

**2006 Report to the Legislature:**

# **Progress on Watershed Planning and Setting Instream Flows**



**December 2006**

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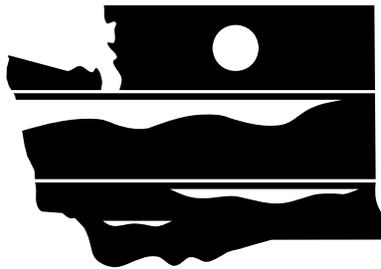
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WASHINGTON STATE  
DEPARTMENT OF  
E C O L O G Y

## 2006 Report to the Legislature:

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# Progress on Watershed Planning and Setting Instream Flows

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# **2006 Report to the Legislature: Progress on Watershed Planning and Setting Instream Flows**

## **Introduction**

This is the third annual report to the Legislature on the progress of watershed planning and setting instream flows in Washington State. Prepared by the Department of Ecology (Ecology) under state law (Chapters 90.82.043(5) and 90.82.080(6) RCW), this document describes:

- The status of watershed planning and implementation efforts, statewide,
- Changes in state water law or regulations recommended by local watershed groups, and
- Progress across the state in adopting administrative rules to enhance water management and protect instream flows.

The report provides a look ahead as more watershed groups move into the implementation phase, and summarizes high priority watershed project needs and funding requests. A summary of watershed planning and instream flow activities is also provided individually by watershed.

## **Overview**

The Watershed Planning Act (ESHB 2514) was passed by the Legislature in 1998. It provides a framework for local citizens, in collaboration with local, state and tribal governments, to develop watershed plans that address the future water needs of their communities. As part of this process (often called “2514 planning”), planning groups must address water quantity issues, and have the option of addressing instream flows, water quality and habitat. Plans must describe strategies for providing sufficient and reliable supplies of water into the future that satisfy residential, agricultural, and industrial needs, as well as instream flow needs for fish, habitat and recreation.

### ***Watershed Planning Act***

Since 1998, two-thirds of the state has participated in “2514 planning.” Local watershed groups worked together to form 37 different “planning units,” covering 45 of the state’s 62 Water Resource Inventory Areas (WRIAs). Thirty-one (31) planning units are still active, engaged in various phases of watershed planning.

In the last year, seven new watershed plans were adopted by county governments, bringing the statewide total to twenty-two (22). Adoption of these 22 plans represents a commitment by 26 Boards of County Commissioners to work toward improved, cooperatively led water resource management. This effort also represents the ongoing involvement and participation of at least 14 tribes, numerous city governments and conservation districts, and countless hours of volunteer time by local citizens and interested parties. (Refer to the map and table in Appendix A for the status of watershed planning around the state.)

Since 1998, the Legislature has appropriated over \$44 million in operating budget funds to support local development and implementation of watershed plans. These funds are provided to Ecology and made available to local governments in pass-through grants. In addition, over \$53 million in capital budget funding has been made available for a variety of water resource management projects in the 2003-05 and 2005-07 biennia.

## ***Instream Flows***

As mentioned above, the Watershed Planning Act gave local planning groups the option of addressing instream flows as part of their watershed management plans. The law states that once a planning unit reaches consensus and submits flow recommendations to Ecology, Ecology may begin rule making to adopt those flows into rule.

To date, local planning units in 30 watersheds chose to examine instream flows as part of their plan development. So far, 11 planning units have reached consensus and submitted flow recommendations to Ecology.

- One water management/instream flow rule was adopted by Ecology last year based on a planning unit recommendation: for the Entiat watershed, in August 2005 (Chapter 173-546 WAC).
- In the remaining ten watersheds, Ecology has initiated rule making. (Refer to the Rule Development Progress table on page 13).

The law also gave Ecology authority to adopt instream flows by rule in basins where local consensus on flow recommendations was not reached or where formal watershed planning was not occurring. Two water management/instream flow rules were adopted by Ecology in basins not planning under 2514: Stillaguamish (August 2005) and Skagit (Amendment May 2006) (Chapters 173-505 and 173-503 WAC, respectively).

## ***Looking ahead***

Now, as 2006 comes to a close, much of the Phase 1 – 3 planning work is done, and we are seeing the shift into “Phase 4 Implementation” activities. Of the 22 planning groups with adopted plans, over half (13) have begun implementation, and several more are expected to begin in the next few months. By the end of the 2007-09 biennium, it is possible that all of the existing 31 planning processes may be in Phase 4. Work will continue at both state and local levels to improve water management. New water management/instream flow rules will be adopted, and water efficiency actions implemented. To build on the watershed work completed thus far, additional funding will be needed to implement the specific projects and strategies identified in the Phase 4 plans.

