

Stormwater Work Group Reporter

July 2015

Key news and information you need to stay current on the Regional Stormwater Monitoring Program (RSMP) and the strategic approach to stormwater monitoring and assessment to reduce stormwater impacts to Puget Sound

First RSMP effectiveness study findings shared: stormwater treatment reduces toxicity

WSU-Puyallup and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service evaluated the effectiveness of the "60/40" bioretention compost mix required by Ecology's *Stormwater Management Manual for Western Washington*. The study measured pollutant concentrations in influent and filtered effluent and observed effects on fish. The study authors presented [pre-publication results](#) to the SWG on June 3. Filtering stormwater through the mix reduces toxics concentrations and prevents toxicity to adult coho and embryos. The mix releases some metals but the organic carbon prevents bioavailability. The final RSMP report is expected in September, and additional study findings are expected later this year.

More information: <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wq/stormwater/municipal/rsmp/effective.html>

Bioretention hydrologic performance RSMP effectiveness study is underway

The City of Bellingham and its subcontractors are selecting sites and developing a monitoring design to evaluate the flow reduction effectiveness of bioretention facilities designed according to the *Stormwater Management Manual for Western Washington*. As-built information will be reviewed and modeling and monitoring results will be compared.

More information: <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wq/stormwater/municipal/rsmp/effective.html>

New interactive maps show RSMP status and trends monitoring sites

Check out the [new RSMP website](#) to see locations of RSMP monitoring sites in streams and nearshore areas.

- Stream sediment chemistry (metals, PAHs, pesticides, and PCBs) and watershed health monitoring (including stream benthos sampling) will be conducted at up to 100 sites beginning in July. Monthly water quality monitoring has been conducted at 60 sites since January. The Washington Dept. of Agriculture is paying for additional pesticide analyses.
 - Mussel monitoring at shoreline sites adjacent to Urban Growth Areas in Puget Sound is being led by the Washington Dept. of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW). Forty sites will be confirmed during low tides for sampling of contaminants in mussels during winter 2015-2016. WDFW will add sampling sites to this study, funded by other project partners.
- Contact [Jennifer Lanksbury](#) if your organization is interested in sponsoring additional mussel sampling sites.

The RSMP will need information from local governments to support data analysis and interpretation.

More information: <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wq/stormwater/municipal/rsmp/status.html>

Fifth RSMP quarterly budget report coming soon

RSMP project deliverables are posted on the RSMP web page. Ecology gives regular budget and progress reports as part of the RSMP oversight process. The fifth report for the period from April 1, 2015 through June 30, 2015 is expected to be released in late July and posted with previous reports.

More information: <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wq/stormwater/municipal/rsmp/rsmp.html>

Join our effort!

This summer our subgroups and caucuses will meet to discuss ways we might improve implementation of the RSMP. We need more representation of tribes and local, state, federal, business, and environmental caucuses on the work group and in our subcommittees. Our meetings are open to all interested parties. Contact [Karen Dinicola](#) to be added to a list.

More information: www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wq/psmonitoring/swworkgroup.html

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. The SWG formed in October 2008 to develop a strategic, coordinated, and integrated approach to quantifying the stormwater problem in Puget Sound that will help us efficiently and effectively manage stormwater to reduce harm to the ecosystem. The SWG's many technical subgroups actively support implementation of the Regional Stormwater Monitoring Program (RSMP) implemented through the municipal stormwater permits.

More information: www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wq/psmonitoring/swworkgroup.html

Prior issues available for download

This is the twenty third issue of the SWG Reporter. Previous issues are available for download at our website.

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