

# **Stormwater Assessment and Monitoring Program for Puget Sound**

**Leadership Council Briefing  
July 30, 2010**

**Jim Simmonds, Stormwater Work Group Chair  
Karen Dinicola, Stormwater Work Group Staff**

# Current Situation

- **Monitoring is not providing the information we need to improve stormwater management actions to recover Puget Sound**
  - **Disparate, poorly coordinated programs**
  - **Priorities set by individual programs**
  - **Not transferable to unmonitored locations**
  - **Decisions not made in transparent process**
  - **Expensive**



# Stormwater Work Group

- First topical work group in the coordinated ecosystem monitoring program
- Launched by Monitoring Consortium, funded by Ecology, established Oct. 2008
- Caucus-based committee with broad representation
- June 2010 consensus recommendations to set priorities, assign roles



# **Our Recommendations**

- **New approach with a regional focus**
  - **Scientific basis in adaptive management**
  - **Used an open process to set priorities**
  - **Emphasizes biological endpoints in natural water bodies**
  - **Includes three interdependent categories of monitoring**



# Our Recommendations

## ➤ Priorities for regional stormwater monitoring:

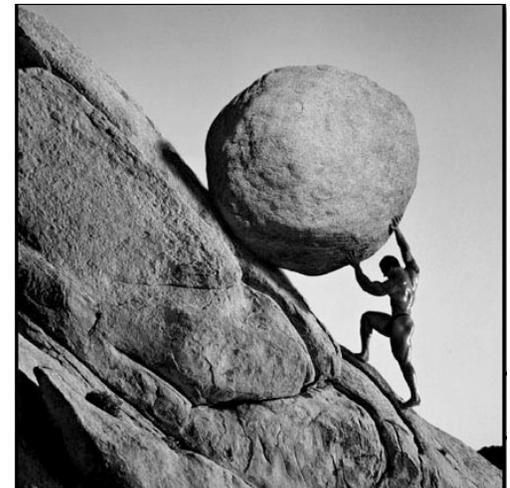
- Understand impacts of stormwater in small streams and nearshore areas
- Evaluate effectiveness of:



- Retrofits and source control to solve problems
- Efforts to protect waters in areas of new development

# Our Recommendations

- **Roles and responsibilities: who does what**
  - **State and federal governments participate by leveraging current programs**
  - **Local governments participate through NPDES permit requirements, pay-in, and conducting monitoring**
  - **Others participate via pay-in, in-kind, and future efforts to bring in additional permittees**



# Our Recommendations

- **Regional administration and coordination of data collection and analysis**
- **Cost-sharing**
  - **Allocations among local, state, federal governments**
  - **Independently administered “pay-in” mechanism**



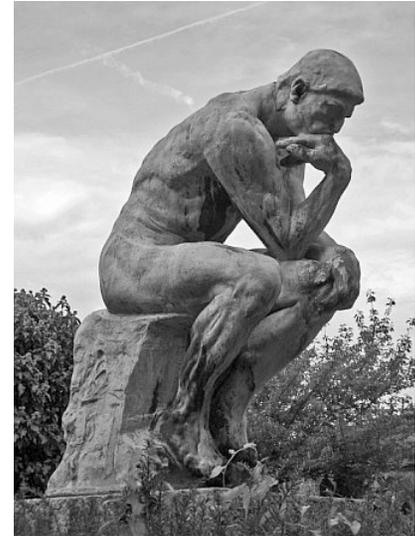
# Cost Concerns

- Sustainability of funding
- Affordability given economic conditions
- Total investment to implement stormwater management programs
- How to fairly allocate costs
- Accountability for pay-in option



# Issues to Ponder

- Institutionalization of link between science and policy
- Public and political support
- Maintaining and expanding cooperation
- Connection to other monitoring efforts
- Fear of data due to possible Clean Water Act liabilities



# Key Next Steps

- **By October 2010:**
  - **Define pay-in option for cost-sharing and set up administrative arrangements**
  - **Refine study designs, cost estimates, and cost allocations**
    - **Clarify roles and responsibilities**
    - **Specific recommendations for reissuing NPDES municipal stormwater permits**
- **Coordinate with other work groups in new ecosystem monitoring program**