NEW MAPPING TOOL WILL HELP IDENTIFY HOTSPOTS FOR A HARMFUL CHEMICAL ON COUNTY ROADS

We are creating an open-source mapping tool to assist in prioritizing areas of public roads that need attention because of a harmful chemical from tires called 6PPD quinone (6PPD-q). This tool uses a spatial model that estimates areas with more 6PPD-q. It also checks things like nearby salmon habitat to help decide which road segments need attention first.

WHAT WE ARE DOING

- Developing a screening model to classify roadways based on the relative expected 6PPD-q delivery to the stormwater network.
- Collecting samples to validate the screening model.
- Prioritizing roadways based on the screening model and important factors like salmon habitat.



Screening model scores in King County. Higher scores shown in orange to red represent road segments expected to generate higher amounts of 6PPD-q.

WHY THIS IS IMPORTANT

Green stormwater infrastructure (GSI), which mimics nature, is currently our best tool for protecting salmon and other aquatic life from 6PPD-q. To use resources efficiently, we need to prioritize GSI retrofits to areas where they will be most beneficial. This tool will help us accomplish that goal.



Example from screening model: high traffic volume on S 277th Street near coho streams in King County.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

- Don't wait to inflate! Keeping your tires properly inflated reduces tire wear.
- Install green stormwater infrastructure like rain gardens or cisterns at your home to help control stormwater runoff.

ABOUT KING COUNTY

King County serves over two million residents. The Water and Land Resources Division safeguards King County's natural resources by providing services that protect public health and safety and yield significant environmental benefits. The Road Services Division connects communities while enhancing the environment with a safe and reliable road network for all. The division is responsible for all county-owned roads, bridges, and related infrastructure in unincorporated King County.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

kingcounty.gov

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