

Welcome!

Septic Plan Open House Schedule

6:30 – 6:50 Open House – Visit Stations

6:50 – 7:30 Presentation

7:30 – 8:00 Written questions answered

8:00 THANK YOU!

You are welcome to stay and get any further questions individually answered.

Welcome!

Septic Plan Open House Schedule

9:30 – 9:50 Open House – Visit Stations

9:50 – 10:30 Presentation

10:30 – 11:00 Written questions answered

11:00 THANK YOU!

You are welcome to stay and get any further questions individually answered.



Septic System Management Plan

**Protecting Public Health,
Water Quality
and Your Investment**

The Challenge

Nearly 53,000 septic systems in Thurston County treat almost 13,000,000 gallons of sewage per day. That's more than the sewage treatment plant that serves Olympia, Lacey and Tumwater.

Failing and improperly functioning on-site sewage systems contaminate surface and ground water, leading to:

- disease
- shellfish downgrades
- beach closures
- contaminated wells
- low dissolved oxygen levels in marine waters
- algae blooms



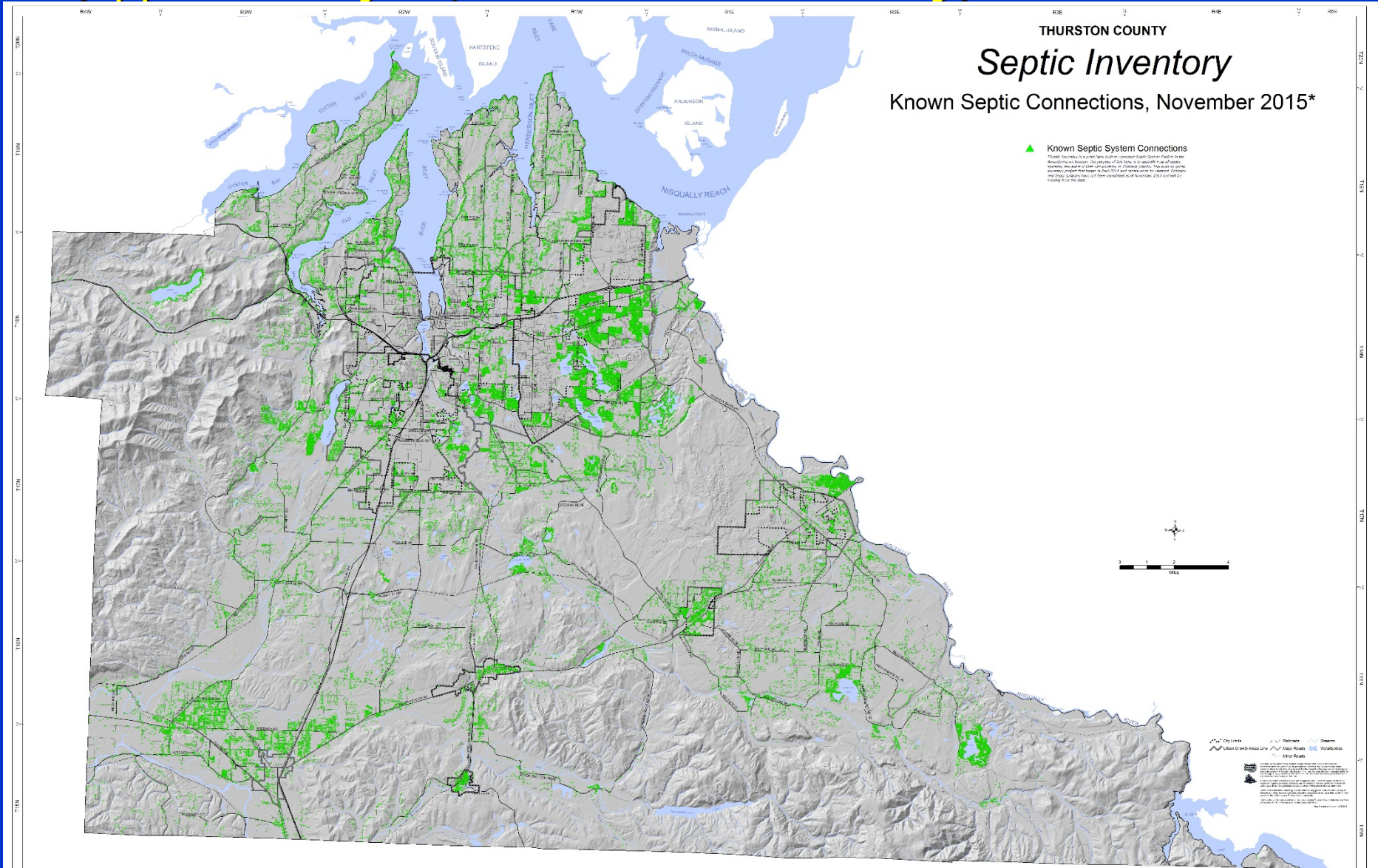
The Challenge

What should we do to:

- Help ensure septic systems are properly monitored and maintained?
- Identify failing systems and ensure they are promptly repaired?

