



Water Cleanup Plans

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 waterbodies 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). Each WQMA is made up of one or more Water Resource Inventory Areas (WRIAs) or watersheds. We choose individual waterbodies or watersheds in each of our four regions yearly. To help us select these waters; we met with local groups in communities within the WQMAs last fall.

The criteria for making these selections include the severity of the pollution, potential harm to human and aquatic health, impaired beneficial uses – such as agricultural water supply, 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. Examples of our ongoing work in whole basins are the Wenatchee and Walla Walla projects. Ecology is incorporating this and other efficiencies into our program.

TMDL Projects to be Initiated in State FY2003 (July 1, 2002 – June 30, 2003)

The projects shown below are the best estimate of our capacity at this time. The water cleanup list will be finalized by July 2002. Ecology will review and respond to your comments by August 2002. Work begins on selected waters in fall 2002. The entire list of waterbodies we chose from can be viewed on our website:

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

New FY2003 Funded TMDL Projects

Regional Office	WRIA	Primary Location	Waterbody(s) Name	Pollution Problems
CRO	39	Kittitas	Wilson/Cooke Creeks	Fecal Coliform (bacteria)
ERO	54 - 57	Spokane County	Spokane River	Total Dissolved Gas; Temperature; PCB
NWRO	15	Kitsap County	Sinclair and Dyes Inlets	Fecal Coliform; Temperature
SWRO	13	Thurston County	Budd Inlet-Capitol Lake-Deschutes River	Dissolved Oxygen; Phosphorus; pH; Fecal Coliform; Temperature; PCB
CRO/ERO	Numerous	Numerous	Columbia/Snake Rivers	Total Dissolved Gas

WRIAs – Water Resource Inventory Areas

TMDL projects that may be started if additional funds become available

Regional Office	WRIA	Primary Location	Waterbody(s) Name	Pollution Problems	Remarks
CRO	49	Okanogan County	Okanogan River	Temperature	Contingent on BPA grant
SWRO	27	Clark/Skamania Counties	East Fork Lewis River	Temperature	Contingent on BPA grant

Please address your comments on the priority list by **June 28, 2002** to:

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What is a Water Cleanup Plan?

Water Cleanup Plans, also called Total Maximum Daily Loads or TMDLs are plans used to restore waterbodies (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 waterbody 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 pollutant 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 waterbodies 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 waterbody 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 waterbodies with some pollution problems) by 2013. The federal Clean Water Act requires that every two years states prepare a list of waterbodies 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 waterbodies identified on the 303(d) list must attain water quality standards within a reasonable time frame. Ecology identified and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) approved 643 waterbodies in Washington state with some pollution problems in 1998. Ecology will be updating the 303(d) list in 2002. Check the website listed above to find out how you can participate in the process.

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.

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.

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.

Total Dissolved Gas (TDG) – high levels of TDG, air bubbles entrained in water, can harm fish.