



Regulations Affecting Storm and Surface Water Management

Puget Sound Water Quality Management Plan (PSWQMP)

Adopted in 1992, this regional plan sets goals and policies for municipal stormwater programs, with the intention of reducing pollution in Puget Sound. Key elements include identification and ranking of pollution sources, minimum requirements for new development and redevelopment, operation and maintenance programs, best management practices (BMPs) for stormwater, and education.

National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Phase II Municipal Stormwater Permits

A program under the federal Clean Water Act, these permits have similar elements to the PSWQMP, but are a federally mandated requirement. In addition, they necessitate Best Management Practices, (BMPs), measurable goals for public education and involvement; detection and elimination of illicit discharges; construction of stormwater runoff control measures; post-construction stormwater management; and pollution prevention for municipal operations.

Endangered Species Act (ESA)

The ESA protects chinook salmon, bull trout, and their habitat through wide-reaching measures to address changes in stream flow and protect aquatic habitat and water quality. In the absence of a comprehensive surface water management program, releasing polluted stormwater or authorizing development that changes stream flows or affects habitat could be considered an illegal “take” of an endangered species.

Quick Links

[Puget Sound Partnership](#)

[National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System \(NPDES\)](#)

[The Endangered Species Program](#)