Septic System Locations

(approximately 52,560 in Thurston County)

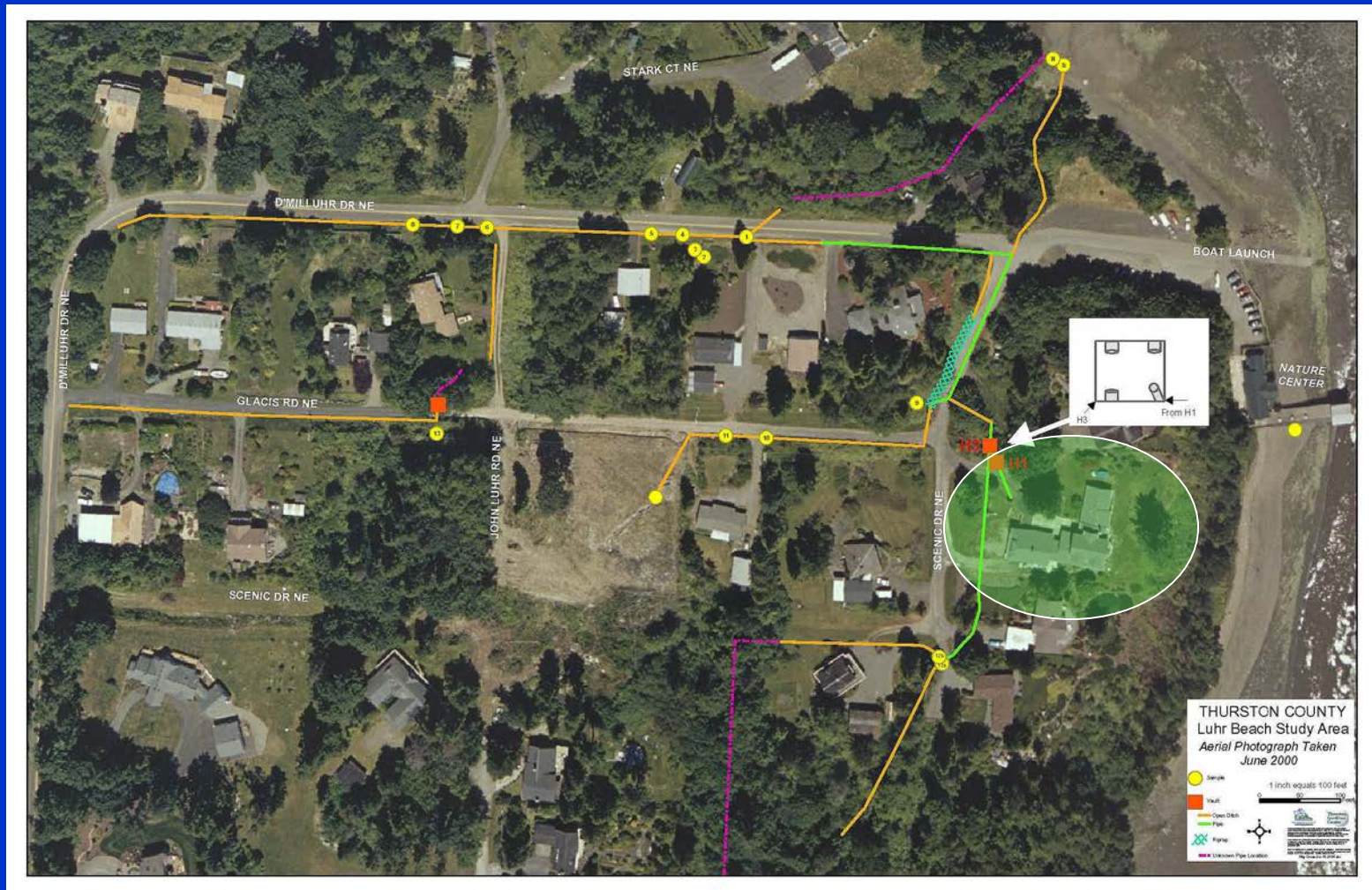




Public Health Impacts

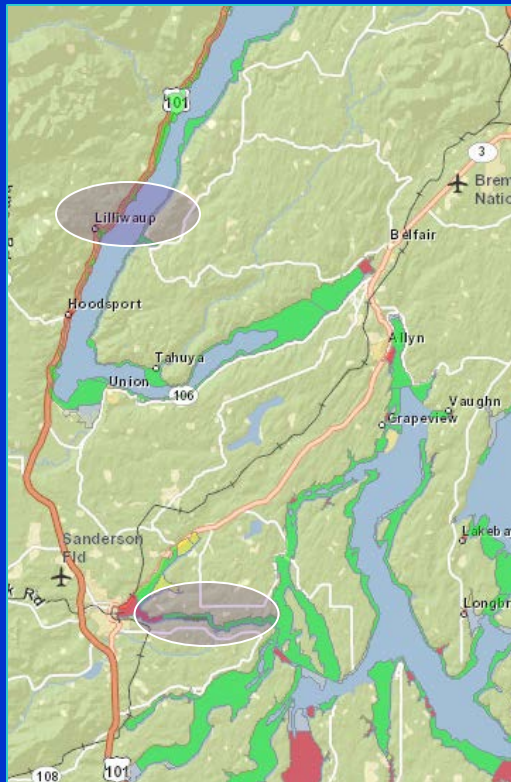
**Surfacing sewage
can spread disease**

Example of Impact One Failing Septic Can Have



Drainage systems carry water, and pollution, to creeks and the Sound. Failing septic from one home (shaded green) closed shellfish area for two years.

