Public Participation Plan

Camp Bonneville

23201 NE Pluss Road, Vancouver, WA 98682-9735

Toxics Cleanup Program

Washington State Department of

Ecology Headquarters

Olympia, Washington

Publication #25-09-067, November 2025

DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY
State of Washington

Publication Information

This document is available on the Department of Ecology's Camp Bonneville cleanup site page.[1]

Cover photo credit

Department of Ecology, November 2018

Related Information

- Cleanup site ID: **11670**
- Facility site ID: **69965472**

Contact Information

Toxics Cleanup Program[2]

Headquarters
PO Box 47600
Olympia, WA 98504-7600
Phone: 360-407-7170

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564-669-3867, becky.dilba@ecy.wa.gov

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Language Access

The Department of Ecology offers free translation and interpretation services. If you need help in your preferred language, please call Becky Dilba at 564-669-3867and request an interpreter, or email becky.dilba@ecy.wa.gov.

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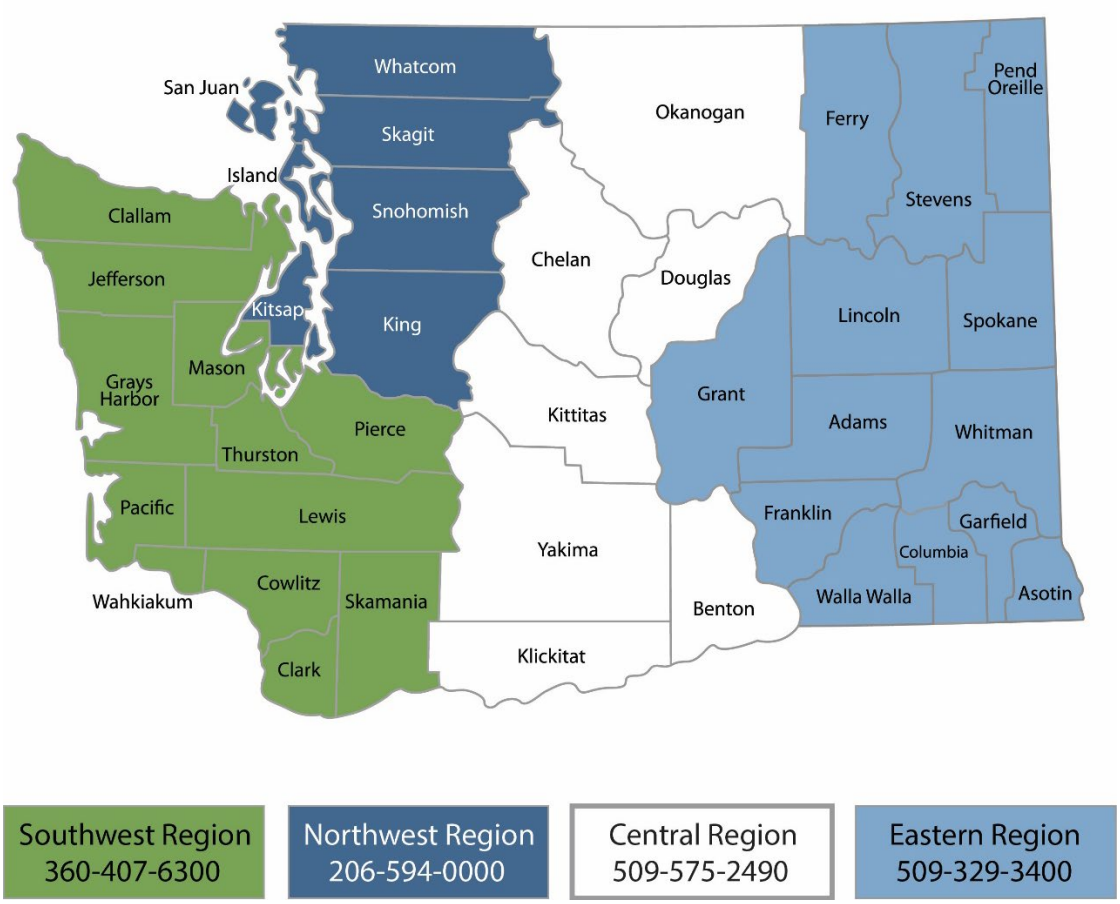
[1] https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/cleanupsearch/site/11670
[2] https://ecology.wa.gov/About-us/Who-we-are/Our-Programs/Toxics-Cleanup
[3] https://ecology.wa.gov/ADA

