



DEPARTMENT OF
ECOLOGY
State of Washington

Nonpoint Program Updates: Nonpoint Plan and Clean Water Guidance

Agriculture and Water Quality Advisory Committee

October 2025

What we'll cover today...

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2025 Nonpoint Plan Update

- Update process
- Comment period recap
- Next steps

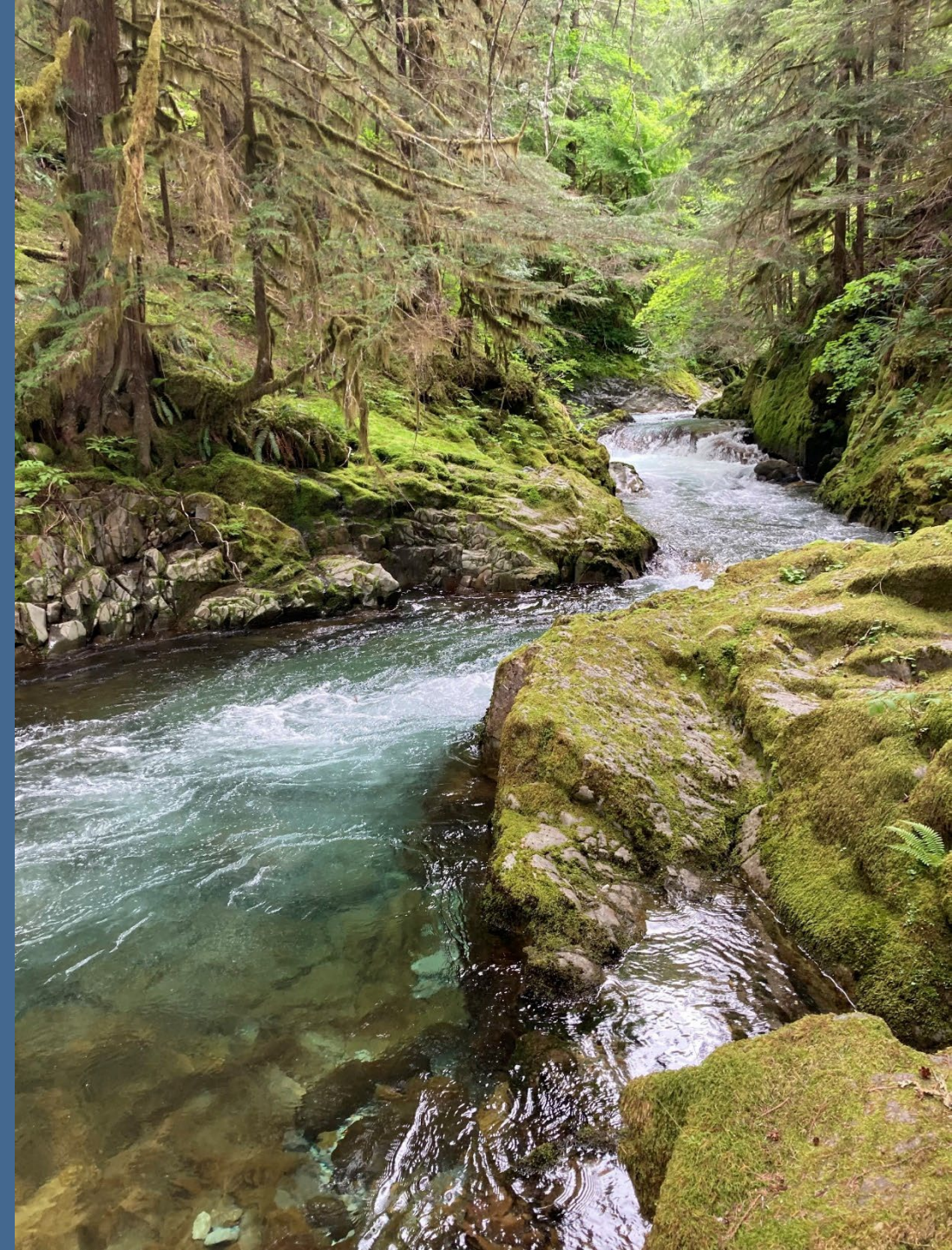
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Clean Water Guidance for Agriculture

- Process to develop chapters
- Timeline and upcoming comment period



Process to update the Nonpoint Plan



Timeline overview

Our process began at the end of 2023 and includes key stages:

Draft plan updates

- Coordination with:
 - Other Ecology programs
 - Other state agencies
 - Implementation partners
- Partner surveys
- Provide updates at Ag/WQ Committee & other external meetings

Comment period

- Open: May 22, 2025
- Close: August 29, 2025
- Informational public webinar held on June 11
- Maintained offer to meet

Finalize

- Review feedback
- Make any needed edits
- Prepare response to comments
- Submit to EPA by:
December 31, 2025



