A scenic view of a lake with mountains in the background and two children in the foreground. The children are sitting on the shore, looking at the water. A log is floating in the water. The sky is overcast.

Stormwater Planning

Municipal Stormwater Permits

Washington

2020 National Stormwater Roundtable

Washington State
Department of Ecology
Water Quality Program
Abbey Stockwell

Let's talk

- Highlights of WA State Municipal Stormwater Permits
- Watershed-scale stormwater plans
 - Past efforts & lessons learned
 - Current efforts & next steps



Introduction to WA Municipal Stormwater Permits



Municipal Stormwater Permits

Phase I

(Issued 1995,
reissued 2007, 2012, 2019)

King, Snohomish, Pierce & Clark
counties; Seattle & Tacoma

Western WA Phase II

(Issued 2007,
reissued 2012, 2019)

81 cities and parts of 6 counties

Eastern WA Phase II

(Issued 2007,
reissued 2012, 2019)

19 cities and parts of 6 counties

**All three permits
include Secondary
Permittees**

47 Secondaries – Ports, Schools,
Irrigation Districts, etc.





Path to watershed-scale stormwater planning



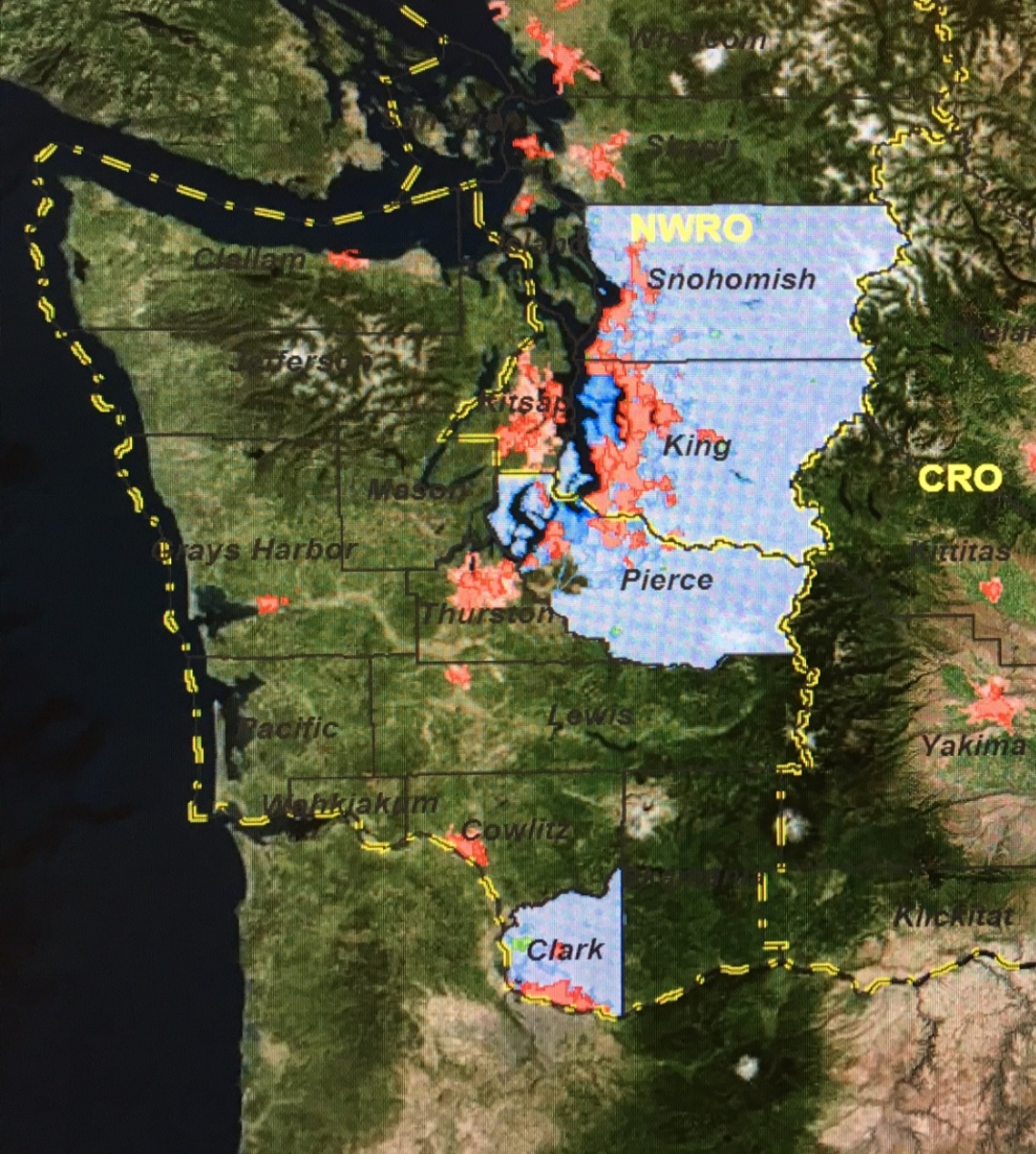
