

# Roads and Highways Subgroup of the Stormwater Work Group

## Stormwater Work Group (Puget Sound Coordinated Monitoring Program)

Website: <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wq/psmonitoring/swworkgroup.html>

### Task 11: Define Monitoring Needs Related to Roads and Highways

In May 2012, the Stormwater Work Group (SWG) launched the Roads and Highways Subgroup and directed it to:

*Take a holistic approach to defining monitoring needs related to roads and highways across the full spectrum of urban to rural roads in Puget Sound, and to make specific recommendations as to how WSDOT's permit-required monitoring should address a subset of those needs. The big picture of monitoring needs should include status and trends monitoring, effectiveness studies, and source control.*

#### Subgroup: Roads and Highways

- Participants include WSDOT and Department of Ecology (Ecology) staff; federal, city, and county agency staff; consultants; academia; environmental advocacy groups

#### Deliverables:

- Stormwater management monitoring strategy for roads and highways including, but not limited to:
  - Priority BMP effectiveness studies
  - Priority source identification and diagnostic studies
  - Priority characterization studies
  - Additional monitoring needs, if any, specific to the Puget Sound basin (e.g., do any other road and highway-related parameters need to be included for analysis at Puget Sound status and trends sites?)
- Recommendations for monitoring requirements to consider for inclusion in:
  - The 2014 reissued WSDOT municipal stormwater permit
  - Future reissuance of other stormwater permits
  - At Puget Sound status and trends monitoring sites

#### Actions so far:

- Solicited questions or research ideas from participants relating to monitoring on roads and highways (Over 98 ideas were submitted but some were combined)
- Had participants rank the 98 questions/ideas
- Identified and shared lessons learned in conducting monitoring research in road and highway settings.
- Asked participants to develop “research proposals” based on the list (See following page for proposal template)
- Several proposals were developed and more are being developed.

#### Future actions:

- Group will continue to develop and refine research proposals and recommendations. These will include recommendations regarding monitoring requirements for the WSDOT NPDES permit to be reissued in 2014.
- In early September , share subgroup recommendations with SWG
- Fall 2013: SWG submits recommendations to Ecology

**Research Proposal Template**  
**Roads & Highways Monitoring Committee**  
Subgroup of the Stormwater Working Group

**1. RESEARCH PROPOSAL TITLE**

*Provide a title that briefly and immediately conveys to the reader the intent of the proposed study.*

**2. RESEARCH PROBLEM DESCRIPTION**

*In one or more paragraphs, provide background to set the context and explain the reason for the research by stating the general problem or need. Be explicit about the significance and scope of the problem. Explain the consequences, if any, of not doing this work.*

**3. RESEARCH OBJECTIVE**

*Describe in very brief terms how the expected benefits/products of the research will be used and by whom.*

**4. LITERATURE SEARCH AND RESEARCH IN PROGRESS SUMMARY**

*Summarize literature and ongoing research found on the topic. Describe any shortcomings or deficiencies in the current body of research and how this project will address them.*

**5. Geographic Scope and Urgency of Research**

*How broadly will the results of this research apply?*

Nationally    Pacific Northwest    WA Only    Eastern WA    Western WA  
 Puget Sound Basin

*How quickly will you need the results of this research?*

ASAP    Within 6 months    Within 1 year    Within 2 years    Within 5 years  
 Ongoing

**6. Conceptual Research Approach**

*Summarize what the proposed research involves. Identify any potential technical, institutional, or political barriers to its implementation.*

**7. ESTIMATED COST AND TIMING (Optional)**

*Identify: 1) The funds required; 2) How long the project will take; and 3) Whether the project depends on another action before it can proceed.*

**8. CONTACT INFORMATION**

*Provide specific contact information for the person(s) involved in developing the research proposal.*