Custer and Fox Road Focus Areas

Water Quality Status: Fecal Coliform Bacteria

as of July 21, 2021

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 maintain safe shellfish harvest, Washington State has developed standards for fecal bacteria in marine waters. Meeting the fecal coliform benchmarks in freshwater systems leads to satisfying the marine water standards to protect public health.

Freshwater Benchmarks

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?

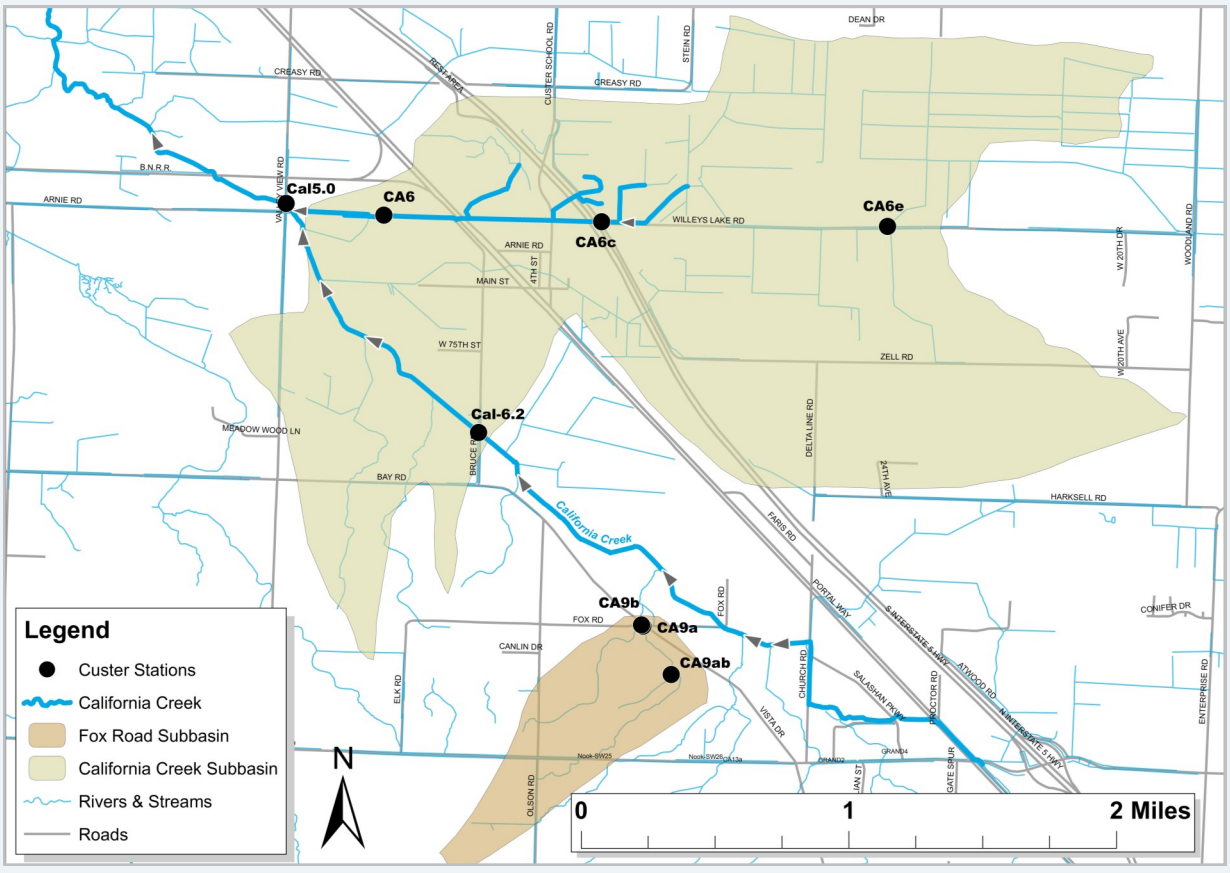
Potential sources of bacteria include:

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

Routine Monitoring: The Custer and Fox Rd. drainages have been identified as ***focus areas*** for water quality monitoring due to high levels of bacteria observed through the routine monitoring program. Whatcom County Public Works (WCPW) has monitored fecal bacteria in these drainage areas since 2017.

