

# Lower Dakota Focus Area

## Water Quality Status: Fecal Coliform Bacteria

as of May 28, 2020

**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**

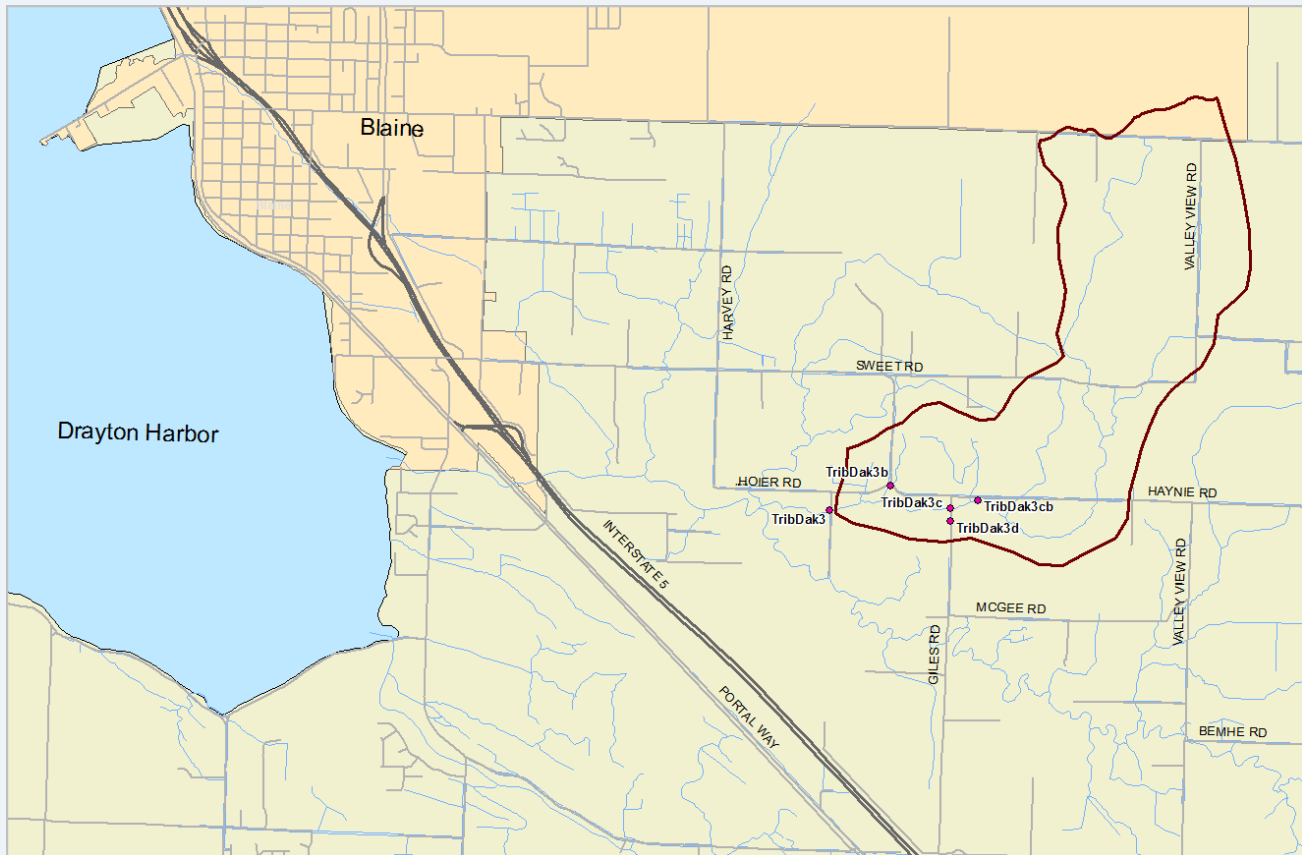
### Where Does the Bacteria Come From?