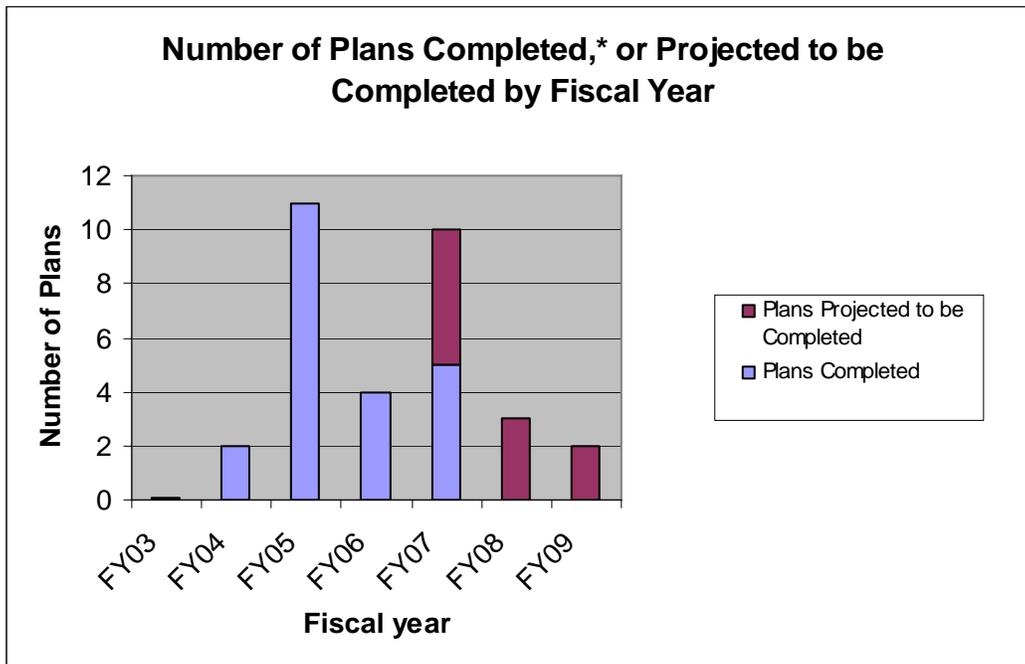
(See Appendix B for a brief description of the watershed planning phases.)

# Watershed Planning

## Statewide Summary

- Since 1998, 37 Planning Units (45 WRIsAs) have been involved in 2514 watershed planning
- 31 of 37 Planning Units are still active today
- 22 Watershed Plans have been adopted by county governments
- 13 of the 22 Watershed Plans are currently in Phase 4 Implementation, and six of those have completed their detailed implementation plans
- All 22 adopted Watershed Plans could be in Phase 4 by the end of 2005-07 biennium
- All 31 Watershed Plans could potentially be in implementation phase by the end of 2007-09 biennium
- Six Planning Units were unable to reach consensus and the planning process was terminated
- Statewide, three new or amended water management/instream flow rules have been adopted, and work is currently underway to adopt new rules in 10 additional basins by the close of the 2007-09 biennium.

The graph below shows the rate of completion -- actual and projected -- of all 31 existing watershed planning efforts.



\*Completed = Adopted by County Government

## Funding Summary 2005-07

Funding to support 2514 watershed planning has increased from an initial appropriation of \$3.9 million in the 1998 operating budget to \$11.1 million in each of the 2003-05 and 2005-07 biennia. Capital funding to support improved water management activities, including drought response, has amounted to over \$53 million over the last two biennia. Funds in both accounts are appropriated to Ecology and passed through to local governments in grants. This information is summarized in the table below.

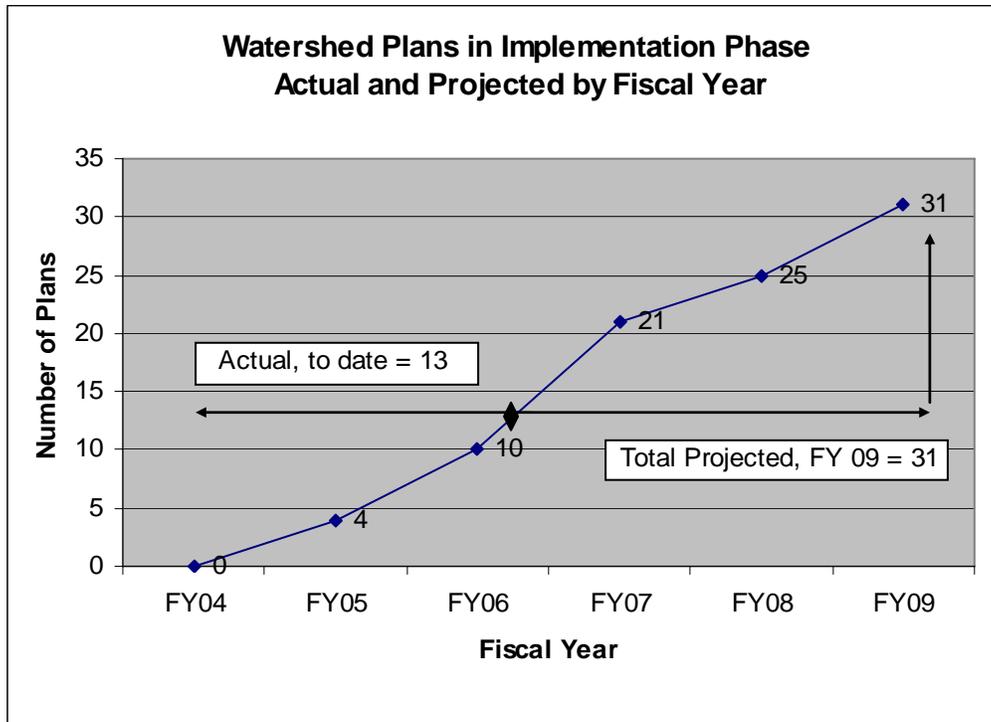
### Funding Provided to Ecology to Support Local Government Watershed Planning and Management

Biennium:	97-99	99-01	01-03	03-05	05-07
Operating Budget Appropriation (Funds available only to 2514 watersheds)	\$3.9 M	\$9 M	\$9.1 M	\$11.1 M	\$11.1 M
Capital Budget Appropriation (Funds available to all watersheds)				\$ 28M	\$25M

#### *Shift to Implementation*

Prior to FY 05, all of the operating budget funds went to support Phases 1 – 3: assessing watershed characteristics and developing watershed plans. A shift began in FY 05, as the first four plans were completed and entered Phase 4 Implementation. Each year since, more of Ecology's watershed budget has gone to support local implementation activities, and this trend will continue in the next biennium.