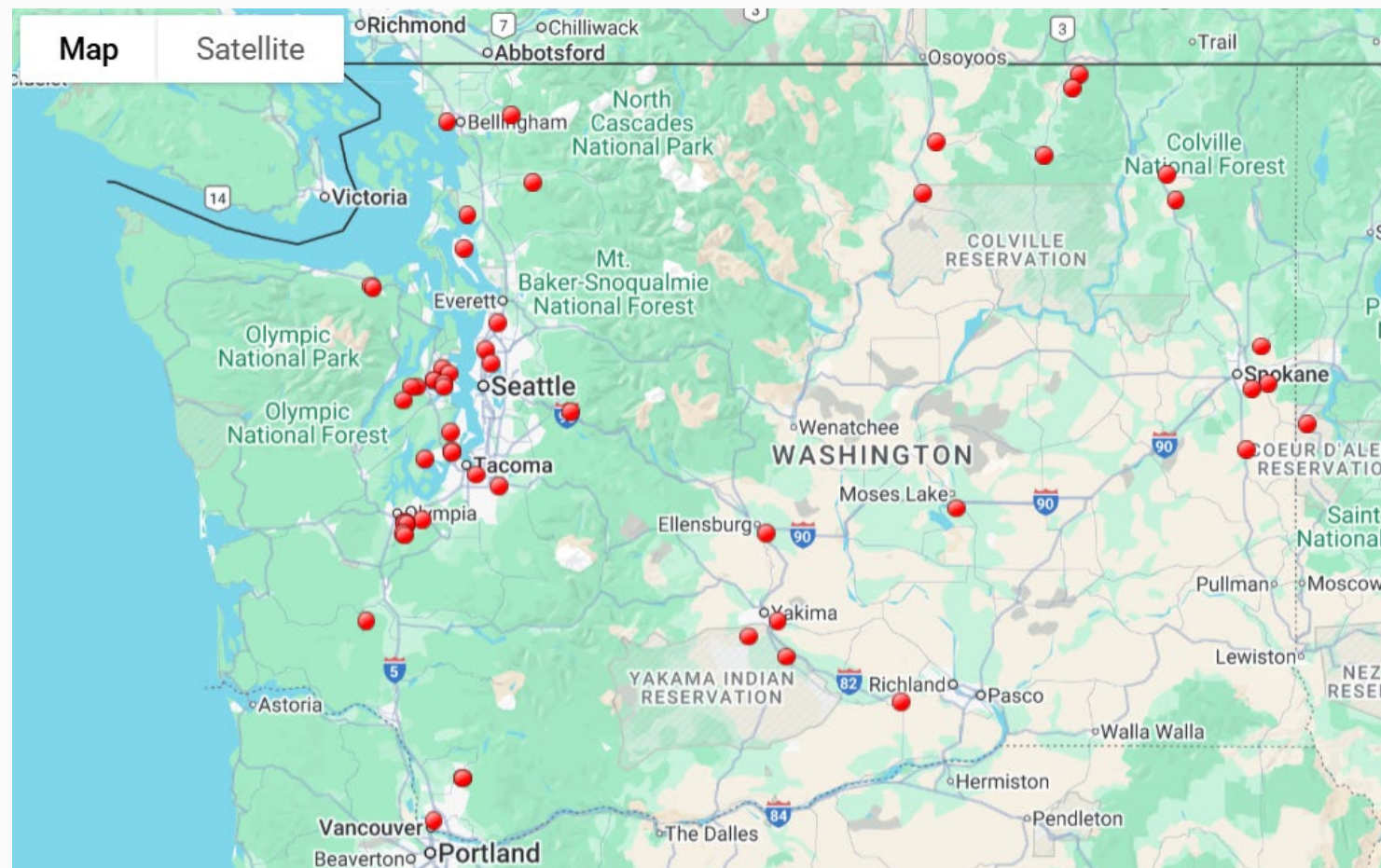
Comment Period Summary

May 22- August 29, 2025



Comments overview

- We received 64 comments on the draft 2025 Nonpoint Plan
- Had respondents across the state



Comments received

Organizations

- Yakima County Cattleman's Association
 - Okanogan County Farm Bureau
 - Mukilteo Water and Wastewater District
 - WA Cattleman's Association
 - WA State Potato Commission
 - WA Forest Protection Association
 - WA PUD Association
 - WA State Water Resource Association
 - Yakima-Klickitat Farm Association
 - Spokane County Cattlemen
- Joint letter
 - Northwest Agricultural Cooperative Council
 - WA Farm Bureau
 - WA Friends of Farms and Forests
 - WA Association of Wheat Growers
 - WA Cattlemen's Association
 - WA Potato & Onion Association
 - WA State Dairy Federation
 - WA State Tree Fruit Association
 - WA State Water Resources Association
 - WA Winegrowers Association
 - Work and Farmer Labor Association
 - Yakima-Klickitat Farm Association

Comments received

Agencies

- WA State Dept of Health
- WA State Dept of Agriculture
- WA State Dept of Fish and Wildlife
- WA State Dept of Natural Resources

