

Chapter 8 Goals and Policies

8.1 INTRODUCTION

The goals and policies in this chapter are intended to provide clear and consistent direction for developing and implementing a Surface Water Management Program that will protect and restore Jefferson County's surface water resources. They are based on the analysis of Jefferson County's existing and projected surface water conditions presented in Chapter 2, the discussion of surface water management issues in Chapter 3, the regulatory context described in Chapter 5, and the program components discussed in Chapter 6.

These goals and policies are based on existing goals and policies in the Jefferson County Comprehensive Plan that protect surface water resources.

They are also consistent with the recognition that Jefferson County's surface water resources are generally healthy. They emphasize protecting surface water resources through public education and technical assistance, rather than construction of capital facilities or adoption of additional regulations.

8.2 SURFACE WATER MANAGEMENT GOALS AND POLICIES

Overall Surface Water Management Goal:

Maintain the high quality of Jefferson County's surface water resources and restore degraded resources.

Discussion: This expresses the overall goal of the Jefferson County Surface Water Management Program. It is also one of the primary goals of the Puget Sound Water Quality Management Plan.

Goal 1 Surface Water Management Program Development:

Develop and implement a Surface Water Management Program that is appropriate for Jefferson County.

Policy 1.1: Develop and implement a Surface Water Management Program consistent with the guidance of the Puget Sound Water Quality Management Plan, the Jefferson County Comprehensive Plan, and this Surface Water Management Plan.

Discussion: The Puget Sound Water Quality Management Plan and the Jefferson County Comprehensive Plan provide guidance and a general framework for managing the County's surface water resources. This Surface Water Management Plan provides specific recommendations for developing a Jefferson County Surface Water Management Program.

Policy 1.2: Support partnerships and coordination among County departments and with other agencies and community groups to achieve program objectives.

Discussion: Several County departments, local agencies including the Jefferson County Conservation District and Washington State University Cooperative Extension, and community groups currently conduct surface water management activities. These groups have expertise, commitment, local knowledge, and support in the community. The Surface Water Management Program should support their activities, rather than replacing them. The SWM Program can

increase effectiveness by coordinating the activities of these groups and developing partnerships among them.

Policy 1.3: Emphasize non-regulatory approaches to surface water management, including public education, technical assistance, and support for low impact development.

Discussion: Jefferson County’s Comprehensive Plan and Unified Development Code provide the long-range planning framework and development regulations that are essential to protect the County’s surface water resources. This policy recognizes that citizens who are knowledgeable about surface water management issues and aware of the impacts that their activities can have on surface water resources can take actions in their daily lives to protect surface water resources.

**Goal 2 Strategic Planning:
Develop a Surface Water Management Program 5-Year Strategic Plan.**

Policy 2.1: Develop, implement, and regularly update a Surface Water Management Program 5-Year Strategic Plan that establishes program priorities, activities, objectives, and schedules.

Discussion: A Strategic Plan is a detailed plan that establishes program priorities, activities, objectives, and schedules. It is used to prepare an annual program budget.

**Goal 3 Surface Water Management Program Funding:
Develop stable and equitable revenue sources to fund Jefferson County’s Surface Water Management Program and reduce the reliance on Current Expense Fund revenue.**

Policy 3.1: Implement appropriate revenue sources for funding surface water management activities.

Policy 3.2: Conduct a detailed stormwater control fee analysis that includes determining the number of developed residential parcels and the appropriate Equivalent Residential Unit (ERU) of impervious surface and the number of ERUs of impervious surface areas on non-residential parcels and roads.

Policy 3.3: Confer with the Jefferson County Conservation District regarding levying a conservation assessment to fund District activities.

Discussion: Existing County revenues are not adequate to fund a Surface Water Management Program. State law provides options for funding surface water management program activities. These include assessing a stormwater control fee and a conservation assessment. In order to consider whether to collect a stormwater control fee, Jefferson County would first need to conduct a detailed analysis of the impervious surface associated with residential, commercial, industrial, and multi-family development and roads development. The Conservation District would need to request authorization from the County Commissioners to collect a conservation assessment

**Goal 4 Public Education and Technical Assistance:
Increase the public’s knowledge about surface water management issues and provide technical assistance to landowners.**

Policy 4.1: Develop and implement a public education component of the Jefferson County Surface Water Management Program.

Policy 4.2: Provide technical assistance to landowners that will enable them to use their property while protecting and enhancing surface water resources.

