

Washington Department of Ecology news
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Oil spill cleanup and wildlife assistance under way at Auburn pond

AUBURN – The Washington departments of Ecology (Ecology) and Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) and a property owner are cleaning up an oil spill at a privately owned stormwater retention pond in Auburn.

State officials found that 10 to 12 ducks that frequent the pond at 1232 A Street Northeast have oil on some of their feathers.

The property owner, Auburn Marketplace Association, has cooperated with Ecology and WDFW by hiring environmental cleanup and wildlife experts. They are removing oil from the pond and assessing whether the ducks should be captured for cleaning.

Ecology estimates that three to five gallons of light-colored oil drained to the half-acre pond, which receives stormwater from approximately 10 acres of buildings and parking lots. The source of the spill is still under investigation.

Spill responders have placed oil cleanup materials into the pond and a drainage catch basin. The catch basin appears to have prevented oil from entering a City of Auburn storm drain.

Responders have been at work on this spill since it was reported to Ecology Tuesday afternoon.

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