Tribes/Tribal Organizations

- Snoqualmie Indian Tribe
- Nooksack Indian Tribe
- Lummi Nation
- Swinomish Indian Tribal Community
- Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission

Individuals

- 39 individual commenters

Comment highlights (so far)

- Comments around regulatory authorities:
 - There is too much focus on regulation, overreach of authorities
 - There is too much focus on voluntary strategies, need to utilize regulatory authorities more
- Voluntary and technical assistance tools:
 - More reliance on voluntary programs/support for VSP
 - Too much reliance on voluntary programs/tools
- Increase funding for agricultural BMPs
- Constitutional concerns/property rights
- Too much of a focus on agriculture
- Forestry Tier II Analysis concerns

Comment highlights (so far)

- Want for more transparency around actions taken, BMP implementation, monitoring
- Concerns around addressing elevated temperature (lack of shade)
 - Temperature not a pollutant
 - Temperature is a pollutant, and we need to do more to address it
- Increased outreach and education to the regulated community
- More opportunities to provide feedback on the plan/program
- Increase emphasis on protection of relatively unimpacted waters
- Importance of site-specific BMP solutions
- Voluntary Clean Water Guidance for Agriculture
- Concerns around long-term impairments
- General questions and concerns around WQ trading

Next steps

We are currently reviewing comments & preparing to submit to EPA

Draft plan updates

- Coordination with:
 - Other Ecology programs
 - Other state agencies
 - Implementation partners
- Partner surveys
- Provide updates at Ag/WQ Committee & other external meetings

Comment period

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December 31, 2025

More information

Comments received are available online:

<https://wq.ecology.commentinput.com/comment/extra?id=7sdJeBRtM>

2025 Nonpoint Plan Reading Guide:

<https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/publications/documents/2510042.pdf>

Connect with us!

Email nonpoint@ecy.wa.gov

Comments received:



Reading guide:





Voluntary Clean Water Guidance for Agriculture



Voluntary Clean Water Guidance for Agriculture

- Technical resource that describes Ecology's recommended best management practices (BMPs) to protect water quality.
- Practices support healthy farms while helping producers meet clean water standards.
- Chapters developed in consultation with external advisory groups e.g., state agencies, EPA, NWIFC, NRCS, WSU, WSCC, industry representatives & CDs.
- The chapters complement existing guidance, are used by nonpoint field staff, and inform grant funding guidelines.

Voluntary
Clean Water
Guidance for
Agriculture

March 2020



Clean Water Guidance chapters

Completed Chapters

- Pasture & Rangeland Management
- Tillage & Residue Management
- Riparian Areas & Surface Water Protection
- Sediment Control (Structural)
- Animal Confinement & Manure Management

Remaining Chapters*

- Agricultural Facility Runoff Management
- Irrigation Management
- Sediment Capture (Vegetative)
- Nutrient Management
- Crop Systems
- Subsurface Drainage Management
- Pesticide Management
- Suites of Practices

**Remaining chapters to be submitted to EPA by Dec. 31, 2025*

Clean Water Guidance chapters

- 6 of 8 remaining chapters are available for review
- Currently accepting comments on draft chapters
- Comments can be submitted until 11:59pm on November 21, 2025

Remaining Chapters

- **Agricultural Facility Runoff Management**
- **Irrigation Management**
- **Sediment Capture (Vegetative)**
- **Nutrient Management**
- **Crop Systems**
- **Subsurface Drainage Management**
- **Pesticide Management**
- **Suites of Practices**

Update & Timeline

- As chapters are completed, we have been posting them on a rolling basis for review and comment to allow as much time as possible
- Remaining chapters will be made available: week of October 20th
 - Notification via GovDelivery email
 - Notification to Ag committee members via email
 - Host a public webinar on week of November 3rd
- We will accept comments until November 21st
 - Review comments, make needed edits, develop response to comments document
- Submit all chapters to EPA by December 31, 2025

Review draft chapters

Chapters available online:

<https://ecology.wa.gov/regulations-permits/plans-policies/plan-to-control-nonpoint-sources-of-pollution>

How to comment:

- Comment online:
<https://wq.ecology.commentinput.com/?id=DpetQPJBW>

- Send comments by mail to:

Ron Cummings

Department of Ecology, Water Quality Program

PO Box 47696

Olympia, WA 98504-7696

CWG chapters:



Comment online:



Learn more about our program & work

Visit our webpages:

- Nonpoint Program: <https://ecology.wa.gov/water-shorelines/water-quality/nonpoint-pollution>
- Nonpoint Plan & Clean Water Guidance for Agriculture: <https://ecology.wa.gov/regulations-permits/plans-policies/plan-to-control-nonpoint-sources-of-pollution>

Nonpoint Program:



Nonpoint Plan & CWG:



Questions?

Hannah Coe

Nonpoint Plan Lead

Hannah.coe@ecy.wa.gov

(360) 918-4958

Ron Cummings

Clean Water Guidance Lead

Ron.cummings@ecy.wa.gov

(360) 502-5304

