

NATURAL RESOURCES AND RECREATION

Agency 461

Department of Ecology

Recommendation Summary

Dollars in Thousands

	Annual FTEs	General Fund State	Other Funds	Total Funds
2005-07 Expenditure Authority	1,512.2	84,884	317,939	402,823
Total Maintenance Level	1,518.7	85,954	318,658	404,612
Difference	6.5	1,070	719	1,789
Percent Change from Current Biennium	0.4%	1.3%	0.2%	0.4%
Performance Changes				
Underground Storage Tanks Reauthorization *	3.4		679	679
Meeting Federal Air Requirements		650	(650)	
Regional Haze Reduction Program	3.5	512	200	712
Achieving Environmental Compliance		2,000		2,000
Local Government Stormwater Grants	1.0		9,000	9,000
Ocean Policy Interagency Workgroup	1.0	200		200
Grants, Contracts, Loan Management System		516	2,230	2,746
Consolidate Oil Spill Program #	2.0		410	410
Litter Prevention			2,750	2,750
Biosolids Permit Processing			422	422
Wastewater Treatment Loan Processing				
Hanford Tank Waste Strategy			492	492
Clean-Up Priority Act Legal Defense		492	(492)	
Hanford Damage Assessment Lawsuit			328	328
Construction Storm Water Permits	4.0		751	751
Public Participation Grants-Toxics	1.0		1,780	1,780
Environmental Mitigation that Works	10.0	1,927		1,927
Safer Chemical Alternatives	1.0		400	400
Implementing Local Watershed Plans	3.0	2,000		2,000
Puget Sound Nutrient Modeling	3.0		446	446
Pesticide Container Recycling			260	260
Chamokane Basin Study	.2	417		417
Implementing Water Clean-Up Plans	5.0		1,622	1,622
Water Quality Monitoring Consortium	1.0		800	800
Organic Waste to Resources	1.6		1,349	1,349
Hydropower Licensing and Gauging *	2.2		1,257	1,257
Puget Sound Local Source Control	1.0		2,026	2,026
Well Construction & License System	1.0		650	650
Protect Spokane Area Water Rights	2.0		595	595
Achieving Instream Flows	2.0		630	630
Water Rights Database Enhancement	2.0		300	300
Reclaimed Water Rule-Making	1.0		246	246
Wastewater Permit Enhancements	3.0		795	795
Puget Sound Federal Funds			4,000	4,000
Urban Waters Clean-Up and Protection	8.0		2,570	2,570
Revise Pension Gain-Sharing #		(206)	(466)	(672)

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	Annual FTEs	General Fund State	Other Funds	Total Funds
Nonrepresented Staff Health Benefit		97	169	266
WFSE Collective Bargaining Agreement		4,623	11,537	16,160
Nonrepresented Staff Salary Change		1,029	1,949	2,978
Self Insurance Premium		(242)	(368)	(610)
Subtotal	62.8	14,015	48,667	62,682
Total Proposed Budget	1,581.5	99,969	367,325	467,294
Difference	69.3	15,085	49,386	64,471
Percent Change from Current Biennium	4.6%	17.8%	15.5%	16.0%

Total Proposed Budget by Activity

Adjudicate Water Rights	10.6	2,322	607	2,929
Administration	222.9	12,655	33,660	46,315
Assess, Set, and Achieve Instream Flows	18.8	2,949	1,396	4,345
Clean up the Most Contaminated Sites First (Upland and Aquatic)	113.7		42,058	42,058
Clean Up Polluted Waters	38.0	3,294	4,570	7,864
Conduct Environmental Studies for Pollution Source Identification and Control	46.0	1,156	9,391	10,547
Control Stormwater Pollution	62.3	120	11,612	11,732
Eliminate Waste, Promote Material Reuse, and Safely Manage Trash	55.8	52	13,913	13,965
Prevent and Pick Up Litter	8.2		11,689	11,689
Ensure Dam Safety	7.8	1,706	80	1,786
Ensure Environmental Laboratories Provide Quality Data	7.1	1,422	14	1,436
Fund Local Efforts to Clean Toxic Sites, Manage and Reduce Waste	15.4		2,918	2,918
Restore the Air, Soil, and Water Contaminated from Past Activities at Hanford	21.9	12	4,791	4,803
Clean Up and Remove Large, Complex, Contaminated Facilities throughout Hanford	5.9	8	1,183	1,191
Treat and Dispose of Hanford's High-level Radioactive Tank Waste	20.1	21	4,558	4,579
Ensure Safe Tank Operations, Storage of Tank Wastes, & Closure of the Waste Storage Tanks at Hanford	9.9	28	1,978	2,006
Ensure the Safe Management of Radioactive Mixed Waste at Hanford	22.5	502	7,069	7,571
Improve Community Access to Hazardous Substance and Waste Information	28.0		4,114	4,114
Improve Quality of Data Used for Environmental Decision Making	4.4	387	1,552	1,939
Increase Compliance and Act on Environmental Threats from Hazardous Waste	22.0		3,118	3,118
Increase Safe Hazardous Waste Management Through Technical Assistance	21.0		4,374	4,374
Manage Underground Storage Tanks to Minimize Releases	18.8		3,575	3,575
Manage Water Rights	67.2	10,569	6,666	17,235

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	Annual FTEs	General Fund State	Other Funds	Total Funds
Measure Air Pollution Levels and Emissions	25.0	4,956	2,522	7,478
Measure Contaminants in the Environment by Performing Laboratory Analyses	29.8	2,732	510	3,242
Monitor the Quality of State Waters and Measure Stream Flows Statewide	45.7	3,504	7,975	11,479
Provide a One Stop Oversight to Large, Industrial Facilities	19.0	224	4,099	4,323
Prepare and Respond to Drought and Climate Change	1.0		446	446
Prepare for Aggressive Response to Oil and Hazardous Material Incidents	13.9		3,251	3,251
Prevent Hazardous Waste Pollution Through Permitting, Closure, and Corrective Action	20.0		4,274	4,274
Prevent Point Source Water Pollution	21.7	1,796	21,156	22,952
Prevent Oil Spills from Vessels and Oil Handling Facilities	28.2		6,326	6,326
Prevent Unhealthy Air and Violations of Air Quality Standards	13.9	5,960	3,686	9,646
Promote Compliance with Water Laws	7.1	1,377	10	1,387
Protect and Manage Shorelines in Partnership with Local Governments	35.0	8,589	4,233	12,822
Protect Water Quality by Reviewing and Conditioning Construction Projects	16.5	601	2,896	3,497
Protect, Restore, and Manage Wetlands	27.8	3,953	7,777	11,730
Provide Technical and Financial Assistance for Local Watershed Planning and Implementation	23.0	2,200	15,407	17,607
Provide Technical and Financial Assistance to Local Governments to Reduce Flood Hazards	6.6		7,248	7,248
Provide Technical Assistance on State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) Review	3.5	420	4,795	5,215
Provide Technical Training, Education, and Research through Padilla Bay Estuarine Reserve	12.6	1,351	3,992	5,343
Provide Water Quality Financial Assistance	99.0	60	21,052	21,112
Provide Water Resources Data and Information	32.4	4,380	2,219	6,599
Reduce Air Pollution from Industrial and Commercial Sources	14.0		1,331	1,331
Reduce Health and Environmental Threats from Motor Vehicle Emissions	25.1	4,678	6,496	11,174
Reduce Health and Environmental Threats from Smoke	15.5	1,104	1,358	2,462
Reduce Nonpoint-Source Water Pollution	29.5	719	3,631	4,350
Reduce Persistent Bioaccumulative Toxins (PBTs) in the Environment	3.1		945	945
Reduce Risk from Toxic Air Pollutants	9.0	1,552	932	2,484
Reduce the Generation of Hazardous Waste and the Use of Toxic Substances through Technical Assistance	31.5		10,839	10,839
Regulate Well Construction	7.7		2,058	2,058
Rapidly Respond to and Clean Up Oil and Hazardous Material Spills	34.9		16,770	16,770
Restore Public Natural Resources Damaged by Oil Spills	2.2		2,244	2,244
Restore Watersheds by Supporting Community-Based Projects with the Washington Conservation Corps	29.0		4,446	4,446