Thirteen watershed planning efforts are now in Phase 4, and by the end of next biennium, we may have as many as 31, as shown in the graph below. Currently, Ecology estimates over \$6 million of its \$11.141 million appropriation for 2005-07 will be used to support implementation activities. The funding needed to support implementation will continue to increase as more plans are completed.



The Table below shows the 2005-07 allocation of funds for planning and implementation.

**2005-07 Operating Budget Spending Projections**

<b>Total Amount Allotted</b>	<b>\$11,141,000</b>
<b>Plan Development Grants</b>	
Phase 1: Organizing	\$0
Phase 2 – 3: Assessment and Plan Development	\$2,714,620
Optional Elements: Instream Flows, Water Quality, Storage	\$1,060,029
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$3,779,649</b>
<b>Implementation</b>	
Phase 4: Implementation Grants	\$2,405,601
Implementation Projects – FY 06	\$1,149,096
Implementation Projects – FY 07	\$2,562,240
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$6,116,937</b>
WR/Tech/Admin Support	\$985,000
<b>Total Estimated Spending</b>	<b>\$10,876,586</b>
<b>Balance Remaining</b>	<b>\$264,414</b>

Ecology's capital budget funding in the last two biennia has continued to support a variety of water management implementation activities in both 2514 and non-2514 watersheds. Funds have been allocated in the following amounts:

### **Capital Budget Funding Available to Local Government**

Biennium	2003-05	2005-07
Water supply	\$6,300,000	\$6,981,000
Drought preparedness	\$1,700,000	\$5,654,000
Water right acquisitions	\$1,500,000	\$1,000,000
Irrigation efficiencies	\$2,500,000	\$3,500,000
Water storage	\$7,400,000	\$2,573,000
Water conveyance infrastructure	\$5,800,000	\$4,224,000
Metering	\$2,700,000	\$1,500,000
Total	\$27,900,000	\$25,432,000

### **Estimated Implementation Costs 2007-09**

One of the requirements of local planning groups accepting grant funding for Phase 4 Implementation is completion of a Detailed Implementation Plan (DIP) within one year. The DIP must identify the specific water management actions to be taken, who is responsible for taking the actions, the timeframe to complete those actions, and estimated costs and fund sources. Of the 13 watersheds groups in Phase 4, six have completed their detailed plans. We are now starting to get a sense of the kinds of projects and costs associated with implementing watershed plans.

In an effort to estimate statewide funding needs associated with implementation, Ecology requested planning groups to submit preliminary project proposals in spring 2006. This was intended to assist Ecology in preparing a budget proposal for 2007-09. Planning units were asked to submit brief proposals for high priority watershed projects identified in their watershed plans and their anticipated costs.

Ecology received about 175 high priority project requests from 32 different watershed groups, totaling almost \$48 million. Roughly two-thirds of the project proposals were operating budget requests and totaled almost \$22 million. The remainder were capital budget requests, totaling over \$26 million.

A summary of the number of project requests and associated cost estimates in both Operating and Capital Budgets -- by Ecology Regional Office -- is provided in the following tables.

Note: The two tables that follow provide a *preliminary estimate* of costs associated with implementing watershed plans. These figures are not based on a formal solicitation for grant monies; they also do not represent our proposed distribution of funds. Our intent was to use this information as a general gauge of demand to build a 2007-09 budget proposal, and to illustrate the demand among watershed groups statewide. A more formal process for grant solicitation and application and allocation of funds will be used when Ecology's 2007-09 budget is finalized.

### 2007-09 Operating Budget Requests: Early Estimates

Statewide, by Region	# of WS Groups Submitting Proposals	# Requests Submitted	Total \$\$ Requested
Northwest	2	9	\$ 2,757,000
Southwest	13	41	5,590,000
Central	7	28	3,345,000
Eastern	8	41	10,270,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>119</b>	<b>\$21,962,000</b>

### 2007-09 Capital Budget Requests: Early Estimates

Statewide, by Region	# of WS Groups Submitting Proposals	# Requests Submitted	Total \$\$ Requested
Northwest	4	5	\$ 4,641,000
Southwest	10	14	7,780,000
Central	7	15	4,318,000
Eastern	8	22	9,454,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>\$26,193,000</b>

The top five categories of operating budget projects (in order, by number of requests) were:

1. Water Quality – monitoring, improvement
2. Habitat – restoration
3. Ground Water/Surface Water – assessments, modeling, monitoring
4. Instream Flow – setting, monitoring, tracking, enforcing
5. Stream Gauging – monitoring

Many of these projects entail additional studies or assessments. Such studies are often developed to further refine data collected at a watershed scale to a more local or sub-basin basis. This is commonly the first step in evaluating the impact of an ongoing activity and implementing a specific restoration project or strategy.

Other high priority project requests included education and outreach, water use and availability assessments, water right permitting, conservation, enforcement and adjudication and data system support. (See Appendix C for a summary list of high priority project proposals.)

