

# Puget Sound Stormwater Monitoring Work Group



## 2011 Progress toward Regional Stormwater Monitoring

The Stormwater Work Group (SWG) is implementing many aspects of the [2010 recommendations](#)—moving the region closer to coordinated, prioritized regional monitoring to inform and improve Puget Sound clean up and recovery efforts.

Among the key selling points of the recommendations are the numerous efficiencies associated with pooling resources and coordinating monitoring across jurisdictions.

In June, the SWG commented on Ecology’s preliminary draft municipal permit language and is now reviewing the formal draft permit monitoring language. The “opt-in” sections of the permit are based on SWG recommendations while the “opt-out” sections are not. The SWG will submit comments to Ecology before the end of the [public comment](#) period on February 3, 2012.

## Additional Recommendations to Keep Moving Forward

The SWG’s many subgroups continue to provide detailed recommendations to launch the Regional Stormwater Monitoring Program. We recommended a formal oversight process to provide transparency and accountability in creating and administering the pooled resources approach and to ensure the SWG’s technical recommendations are followed. The revised draft [Oversight Committee](#) charter is out for public review at the same time as the formal draft permits.

The SWG’s technical subgroups made progress on all three science components of the monitoring program. Two subgroups are writing Quality Assurance Project Plans (QAPPs) for status and trends monitoring, and a stream gauging network analysis will be published in March 2012. A transparent process helped the SWG recommend which programmatic effectiveness studies to fund using the pooled resources and will allow us to update the proposed list after a literature review is completed and we consider feedback from Ecology’s public comment period on the permits. The SWG is also doing another literature review to guide the creation of a source identification and diagnostic monitoring repository.



## Stormwater Work Group Outreach

While working to establish the technical and policy needs to form a coordinated regional approach, the SWG also worked to stay in touch with people and agencies interested in the outcome of their work by:

- Sending SWG Reporter email updates once about every other month ([join our list](#)),
- Inviting outside groups to give presentations on other monitoring efforts, and
- Reaching out to Southwest Washington jurisdictions for input on monitoring activities that can be expanded throughout western Washington.

SWG members also took part in Puget Sound recovery “Action Agenda” development activities. The SWG was recognized as the first “topical work group” of five started by the [Puget Sound Ecosystem Monitoring Program](#).