

# **Agricultural Stormwater Monitoring Recommendations for Pesticide and Status and Trends Monitoring**

February 2, 2012

The agricultural stormwater sub-committee would like to have the following recommendations considered for approval by the SWG. These recommendations pertain to pesticide monitoring and status and trends monitoring related to agricultural lands. The sub-committee has not yet fully discussed and developed recommendations for other potential issues, such as fecal coliform, nutrients, and effectiveness monitoring. Recommendations in these categories will be presented to the SWG as they are developed.

## **Recommendations for Stormwater Pesticide Monitoring on Agricultural Lands**

- 1) Broad scale monitoring such as status and trends is not the most cost-effective method to monitor pesticides in Puget Sound water bodies. We recommend a more targeted approach that combines source ID and program or watershed scale effectiveness monitoring. The Dept of Agriculture and Ecology's current program provides a valuable foundation for pesticide monitoring in the state and uses source ID and effectiveness monitoring. We recommend continued reliance and funding for this program to serve as the baseline for stormwater agricultural pesticide monitoring.
- 2) We recommend seeking funding to augment the current Ag/ECY pesticide monitoring program to monitor toxics inputs during peak flow events, including copper. This could start as a pilot program in the Skagit Basin. However, the first priority is to maintain the existing pesticide monitoring program. The addition of this peak flow monitoring would not replace any aspect of the current pesticide monitoring program.
- 3) We recommend seeking funding to conduct pesticide monitoring in another agriculture-intensive basin using the same infrastructure in the existing program. This would help test the assumption that pesticide use in Skagit is representative of Puget Sound.

## **Recommendations for Stormwater Status and Trends Monitoring Related to Agricultural Lands**

- 4) We support the existing status and trends monitoring program that is proposed for the Puget Sound stormwater group as a means to determine broad scale status and trends for watershed health and salmon habitat.