Agriculture and Water Quality Advisory Committee
Why did we start the committee?

“I believe we can achieve progress and see real improvement in water quality – if we roll up our sleeves and work together on this. This will be a venue for Ecology to receive the advice of farmers and ranchers so we can craft effective ways to protect water health on agricultural lands.”

-Director Maia Bellon
Ten Key Changes to Ecology’s Watershed Evaluation Process

Themes:
- Stay in a watershed and follow through. Do not jump around.
- Better upfront communication.
- Engage Producer Groups.
- More specificity in communications.
- Increased clarity around nonpoint pollution problems.
- Promote consistency between regions.
- Continue to emphasize the use of technical and financial assistance resources.
How we identify problems

Clean Water and Livestock Operations: Assessing Risks to Water Quality
# Risk Continuum

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Compliance</th>
<th>Lower Risk</th>
<th>Medium Risk</th>
<th>Higher Risk</th>
<th>Violation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Desirable site conditions and management practices ensure compliance</td>
<td>Mostly desirable site conditions and no significant undesirable site conditions present</td>
<td>Undesirable site conditions are present</td>
<td>Significant undesirable site conditions are present or multiple undesirable site conditions are present</td>
<td>Immediate action is required to achieve compliance</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
What BMPs do we recommend?

Voluntary Clean Water Guidance for Agriculture

- Advisory group structure
- What type of information would be included in the guidance
- Look at effectiveness and implementation considerations
- General principles
Other Topics

- Sampling
- WOTUS
- Farmed Smart
- Roles of different agencies
- CAFO permit
- VSP
- Nonpoint Plan Update
- Clean Samish Initiative
- Dairy Nutrient Management Act Overview
- VSP
- Watershed Evaluation workshops
- Complaint Response
- RCPP
Where do we go from here?