Watersheds are important



An aerial photograph of a landscape, likely a watershed, with a blue line tracing a path through it, possibly representing a river or a boundary. The text is overlaid on a semi-transparent grey box.

Pollution Control Hearings Board Planning is an essential tool

- ▶ **A watershed scale approach is needed**
- ▶ **Development strategies can be a **water quality management tool** to protect resources**



Phase I Counties

- ▶ Select a watershed under pressure of development
- ▶ Build a model to test development scenarios
- ▶ Compare results to forested conditions

**Water quality will continue to be
impaired without more stormwater
investments**



Land use strategies are effective

- But they were not widely used in Phase I plans
- Need more ways to highlight water quality goals in the growth management process



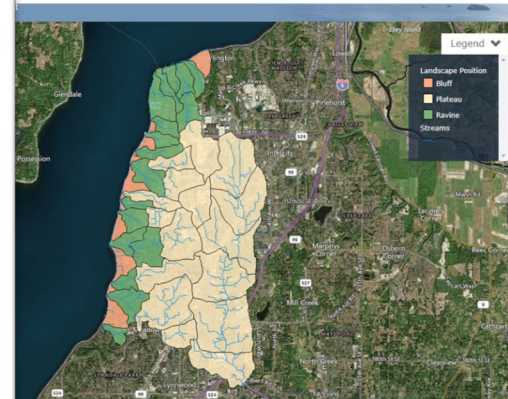
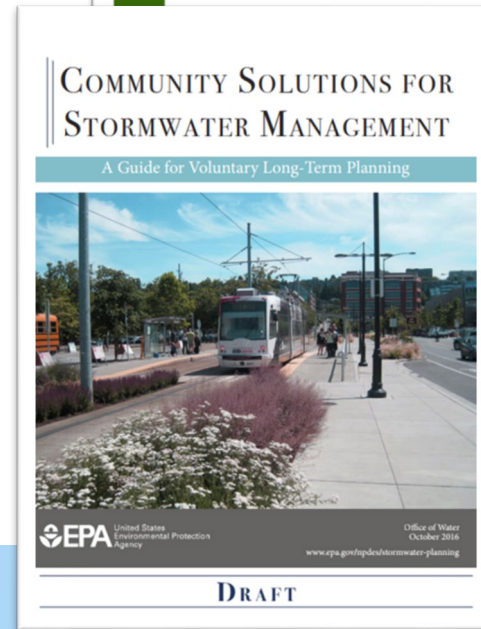
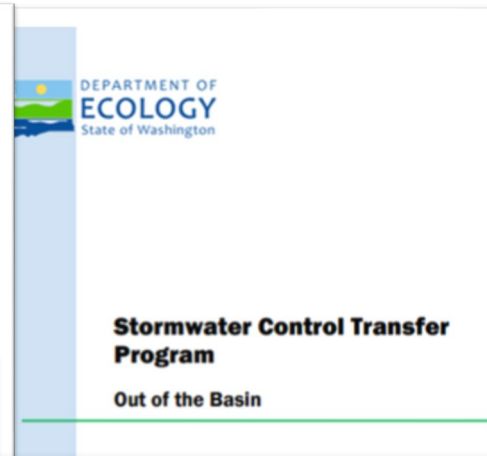
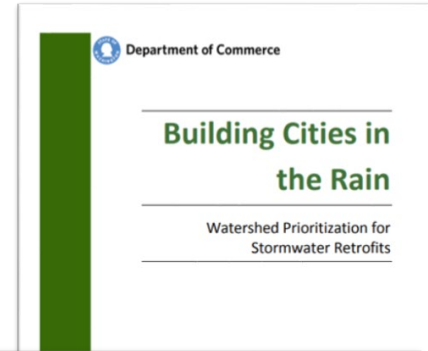
2015-16 status assessments of Puget Sound lowland streams and nearshore areas



