

Samish River: Changes in seasonal loading values as influenced by rainfall

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Below is a summary graph for one of our calculated parameters, the FC loading per day divided by the rainfall for the preceding 24 hours (the actual metric is Fecal Coliform Colonies/Day/Inch of rain). The idea here is that if we are seeing progress in removing sources, the FC loading for a given rainstorm should be coming down.

This graph is divided up by seasons since we've shown in the past that different times of the year produce different amounts of FC per inch of rain. So this graph has each year of the CSI for each station, grouped by season.

As March-April-May is our most critical time and also our most data-rich season, I call your attention to the first grouping on the graph. Sure looks like the loading rate is coming down. 2009 was lower than 2010 for the other three of the four seasons, so clearly backsliding and/or worse weather is possible. But the overall trends look pretty good, or at least 2011 has been better than 2008 and 2010.

Keep in mind that we have only a couple of September data points for the SON-2011 section and of course, none for DJF 2011. Also keep in mind that SON 2011 included the awful data set from 9/22, although the Thomas Road number that this is based on wasn't as bad as some of the tributaries. But even with that data point, SON 2011 barely registers on the graph.

