Introduction to CWA Permits

Ecology's Water Quality Program

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DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY
State of Washington

1

Washington was First

- 1945 the state of Washington began a pollution control program (RCW 90.48)
- 1948 the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (PL 80-845)
- 1969 The Cuyahoga River catches fire near Cleveland, Ohio

2

Burning River Leads to Stronger Clean Water Act

- 1972 Federal Water Pollution Control Act Amendments
  - Permit required for discharge of pollutants
  - EPA authority to develop industry standards
- 1987 Stormwater added to Clean Water Act
- 1988 Ecology established fees for permits

3

Protect and Restore Our Land, Air, and Water

Water Quality Program

- Develop water quality standards
- Work with communities to develop recipe clean up plans
- Issue permits to protect the state's waters
- Grants and loans for clean water projects

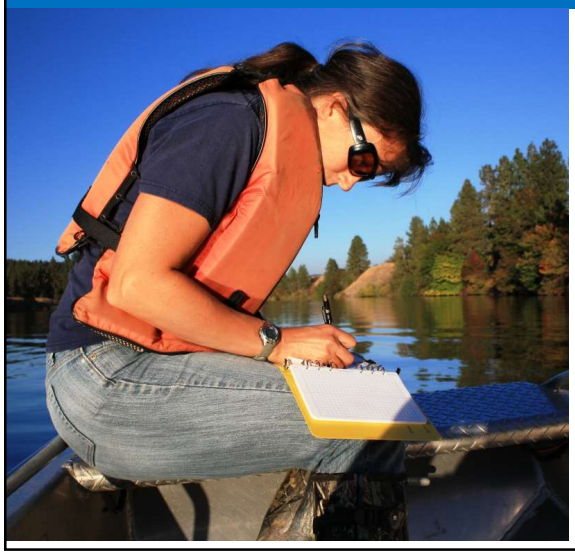
4

Protecting Water Quality in Washington

- Designate uses in a waterbody, such as swimming and fishing.
- Set numeric criteria to protect those uses
- Establish rules to protect waterbodies from pollutants.

5

Identifying Polluted Waters



Assessment uses available water quality data to:

- Track when waters are getting cleaner or polluted
- Set priorities for improving water quality
- Meet federal water quality requirements

6

Getting to Clean Water

Engage partners and citizens to protect and restore water quality by implementing:

- Watershed clean-up plans
- Voluntary Clean Water Guidance for Agriculture
- Puget Sound Nutrient Reduction Strategy
- Forest Practice Rules

7

730 Total Individual Permits

Domestic Wastewater

Municipal - NPDES	220
Municipal - State	70
Reclaimed Water	30

Industrial Wastewater

Industrial Pretreatment - State	**170**
Industrial - State	**70**
Industrial - NPDES	**170**
Net Pens	**8**
CAFO	**1**

8

5,700 Total General Permits

- **Stormwater Permits**
  - Industrial Stormwater
  - Construction Stormwater
  - Sand and Gravel
  - Boatyard
  - Municipal Stormwater
    - Phase I
    - Phase II Western
    - Phase II Eastern
    - WSDOT
- **Process water permits**
  - CAFO
  - Aquatic Pesticide Permits
    - Aquatic invasive species
    - Aquatic noxious weeds
    - Aquatic plant and algae management
    - Fisheries resource management
    - Irrigation systems aquatic weed control
    - Z. japonica management
  - Bridge and Ferry Terminal Washing
  - Vessel Deconstruction
  - Winery
  - Water Treatment Plant
  - Fresh Fruit Packing
  - Fin-fish Hatching and Rearing

