

Water Quality Partnership

June 26, 2025



Agenda		
Welcome & Program Updates	David Giglio Leslie Connelly	10:00 – 10:30
Watershed Management Updates	Melissa Gildersleeve	10:30 – 11:00
General Permit Updates	Lucienne Banning	11:00– 11:30
Roundtable	All	11:30 – 11:55
Wrap-up	Colleen Keltz	11:55 – 12:00



Welcome & Updates

David Giglio, Leslie Connelly



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Watershed Management Updates

Melissa Gildersleeve

Watershed Management Section Projects

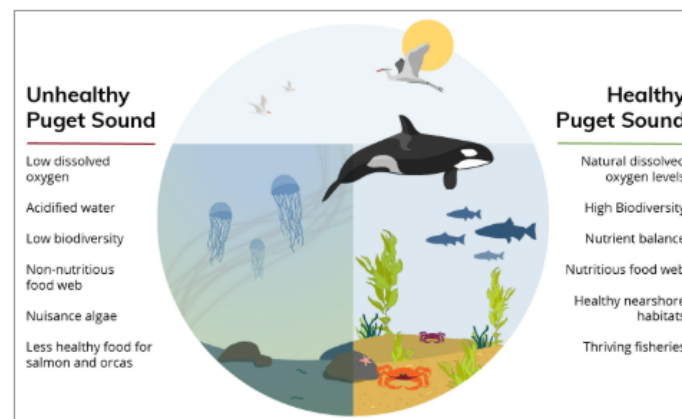
- Puget Sound Nutrient Reduction Plan
- Nonpoint Plan and Clean Water Guidance Chapters
- Forestry Tier II Antidegradation
 - Report out from Forest Practices Board meeting

Puget Sound Nutrient Reduction Plan

Public comments on the draft plan: June 12-Aug. 27, 2025

Excess nutrients are a problem in Puget Sound

Too many nutrients, mainly nitrogen, result in excessive algal growth because nutrients act like fertilizer for algae and aquatic plants. When these algae and plants die, their decomposition uses up oxygen that marine animals need to survive. This can especially be a problem in shallow inlets or bays and throws the health of Puget Sound off balance.



By restoring the nutrient balance, the entire ecosystem will benefit for years to come.

The current population of Puget Sound is over **4.5 million** and current nutrient loads are causing marine water quality problems

1.8 million more people will move to Puget Sound region by 2050



Without action, that's a

40%

increase in nutrients going into Puget Sound

Washington's Nonpoint Plan & remaining Agriculture BMP Chapters



Provide feedback on Washington's Nonpoint Plan update

We invite you to [comment on the draft Plan to Control Nonpoint Sources of Pollution](#). This statewide plan outlines our strategies to address nonpoint pollution and ensures funding for us and our partners to implement clean water solutions.

Comments can be submitted from midnight May 22 - August 29, 2025, 11:59 p.m.

Visit the [Nonpoint Plan webpage](#) for more information.

Future chapters to be complete by end of 2025:

- Cropping Methods: Crop System
- Nutrient Management
- Pesticide Management
- Sediment Control: Soil Stabilization & Sediment Capture (Vegetative)
- Water Management: Irrigation Systems & Management
- Water Management: Field Drainage & Drain Tile Management
- Water Management: Stormwater Control & Diversion
- Suite of Recommended Practices

Tier II Antidegradation Analysis for Draft Forest Practices Rules



1999 Forests and Fish agreement



The Forest Practice Board has decided to put draft rules out that will update practices that will increase buffers in upper watershed waters



As part of the statutes and agreement, Ecology needs to determine if the Board Rules are protective of Water Quality



That analysis — called a Tier II analysis — will go out for public review at the beginning of July, one week after the Board puts out their draft rule

Forestry Tier II Antidegradation



Harvesting trees up to the edge of a stream (drawn in blue) allows the sun to warm up the stream, making it tougher habitat for fish and aquatic life.



