

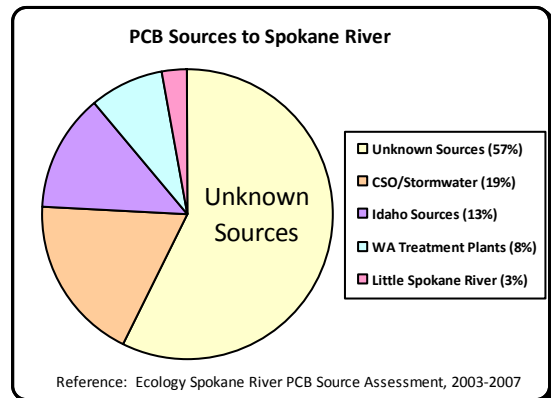
SPOKANE RIVER REGIONAL TOXICS TASK FORCE FUNDING REQUEST

Our Vision - The Regional Toxics Task Force will work collaboratively to characterize the sources of toxics in the Spokane River and identify and implement appropriate actions needed to make measurable progress towards meeting applicable water quality standards for the State of Washington, State of Idaho, and The Spokane Tribe of Indians and in the interests of public and environmental health.

Background

The State of Washington Department of Ecology (Ecology) and the EPA are doing something different than a TMDL to address toxics in the Spokane River. To accelerate clean-up actions, interests groups and governments in the Spokane River basin have collaborated on a unique and innovative approach to reduce PCBs and dioxins in the river. They are pursuing a direct-to-implementation strategy that includes the establishment of a Spokane River Regional Toxics Task Force (Toxics Task Force) to identify and reduce PCBs and dioxins at their source in the watershed.

PCB pollution in the Spokane River is not coming from a few isolated point sources. It is diffuse and difficult to trace. A PCB Source Assessment prepared by Ecology leaves many unanswered questions with respect to the sources of PCBs in the Spokane River. The Assessment identified less than 50% of the sources that contribute to the observed concentrations of PCBs in the river. A consistent method for collecting and analyzing toxics data is necessary in identifying the sources of PCBs in the watershed and implementing clean up actions.



Current Progress

In addition to known sources and site specific clean-up actions in progress, the Toxics Task Force is currently working to identify the unknown sources of PCB's and Dioxins in the Spokane River and develop a cleanup plan aimed at meeting applicable water quality standards. The Task Force recently contracted with an independent community Technical Advisor to assist in development of additional control methods.

Funding Needs

The Toxics Task Force requires \$350,000 in matching Ecology funding during the next biennium to determine the extent of the cleanup required and to act upon the recommendations of the Technical Advisor to implement cleanup methods towards meeting applicable water quality standards. The cleanup plan will:

- Identify the amount by which total PCB and dioxin loads need to be reduced to obtain water quality standards
- Identify specific sources that need to be reduced to meet the overall reduction targets
- Identify the most effective means by which to reduce the identified sources
- Determine best management practices and implementation plans to reduce PCBs and dioxins with the goal of meeting applicable water quality standards

For more information on the Toxics Task Force, visit www.srrttf.org