Department of Ecology's Region Offices

Map of Counties Served



Region	Counties served	Mailing Address	Phone
Southwest	Clallam, Clark, Cowlitz, Grays Harbor, Jefferson, Mason, Lewis, Pacific, Pierce, Skamania, Thurston, Wahkiakum	PO Box 47775 Olympia, WA 98504	360-407-6300
Northwest	Island, King, Kitsap, San Juan, Skagit, Snohomish, Whatcom	PO Box 330316 Shoreline, WA 98133	206-594-0000
Central	Benton, Chelan, Douglas, Kittitas, Klickitat, Okanogan, Yakima	1250 W Alder St Union Gap, WA 98903	509-575-2490
Eastern	Adams, Asotin, Columbia, Ferry, Franklin, Garfield, Grant, Lincoln, Pend Oreille, Spokane, Stevens, Walla Walla, Whitman	4601 N Monroe Spokane, WA 99205	509-329-3400
Headquarters	Across Washington	PO Box 47600 Olympia, WA 98504	360-407-6000

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Toxics Cleanup Program
Washington State Department of Ecology
Headquarters

Lacey, Washington

November 2025

DEPARTMENT OF
ECOLOGY
State of Washington

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Public Involvement in Contamination Cleanup

The Washington Department of Ecology (Ecology) developed this Public Participation Plan in collaboration with Clark County, the party responsible for cleanup. Cleanup costs are paid through a grant by the US Army through an Environmental Services Cooperative Agreement (Agreement No. W9128F-06-2-0160). The goal of this plan is to ensure meaningful community involvement throughout the cleanup of the Camp Bonneville (site).

This plan outlines how Ecology will keep the public informed about contamination investigations and cleanup options at each stage of the process. Please review Appendix A for more information about the cleanup process. The plan also details when and how the community can participate in the cleanup process. We encourage the public to engage with the decision-making opportunities and provide input.

A translated copy of this material may be available in other languages at no cost. To request it, email Becky.Dilba@ecy.wa.gov or call 564-669-3867.

Site contacts

To be included in the site record, comments about the cleanup process must be submitted during comment periods. Questions and informal comments or information about the site's history are welcome anytime.

Ecology

Headquarters
PO Box 47600
Olympia, WA 98504-7600

Michael Cronin, Site Manager
michael.cronin@ecy.wa.gov
564-233-9482

Becky Dilba, Public Outreach Coordinator
becky.dilba@ecy.wa.gov
564-669-3867

Clark County

Public Works, Lands Management Division
PO Box 9810
Vancouver, WA 98666-9810

Kevin Tyler, Division Manager
kevin.tyler@clark.wa.gov
564-397-1656

Betsy Wing, Compliance Manager
Betsy.wing@clark.wa.gov
360-980-2289

If you are unable to reach these contacts, please visit the Camp Bonneville site page[4] for up-to-date contact information.

[4] https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/cleanupsearch/site/11670

Public Participation Activities

Members of the public may ask questions, submit informal comments, or share site information at any time. Interested parties do not need to wait for a formal public comment period to contact Ecology.

However, to be included in the formal site record, comments about the site investigation, cleanup alternatives, or cleanup actions must be submitted during formal comment periods. In addition, the public is invited to review site documents before they become final. This is the most direct and influential way to learn more about the site and be involved in the cleanup's decision-making.

How we share information with the community

During specific stages of the cleanup, Ecology will mail notices about public comment periods to addresses surrounding the site. The mailing list area will vary depending on the type of contamination and where it's located. However, the list will include at least the addresses within a 1/4-mile radius of the site and other interested organizations and individuals. These notices will provide general information about the site, contact information for submitting comments, and times and locations of public meetings or hearings, or how to request one if not yet scheduled.

Comment period notices will be available online and at document repositories (for example at a local library). Notices may also be posted in various locations throughout the community (for example, local businesses, schools, or post offices).

Ecology may also develop documents outside of comment periods to keep the community updated on the site's status. These informational documents will be available online and print copies may be mailed to the nearby community if we feel the message warrants the associated cost and resources.

Postal mailing list

Ecology maintains a mailing list that includes addresses within a 3.5-mile radius of the site and relevant local, state, and federal government contacts.

People on the mailing list receive public comment notices when draft documents are available. We will add additional individuals, organizations, and other interested parties to the mailing list as requested. If you would like to be added to the mailing list for this site, please contact Becky Dilba at 564-669-3867or becky.dilba@ecy.wa.gov.

Contaminated Site Register

Public comment periods, events, and other cleanup notices are published in Ecology's *Contaminated Site Register*.[5] To receive the *Contaminated Site Register* by email, please subscribe online,[6] or contact Sarah Kellington at sarah.kellington@ecy.wa.gov or 360-280-3167.

Newspaper display ads or legal notices

We announce public comment periods and events for this site in ads or notices published in The Columbian[7], Clark County Today[8], and The Reflector[9]. Additional ads or notices may be placed in The Post-Record[10]. We will also publish notice on our Public Input & Events Listing.[11]

Ecology's website and social media platforms

We maintain a website for the Camp Bonneville cleanup site.[12] The website provides site information, and you may download cleanup documents.