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	Annual FTEs	General Fund State	Other Funds	Total Funds
Services to Site Owners that Volunteer to Clean Up their Contaminated Sites	23.5		319	319
Provide Streamlined Project Permitting for Transportation Projects	7.2			
Support Local Watershed Management of Water Resources	9.5	1,878	284	2,162
Provide Regulatory Assistance for Significant Projects and Small Businesses	3.2			
Support Water Use Efficiency	6.9	372	1,262	1,634
Other Statewide Adjustments		8,360	15,650	24,010
Achieving Environmental Compliance		2,000		2,000
Total Proposed Budget	1,581.5	99,969	367,325	467,294

PERFORMANCE LEVEL CHANGE DESCRIPTIONS

Underground Storage Tanks Reauthorization *

There are currently 10,300 underground storage tanks (UST) in Washington State and, in 1990, almost 1,000 tanks had leaked to some degree. Although an improvement, there has still been 75 tank leaks this year. The UST program authorization sunsets in 2009 and new mandatory federal requirements double the number of tank inspections from once every six years to once every three years. Through legislation, the program is reauthorized and a 60 percent fee increase will provide additional technical assistance and inspections to reduce the number of UST leaks that could harm drinking water sources or cause other environmental contamination. (Underground Storage Tank Account-State)

Meeting Federal Air Requirements

The Fine Particle Pollution program has had federal and state funding eliminated or severely cut back in recent years, while at the same time, federal air quality standards for fine particles have been tightened. This program is based in federal law, and requires the state to meet specific air pollution targets to remain in compliance with federal mandates. On going state funds will be targeted to high-risk, non-attainment areas in Yakima, Pierce, Snohomish, Clark, and other at-risk counties. Staff will develop a comprehensive statewide smoke reduction strategy for outdoor burning, coordinate with local, state, and federal land managers to reduce outdoor burning, and will continue a seven-day agricultural burn call program. (General Fund-State, General Fund-Federal)

Regional Haze Reduction Program

The Regional Haze program was eliminated in 2003 due to a lack of funding. This program is a mandatory element of the federal Clean Air Act, requiring states to take action to reduce haze in and around national parks and monuments and return those areas to pristine air quality by 2064. In recent years, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has begun developing a program for Washington State that might not be as flexible as a state-developed plan. The on going Regional Haze program will identify and quantify the sources of regional haze pollution and begin a formal rule process to limit emissions and implement a plan to reduce haze by 2064. This program will be supported by a 30 percent match from industries that have air emissions that could contribute to haze. (General Fund-State, General Fund-Private Local)

Achieving Environmental Compliance

Compliance with multiple laws related to shoreline habitat, water quality, and other environmental protection programs is hindered by the difficulty in understanding multiple requirements and limited by resources available to follow through on permits. These challenges can result in parties who are unable to comply due to a lack of information and in uneven treatment of parties subject to formal compliance requirements. Puget Sound local governments in ten pilot watersheds will receive on going grants to improve compliance with existing environmental laws by informing parties of existing requirements, providing technical assistance to parties seeking to comply on a voluntary basis, and taking enforcement actions when necessary to secure compliance.

On-the-ground compliance assistance will improve the effectiveness of existing programs to protect Puget Sound, integrate compliance programs at a watershed scale, and help provide a level playing field for all parties within a watershed, all without creating new government programs.

Local Government Stormwater Grants

Local governments will receive grants for municipal stormwater programs, including but not limited to, implementation of phase II municipal stormwater permits, stormwater source control for toxics in association with clean-up of contaminated sediment sites, and stormwater source control programs for shellfish protection districts where stormwater is a significant contributor. The Department shall consult with the leadership council of the Puget Sound Partnership regarding priorities for use of these grant funds in governments in Puget Sound once the council is established. (Local Toxics Control Account-State)

Ocean Policy Interagency Workgroup

Based on public input and research, the Ocean Policy Work Group (OPWG) determined ways to improve management of Washington's ocean and coastal resources. In its final report, the OPWG provides a comprehensive list of over 60 recommendations in issue areas such as ocean energy, coastal hazards, sustainable fisheries, derelict fishing gear, oil spills, and effective management and governance of ocean and coastal resources. The Department of Ecology will coordinate these issues among several state agencies, the tribes, and federal and local governments to produce integrated and more effective management of on going ocean policy issues.

Grants, Contracts, Loan Management System

The Office of Financial Management's Statewide Financial Systems, in collaboration with the Departments of Ecology and Community, Trade and Economic Development, has initiated an enterprise project managing grants, contracts, and loans (GCL). Currently, GCLs are managed and administered with agency or program-specific spreadsheets and databases. Those systems will be replaced with one centralized, easily accessible system. (General Fund-State and Various Other Accounts)

Consolidate Oil Spill Program #

The Oil Spill Advisory Council has completed its comprehensive review of existing state oil spill programs and submitted a full set of recommendations for improving, enhancing, and funding those programs. Implementation of these recommendations now shifts to the state and federal agencies responsible for preventing and responding to oil spills. Recasting the Council to provide advice to the Department of Ecology will allow consolidation of the various groups that provide review of the state's oil spill programs, including intergovernmental, citizen, industry, and technical expert groups, and allow these groups to directly advise the lead state agency on priorities for implementation. In addition, the Puget Sound Partnership, as the lead state agency, will assume some of the broader independent accountability role of the Council. Consolidation of advisory groups will reduce duplication among multiple advisory groups and help ensure an effective and efficient governance structure for preventing and responding to oil spills. (Oil Spill Prevention Account-State)

Litter Prevention

Litter along state roadways is unsightly and can be hazardous to public safety and health. The effectiveness of Washington's "Litter and It Will Hurt" campaign tapered off in 2004. Despite four years of steady improvement in cleanliness, Washington's roads reached their most littered condition since 2000 in 2005. On going litter prevention messaging will be increased and strategically targeted, litter enforcement will be significantly enhanced, and roadside clean-up efforts will be maintained. (Waste Reduction/Recycling/Litter Control Account-State)

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Biosolids Permit Processing

The state biosolids program provides oversight, permitting, and assistance for sewage treatment plants and other facilities which generate, treat, and use biosolids. Biosolids are a product of wastewater treatment that contain nutrients which can be beneficially used as a soil fertilizer. Statutory provisions require the program to be fully supported by fees. Since the start of the program in 1998, however, collected fees have supported only two-thirds of the base program. Rule amendments will be completed by June 2007 which will result in additional fee revenue to fully cover program costs. (Biosolids Permit Account-State)

Wastewater Treatment Loan Processing

The federal Clean Water Act (CWA) allows states to use a maximum of four percent of the federal grants received each year for administration of the State Revolving Fund (SRF) loan program. While the overall size of the loan program is increasing due to loan interest and principal repayments, the annual federal grants have decreased 18 percent since 2004. At the same time, overall dollars managed have increased by 29 percent. The Department of Ecology will maintain the same level of administrative effort needed to comply with the federal CWA as it did in the 2005-07 Biennium. (Water Quality Account-State)

Hanford Tank Waste Strategy

At Hanford, the U.S. Department of Energy has stopped or delayed work, or missed significant Tri-Party Agreement milestones on projects related to safe management, treatment, and disposal of 53 million gallons of high-level nuclear waste stored in tanks. Construction of the tank waste treatment plant has been slowed, retrieval of wastes from the single shell tanks has been significantly reduced, and projected treatment plant operations and tank farm closures have been delayed by nearly ten years. Additional Attorney General's Office support is provided to address these unacceptable delays which pose an increasing risk to the environment and human health. (State Toxics Control Account-State)

Clean-Up Priority Act Legal Defense

The Clean-up Priority Act (CPA) was approved by the voters in 2004 and subsequently challenged in court by the federal government. The CPA requires the Department of Ecology to undertake certain actions and efforts related to the clean-up of the Hanford Nuclear Reservation. Ongoing legal defense will support an appeal of the federal court decision that struck down the CPA as passed by Washington State voters.

