



Focus

Waterbodies Proposed for Cleanup Plans

Public Comments Invited on Water Cleanup List

The Washington Department of Ecology (Ecology) wants your comments on a list of priority water bodies that we have tentatively chosen for water cleanup planning during the next year. Ecology organizes water cleanup efforts through geographic areas called Water Quality Management Areas (WQMA) and chooses watersheds in each of our four regions yearly. To help us select these waters; we met with groups in communities within the WQMAs last fall.

The criteria for making these selections includes the severity of the pollution, potential harm to human and aquatic health, impaired beneficial uses – such as agriculture, drinking water and fish habitat – and the potential for local support for water cleanup activities. In addition, the presence of threatened and endangered fish species significantly influenced our choices.

This year, Ecology took a critical look at its Water Cleanup process and identified steps we can take to achieve our clean water goals sooner. One proposal is to work in whole basins. This means we would choose three or four basins in the state each year and address all pollution problems with a cleanup plan instead of picking individual creeks in a basin. Ecology is incorporating this and other efficiencies into our program.

TMDL Projects to be Initiated in State FY2002 (July 1, 2001 – June 30, 2002)

The projects shown below are the best estimate of our capacity at this time. Ecology's budget has yet to be set for the next biennium. Actual fiscal and staffing levels may result in fewer projects. In addition, as we are working in a watershed (Water Resource Inventory Areas - WRIA), projects may be expanded into additional waterbodies if they need work.

The water cleanup list will be finalized by July 2001. Ecology will review and respond to your comments by August 2001. Work begins on selected waters in fall 2001. The entire list of water bodies we chose from can be viewed on our website:

<http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wq/303d/wq/303d/>

Please address your comments on the priority list by **June 6, 2001**, to Ron McBride, Department of Ecology, PO Box 47600, Olympia, WA 98504-7600; email rmcb461@ecy.wa.gov; phone (360) 407-6469; or FAX (360) 407-6426.

WRIA	Primary Location	Water Body	Pollution Problems (see page 4 for definitions)
1	Whatcom Co	Lake Whatcom	Dissolved Oxygen and Fecal Coliform
1	Whatcom Co	Whatcom Creek	Fecal Coliform, Temperature, pH (Partnership with City of Bellingham)
9	King Co	Green River	Fecal Coliform and metals– (Technical Assistance to King County-DNR)
11	Thurston Co	Nisqually/McAllister Creeks	Fecal Colliform and Dissolved Oxygen

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WRIA	Primary Location	Water Body	Pollution Problems (see page 4 for definitions)
13	Thurston Co	Henderson Inlet, Woodland/Woodard/Dobbs/ Libby Creeks	Fecal Coliform, pH, Dissolved Oxygen, Temperature
15	Kitsap Co	Sinclair and Dyes Inlets	Toxics, Fecal Coliform, Zinc, PCBs (Partnership with US Navy)
23	Thurston-Lewis Co	Upper Chehalis River	Fecal Coliform
24	Pacific Co	Willapa River	Temperature
32	Walla Walla Co	Walla Walla & Touchet, Rivers & Mill Creek	Temperature; DDT; DDE; Chlordane; Dieldrin; Heptachlor; Heptachlor Epoxide; Hexachlorobenzene; Fecal Coliform; pH
45	Chelan Co	Wenatchee River Basin	Dissolved Oxygen; Fecal Coliform; Temperature; pH
45	Chelan Co	Mission Creek	Pesticides; DDT; DDE; Guthion
47	Chelan Co	Lake Chelan/Roses Lake	PCB; 4,4 DDE; DDT
Many	Several	Columbia River	Total Dissolved Gas
Special Toxics Listing Verification (re-sampling) *			
1 & 2	Whatcom Co	Georgia Straight	Metals, Organics, Bioassay
7	Snohomish Co	Snohomish River	Copper, Mercury
7	Snohomish Co	Skykomish River	Copper, Lead, Silver
8	King Co	Kelsey Creek	DDT, Dieldrin, Heptachlor, Epoxide
8	King Co	Chambers Creek	PCBs
8	King Co	Bear-Evans Creeks	Mercury
8	King Co	May Creek	Copper, Lead, Zinc
9	King Co	Springbrook (Mill) Creek	Cadmium, Chromium, Copper, Mercury, Zinc
9	King Co	Green River	Chromium
10	Pierce Co	White (Stuck) River	Copper, Mercury
10	Pierce Co	Puyallup River	Arsenic
15	Kitsap Co	Eagle Harbor	Arsenic
15	Kitsap Co	Dyes/Sinclair Inlets and Port Washington Narrows	Metals, Organics, Arsenic
15	Kitsap Co	Port Orchard, Agate, and Rich Passages	Arsenic
25	Wahkiakum Co	Lower Columbia River	Bis (2-ethylhexyl) Phthalate, Arsenic
26	Cowlitz Co	Cowlitz River	Arsenic
27/28	Clark Co	Columbia River	Arsenic
31	Klickitat Co	Columbia River	Arsenic
34	Whitman Co	Palouse River	Chromium
37	Yakima Co	Lower Yakima River	Mercury, Silver, Arsenic
38	Yakima Co	Naches River	Silver
54/57	Spokane Co	Spokane River	Chromium, Arsenic
61	Stevens Co	FDR Lake	Arsenic

* = Proposed for additional samples to determine the levels of pollutants and whether cleanup plans are needed.

