



# Washington State Department of Transportation

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## Stormwater Discharge Permit

January 2008



# Permit Issues

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1. Coverage area
2. Highway Runoff Manual
3. SWMP approach
4. Flow Control Proposal
5. Monitoring
6. Supplemental Budget Request
7. Communication Strategy
8. Schedule

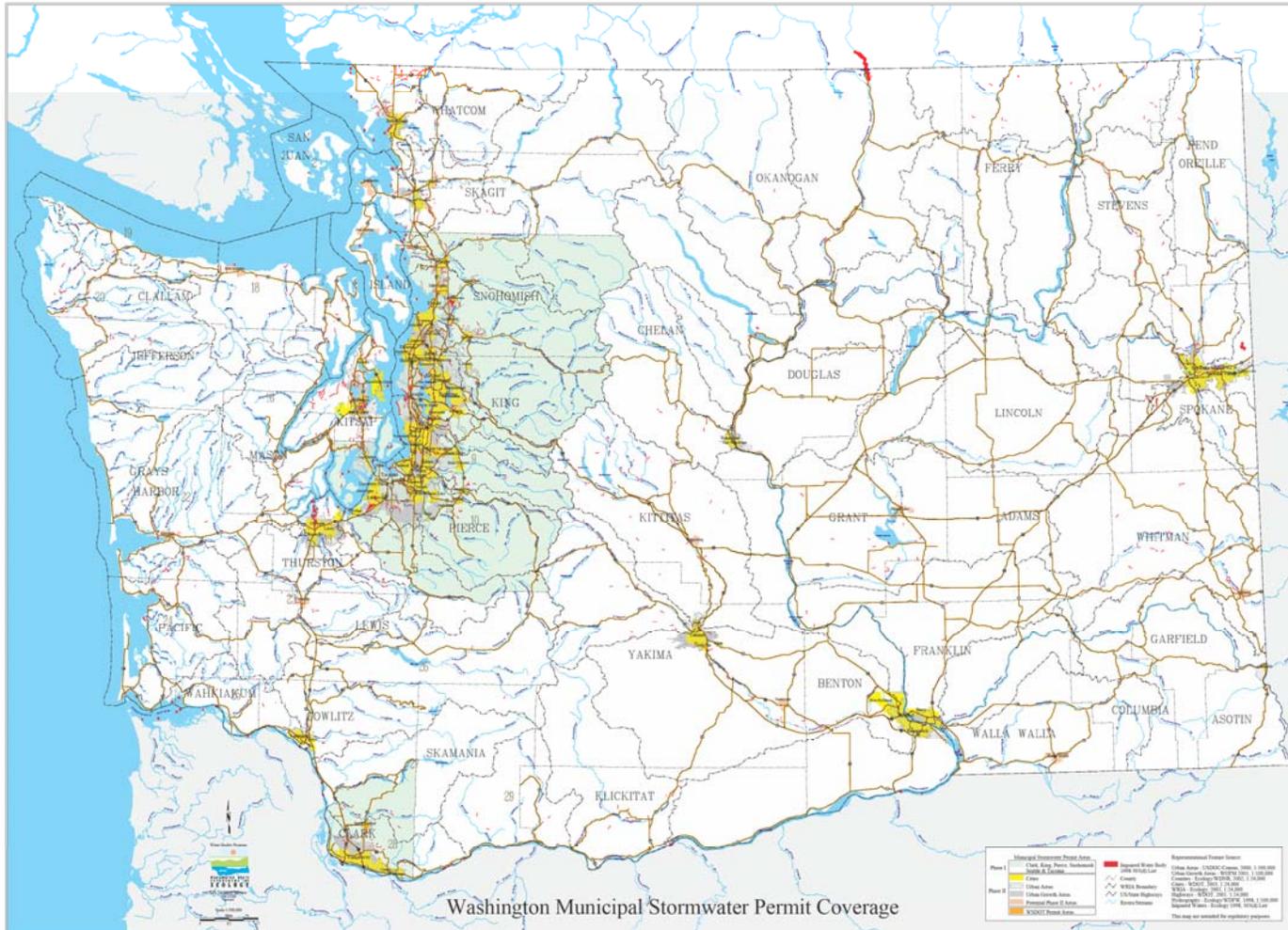


# Coverage

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- All Phase I Areas
- All Phase II Areas
- Applicable TMDL Areas

# Phase I and Phase II Areas



# What about the rest of the state?

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**Alpowa Summit on Highway 12, MP 413**