9

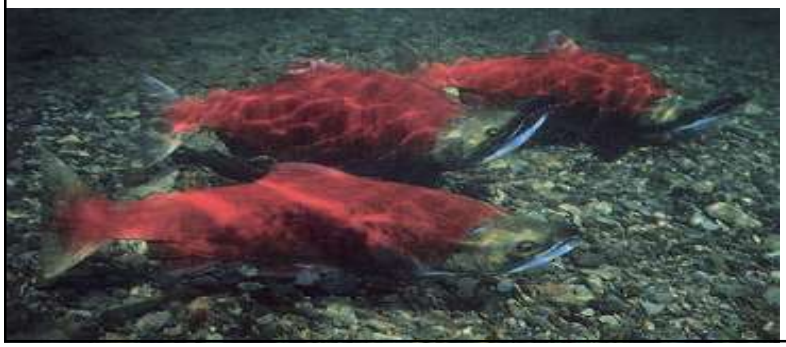
Progress of Permitting

10

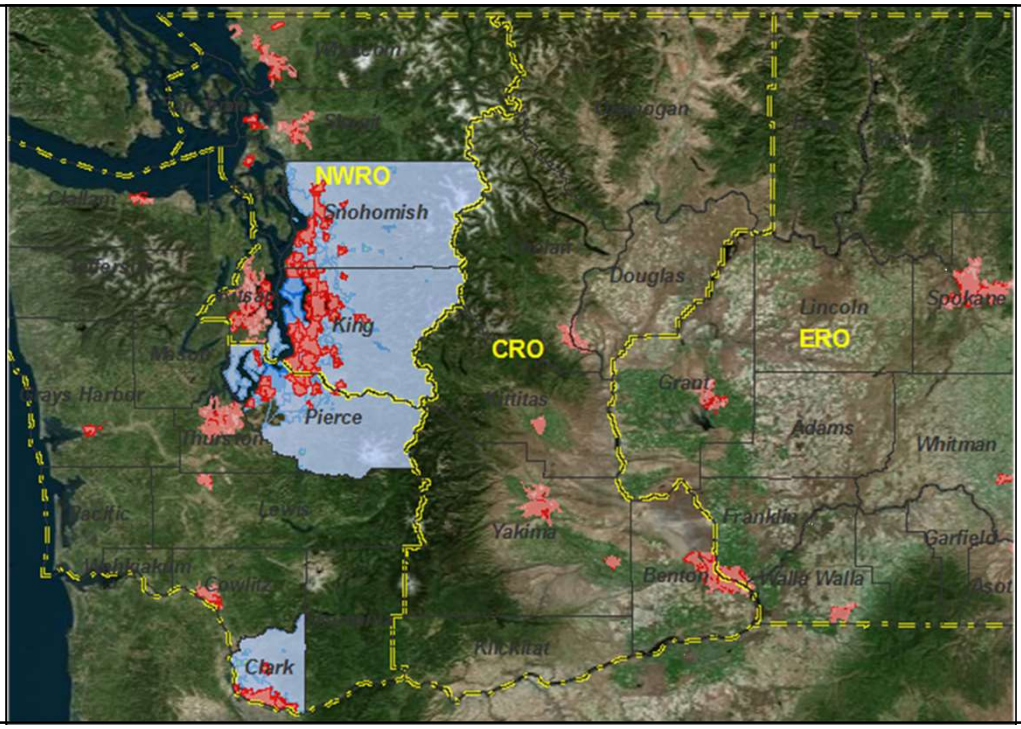
Population Around Puget Sound is Growing

Stormwater top concerns:

- Nutrients (causes low oxygen)
- Metals, Toxic pollutants



11



12

Covering many aspects of municipalities

The permit regulates discharges from large and medium publicly owned municipal separate storm sewer systems (MS4s).

- S1. Permit Coverage & Permittees
- S2. Authorized Discharges
- S3. Responsibilities of Permittees
- S4. Compliance With Standards
- S5. Stormwater Management Program
- S6. Secondary Permittee Requirements
- S7. Compliance With TMDLs
- S8. Monitoring
- S9. Reporting Requirements

13

Developing land changes runoff from less than 1% to more than 20%

14

Low Impact Development (LID)

