



Spokane Riverkeeper
Non Point Pollution Report:
Hangman Creek and Peone Creek

Today:

1. Observations of site conditions from field work
2. Litigation update
3. Preview of some data from Cooperative Total Phosphorus sampling
4. Implications

Example of a Field Day, April 22 and 23 , 2017

- Hangman Creek State Line to Kentucky Trails Bridge – Palouse Region



Site Condition Indicators as defined in WDOE Clean Water and Risk Assessment Document – (Pub # 15-10-020, 06/15)

The following site conditions indicate violations of the Washington Water Pollution Control Act – RCW 90.48 – in **relation to livestock**

- Areas of bare ground and exposed soil
- Contaminated run-off (active or potential)
- Slumping streambanks and erosion
- Moderate to heavy grazing
- Confinement areas near streams
- Absence of woody vegetation due to livestock action
- Manure accumulations
- Extended access to surface water
- Livestock paths and trails in the riparian area





BMP Failure, Livestock Damage







04.22.2017 12:39



04.22.2017 16:20



04.22.2017 13:09

Spokane Riverkeeper v. EPA

- Litigation of Hangman Creek TMDL.
- Case addresses whether there is “reasonable assurance” that nonpoint source pollution reductions will occur.
- We are in discussions with EPA, DOJ.
- We are still waiting for signatures/approval.

Worth watching – NEA v. Commerce

- Lawsuit asks the federal district court to force two federal agencies—the EPA and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)—to impose Congressionally-mandated funding cuts on the State of Washington for failing to comply with a law that requires the state to protect coastal water quality.
- Federal law requires EPA and NOAA to withhold at least one third of federal grant funds from states that have failed to obtain approval of their coastal nonpoint source runoff programs.
- Ecology receives an average of \$3 million each year from EPA to support its nonpoint source program and \$2 million annually for its coastal zone management program. Both grant programs are subject to the funding cuts.

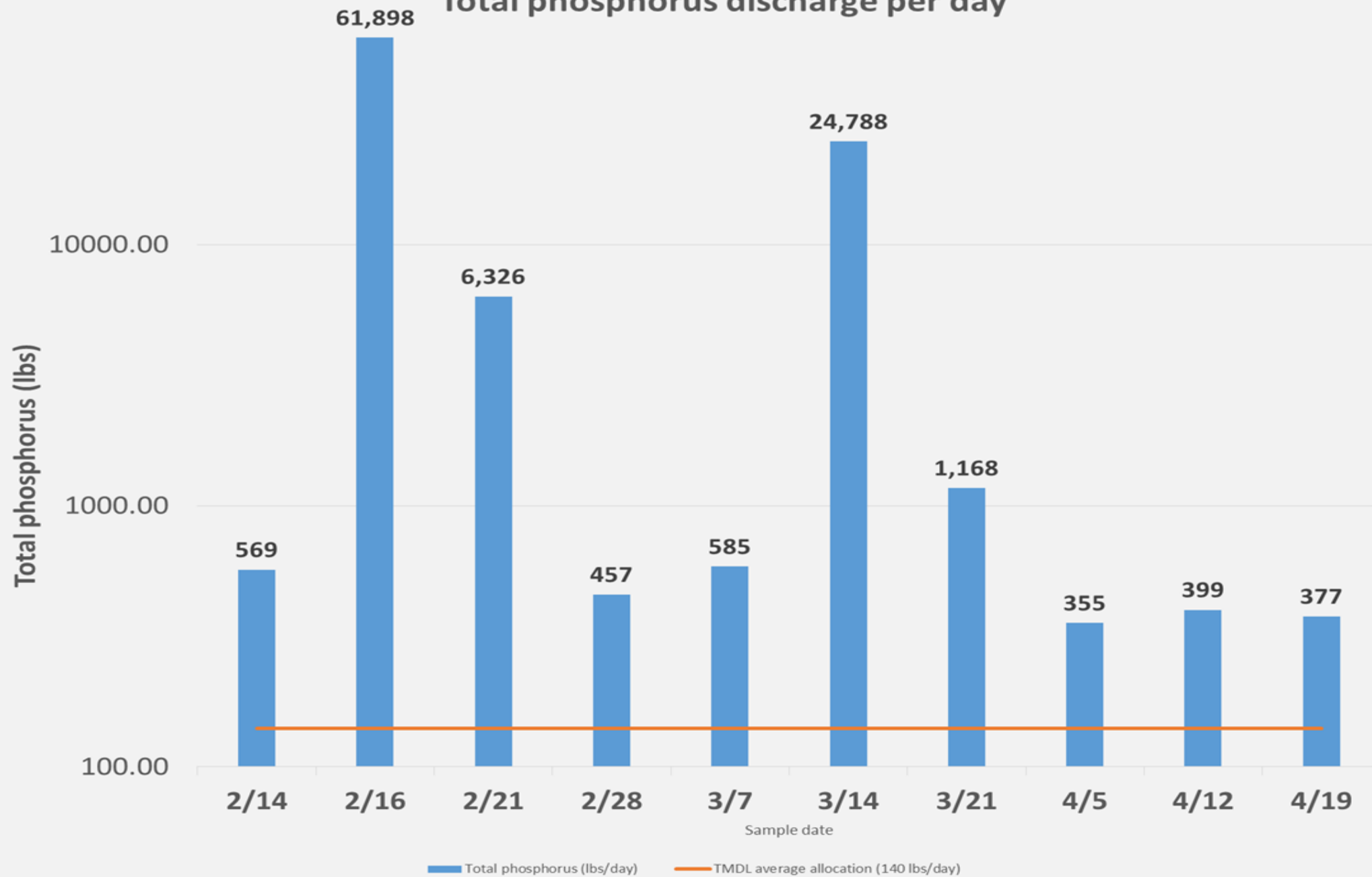
Preview of 2017 Total Phosphorus Study



Preview of Cooperative Total Phosphorus Sampling with EWU

- Event samples reveal Total Phosphorus numbers as high as 61,000+ lbs. of phosphorus in one day (February 16, 2017)
- Data will be correlated with flow and turbidity (sediment)
- Final results will be ready mid summer
- Study reflects the susceptibility of creeks to high runoff years when shorelines and site conditions are highly degraded

Total phosphorus discharge per day



Implications

- NPS continues to be a (perhaps THE) major problem
- Any measure of progress at 10 year assessment will need to include effectiveness monitoring of BMPs
- Long term tracking of shoreline conditions