TMDL projects that may be started if additional funds become available

WRIA	Primary Location	Water Body	Pollution Problems (see page4 for definitions)
1	Whatcom Co	Silver Creek	Dissolved Oxygen and Fecal Coliform
1	Whatcom Co	Drayton Harbor	Fecal Coliform and Dissolved Oxygen
58	Ferry Co	Sherman Creek	Temperature
46	Chelan Co	Entiat River	Temperature

What is a Water Cleanup Plan?

Water Cleanup Plans, also called Total Maximum Daily Loads or TMDLs are plans used to restore water bodies (streams, rivers, lakes and estuaries) to good water quality.

Water Cleanup Plans include the following:

- Description of the type, amount, and sources of water pollution in a particular water body or segment;
- Analysis of how much the pollution needs to be reduced or eliminated to attain water quality;
- Strategy to control pollution; and
- Monitoring plan to assess effectiveness.

Community involvement is very important to the process of developing these plans and to putting the plans into action. The local community, with Ecology's support and assistance, needs to be involved to help determine how pollution will be reduced to improve water quality.

Strategies in the plans may include limits in wastewater discharge permits for municipalities and industries and recommending best management practices such as fencing, planting trees, and ensuring buffers next to streams.

Why Develop Water Cleanup Plans?

Over 600 water bodies in Washington State still fail to meet the standards defining good water quality. End of pipe discharges from cities and industries (point sources) and diffuse runoff and habitat destruction (nonpoint sources) contribute to declines in good water quality. Typically, nonpoint pollution comes from everyday activities like household and garden chemicals, runoff from urban streets, agriculture, logging, and failing septic systems.

The purpose of a water cleanup plan is to determine the amount of pollution a water body can receive and still remain healthy for its intended uses. Uses include industrial process water, agricultural irrigation and stock watering, drinking water, recreation, and fish habitat.

Water Cleanup Plans Improve and Protect Water Quality

Ecology has committed to having Water Cleanup Plans, (TMDLs), on all waters on the 1996 Section 303 (d) list, (i.e. list of water bodies with some pollution problems) by 2013. The federal Clean Water Act requires that every two years states prepare a list of water bodies that fail to meet water quality standards, i.e. have some pollution problems. Ecology uses data collected by agency scientists, Tribes, state and local governments, industries, and others to develop the list, which citizens then review.

All water bodies identified on the 303(d) list must attain water quality standards within a reasonable time frame. Ecology and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency identified 643 water bodies in Washington State with some pollution problems in 1998.

For more information

For further information about Water Cleanup Plans, please contact Ron McBride at (360) 407-6469. If you have special accommodation needs or require this publication in alternative format, please contact Ann Butler at (360) 407-6480 or (360) 407-6066 (TDD).

Definitions of Pollution Problems

Although not necessarily agents of disease, **fecal coliform** bacteria indicate the presence of disease-carrying organisms, which live in the same environment as the fecal coliform bacteria.

A certain minimum amount of **dissolved oxygen** must be present in water for aquatic life to survive.

Temperature is important because it governs the kinds of aquatic life that can live in a stream. For instance, streams must be cooler than 64 degrees Fahrenheit for salmon to successfully spawn.

pH is a term used to indicate the alkalinity or acidity of a substance as ranked on a scale from 1.0 to 14.0. Neutral pH is 7.0. Acidity increases as the pH gets lower.

PCB – Highly persistent organic chemicals used primarily in electrical equipment (e.g. transformers). Banned from production in mid-1970s. Accumulates in fish tissue.

DDT, DDE, Pesticides (Chlordane, Dieldrin, Heptachlor, Heptachlor Epoxide, Hexachlorobenzene) – Highly persistent organic chemicals. Harm aquatic organisms. Accumulate in fish tissue.

Arsenic is a naturally occurring element. Human activities can increase concentrations to toxic levels in the environment.

Toxics & Metals (zinc) – can persist in sediments and be present in water. Shown to have adverse effects on aquatic organisms.

Sediments – can smother fish eggs, change the aquatic organisms and habitat, and interfere with fish migration, feeding and spawning.

Phosphorus serves as a nutrient or “fertilizer” for algae and aquatic plants. Too much algae cause aesthetic problems and reduce oxygen levels in lakes and streams.



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