Eastern Region Water Quality Staffing

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Ecology’s vision and mission

**Our Mission**
To protect, preserve, and enhance Washington’s environment for current and future generations.

**Our Vision**
Our innovative partnerships protect and sustain healthy land, air, and water in harmony with a strong economy.
Ecology’s strategic priorities

- Support and engage our communities, customers, and employees
- Reduce and prepare for climate impacts
- Prevent and reduce toxic threats and pollution
- Protect and manage our state's waters
- Protect and restore Puget Sound
Ecology Regions

- Northwest Region
- Central Region
- Eastern Region
- Southwest Region
Columbia River Watershed

258,000 square miles
- 2 countries
- 5 states (MT, WY, ID, OR, WA)
- 2 provinces

Major tributaries in ERO
- Kettle River (CA, WA, CA, WA)
- Pend Oreille River (MT, ID, WA, CA)
- Spokane River (ID, WA)
- Snake River (WY, NV, ID, OR, WA)
Watershed Unit Key Duties

- TMDL Development
- TMDL Implementation
- Straight to Implementation
- Effectiveness Monitoring
- Hydropower/FERC/401 certification
- Nonpoint project grants
- Technical Assistance
- Nonpoint and general permit enforcement
- Forestry
- General permit coverages (230+)
  - Construction SW
  - Municipal SW
  - Industrial SW
  - Winery
  - Sand and Gravel
  - Boatyard
  - Fin Fish Hatchery
  - Combined Animal Feeding Operations
  - Aquatic pesticide
5 Major Watershed Regions

Staffing (11 positions + 1 new)

5 Watershed Implementation Leads
3 General Permit managers
1 Forestry specialist
1 Stormwater grant manager (vacant)
1 Watershed Implementation Lead – Spokane River (new)
Individual Permits

- National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permits (discharge to water)
  - Municipal
  - Industrial

- State Waste Discharge Permits (discharge to land)
  - Municipal
  - Industrial

- Various subsets
  - Pretreatment
  - Reclaimed water
  - Industrial reuse
Permit Duties

Approximately 150 individual permits
• Write permit (6 months – 1.5 years: Spokane Permits = 7 years)
• Manage permit compliance (DMRs, submittals, etc.)
• Review engineering and facility planning documents
• Assist with financial aid
• Provide operator and technical assistance
• Conduct Inspections
• Issue permit modifications and Administrative Orders
• Enforcement
Permit Writing Capacity

Approximately 150 individual permits: 8 FTE “permit writers”

5 Spokane River Permits: 1-2 FTE for past 7 years

Permit Unit Staffing: Team approach
- Average >18 permits/FTE
- Capacity: 10 permits/FTE
- Permit staff have specialty duties
Permit Unit

• Staffing (12 + 1 new)
  • 5 engineers (1 on family leave)
  • 1 land treatment specialist
  • 1 hydrogeologist
  • 1 statewide enforcement specialist
  • 1 statewide technical assistance/roving operator
  • 1 financial, grants and loans specialist (vacant)
  • 1 permit specialist or engineer (vacant)
  • 1 permit specialist or engineer (new-focus on municipal permits)
Manager’s Reports

• 1 Section Administrative Support

• 1 Eastern Washington Watershed Planner (Annie Simpson)
  • Duties
    • Regional planner (focus on Spokane, Walla Walla, Pend Oreille)
    • Develops high level strategies, programs, and permitting tools
    • Coordinates and communicates with Tribes, governments, and stakeholder groups (PCB and DO TMDLs in Spokane River)
    • Section business planning (coordinates between watershed and permit units)
    • Public involvement and outreach (web page, E-Z view, meeting facilitation)
Questions and Answers

• When will Ecology start working on the SRRTTF transition to an Ecology advisory group?
  • Training period – “meet and greets”
  • Report back in October with schedule and path forward

• What is happening with the DO TMDL?
  • Data collection for 10 year assessment wrapping up
  • Annual meeting in January
  • Write the “Biennial Report” in 2023
Thank you