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

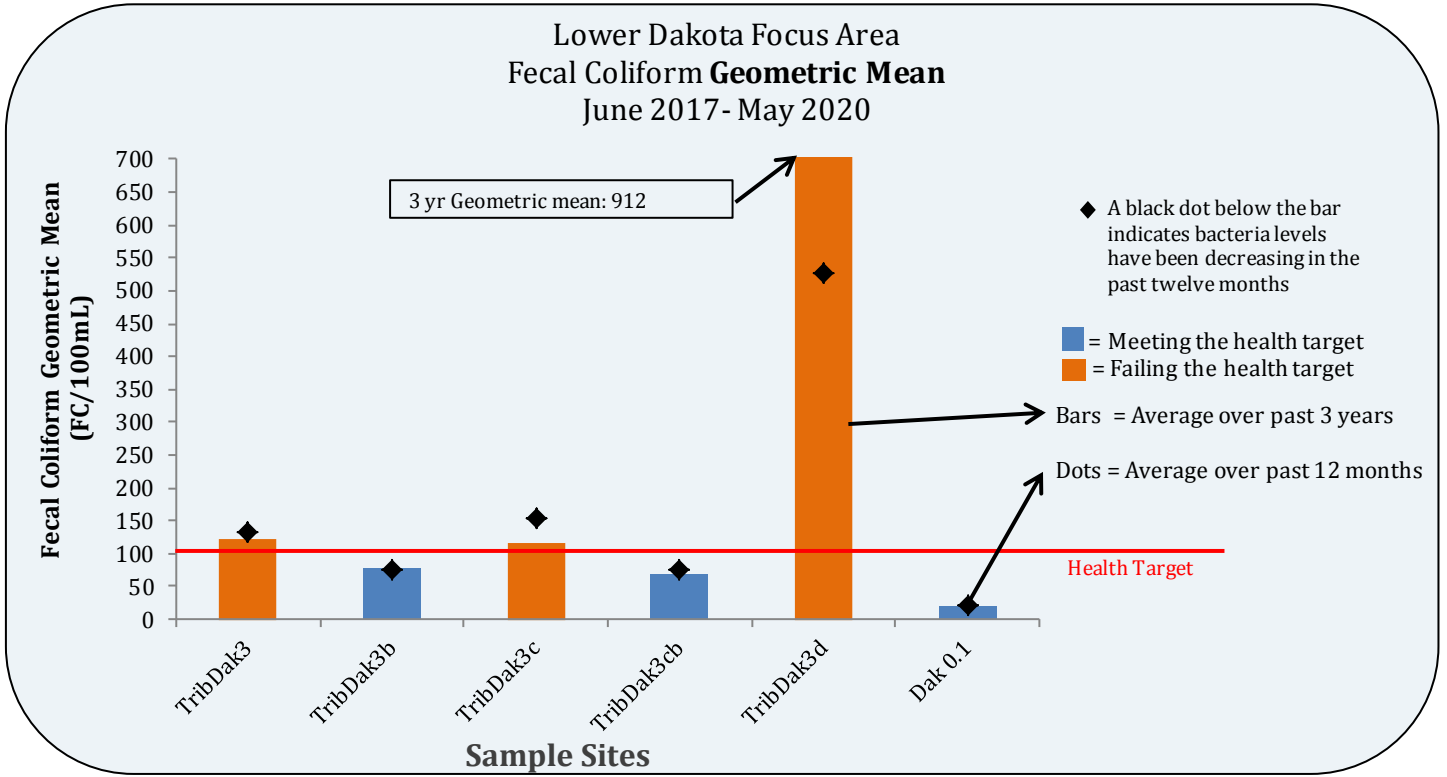
**Focus Area Monitoring:** The Lower Dakota drainage has been identified as a *focus area* for water quality monitoring due to high levels of bacteria observed through the routine monitoring program. Whatcom County Public Works (WCPW) has monitored fecal coliform bacterial in the Lower Dakota drainage area since December 2013.