Whatcom County Public Works

Custer and Fox Road Water Quality Monitoring Stations

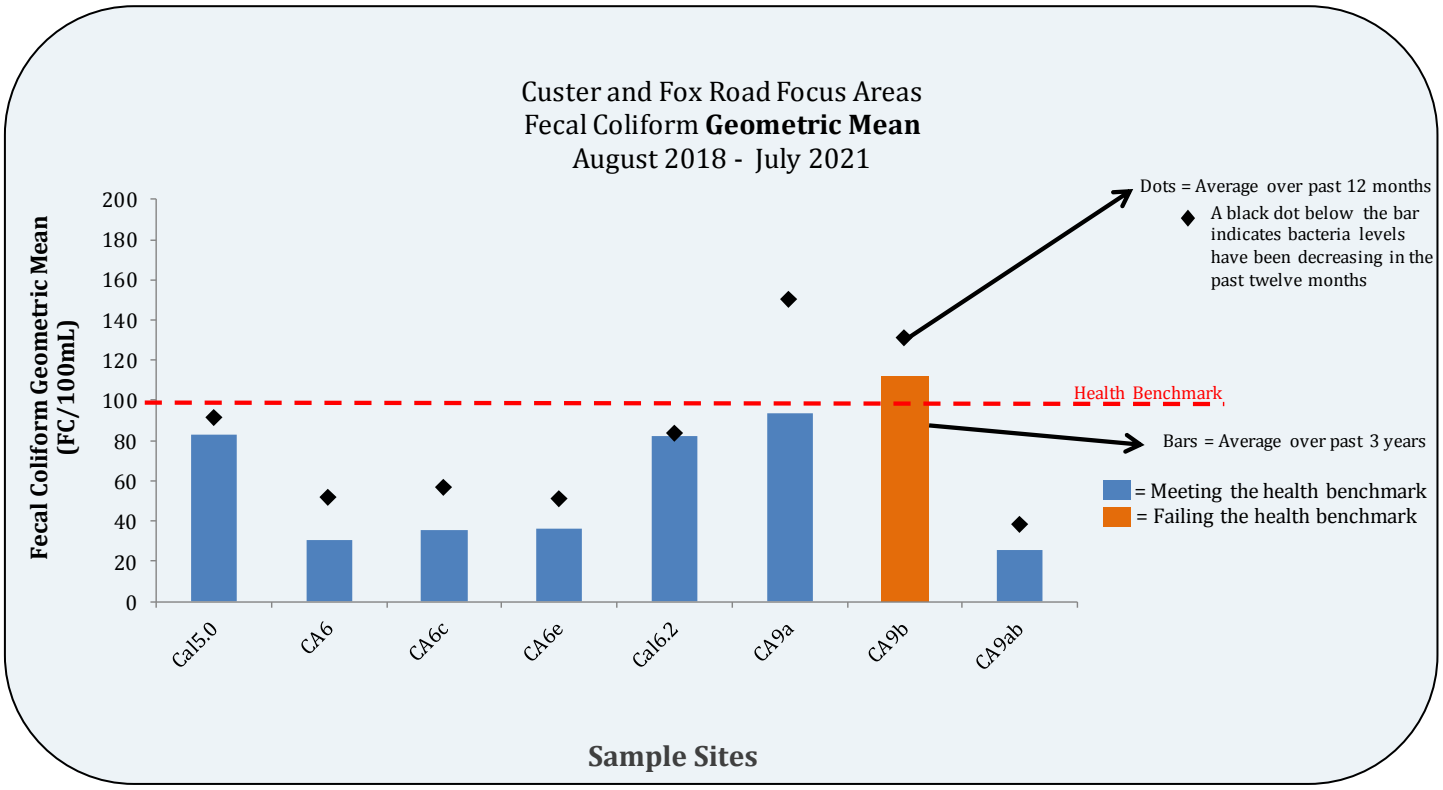


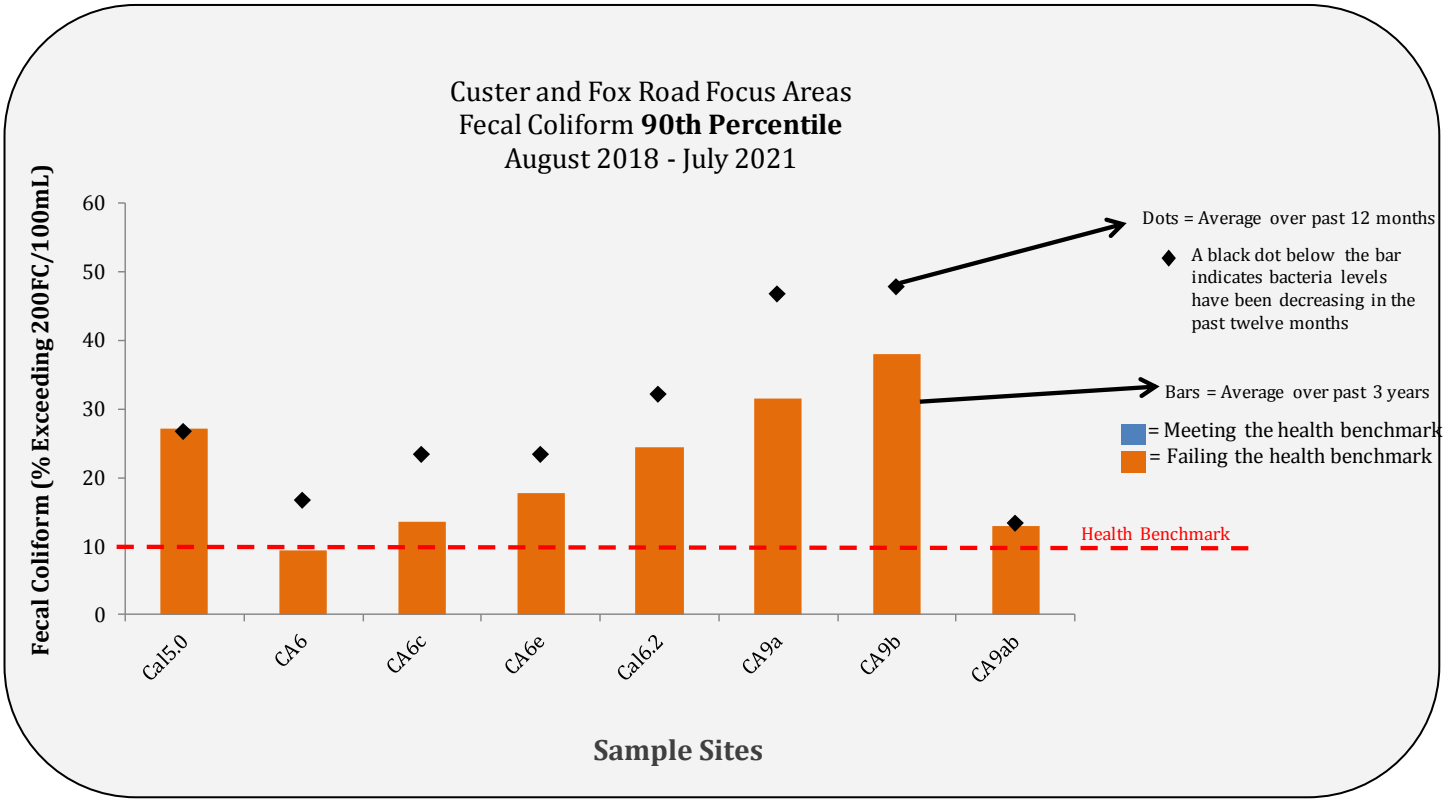
More information is available at: www.whatcomcounty.us/1072/Water-Quality

Custer Focus Area

Comparison of Bacteria Levels to Health Benchmarks

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





Custer and Fox Road Focus Areas

13-Month Historical Fecal Coliform Bacteria Data

These tables provides 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.

	Valley View	*Arnie Rd. W. of Bruce*	*Zell Rd. & Willey's Lk.*	*Wiley's Lk. E. of Zell Rd.*	*Bruce Rd.*	*Fox Rd. & Vista Dr.*	*Fox Rd. & Vista Dr.*	*Cemetery at Vista Dr.*
	Cal5.0	**CA6**	**CA6c**	**CA6e**	**Cal6.2**	**CA9a**	**CA9b**	**CA9ab**
7/1/20	210	118	118	62	210	44	2,000	10
7/22/20	110	84	68	6,000	590	800	5,800	ST
8/12/20	200	33	10	26	ST	250	ST	D
8/19/20	530	13	23	38	ST	590	D	D
8/27/20	118	23	26	16	ST	500	ST	D
9/1/20	230	8	31	23	ST	230	ST	D
9/16/20	250	3	25	13	ST	76	ST	D
