

North Fork Focus Area

Water Quality Status: Fecal Coliform Bacteria

as of June 28, 2018

Background: Clean water is a valuable resource; it is essential for human health and for the health of fish, shellfish, wildlife, and livestock. Water provides irrigation for crops, and a safe place for water-based recreation. To protect water quality, Washington State has developed criteria for bacteria levels in both fresh and marine waters.

Freshwater Standards

Geometric Mean

Average sample contains less than:
100 fecal coliform/100mL

- and -

90th Percentile

Less than 10% of samples contain over:
200 fecal coliform/100mL

What are Fecal Coliform Bacteria?

Fecal coliform bacteria are found in human and animal feces. Detection in a creek is a sign that pathogens from these wastes may be polluting the water. Contact with fecal contaminated waters can result in **gastroenteritis, skin rashes, upper respiratory infections** and other illnesses.

E. coli are a fecal coliform bacteria

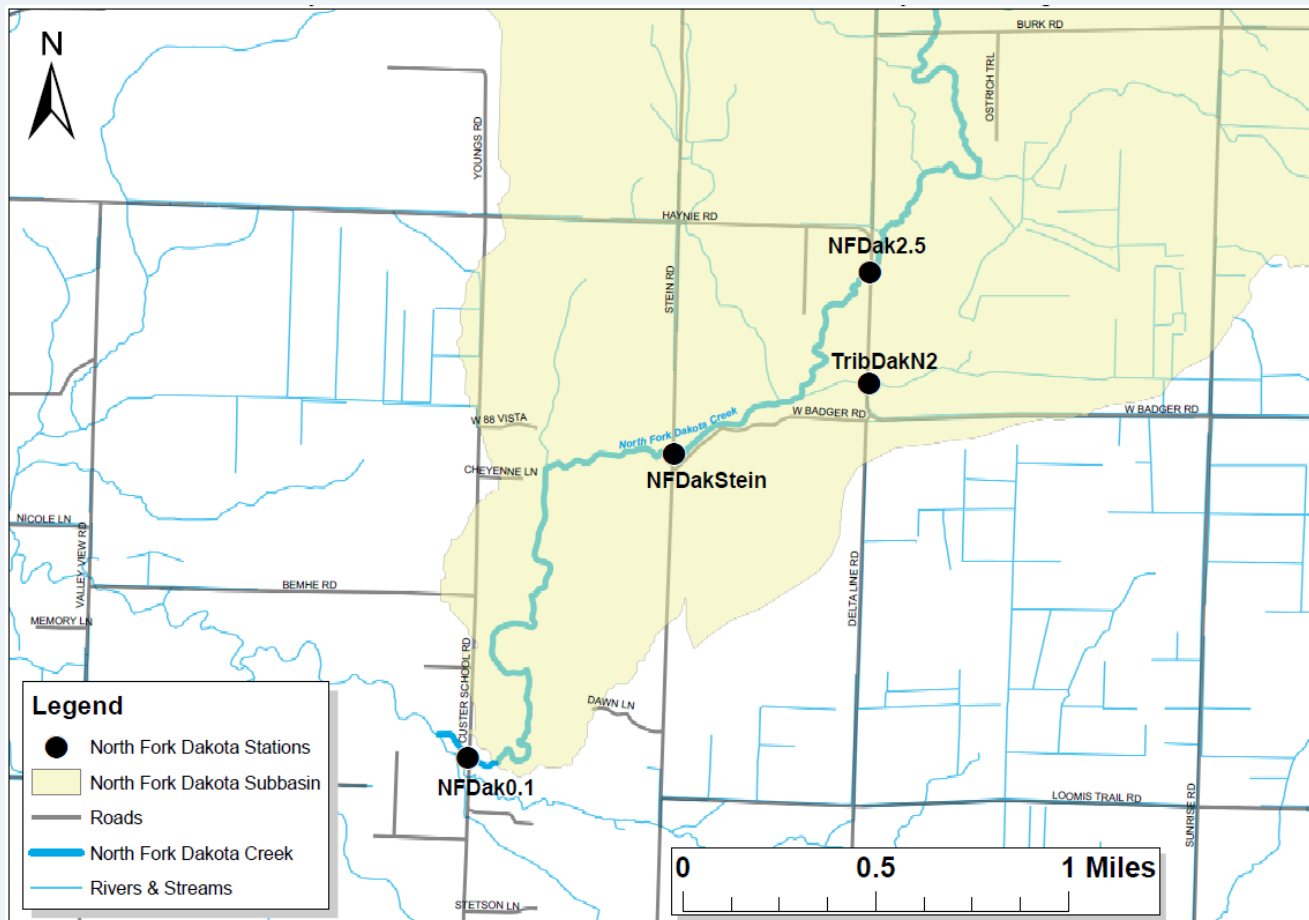
Where Does the Bacteria Come From?

