

**Habitat Status and Trends Monitoring for the Lower Columbia Region  
Integrating Storm Water Permit Monitoring &  
Habitat Status and Trends Monitoring  
Washington Department of Ecology Grant Number G1400531**

October 31, 2013 – February 28, 2015

Final Total Project Cost: \$300,000

**Final Ecology Grant Contribution: \$300,000**

## Project Description

Over the last two years, the southwest Washington municipal stormwater National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permittees, the Lower Columbia Fish Recovery Board, the Pacific NW Aquatics Monitoring Partnership, and other state and federal agencies have worked to develop an integrated Habitat Status and Trends Monitoring program. The goal of this effort is to create an effective and cost efficient program addressing the monitoring needs for watershed health, salmon recovery, and stormwater impacts by integrating and supplementing existing monitoring programs.



Lower Columbia Monitoring

## Lessons Learned

- Developing a regional monitoring program through the integration of multiple existing monitoring programs is a complex undertaking requiring:
- Active participation of stakeholders;
- Recognition of varying interests;
- Sufficient time for review of work products;
- Clear articulation of the question to be answered;
- Measurable objectives;
- Flexibility to alter course to address emerging technical and policy issues; and
- Tempering technical design with cost and implementation considerations.



## Project Accomplishments

Final Monitoring Design  
Preliminary Quality Assurance Project Plan  
Summary of Flow Gauge Network

## Project Partners

Cities of Kelso, Longview, Camas, Washougal, Battle Ground,  
La Center and Vancouver  
Cowlitz and Clark Counties  
Cowlitz Indian Tribe  
WA Departments of Ecology and Fish and Wildlife  
Washington Governor's Salmon Recovery Office  
National Marine Fisheries Service  
US Fish and Wildlife Service and US Forest Service  
Pacific NW Aquatic Monitoring Partnership  
Oregon Departments of Environment Quality and Fish and Wildlife  
Stormwater Permittees of Multnomah County, Oregon  
Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership

## Water Quality

This project supports implementation of monitoring programs to evaluate and manage water quality and habitat improvement. The monitoring is designed to answer high priority questions about stormwater management and fish recovery.

## The Next Steps for Continued Success

In the next phase scheduled for 2015-2016, the partners will complete a comprehensive implementation plan that will ensure valid and useful sampling. The partners will then define data collection methods, data storage options, and data sharing across programs. Water quality and habitat indicators and reporting tools will be identified, and the sample Quality Assurance Project Plan will be completed. And, finally, partners' roles and responsibilities will be identified.



## Recipient Contact Information

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### Lower Columbia Fish Recovery Board

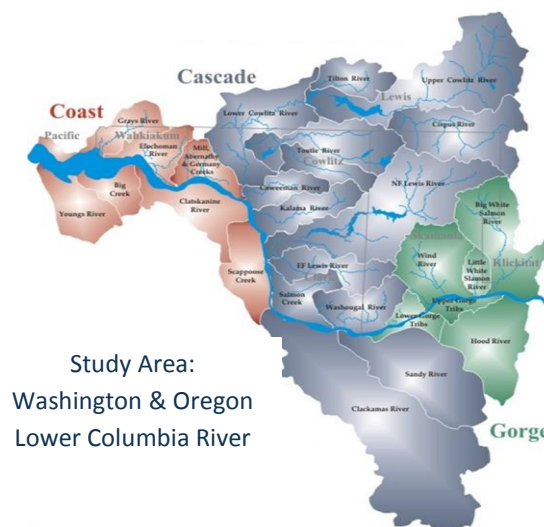
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### Pacific NW Aquatics Monitoring Partnership

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### Stillwater Sciences

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Study Area:  
Washington & Oregon  
Lower Columbia River

