



United States Department of the Interior

U.S. Geological Survey

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To: Keunyea Song, SAM coordinator
Washington State Department of Ecology, Olympia, WA

From: Richard W. Sheibley
Research Hydrologist, Washington Water Science Center, Tacoma, WA

Subject: Second quarter update of USGS level logger maintenance

This memo summarizes and documents the continued site reconnaissance and selection of small stream sites for sampling in Summer 2021. The selection of the 33 SAM small streams has continued throughout the period of January to March 2021. Currently 27 of the 33 sites have been selected and instrumented with level loggers. The remaining 6 sites are either awaiting landowner permission or access due to snowy conditions. It is intended that the remaining 6 locations we be finalized by the end of April 2021. Data downloads will begin April 2021 as well because the first round of loggers will be full by early May 2021.

In addition to the 33 urban gradient sites, the SAM small stream project will sample water and sediment and install level loggers at 2 of Ecology's Puget Sound reference sites for 2021. These sites were recently selected by Ecology and include Griffin Creek, Tumwater Creek, Austin Creek, and Dewato Creek. The SAM small streams project will be sampling Griffin and Dewato creek this summer. Griffin creek is a sentinel site for Ecology's program so we intend to sample that every year as part of the reference sites and also to provide the program with a site with annual data.

Lastly, discussions on the SAM small stream budget for next year and beyond will need to take place soon. During this first year of reconnaissance of a full set of 33 stream sites, **it became apparent that the time needed to complete this task was much more than initially planned.** So far **we have visited 70 stream sites and only have 27 sites finalized.** This has taken a lot of time searching online and in the field for locations, access, and landowner details. We will provide an updated budget estimate to the SAM coordinator in the coming months.

Please feel free to contact me at any time with questions about this quarterly summary or any other project related issues.