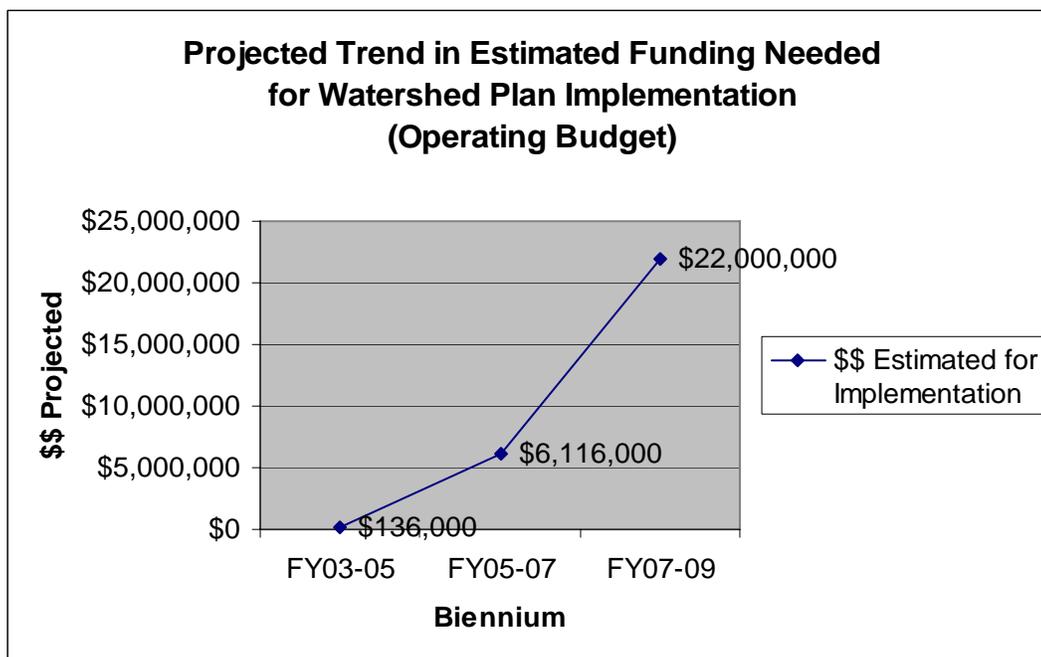
Ecology reviewed the project proposals and, working in conjunction with local watershed groups, further prioritized the requests to arrive at the highest priority projects. Based on this review, Ecology has requested an additional \$4 million in General Fund – State appropriation, and a \$16 million appropriation from the State Building Construction Account, in its 2007-09 budget proposal.

Ecology has also requested over \$8 million in other capital budget appropriation requests to continue irrigation improvement and storage projects in the Yakima basin, for a total 2007-09 capital request of \$24.794 million.

Securing this additional funding would help to ensure that:

- existing water rights are verified and protected
- instream flows are set and/or protected
- illegal uses of water are identified and enforced against
- ground water availability for future water supply is assessed
- stream flows are monitored for quality and quantity
- potential storage sites and other alternative sources of supply are evaluated for future development.

The results of this preliminary project solicitation have shown us that significant funding is needed to support implementation of watershed plans. Costs will continue into future biennia and will increase as more plans are completed and projects are implemented.



This conclusion is consistent with the earlier determinations of different committees. The Governor’s 2002 Phase 4 Committee projected watershed implementation needs in the billions of dollars over a 20-year life span.<sup>1</sup> And the 2004 Water Resources Funding Task Force concluded that “Watershed Plans, many of which are projected for completion within the next three years, are expected to result in widespread and substantial requests for operating and capital funds....There is potential for proposed projects to reach billions of dollars.”<sup>2</sup>

This would suggest that existing fund sources are not likely to be adequate to support all the water use efficiency and improved water management activities called for in watershed plans. In the coming biennium, Ecology will explore options, including the possibility of a new fund source, with legislators and other stakeholders for consideration in future biennia.

<sup>1</sup> Phase 4 Watershed Plan Implementation Committee – Report to the Legislature, December 2002, Ecology Publication 02-06-023.

<sup>2</sup> 2004 Report to the Legislature: Water Resources Administration and Funding Task Force, Ecology Publication 04-11-029, December 2004.

## **Statute, Rule, Policy Recommendations**

RCW 90.82.043(5) , provides that by December 1, 2003, and each December 1<sup>st</sup> thereafter, the director of the department “...shall report to the appropriate legislative standing committees regarding statutory changes necessary to enable state agency approval or permit decision making needed to implement a plan approved under this chapter.”

Our discussion will focus on recommendations from the seven plans completed in the last year.<sup>3,4</sup> Similar to previous years, no statutory changes have been needed to enable Ecology’s approval of a plan. However, several plans have identified statutory changes or rule revisions that would facilitate implementation of their plan recommendations. These are summarized below.

Ecology is currently proceeding with some of the recommended rule revisions (refer to the Rule Development Progress table on page 13). The remaining recommendations need further evaluation by Ecology and consultation with affected stakeholder groups prior to making any decisions on proposed statutory or rule amendments.

## **Statutory Changes Recommended**

- 1) WRIA 16 – Skokomish-Dosewallips: *Rainwater Capture Thresholds*  
The WRIA 16 Planning Unit recommends that Ecology work with the Legislature to recommend a specific quantity of rainwater that can be captured without a permit. The Planning Unit further requests that the Legislature authorize this exemption for rainwater capture in statute.
- 2) WRIA 25/26 – Grays-Elochoman/Cowlitz, and 27/28 - Lewis/Salmon Washougal: *Mitigation for Water Withdrawals*  
Both Planning Units have adopted a water management strategy that recommends mitigation be required for water right applications in certain circumstances. “The Planning Unit recommends that where an applicant applies for a water right under a reservation, they be *required to mitigate* the predicted stream flow depletion to the maximum extent practicable through flow-related actions. Practicable is meant to include both economic and logistic considerations.”<sup>5</sup> The Planning Units have recommended this water strategy be adopted into administrative rule.

There is uncertainty as to whether current law would allow adoption of this strategy. Chapter 90.03.255 RCW states: “Provision for an impoundment or *other resource management technique* in an application shall be made solely at the discretion of the applicant and shall not otherwise be made by the department as a condition for approving an application that does not include such provision.” It is not clear whether “other resource management technique” is the same as “mitigation,” and if it is, whether this provision limits Ecology’s ability to require mitigation.

