

## Focus on: Pollution in Burnt Bridge Creek Watershed



### Why It Matters

Clean water is important for healthy ecosystems, communities, and our economy. Nonpoint water pollution can lead to poor water quality. We can all do our part with small actions to help prevent pollution and protect Washington State's community waterways.

### Nonpoint Pollution in Burnt Bridge Creek Watershed

We all live in a watershed which has various creeks and streams that start higher in the uplands and flow down into larger waterways. When it rains, water flows over land collecting and carrying pollutants throughout our watersheds into these smaller streams delivering the pollutants into larger waterways. This is called nonpoint pollution. This differs from pollutants that are directly deposited into a specific waterway, such as a building with pipes draining into a river, which is called "point source pollution". Some nonpoint pollution examples include: excess nutrients, bacteria, pesticides, and pathogens. Currently the Burnt Bridge Creek Watershed has excess nutrients, bacteria, pesticides and high temperatures.

Clean waterways are essential for aquatic ecosystems (fish), drinking water (human health), and communities (recreation). The health of streams, rivers, lakes, and oceans depends on healthy water at every point throughout all of our watersheds, large and small.

### Where does nonpoint pollution come from?

Nonpoint pollution comes from many sources, including our homes, yards, roads, cities, farms, and industries. Nonpoint pollution can be more difficult to track, but by identifying the different sources of nonpoint pollution, we can begin to change our actions to prevent pollution. Common urban nonpoint pollution sources include:



Offsite Septic Systems



Agriculture Practices



Residential & Commercial Stormwater

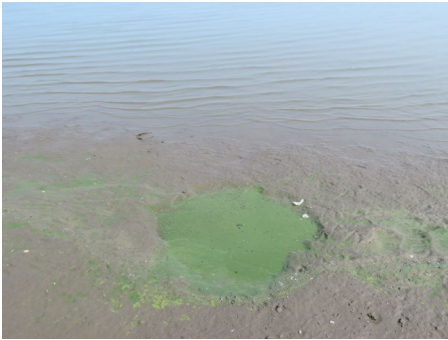


Forestry Practices

### Why is nonpoint pollution a problem?

Nonpoint pollution leads to poor water quality, which can cause large fish kills, create harmful algae blooms, close swimming areas and beaches, and ultimately affect public health. Nonpoint pollution also causes negative impacts to our marine waters, which directly affect native salmon populations, orca recovery, and can weaken a healthy food web. Since we all live here and share our waterways, we are all impacted by pollution.

**More Information is available on the [Ecology Water Quality web page](#).**



## Benefits of Clean Water

Clean water is essential for healthy ecosystems, communities, and our economy. We rely on clean water for our health and safety, but we also depend on it for local economy and way of life:

- Public health
- Habitat for fish and wildlife
- Local fishing and shellfish industries
- Farming
- Tourism
- Recreation

## We Are the Pollution Solution

The best solution for nonpoint pollution is **PREVENTION**. By understanding how and where nonpoint pollution comes from in the Burnt Bridge Creek Watershed, we can all take positive actions to reduce these sources of pollution. Working together, sharing information, tools, and resources, **we can** improve the health of Burnt Bridge Creek Watershed.

Ecology staff actively collaborate with regional conservation districts, cities, counties, nonprofits, communities, and landowners to support water quality improvement projects. **Funding** is available for you to help be part of the solution.



Things we can do to help prevent pollution:



Maintain septic systems



Use Organic Fertilizers



Plant native trees



Use local car washes



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To request an ADA accommodation, contact Ecology by phone at 360-407-6600 or email at Natw461@ecy.wa.gov, or visit <https://ecology.wa.gov/accessibility>. For Relay Service or TTY call 711 or 877-833-6341