We may also share information about cleanup sites through news releases, our blog, and social media.[13]

Automatic site updates

You can subscribe to this site from our Camp Bonneville webpage. You'll receive a weekly email if we change the site's status, add documents to the site's webpage, or open a comment period.

Places to see print documents

During public comment periods, you can find print documents at the following locations:

Vancouver Public Library
901 C Street
Vancouver, WA 98660
360-906-5000

Washington Department of Ecology
Headquarters
300 Desmond Drive SE
Lacey, WA 98503

To schedule an appointment at Headquarters, please contact us at: 360-407-6040 or recordsofficer@ecy.wa.gov

[5] https://ecology.wa.gov/Regulations-Permits/Guidance-technical-assistance/Site-Register-lists-and-data
[6] https://ecology.wa.gov/site-register
[7] https://www.columbian.com
[8] https://www.clarkcountytoday.com/
[9] https://www.thereflector.com/
[10] https://www.camaspostrecord.com/
[11] https://ecology.wa.gov/Events/Search/Listing
[12] https://go.ecology.wa.gov/11670
[13] https://ecology.wa.gov/About-us/Get-to-know-us/News

If you would like to be mailed print documents, contact the Toxics Cleanup Program Publication Coordinator at ecydltcppubs@ecy.wa.gov.

Signs around the cleanup site

We may also install signs displaying information about project status, traffic impacts, and health risks around the cleanup site.

How you can share information with us

We hold public comment periods and sometimes public events to learn your thoughts, opinions, and concerns about cleanup at a site. We may also identify public concerns and cleanup goals by meeting with and soliciting information from interested community members and organizations. To collaborate with us about this site, please contact Becky Dilba at 564-669-3867 or becky.dilba@ecy.wa.gov.

Public comment periods

At a minimum, the Model Toxics Control Act (MTCA, see page 15 for more information) requires 30-day comment periods to allow interested members of the public to comment on draft documents, legal agreements, and proposed cleanup actions. If there is significant interest, Ecology may extend the public comment period.

When Ecology oversees State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) determinations, we hold comment periods for at least two weeks and may extend to 30 days or more when other cleanup documents are concurrently available for review.

Following a comment period, we publish all the input we received and respond to significant comments and questions, as appropriate. If the comments result in significant changes to the cleanup documents, then the documents will be revised and re-issued for public review. If the comments do not result in significant changes, the documents will become final.

Public events

We hold public meetings, workshops, open houses, and hearings based on community interest. At meetings, workshops, and open houses, attendees can ask questions, learn more about the site, and submit written comments when a comment period is open. At a public hearing, verbal comments are transcribed for the record, and Ecology responds to them after the comment period in our response to comments.

If we have not scheduled an event, we will hold one if 10 people request it. This may cause us to extend a public comment period, so the event occurs during it.

Events are held at locations close to the site that meet Americans with Disabilities Act standards. Public events are always announced in advance using a variety of methods.

Citizens Advisory Group

In the past there has been a Camp Bonneville Citizens Advisory Group (CAG) established by the Clark County Board of Commissioners, now the Clark County Board of Councilors, and managed by Clark County Public Works. Ecology may be invited to participate in a CAG; however, Ecology does not establish or manage such a group.

The purpose, formation, and management, of a CAG is specific to the needs of Clark County. In the context of Ecology's public participation process, the County may choose to create a CAG to solicit feedback on the Camp Bonneville cleanup site public participation documents.

Public Participation Grants

Grants may be available to neighborhood committees, non-profits, and other groups interested in the site. For contaminated sites, these funds can be used to:

- Hire an expert to help interpret technical information
- Conduct activities that enhance the public's understanding of, and participation in, the cleanup process

For more information about public participation grants, please contact Laura Busby at 360-280-5088 or laura.busby@ecy.wa.gov and Wendy Kovach at 564-250-2909 or wendy.kovach@ecy.wa.gov. You may also visit the Public Participation Grant webpage.[14]

Site Information

Historical use

Camp Bonneville was a military training site used by the U.S. Army and other branches from 1909 until it closed in 1995. It included rifle, grenade, machine gun, and artillery ranges, as well as barracks and support buildings. The property was used for training by active-duty soldiers, ROTC, the National Guard, and the Marine Corps. In 2006, the Army transferred the land to Clark County to be turned into a regional park.