Potential sources of bacteria include:

- 1) Animal waste from livestock, domestic pets, and wildlife
- 2) Human sewage from failing septic systems, leaking sewer lines or cross-connections between sewer and stormwater systems

Focus Area Monitoring: The North Fork drainage has been identified as a *focus area* for water quality monitoring due to high levels of bacteria observed through the routine monitoring program. Whatcom County Public Works (WCPW) has monitored fecal coliform bacterial in the North Fork drainage area since 2016.

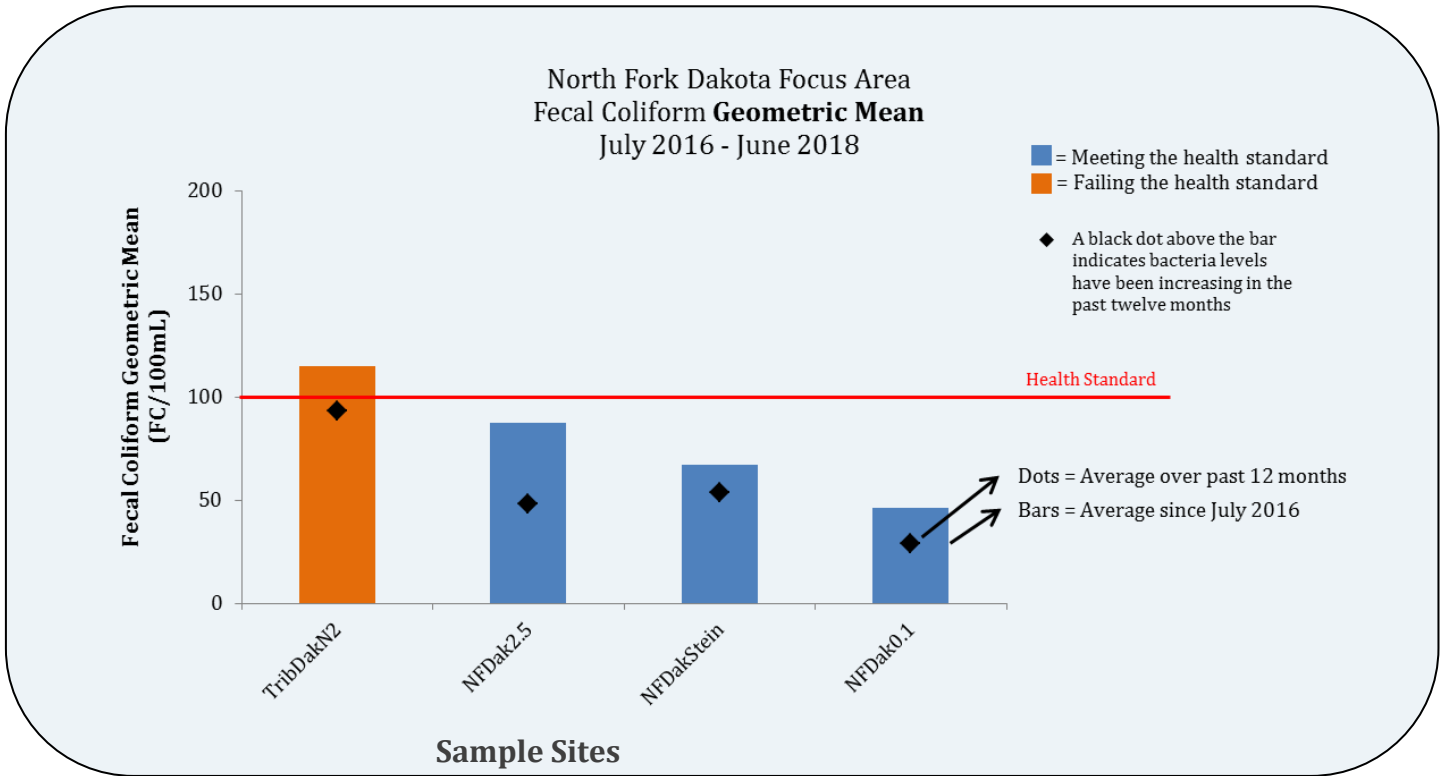
Whatcom County Public Works North Fork Water Quality Monitoring Stations



