

Lower Stillaguamish Basin Resident Involvement & Resources



Photo: Snohomish Conservation District

Help keep our water clean by effectively managing feces and manure to minimize fecal coliform bacteria reaching rivers and the Puget Sound. Your actions can help your family, pets, livestock, and neighbors stay healthy.

For more information, visit:
www.snohomishcountywa.gov/LowerStillyPIC.

Livestock and Horse Owners

The fertile soil of the Stillaguamish River valley provides lush pastures for cows, horses, and other livestock. The manure they generate is also a valuable resource that can be recycled back into the ground, returning nutrients to the soil, thereby enriching growth of vegetation. The key is to keep the nutrients and the soil where they belong, and not lose them as runoff into ditches, streams and the river.

Use these livestock “big three” best management practices to protect the land and water, while safeguarding residents’ investments at the same time:

- Install livestock heavy-use areas to keep pasture soils and grass healthy
- Compost or store manure appropriately and apply it at proper agronomic rates
- Fence livestock away from streams and allow grass or native plants to filter surface water before it reaches the stream

Additional resources: Snohomish Conservation District (www.betterground.org) – Tips and videos on livestock related topics including composting, reducing mud, protecting soil and preventing erosion, and growing healthy pastures.

Pet Owners

Pet owners might be surprised to learn that in Snohomish County alone, dogs produce more than 20 tons of fecal waste every day (and remember all the cats and other pets, too)! It may be natural, but at that quantity, if improperly handled, it is simply too much for streams, rivers, and Puget Sound.

So what can pet owners do? It’s simple! At home or out with pets, make sure to scoop the poop, bag it, and place it in the trash.

Additional resources: Puget Sound Starts Here (www.petwaste.surfacewater.info) – Information regarding how and why to scoop your pet’s waste.





Septic System Owners

The wastewater from homes needs to be treated before being released back into the environment. Residents that live in a city with a sewage treatment system flush toilets, send soapy water down the sink drains, and know that the system and its workers will take care of the wastewater. Homeowners with on-site septic systems (OSS) are their own wastewater treatment workers. According to Snohomish Health District records, there are approximately 1,525 septic systems within the Lower Stillaguamish PIC area. Of these, more than 400 are at higher risk of failure due to their age.

Maintaining septic systems and having them inspected regularly to make sure they are functioning properly helps spot and fix small problems before they become big ones.

Additional resources:

- Savvy Septic (www.savvyseptic.org) – Financial assistance and additional resources concerning your septic system.
- Snohomish Health District (www.snohd.org/Septic/Septic-Waste-water) – Septic system inspection and regulation information.



Recreational Users

Boating, fishing, clamming, swimming, and hunting – the Stillaguamish River provides abundant opportunities for recreation. Enjoying the fresh air and sunshine, connecting with friends and family, even bringing food home to the table – these are experiences to treasure. Clean water is key to enjoying these activities as is the outdoor ethic, “leave no trace”. Pack out trash including pet waste.

Additional resources:

- Snohomish County Marine Resources Committee (www.snocomrc.org) – Information on the Port Susan Marine Stewardship Area.
- Washington State Department of Health (www.doh.wa.gov) – Information on shellfish and recreational beach closures.



Streamside Landowners

It is a special privilege to live next to a stream or river - the relaxing trickle and flow of running water; the cool, moist air; birdsongs heard in the streamside trees and shrubs; and the laughter of children discovering frogs and fish. However, streams and rivers sometimes flood and erode, and not all are cool and clean waterways. To help bring back the beauty and function of streams, and protect stream banks and the surrounding land from floods, view the video “Planting Our Way to Healthy Streams” at www.betterground.org/gallery/planting-way-healthy-streams.

Additional resources: Stillaguamish River Clean Water District (cwd.surfacewater.info) – Information on technical and financial assistance concerning surface water on your property.



**Snohomish County
Public Works**

Surface Water Management
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