[14] https://ecology.wa.gov/PPG

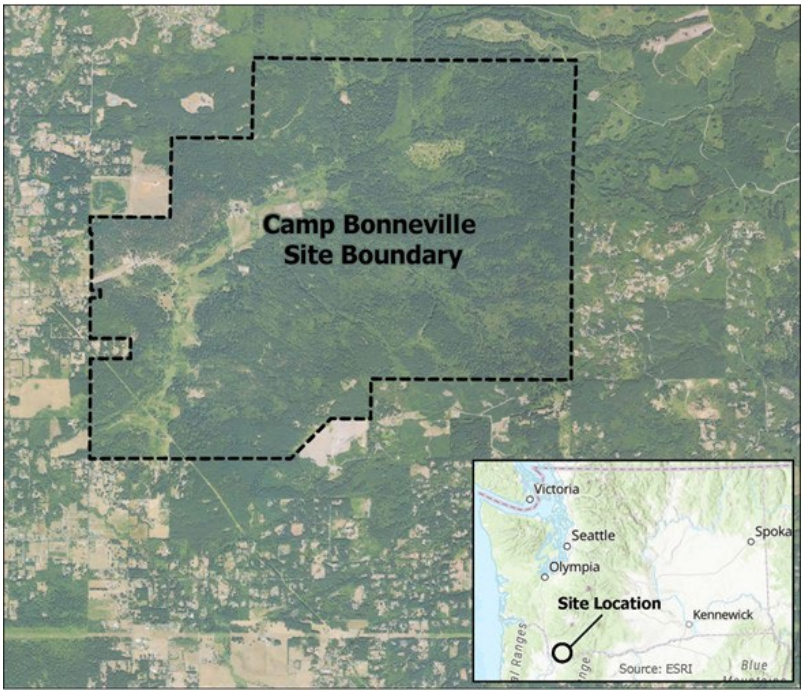

Figure 1. Site map

How the site became contaminated

During its use as a military training site, a wide range of activities took place that led to contamination. These included live-fire exercises, munitions disposal, the use of tear gas during riot control training, landfill operations, use of chemicals like fuels and solvents, and vehicle and equipment maintenance. These actions left behind both hazardous substances and military munitions in the ground.

Contamination

The site has several types of contamination due to past land use of the property. Some of these contaminants are present in soil and groundwater at the site above state cleanup levels. This includes:

- Volatile organic compounds (VOCs) and semi-volatile organic compounds (SVOCs)
- Explosive residues and perchlorates
- Pesticides and herbicides
- Petroleum products
- Metals

Military munitions, such as unexploded ordnance, have been identified at the site and may still be present.

Cleanup plans

Cleanup efforts have been ongoing since the site closed in 1995. At first, the cleanup was managed by the US Army under federal regulations. The Washington State Department of Ecology began providing oversight of the cleanup with an enforcement order in 2003.

The site has been administratively divided into separate remedial action units, each with its own cleanup focus. Work has included removing military munitions, removing sources of contamination, cleaning up contaminated soil, and placing restrictions on land use to protect people and the environment. Groundwater monitoring continues on a quarterly basis and cleanup of the last remaining remedial action unit is ongoing.

Following cleanup actions, some contamination remains on site, so long-term monitoring and land use restrictions remain in place to make sure the site is protective of human health and the environment for future public use.

Area Community

Camp Bonneville is located in Clark County with approximately 3,840 acres of undeveloped land. The site lies within the Proebstel Neighborhood, an unincorporated community about 2.5 miles southwest of the main entrance to Camp Bonneville. The City of Vancouver, approximately 15 miles from downtown, is the nearest urban development.

The area surrounding Camp Bonneville has historically been sparsely populated with scattered residences and was used primarily for farming, grazing, and commercial logging. Since the county has experienced a high growth rate in the past 20 years, this area also has experienced an increase in development, primarily in country manor-styled homes.

Environmental Justice

Ecology uses external data sources to better understand the environmental and demographic information of the communities impacted by cleanup sites. When appropriate Ecology considers special accommodations based on the needs of the community.

WA Environmental Health Disparities Map

The Washington Environmental Health Disparities Map[15] evaluates environmental health risk factors in communities.

Ecology does not interpret rankings as absolute values, and we do not use them to diagnose a community health issue or to label a community. Environmental health disparity is ranked on a scale of 1-10 (low to high) and is relative to other locations in the state.

[15] https://doh.wa.gov/data-and-statistical-reports/washington-tracking-network-wtn/washington-environmental-health-disparities-map

Census Tract 53011040603, where the Camp Bonneville Cleanup Site is located, has an environmental health risk ranking of 4 (Figure 2). Demographic data show that females age 50-64 and males age 50-64 compromise the largest segment of the population (Figure 3). White individuals make up the highest proportions by race/ethnicity (Figure 4).