Hanford Damage Assessment Lawsuit

The U.S. Department of Energy (USDOE) has not begun a natural resources damage assessment, as required by federal superfund law, for releases of toxic substances at the Hanford Nuclear Reservation. The Yakima Nation filed suit to compel USDOE to meet its obligations and the state has joined this lawsuit. Washington State is a trustee on the Hanford Natural Resources Council, and has a strong interest in ensuring that the USDOE meets its obligations. (State Toxics Control Account-State)

Construction Storm Water Permits

The federal Clean Water Act requires certain industries, individuals, and municipalities to obtain water quality discharge permits for discharge of their stormwater. Properly managing stormwater protects water quality, minimizes flooding, and protects habitat. In November 2005, the Department of Ecology re-issued construction stormwater general permits to include new permit requirements for construction sites between one and five acres. New permits are estimated to result in an additional 2,408 permits being processed and fees collected. Ecology is required by federal law to issue these permits, provide technical assistance, and conduct compliance inspections. (Water Quality Permit Account-State)

Public Participation Grants-Toxics

The need for citizens to understand and participate in toxics clean-up work in their communities and to expand education to prevent future cleanups has not kept pace with the growth in needed toxics clean-up and prevention work. Clean-up work alone has tripled in the last four years while the amount of funding for public participation grants has remained constant. Funding is provided to bring the public participation grants up to the mandated level of one percent of the Hazardous Substance Tax. In addition, \$750,000 of this funding will expand public education in Puget Sound to further the goals established by the Puget Sound Partnership. (State Toxics Control Account-State, Local Toxics Control Account-State)

Environmental Mitigation that Works

Land developments in Washington State are required to minimize impacts on wetlands and other aquatic resources by replacing these lost resources (mitigation). However, numerous studies show that traditional approaches to wetland mitigation fail roughly 50 percent of the time. Consequently, mitigation of 400 out of 800 acres of wetlands that Ecology required to be replaced in 2005, likely failed. On going resources for follow-up mitigation compliance, capacity for processing wetland mitigation bank proposals, and technical assistance will improve environmental compliance and increase permit efficiency which will help economic development projects be completed faster. Furthermore, wetland mitigation success will be increased from 50 percent to 70 percent.

Safer Chemical Alternatives

Trace amounts of toxic chemicals are increasing in people's bodies and wildlife across the state. To reduce toxic threats, safer alternatives for toxic or hazardous chemicals need to be identified to help business, government, and citizens make better choices on what to use and buy. An on going staff position at the Department of Ecology will assess "safer alternatives" to help businesses reduce the amount of toxic chemicals they use, identify less toxic products for state purchases, and provide information so citizens can make informed choices related to consumer products. Research data, scientific studies, safer alternatives methodology, and technical workshops will also be completed. Identifying safer chemical alternatives for businesses and better informing the public on toxic chemical dangers and choices can reduce business and clean-up costs, minimize public health risks, and result in voluntary reductions in the use of dangerous chemicals. (State Toxics Control Account-State, Hazardous Waste Assistance Account-State)

Implementing Local Watershed Plans

The 1998 Watershed Planning Act provided a framework for state, local, and tribal governments to create watershed plans that address local water needs, reduce pollution, and protect fish habitat. Since 1998, 37 watershed management plans have been started, 21 have been adopted, and 10 of these are in the implementation phase. These plans are all funded by \$44 million in watershed planning grants. By the end of the next biennium, as many as 28 plans are estimated to be in the implementation phase. These plans identify priority actions to provide sustainable water supplies for growth and environmental needs. Close to \$4 million of base watershed planning grants funding will be transitioned from planning to implementation projects to ensure these plans and priority action items are implemented, and to realize a return on the significant planning dollars already invested.

Puget Sound Nutrient Modeling

Low levels of dissolved oxygen and high levels of toxics have both been identified as serious pollution concerns in Puget Sound. The effects of this pollution are not fully understood. Additional environmental modeling will be completed to better understand pollutant loadings, mixing, transport, and impacts around the Sound. Models are the foundation for developing Water Quality Improvement Plans (also called Total Maximum Daily Loads), and are critical to establishing permit discharge limits and other regulatory and water management actions. Modeling also helps identify information gaps, allowing monitoring programs to be more efficiently targeted. Initial modeling work will begin in south Puget Sound. (Water Quality Permit Account-State)

Pesticide Container Recycling

About 500,000 pounds per year of pesticide containers are currently recycled with one-time funding from the non-profit Agricultural Container Recycling Council and 2006 supplemental budget funding provided to the Department of Ecology. The previous practice was to either dispose of the containers in the landfill or burn them, which is unhealthy to humans and the environment. Due to budget shortfalls, the Council can no longer provide funding for this program. One-time funding will continue this program until a long-term nationwide funding solution can be developed. (State Toxics Control Account-State)

Chamokane Basin Study

A federal district court judge has ordered that a ground water/surface water technical study, estimated to cost \$1.2 million, be completed to resolve water resource management issues in the Chamokane Creek Basin in Stevens County. The Department of Ecology is a party to this order (along with the United States and the Spokane Tribe of Indians) and has been ordered to help finance the project. The U.S. Geological Survey has been tasked with performing the court-mandated technical study, which will be funded equally by all three parties.

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Implementing Water Clean-Up Plans

The Department of Ecology works with local government and citizen groups to develop and implement water clean-up plans (also known as Total Maximum Daily Loads). These plans are specified in a lawsuit settlement that requires the state to speed up their development, ensure water bodies in the state meet water quality standards to protect public health, allow for safe water recreation, protect fishery resources and other aquatic life, and ensure compliance with the Federal Clean Water Act. As a result of this settlement, Ecology has focused resources on plan completion and is struggling to keep up with the production schedule. This has resulted in the agency dropping further behind in providing actual implementation assistance to communities, which is an important step in achieving actual water quality improvement. Additional on going staff will provide assistance to local communities to help them comply with water quality standards by completing projects that help to reduce toxins, decrease water temperature, and increase dissolved oxygen levels in local water bodies. (Water Quality Account-State)

Water Quality Monitoring Consortium

Currently, stormwater and water quality monitoring activities in Puget Sound are conducted by multiple groups using different standards and protocols. The Department of Ecology will facilitate the development of an on going modeling consortium similar to Chesapeake Bay or San Francisco Bay to institute coordination between local, state, and regional monitoring agencies. The goal is to integrate ongoing monitoring efforts for stormwater, water quality, watershed health, and other state indicators and enhance monitoring efforts in Puget Sound. (Water Quality Account-State, Water Quality Permit Account-State)