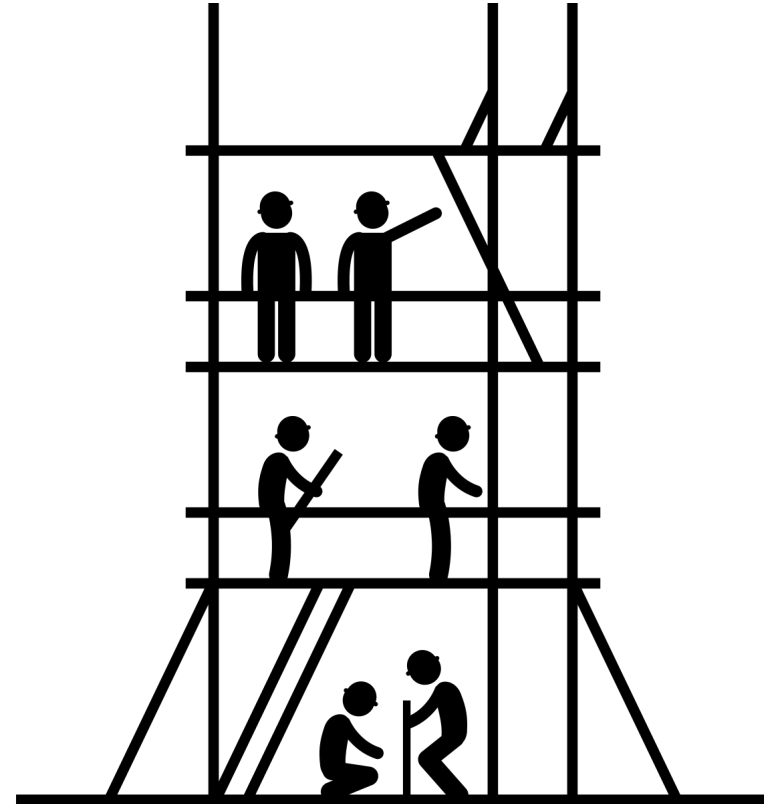
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General Permit Updates