It would facilitate implementation of WRIs 25/26 and 27/28’s watershed plans if RCW 90.82 was amended to expressly allow Ecology to require mitigation in certain circumstances, where a

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<sup>3</sup>The seven plans completed in 2006 were for WRIs 16, 25/26, 27/28, 29, 30, 45 and 55/57

<sup>4</sup> See Ecology’s 2004 and 2005 Annual Reports to the Legislature for descriptions of previous recommendations.

<sup>5</sup> Grays-Elochoman and Cowlitz Watershed Management Plan, WRIs 25 and 26, July 2006

county-adopted watershed plan has recommended it. Another option would be to clarify language in RCW 90.03.

- 3) WRIAs 29, 30, 45, 55/57 – No statutory changes recommended.

### **Rule Revisions Recommended**

- 1) WRIA 16 – Skokomish-Dosewallips  
*Review water re-use systems and revise regulations, as appropriate*  
The Planning Unit recommends that the state departments of Health and Ecology review alternative sewage and greywater treatment systems and revise regulations to allow greater use of these alternative sources of reused water, as appropriate.  
  
*Separate the South Shore Sub-basin from WRIA 14*  
The Planning Unit recommends that the Legislature (or Ecology) separate WRIA 14 into two WRIAs (14A and 14B). The south shore of Hood Canal (which is included in the WRIA 16 Planning Process, under an agreement between WRIAs 14 and 16) would be designated as WRIA 14B. The Planning Unit also recommends that WRIA 14B continue to be administered as part of WRIA 16 during plan implementation.
- 2) WRIA 25/26 – Grays-Elochoman/Cowlitz  
Recommends Ecology adopt closures and instream flows in state rule per their county-approved watershed management plan.
- 3) WRIA 27/28 – Lewis/Salmon-Washougal  
Recommends Ecology adopt closures and instream flows in state rule per their county-approved watershed management plan.
- 4) WRIA 29 – Wind-White Salmon  
No rule changes recommended.
- 5) WRIA 30 - Klickitat  
Recommends Ecology amend Chapter 173-563-020(4) WAC, “Instream Resources Protection Program for the Main Stem Columbia River,” which reads:  
“Any water right application considered for approval or denial after that date will be evaluated for possible impacts on fish and existing water rights. The department will consult with appropriate local, state, and federal agencies and Indian tribes in making this evaluation.”

As the WAC is currently written, there is no limit on the length of time associated with the consultation requirement. The Planning Unit recommends this subsection be amended to include limits on the amount of time allowed for consultation to ensure timely processing of water rights.

Recommends Ecology adopt its stock-watering policy (POL-1025 - Policy for Conveying Stock Water Away From Stream to Protect Water Quality, 1994) into administrative rule.

- 6) WRIA 45 - Wenatchee  
Recommends Ecology amend Chapter 173-545 WAC, “Instream Resources Protection Program for the Wenatchee River Watershed,” to reflect more current knowledge of the instream flow needs of aquatic species. It also recommends Ecology adopt, in rule, the new water resource management strategy for WRIA 45, including: management flows (revised instream flows) at specified control points, a water reserve, and maximum allocations.
- 7) WRIA 55/57 – Little/Middle Spokane  
No rule changes recommended.

### **Other Policy Recommendations**

As in past years, the most common recommendation to the Legislature is to provide ongoing and increased funding to support implementation of specific activities and projects included in watershed plans. Additional funding is requested for the full range of watershed planning elements: water quantity, water quality, instream flows and habitat. Activities and projects include:

- ground water and surface water modeling
- water quality monitoring
- instream flow setting, monitoring, tracking, and enforcement
- stream gauging
- public education and outreach
- water use and availability assessments
- water right permitting
- conservation
- enforcement
- water right adjudication
- data system support.

See Appendix C for a summary list of high priority project proposals.

### **Instream Flow Progress**

Of the 45 watersheds planning under the Watershed Planning Act, 30 chose to examine instream flows and make recommendations to Ecology to adopt new or to modify existing water management/instream flow rules. Significant progress has been made toward this end, including the collection of extensive field data on several hundred streams and rivers across the state.

Progress on rule adoption continues to vary considerably from watershed to watershed, and often, our progress has been slower than we originally projected. This is in large part due to the fact that the rules currently being developed are much more complex and comprehensive than their counterparts in the 1970’s and early 1980’s. While we still tend to refer to the current regulations as “instream flow rules,” these rules are more accurately characterized as “water management rules.” In addition to the establishment of stream management units and instream flow levels, the current rules may address how to manage permit-exempt ground water withdrawals, establish water reserves and their conditions of use, determine seasonal and year-round closures, and utilize other innovative and complex management tools.

A combination of factors has contributed to the complexity of developing water management rules, and there are no easy solutions. Since the last round of water regulations, scientific developments have vastly increased our understanding of the interconnection of ground and surface water. Population growth continues to put an increasing demand on limited resources, and instream resources, including ESA-listed fish, continue to need protection. Consideration for small-scale agriculture needs, and rural water supply have to be taken into account.

The need for outreach and education is an integral part of the watershed planning process, and is essential to the success of watershed planning and ultimately our rules. This kind of work is time-consuming and slow, but is necessary to build public awareness and acceptance. The unique characteristics of each watershed and the need to be responsive to the particular make-up of the local community generally determine the rate at which rule making proceeds.

The water management rules currently being developed strive to lay down guidelines that will protect existing water rights and instream resources, while providing water for future urban and rural needs. Given all these complex variables, it is not surprising that rule making is proceeding more slowly than originally projected.

