

WRIA 9 Duwamish-Green Watershed Restoration and Enhancement Committee Overview



More information

Visit the [Streamflow Restoration webpage](#).

Contact information

Stephanie Potts
WRIA 9 Committee Chair
stephanie.potts@ecy.wa.gov
425-649-7138

ADA accommodations

To request ADA accommodation including materials in a format for the visually impaired, call Ecology at 360-407-6872 or visit ecology.wa.gov/accessibility. People with impaired hearing may call Washington Relay Service at 711. People with speech disability may call TTY at 877-833-6341.

Role of the Committee

In January 2018, the Legislature passed the Streamflow Restoration law to help restore streamflow levels. Its purpose is to support robust, healthy, and sustainable salmon populations while providing water for homes in rural Washington.

The law directs the Department of Ecology to convene Watershed Restoration and Enhancement Committees in eight watersheds surrounding Puget Sound. Each of these committees will develop a watershed restoration and enhancement plan.

The plan must identify projects to offset the potential consumptive impacts of new permit-exempt domestic groundwater withdrawals on instream flows over 20 years (2018-2038) and provide a net ecological benefit (NEB) to the Water Resource Inventory Area (WRIA).

In July 2019, Ecology released the Final Guidance for Determining Net Ecological Benefit.

The plan must be approved by all members before it moves to Ecology for review and adoption.

The law also appropriates funds to help plan and implement projects that improve streamflow. The funds are available statewide through Ecology's competitive grant program.

Committee Membership

The Streamflow Restoration law instructed Ecology to chair the WRIA 9 Watershed Restoration and Enhancement Committee and invite entities in the watershed to participate, including tribal governments, county governments, city governments, Department of Fish and Wildlife, the largest non-municipal water purveyor, and interest groups. Local governments on the Committee selected organizations to represent agricultural interests, the residential construction industry, and environmental interests through a nomination process. The WRIA 9 Committee also added "ex officio" members, who were not listed in the law but provide valuable information and perspective.

Members include:

Muckleshoot Indian Tribe
King County
City of Auburn
City of Black Diamond
City of Enumclaw
City of Kent
City of Normandy Park
City of Seattle
City of Tukwila
Department of Ecology
Department of Fish and Wildlife
Covington Water District
King County Agriculture Program, representing agricultural interests
Master Builder Association of King and Snohomish Counties, representing the residential construction industry
Center for Environmental Law and Policy, representing environmental interests
WRIA 9 Watershed Ecosystem Forum - ex officio member
Tacoma Water - ex officio member

Planning Overview

Ecology, the WRIA 9 Committee, and technical consultants have been working on watershed restoration and enhancement plan development since October 2018. Planning is anticipated to be complete in early 2021. The key steps for the planning process include the following:

- The watershed plan is prepared and approved by all members of the Committee.
- Ecology reviews the approved plan and determines whether it meets the minimum requirements of the law.
- Ecology either adopts the plan if it meets the requirements of the law by June 30, 2021, or moves into rulemaking, as required by the law.

Steps to Completing the Plan

1. Delineate Subbasins

Divide the watershed into suitably sized areas that allow for meaningful analysis of the relationship between new consumptive water use and water offset projects.

2. Project Growth of New Permit-Exempt Domestic Wells

Estimate the number of new homes built between 2018 and 2038 that will rely on wells as their water source.

3. Estimate New Consumptive Water Use

Estimate the consumptive water use associated with new permit-exempt domestic wells for each subbasin. The consumptive water use estimate includes the indoor household use and outdoor use to maintain a noncommercial lawn or garden.

4. Identify Projects and Actions

Identify projects and actions that offset impacts associated with new consumptive water use. The Committee may, at their discretion, decide to include projects and actions that go above and beyond the minimum requirements as time and resources allow.

5. Approve Plan and Submit to Ecology

The Committee must submit the locally approved watershed plan within a reasonable time for Ecology review prior to the adoption deadline of June 30, 2021. Ecology will begin its review after the plan is formally approved by the Committee. If Ecology adopts the plan, the planning process is completed. If the Committee does not approve the plan or if Ecology determines that an approved plan does not meet the requirements, then Ecology is required to prepare a plan and start a rulemaking process.

More information

Visit the [Streamflow Restoration](#) webpage:

ecology.wa.gov/Water-Shorelines/Water-supply/Streamflow-restoration

[WRIA 9 Snohomish Watershed Restoration and Enhancement Committee](#) webpage:

www.ezview.wa.gov/site/alias_1962/37322/watershed_restoration_and_enhancement_-_wria_9.aspx

Publications

Publications are found online at ecology.wa.gov/pubs

[Final Guidance for Determining Net Ecological Benefit](#) 19-11-079

[Streamflow Restoration Program Status](#) 19-11-072

Timeline

The following committee and planning process timeline is outlined by quarter.