Organic Waste to Resources

Despite many successful compost projects, Washington disposes an enormous amount of organic materials in landfills. The 2005 Biomass Inventory identified 17 million tons of under utilized organic materials in the state. There is a tremendous potential for turning this waste into energy, recycled products, and compost, thereby keeping it out of landfills. Ecology and Washington State University will develop new composting conversion processes and markets for organic materials, which will help the agricultural community become more sustainable and profitable by finding commercial uses for their waste and reduce public health threats by providing alternatives to field burning. Re-use of organic materials is expected to increase by 400,000 tons. (Waste Reduction, Recycling and Litter Control Account-State)

Hydropower Licensing and Gauging *

Hydropower license fees have not been increased since they were established in 1929. The cost of licensing and re-licensing of hydropower dams and the costs of the cooperative stream gauging agreement with the United States Geological Survey exceeds available revenue. Legislation is proposed to increase the hydropower license fees to fully cover the costs of the Departments of Ecology and Fish and Wildlife to license, re-license, and monitor the effects of hydroelectric projects on water, fish and wildlife. It also will cover the state's share of the Cooperative Stream Gauging program which funds 36 critical stream gauges. (Reclamation Account-State)

Puget Sound Local Source Control

Local governments help their small businesses and citizens safely manage hazardous and solid wastes. Nearly 70 percent of the hazardous waste generators in the state are in the Puget Sound region. Ten on going local government specialists will be trained to provide assistance in waste management and reduction, and source control in Puget Sound counties. Performance agreements with the Puget Sound Partnership will be required to show progress and measurable results toward the goal of protecting Puget Sound from toxic threats. These specialists will help fill a critical gap in avoiding contamination and recontamination of previously cleaned-up toxic sites. (Local Toxics Control Account-State)

Well Construction & License System

Ecology currently maintains two separate systems to track well construction data and well contractor licensing information. Stakeholders that use the two systems are requesting enhancements that will streamline and improve overall well construction and licensing system functionality. Ecology will integrate both systems to enhance customer usability, accuracy, level of detail available to stakeholders, and conduct system updates needed to meet the requirements of 2005 legislation. (Reclamation Account-State)

Protect Spokane Area Water Rights

The state of Idaho is proceeding with a large-scale general adjudication of the Spokane River and its tributaries in Idaho. In order to protect Washington's interests in the use of interstate water sources, the Department of Ecology will begin mapping and documenting water rights, metering water use, and coordinating with local interests and tribes. These activities will provide the information needed to make a decision on whether to proceed with a general water right adjudication and will support more active water management as the area faces complex and growing water issues. (Water Quality Account-State)

Achieving Instream Flows

Since 2002, the Departments of Ecology and Fish and Wildlife have been using a Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB) grant to help set and achieve instream flows. This federally-supported SRFB grant ends June 30, 2007. Achieving instream flows is critical to ensuring adequate water exists in streams and rivers for aquatic life, recreation, water quality, and for issuing new water rights for out-of-stream uses. On going funding will be used for 3.5 staff positions to continue to support achieving instream flows and capital water acquisition funding which add water back into streams to support salmon recovery efforts. (Water Quality Account-State)

Water Rights Database Enhancement

The water rights database tracks the status of nearly 200,000 water rights and claims and is used to issue new water rights and water right changes. The database holds information on who may use water, how much, where, and for what purpose, but is not accessible by the public and is costly to maintain. The system will be upgraded so that information can be provided to the public through the Internet, which will free up staff time to work on permit processing while providing better information to the public. (Reclamation Account-State, Water Rights Tracking System Account-State)

Reclaimed Water Rule-Making

The use of reclaimed water is a valuable tool for protecting Puget Sound, making improvements to water quality, and stretching water supplies to meet existing and future needs. Existing standards do not adequately address the needs of proposed reclaimed water projects and, therefore, hinder implementation of these projects. Recent legislation requires Ecology to adopt rules by 2010 and also encourages it to update rules as soon as possible. Ecology will speed up the rules process to help promote the re-use of water from 28 million gallons per day to more than 56 million gallons per day within ten years. (Water Quality Account-State)

Wastewater Permit Enhancements

A marked increase in water quality permitting is driving the need for additional staffing to focus on statewide permit program enhancements including: providing rigorous permit quality review to ensure that permits are consistent with one another and with water quality regulations and policy (a function not currently provided) establishing a methodology to estimate toxics and conventional pollutant loading to water bodies; enhancing permit development and permit compliance assistance to the Department of Transportation to prevent stormwater contamination of streams and rivers from road runoff; and providing increased transparency of water quality permit data to the public through the Internet. (Water Quality Permit Account-State)

Puget Sound Federal Funds

The Puget Sound Partnership will develop an action plan to protect and restore Puget Sound. Ensuring a sustainable Puget Sound by 2020 is a priority for the Governor and the Partnership. Trends of significant concern have been identified regarding Puget Sound water quality, habitat, and species. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is expected to provide a grant to fund priority action measures identified by the Partnership. (General Fund-Federal)

Urban Waters Clean-Up and Protection

Many of Washington state's urban waters are in crisis. For example, the Spokane River, the Lower Duwamish Waterway, and Commencement Bay all have elevated concentrations of toxic chemicals and/or recontamination. Source control action plans will be completed to prevent the contamination or recontamination of past successful toxic site cleanups, and 225 businesses will receive technical assistance to help prevent the release of toxic chemicals into the waterways. (State Toxics Control Account-State, Local Toxics Control Account-State)

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ACTIVITY DESCRIPTIONS

Adjudicate Water Rights

The agency provides support for water rights adjudication. Adjudication is fundamental to sound water management by increasing certainty regarding the validity and extent of water rights and reducing water conflicts. It is a judicial determination of existing water rights and claims, including federal, tribal, and non-tribal claims. The current focus is supporting the Yakima River Basin adjudication.

Administration

The administration activity supports agency functions by providing leadership, cross-program support, and staff presence throughout the state. Administration manages the agency's long-term financial health and provides information to support sound decision-making and resource management by managers. Communication, education, and outreach tools play a major role in protecting and improving the environment. Administration staff serve as liaisons to Congress, the state Legislature, local governments, businesses, Indian tribes, and environmental and citizen groups. Administration helps managers and employees create a safe, supportive, and diverse work environment by providing comprehensive human resource services. It also oversees information management (desktop and network services, application development, and data administration) and facility and vehicle management; maintains the agency's centralized records and library resources; responds to public records requests; and provides mail services.

Assess, Set, and Achieve Instream Flows

The agency evaluates and sets instream flows that are fundamental to water resources management. Instream flows are used to determine how much water needs to remain in streams to meet environmental needs, how much can be allocated, and when to regulate junior water users based on flow levels. The agency acquires water and uses other management techniques to restore and protect flows, while meeting out-of-stream needs.

Clean up the Most Contaminated Sites First (Upland and Aquatic)

The Department of Ecology protects public health and natural resources by cleaning up and managing contaminated upland sites and contaminated sediments in the aquatic environment. For upland sites, resources are first focused on cleaning up contaminated sites that pose the greatest risk to public health and the environment. These include sites where contamination threatens drinking water, exists in a large quantity, is very toxic, may affect a water body, or may affect people that are living, working, or recreating near the site. Contamination may be in the soil, sediments, underground water, air, drinking water, and/or surface water. For sediment sites, this includes addressing the environmental health of aquatic sediments in source control permits, managing sediment standards and regulations, and maintaining a sediment information database. The agency also manages multi-agency sediment cleanup projects. The clean up of contaminated aquatic sediments reduces toxic contamination in food fish and protects the aquatic environment. The clean up of these sites protects public health, safeguards the environment, and promotes local economic development by making land available for new industries and other beneficial uses.