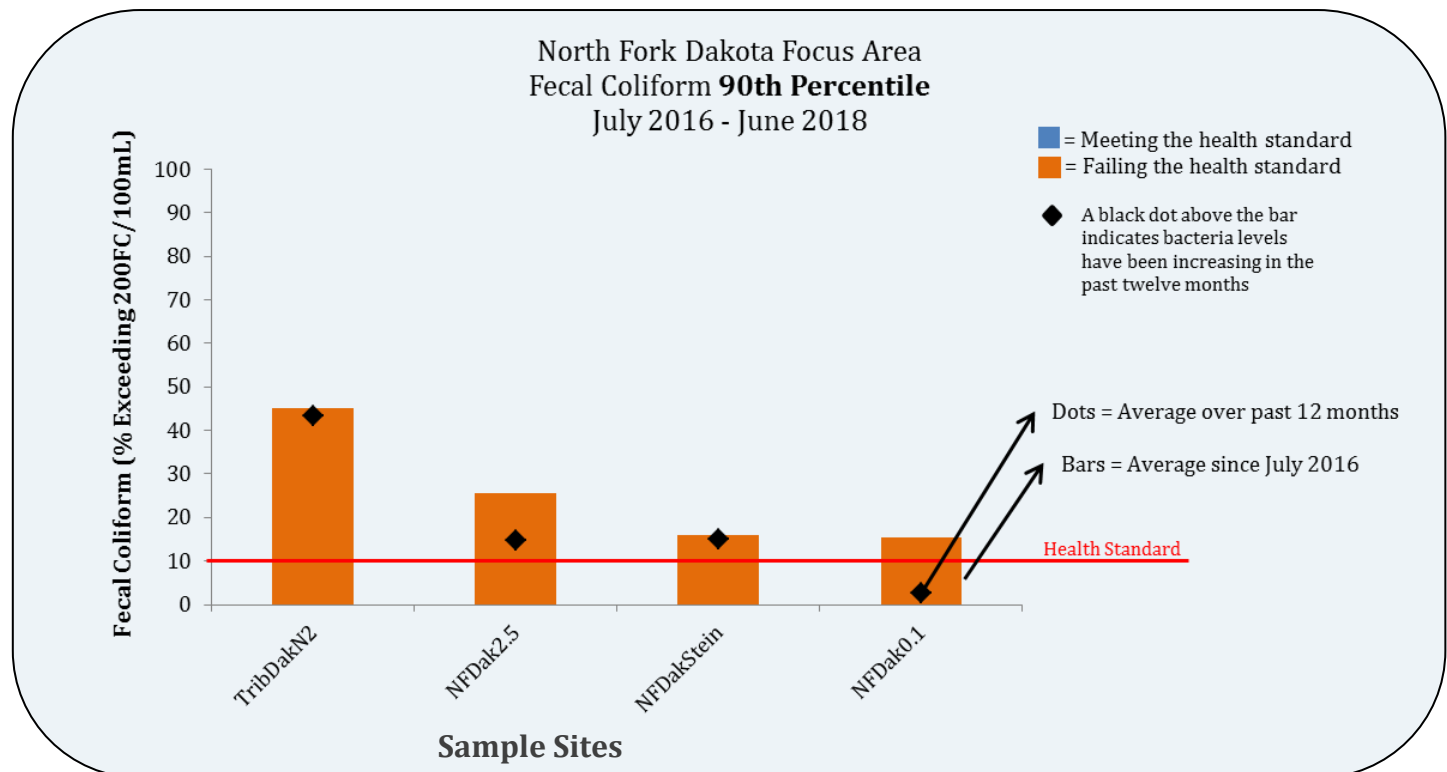
More information is available at: www.whatcomcounty.us/1072/Water-Quality