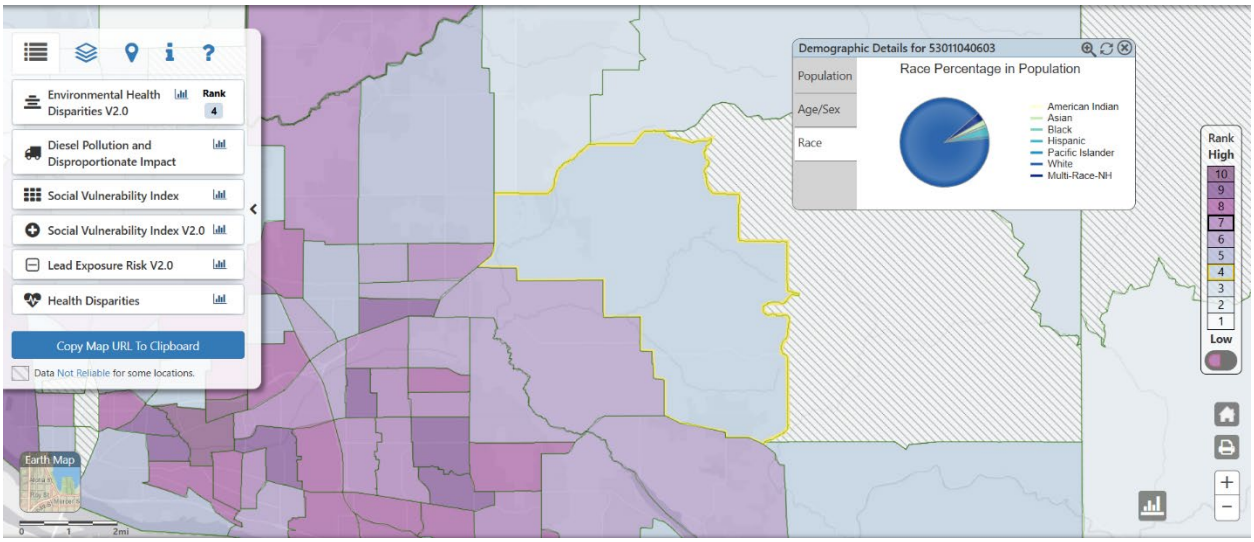

Figure 2: Washington Environmental Health Disparities Map for Census Tract 53011040603 with an environmental health risk ranking of 4.

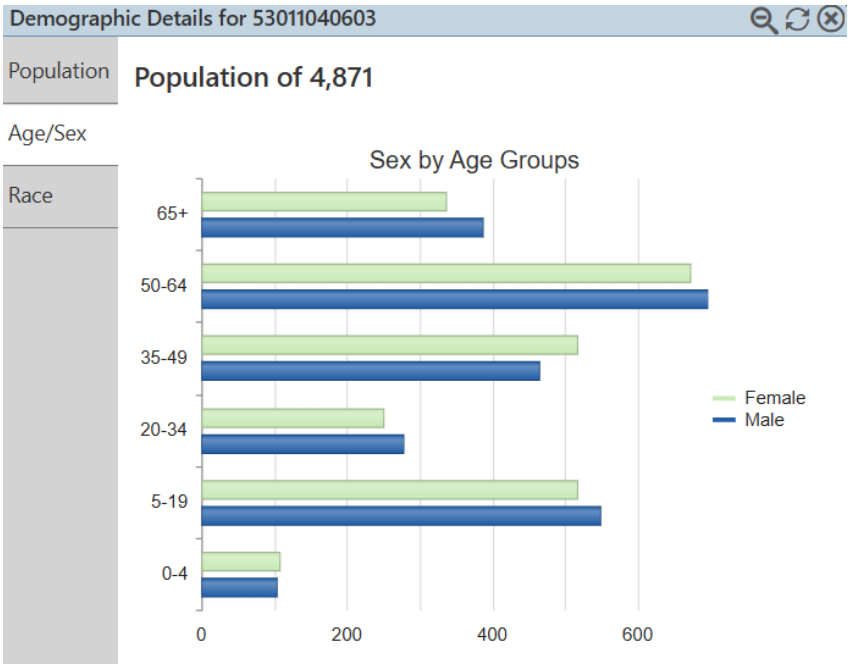

Figure 3: Washington Environmental Health Disparities Map population details for Census Tract 040603.

