

WRIA 16 Comprehensive Watershed Planning and Implementation

WRIA 16 - DEFINED

Water Resource Inventory Area (WRIA) 16 is also known as the Skokomish-Dosewallips watershed. It includes portions of Mason and Jefferson Counties west of Hood Canal, encompassing the drainages of the Dosewallips River in the north to the Skokomish River in the south. As a result of recent legislation, the WRIA 16 planning area also includes all the Hood Canal drainages along the south shore of the lower canal from the Skokomish to just west of Belfair (this area is known as WRIA 14b).

WATERSHED PLANNING HISTORY

Planning under the State's Watershed Planning Act began in WRIA 16 in July 1998. The Act provides for the development and adoption of a comprehensive watershed plan by local governments, tribes, citizens and interest groups. This plan was completed in May 2006 and formally approved by the Mason and Jefferson County Boards of County Commissioners in July 2006.

THE PLANNING UNIT

The group that developed the plan, called the Planning Unit, includes representatives from Jefferson and Mason Counties (county government and private citizens), Jefferson and Mason PUD's, the Skokomish Tribe, the Department of Ecology, and numerous other interests such as ports, lakes, shellfish, development and agriculture.

PLAN RECOMMENDATIONS

The comprehensive watershed plan includes 82 recommendations in the areas of Water Quantity, Water Resources and Habitat.

OTHER DOCUMENTS PRODUCED BY THE PLANNING UNIT

The Planning Unit has produced a number of technical reports about the watershed. Some examples include the Level 1 Technical Assessment (A detailed snapshot of all water-related issues), a Water Quality Monitoring Plan, a Water Quality Assessment of Lower Hood Canal

Streams, a study of the Webb Hill biosolids application facility, and a Hydrogeologic Study of the Lower Dosewallips. These and others are available at the web site listed below.

WHAT THE PLANNING UNIT IS DOING NOW

The Planning Unit has completed a Detailed Implementation Plan that prioritized their 82 recommendations, and lays out the details of who should do what and when, in terms of putting the plan into action. The group is currently undertaking many of these implementation efforts, and deciding on how best to use existing and possible future grant funds to further their implementation goals.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IS ENCOURAGED

The Planning Unit's meetings are open to the public, and all interested citizens are welcome. They generally meet the first and third Thursdays of each month. Meetings are most often scheduled in the afternoons at the library in Hoodspport.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Copies of Planning Unit documents, including technical studies and the plan itself, are available on Ecology's web site:

<http://www.ecy.wa.gov/apps/watersheds/planning/16.html>

To get on the WRIA 16 internet distribution list to receive meeting notices and other documents, Please contact:

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To get more general information, Please contact Mason County, the Lead Agency for this effort:

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