

Water Quality Partnership

Water Quality Program

June 15, 2017



New Eastern Region Manager



Meet Adriane Borgias

- New program lead in Spokane
- Passionate about water quality and building partnerships
- Looking to bring a fresh approach to tackling our water quality goals
- Five years with Ecology
- Previously worked with tribes, in private consulting, and as the Environmental Supervisor for TransCanada Pipelines

General permits update

Permits

- Municipal stormwater
- Aquatic plants



Update: Process to Develop Voluntary Clean Water Guidance for Nonpoint Sources



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Produce voluntary clean water
guidance for agriculture

Goal

Stakeholder Outreach
2016

Draft Process
January 2017

**Comment
Period**

Process design and
response to comments
completed
May 2017

Assemble
advisory group
July 2017

First meeting
of advisory
group
August 2017

Timeline

What did we hear?

- Structure and role of the advisory group
- Workgroup members
- Suites of practices

Response to comments

What did we hear?

- Better define what we mean by "effective"
- Timelines and schedule
- NRCS practices

Response to comments

Next Step: Solicit Advisory Group

- Goal is to have updated website with finalized process and response to comments on line this week.
- This will include our solicitation for people to serve on the Advisory Group.
- Asking for people with relevant experience to submit a letter of interest.

Advisory group formation

Next Step: Identify Advisory Group

- Seek nominations/recommendations.
- Diverse perspectives and balanced representation.
- Research and technical scientists as well as on the ground implementation experience.

Advisory Group Formation

Kick off meeting of the Advisory Group

August 2017

- Compile list of practices.
- Conduct literature review and synthesize information.
- Set workgroup schedule, 2-4 meetings during year.
- Have set of practices finalized by Fall 2018.

