



Cleanup Plan

Wenatchee Watershed Cleanup Plan (TMDL)



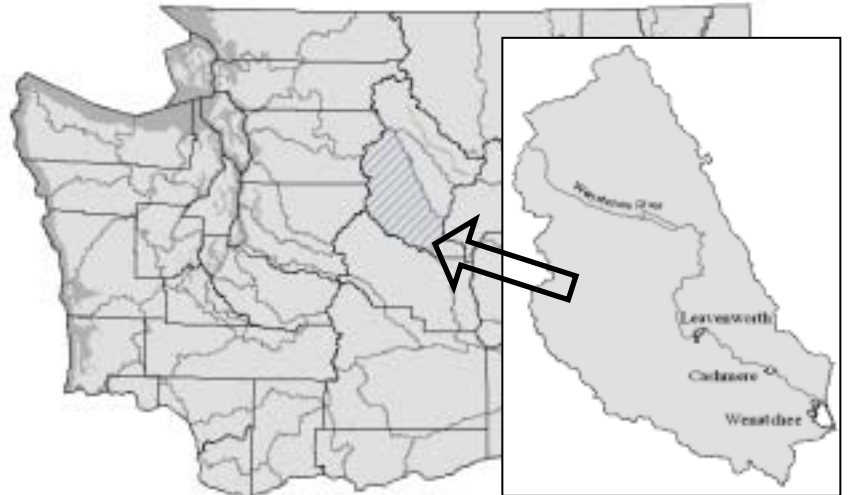
Rivers, lakes, and streams in the Wenatchee watershed are used by people in many ways, from forestry, agricultural, municipal, and business needs to recreational enjoyment and drinking water. These water bodies are also important spawning and rearing areas for many salmonid species, as well as other wildlife. However, pollution threatens the health of the watershed and jeopardizes its many uses. Waters in the Wenatchee watershed have been listed as polluted and identified for cleanup plans or TMDLs.

What is a Water Cleanup Plan or TMDL?

Federal law requires states to identify sources of pollution in waters that fail to meet state water quality standards, and to develop Water Cleanup Plans to address those pollutants. The Water Cleanup Plan, also called a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL), establishes limits on pollutants that can be discharged to the water body and still allow state standards to be met.

Which Wenatchee area water bodies are polluted?

Several rivers and streams in the Wenatchee watershed have been found to exceed state standards for water quality. The Wenatchee River, Mission Creek, Brender Creek, Peshastin Creek, Icicle Creek, Chumstick Creek, Nason Creek, Chiwaukum Creek, and the Little Wenatchee River are all listed water bodies that do not meet standards.



What are the pollutants and why are they a concern?

Listed pollutants include pesticides, fecal coliform, temperature, dissolved oxygen, and pH. Pollutants such as pesticides and fecal coliform are a human health concern. Pesticides, high water temperature, low dissolved oxygen, and extreme pH levels are dangerous for fish and aquatic health.

What causes the problem?

There are many activities that contribute to polluting our waterways. Examples include runoff from residences and farms that use nutrients and pesticides; animals that defecate in or near streams; wastewater treatment plants and fruit processors; timber harvesting, development, failing septic systems, etc.

What is being done about it?

The Wenatchee Water Quality Technical Advisory Committee, led by the Chelan Conservation District, is addressing the water quality problem by developing clean-up plans and coordinating clean-up activities. Local watershed associations, landowners, citizens, businesses, and public officials are engaging in clean-up efforts. The Wenatchee watershed TMDLs are being coordinated with other water resource and fish recovery efforts.

What can I do?

You can help! To become involved in supporting clean-up efforts or request more information, please contact Mike Rickel, Chelan Conservation District, at 509-664-0265 or, visit the website at www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wq/tmdl/watershed/index.html

Ecology is an equal opportunity agency. If you have special accommodation needs, please call David Schneider at (509) 454-7894 (Voice) or (509) 454-7673 (TDD). Email may be sent to dasc461@ecy.wa.gov.