3 Norovirus Outbreaks Caused by Failing Septics



- ❖ November 2014
- ❖ February 2015
- ❖ March 2015

Food Poisoning Bulletin

Home About Contact Need a Lawyer? Food Safety Recalls Outbreaks News Search this website. Search

Washington Shellfish Recalled After Norovirus Outbreak

December 13, 2014 by Linda Larsen

According to the Interstate Shellfish Sanitation Council (ISSC), health officials have confirmed that norovirus has been found in shellfish harvested from Hammersley Inlet in Mason County, Washington. Since only 10% of the attendees to an ill employee could have transmission could have occurred.

latest+news

Garcia Foods Pork Products Recalled for Undeclared Peanuts

News Release

For immediate release: December 11, 2014 (14-181)

Contact: Kelly Stang, Communications Office 360-236-4022
Margie Allen, Communications Office 360-236-4072

Shellfish contamination in Mason County prompts closure and multi-state recall

At least a dozen people ill after eating raw oysters from Hammersley Inlet

OLYMPIA — State health officials issued an emergency closure for harvesting and ordered a recall for all shellfish originating from a portion of Mason County's Hammersley Inlet after several people who ate raw oysters became ill.

At least a dozen people who ate raw oysters in November became ill with symptoms often linked to **norovirus**, a common stomach virus that spreads easily through contaminated food or surfaces and person-to-person contact. Laboratory tests confirmed norovirus in two cases.

The Department of Health used its shellfish tracking system, which tags all commercially harvested shellfish with harvest locations and dates, to investigate the situation. Agency staff visited several shellfish harvest sites and took shellfish samples, one of which later tested

Raw is risky: 12 sick from Norovirus linked to oysters, prompting shellfish harvest closure and recall

JoNel Aleccia of the *Seattle Times* writes that Washington state health officials have ordered an emergency harvest closure and a multistate recall of all shellfish from a portion of Mason County's Hammersley Inlet after at least a dozen people who ate raw oysters became ill.

Norovirus is suspected in the illnesses reported last month; laboratory tests confirmed the infection in two people, health officials said.

The recall announced Thursday includes nearly 4,000 dozen oysters and nearly 3,000 pounds of Manila clams from the area processed from Nov. 10 to Dec. 5.



The Seattle Times
Winner of Nine Pulitzer Prizes

Local News

Home News Business & Tech Sports Entertainment Food Living

Originally published Thursday, December 11, 2014 at 8:37 PM

Raw oysters sicken 12, prompt shellfish harvest closure and recall

A dozen people suffered suspected or confirmed norovirus after eating raw oysters harvested from Hammersley Inlet in Mason County.

By JoNel Aleccia
Seattle Times health reporter

Washington state health officials have ordered an emergency harvest closure and a multistate recall of all shellfish from a portion of Mason County's

READER COMMENTS

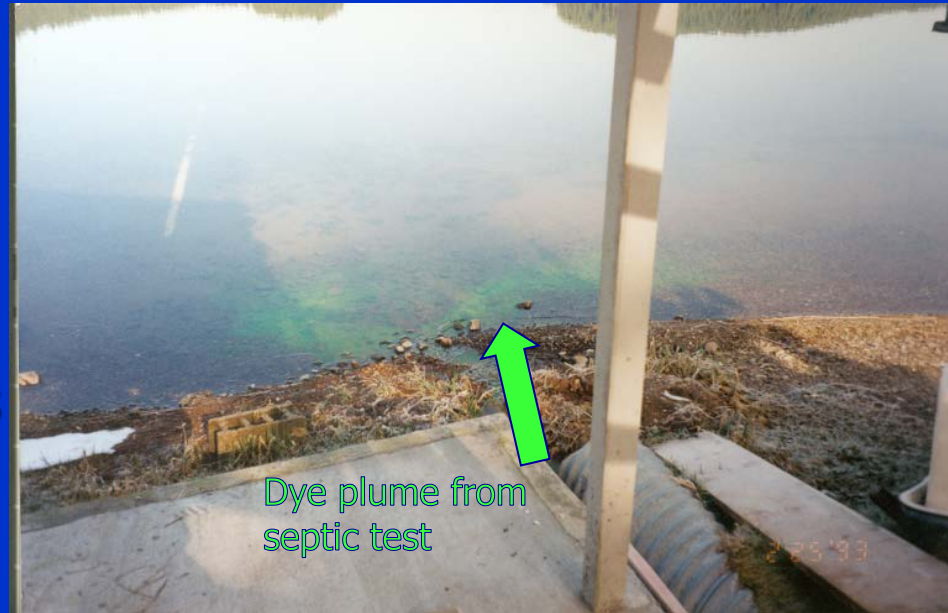
Drinking Water Lakes



Lake St. Clair & Summit Lake

Summit Lake

- Drinking water source
- 1992-1997 Sanitary Survey
 - 330 of 357 septic systems evaluated
 - 17% Failures (57/330)
 - 11% Suspect (36/330)
- 2015 Conditions???
- a systematic evaluation of the septic systems surrounding the lake has not been done in over fifteen years



