



FEATURED SERVICE: WATER QUALITY SAMPLING

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!



Tributary Sampling in the Lake Whatcom Watershed

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An important service we offer that likely does not get the recognition it deserves is water quality sampling. One reason for this is sampling of the numerous Lake Whatcom tributaries often occurs at night in forested areas during major storm events, out of sight from the general public. Sampling is also performed during daylight hours, such as in baseflow monitoring, where samples are taken from tributaries during dry weather to help quantify background levels of phosphorus, fecal coliform bacteria, turbidity, and other target variables of interest. Sampling that occurs during big storms helps quantify the amounts of these substances carried into surface water bodies by the influx of stormwater. As the source of drinking water for more than 100,000 people, improving the quality of water in Lake Whatcom is a public health issue and mandated by the Washington State Department of Ecology. More information on efforts to improve water quality in the Lake Whatcom watershed is available [here](#).

For tributary and other surface water sampling, the information gathered provides valuable data for consideration by natural resource managers. It helps determine where priority areas are located in terms of the input of select pollutants so that outreach, investigative and mitigation efforts may be appropriately focused. In the case of Lake Whatcom, elevated phosphorus levels cause increased

algal blooms which impair water quality. The degraded water quality affects aquatic life and forces the City of Bellingham and other drinking water system owners to make substantial investments in their infrastructure to address the issue.

We also provide flow monitoring and water quality sampling services for a variety of other purposes and for diverse clients. These include: water and wastewater treatment plant operations; monitoring during construction; environmental compliance monitoring of stormwater, drinking water, groundwater, and surface water; and collecting data for engineering reports and planning documents. We also prepare monitoring programs for a variety of compliance and planning purposes per Ecology or other agency requirements.

Wilson has a core staff whose duties include implementing our sampling programs. They are well acquainted with best practices for sampling protocol and bring many years of experience to the operation. Inquiries relating to water quality sampling services at Wilson Engineering may be directed to Curt Schoenfelder, P.E., at cschoenfelder@wilsonengineering.com.

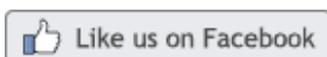


Photo: Anthony Cavender

HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM THE WILSON TEAM

All of us at Wilson Engineering wish you a happy and festive holiday season! It has been a busy year of growth and transition, including expansion of our offices in Bellingham, a few staff changes, attendance at several industry conferences, receiving the 2018 Associate Member of the Year award from Evergreen Rural Water of Washington, and many exciting new projects. We are grateful for the support of our business associates throughout the Pacific Northwest and look forward to continuing to serve our clients well in 2020. May the New Year provide many rewarding opportunities for personal and professional growth to each of you.

STAY CONNECTED



For more information about Wilson Engineering's civil, structural, and survey services, please contact us at 360.733.6100 or info@wilsonengineering.com.

Wilson Engineering has provided innovative and economical solutions to clients throughout the Pacific Northwest since 1967.