	Current Weather Conditions: raining	

Owner/Operator Information	
Name: Dan Crabtree	Street: 9727 Markworth Road
City: Blaine	Zip Code: 98230
Phone: 360-354-6092	Email:

Site Information	
County: Whatcom	Watershed: Nooksack
General site description (include information about nearby waterbodies and description of farm conditions): This is a small cattle farm and residence in the northwest quadrant of the Bertrand Creek sub-basin watershed. The property appears to be well-run and actively managed by Mr. Crabtree, who has already installed several management practices to protect water quality. The property drains to roadside ditches and field drianage ditches that eventually drain into Cave Creek near the border. Two cattle have access to a grass pasture on the South half of the property and to a wooded area on the North half of the property.	

Site Evaluation

Stream Corridor and Areas Near Surface Water	☒ Evaluated	☐ Not Evaluated
☒ Bare, exposed, eroding soils	☐ Absence of woody vegetation	
☒ Contaminated run-off (active or potential)	☒ Manure accumulations	
☐ Slumping stream banks and erosion	☒ Animal access to surface water	
☒ Overgrazing of grasses	☒ Livestock paths and trails along riparian areas	
Comments: The two cattle currently have access to a seasonal seep that drains into a small pond and discharges towards the roadside ditch along Markworth Road. The area around the seep had been trampled by the cattle and was not supporting vegetation. Mr. Crabtree agreed to move an existing electric fence approximately 40 feet uphill of the seep to exclude the cattle from this area in the winter months. The seep dries up during the summer and does not discharge into the pond.		

Confinement Areas	☒ Evaluated	☐ Not Evaluated
☐ Distance to surface water (300 ft)	☐ Polluted run-off reaching surface water	
☐ Presence of mud and manure	☐ Roof runoff water flows to confinement areas	
☐ Signs of previous runoff reaching surface water	☐ Adjacent land slopes toward surface water	

Comments: There are no confinement areas on the property.

Stock Water	☒ Evaluated	☐ Not Evaluated
☒ Distance to surface water (50 ft)	☒ Mud and standing water at tanks	
☐ Overflow from tanks on to the ground	☐ Animals accesses stream for stock water	

Comments: The off-site watering facility near the entrance to the property has some mud and standing water around it, however, there is a 50' grass buffer between this area and the roadside ditch along Markworth Road.

Upland Pasture Areas	☒ Evaluated	☐ Not Evaluated
☐ Animal access to stream corridors	☒ Signs of overgrazing and erosion	
☐ Distance to surface water (ft)	☐ Manure accumulations and bare ground	

Comments: The pastures on this farm are in good condition, with the exception of the wooded area on the North side of the property. This woodland pasture was bare in spots.

Manure Management	☒ Evaluated	☐ Not Evaluated
Current manure management plan? no	Manure stored on covered, impervious surface? no	
Manure collected and stored? yes	Applied during growing season? yes	
Manure storage properly sized?	Manure applied during non-growing season?	
Manure storage covered?	Vegetated buffer when manure is applied? yes	
Manure being collected often?	Manure applied or stored off site?	

Comments: Manure and wood shavings are collected from a small shed where the two cattle are fed. This small amount of material is stored in a pile until it is transferred into a compost bin and then spread on a family vegetable garden. The manure and wood shavings pile do not appear to be a source of pollutants.

Other Areas of Concern
Comments:

Corrective Actions
☒ 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 ft from surface 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)

☐ 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: Fence cattle away from the seasonal seep on the North side of the property during the winter rainy months.

Photos Taken: ☐ Yes ☒ No	Sample Taken: ☐ Yes ☒ No

Additional Comments
Comments: Mr. Crabtree has a well-run and clean looking farm, he was very cooperative in making the minor adjustment that was needed to protect water quality. The fence to exclude cattle from the seasonal seep should be put in place within 30 days.

Ecology Contact Information	
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Conservation District Referral: ☐ Yes ☒ No

Whatcom Conservation District
6975 Hannegan Road
Lynden, WA 98264
(360) 354-2035
ccheever@whatcomcd.org

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

Inspector Signature: _____

Date: 2/20/2013