Clean Up Polluted Waters

The federal Clean Water Act requires the agency to develop water quality standards and to identify water bodies that fail to meet those standards. The agency does this by reviewing thousands of water quality data samples and publishing an integrated water quality assessment report listing the water bodies that do not meet standards. The agency then works with local interests to prepare clean-up plans to reduce pollution, establish conditions in discharge permits and nonpoint-source management plans, and monitor the effectiveness of the clean-up plan.

Conduct Environmental Studies for Pollution Source Identification and Control

The agency conducts pollution studies to address known or suspected problems at individual sites or across regional areas. These studies support agency efforts under the federal Clean Water Act, Water Pollution Control Act, and Model Toxics Control Act. The directed studies range from water quality sampling, such as for bacteria or dissolved oxygen, to more complex analyses for toxic chemicals, such as dioxins in fish tissues or pesticides in groundwater. Many of the studies are water clean-up studies, which calculate the total maximum daily load (TMDL) of a pollutant a water body can absorb without causing violations of water quality standards. As part of a lawsuit settlement, the agency entered into a Memorandum of Agreement with the Environmental Protection Agency that requires the agency to develop nearly 1,500 TMDLs by 2013. Study results are published in scientific reports used for regulatory decision-making, policy development, and environmental health protection.

Control Stormwater Pollution

The agency prepares tools, provides assistance, and offers compliance strategies to control the quantity and quality of stormwater runoff from development and industrial activities. The agency is currently providing training and assistance to communities and industries on the Western Washington Stormwater Manual, and is developing an Eastern Washington Stormwater Manual. The agency also is working with local governments and other stakeholders to develop a municipal stormwater program and permitting system.

Eliminate Waste, Promote Material Reuse, and Safely Manage Trash

Waste reduction and recycling conserves resources and saves money in both the public and private sectors. The agency provides a 20-year vision for solid waste; technical assistance on pollution prevention strategies; assistance in establishing and operating local recycling programs; better management of building materials (new and waste); and implementation of an organic materials reuse strategy.

Prevent and Pick Up Litter

Litter control efforts include a litter prevention campaign, Ecology Youth Corps litter pick-up crews, Community Litter Cleanup contracts, and coordination with other state and local efforts to maximize litter pick-up. Litter prevention and pick-up helps to keep Washington green, supports tourism, and provides employment opportunities to youth.

Ensure Dam Safety

This activity protects life, property, and the environment by overseeing the safety of Washington's dams. This includes inspecting the structural integrity and flood and earthquake safety of existing state dams not managed by the federal government; approving and inspecting new dam construction and repairs; and taking compliance and emergency actions.

Ensure Environmental Laboratories Provide Quality Data

The agency is charged with the responsibility to certify laboratories that conduct tests or submit data to the agency. As a result, Ecology developed and manages a program to accredit environmental laboratories for analyses in all typical environmental matrices, now including drinking water. The drinking water mission was transferred to Ecology under an April 2002 Memorandum of Agreement between Ecology and the Department of Health. Accreditation helps ensure that environmental laboratories have the demonstrated capability to provide accurate and defensible data. The agency's laboratory accreditation program is the primary source of lab performance monitoring for the 480 labs in the accreditation program.

Fund Local Efforts to Clean Toxic Sites, Manage and Reduce Waste

The Department of Ecology protects public health and promotes resource recovery through the administration of three capital grant programs. Coordinated Prevention Grants support landfill regulation to protect groundwater, recycling and reuse programs, and hazardous waste collection. New initiatives focus on reuse of organic materials and waste and toxicity reduction for building. Remedial Action Grants are used to clean up contaminated sites for groundwater protection and/or redevelopment of the land. Public Participation Grants inform citizens of local clean-ups and waste reduction efforts.

Restore the Air, Soil, and Water Contaminated from Past Activities at Hanford

The agency protects public health and natural resources by working to restore the public use of air, soil, and water at the Hanford Nuclear Reservation by cleaning up contaminated sites from past activities. Radioactive and hazardous contaminants are removed, residual contaminants are contained and monitored, and mitigation of natural resource damage on Hanford occurs.

Clean Up and Remove Large, Complex, Contaminated Facilities throughout Hanford

The agency works on decommissioning the large, complex, and high-risk facilities throughout the Hanford Nuclear Reservation, including nuclear reactors and chemical processing facilities used for nuclear weapons material production. Transition of these facilities to safe and stable conditions requires coordination of multiple regulatory and technical requirements. The agency is also responsible for regulatory oversight of three active operating facilities not on the Hanford site.

NATURAL RESOURCES AND RECREATION

Treat and Dispose of Hanford's High-level Radioactive Tank Waste

The agency protects public health and natural resources by providing regulatory oversight for the treatment and removal of highly radioactive tank waste at the Hanford Nuclear Reservation. This activity is focused on the design, permitting, construction, and operation of the Hanford Waste Treatment Plant, the Integrated Disposal Facility (a mixed, low-level waste landfill), and immobilized high-level waste storage facility.

Ensure Safe Tank Operations, Storage of Tank Wastes, & Closure of the Waste Storage Tanks at Hanford

The agency protects public health and natural resources by ensuring the safe storage and management of 53 million gallons of high-level radioactive tank waste at the Hanford Nuclear Reservation. The Hanford Tank Waste Project is focused on permitting the double-shelled tank waste storage system, removing liquid wastes from the single-shelled tanks, and beginning to close portions of the tank waste storage system. In coordination with the Hanford Tank Waste Disposal Project, the tank waste will be removed and treated, leading to eventual closure of all 177 Hanford tanks by 2028.

Ensure the Safe Management of Radioactive Mixed Waste at Hanford

The agency provides regulatory oversight for the safe storage, treatment, and disposal of liquid and solid dangerous and radioactive mixed wastes at the Hanford Nuclear Reservation, as well as at radioactive mixed-waste sites throughout the state. This activity regulates the management of this historic and ongoing waste stream, and ensures the retrieval, treatment, and safe disposal of high-risk transuranic and high activity wastes currently buried in shallow, unlined trenches.

Improve Community Access to Hazardous Substance and Waste Information

The agency uses automated data systems to track compliance and technical assistance visits; measure pollution prevention and compliance progress; track amounts of dangerous waste generated each year and its proper transport, treatment, and/or disposal; identify toxic chemicals released and stored by businesses; and track information on facilities that prepare pollution prevention plans and pay fees. It provides the agency, public, and local governments with accurate information about the type, location, and source of hazardous substances that affect them. In accordance with federal and state Community Right-to-Know laws, the agency also responds to public inquiries about toxic chemicals and provides a Website for this purpose.

Improve Quality of Data Used for Environmental Decision Making

Sound environmental policy and regulatory decisions can only be made if accurate and timely data is available. To ensure the reliability and integrity of data used by the agency, staff provide guidance and training on developing quality assurance project plans, review project proposals, and consult on sampling design requirements and interpretation of results. This quality assurance function is required by the Environmental Protection Agency for entities, such as the Department of Ecology, which receive funding for work involving environmental data. In addition, agency scientists, modelers, statisticians, chemists, and other specialists interpret technical data, review grantee monitoring plans, and supply information for policy decisions, in support of agency mandates.

