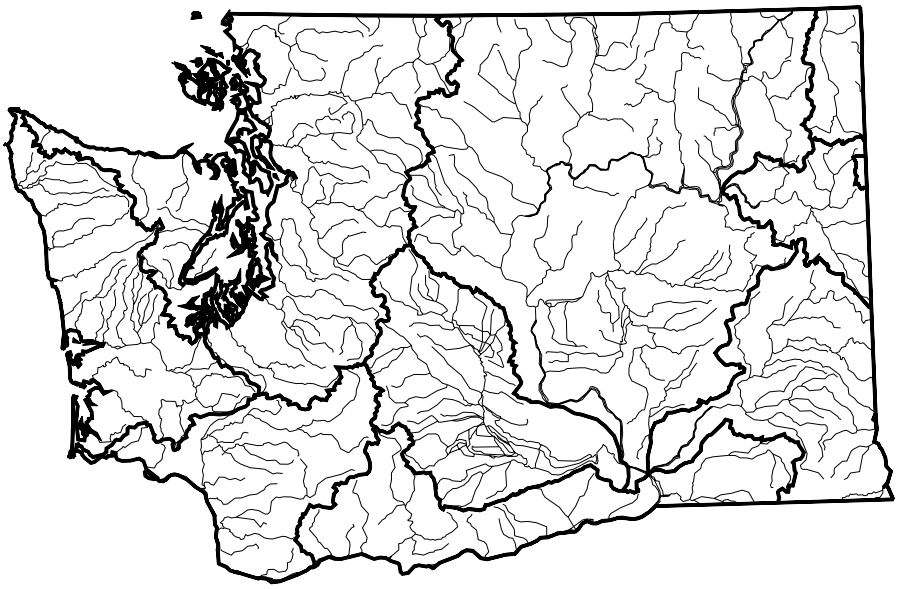
Washington



Basin Boundaries
(USGS 6-Digit Hydrologic Unit)

For a copy of the Washington 1998 305(b) report, contact:

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Surface Water Quality

Washington reports that 63% of their assessed river miles fully support aquatic life uses, 21% partially support these uses, and 16% do not support aquatic life uses. Sixty-five percent of Washington's lakes fully support state-defined "overall" use. Thirty-three percent of the surveyed estuarine waters fully support aquatic life uses, 43% partially support these uses, and 24% do not support aquatic life uses.

Low levels of dissolved oxygen, temperature and fecal coliform bacteria from nonpoint source pollution, and natural conditions are the major causes of impairment of designated uses in estuaries. Agricultural runoff, land disposal, and municipal point sources also cause impairments in estuaries. Major causes of impairment in lakes include nutrients and noxious aquatic plants. Agriculture, nonpoint source pollution, and natural conditions are the predominant sources of impairment in lakes. Other sources include urban runoff, municipal point sources, land disposal, and construction runoff. In rivers and streams, agriculture is the major source of water quality degradation, followed by hydrologic habitat modification, natural sources, and other specific and nonspecific sources. Causes of water quality impairment from these sources include thermal modification, pathogen indicators, pH, and low dissolved oxygen.

Washington did not report on the condition of wetlands.

Ground Water Quality

Washington reports ground water contamination by metals, trace elements, nitrates, pesticides, petroleum, and synthetic organic chemicals. Sources include industrial activities, agriculture, municipal wastewaters, mining, and onsite sewage systems.

Programs to Restore Water Quality

Washington provides financial incentives to encourage compliance with permit requirements, the principal vehicle for regulating point source discharges. The state also has extensive experience developing, funding, and implementing nonpoint source pollution prevention and control programs since the early 1970s. The state has developed nonpoint source control plans with best management practices for forest practices, dairy waste, irrigated agriculture, dryland agriculture, and urban stormwater. The state is now focusing attention on watershed planning. The watershed approach is designed to synchronize water quality monitoring, inspections, permitting, nonpoint activities, and funding.

Programs to Assess Water Quality

Washington implements an aggressive program to monitor the quality of lakes, estuaries, and rivers and streams. The program makes use of fixed-station monitoring to track spatial and temporal water quality changes so as to ascertain the effectiveness of various water quality programs and be able to identify desirable adjustments to the programs.

Individual Use Support in Washington

Designated Use[a]	Total Miles Assessed	Percent Good (Fully Supporting)	Good (Threatened)	Fair (Partially Supporting)	Poor (Not Supporting)	Not Attainable
Rivers and Streams (Total Miles = 70,439)[b]						
	69,317	63	-	21	16	-
	59,039	67	-	<1	33	-
	69,317	57	-	14	29	-
Estuaries (Total Square Miles = 2,904)						
	2,304	33	-	43	24	-
	-	-	-	-	-	-
	444	64	-	19	17	0
	2,904	99	-	<1	1	-

Summary of Use Support[c] in Washington

	Total Acres Assessed	Percent Good (Fully Supporting)	Good (Threatened)	Impaired (For One or More Uses)
Lakes (Total Acres = 466,296)				
	248,683	65	0	35

Note: Figures may not add to 100% due to rounding.

– Not reported in a quantifiable format or unknown.

[a] A subset of Washington's designated uses appear in this figure. Refer to the state's 305(b) report for a full description of the state's uses.

[b] Includes nonperennial streams that dry up and do not flow all year.

[c] A summary of use support data is presented because Washington did not report individual use support for lakes in their 1998 Section 305(b) report.