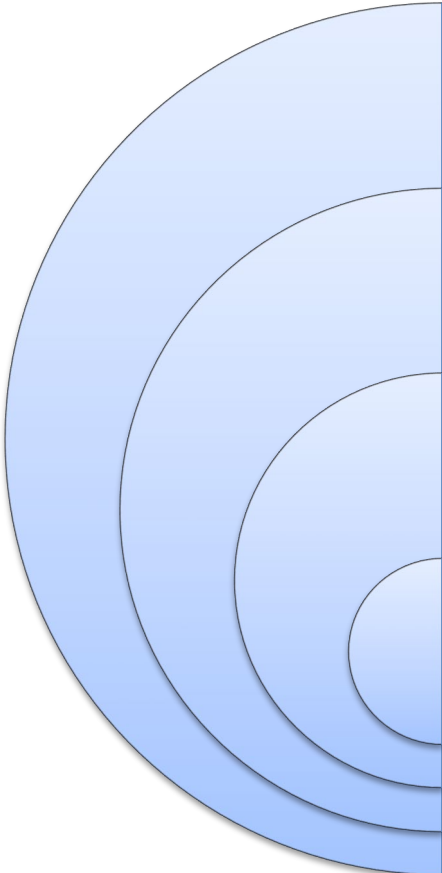
- Higher pollutant levels and lower quality habitat within the Urban Growth Areas than outside

2016 – Bumper year for guidance

- [Building Cities in the Rain](#)
(WA State Commerce)
- Stormwater Control Transfer Program (ECY)
- Watershed characterization (ECY)
- [Long term planning](#)
(USEPA)



Permit reissuance recommendations from stakeholders

| | | |
|--|---|--|
|  | Planning tool to prioritize or target: | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• SW retrofits• Enhanced Operation & Maintenance• Education & outreach: target audiences or specific BMPs• Business inspections |
| | Less focus on modeling – but still data driven | |
| | Watershed scale is flexible | |
| | Include adaptive management | |
| | | |





Current approach

Let's get started!