Failing Septic found in 1993

Water Recreation Impacts

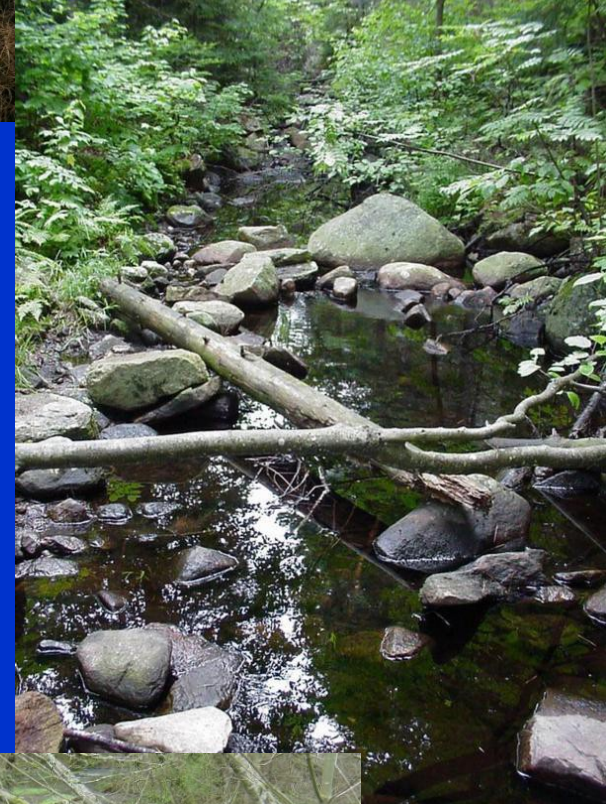
Puget Sound



Red-brown bloom, jellyfish, and sediment-rich river plume with internal waves at its fringes.

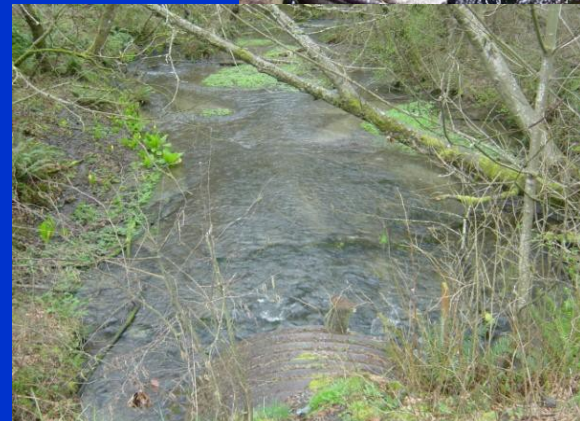
Location: Snyder Cove, Eld Inlet (South Sound), 10:26 AM.

Thurston County Rivers



State Water Quality Violations

90 countywide for fecal coliform
and nutrient-related listings





Local Lakes

2015 Thurston County Blue-Green Toxin Advisories

- Deep Lake
- Long Lake
- Lake Lawrence
- Pattison Lake
- Scott Lake
- Black Lake

WARNING

TOXIC ALGAE PRESENT

Lake unsafe for people and pets

Until further notice:

- **Do not swim or water ski.**
No nade o practique el esquí acuático.
- **Do not drink lake water.**
No tome el agua del lago.
- **Keep pets and livestock away.**
Mantenga alejados las mascotas y el ganado.
- **Clean fish well and discard guts.**
Limpie bien el pescado y deseche las tripas.
- **Avoid areas of scum when boating.**
Evite las áreas con espuma o verdín cuando ande en lancha.



Call your doctor or veterinarian if you or your animals have sudden or unexplained sickness or signs of poisoning.

Report new algae blooms to Department of Ecology:

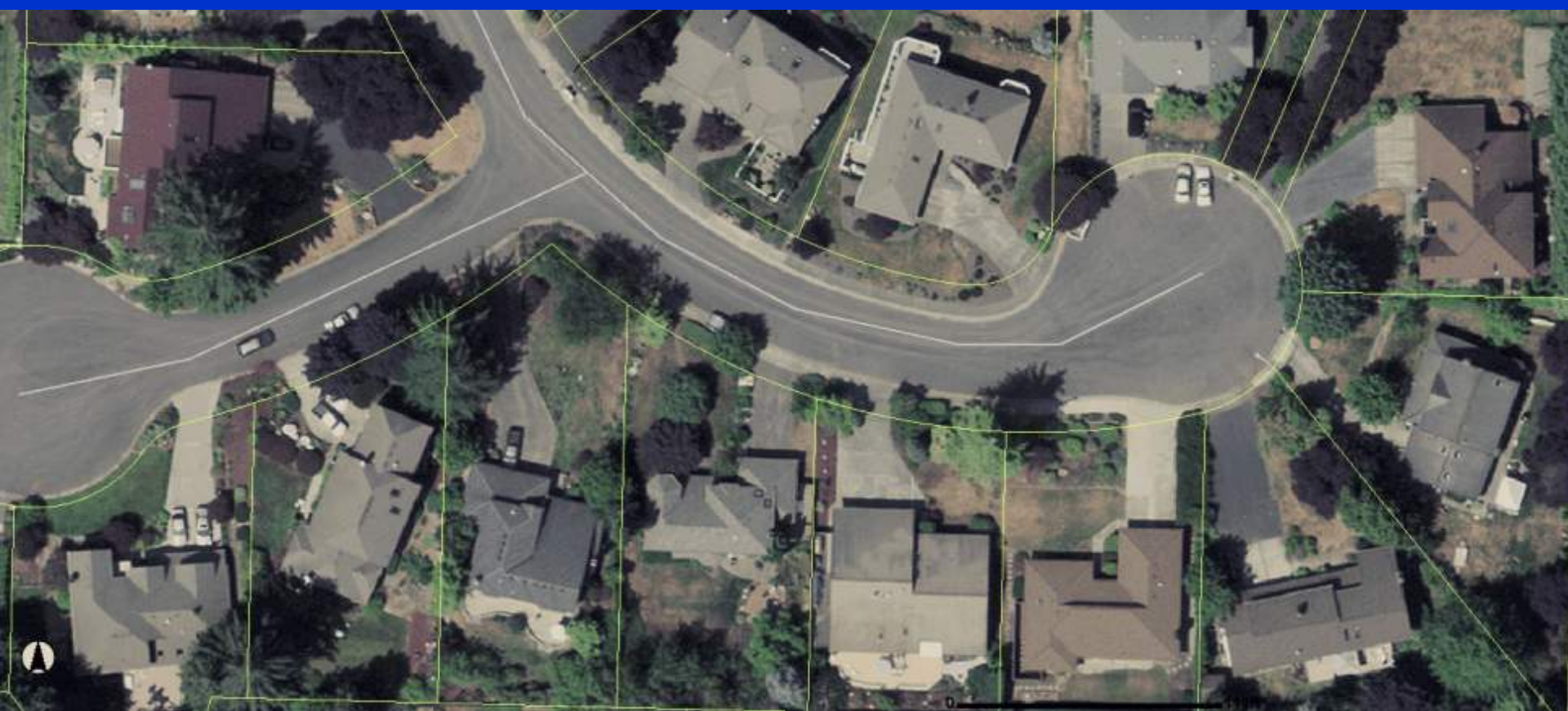
360-407-6000

Call your local health department:

For more information: www.doh.wa.gov/ehp/algae/
www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wq/plants/algae/index.html

Septic systems in high density urban areas are:

- Polluting surface & ground water
- Impacting drinking water supplies
- Contributing to the loss of shellfish harvest & water recreation areas



State law:

RCW 70.118A and WAC 246-272A-0015 require County to:

- Adopt On-Site Sewage Management Plan
- Create Marine Recovery Areas
- Establish a program to find and fix failing septic systems
- Identify & ensure all systems are regularly inspected



2008 Plan

- Adopted January 7, 2008
- Creates Time of Transfer program to inventory systems and find failures
- Requires all pumper reports to be filed
- Identifies Henderson and Nisqually as Marine Recovery Areas
- Performance Measures
- Education recommendations

2014 Advisory Committee

- Diane Utter City of Olympia
- Dennis McVey City of Rainier
- Dan Smith City of Tumwater
- Art Starry Environmental Health
- Lynn Schneider WA Dept of Health
- Joshua Daily Homeowner
- Tris Carlson Henderson/Nisqually Marine
Recovery Areas

Advisory Committee, continued

- Adam Frank Master Builders
- Evan Cusack OSS Monitoring Specialist
- Paul Morneau Septic System Designer
- JR Inman Septic System Pumper
- Gregory Moe Realtors Association
- Roger Max Scatter Creek homeowner
- Mat Buldis Shellfish Industry

Concerns

- Equity & Fairness
 - Septic owners receive different services/service levels
 - Nickel and Dime
- Gaps
 - Larger need for enhanced programs
 - Most don't participate – max of 10,000 OSS evaluated in 2013
- Sustainability
- Staffing and Management – billing, collections and record management
- Fee limitations

What is in the Plan?

Time of Transfer (selling home)

- Current: Pumping and inspection required
- Recommendation: Pumping & inspection
AND require that deficiencies are corrected

Inspection Reminders

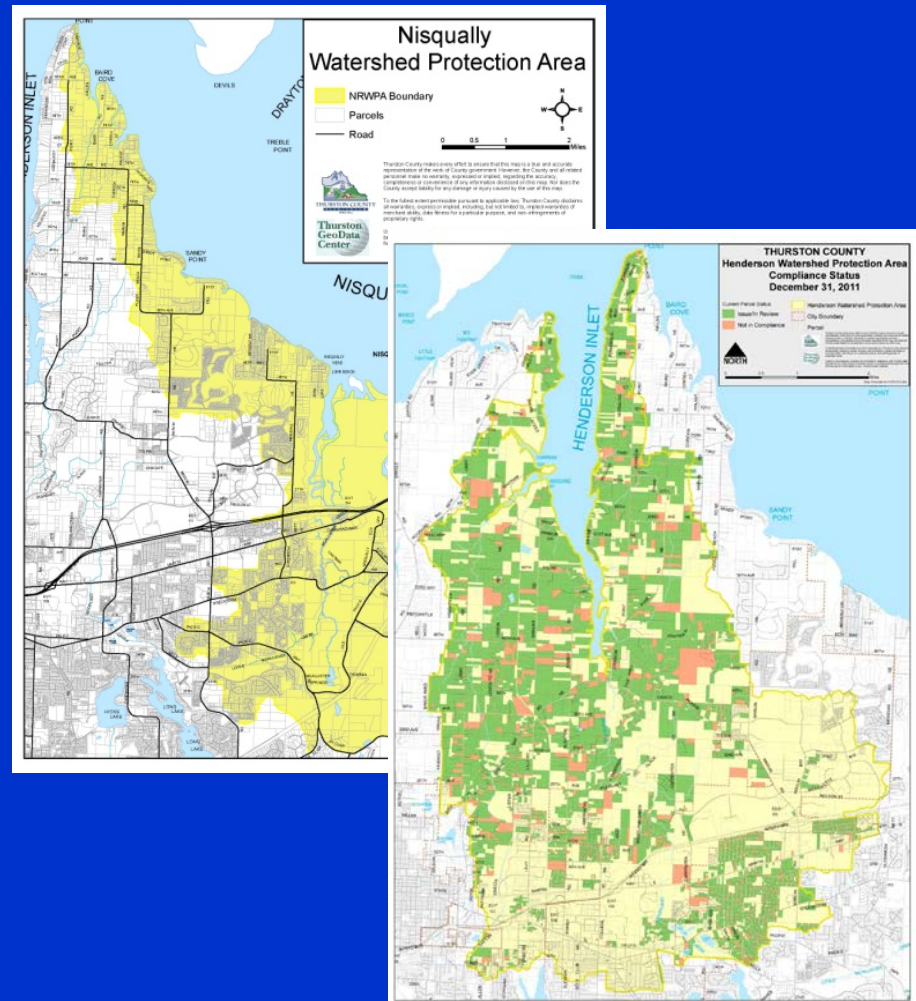
- Current: Septic Systems that require an Operational Certificate get reminders that an inspection is due.
- Recommendation: All systems in the county will get a reminder that an inspection is due.