## Whatcom County Public Works Lower Dakota Water Quality Monitoring Stations

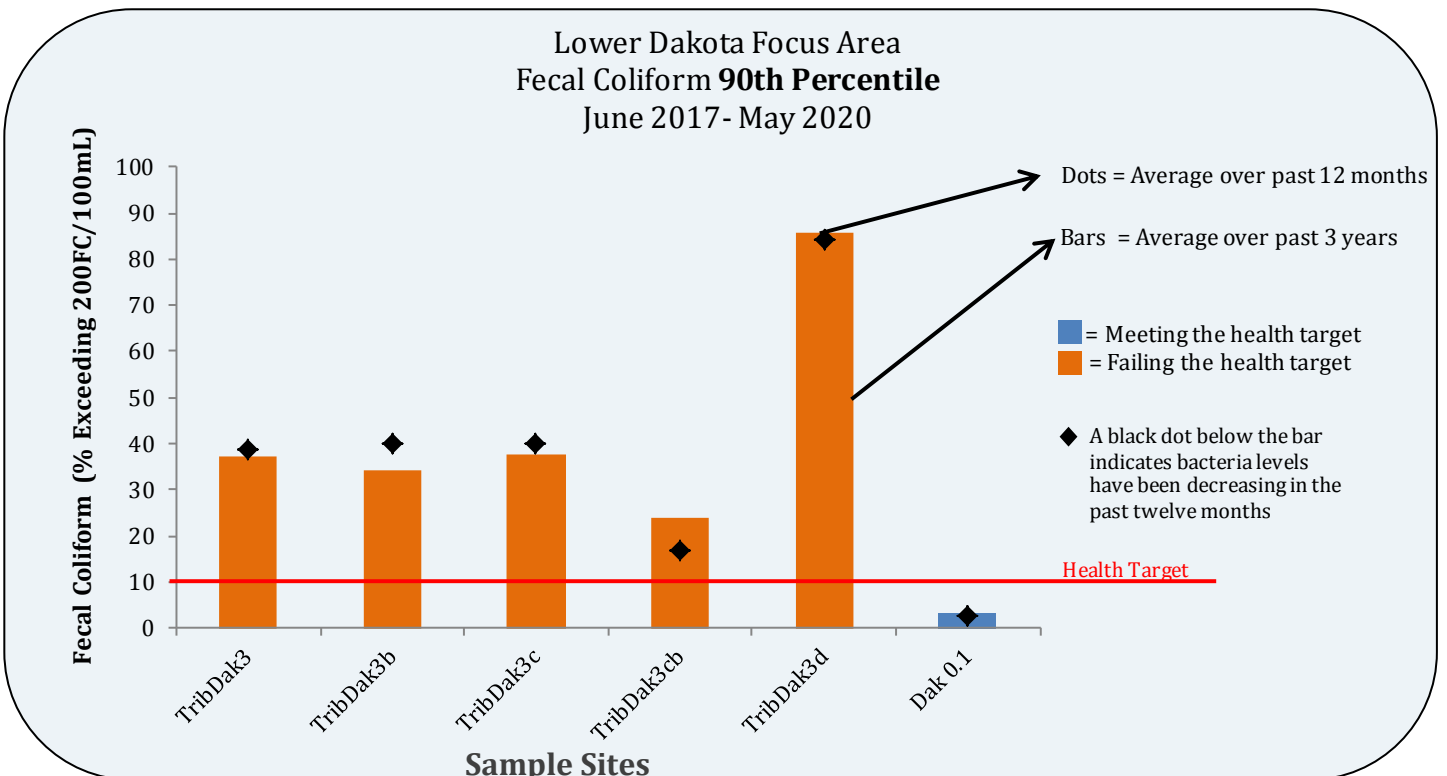


## Lower Dakota Focus Area Comparison of Bacteria Levels to Health Standards

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.



## Lower Dakota 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	Roger Rd, S of Hoier	Corner of Hoier Rd and Haynie	Giles Rd S of Haynie	South side of Haynie, E of Giles	Giles Rd, 2nd Culvert S of Haynie	Mouth of Dakota Creek
	TribDak3	TribDak3b	TribDak3c	TribDak3cb	TribDak3d	Dak 0.1
5/1/2019	96	200	200	90	1,300	11
5/14/2019	173	6,000	210	330	6,000	5
5/22/2019	42	370	54	13	540	15
5/29/2019	250	2,700	240	260	6,000	33
6/5/2019	74	LF	72	33	LF	13
6/19/2019	68	LF	340	118	LF	18
6/26/2019	62	LF	80	48	LF	5
7/3/2019	30	LF	106	56	LF	23
7/9/2019	114	LF	155	116	LF	7
7/17/2019	320	LF	390	330	LF	76
8/7/2019	120	LF	900	60	LF	2
8/14/2019	420	LF	270	68	LF	28
8/28/2019	96	LF	330	62	LF	58
9/4/2019	76	LF	510	64	LF	2
9/11/2019	68	LF	370	36	LF	31
9/25/2019	300	340	380	82	LF	50
10/3/2019	20	LF	46	13	LF	8
10/10/2019	62	LF	102	7	LF	11
10/16/2019	46	LF	1,600	54	LF	18
10/30/2019	82	490	82	40	3,000	76
11/5/2019	330	LF	360	8	LF	5
11/20/2019	360	62	164	46	1,100	68
11/26/2019	210	30	136	136	3,000	50
12/3/2019	600	155	700	490	3,400	7
12/18/2019	72	10	39	200	800	11
12/26/2019	108	LF	170	88	1,400	31
1/23/2020	420	300	340	250	1,800	116
1/28/2020	66	18	56	40	420	31
2/6/2020	70	11	44	116	430	50
2/18/2020	116	2	94	94	100	23
2/27/2020	26	2	30	16	490	10
3/3/2020	88	200	70	39	350	220
3/24/2020	300	3	SD	700	SD	39
4/1/2020	92	210	40	28	240	18
4/7/2020	320	3	210	200	11	2
4/16/2020	23	4,900	10	10	290	11
4/22/2020	250	38	118	106	420	16
5/5/2020	280	2,200	70	400	400	11
5/12/2020	2,400	5,800	1,400	2,600	1,700	200
5/28/2020	1,300	380	104	108	112	13