The following table summarizes rule development progress in the top priority watersheds.

#### **Rule Development Progress in Top Priority Watersheds**

<b>Water Resource Inventory Area</b>	<b>Initiate Rule Development (File CR-101)</b>	<b>Target Date for Rule Proposal (File CR-102)</b>	<b>Target Date for Rule Adoption (File CR-103)</b>
Entiat (46)	Initiated 2004		Adopted August 2005
Walla Walla (32)	Initiated 2004	Jan/Feb 2007	Spring 2007
Salmon-Washougal (28)	Initiated 2005	Spring 2007	Fall 2007
Quilcene-Snow (17)	Initiated 2004	Summer 2007	Winter 2007/08
Elwha-Dungeness (18)	Initiated 2004	Winter 2007/08 (Dungeness only)	Summer 2008
Wenatchee (45)	Initiate early 2007	Summer 2007	Winter 2007/08
Lewis (27)	Initiated 2005	Winter 2007/08	Summer 2008
Grays-Elochoman (25)	Initiated 2005	Winter 2007/08	Summer 2008
Cowlitz (26)	Initiated 2005	Winter 2007/08	Summer 2008
Skokomish-Dosewallips (16)	Initiate 2007/08	2009	2009
Lyre-Hoko (19)	Initiate 2007/08	2009	2009
Soleduc (20)	Initiate 2007/08	2009	2009

Ecology has completed or initiated rule making in three watersheds not planning under 2514:

- Stillaguamish (WRIA 5) — Rule adopted August 2005.
- Skagit (WRIA 4) — Rule amended May 2006.
- Samish (WRIA 3) — Rule making initiated 2005. Target date for rule proposal: Summer 2007. Target date for rule adoption: Winter 2007.

See Appendix D for a map of instream flow rule-making activities.

## **Public outreach and involvement**

Ecology's outreach approach is to establish early, open and ongoing communication with watershed planning groups and interested stakeholders in each watershed involved in rule making. Ecology staff engage key decision-makers in each WRIA, including elected officials, tribal representatives, realtors, farmers, environmental organizations, the business community and other interested parties.

Opportunities for the general public to learn about water issues in their area, identify issues and concerns and participate in decisions about water management are available through open houses and other public venues. Ecology seeks to both improve the public's overall understanding of the complex issues and concerns involved in managing water, and engage the public in the rule making process, so there is a sense of ownership and local buy-off in the guidelines established by regulation.

## Watershed Status

### WRIA 1 Nooksack

*Watershed Planning Phase: Plan adopted June 2005  
Phase 4 begun June 2006*

*Optional Elements: Water Quality, Habitat, Instream Flows  
Total Projected Grant Expenditure through June 2007: \$987,000*



The Watershed Plan was adopted in June 2005, and the Nooksack Watershed Phase 4 Implementation Grant was signed in June 2006. A Detailed Implementation Plan (DIP) and Water Monitoring Plan will be developed by June 2007.

### Instream Flow Progress

Existing instream flows were set in 1985 (Chapter 173-501 WAC). As a part of the Watershed Plan, the WRIA 1 Instream Flow Selection and Adoption Plan was developed, which describes an innovative, subbasin-by-subbasin approach for work on treaty reserve water rights and instream flows. The first areas to pilot instream flow negotiations under the Instream Flow Selection and Adoption Plan were the Bertrand Creek and Middle Fork Nooksack River watersheds; negotiations began there last year, and are still underway. After successful processes and methods have been demonstrated in this pilot project, instream flow assessments will continue in other drainages in WRIA 1, with the goal of recommending amendments to the existing instream flow rule in about five years.

### Another Innovative Pilot Project

Another pilot project underway in WRIA 1 is a process to develop a locally-driven, flexible water management strategy. Concurrent with the instream flow negotiations described above, Ecology is working with the Bertrand Watershed Improvement District, Lummi Nation, Nooksack Tribe, Whatcom County and others to craft a Memorandum of Understanding on a cooperative water management program. Under this program, Ecology will offer greater flexibility in the way water is managed in exchange for the establishment and achievement of target stream flows.

Plan Web site: <http://www.wria1project.wsu.edu>

### WRIA 2 San Juan

*Watershed Planning Phase Plan adopted October 2004  
Phase 4 begun October 2004*

*Optional Elements: Water Quality, Habitat, Instream Flows  
Total Projected Grant Expenditure through June 2007: \$995,000*



San Juan County adopted the WRIA 2 Watershed Management Plan and started Phase 4 in October 2004, and completed their Detailed Implementation Plan (DIP) in January 2006. Some of their DIP recommendations include developing an MOU with Ecology on water management issues, conducting ongoing ground water monitoring and analysis, and developing an expedited permitting process for use of rainwater catchment systems.

### **Instream Flow Status**

The Planning Unit conducted an instream flow assessment, established a stream gauging network and collected data on seven streams of interest in the islands. Based on conclusions that most of these streams likely only provide food sources and/or shelter locations for fish, and that there is little or no spawning activity, further instream flow work was discontinued by the Planning Unit. Ecology does not anticipate conducting further studies or setting instream flows at this time, but will continue to assess impacts of proposed surface and ground water withdrawals on fish resources as part of water rights permit processing.