Increase Compliance and Act on Environmental Threats from Hazardous Waste

The agency annually conducts formal compliance enforcement inspections at large and medium quantity generators and hazardous waste management facilities to ensure compliance with state and federal regulations. A credible, formal enforcement capability is essential to preserving the effectiveness of technical assistance and informal enforcement efforts. While staff undertake formal enforcement infrequently, repeated refusal or inability of a facility to correct violations and come into compliance with the regulations will escalate to formal enforcement actions.

Increase Safe Hazardous Waste Management Through Technical Assistance

Ecology provides education and technical assistance to thousands of businesses on safe hazardous waste management. Although formal enforcement work is essential to maintaining compliance with hazardous waste regulations, workshops and technical assistance visits also can help bring facilities into regulatory compliance using substantially fewer resources. Safe management of hazardous waste protects the public and the environment, and enables the state to avoid significant clean-up costs.

Manage Underground Storage Tanks to Minimize Releases

The agency currently regulates about 11,189 active tanks on 4,074 different properties, including gas stations, industries, commercial properties, and governmental entities. This includes working to ensure that tanks are installed, managed, and monitored in accordance with federal standards and in a manner that prevents releases into the environment. This is done through compliance inspections and providing technical assistance to tank owners and operators. Properly managing such tanks saves millions in cleanup costs and prevents contamination of limited drinking water and other groundwater resources.

Manage Water Rights

The agency allocates surface and ground water to meet the many needs for water. It does this by making decisions on applications for new water rights and by making decisions on applications for changes to existing water rights to reallocate water. Water right decisions require consideration of many factors, including determining whether water is available and whether existing rights would be impaired. The agency is responsible for managing an existing water rights portfolio of over 49,000 certificates, 3,000 permits and 166,000 claims.

Measure Air Pollution Levels and Emissions

To make reasoned air quality management decisions, the agency needs reliable information on the amount and sources of pollution and how it moves in the air. To collect needed data, the agency uses three primary activities: air quality monitoring (assessment of trends, focused compliance, and assessment of control strategies, health effects, and environmental damage); emission inventory development (quantification of pollution released by sources of air pollution); and meteorological and dispersion modeling forecasts (the movement and concentration of air pollutants, the carrying capacity of airsheds, the interactions of pollutants, and the point of maximum impact of pollution).

Measure Contaminants in the Environment by Performing Laboratory Analyses

The Manchester Environmental Laboratory is a full-service environmental chemistry laboratory operated jointly by the Environmental Protection Agency and the Department of Ecology. The laboratory provides technical, analytical, and sampling support for chemistry and microbiology for multiple programs in the agency, and supports work conducted under mandates such as the federal Clean Water Act, Water Pollution Control Act, Puget Sound Water Quality Protection Act, and Model Toxics Control Act.

Monitor the Quality of State Waters and Measure Stream Flows Statewide

The agency has established a statewide environmental monitoring network to assess the current status of state waters, identify threatened or impaired waters, and evaluate changes/trends in water quality over time. This network includes sampling stations in rivers, streams, and marine waters (Puget Sound and coastal estuaries). The agency also measures and evaluates stream flows in salmon-critical basins and key watersheds statewide, and makes near real-time information available to the public via the agency's website.

Provide a One Stop Oversight to Large, Industrial Facilities

The Department of Ecology provides a single point of contact for petroleum refineries, pulp and paper mills, and aluminum smelters. Rather than having multiple inspectors work on the many environmental issues at a facility, one engineer provides coverage for all media. This means more balanced regulation for these major industries.

Prepare and Respond to Drought and Climate Change

The agency provides services to reduce the impact of droughts and to prepare for future droughts and climate change. When droughts are declared, services include providing water through emergency transfers, water right changes, and temporary wells. The agency also provides drought related information and financial assistance and coordinates drought response efforts. Emerging information on climate change is also monitored for future water supply implications.

NATURAL RESOURCES AND RECREATION

Prepare for Aggressive Response to Oil and Hazardous Material Incidents

Operators of large commercial vessels and oil handling facilities are required to maintain state-approved oil spill contingency plans to ensure they can rapidly and effectively respond to major oil spills. State planning standards ensure equipment and response personnel are strategically staged on water bodies around the state for immediate deployment. Agency staff review and approve the contingency plans and ensure that plan holders and spill response contractors maintain their readiness through scheduled and unannounced drills. The agency also partners with other agencies to maintain a single contingency plan that guides how spills are managed in the Northwest. Geographic-based response plans (GRPs) are developed by staff working in consultation with other experts. The plans identify and prioritize region-specific response strategies that protect natural resources and other valuable assets during significant oil spills.

Prevent Hazardous Waste Pollution Through Permitting, Closure, and Corrective Action

Facilities that treat, store, and/or dispose of dangerous wastes are required to obtain a permit to ensure that their design, construction, maintenance, and operating procedures protect public health and the environment. Washington currently has 15 active facilities that are either in "interim status" or have a final permit. These facilities are required to have closure plans to effectively deal with the end of their waste management activities. Environmental contamination found at any time before closure requires a corrective action clean-up plan. The agency is currently working on 27 high-priority corrective action clean-up sites.

Prevent Point Source Water Pollution

The agency protects Washington's water by regulating point source discharges of pollutants to surface and ground waters. This is done with a wastewater permit program for sewage treatment plants and an industrial discharge program for other industries. A permit is a rigorous set of limits, monitoring requirements, or management practices, usually specific to a discharge, which is designed to ensure that a facility can meet treatment standards and water quality limits. The permit is followed by regular inspections and site visits. Technical assistance and follow-up on permit violations also are provided through various means.

Prevent Oil Spills from Vessels and Oil Handling Facilities

The Department of Ecology works with the regulated community and others to minimize the environmental threat of oil and chemical spills from vessels and oil handling facilities by focusing on human and organizational factors. This work is carried out through the following core activities: vessel inspections; oversight of oil transfer operations; regulating oil handling facilities; dispatching the Neah Bay Rescue Tug; and incident investigations. This involves monitoring arrivals of 2,600 large cargo and passenger vessels; conducting 1,000 vessel inspections per year; oversight of refueling operations to reduce spill frequency; review and approval of 35 oil handling facility spill prevention plans and operation manuals; implementing innovative approaches to ensure tank vessels use systems that provide "best achievable protection"; managing the rescue tug operations to control disabled tank vessels and cargo ships drifting off of our rugged coast; and investigating near-miss and actual accidents to identify new prevention strategies.

Prevent Unhealthy Air and Violations of Air Quality Standards

Federal law establishes minimum air standards for six air pollutants known as criteria pollutants. Violations of those standards trigger costly regulatory actions against businesses and consumers, result in economic constraints, and create the potential for severe financial sanctions against the state if problem areas are not cleaned up in a timely manner. To ensure federal standards are met, the agency continuously measures air pollution levels and trends, develops and implements area specific cleanup plans, designs and implements strategies to prevent violations, and develops and implements action plans in natural events, such as wildfires and windblown dust. A recent body of compelling research has shown that the current National Ambient Air Quality Standards for some criteria pollutants are not protective of human health, and these standards are presently under federal review. In light of this new research, the agency is adjusting its focus to assure that the air in Washington is both safe to breathe and meets federal standards. The agency's goals are to have all areas that do not meet minimum federal standards, known as non-attainment areas, classified as "in attainment" by the Environmental Protection Agency by the end of the 2005, and to reduce ambient air pollutant concentrations to levels that ensure air in Washington communities is healthy to breathe and that future violations of National Ambient Air Quality Standards will not occur.

Promote Compliance with Water Laws

The agency helps ensure that water users comply with the state's water laws so that other legal water users are not impaired; water use remains sustainable over the long term; and the environment is protected for the benefit of people and nature. Activities include water metering and reporting 80 percent of water use in 16 fish critical basins, along with education, technical assistance, and strategic enforcement in egregious cases.