Henderson and Nisqually – Current Shellfish Protection Districts and MRAs

Shellfish districts established in 2001 to comply with RCW 90.72.045, which requires County to:

- Create district in response to shellfish harvesting area downgrades
- Establish a program to improve water quality

Advisory Committee identified septic systems as significant source of pollution



Marine Recovery Areas, Sensitive Areas

Recommendations:

- Form a Sensitive Areas Workgroup to refine criteria used to identify sensitive areas.
- Conduct water quality investigations to gather needed data.

Marine Recovery Areas, Sensitive Areas

Recommendations:

- Designate Eld Inlet as a Marine Recovery Area
- Designate Summit Lake as a Sensitive Area
- Sensitive areas workgroup evaluate Totten Inlet and Budd/Deschutes Watershed



PROTECT YOUR INVESTMENT

- INSPECT YOUR SEPTIC TANK EACH YEAR**
 - Pump when needed
 - Repair any problems while they are small
- PROTECT THE DRAINFIELD**
 - Keep cars and livestock off
 - Grow grass or other shallow-rooted plants
 - Don't build or pave over the drainfield

LEARN MORE:
Pick up a brochure, visit our website, attend a workshop, or give us a call.



SEPTIC SYSTEM CARE BEGINS WITH YOU

- WHERE IS YOUR SEPTIC SYSTEM?
- HOW DO YOU TAKE CARE OF IT?
- ARE YOU PROTECTING YOUR FAMILY'S HEALTH?
- IS IT COSTING YOU EXTRA MONEY?



LEARN MORE:
Pick up a brochure, visit our website, attend a workshop, or give us a call.



EXTEND THE LIFE OF YOUR SEPTIC SYSTEM

- USE LESS WATER**
 - Excessive water use is a main cause of system failure
 - Avoid more than 2 loads of laundry a day
 - Fix faucet and toilet leaks promptly

LEARN MORE:
Pick up a brochure, visit our website, attend a workshop, or give us a call.



SEPTIC SYSTEM CARE BEGINS WITH YOU

SEPTIC HELP LINE: 360-867-2669






SEPTIC SYSTEM CARE BEGINS WITH YOU

SEPTIC HELP LINE: 360-867-2669







SEPTIC SYSTEM CARE BEGINS WITH YOU

FREE SEPTIC \$ENSE WORKSHOPS

Learn to prolong the life of your septic system

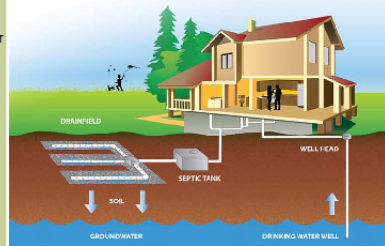
Wed. September 16
7 p.m. – 9 p.m.
Rochester Community Center
(next to ROOF)
10140 Hwy 12 Rochester

Thurs. September 17
7 p.m. – 9 p.m.
Pellegrinos Event Center
5757 Littlerock Rd. SW Tumwater

Wed. September 23
7 p.m. – 9 p.m.
South Bay Fire Station
3506 Shincke Rd. NE Olympia

Thurs. September 24
7 p.m. – 9 p.m.
Thurston County Fairgrounds Expo Center
3054 Carpenter Rd. SE Lacey

- Protect your investment and the environment.
- Learn about loans and grants for septic repairs or replacement.
- Get a \$10 discount on pumping.





REGISTER ONLINE AT:
www.co.thurston.wa.us/health_forms/ehoss/ss_wrkshp.htm
 or by calling Thurston County Environmental Health
 at (360) 867-2673
 TDD line is (360) 867-2603

Reliable
education
through many
'vehicles'



Checks to be sure the program works

Performance Measurements

- Robust quality assurance/quality control
- Water quality improvements
- Develop additional measurements
- Regularly report on program progress & make changes as needed

Renewable Operational Permit

- 80% current inspections
- Approximately 28% of all systems in county

Other septic systems in county

- 22% current inspections
- Approximately 72% of all systems in county

2013-2015

Henderson Watershed Protection Area Program
 Combined Scum + Sludge In Septic Tanks Reported from Inspections
 First Cycle (2007 - 2009) vs. Second Cycle (2010 and 2011)
 48% Boreline pumping vs 23% Boreline pumping

