

CERTIFIED MAIL
XXXXXXXXXXXX

DATE

Mr./Mrs. NAME
ADDRESS
City, WA Zip

Dear Mr./Mrs. NAME:

The Department of Ecology recently conducted a watershed evaluation in your area. Upon completion of our evaluations, we learned that you are currently working with your conservation district and considering actions to improve water quality. Thank you very much for taking this important step.

It is our responsibility to ensure that the water quality in Washington's streams and rivers is protected. Part of that work is to find and control sources of pollution that comes from various sources including forest practices, runoff from streets and highways, construction and agricultural activity. The watershed evaluation is a tool to help us identify those sources and uphold our obligation to deliver clean water to homes, business and recreationists downstream.

While evaluating stream health in the [NAME OF WATERSHED] watershed this year, the following site conditions were noted at your operation: (keep those that apply and delete those that do not):

- Bare ground/exposed soil
- Contaminated runoff (active or potential)
- Slumping streambanks and erosion
- Overutilization of grasses
- Absence of woody riparian vegetation
- Manure deposited in stream corridor
- Livestock access to surface water
- Livestock paths and trails in riparian areas

These visual indicators associated with livestock grazing are known to cause water pollution problems. Some specific site conditions we observed are: (provide any relevant observations/descriptions consistent with key change #4).

NAME
DATE

We value a healthy livestock industry in Washington. Our goal is to connect you with the extensive technical and financial assistance available to help you make changes that fully protect water quality. By addressing the site conditions that lead to water pollution through the implementation of appropriate management practices you can achieve compliance with state law. Many livestock owners throughout our region have successfully made changes by addressing site conditions that lead to water pollution.

Thank you again for working with your conservation district. Conservation districts are an excellent resource for farmers and ranchers working to conserve natural resources. [Local CD] also has access to state and federal funding programs to help pay for improvements for your operation.

I am also personally committed to helping you identify on-the-ground approaches that can preserve your land and achieve clean water. Under state law, landowners and lessees have a responsibility to prevent pollution of state waters. We can help you meet those water quality requirements. No matter which technical assistance provider you choose to work with, it will be important that changes you make fully protect water quality.

Please get in touch with me within 30 days to acknowledge the receipt of this letter and discuss a plan to protect water quality. I am also available to visit with you at your operation to discuss our observations, potential fixes and the financial assistance available.

All of the information we collected during our evaluations including field data, maps, and photos is available to you upon request.

We will be sharing more about water quality conditions observed in your area at upcoming workshops to be scheduled this summer. You can learn more and stay up to date by checking our website: www.ecy.wa.gov search "watershed surveys".

Sincerely,

Staff Name
Phone
Email
Water Quality Program

CC: [CD CONTACT], [CD NAME] Conservation District