



Focus on Proposed Water Cleanup Plans

from Ecology's Water Quality Program Watershed Management Section

Public Comments Invited on Water Cleanup Plan List

The Washington State 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). Each WQMA is made up of one or more watersheds. 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 and stock watering, drinking water, recreation, 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 is year 5 in our 15-year schedule to initiate cleanup plans for water bodies with pollution problems in Washington State. We are typically working in (at various stages in the cleanup process) about 100 different water bodies throughout the state at any given time. We've had some significant successes in cleaning up water pollution, but there's much more work to do. Ecology has gained valuable experience in addressing polluted water bodies. This should help streamline our work, allowing communities to move more quickly to actions to improve water quality. Please contact Ann Butler at (360) 407-6480 if you want to learn how to get involved in your watershed.

Projects to be Initiated in State FY2004 (July 1, 2003 to June 30, 2004)

The projects shown below are the best estimate of our capacity at this time. Ecology will review all comments it receives on the proposed water cleanup projects and establish our final list by August 2003. Work begins on selected waters in fall 2003. The entire list of water bodies we chose from can be viewed on our website: www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wq/303d/

(DRAFT) New FY2004 Funded Water Cleanup Projects

Regional Office	WRIA	Primary Location	Water Body(s) Name	Pollution Problems
CRO	37 – 38	Yakima County	Yakima urban area creeks in the Moxee and Wide Hollow Creek watershed	Fecal Coliform (bacteria)
CRO	38	Yakima County	Naches River and Tributaries	Temperature
ERO	34	Whitman County	NF Palouse River	Fecal Coliform
ERO	54	Spokane County	Little Spokane River	Dissolved Oxygen, pH; Fecal Coliform, Temperature
ERO	56	Spokane County	Hangman (Latah) Creek	Dissolved Oxygen, pH, Fecal Coliform, Suspended Sediment, Temperature
ERO	58 – 62	Stevens County	Colville National Forest water bodies	Temperature, Fecal Coliform
ERO	62	Pend Oreille	Pend Oreille River	Total Dissolved Gas, Temperature

Regional Office	WRIA	Primary Location	Water Body (s) Name	Pollution Problems
NWRO	1	Whatcom Co	Whatcom Creek	Temperature
NWRO	5	Snohomish County	Old Stillaguamish Channel in Stillaguamish River watershed	Dissolved Oxygen, pH, Fecal Coliform
NWRO	8	King County	Sammamish Washington Assessment and Modeling Project (SWAMP). Partnership with KCDNR (see*** below)	Multiple
NWRO	8	King County	Issaquah, Tibbets Creeks, south end of Lake Sammamish	Fecal Coliform
NWRO	9	King County	Green & Duwamish Rivers; Big Soos, Newaukam, Springbrook, and Mill Creeks	Fecal Coliform, Temperature, Dissolved Oxygen, pH, and others (see* below)
NWRO	9	King County	Longfellow and Des Moines Creeks	Fecal Coliform
SWRO	14	Mason County	Oakland Bay, Little Skookum/Totten	Fecal Coliform (see ** below)

WRIAs – Water Resource Inventory Areas or watersheds

* Partnership with King County DNR's Water Quality Assessment (WQA) project.

** Scope could be expanded to cover additional parameters such as dissolved oxygen if data assessment warrants.

*** Lake Washington, Lake Sammamish, Lake Union; Bear, Bear-Evans, Little Bear, Eden, North, Swamp, McAleer, Lyons, Thornton, Kelsey, Juanita, Fairweather Bay, Forbes, Coal, May, Yarrow Bay, Issaquah, Tibbetts, Lewis, Pine Lake Creeks; Cedar River, Sammamish River

Please address your comments on the priority list by **July 25, 2003**, 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.

What is a Water Cleanup Plan?

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

- 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.
- 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 as well as best management practices such as fencing, planting trees, and ensuring buffers next to streams.

Why Develop Water Cleanup Plans?

Ecology has committed to having Water Cleanup Plans (TMDLs) on all waters on the 1996 Section 303 (d) list, (the formal listing of water bodies that fail to meet standards) 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.

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 such as household and garden chemicals, runoff from urban streets, agriculture, logging, and failing septic systems.

For more information

For further information about water cleanup plans, please contact Ron McBride at (360) 407-6469.

Definitions of pollution problems

Although not necessarily agents of disease, **fecal coliform** bacteria indicate the presence of disease-carrying organisms that 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.

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

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

If you require this publication in an alternate format, please contact us at (360) 407-6404 (voice) or (TTY) at 711 or 1-800-833-6388.