What: The Whatcom Explorer: Mobile Watershed is a place-based interactive watershed model with focus on watershed processes and function.

The Explorer is comprised of two parts; the lid features a removable 3D topographic map, which depicts Whatcom County from Mount Baker to Bellingham Bay. The second part includes an interactive sand table with flowing water that demonstrates a variety of hydrologic processes. Lessons explore human and wildlife connections to water, land-use impacts as well as the importance of habitat restoration.

Where: The Mobile Watershed can be trailered to your school by Whatcom CD educators. The 4’ x 6’ trailer can easily be maneuvered and set-up in a parking lot, playfield, or gym, depending on your school’s available space. We can supply a large tent for outdoor instruction on rainy days.

Who: 3rd-6th grade classrooms, school curriculum dependent.

Why: The hands-on, interactive model directly connects students to their local watershed to help them better understand their community, and the natural movement of streams and rivers. Topics discussed reflect Next Generation Science standards.

Curriculum: The activities and curriculum are tailored to meet the needs of each classroom. In the past, we have worked with schools to incorporate topics related to water conservation, salmon lifecycle, as well as connections to agriculture and gardening. Please indicate your classroom’s curriculum needs at the bottom of this form.
When:  Early Fall and Spring to account for weather.

Time commitment:  A typical lesson is about 50 minutes for each class. Please allow for at least 15 minutes between classes.

Next steps:  Contact Aneka Sweeney, asweeney@whatcomcd.org for scheduling.

Please include the following information:

1.  Class availability: Specific dates, days of the week, or times.

2.  Classroom grade level and size.

3.  Will there be someone available to help Whatcom CD educators with setup?  If yes, please provide contact information.

4.  Preferred topics:
   - Erosion
   - Landforms
   - Watersheds
   - Stormwater
   - Point and non-point pollution
   - Water Cycle
   - Salmon Habitat
   - Agriculture
   - Water conservation
   - Other: _________________________________