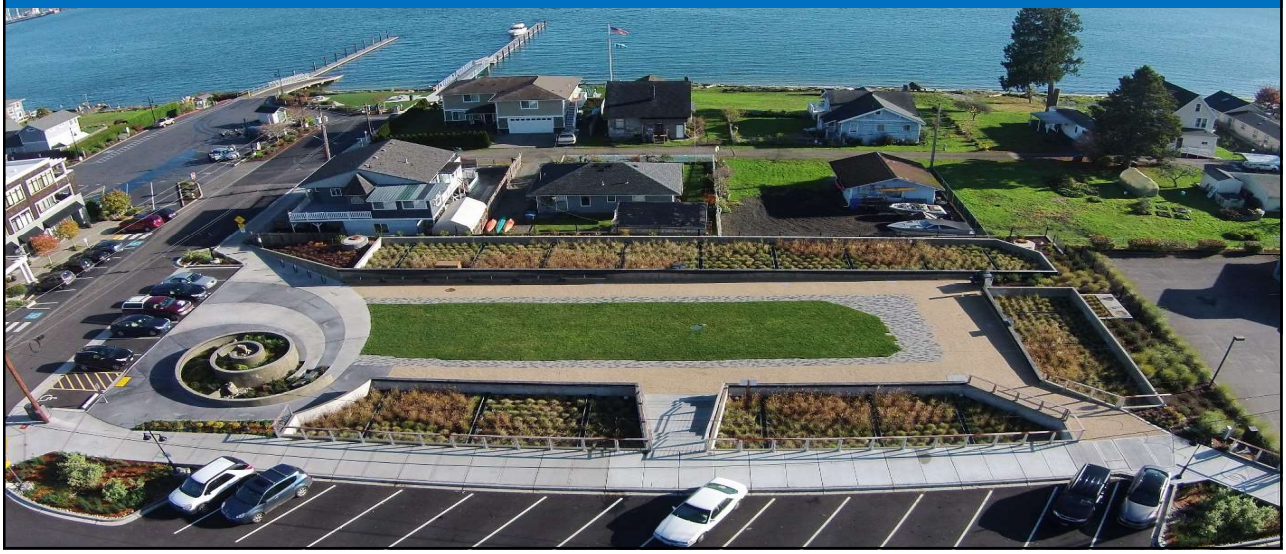
Allows stormwater into ground instead of becoming runoff

15

Better Community Design

16

Fund ~70 projects each biennium



17

Monitoring helps us answer the big questions

Receiving waters:

- Are things getting better or worse?
- Are we protecting key resources?

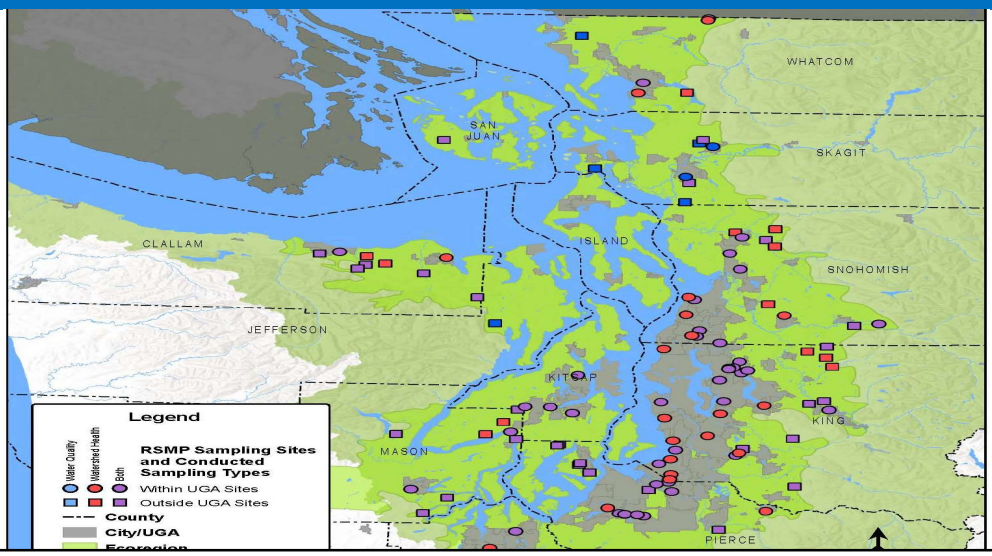
Effectiveness:

- What is/isn't working?
- What works better or is more cost-effective?

Any NPDES permit *must monitor their discharge* for certain pollutants

18

Regional approach increases power of study



19

Questions?

20