# Highway Runoff Manual

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- Permit coverage is not statewide. However, Ecology and WSDOT agreed that the HRM will be applied statewide.
- Application of the HRM is formalized through an implementing agreement
- WSDOT is updating the HRM for consistency with Ecology's Stormwater Manuals



# WSDOT's Stormwater Management Program

WSDOT must meet the minimum performance measures for stormwater management:

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1. MS4 Mapping
2. Coordination with others
3. Public Involvement and Participation
4. Controlling Runoff
5. Install Best Management Practices (BMPs)
6. Source Control Programs
7. Operation and Maintenance
8. Detecting and Eliminating illicit connections
9. Education and Outreach



## WSDOT SWMP cont.

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- ❑ WSDOT is updating their 1997 Stormwater Management Program to meet the minimum performance measures.
- ❑ The SWMP will be incorporated by reference into the Permit
- ❑ Implementation will begin immediately

# Stormwater Runoff Flow Control and Treatment

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**A new underground concrete tank the size of a football field will store and clean highway runoff.**

SR 99 - South 284th St to South 272nd St



# Flow and Runoff Treatment

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Increased impervious surfaces cause:

- ❑ Significant changes in patterns of stormwater flow.
- ❑ Stream channel changes that destroy fish habitat.
- ❑ Degraded water quality from pollutants such as eroded soil, oil, metals or pesticides.



# Ecology's Stormwater Manual

## Default flow control

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Ecology's requires both new and retrofit projects to meet historic flow conditions when impervious surfaces are increased by 50% or more

For example, WSDOT's project from NE 44th to 112th Ave SE in South Bellevue adds two new lanes in each direction

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Normally, this type of project would trigger the installation of flow control and treatment BMPs to historic conditions. However...



# WSDOT's Alternative Proposal

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- WSDOT would meet project driven stormwater retrofit obligations by retrofitting an equivalent area of state highway in environmental **priority** order.

# How does the prioritization scheme work?

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## □ Prioritization screening criteria includes:

- Drinking water supplies
- Small stream sensitivity
- High quality receiving waters
- Fish bearing streams
- High ADT
- 303(d) listed water bodies
- Large highway drainage areas
- Urban fringe





## Prioritization cont.

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- GIS mapping
- Field reconnaissance
- Retrofit obligations are met:
  1. Within the project area;
  2. Then within the tributary system
  3. Then within the same WRIA
  4. Fourth within one of three regions (eastern Washington, Puget Sound Basin, rest of western Washington)



# Monitoring

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- The monitoring strategy will:
  - Produce data that is scientifically credible;
  - Represents discharges from WSDOT's various land uses;
  - Provide information that can be used by WSDOT for designing and implementing effective stormwater management strategies;
  - Determine the effectiveness of WSDOT Stormwater Management Program.

# Baseline Monitoring

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- Provide water quality data on discharges from
  - highways
  - maintenance and fueling facilities
  - ferry terminals,
  - rest areas,
  - park and ride lots.
- Provide data on first flush toxicity
- Provide data on sediment quality



# BMP Effectiveness Monitoring

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The permit will require a monitoring program to evaluate the effectiveness and operation and maintenance requirements of stormwater treatment and hydrologic management BMPs





# Supplemental Budget Request

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- WSDOT developed an initial request for \$10.2m. To begin implementing the permit this fall
- OFM trimmed \$1 million from the request
- \$9.2 million supplemental funding made the Governor's budget request to the legislature.



# Communication Strategy

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WSDOT and Ecology collaborated on the communication strategy



# Key messages

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- Stormwater runoff is a growing water quality problem due to increased land use and development.
- Local governments are already stepping up to their stormwater permit requirements; and now the state is stepping up to be part of the solution
- WSDOT faces high costs and much work to meet the requirements of this permit.



## Key Messages cont.

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- The stormwater program for the state highway system is an investment that will protect our waters from pollution.
- Everyone can help improve pollution problems along highway systems by keeping cars off the roads and taking mass transit



# Target Audience

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- Legislature
- Media
- Municipalities
- Environmental groups
- State and Federal agencies: Puget Sound Partnership, EPA, Services.



# Some Communication Actions

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- Legislative tour & handouts – held Jan 7
- Folio brochure that explains the permit
- Focus sheet
- Conduct ongoing stakeholder work
- News release & possible media field



# Permit Issuance Schedule

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- AAG/internal draft review Feb 5 – Feb 11
- Preliminary draft issuance Feb 15 – Mar 7
- Brief WSDOT Permit Advisory Group Feb 26
- Public Notice Draft Permit,  
Fact Sheet, IA, HRM April 16
- Hearing/workshop on Draft Permit May 19 - 23
- Close of comments May 30
- Final Issuance of Permit July/August 2008