Lucienne Banning

2025 First Quarter Activity

- Construction Stormwater General Permit was out for public comment



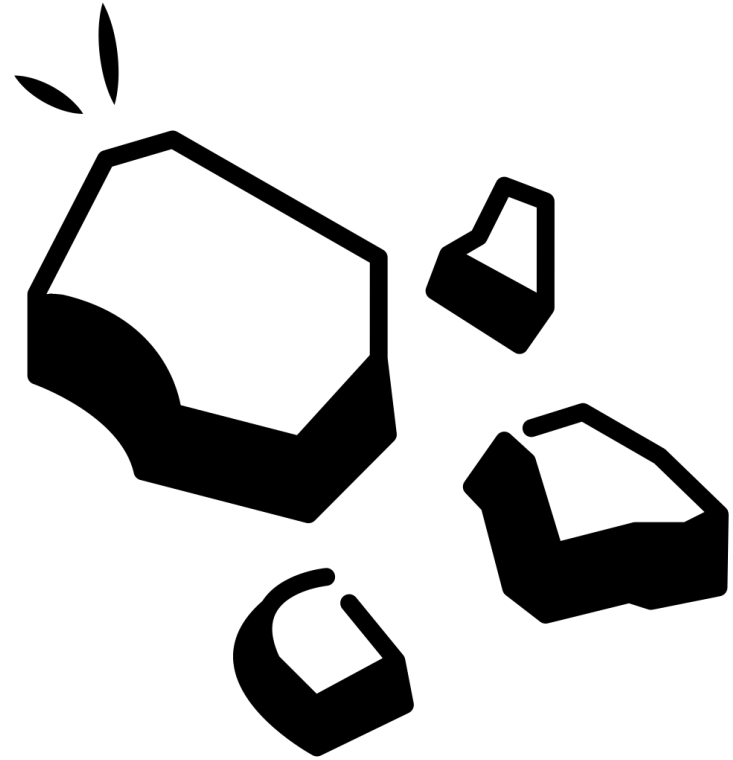
2025 First Quarter Activity continued

- Zostera Japonica General Permit was out for public comment



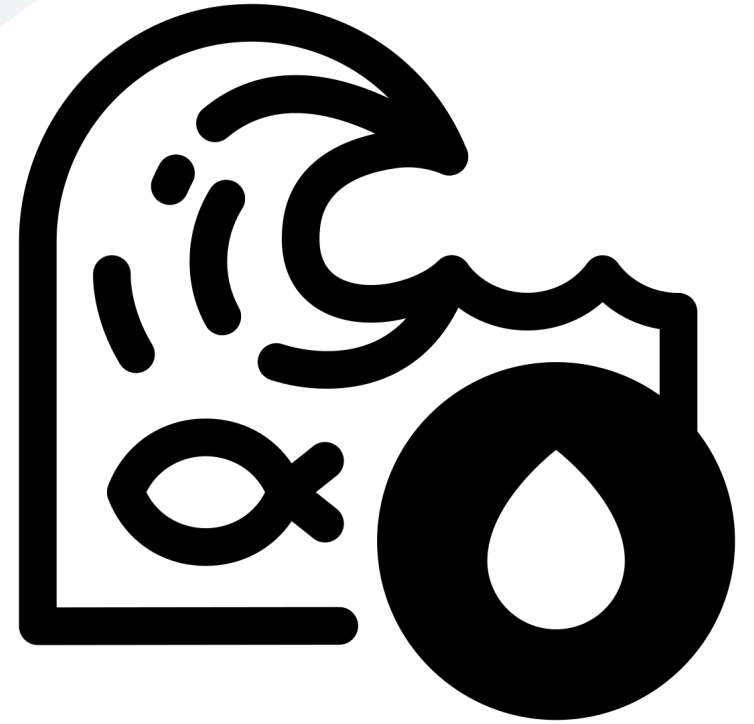
2025 First Quarter Activity cont'd

- Permit writer seeking informal feedback on Sand and Gravel General Permit



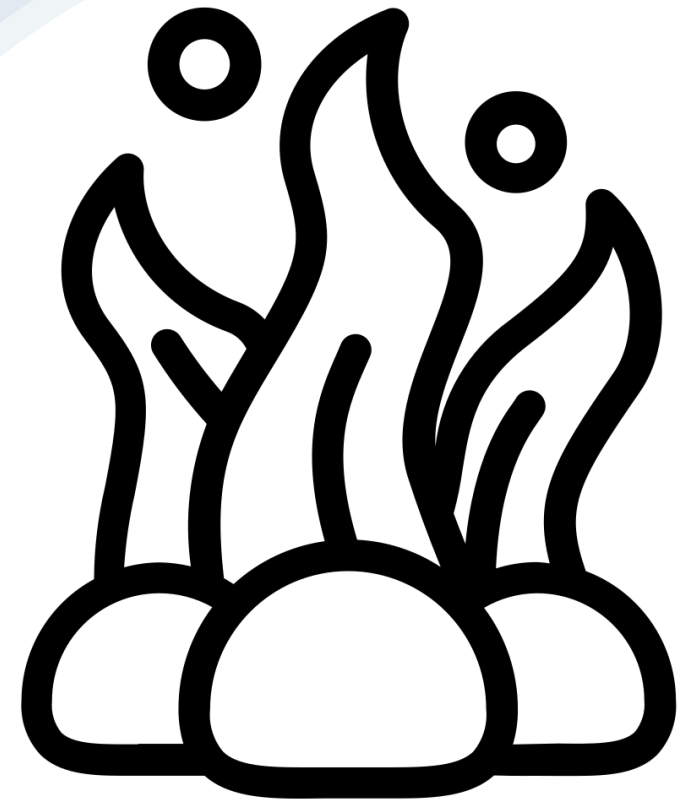
Open Public Comment Period

- **Draft Puget Sound Nutrient General Permit**
June 18 – July 25
- **Info sessions:**
July 1, 10 a.m.
(info and Q&A only)
July 22, 5:30 p.m.
(also includes hearing)



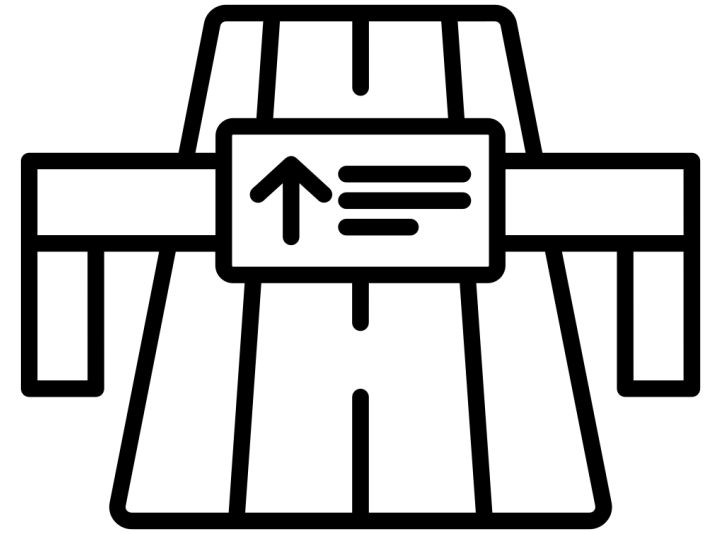
Upcoming Public Comment Period

- Draft Aquatic Plant and Algae Management General Permit
Early September



Another Upcoming Public Comment Period

- **WSDOT MS4 General Permit**
Fall 2025





Thank you
Lucienne Banning
General Permits Unit Supervisor

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Roundtable



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Wrap up

Colleen Keltz



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**Next meeting:
Sept. 18, 2025**



Thank you!