

A final report on the Wildcat Creek Aquifer is available at the consultant's website, [www.horsleywitten.com/evergreen](http://www.horsleywitten.com/evergreen).

The information specific to Wildcat Creek Aquifer can be found in Module 8 of "Water Supply Protection for Rural Communities in Washington State: A Toolkit for Local Government Officials."

This "Toolkit," and a training workshop for local officials to be held this spring, are part of an EPA-funded contract that the Horsley Witten Group (Sandwich, Massachusetts) has with the Washington State Department of Health. The purpose of the contract is to help local officials protect ground water supplies given the difficulty of obtaining information about subsurface water sources.

County and City officials considered conducting more research on the Wildcat Creek Aquifer but found that such work could be expensive, that state and federal funds were not available to help pay for it, and that the results of more research could be inconclusive. Even after costly fieldwork, such as geophysical surveys, officials would still need to manage risk under conditions of uncertainty.

In the case study, the consultant reviewed available information about the Wildcat Creek Aquifer, conducted some additional, though limited, fieldwork to confirm several assumptions, identified risks to city and private wells, and made recommendations for monitoring conditions and regulating land use above the area's drinking water.

As a next step, the City and County will review the recommendations, establish monitoring protocols to learn more about water supplies, and adopt measures to protect what is, in reality, the only practical source of water for residents of McCleary and the surrounding rural area.