Policy 4.3: Support the implementation of Agriculture and Fish & Wildlife Habitat Protection Plans by the Jefferson County Conservation District.

Policy 4.4: Support existing surface water education and technical assistance programs conducted by Jefferson County – WSU Cooperative Extension, Jefferson County Conservation District, other agencies and community groups.

Discussion: Conducting public education and technical assistance activities can significantly enhance surface water management program effectiveness and would be a more effective approach in Jefferson County than reliance on regulatory activities. The most effective approach is to support existing programs conducted by WSU Extension and the Conservation District, rather than develop new programs run by Jefferson County.

Goal 5 Stormwater Management Facility Operation and Maintenance:
Ensure that private stormwater management facilities continue to function as intended.

Policy 5.1: Develop and implement a Stormwater Management Facility Inspection and Maintenance Program.

Policy 5.2: Maintain an inventory of public and private stormwater management facilities located in Jefferson County.

Discussion: Inspecting and maintaining stormwater management facilities are key elements of protecting surface water resources. Jefferson County requires developers to enter into an agreement with the County to maintain their stormwater management facilities. However, there is not currently a program to inspect facilities to ensure appropriate operation, maintenance, and repair. Jefferson County has developed an inventory of stormwater management facilities. This needs to be updated as new facilities are constructed.

Goal 6 Public Involvement and Participation:
Involve a wide variety of County citizens in surface water management activities.

Policy 6.1: Provide opportunities for a wide variety of County citizens to be involved in surface water management activities, including public education programs, working as volunteers, assisting in program coordination, or participating in monitoring activities.

Discussion: Involving citizens in a Surface Water Management Program increases their knowledge, utilizes their skills and commitment, and builds support for the Program in the community.

Goal 7 Port Hadlock Urban Growth Area:

Ensure that the development of the Port Hadlock Urban Growth Area does not degrade surface water and groundwater resources.

Policy 7.1: Implement the Port Hadlock Urban Growth Area Stormwater Management Plan.

Policy 7.2: Maintain the health of Chimacum Creek’s aquatic ecosystems in the Port Hadlock UGA through appropriate land use designations and development regulations, stormwater management facilities, conservation easements and fee simple property acquisition, and buffer enhancement projects.

Policy 7.3: Implement an urban stormwater management program in the Port Hadlock Urban Growth Area that provides adequate stormwater management facilities and programs.

Policy 7.4: Designate adequate revenue sources to fund UGA stormwater management facilities and programs.

Discussion: The Port Hadlock Urban Growth Area Stormwater Management Plan indicated that the UGA could be developed without significant impacts to surface water and groundwater resources if appropriate policies are implemented and adequate facilities and programs are provided. Implementing the UGA Stormwater Management Plan will require implementing additional revenue sources.

Goal 8 Construction Site Runoff and Erosion Control:

Achieve compliance with construction site stormwater management requirements.

Policy 8.1: Provide training in erosion and sedimentation control for County employees to enable them to conduct plan reviews and site inspections and ensure compliance with construction site stormwater management requirements.

Policy 8.2: Provide information regarding erosion and sedimentation control to contractors and their employees and assist them to obtain training in order to ensure compliance with construction site stormwater management requirements

Discussion: Jefferson County already addresses Construction Site Runoff and Erosion Control through its Unified Development Code requirements. The County has adopted the standards of the Ecology *Stormwater Management Manual*. Adequate training of County employees and providing assistance to contractors is necessary in order to ensure the successful implementation of these requirements.

Goal 9 Low impact development:

Encourage Low Impact Development design practices to detain and infiltrate stormwater on-site.

Policy 9.1: Provide information regarding Low Impact Development to developers, contractors, and the general public.

Policy 9.2: Conduct pilot projects that incorporate LID techniques into the development and redevelopment of County facilities.

Discussion: Low Impact Development offers innovative approaches to stormwater management that do not rely on the conventional structural methods to control and treat runoff, but rather integrate stormwater management throughout the developed landscape. Jefferson County should take the lead in using LID techniques as a way to demonstrate their usefulness to private developers.

**Goal 10 Forest Cover:
Maintain 65% forest cover in rural watersheds.**

Policy 10.1: Implement a public education and technical assistance program that informs landowners about the importance of forest cover and assists them in maintaining forest cover on their property.

Policy 10.2: Monitor the percentage of forest cover in County watersheds at regular intervals corresponding to Comprehensive Plan updates.