Plan Web site: <http://www.co.san-juan.wa.us/health/ehs.asp>

### **WRIA 3/WRIA 4 - Lower Skagit-Samish/Upper Skagit**

***Watershed Planning Phase:** The planning process was terminated. A draft watershed plan was completed for the Samish Basin in December 2004, but was not finalized or voted on by the Planning Unit.*

***Optional Elements:** Instream Flows*

***Total Grant Expenditure through June 2007:** \$1,039,000*



### **Instream Flow Progress**

In consultation with local governments and tribes, Ecology developed an amendment to the existing “Instream Resources Protection Program--Lower and Upper Skagit Water Resources Inventory Area (WRIA 3 and 4)” rule, Chapter 173-503 WAC. The amendment was adopted in May 2006. The rule amendment was developed to resolve a lawsuit filed by Skagit County on the existing rule, which was adopted in 2001. To address the legal challenge, a process was needed to provide water certainty for out-of-stream uses for users who are junior to the instream flows. The adoption of the rule amendment resulted in a settlement of the lawsuit in May 2006.

The rule amendment established reservations of water, not subject to instream flows, for specific out-of-stream uses (residential, commercial/industrial, agricultural irrigation and stock watering), while keeping in place existing instream flow levels. Certain tributaries will be closed when the reserved water is fully allocated and used. The circumstances under which future water right permits may be obtained is clarified.

Ecology will also be developing an instream flow rule for the Samish River basin, an independent drainage system in WRIA 3. Local watershed planning and instream flow work in WRIs 3/4 focused on the Samish sub-basin of WRIA 3. The Planning Unit completed a considerable amount of work on instream flows, but was unable to reach consensus on the flow levels or develop a final watershed management plan. As a result, Ecology is proceeding with rule making to establish flows, using the technical work completed by the Planning Unit. Ecology delayed work on the Samish instream flow rule until issues on the Skagit River rule were resolved. Ecology plans to develop a rule proposal for the Samish River subbasin in 2007.

Information on the Skagit rule can be found at <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/laws-rules/archive/wac173503.html>

## WRIA 5 Stillaguamish

*Not working under 2514 Watershed Planning.*



### **Instream Flow Status**

In consultation with Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife and the Tribes, Ecology adopted the “Instream Resources Protection and Water Resources Program” rule (Chapter 173-505 WAC) in August 2005. The rule established instream flows for 32 rivers or streams in the basin, reserved a limited amount of ground water for future domestic use, reserved a limited amount of water for stock watering, established maximum limits for withdrawals from nine water sources, closed lakes and ponds to new diversions (except for domestic use), and closed numerous rivers and streams to new uses unless the use qualifies under identified exceptions.

Information on the Stillaguamish rule can be found at <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/laws-rules/archive/wac173505.html>

## WRIA 6 Island

*Watershed Planning Phase: Plan adopted June 2005  
Phase 4 begun August 2005*

*Optional Elements: None*

*Total Projected Grant Expenditure through June 2007: \$848,000*



Island County adopted their Watershed Management Plan in June 2005 and began Phase 4 implementation in August 2005. Some of their implementation plan activities include: monitoring and protection for seawater intrusion-vulnerable areas, water system coordination, and local review of and “preprocessing” assistance to Ecology on new water right applications.

### **Instream Flow Status**

WRIA 6 does not have instream flows set, and the Planning Unit did not recommend adoption of instream flows. No instream flow activities are currently scheduled in this watershed.

Plan Web site: <http://www.islandcounty.net/health/Envh/WRAC/WRAC%20Main.htm>

## WRIA 7 Snohomish

*Not working under 2514 Watershed Planning.*

Instream flows were set in 1979 (Chapter 173-507 WAC).



## WRIA 8 Cedar-Sammamish

*Not working under 2514 Watershed Planning.*

Instream flows were set in 1979 (Chapter 173-508 WAC).



## **WRIA 9 Duwamish-Green**

*Not working under 2514 Watershed Planning.*

Instream flows were set in 1980 (Chapter 173-509 WAC).



## **WRIA 10 Puyallup-White**

*Not working under 2514 Watershed Planning.*

The basin was closed by rule in 1980 (Chapter 173-510 WAC).



## **WRIA 11 Nisqually**

*Watershed Planning Phase: Plan adopted in April 2004  
Phase 4 begun November 2005*

*Optional Elements: Water Quality, Habitat, Instream Flows  
Total Projected Grant Expenditure through June 2007: \$849,000*



Pierce, Thurston, and Lewis counties adopted the Nisqually Watershed Plan in April 2004, with the Nisqually Tribe acting as lead agency. This was the first adopted watershed plan in the state. The Planning Unit began Phase 4 Implementation in November 2005. Some of their plan recommendations include subbasin processing of water right applications, ongoing instream flow work in the Mashel basin and additional efforts in water conservation, reuse, and reclamation. A draft Detailed Implementation Plan (DIP) for the Nisqually was completed in May 2006. Final approval has been delayed until an agreement can be reached between the Nisqually Indian Tribe and the Cities of Lacey, Olympia and Yelm concerning water management in the McAllister/Yelm subbasins. It is hoped the agreement will be concluded by December 2006.

### **Instream Flow Progress**

Instream flows were set in 1981 (Chapter 173-511 WAC).

The Planning Unit recommended existing closures should be maintained, unless new technical information suggests otherwise. It also recommended retaining instream flow levels in the Nisqually River, but doing more work on the Mashel River to improve stream flows and address the water supply needs of the town of Eatonville.

In 2005 Ecology completed Instream Flow Incremental Methodology (IFIM) studies for Mashel River, which included: hydrographs/exceedance curves, estimates of allocated water and actual water use, summary of habitat conditions, and an assessment of hydraulic continuity.