Start work

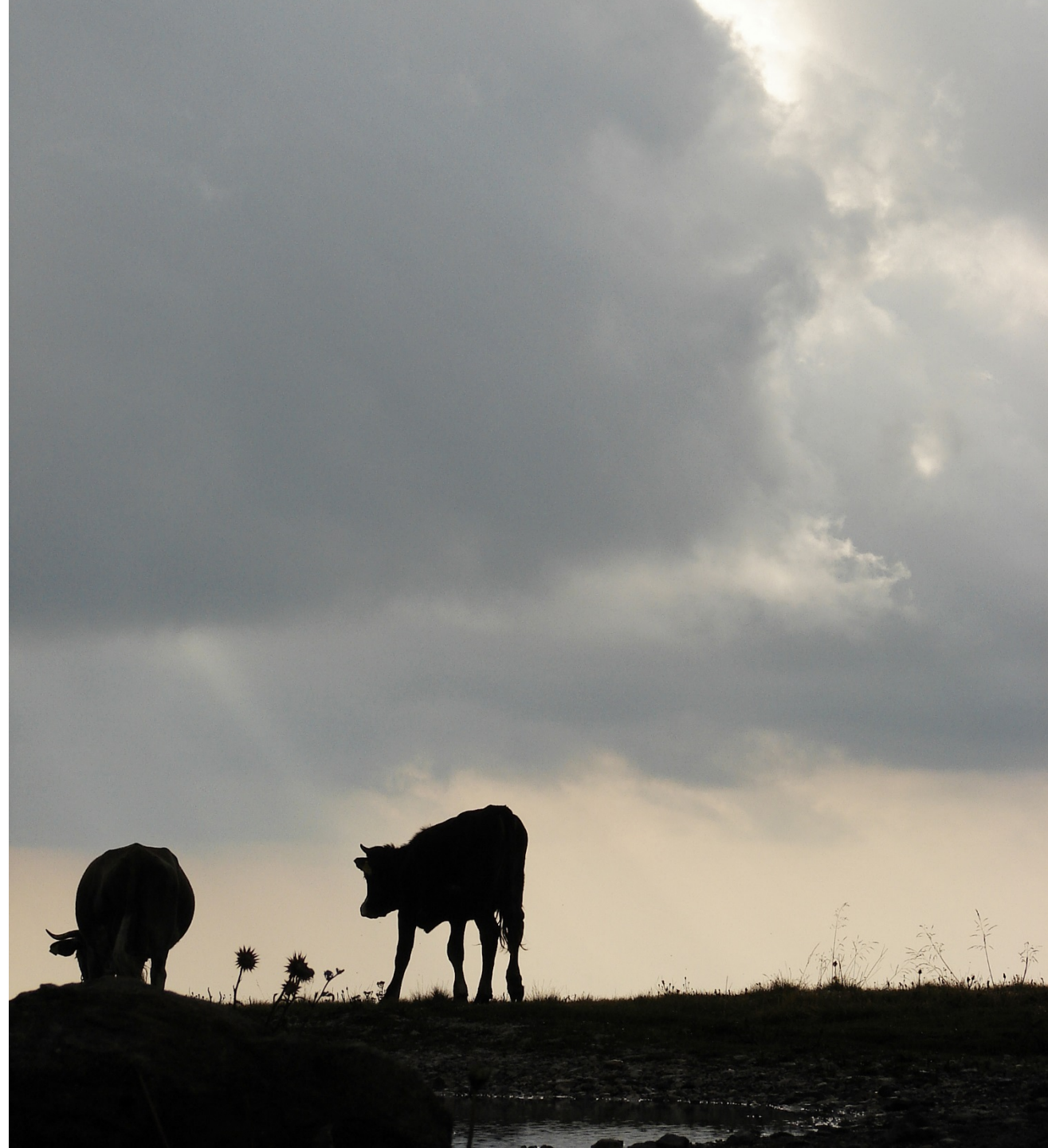
Questions and discussion

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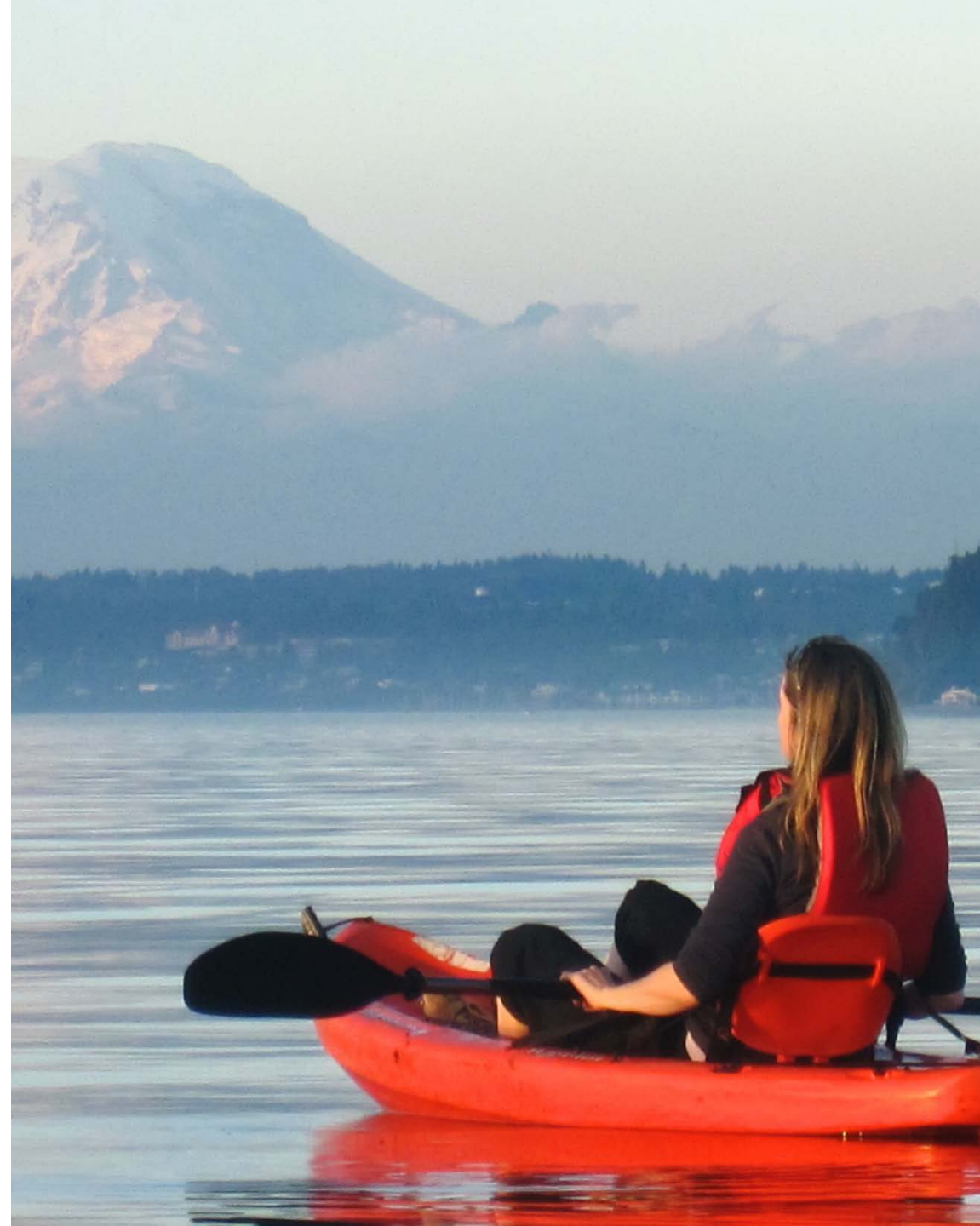
Water Quality Assessment for Washington Policy 1-11 Updates



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What is the Water Quality Assessment for Washington?

- It's a comprehensive assessment of the quality of Washington's waters based on available data.
- It gives the ability to better track when waters are getting cleaner or dirtier.
- It allows us to set priorities for protecting and improving water quality used for swimming, fishing, fish habitat, and drinking water.
- It meets requirements in the Clean Water Act by providing an "Integrated Report" on Water Quality to EPA.



Current Status of Washington's WQ Assessment

- Conducted a scoping process in Spring 2016 for Listing Policy 1-11 to identify areas for revision before beginning next Assessment
- Held a series of public meetings between to discuss key issues identified through scoping.
- Last public meeting was March 30, 2017

Scoping Comments: Key Areas of Concern in Policy 1-11

A series of “public dialogue” meetings were held between November and March to discuss the following 5 key topics:

- How data is used: QA/QC, transparency
- Revised sediment management standards
- Bioassessment data
- Toxic chemical data for human health
- Prioritization of TMDLs

What's the status?

- Ecology staff are revising Policy 1-11 based on feedback received from public dialogue meetings.
- A public review of Policy 1-11 revisions will be held in summer 2017.
- After Policy 1-11 is finalized, technical assessment of data will begin.
- We will do another call for data.

Schedule for Policy 1-11 Revisions

- **Nov. - Mar. 2017:** Public Dialogue Meetings
- **April - July. 2017:** Work on Revisions
- **August 2017:** 30-day Public Review & another call for data
- **Fall 2017:** Finalize Policy 1-11 and begin technical assessment

**Request for meetings
on key topics**

Regular Issue-Specific Meetings

- Interagency Team (entities with municipal stormwater permits and DOT) requested routine meetings to discuss key topics involving the Assessment and TMDL Programs.
- We propose to wrap that idea into meetings that will follow the WQ Partnership meetings.
- Only one topic will be covered at each meeting, to allow time for discussion.

Budget update



Ecology's new website

Future topics?