

## 2016 stream surveys for the Snake River region

The Watershed Health Monitoring (WHM) program monitors randomly-selected streams and rivers across the state to obtain a consistent, objective picture of habitat and biological conditions and to track trends.

WHM is a monitoring program designed to answer questions about the overall condition of watersheds.

We gather data in accordance with two federal laws, the Clean Water Act and the Endangered Species Act. This monitoring program helps meet goals of the Clean Water Act by monitoring the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of Washington's streams and rivers through time. This program also helps meet goals of the Endangered Species Act by analyzing the physical conditions that affect individual species' continued success.

### What are we monitoring in your area?

During our monitoring, we sample fish and amphibians, macroinvertebrates, and algae. The status of these biological communities gives us insight into the health of the watershed. We also gather chemical and physical habitat data to help us to understand factors affecting overall watershed health. We conduct this monitoring throughout our state.

### How do we pick the sampling sites?

To evaluate watershed status and trends, we use a statistical survey design to get an accurate picture of large regions. So instead of conducting a census of every stream, we can randomly choose sites to sample. Those sites represent the larger stream network.

In our program, we sample eight regions across the state, on a rotating basis. In 2016, we will collect samples at 50 streams and rivers in the Snake River region between July 1 and October 15. We first sampled this region in 2011, and we will return to half of these sites in 2016.

The map on the back of this page shows the different regions where we have previously sampled. These sampling sites are marked with black dots.

### Why does it matter?

Salmon, trout, and other water-dwelling species need healthy watersheds.

Standardized, representative watershed health data lets us share information about habitats and work to ensure their protection.

### More information 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/>

Comprehensive Monitoring Strategy for Watershed Health and Salmon Recovery  
[http://www.rco.wa.gov/documents/monitoring/Executive\\_Report\\_final.pdf](http://www.rco.wa.gov/documents/monitoring/Executive_Report_final.pdf)

### Ecology contact

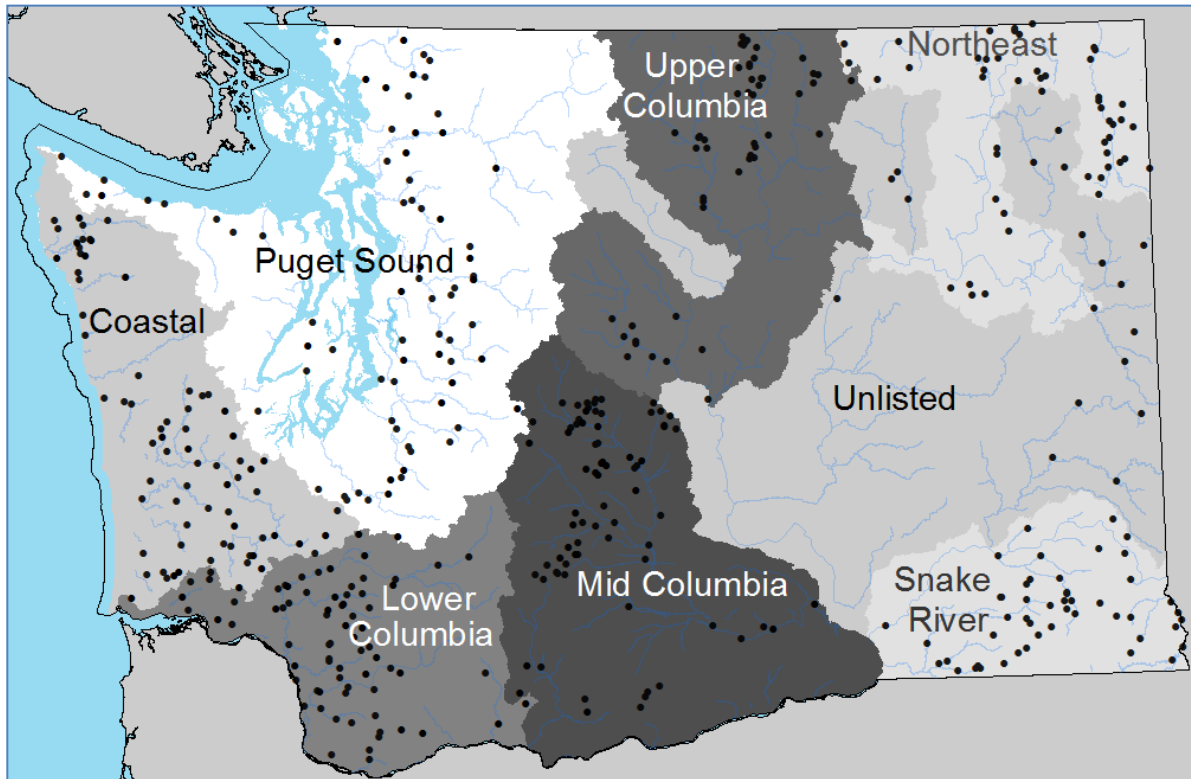
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### Special accommodations

*If you need this document in a version for the visually impaired, call 360-407-6764.*

*Persons with hearing loss, call 711 for Washington Relay Service.*

*Persons with a speech disability, call 877-833-6341.*

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

Dots signify locations of previous field sampling (2009-2015) under the Watershed Health Monitoring program. The Snake River region will be sampled again in 2016.

**History and background information**

WHM was established in 2009 to meet goals proposed by the state's Comprehensive Monitoring Strategy for Watershed Health and Salmon Recovery. WHM was designed with direction from Washington's Monitoring Forum, a multi-agency group responsible for coordinating actions related to monitoring watershed health and salmon recovery.

**Ecology respects private property**

The Department of Ecology will always ask landowners for permission to access streams on their property. Our employees will not enter private lands unless landowners grant permission.

**Reports**

Results of this monitoring are provided on our Watershed Health Monitoring webpage:  
<https://fortress.wa.gov/ecy/eimreporting/Stream/STREAMSearch.aspx>

This focus sheet is available on the Department of Ecology's website at:  
<https://fortress.wa.gov/ecy/publications/SummaryPages/1603004.html>