Protect and Manage Shorelines in Partnership with Local Governments

The Shoreline Management Act establishes a cooperative program between local and state governments, in which local governments develop and administer local Shoreline Master Programs, and the Department of Ecology provides support and oversight. The agency is involved in shoreline management in four primary ways: developing guidelines for local shoreline programs; providing technical assistance to local governments and applicants on shoreline planning and permitting activities; reviewing and approving amendments to local shoreline master programs; and reviewing permits to ensure resource protection and implementation of the law. The agency works with local governments on permit compliance by responding to public inquiries and complaints, making field visits, providing compliance-related technical assistance, and issuing notices of correction, orders, and penalties. Properly managed shorelines provide habitat for fish and wildlife, minimize flooding and property damage, and provide land-use certainty to local landowners.

Protect Water Quality by Reviewing and Conditioning Construction Projects

The Department of Ecology issues water quality certifications and Coastal Zone Management Act consistency determinations for water-related construction projects. Staff provide early review on projects whenever possible (e.g., through State Environmental Policy Act review and pre-application meetings) and provide project guidance and technical assistance through phone calls, e-mails, site visits, and workshops. Projects are approved, denied, or conditioned to protect water quality, sediment quality, and fish and shellfish habitat. This activity allows the state to actively participate in federal permitting activities to ensure that state interests are adequately represented and considered.

Protect, Restore, and Manage Wetlands

The Department of Ecology has the lead responsibility in implementing the state Water Pollution Control Act, which requires the protection of wetlands. The agency provides technical assistance to local governments, helping them implement requirements in the Shoreline Management and Growth Management acts. Staff also provide technical assistance to non-government entities on wetlands conservation and stewardship programs. The agency provides leadership on wetlands issues, coordinating statewide policy issues, and developing new approaches for managing and restoring wetlands. Properly functioning wetlands protect water quality, reduce flooding, provide aquifer recharge for drinking water and other uses, and provide critical habitat for fish and wildlife.

Provide Technical and Financial Assistance for Local Watershed Planning and Implementation

In 1998, the Watershed Planning Act established a framework for state, local, and tribal governments to collaboratively create watershed plans that address water needs, reduce water pollution, and protect fish habitat. As the first watershed plans come to completion, emphasis shifts to implementation of the water management strategies contained in the plans. The agency supports watershed planning and implementation by providing staff support, technical and financial assistance to local groups, and by adopting the county-approved plans into rules. The agency also implements strategies for water resource management, as agreed to in the locally-developed watershed plans.

Provide Technical and Financial Assistance to Local Governments to Reduce Flood Hazards

The Department of Ecology administers the Flood Control Assistance Account Program, providing grants and technical assistance to local governments for flood damage reduction projects and comprehensive flood hazard management planning. Staff review and approve local Comprehensive Flood Hazard Management Plans and inspect construction of flood damage reduction projects. The Department of Ecology is also the state's coordinating agency for the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) and receives an annual Community Assistance Program grant to provide technical assistance and support to 286 communities enrolled in the NFIP. In this role, staff make regularly scheduled technical assistance visits to communities, assess local regulatory programs for compliance with state and federal requirements, and provide workshops and other outreach on flood hazard recognition and reduction. Proper flood control planning and projects protect both private and public property, as well as natural resources and fish and wildlife habitat.

NATURAL RESOURCES AND RECREATION

Provide Technical Assistance on State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) Review

SEPA was adopted in 1971 to ensure that state and local decision makers consider the environmental impacts of their actions. The SEPA law provides an opportunity for local citizen involvement in the environmental review process and provides developers an opportunity to identify mitigation opportunities that facilitate overall project approval and minimize development costs. The agency provides training and assistance to local governments and the public, and manages the SEPA register.

Provide Technical Training, Education, and Research through Padilla Bay Estuarine Reserve

The Padilla Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve is one of 25 national reserves established to protect estuaries for research and education. The Padilla Bay Reserve in Skagit County conducts a broad array of public education programs, technical and professional training, coastal restoration, and scientific research and monitoring. The reserve, managed in partnership with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), includes over 11,000 acres of tidelands and uplands; the Breazeale Interpretive Center; a research laboratory; residential quarters; trails; and support facilities. The reserve also provides funding and technical support to local Marine Resource Committees as part of the Northwest Straits Initiative, and administers the Northwest Straits Marine Commission as established by Senator Murray in 1998.

Provide Water Quality Financial Assistance

The agency provides grants, low-interest loans, and technical assistance to local governments, state agencies, and tribes to enable them to build, upgrade, repair, or replace facilities to improve and protect water quality. This includes meeting the state's obligation to manage the Water Pollution Control Revolving Fund in perpetuity. The agency also funds nonpoint-source control projects such as watershed planning, stormwater management, freshwater aquatic weed management, education, and agricultural best management practices. Grants are targeted to nonpoint-source problems and communities where needed wastewater facilities projects would be a financial hardship for taxpayers. Local governments use loans for both point and nonpoint-source water pollution prevention and correction projects. The agency coordinates grant and loan assistance with other state and federal funding agencies.

Provide Water Resources Data and Information

The collection, management, and sharing of data and information is critical to modern water management. It is essential to local watershed groups, conservancy boards, businesses, local governments, nonprofit groups, the Legislature, other agencies, and the media. It supports daily agency operations, including making water allocation decisions; setting and achieving stream flows; identifying the location and characteristics of wells, dams, and water diversions; supporting compliance actions; metering; tracking progress; communicating with constituents; and serving other water resource functions.

Reduce Air Pollution from Industrial and Commercial Sources

The agency issues permits to new and existing industrial and commercial facilities that emit significant levels of air pollution. Permit programs are mandated either by federal or state clean air laws and are designed to be self-supporting through fees. The agency provides technical assistance, permit application and processing guidance, interpretation of rules, pre-application assistance, and permit review. Permits are conditioned and approved to ensure all federal and state laws are met, and that air quality, the environment, and public health are protected. The agency develops and modifies industrial source regulations to incorporate federal and state law changes, simplify and streamline permit requirements, and ensure public health protection. The agency conducts compliance inspections, resolves complaints, and develops technical and policy direction on emerging industrial permit issues.

Reduce Health and Environmental Threats from Motor Vehicle Emissions

Cars, trucks, construction equipment, locomotives, and marine vessels are responsible for over 60 percent of Washington's air pollution. These emissions adversely affect public health, substantially increase health care costs, and increase cancer and mortality rates. Without significant emission reductions, the agency cannot ensure future attainment of federal air quality standards, avoid multi-million dollar control costs to businesses and citizens, nor reduce or prevent harmful health effects. To protect public health and the environment from motor vehicle pollution, the agency implements a vehicle emission check program of nearly 2 million cars and trucks; promotes transportation alternatives and cleaner motor vehicles and fuels through voluntary, regulatory, and incentive programs; and retrofits school buses with better emission controls.

Reduce Health and Environmental Threats from Smoke

Nagging regional smoke pollution plagues many areas, primarily in central and eastern Washington, and affects public health and quality of life. To address these continuing problems, the agency issues conditioned permits for agricultural, land clearing, fire training, and other outdoor burning, where required by law. It also produces daily burn forecasts; responds to and resolves complaints related to smoke; provides technical assistance to manage and prevent outdoor burning impacts; designs and delivers woodstove education programs; and through technical assistance, research, and demonstration projects, fosters development and use of practical alternatives to burning. The agency's goal by 2010 is to achieve air quality levels in eastern and central Washington that experts agree is sufficient to protect human health.

