

# Stormwater Work Group Reporter

October 2012

Key news and information you need to stay current on the effort to create a regional stormwater monitoring and assessment strategy for Puget Sound

## Ecology issues permits that support regional stormwater monitoring

Ecology has issued municipal stormwater NPDES permits for local governments in western Washington that become effective July 1, 2013. The permits include requirements to either contribute funding for a Regional Stormwater Monitoring Program (RSMP) based on SWG recommendations or conduct individual monitoring that, according to Ecology, will also contribute to the RSMP effort. Each permittee will inform Ecology in fall 2013 which option they have chosen.

More information (<http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wq/stormwater/municipal/2012Reissuance.html>)

## Puget Lowland streamflow gauging network gaps identified

A streamflow gauging analysis conducted by US Geological Survey for the SWG and funded by USEPA was published in June. The report identified gaps in the Puget Lowland streamflow gauging network that include small streams that discharge directly to the Sound and small streams in urbanized areas with modified drainage basins. A follow-up study will recommend how the current network can best support the new Regional Stormwater Monitoring Program (RSMP).

More information (<http://pubs.usgs.gov/sir/2012/5020/>)

## Field Screening Manual will improve approaches to finding stormwater problems

A new Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination (IDDE) Field Screening Manual is under development funded by a Grant of Regional or Statewide Significance (GROSS grant) to King County. The manual will describe field screening methods and considerations for each method, such as where the methods work best and what equipment, staff resources, and training are needed. The manual will distinguish between methods for discovering illicit discharge problems and methods for tracing the sources of the problems. The manual will likely be the first entry in the Methods/Resources component of the Source Identification Information Repository (SIDIR) which will provide tools for local governments and others to improve pollution reduction techniques and to focus regional efforts to reduce stormwater pollution.

More information (<https://sites.google.com/site/pugetsoundstormwaterworkgroup/home/source-identification-information-repository>)

## Puget Sound mussel contamination survey this winter

The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, under a National Estuary Program grant and in cooperation with local governments and other organizations, will sample and analyze contaminants in mussel tissue at over 100 sites in Puget Sound. Many of the most common pollutants found in stormwater runoff will be included in the analyses.

More information (<http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wq/psmonitoring/marinenearshoreSubgrp.html>)

## Regional monitoring is moving forward in advance of permit timelines

Ecology-funded projects are helping implement regional stormwater monitoring in advance of the permits and permittee-contributed funding. Projects include further analyses of the Puget Lowland stream gauging network, a mussel contamination gradient study, and syntheses of stormwater management program effectiveness literature review findings. Findings of the first two projects will be shared next summer. Syntheses of the literature review findings for key topic areas including low impact development, traditional best management practices, operation and maintenance, public education, illicit discharge detection and elimination and source control will be produced this winter and broadly shared with local government staff and others by next spring.

More information (<https://sites.google.com/site/pugetsoundstormwaterworkgroup/home/current-projects>)

## About the Stormwater Work Group

The Stormwater Work Group (SWG) is part of the Puget Sound Ecosystem Monitoring Program (PSEMP). The SWG is a coalition of representatives of local, state, and federal governments, environmental and business organizations, tribes, and agriculture. At the request of the Puget Sound Partnership and the Department of Ecology, the SWG formed in October 2008 to develop a Stormwater Assessment and Monitoring Program for Puget Sound (SWAMPSS) that provides a strategic, coordinated, and integrated approach to quantifying the stormwater problem in Puget Sound. SWAMPSS is intended to help us efficiently and effectively manage stormwater to reduce harm to the ecosystem. The SWG's many technical subgroups actively support SWAMPSS implementation.

More information (<http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wq/psmonitoring/swworkgroup.html>;

[http://www.psp.wa.gov/MP\\_monitoring\\_program.php](http://www.psp.wa.gov/MP_monitoring_program.php))