Policy 10.3: Analyze potential surface water impacts when considering Comprehensive Plan land use redesignations or revised densities that would result in reduced forest cover.

Policy 10.4: Give appropriate incentives for planned rural residential developments (PRRD) that provide permanent mechanisms to maintain 65% forest cover.

Discussion: Recent research indicates that healthy surface water conditions are found in watersheds where forest cover is greater than 65%. Jefferson County should use a combination of existing Comprehensive Plan land use designations and Unified Development Code standards along with public education and technical assistance to maintain forest cover. In order to ensure that this goal is achieved, there should be periodic monitoring of forest cover in County watersheds.

**Goal 11 Monitoring and Adaptive Management:
Use adaptive management to ensure that Surface Water Management Program policies and activities achieve the intended affect.**

Policy 11.1: Monitor water quality, forest cover, impervious surface, and, enhancement project effectiveness and conduct stream gauging to measure changes in surface water conditions.

Policy 11.2: Use information gathered from monitoring activities to adjust Surface Water Management Program policies, strategies, and activities to achieve Program goals.

Discussion: Adaptive management uses the results of monitoring activities to determine if Program activities are achieving the intended effect. If they are not, then appropriate changes can be promptly implemented.

**Goal 12 Flood Hazard Management:
Develop and implement a Flood Hazard Management Program as a component of the Jefferson County Surface Water Management Program.**

Policy 12.1: Prepare and implement Flood Hazard Management Plans for areas with significant threats to life and property or damage to aquatic habitat from flood events.

Policy 12.2: Involve citizens, governmental agencies, and tribes in developing and implementing Flood Hazard Management Plans.

Policy 12.3: Mitigate flood hazards through property acquisitions, removing structures in the floodway and floodplain, and increasing floodway and floodplain capacity.

Policy 12.4: Develop a stable and equitable revenue source to fund the flood hazard mitigation activities.

Policy 12.5: Enable owners of floodplain property to qualify for lower flood insurance premiums by participating in the National Flood Insurance Program Community Rating System.

Discussion: Flooding on several Jefferson County watersheds poses a threat to life, property, and aquatic resources. Jefferson County has development regulations that address flood hazard areas. It has also developed a Comprehensive Flood Management Plan for the Big Quilcene River and has conducted flood hazard projects there. However, the County does not have a Flood Hazard Management Program and has not developed Flood Hazard Management Plans for other watersheds, including the Dosewallips and Duckabush Rivers. These activities should be a component of the Surface Water Management Program.

Policy 12.6: Work with the Washington State Departments of Ecology, Fish and Wildlife, and Transportation and Federal agencies including the National Park Service, National Forest Service and Federal Highway Administration to relocate County Roads in west Jefferson County out of riparian corridors.

Discussion: Flooding on West End rivers threatens County Roads that provide important access to State and private forestland and to the Olympic National Forest and Park. In order to protect these roads, the Public Works Department has conducted extensive bank armoring. This is expensive and impacts fish habitat. The County should work with State and Federal agencies to identify and implement alternative routes.

Goal 13 Pollution Prevention and Good Housekeeping for County Operations: Protect surface water and groundwater resources from impacts related to County operations.

Policy 13.1: Periodically review operations by County departments to ensure that current standards, practices, and technologies are employed.

Discussion: Jefferson County has taken significant steps to ensure that its operations do not degrade surface water resources. This goal acknowledges these activities and commits the County to continuing them.

Goal 14 Watershed Planning:

Continue Jefferson County's involvement in the watershed planning process.

Policy 14.1: Participate in developing watershed management plans for Water Resource Inventory Areas 16 Skokomish – Dosewallips, 20 SolDuc – Hoh, and 21 Queets – Quinault.

Policy 14.2: Implement the recommendations of adopted watershed management plans.

Policy 14.3: Develop and implement a comprehensive water management strategy that protects fish populations and ensures an adequate water supply for human uses, including rural domestic use and agriculture.

Discussion: Jefferson County was the lead entity in watershed planning for WRIA 17 Quilcene – Snow and has adopted the WRIA 17 Watershed Management Plan. Jefferson County is also participating in watershed planning for the other WRIAs in the County. This goal commits the County to continuing its participation in developing watershed management plans and implementing the recommendations of adopted plans. It also recognizes that additional work remains to be done to protect fish populations and ensure an adequate water supply for human use.