RECOMMENDATIONS AND CONCLUSION

This report concludes with seven recommendations that will assist King County staff in the characterization of water quality conditions of these, and other, King County streams and a focus for enacting the recommendations.

List of Recommendations

1. Bacteria source identification and control studies should be conducted at sites with chronically high bacteria counts.

2. Geographically explicit mapping of current land cover should be done for each stream drainage area, and a model developed to project geographically explicit future land cover.

3. Habitat assessments and inventories should be prioritized and coordinated with other groups such as WRIA technical teams and Adopt-A-Stream Foundation.

4. Benthic invertebrate monitoring should be continued at all routine monitoring sites. Comparison of current with previous benthos studies could illustrate any degradation that may have taken place over time.

5. Water quality trends should be incorporated into regional climatic studies to examine rainfall and temperature cycles since 1970 and evaluate potential future impacts of possible climate change.

6. The current, or an improved, monitoring regime should continue in order to track long-term changes and trends in water quality.

7. Monitoring efforts should be coordinated with Snohomish County for a comprehensive look at tributaries that cross the county line. (i.e., North, Swamp, etc.). This could include the use of similar methodologies, coordinated timing of data collection, as well as shared data for analysis and reporting.

Conclusion

Preservation of high-quality stream systems through the use of land use controls, riparian buffers, and protection of critical habitat should be a priority, but the correction of water quantity and

quality problems in the urban streams is also a priority. Enhancement and mitigation efforts should be focused on watersheds where ecological function is impaired but not entirely lost.