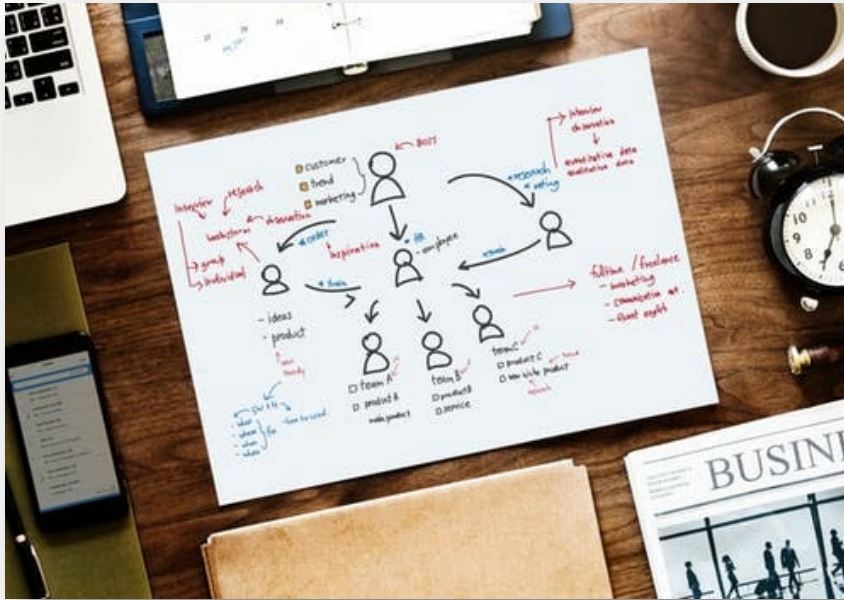
Convene an interdisciplinary team



www.pexels.com



Coordination of long-term planning



How do SW mgt needs inform local policies & development strategies?

www.pexlels.com



LID code-related requirements

Continue to make LID the **preferred and commonly used approach** to development



Stormwater management action planning



Big Questions

- How can we most strategically address existing stormwater problems?
- How can we meet our future population and density targets while also accomplishing our water quality goals?

Stormwater Management Action Plan (SMAP)

- Three components:
 - Receiving water assessment
 - Receiving water prioritization
 - SMAP for a high priority basin



Develop
inventory of
basins inside
your
jurisdiction



Use existing
information to
prioritize your
basins

- assess data gaps



Identify
catchment
areas for
planning within
priority basins



Identify specific
approaches to
apply within
the catchment
areas.



Assess local
conditions



Select
catchments
areas

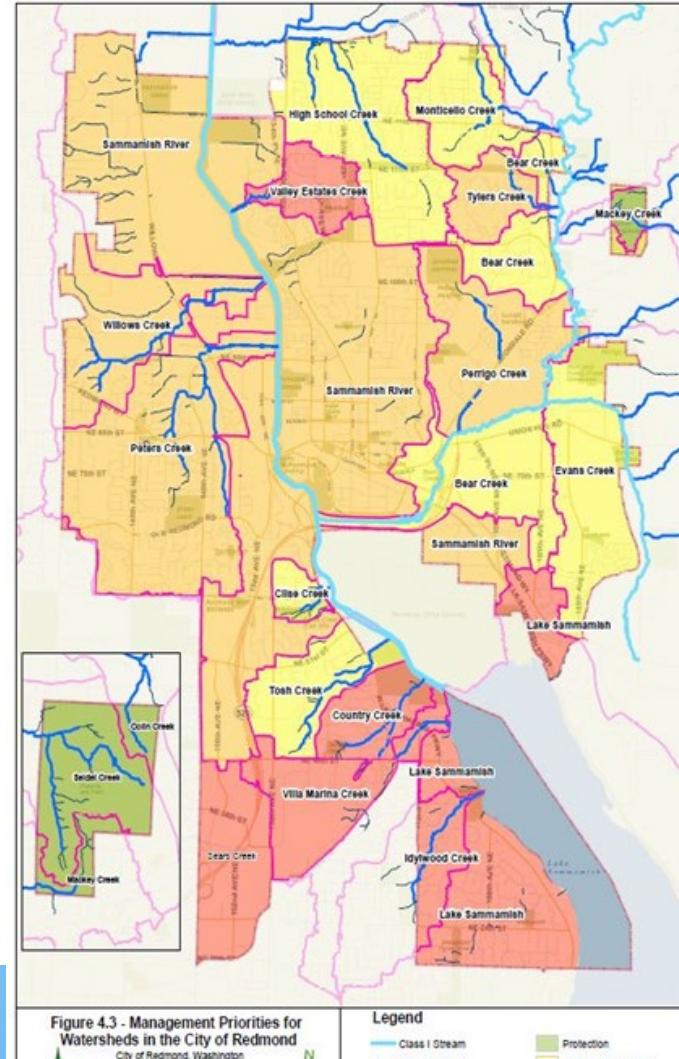
Prioritization
of receiving
waters

Tailored
strategies or
actions

Receiving water basin prioritization

Establish process to prioritize basins for:

- Stormwater retrofits
- Tailored SW Mgt. strategies



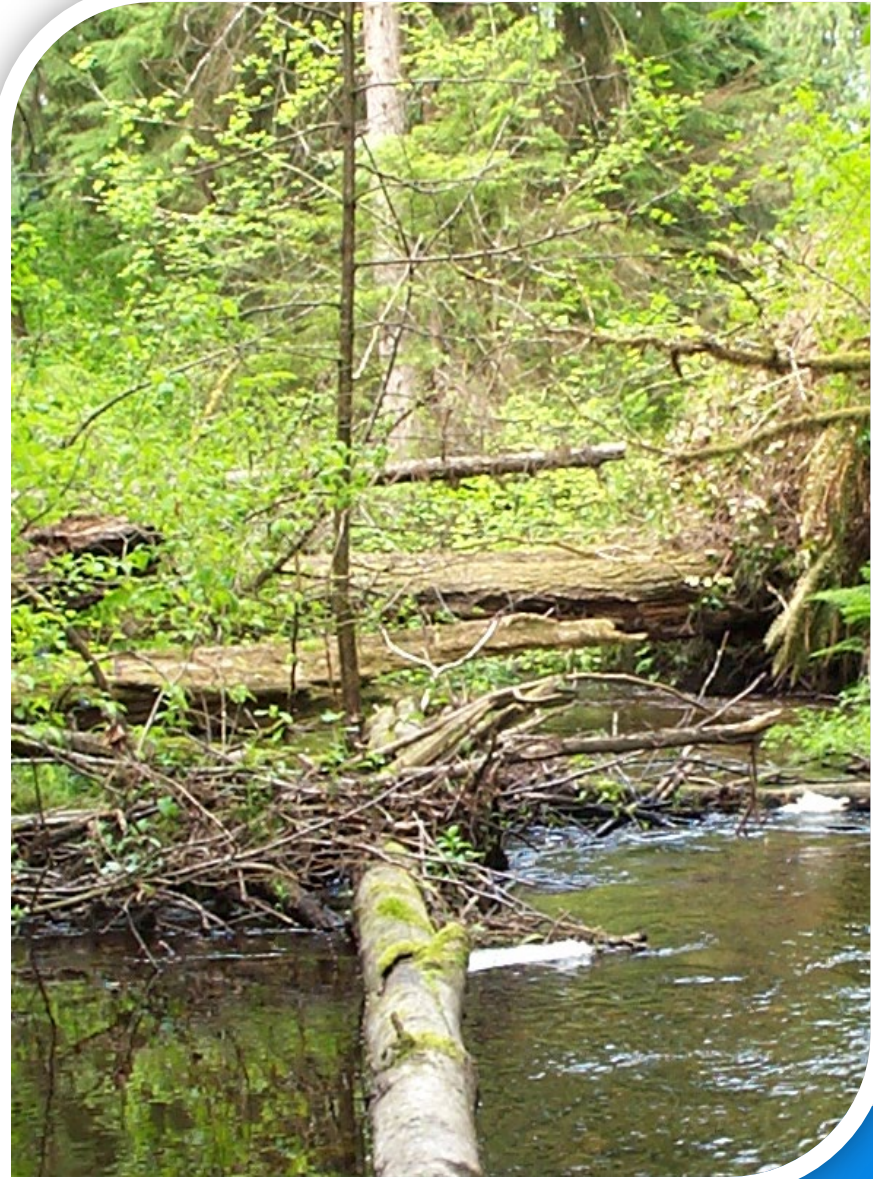
Prioritization feedback

Get input from public, tribal, federal,
state natural resource agencies



Stormwater Management Action Plan

- Shorter-term goals
 - Implementable in 0-6 yrs
 - e.g. Ed & outreach campaign
- Longer-term goals
 - Implementable in 7-20 yrs
 - e.g. Comp. plan updates
 - e.g. Regional facility planning
- Adaptive Management
 - Feedback loop



Questions

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