Drainage-Based Management Planning (DBMP) in WRIA 1

The goal of the DBMP is to improve and sustain healthy watersheds within the WRIA 1 watershed boundary. The DBMP approach considers several key elements for watershed planning including water quality, water supply, instream flow, fish habitat, land use, community, floodplain management, climate change, and accountability. The DBMP effort will take place in three pilot basins (Bertrand-Schneider, South Fork Nooksack River, and Drayton Harbor). Each effort will include a list of early action projects, an effectiveness monitoring plan, implementation schedule, and funding strategy. The work of DBMP will help guide watershed protections and enhancements while supporting improved certainty around water quality and availability in the larger WRIA 1 watershed.

What we’re doing

We are currently identifying key factors in determining current watershed characterization and how those factors can be improved over time to help meet DBMP goals. These key factors will help guide policy and activities on the landscape to help improve watershed conditions for the natural and human communities that rely on consistent and high-quality water supplies.

How we’re doing it

We are engaging multiple expert work groups to help guide the watershed characterization and monitoring process. Members of the work groups consist of scientists, industry representatives, policymakers, and the Native American community.

WHY IS THIS ISSUE IMPORTANT?

Climate change, population growth, and land use conversions are placing extreme pressures on water quality, water supply, and habitat for endemic aquatic species. The DBMP process is working to get ahead of these mounting pressures and provide strategies to help mitigate imminent threats to watershed and community health.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

The only way we can increase the health and sustainability of our watersheds and water supply is to work together. Please support your local conservation efforts led by government entities as well as non-profit organizations through volunteer work, writing op-eds, contacting your local representative policymakers, and being well-informed and active in support of better management of land and water in Whatcom County. Please contact the Public Works Department as shown below to learn more.

ABOUT WHATCOM COUNTY PUBLIC WORKS

Whatcom County Public Works Natural Resources Division’s mission is to manage, sustain, enhance, and protect Whatcom County’s natural environment to meet the needs of present and future generations by providing sound natural resource services for the common good of the people, being a resource to our community, and supporting environmental stewardship.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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