

## **Appendix G**

### Monitoring & Assessment

## **A. Tree Canopy for Stormwater Management**

Urban tree cover is considered to be an integral part of healthy watershed. Trees assist in reducing stormwater volumes and velocity by slowing and storming rainfall, and delaying peak stormwater runoff rates. Trees also provide additional water quality benefits such as temperature reduction. The 2024-2029 Permit has added requirements to adopt goals and policies to support stormwater management.

The permit requires cities and counties to consider how existing or future tree canopy can support stormwater management and water quality in receiving waters by establishing long term (e.g., 5, 10-years or longer) goal of canopy, existing or future projection, to be used for stormwater management that is appropriate to the jurisdiction. Permittees should provide specific consideration for goals related stormwater management on permittee-owned or operated lands and:

- Maintaining or increasing canopy in overburdened communities
- Maintaining existing mature canopy

Tree canopy goals are to be adopted no later than December 31, 2028.

## **A.B. Stormwater Management Program Effectiveness Studies**

Under the first permit, the Cities and Counties developed a regional monitoring plan that was submitted to Ecology in 2010. The permit effective through July 31, 2019 established a new approach to monitoring named “Stormwater Management Program Effectiveness Studies.” This approach required that each city and county collaborate with other Permittees to select, propose, develop, and conduct Ecology-approved studies to assess, on a regional or sub-regional basis, effectiveness of permit-required stormwater management program activities and best management practices. The current permit, effective August 1, ~~2019~~2024, ~~requires permittees to coordinate with other permittees in a designated Urban Area to plan and begin an additional effectiveness study.~~ allows permittees to choose one of three options:

- Participate in a *Regional SWMP Effectiveness Study (S8.B.3.a)*
- Pay annually into the *Stormwater Action Monitoring Collective*
- *Complete Stormwater Discharge Monitoring*

At a minimum, the four local jurisdictions; Chelan County, Douglas County, City of East Wenatchee, and the City of Wenatchee, plan to work collaboratively together on a sub- regional basis to meet Ecology effectiveness monitoring requirements through the completion of a *SWMP Effectiveness Study*.

Summarizing Ecology’s Stormwater Management Program Effectiveness Studies, Permittee’s shall:

1. Every Permittee shall participate in an Effectiveness Study by one or more of the following options:
  - Serve as the Lead Entity
  - ~~•~~ • Contribute staff time or other in-kind services
  - Provide Funding
2. Before June 30, ~~2024~~2025, submit to Ecology a brief description of the study with a list of project participants and each participant’s associated role(s) in the study.

3. Before ~~September 30, 2022~~June 30, 2026, submit a detailed study design proposal to Ecology. The detailed study design proposal shall follow the format and instructions in the *Eastern Washington Stormwater Effectiveness Studies, Detailed Study Design Proposal & QAPP Template* (July 1, 2019, v.1) appropriate for the study type (i.e. operational, structural, or education and outreach).
4. Before ~~June 31, 2023~~December 31, 2026, a completed QAPP shall be submitted to Ecology. The QAPP shall follow the format and instruction in the QAPP template appropriate to the study type (i.e. operational, structural, or education and outreach).
5. The Effectiveness Study shall begin on or before ~~December 1, 2023~~June 30, 2027, or within three months of receiving Ecology's approval of the QAPP (whichever is later)
6. Effectiveness study activities (e.g. assigned duties; participation in meetings; proposal development; project reviews; and study implementation) shall be included in the updated stormwater management program.

#### B. Reporting

1. The Lead Entity for the Effectiveness Study will be responsible for following the reporting requirements and timelines that are approved in the approved QAPP for the study, including:
  - a. Enter all applicable data collected as part of conducting the study into Ecology's Environmental Information Management (EIM) database. Project data that are not appropriate for the EIM shall be submitted in the Annual Report
  - b. Within 60 days of completing the study, publish a final report with the results of the study and recommended future actions based on the findings.
  - c. Within 90 days of completing the study, produce a fact sheet summarizing the findings and recommendations and share it with other Permittees, the target audience for the fact sheet is Stormwater managers and local government elected officials
7. All cities and counties participating in the Effectiveness Study will be required to track all assigned duties and participation in effectiveness study meetings, proposal development, project reviews, and study implementation, and include a summary in the Permittee's Annual Report.
8. For all studies, lead entities are required to describe interim results and status of the study in their annual reports throughout the duration of the study. (S8.B.8)
- ~~9.~~ All participating Permittees are required to report the final results of each study and recommend future actions based on the findings. (S8.B.10)

