



Snohomish County
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Stormwater projects move forward with state grants

Two state Department of Ecology grants will allow Snohomish County to move forward with nearly \$1 million in projects that reduce flooding and improve salmon habitat.

Snohomish County successfully applied for two grants from Ecology as part of the state's 2008 Stormwater Management Implementation Grants Program. The money will allow the county to begin projects that reduce stormwater pollutants, protect critical environment and improve drainage facilities. The overall benefit is one of improved water quality and public safety.

“We are pleased that our grant applications received priority ranking by the Department of Ecology,” said David Brookings, Snohomish County's Surface Water Management Director. “Both projects represent an ongoing philosophy in Snohomish County that to deliver cost-effective stormwater projects to our ratepayers, we need to develop strong partnerships with neighboring cities and seek outside funding from the state when possible.”

Specifically, Snohomish County will receive:

- \$735,000 in partnership with the cities of Lake Stevens, Snohomish and Granite Falls to assist each other with stormwater maintenance and mapping services. This will cost-effectively help local governments protect water quality in Snohomish County streams.
- \$193,500 to retrofit an existing 17-year-old detention pond to improve water quality and public safety. Improvements include installing wetland plants to further clean the water.

Snohomish County applied for the funding last fall. Projects include 25-percent matching funds from the county and partnering cities.

Snohomish County was not alone in its successful application for stormwater grants. The cities of Arlington (\$519,905), Everett (\$276,384) and Snohomish (\$1 million) also are receiving funds.

Overall, the Puget Sound region was the largest recipient of state funding for stormwater improvements. Funding to the area totals more than \$17 million, while another \$2.7 million is for areas outside the Puget Sound.

The funding was approved by the state legislature during the 2007 session.

To see the Department of Ecology's grant list, go to www.ecy.wa.gov/pubs/0810018.pdf.

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