

Welcome to the Washington Department of Ecology's online forum (EcoForum). This site offers an opportunity for a free and open exchange of ideas about Ecology's programs and activities, in a climate of mutual respect.

The comments and opinions expressed by users of this site do not necessarily reflect the opinions of Ecology or its employees. All public comments are screened in accordance with this policy.

We encourage robust discussions and sharing of information on this site. We want to retain your comments on our page, but we will delete comments that:

- Contain vulgar, threatening, or harassing language, personal attacks of any kind, or offensive terms that target specific individuals or groups.
- Promote services or products (non-commercial links that are relevant to the blog post or comment may be acceptable).
- Are far off-topic.
- Sexually explicit.
- Make unsupported accusations.
- Promote or oppose any person campaigning for election to a political office or promote or oppose any ballot proposition.

We don't edit comments to remove objectionable content, so please make sure your comments contain none of the above. Only comments that comply with Ecology's policy will be allowed to remain posted. Ecology will attempt to contact you to give you an opportunity to correct the comment so that it complies with our comment posting policy and resubmit it to the forum. A correct email address will allow us to contact you.

We recognize that the Web is a 24/7 medium and your comments are welcome at any time. However, given the need to manage our resources, comment review will generally occur during regular business hours Monday through Friday. Comments submitted after hours or on weekends will be read and moderated as early as possible the next business day.

Those posting comments are fully responsible for everything they submit in their comments, and all posted comments are in the public domain.

To protect your own privacy and the privacy of others, please do not include phone numbers, home addresses, or email addresses in the body of your comment.

Reporters are asked to send questions through their normal channels and to refrain from submitting questions as comments on this site.

Comments made on Ecology's online forum will in no way constitute a legal or official notice or comment to the agency, or any official or employee of Ecology. For example, a post or comment that asks Ecology to provide public records will not be considered a public records request. Likewise, a post or comment related to a proposed agency rule will not be considered as a formal public comment. Comments specific to an Ecology project or

program should be submitted directly to that project or program, or go to (<http://apps.ecy.wa.gov/pubcalendar/calendar.asp>).

When you select a link to an outside website, you are leaving the Ecology online forum and are subject to the privacy and security policies of the owners/sponsors of the outside website. Ecology does not control or guarantee the accuracy, relevance, timeliness, or completeness of information contained on a linked website. Ecology does not endorse the organizations sponsoring linked websites, and does not endorse the views they express or the products or services they offer.

Ecology will not authorize the use of copyrighted materials contained in linked websites. Users must request such authorization from the sponsor of the linked website. Those who provide comments are responsible for the copyright of the text they provide.

This policy is subject to amendment or modification at any time to ensure its continued use is consistent with its intended purpose as a limited forum.

Thank you for taking the time to read this policy. We encourage your participation in our discussion and look forward to an active exchange of ideas.

For more information about Ecology's online forum, contact us at forum@ecy.wa.gov