North Fork Focus Area Comparison of Bacteria Levels to Health Standards

Refer to the map on page 1 or the tables on pages 3-4 for site locations.



*The bar must be blue on both graphs for the sample site to be meeting the freshwater health standard.



North Fork Focus Area

13-Month Historical Fecal Coliform Bacteria Data

These tables provide the individual results at each station for the past thirteen months. Results in light orange exceeded 200 FC/100mL. Results in dark orange exceed 1000 FC/100mL.

Date	Delta Line Road, North of Badger	North Fork Dakota Creek at Delta Line Road	North Fork Dakota Creek at Stein Road	North Fork Dakota Creek at Custer School Road
	TribDakN2	NFDak2.5	NFDakStein	NFDak0.1
6/1/17	146	1,028	846	664
6/8/17	855	973	116	755
6/15/17	480	172	70	38
6/28/17	300	260	220	137
7/6/17	460	68	320	17
7/13/17	166	160	74	30
7/20/17	210	76	33	22
8/3/17	928	64	68	28
8/9/17	1,337	250	100	116
8/15/17	1,237	430	78	80
8/24/17	2,300	ST	50	42
8/31/17	430	ST	78	179
9/7/17	340	ST	104	10
9/14/17	300	33	22	20
9/19/17	2,200	1,091	764	710
10/5/17	92	70	15	20
10/12/17	130	84	62	78
10/18/17	390	98	35	74
10/26/17	96	130	22	7
11/2/17	20	10	20	14
11/8/17	2	4	7	4
11/15/17	17	23	15	33
11/21/17	53	40	44	76
12/7/17	4	15	DS	19
12/19/17	240	128	DS	46
1/3/18	4	7	DS	5
1/17/18	2	2	DS	5
2/1/18	360	12	DS	96
2/14/18	30	46	DS	33
3/1/18	78	13	DS	25
3/7/18	5	14	DS	22
3/22/18	56	21	DS	8
4/5/18	30	74	DS	50
4/12/18	9	66	DS	62
4/26/18	10	5	DS	5

Gray box indicated an event where no sample was collected for varying reasons. D- Dry, ST- Stagnant, LF- Low Flow, DS- Discontinued Sampling

North Fork Focus Area Continued

	Delta Line Road, North of Badger	North Fork Dakota Creek at Delta Line Road	North Fork Dakota Creek at Stein Road	North Fork Dakota Creek at Custer School Road
Date	TribDakN2	NFDak2.5	NFDakStein	NFDak0.1
5/9/18	600	48	DS	58
5/17/18	56	137	DS	19
5/31/18	54	64	DS	9
6/6/18	NS	NS	DS	NS
6/14/18	250	40	DS	14
6/28/18	125	460	DS	25

D- Dry, ST- Stagnant, LF- Low Flow,

Gray box indicated an event where no sample was collected for varying reasons.