



# United States Department of the Interior

U.S. Geological Survey

## **USGS Washington Water Science Center**

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To: Keunyea Song, SAM coordinator  
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From: Richard W. Sheibley  
Research Hydrologist, Washington Water Science Center, Tacoma, WA

Subject: Fourth quarter update for WY 2021 SAM small streams work

This memo summarizes and documents the continued work by USGS for the SAM small streams project. From June through September 2021.

Summer WHM sampling began in early July and at the time of writing this memo, all 33 sites have been sampled and summer WHM work is complete. In addition, reconnaissance of sites to be sampled next water year is well underway and several sites have been instrumented with level loggers. Over the next few months, the SAM 2022 sites will be finalized and water sensors installed.

This summer WHM went well overall, but in the end we had to replace 6 sites because they either went dry (5 sites), or their flow conditions changed (1 impacted by beaver dams). We were able to pick up alternate sites for all of them to have a complete set of 33 WHM sites sampled, however, we will not have water level data for all of these sites.

Lastly, discussions on the SAM small stream budget for next year and beyond will need to take place before the current contract ends in June 2022. During this first year of reconnaissance of a full set of 33 stream sites, it became apparent that the time needed to complete this task was much more than initially planned. We have visited over 70 stream sites to select the 33 used in 2021. This has taken a lot of time searching online and in the field for locations, access, and landowner details. We will provide an updated budget estimate to the SAM coordinator in the coming months.

Please feel free to contact me at any time with questions about this quarterly summary or any other project related issues.