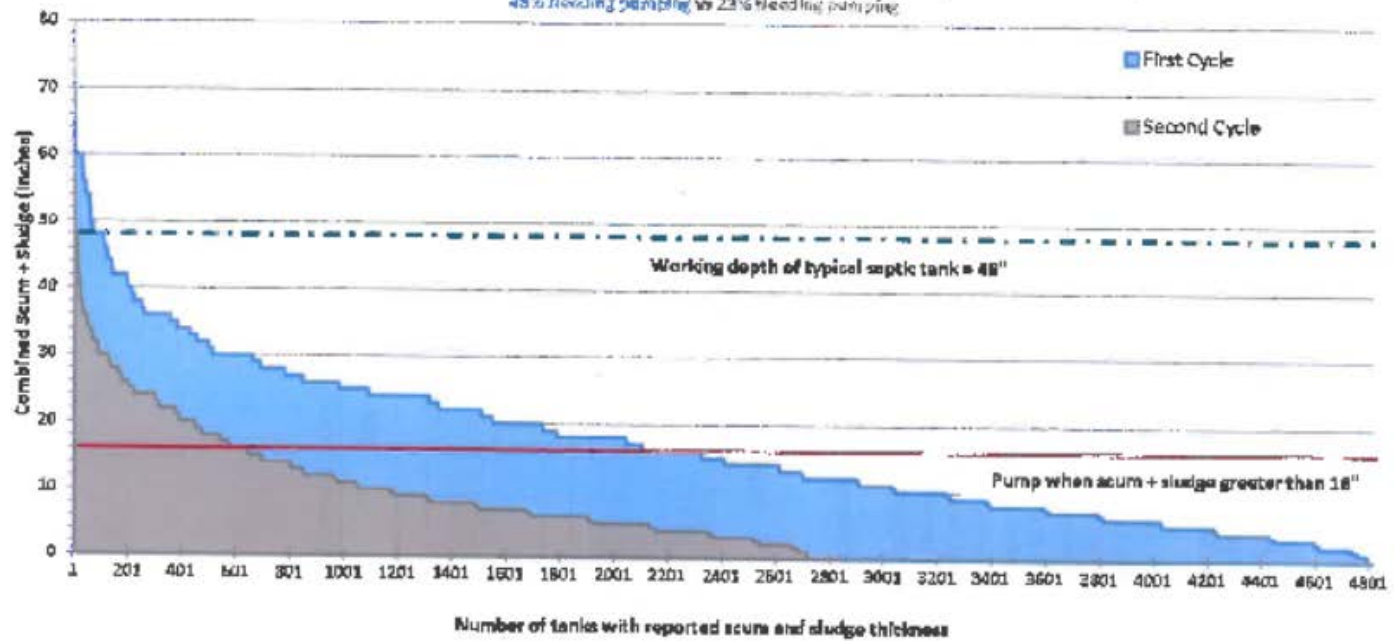
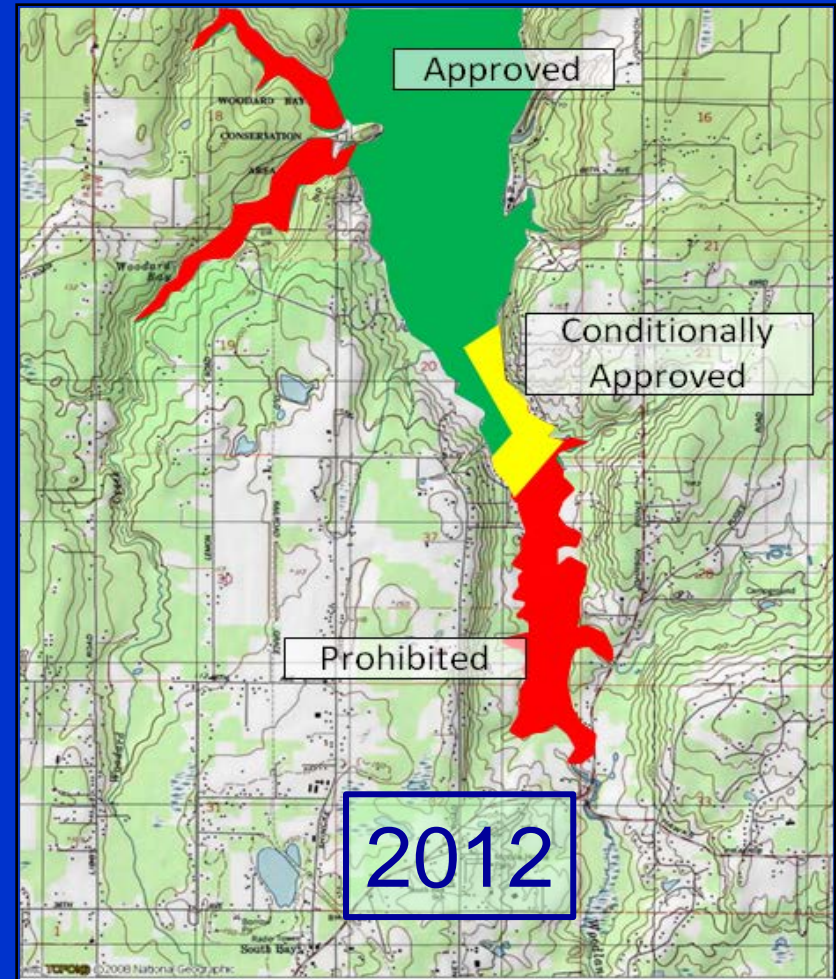
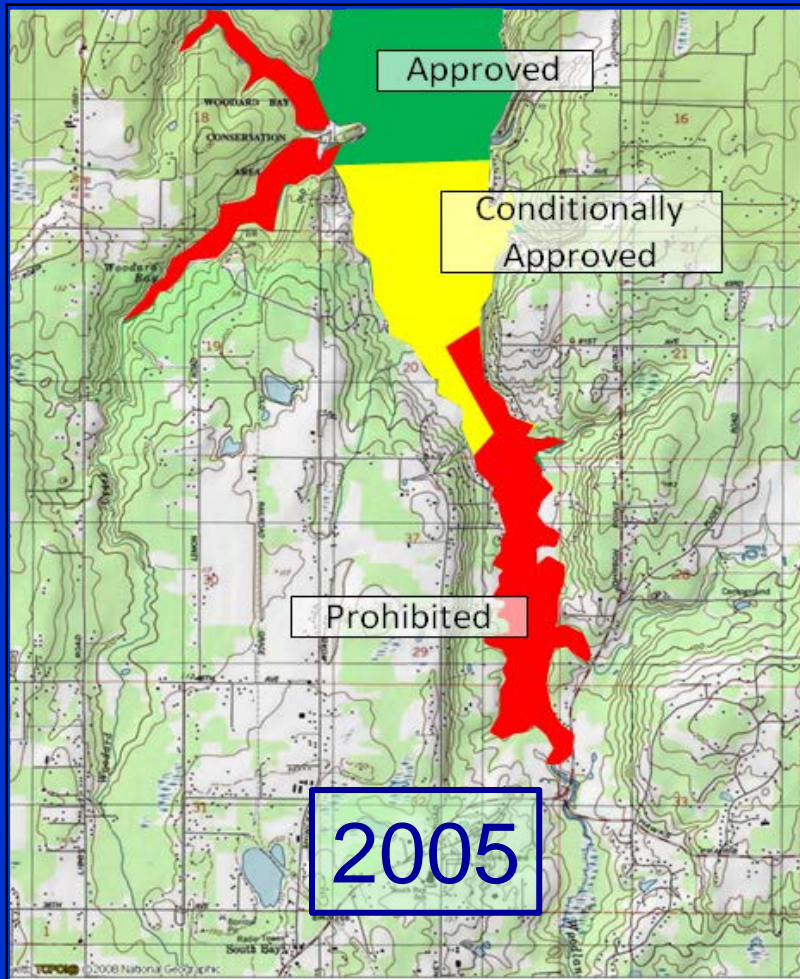


