

## **6. OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE**

Operation and maintenance of the existing stormwater infrastructure in the Illahee Creek watershed is mostly the responsibility of Kitsap County Public Works Department. However, there are some roads in the watershed that are privately maintained, including the roadside ditches that convey stormwater runoff. An evaluation of existing infrastructure was not undertaken in the development of this plan. Yet one county-owned facility, the culvert under Illahee Road near the mouth of the creek, deserves special attention. As discussed in the Watershed Characterization Report (Appendix B), a large volume of sediment was transported to the downstream reaches of Illahee Creek during a major storm event on December 3, 2007 resulting in approximately 18 inches of aggradation in the culvert. Road crews have been monitoring and attempting to alleviate the sedimentation since the storm. The function of this culvert is critical to keeping the road open and allowing fish passage upstream in Illahee Creek. A determination as to whether the culvert in its current configuration is preventing fish from migrating upstream has not been made. Continued sedimentation and high peak flows from uncontrolled runoff will remain a maintenance challenge at the Illahee Road culvert and other conveyance infrastructure as long as upstream controls are not implemented. We recommend that the Illahee community continue to work with Kitsap County to get maintenance needs met, and that the County fund projects that will alleviate chronic maintenance problems, such as the Illahee Road culvert.

The Port of Illahee community dock is another structure that is likely being impacted by conditions in the Illahee Creek watershed. The Illahee Creek delta appears to be extending northward toward the dock (Watershed Characterization Report, Appendix B), and could eventually impact the viability of the harbor to support small boats and larger marine vessels. Approximately 20 to 30 inches of fine sediment has deposited over the cobble beach strata in the immediate vicinity of the moorage area, dock, and two dock floats in the past twenty years (Watershed Characterization Report, Appendix B).

As new projects or facilities are constructed in the watershed it is imperative that proper maintenance and operation of these facilities be performed regularly. The Illahee community can assist in these endeavors by being the “eyes and ears” for the County and identifying needs as they arise, whether on the regular maintenance schedule or not.