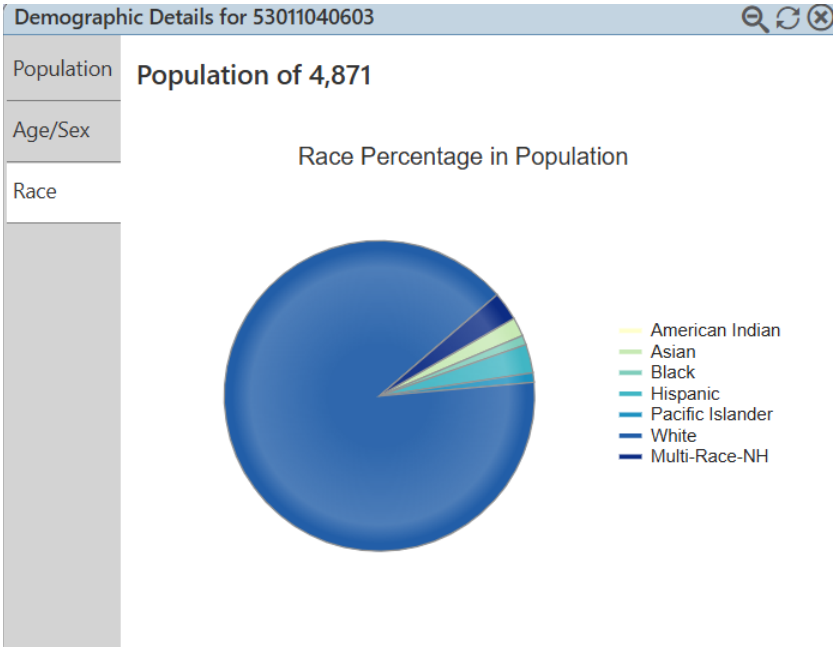

Figure 4: Washington Environmental Health Disparities Map demographic details for Census Tract 040603.

The adjacent Census Tract 53011040604, just west of the site and home to many residences has an overall Environmental Health Disparities ranking of 6 (Figure 5). White, Hispanic, and Asian individuals make up the highest proportions by race/ethnicity within this tract.

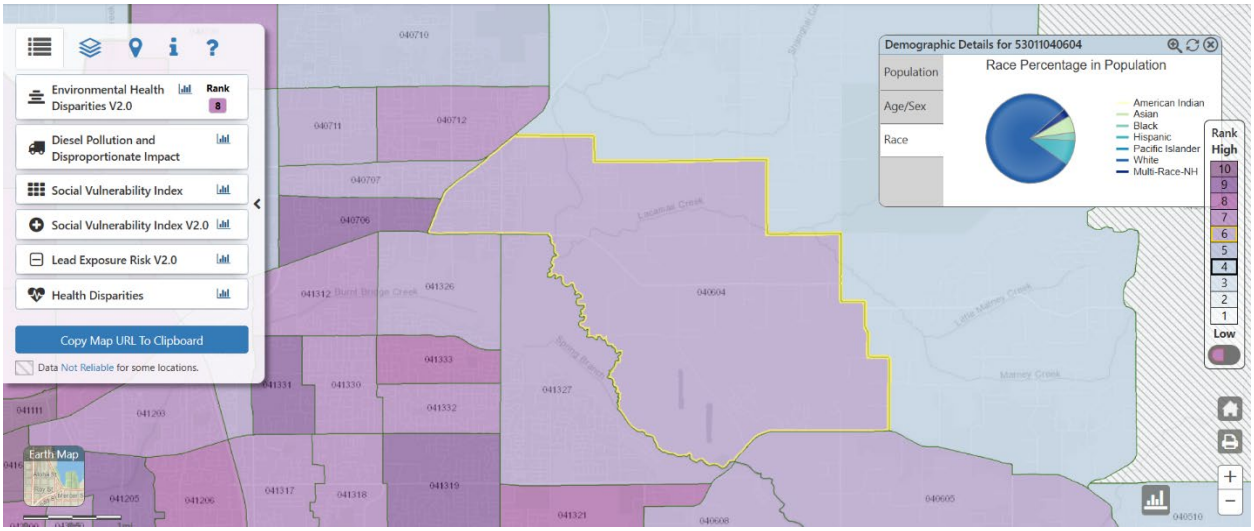

Figure 5: Washington Environmental Health Disparities Map for Census Tract 53011040603 with an environmental health risk ranking of 8.

The adjacent Census Tract 53011040511 to the east of the site and home to residences has an overall Environmental Health Disparities ranking of 2 (Figure 6). White, Hispanic, and Asian individuals make up the highest proportions by race/ethnicity within this tract.