Figure 3. Solids Accumulation in Septic Tanks

Shellfish Harvesting Areas Open Due to Water Quality Improvements



Proposed OSS Charges

New charge would **replace current fees:**

- Operational Certificate (for special areas and complex systems)
- Pump Report
- Time-of-Transfer



Charges Reduced 50% for Senior/Disabled
tax exemption program

Collected via property tax

What would be new

- Countywide Flat-Charge of \$45 per septic system ...
- OR... Tiered structure dependent on location & documented water quality problems
 - \$22 Chehalis watershed
 - \$44 Puget Sound watershed outside special areas
 - \$66 Marine Recovery Area or other special area

Cost Comparisons – 10 years

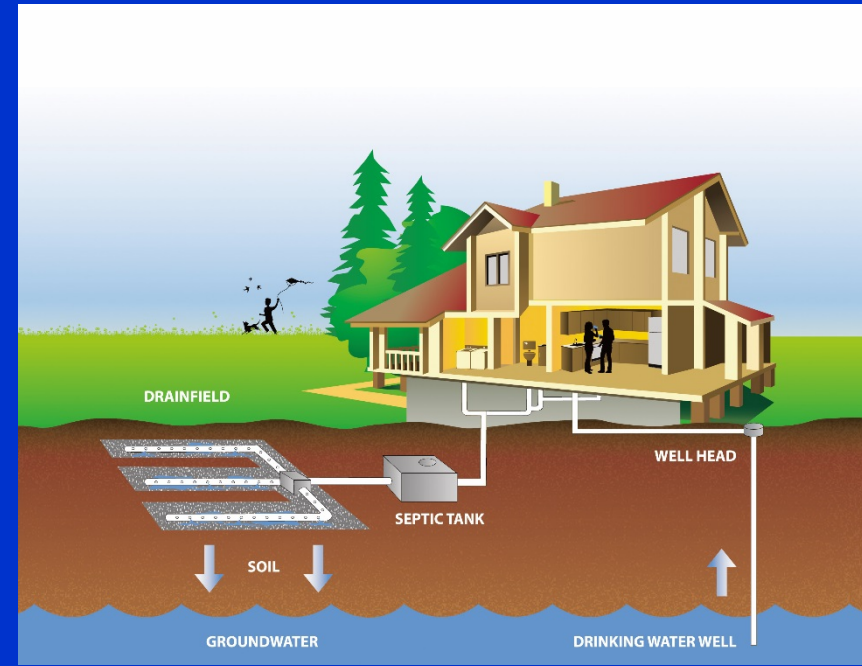
Assumes 1 Time of Transfer in 10 years,
3 Pump Reports in 10 years, and
(if needed) 10 operational certificates

	Current	Flat Rate	Tiered
Nisqually MRA - low risk	\$875	\$450	\$660
Henderson MRA – high risk	\$1,275	\$450	\$660
Operational Certificate – Puget Sound	\$630	\$450	\$440
Operational Certificate – Chehalis	\$630	\$450	\$220
No Operational Certificate – Puget Sound	\$255	\$450	\$440
No Operational Certificate - Chehalis	\$255	\$450	\$220

Summary

- Septic system care is the responsibility of the owner.

- Health Department has responsibility to be sure there is a system in place to:
 - Find & repair failing septic systems
 - Ensure all septic systems are routinely inspected, function properly & are repaired when needed
 - Protect public health from sewage



Questions?

Please write down questions and comments.

All comments will be shared with the Board of Health.

Thanks for coming -
We appreciate your input!

Survey is open until December 15

Jane Mountjoy-Venning 360-867-2643
www.co.thurston.wa.us/health/ehomp