9/29/20	56	40	82	66	60	98	D	D
10/14/20	1,800	2,300	2,300	3,600	98	136	ST	ST
10/28/20	73	25	8	16	30	86	ST	ST
11/4/20	4,700	6,000	6,000	3,600	5,600	1,800	1,500	800
11/10/20	109	2,700	270	114	26	30	78	10
12/3/20	10	18	5	2	25	25	11	10
12/16/20	36	54	16	16	31	96	31	98
12/29/20	33	3	43	62	15	52	220	18
1/12/21	700	2,100	470	1,600	800	2,000	200	NA
1/20/21	23	3	3	8	18	86	220	38
2/2/21	320	164	73	98	290	260	60	155
3/10/21	2	8	15	2	5	23	26	13
3/17/21	31	8	18	11	23	25	15	7
3/24/21	136	290	430	510	200	2,100	104	3,600
3/30/21	13	13	3	7	13	16	11	15
4/14/21	58	25	11	10	31	8	5	5
4/28/21	33	42	60	10	209	84	90	56
5/12/21	50	58	42	70	42	112	260	15
5/19/21	10	33	30	42	109	390	800	34
5/26/21	64	68	64	40	270	109	510	LF
6/9/21	76	62	116	230	50	480	1,100	LF
6/16/21	106	136	155	210	145	560	240	LF
6/23/21	191	112	290	360	310	220	510	ST
7/7/21	230	88	164	94	800	480	4,500	D
7/21/21	191	44	210	86	250	280	NA	D

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

NS- no sample. ST– stagnant. FL-Flooded, D– Dry, TNS– Temporarily Not Sampling, NA– No Access