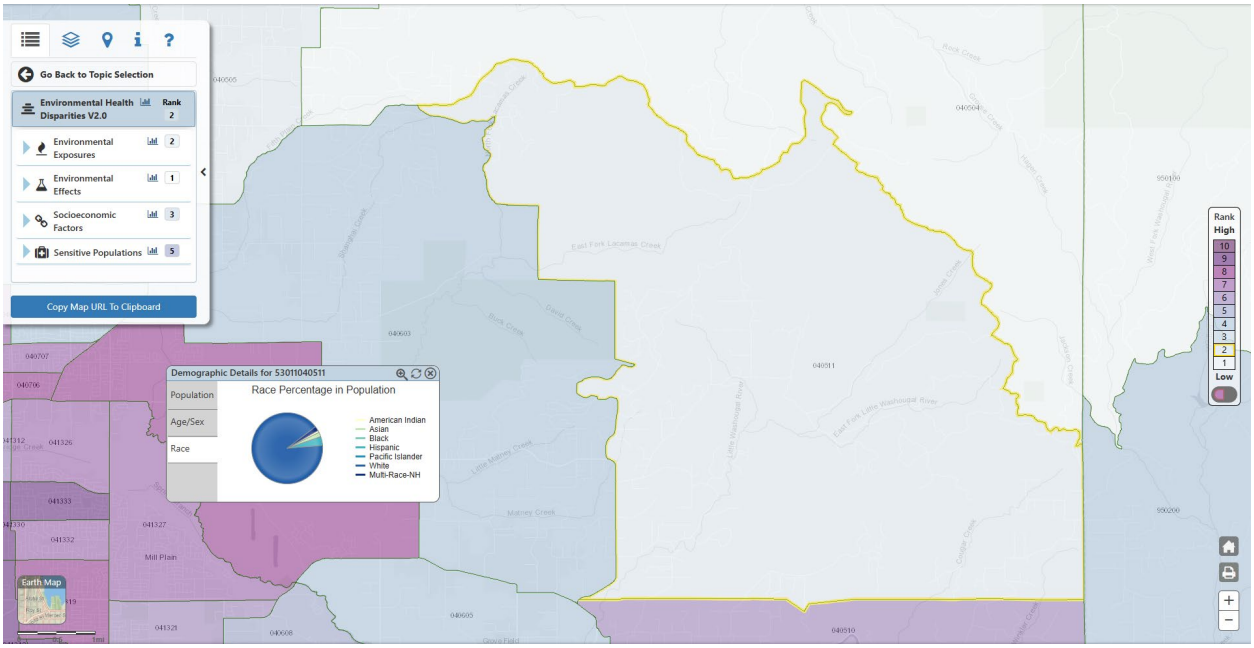

Figure 6: Washington Environmental Health Disparities Map for Census Tract 53011040511 with an environmental health risk ranking of 2.

The Washington State Department of Health mapping tool model was "specifically adapted from CalEnviroScreen – a cumulative environmental impacts assessment mapping tool developed by CalEPA and used in California. It estimates a cumulative environmental health impact score for each census tract reflecting pollutant exposures and factors that affect people's vulnerability to environmental pollution.

The model is based on a conceptual formula of Risk = Threat * Vulnerability, where threat and vulnerability are based on several indicators.

The threat is represented by indicators that account for pollution burden, which is a combination of environmental effects and environmental exposures in communities. Environmental effects include indicators that account for adverse environmental quality generally, even when population contact with an environmental hazard is unknown or uncertain. Environmental exposures include the levels of certain pollutants that populations come into contact with.

Vulnerability is represented by indicators of socioeconomic factors and sensitive populations for which there is clear evidence that they may affect susceptibility or vulnerability to an increased pollution burden. Indicators in socioeconomic factors measure population characteristics that modify the pollution burden itself. Sensitive populations refer to those who are at greater risk due to intrinsic biological vulnerability to environmental stressors.

In the model, threat is multiplied by vulnerability in order to reflect the scientific literature that indicates population characteristics often modify and amplify the impact of pollution exposures on certain vulnerable populations. The rankings help to compare health and social factors that may contribute to disparities in a community."

Washington Tracking Network

The Washington Tracking Network (WTN)[16] uses data from the Office of Financial Management (OFM) to create small area demographic estimates. These numbers are based on the United States Census Bureau's estimates and is adjusted by OFM based on Washington State specific data. Ecology uses this information to help identify socioeconomic indicators, including limited English proficient (LEP) populations and languages spoken at home.

Limited English Proficient (LEP) Populations

The data from 2015-2019 includes the following LEP data for Census Tract 53011040603, with a total population of 4,871 (over the age of 5 years):

- **Spanish:** 30 LEP individuals.
- **Indo-European Languages:** 76 LEP individuals.
- **Asian/Pacific Island Languages:** 36 LEP individuals

The data from 2015-2019 includes the following LEP data for Census Tract 53011040604, adjacent to the west of the Site, has a total population of 5,465 (over the age of 5 years):

- **Spanish**: 77 LEP individuals.
- **Asian/Pacific Island Languages**: 126 LEP individuals.
- **Indo-European Languages**: 51 LEP individuals.

The data from 2015-2019 includes the following LEP data for Census Tract 53011040511, adjacent to the west of the Site, has a total population of 2,101 (over the age of 5 years):

- **Spanish:** 6 LEP individuals.
- **Indo-European Languages:** 6 LEP individuals.

Data from the WA Environmental Health Disparities Map in conjunction with community research, helps Ecology plan our public outreach to consider this population's needs.

As part of our public involvement efforts, Ecology will reach out to cultural community organizations as part of our outreach and provide information in other languages according to

[16] https://doh.wa.gov/data-and-statistical-reports/washington-tracking-network-wtn

federal guidance.[17] Demographic data and community research indicates that most limited English proficient populations include Russian Asian/Pacific Island, and Spanish. When appropriate or requested, Ecology will provide outreach in those languages.

To request information in another language, call Becky Dilba at 564-669-3867 or email becky.dilba@ecy.wa.gov. If calling for interpretation services, please ask for an interpreter and stay on the line while we connect you.