Reduce Nonpoint-Source Water Pollution

Nonpoint-source pollution (polluted runoff) is the leading cause of water pollution and poses a major health and economic threat. Types of nonpoint pollution include fecal coliform bacteria, elevated water temperature, pesticides, sediments, and nutrients. Sources of pollution include agriculture, forestry, urban and rural runoff, recreation, hydro modification, and loss of aquatic ecosystems. The agency addresses these problems through raising awareness, encouraging community action, providing funding, and supporting local decision makers. The agency also coordinates with other stakeholders through the Washington State Nonpoint Workgroup, the Forest Practices Technical Assistance group, and the Agricultural Technical Assistance group.

Reduce Persistent Bioaccumulative Toxins (PBTs) in the Environment

Persistent, bioaccumulative toxins (PBTs) are a particular group of chemicals that can significantly affect the health of humans, fish, and wildlife. The agency developed, and the Legislature funded in the 2001-03 Biennium, implementation of a long-term strategy designed to reduce PBTs in Washington's environment over the coming years. This strategy will coordinate agency-wide efforts, engage other key organizations and interest groups, and provide for public education and information on reducing PBTs in the environment.

Reduce Risk from Toxic Air Pollutants

No ambient standards, and few emission limits, have been established for the hundreds of toxic chemicals (totaling millions of pounds) emitted into the air annually in Washington. Emerging ambient assessments and toxics risk models indicate that the level and extent of airborne toxics pose significant health and environmental risks, including cancer, other serious health effects, and death. The agency has identified 11 high-risk toxic air pollutants that are prevalent in Washington. To significantly reduce potential risk to the public, the agency will complete a health assessment of agricultural burning smoke; complete a health effects analysis of diesel soot; collect and prepare annual air toxics emission inventories; operate air toxics monitoring sites; and limit toxic emissions through permit conditions for commercial facilities, combustion processes, and outdoor burning.

Reduce the Generation of Hazardous Waste and the Use of Toxic Substances through Technical Assistance

The state Hazardous Waste Reduction Act calls for the reduction of hazardous waste generation and the use of toxic substances and requires certain businesses to prepare plans for voluntary reduction. Staff provide assistance through innovative programs for source and waste generation reduction, including more than 275 technical assistance visits per year. In addition, the agency focuses on improvements in industries that have the highest rate of waste generation and non-compliance to help them achieve energy savings, water conservation, and reduced hazardous waste production. Reducing toxics in products and the initial generation of hazardous waste minimizes disposal costs, reduces the need for clean-up, minimizes public exposure, and saves money.

Regulate Well Construction

The agency protects consumers, well drillers, and the environment by licensing and regulating well drillers, investigating complaints, approving variances from construction standards, and providing continuing education to well drillers. The work is accomplished in partnership with delegated counties. It delivers technical assistance to homeowners, well drillers, tribes, and local governments.

NATURAL RESOURCES AND RECREATION

Rapidly Respond to and Clean Up Oil and Hazardous Material Spills

Oil and hazardous materials spills present a danger to human health and the environment. The agency is responsible for rapidly responding to and overseeing the clean up of oil spills, hazardous material incidents, methamphetamine drug labs, and assisting other "first response" organizations during Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) incidents. This requires 24-hour-a-day, statewide response capability from five field offices. Other activities include coordination with local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies for methamphetamine drug lab cleanup and compliance actions for violations related to oil and hazardous material spills.

Restore Public Natural Resources Damaged by Oil Spills

When an oil spill causes significant damage to publicly owned natural resources, Ecology chairs and directs a multi-state trustee committee to complete an assessment of the monetary value of the natural resources that were damaged. Once the assessment is complete, Ecology seeks fair compensation from the responsible parties. Ecology chairs the Coastal Protection Committee to ensure that the money collected is used for projects to restore the environmental damage.

Restore Watersheds by Supporting Community-Based Projects with the Washington Conservation Corps

The Washington Conservation Corps (WCC) was established in 1983 to conserve, rehabilitate, and enhance the state's natural and environmental resources, while providing educational opportunities and meaningful work experiences for young adults (ages 18-25). The WCC creates partnerships with federal, state, and local agencies, private entities, and nonprofit groups to complete a variety of conservation-related projects. These include stream and riparian restoration, wetlands restoration and enhancement, soil stabilization, and other forest restoration activities, fencing, and trail work. The WCC also provides emergency response and hazard mitigation services to local communities.

Services to Site Owners that Volunteer to Clean Up their Contaminated Sites

The agency provides services to site owners or operators who initiate clean-up of their contaminated sites. Voluntary clean-ups can be conducted in a variety of ways: completely independent of the agency; independent with some agency assistance or review; or with agency oversight under a signed legal agreement (an agreed order or consent decree). They may be done through consultations, prepayment agreements, prospective purchaser agreements, and brownfields redevelopment. The voluntary clean-up program minimizes the need for public funding used for such clean-up and promotes local economic development through new industries and other beneficial uses of cleaned properties.

Provide Streamlined Project Permitting for Transportation Projects

The Department of Ecology contracts with the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) to provide dedicated personnel focused on improving and implementing the permitting and regulatory process for state transportation projects. To address traffic congestion and allow businesses to efficiently transport products in Washington, the Legislature and Governor have approved significant spending on transportation projects with the expectation of expedient project delivery. Interagency agreements with WSDOT allow the agency to permit and mitigate transportation projects through multi-agency transportation permitting teams, multi-agency programmatic approvals, watershed-based mitigation alternatives, and the assignment of dedicated organizational infrastructure at the Department of Ecology. Currently, this activity is wholly funded by interagency agreements with the Washington State Department of Transportation. Agreements expected to total \$1,655,000 for the biennium fund 8.43 FTEs. Additional agreements may be signed that would increase both FTEs and funding.

Support Local Watershed Management of Water Resources

This activity involves work with other agencies, local watershed planning groups, and tribes to address water quantity issues under the Watershed Management Act. It includes providing technical support and studies for local watershed planning groups to develop and adopt local plans that can serve as the basis for sound water resources management.

NATURAL RESOURCES AND RECREATION

Provide Regulatory Assistance for Significant Projects and Small Businesses

The Department of Ecology contracts with the Washington State Office of Regulatory Assistance (ORA) to provide dedicated permitting and environmental assistance services. This includes a headquarters-based One-Stop Service Center for walk-in, call-in, and 24/7 Web-based customers needing information, contacts, and assistance concerning local, state, and federal permits and approvals. It also includes regionalized Case Managers for more complex, complicated, and lengthy projects needing dedicated project management and process facilitation assistance. Currently, this activity is partly funded by an interagency agreement with the Office of Financial Management (OFM), and by funds from the agency's Administration Program. Three FTEs are funded by an agreement with OFM that is expected to total \$796,000 for the biennium. Three additional FTEs are funded by the Administration Program; the cost of these FTEs is approximately \$180,000 for the biennium.

Support Water Use Efficiency

The agency provides agricultural, commercial/industrial, and nonprofit water users with services that deliver water savings. These include information, planning, and technical, engineering, and financial assistance. Support also is provided for water reuse projects and to the Department of Health for municipal water conservation.

Other Statewide Adjustments

This item reflects proposed compensation and other adjustments that were not allocated to individual agency activities. The agency will assign these costs to the proper activities after the budget is enacted.

Achieving Environmental Compliance

Locally hired watershed masters will work with state and local agencies to ensure compliance with federal, state, and local laws. The pilot will focus on then high priority watersheds in Puget Sound.