



## Yakima Regional Stormwater Working Group (RSWG)

### OUTREACH NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2017

### Snowmelt Runoff

During the winter months it is very important that we are cautious to not pollute, especially on our roadways. The amount of illicit discharge (pollutants) that can accumulate and runoff into a single stormwater system can be much greater than during a single rain storm.

Man contributes to these accumulated buildups through their day to day roadway caretaking activities. We plow the snow, pile it up, and use chemicals and/or salts to break it down. When we plow the snow, we are also plowing anything else that might have been in the streets and depositing it into a single location for it to melt over time. Because it is now all in one location, most of the runoff is going directly into the nearest stormwater system along the roadway; which could be at hazardous toxicity levels.



### BMPs for Sports and Recreational Facilities

As the winter comes to an end we will soon be setting our sights on outdoor recreation. As a reminder, the primary method to control stormwater discharges is to use a best management practice. It is more cost effective and environmentally sound. Restoring a polluted water body is much more difficult and expensive than utilizing BMPs from the start. Reducing stormwater pollution can be achieved by implementing various management techniques. Additional BMPs can be found on the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) website ([www.epa.gov](http://www.epa.gov)), and on our state Department of Ecology website ([www.ecy.wa.gov](http://www.ecy.wa.gov)).



#### Upcoming Events

February 9  
RSWG Meeting  
(Selah, WA)

February 20  
President's Day

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Don't forget **Valentine's Day** (February 14th)