We strive to make our public participation efforts as inclusive as possible and welcome your input about how to best reach the nearby community.

Tribal engagement

The Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde, Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs, Cowlitz Indian Tribe, and The Yakama Nation, potentially relies on resources that could be affected by the contamination. The cleanup process may also uncover cultural resources.

We will reach out to Tribes to offer opportunities to engage in the cleanup process that are separate from the public involvement process. This engagement is described in a site-specific Tribal Engagement Plan, as required by WAC 173-340-620.[18] We invite Tribal members and other indigenous peoples to engage in the public involvement process as well.

Washington's Cleanup Laws

Ecology uses the Model Toxics Control Act (MTCA)[19] and accompanying regulations for cleanup activities. Passed in 1989, MTCA provides guidelines for contaminated site cleanup in Washington state. This law sets standards to ensure the cleanup protects people and the environment. MTCA requires the creation of this plan.

Model Toxics Control Act

MTCA began in 1988 as a citizen-led effort to clean up contaminated sites in Washington state. The law holds property owners or operators responsible for cleaning up contamination on, or coming from, their property.

Ecology carries out MTCA, making sure cleanups happen according to state rules and regulations. These rules are found in Chapter 173-340 Washington Administrative Code (WAC).[20] Ecology investigates reports of contamination, and the property is placed on the

[17] https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2004/06/25/04-14464/guidance-to-environmental-protection-agency-financial-assistance-recipients-regarding-title-vi
[18] https://app.leg.wa.gov/wac/default.aspx?cite=173-340-620
[19] https://www.ecology.wa.gov/mtca
[20] https://app.leg.wa.gov/wac/default.aspx?cite=173-340

Contaminated Sites List[21] if the pollution is determined to pose a serious risk to human health or the environment. This starts the cleanup process at the site.

The cleanup process under MTCA includes several steps (Appendix A). Public involvement is a key part of MTCA's cleanup process.[22] Nearby residents, businesses, community groups, and other interested parties can review and comment on documents related to steps that make crucial decisions or plans about the cleanup.

State Environmental Policy Act

MTCA cleanups also require evaluation under the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA).[23] Under SEPA, the potential for significant adverse environmental impacts from a project or action must be evaluated by state and local agencies when making decisions. This evaluation is subject to public review and comment in parallel with cleanup documents.

Plan Amendments

Ecology developed this plan following MTCA regulations (WAC 173-340-600). We review it as the cleanup progresses and amend it as necessary. You may suggest amendments to Becky Dilba at becky.dilba@ecy.wa.gov.

We intend for this plan to provide the public with information on opportunities for public involvement and comments. The outreach activities discussed reflect Ecology's current plans to keep the public informed. It also provides ways for those interested in the site to communicate their concerns and questions to us.

If you feel the planned outreach activities and mechanisms found in this plan are insufficient or would like to modify them in some way, please contact us. We will work to find solutions. We can implement new activities or outreach tools right away, with or without amending this plan.

[21] https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/cleanupsearch/reports/cleanup/contaminated
[22] http://www.ecology.wa.gov/MTCA-process
[23] https://app.leg.wa.gov/WAC/default.aspx?cite=197-11

Appendix A. Steps in the MTCA cleanup process

The cleanup process is defined in the Model Toxics Control Act (MTCA), Washington's cleanup law. See the attached, accessible PDF for details.

Washington's Cleanup Process

Public participation plans and comment periods are only required for cleanups under a legal agreement with Ecology. Otherwise, all cleanups follow the same steps. The steps are defined by Washington's cleanup law, the Model Toxics Control Act.

DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY
State of Washington

Public input opportunity

Initial investigation
Find out if there's contamination needing cleanup.

Assess the site
Evaluate potential threat to humans and the environment.

Study the site (remedial investigation)
- Find out what and where the contamination is.
- Determine how contamination might impact living things.

Consider options (feasibility study)
- Compare ways to keep the contamination from harming people or the environment.
- Weigh benefits versus costs of each cleanup option.

Plan the cleanup (cleanup action plan)
- Describe Ecology's selected cleanup option.
- Set cleanup standards that will protect living things.
- Schedule next steps.
- Set requirements for monitoring and maintenance.

Design the cleanup
Make detailed construction plans for the cleanup action.

Clean up the site!
Complete the cleanup action. For example:
- Constructing a multi-layered capping system.
- Installing a treatment system.
- Removing contamination to a special landfill.

Monitor, maintain, and review
- Operate treatment systems and monitor progress.
- Prevent activities that could disturb the cleanup.
- Review regularly to ensure cleanup still protects living things.

Remove from Contaminated Sites List
Move to No Further Action list if site meets all standards and requirements.

Interim actions
may clean up some contamination before the final cleanup.

Legal orders or agreements
define required tasks and schedules.

Public participation plans
explain how Ecology will ask for input from the local community.

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