

## River and Stream Water Quality Monitoring Program

The Department of Ecology (Ecology) has conducted monthly water quality monitoring at hundreds of streams throughout Washington State for more than 50 years. The current program consists of 62 long-term and 20 basin (one-year) stations.

### What is the program goal?

Our goal is to provide timely and accurate water quality data to clients within Ecology, other agencies, and interested citizens. These data help people assess current water quality conditions and long-term water quality changes (trends).

### What water quality characteristics does the program monitor?

We routinely measure:

temperature	suspended solids	soluble reactive phosphorus
pH	total nitrogen	fecal coliform bacteria
conductivity	nitrate plus nitrite	streamflow
oxygen	ammonia	
turbidity	total phosphorus	

We also sample for total organic carbon, hardness, total and dissolved metals, and other characteristics by special request.

We monitor stream temperatures every 30 minutes at most stations during June through September. We also are developing a continuous oxygen monitoring program.

Details about our new co-sampling program with other agencies and local interest groups are online at [www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/eap/fw\\_riv/SxSIndex.html](http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/eap/fw_riv/SxSIndex.html).

### How can you access the data?

Information about this and other Ecology ongoing river and stream monitoring programs can be found at [www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/eap/fw\\_riv/rv\\_main.html](http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/eap/fw_riv/rv_main.html).



Bruce Barbour sampling North Creek at Seahurst Park in Burien.



Dan Sherratt sampling the Columbia River below Grand Coulee Dam.



Chris Coffin measuring pH and conductivity.

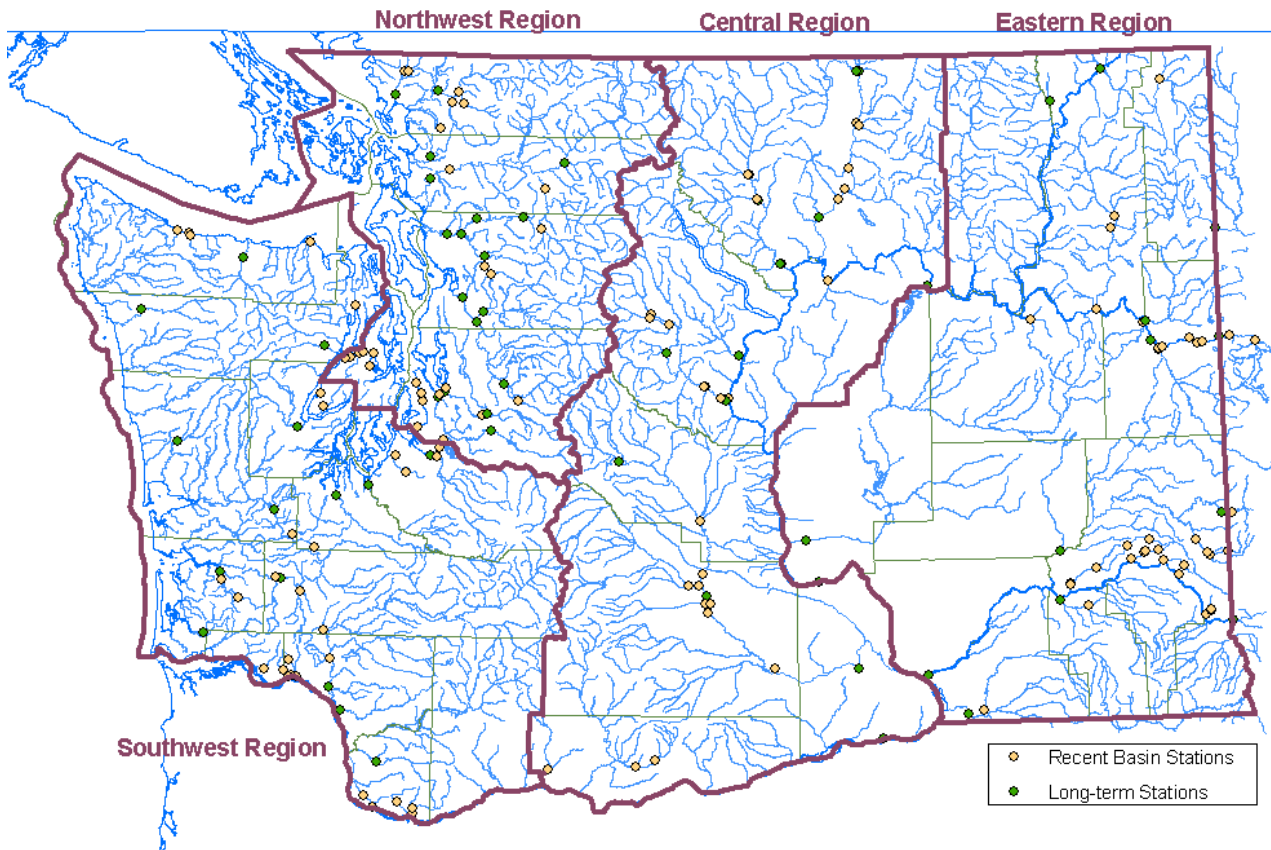


Ecology staff processing a metals sample.



Bill Ward showing the location of a temperature measuring device in the Nisqually River.

## Where are Ecology scientists collecting samples?



## Who can you contact at Ecology for more information?

### For river and stream monitoring (by Ecology region, staff name, phone number):

- Northwest Bruce Barbour 360-715-5215
- Southwest Bill Ward 360-407-6621
- Central Chris Coffin 509-454-4257
- Eastern Dan Sherratt 509-329-3420

### For other surface water monitoring:

- Aquatic plants Jenifer Parsons, 509-457-7136
- Continuous temperature/oxygen Bill Ward, 360-407-6621
- Data quality/summaries/management Dave Hallock, 360-407-6681
- Lake water quality Maggie Bell-McKinnon, 360-407-6124
- Probabilistic sampling Glenn Merritt, 360-407-6777  
(includes water quality, habitat, biological)
- Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) development Stephanie Brock, 360-407-6498
- TMDL effectiveness monitoring Scott Collyard, 360-407-6455

*If you need this publication in an alternate format, call Joan LeTourneau at 360-407-6764.*

*Persons with hearing loss, call 711 for Washington Relay Service. Persons with a speech disability, call 877-833-6341.*