

## Rivers and streams in the Lower Columbia and Coastal regions to be surveyed in 2014

The Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) will collect environmental samples throughout the Lower Columbia and Coastal regions during July-October 2014. This work is part of the Watershed Health Monitoring (WHM) program, which was supported by the Governor's Monitoring Forum and legislation.

Ecology monitors randomly selected sites in seven areas of the state referred to as "Status and Trends Regions." Ecology conducts this sampling in a four-year cycle. This effort began in 2009.

Ecology sampled the Lower Columbia and Coastal regions for the first time in 2010. In 2014, scientists will sample 50 sites in each of the two regions.

Half of the sites sampled in 2010 will be sampled again in 2014. Within each region, field crews will sample 10 suitable sites among each of five stream sizes. Five sites in each of the seven regions will be sampled twice in 2014 for quality assurance. The map on the back of this page shows the Status and Trends Regions with past sampling sites.

This effort monitors streams and rivers to provide a consistent, objective picture of habitat and biological conditions and to detect regional trends.

Habitat monitoring looks at a river or stream's shape, bottom composition, cover, vegetation structure, water quality, and sediment chemistry. Biological monitoring looks at fishes, amphibians, and smaller bottom-dwelling species.

Ecology contracted with the Amnis Opes Institute to conduct this fieldwork. The contractor obtains access permission from landowners prior to sampling.

### Reports

Results are provided on Watershed Health Monitoring Web (WHMWeb): <https://fortress.wa.gov/ecy/eimreporting/Stream/STREAMSearch.aspx>

Habitat metrics are described here: <https://fortress.wa.gov/ecy/publications/SummaryPages/1303033.html>

Status of Puget Sound Tributaries 2009: <https://fortress.wa.gov/ecy/publications/summarypages/1203029.html>

### Web resources to learn more about Watershed Health Monitoring

Watershed Health Monitoring  
[www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/ea/p/stsmf/](http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/ea/p/stsmf/)

This work informs the State of Salmon in Watersheds biennial report  
<http://stateofsalmon.wa.gov>

Contractor Amnis Opes Institute  
[www.amnisopes.com](http://www.amnisopes.com)

### Ecology Contact

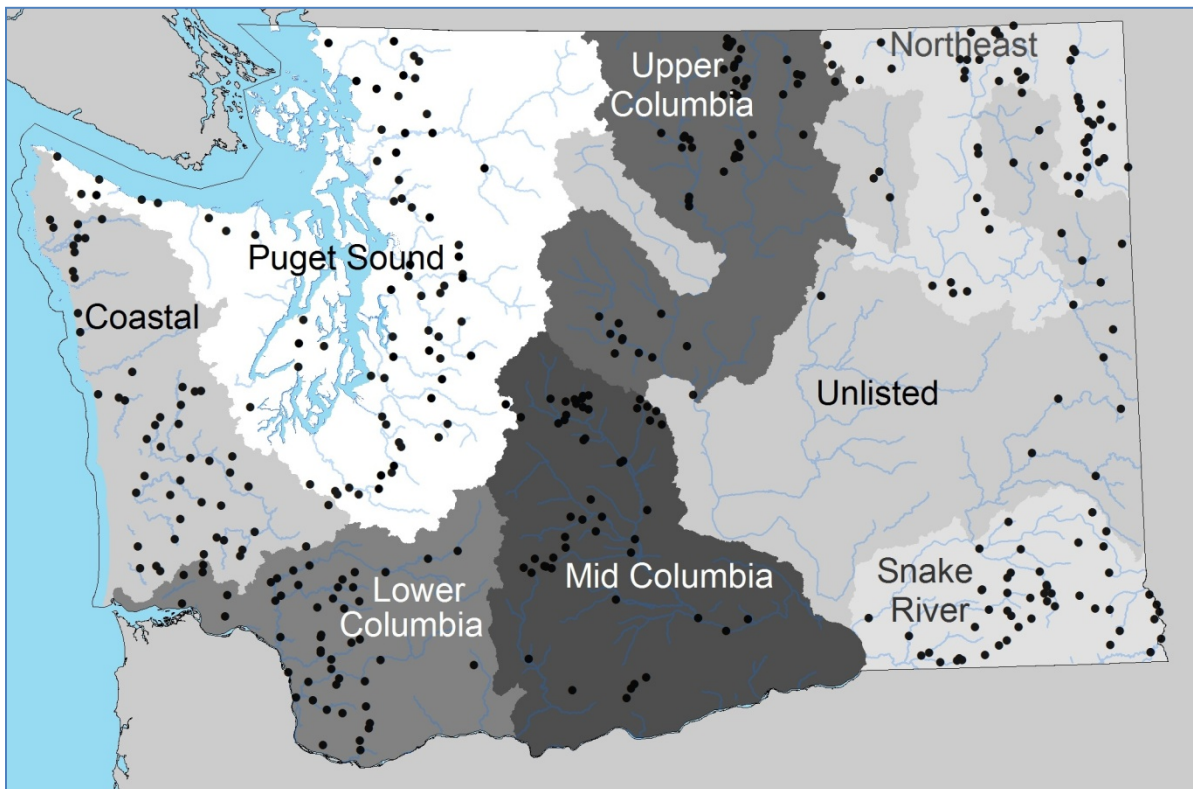
Glenn Merritt  
360-407-6777  
[glenn.merritt@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:glenn.merritt@ecy.wa.gov)

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### Map of Status and Trends Regions for the Watershed Health Monitoring program

Dots signify locations of previous field sampling (2009-2013) under the Watershed Health Monitoring program. The Lower Columbia and Coastal regions will be sampled for the second time in 2014.

This focus sheet is available on the Department of Ecology's website at:

<https://fortress.wa.gov/ecy/publications/SummaryPages/1403008.html>