

SCIENCE SECTION SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETES MAJOR FEDERAL RESEARCH GRANTS

The Science Section provides data and analysis to assist in environmental management, and while most of our work focuses on King County, we often do grant-funded research work that benefits not just King County residents, but the entire region. In 2010 and 2011, the Science Section successfully competed for over \$5 million of grant funding sponsored by the federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) under the National Estuary Program. Over the past five years, the Science Section worked with multiple regional partners to complete the following six projects:

- Modeling the stormwater infrastructure needed to improve water quality and flow in the Green-Duwamish watershed, and for all of Puget Sound.
- Identifying sources of PCBs found in Lake Washington fish and developing strategies for reducing contaminant levels so that fish there are safe to eat.
- Evaluating how human activities affect nitrogen inputs and low dissolved oxygen in Quatermaster Harbor on Vashon Island, so that water quality can be improved.
- Developing better tools for using stream insects to report stream health, and increasing regional collaboration and consistent use of these tools.
- Applying an experimental design to nine rural watersheds to assess the effectiveness of King County's land use regulations.
- Assessing small stream habitat conditions in the Lake Washington/Cedar/Sammamish Watershed to inform salmon recovery efforts.

Each of these multi-year projects was successful in generating valuable information that will benefit the entire Puget Sound region. The results are already being used to advance local and state programs, plans and policies that promote salmon recovery, toxic reduction, stream health, and water quality. More details about these and other projects can be found at www.kingcounty.gov/depts/dnrp/wlr/sections-programs/science-section/doing-science.aspx.

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