

Stormwater Work Group

2008 - 2010 Work Plan

October - April

May

June - October

November

June 2010

Convene Work Group.

- Adopt a work plan
- Brainstorm assessment questions and narrow down the list

First regional workshop to get early feedback.



We are here

Task groups at work.

- Efficacy of Management Actions
- Impacts to Beneficial Uses/Characterization
 1. Review questions/develop hypothesis
 2. Develop a peer review strategy
 3. Write a draft "Stormwater Impacts and Characterization Monitoring and Assessment Strategy Plan" for the region as a whole.

Second regional workshop to get feedback on the draft strategy plan.

Strategy and implementation plans completed.

Breakout Session #1 Efficacy of Management Actions

The Big Questions for the Stormwater Work Group:

1. What are we doing now that is most effective?
2. How do we know when we are being effective?
3. How can we be most effective, in the future, for the region as a whole?

What We're Wrestling With:

1. Among the most widely used practices and promising new practices that are available, what specific retrofits or restoration practices are most effective in reducing pollutant loads, restoring hydrologic function, and recovering damaged habitat?
 - To what extent can retrofits and application of BMPs at redevelopment sites reverse past impacts? To what extent can the water and sediment quality and hydrologic conditions necessary to support beneficial uses of water bodies be restored in sub-basins that already have some degree of development? At what degree of development, or under what other specific conditions, is a particular retrofit strategy most likely to be successful?
2. Are our stormwater management actions preventing and reducing future disruption of natural hydrologic conditions and minimizing pollutant loads in areas of new development in Puget Sound?
 - What is the effectiveness of subbasin-scale to watershed-scale combinations of stormwater management actions (techniques) at reducing impacts?
3. How effective are source control and other programmatic stormwater management practices in reducing pollutant loads from existing development and from other specific land use activities such as agriculture?
4. How can we use/transfer knowledge from one basin to another in order to develop a regional approach?

The Big Questions for You:

1. Are we wrestling with the most important questions/issues? if not, what are we missing?
2. What ideas do you think we should explore as we create a regional approach to monitoring the effectiveness of stormwater management actions?

Breakout Session #2

Impacts to Beneficial Uses, Characterization and Pollutant Loadings

The Big Questions for the Stormwater Work Group:

1. Where is stormwater doing the most damage now?
2. What is the best way to characterize stormwater on a regional basis?
3. How should a regional monitoring strategy address local to watershed scales of interest?
4. Where should we prioritize and target our regional protection efforts in the future?

What We're Wrestling With:

1. Where does stormwater significantly impact receiving waters, resources, species, or beneficial uses in the lowland streams, lakes, rivers, ground, and marine waters of the Puget Sound basin?
 - What is the current condition of streams, lakes, rivers, and nearshore marine waters, by representative land use?
 - What are the worst spots, when, and why?
 - What areas should be targeted for protection?
2. Over time, how effective are source control, prevention, and retrofit efforts: are beneficial uses improving in response to our stormwater management actions?
3. How does land use influence pollutant concentrations, flow volumes, and loadings? What land uses or land use combinations are of greatest interest?
 - What is the variability in stormwater pollutant concentrations and flow volumes by land use and geographic area?
 - What is the variability within and among WRIA level basins for similar land uses?
 - What factors within a land use control pollutant concentrations and flow volumes?
 - How do differences in stormwater infrastructure (i.e., pipes versus ditches, developments built at different times under different standards) affect pollutant loads and flows from similar land uses?
 - What proportion of the pollutant loads reach receiving waters and what are the explanations for the differences (i.e., due to losses)?
 - What proportions of the pollutants in stormwater are from various sources such as air deposition and transport, spills, erosion and resuspension?
4. What variables influence the seasonal distribution and trends of pollutant loads?
5. How can we use/transfer knowledge from one basin to another in order to develop a regional approach?

The Big Questions for You:

1. Are we wrestling with the most important questions/issues? if not, what are we missing?
2. What ideas do you think we should explore as we create a regional approach to stormwater characterization and assessing impacts to beneficial uses?