

New, Limited Capacity of Ecology's Water Quality Program in the 09-11 Biennium

Point Source

- Delays in our ability to issue new permits. Reauthorize more permits instead of rewriting them. Will create a backlog of permits and a bow wave of work in the future.
- No new general permits.
- Fewer facilities get managed and inspected that fall under non-stormwater general permits and individual permits. This includes aquatic pesticide permits, boatyard permits, sand and gravel permits, aquaculture permits, and individual permits.
- Limited resources to respond to information requests, new initiatives, planning or strategic thinking related to point sources and permits.
- No centralized coordination on groundwater issues and minimal involvement in other agency rules that impact groundwater.

Nonpoint

- Fewer resources for centralized coordination of dam and FERC (Federal Energy Regulatory Commission)-related issues between regions and other Ecology programs.
- Fewer resources to respond to environmental complaints that are not emergency health or environmental situations.
- Very limited resources to work on lakes issues.

Stormwater

- Fewer stormwater inspections and enforcement actions.
- No resources to manage or support the WSDOT (state Department of Transportation) stormwater permit. No inspections of all WSDOT projects.
- Not reviewing new proposals for innovative stormwater technologies.
- Limited capacity to oversee and provide technical and financial assistance to municipal stormwater permit communities, and other stakeholders.
- Reduced level of technical support for the Stormwater Manual and Western Washington Hydrology Manual. Reducing Stormwater Guidance public outreach.
- Less ability to respond to information requests, new initiatives, and less capacity for planning or strategic thinking.

Financial Assistance

- No updates to outdated financial assistance policies and procedures, with the exception of those that tie directly to federal funding and Recovery Act (American Recovery and Reinvestment Act) funding.
- Reduced capacity for the following work, increasing the risk of audit issues:
 - Grant and loan payment requests. An issue because turn-around time is increasing.
 - Less review of grant and loan documents for non-ARRA projects.
 - Subrecipient monitoring on fewer projects.

Cleanup Polluted Waters

- Water Quality Standards changes and Water Quality Assessment will move at a slower pace.
- No ability to enter into TMDLs (water cleanup plans, or Total Maximum Daily Load studies) where we have significant policy/standards issues until we have clear set of resources lined up to manage those difficult and time consuming issues.
- Limited capacity to develop TMDLs, along with their coordination and implementation.

Water Quality Program Distribution of Staff by Activity

THEN
2007-2009
274 Total Staff

NOW
2009-2011
231 Total Staff

