



STORMWATER WORK GROUP

To: PSEMP Steering Committee
From: Stormwater Work Group
Date: June 26, 2013
Subject: Priority monitoring activities

The PSEMP Stormwater Work Group (SWG) prioritized monitoring needs as part of completing the [2010 Stormwater Monitoring and Assessment Strategy for the Puget Sound Region](#). We then identified a subset of those priorities to be conducted as part of a Regional Stormwater Monitoring Program (RSMP) funded by municipal stormwater NPDES permittees in Puget Sound. At the same time, we identified key existing monitoring efforts that were important to continue.

We understand that other PSEMP workgroups are currently recommending monitoring priorities to the Steering Committee in anticipation of a cross-workgroup prioritization exercise. We also understand that this current exercise is focused on monitoring needed to characterize and understand the condition of the ecosystem and to inform management actions, as opposed to identifying needs for effectiveness monitoring or other studies.

We hereby submit this list of stormwater-related monitoring priorities for the Steering Committee's consideration in cross-workgroup prioritization. Included in this list are six highlighted **gaps** and one **lost** monitoring program that, according to our past prioritization discussions, should be filled or reinstated first. We hope that gaps prioritized by both the SWG and other PSEMP workgroups will be considered high priority in cross-workgroup prioritization. Please contact SWG Chair [Jim Simmonds](#) or SWG Staff [Karen Dinicola](#) if you have any questions.

Priority water bodies for status and trends monitoring or other regional assessment:

1. Small, wadeable streams in Puget Lowlands (included in RSMP at Puget Sound scale; gap at WRIA level)
2. Marine nearshore (areas inside Urban Growth Area boundaries included in RSMP; gap outside UGAs)
3. Lakes – gap not addressed
4. Groundwater – gap not addressed

Priority physical and chemical indicators:

1. Streamflow – gap being addressed in RSMP; several current active gages threatened
2. Metals and PAHs (included in RSMP)
3. Pesticides – gap not adequately addressed in RSMP
4. Bacteria (included in RSMP)

Priority biotic indicators:

1. Stream benthos, or B-IBI (included in RSMP)
2. Puget Sound mussels (included in RSMP)
3. Fish populations in small, wadeable streams in Puget Lowlands – gap not addressed
4. Marine nearshore benthos – gap not addressed

Priority regional programs in Puget Sound that are leveraged by the RSMP:

1. Ecology's stream water quality and flow monitoring – ongoing
2. Ecology's nearshore sediment monitoring program – ongoing
3. NOAA/WDFW Mussel Watch program – ongoing but in possible jeopardy
4. WDOH bacteria status and trends monitoring – lost in recent budget cuts