Plan Web site: <http://nisquallyriver.org/planning.html>

## WRIA 12 Chambers-Clover

**Watershed Planning Phase:** *The planning process was terminated. The Planning Unit completed the final draft Watershed Management Plan in September 2004, but was unable to reach consensus agreement, with the Puyallup Tribe voting against plan approval.*

**Optional Elements:** *Water Quality, Habitat*

**Total Grant Expenditure through June 2007:** \$588,000



### Instream Flow Status

Instream flows were adopted by rule in 1979 (Chapter 173-512 WAC). Ecology does not plan to amend the existing rule.

## WRIA 13 Deschutes

**Watershed Planning Phase:** *The planning process was terminated. The Watershed Planning Unit completed a final draft watershed plan in October 2004, but was unable to reach consensus agreement on the plan, with the Squaxin Island Tribe voting against plan approval.*

**Optional Elements:** *Water Quality, Habitat, Instream Flows*

**Total Grant Expenditure through June 2007:** \$465,000



### Instream Flow Status

The Deschutes instream flows/closures are already in place, set in 1980 (Chapter 173-513 WAC). Ecology does not plan to amend the existing rule.

## WRIA 14 Kennedy-Goldsborough

**Watershed Planning Phase:** *The planning process was terminated. The Planning Unit completed a draft watershed plan in May 2006, but was unable to reach consensus agreement on the plan, with the Squaxin Island Tribe voting against plan approval.*

**Optional Elements:** *Water Quality, Habitat, Instream Flows*

**Total Projected Grant Expenditure through June 2007:** \$789,000



### Instream Flow Progress

Instream flows were set in 1984 (Chapter 173-514 WAC). Ecology does not plan to amend the existing rule.

## WRIA 15 Kitsap

**Watershed Planning Phase:** *The Planning Process was terminated in Phase 3. The Planning Unit completed a final draft watershed plan in June 2005, but was unable to reach consensus agreement on the plan, with the Squaxin Island Tribe voting against plan approval.*

**Optional Elements:** *Water Quality, Habitat, Instream Flows*

**Total Grant Expenditure through June 2007:** \$794,000



### Instream Flow Status

Instream flows were set in 1981 (Chapter 173-515 WAC). Ecology does not plan to amend the existing rule.

## WRIA 16 Skokomish-Dosewallips



*Watershed Planning phase: Plan adopted July 2006*

*Optional Elements: Water Quality, Habitat, Instream Flows*

*Total Projected Grant Expenditure through June 2007: \$780,000*

The Watershed Plan was adopted by the Planning Unit in May 2006 and approved by the Mason and Jefferson Boards of County Commissioners in July 2006. The Planning Unit anticipates applying for Phase 4 Implementation grant funds in early 2007.

### **Instream Flow Progress**

Instream flow recommendations were not included in the adopted plan. Ecology plans to initiate rule development in 2008.

## WRIA 17 Quilcene-Snow



*Watershed Planning Phase: Plan adopted January 2005*

*Phase 4 begun in October 2006*

*Optional Elements: Water Quality, Habitat, Instream Flows*

*Total Projected Grant Expenditure through June 2007: \$885,000*

Jefferson County adopted the WRIA 17 Watershed Management Plan in January 2005, and began Phase 4 Implementation in October 2006. The planning group intends to continue working with Ecology in Phase 4 on the water management/instream flow rule development process. In addition to supporting additional work on instream flow setting, some of the plan recommendations include: ongoing surface and ground water monitoring, support for water acquisition and conservation programs, and bringing illegal water users into compliance.

### **Instream Flow Progress**

Although instream flow recommendations were not included in the approved plan, the Planning Unit, Ecology, and Department of Fish and Wildlife did agree on flow numbers for creeks and streams. Ecology prepared a draft water management/instream flow rule that, in addition to establishing flow numbers, included measures to manage withdrawals of ground water. Many local streams support or have supported salmon. This area has a fairly low population, but is growing rapidly. There is concern that unregulated well drilling and use could further diminish stream flows and induce seawater intrusion.

Ecology had planned to propose the rule in October 2005. At recent public workshops on the draft rule, numerous people became aware of the draft proposals for the first time, and expressed significant concerns about the proposed rule language. Issues around the management of future ground water withdrawals, water for small agriculture and potential impacts on watershed economies generated a great deal of controversy. As a result, Ecology has postponed rule making, and has secured the services of a professional facilitation team to continue to work with the governments, interest groups and other stakeholders in the basin to develop a path forward that better meets mutual interests. Ecology's goal is to establish water management guidelines in rule that will support local economies, communities and environmental resources.

Plan Web site: <http://wria17.co.jefferson.wa.us/>

## **WRIA 18 Elwha-Dungeness**

*Watershed Planning Phase: Plan adopted June 2005*

*Optional Elements: Water Quality, Habitat, Instream Flows, Storage*

*Total Projected Grant Expenditure through June 2007: \$1,004,000*



Clallam County adopted the Elwha-Dungeness Watershed Plan in June 2005. Ecology initiated discussions on rule making and water supply options in the fall of 2006. Ecology proposes to adopt rules for the Elwha Dungeness WRIA in two phases, focusing first on

Dungeness, then moving west to the Elwha Morse planning area. Recommendations in the 2005 Elwha-Dungeness Watershed Plan will form the basis for rule content. Phase 4 implementation planning is likely to be delayed during rule discussions.

Development of a Memorandum of Understanding with Clallam County is anticipated as an outcome of the rule and Phase 4 discussions.

### **Instream Flow Progress**

The approved watershed plan includes instream flow recommendations for the Dungeness River and lower tributaries, Elwha River lower tributaries and independent streams. In conjunction with the instream flow recommendations, the Dungeness River Management Team recommended addressing future domestic needs in the Dungeness Watershed while protecting and continuing to restore Dungeness river flows. The Elwha Morse Management Team discussions were less detailed but recognized potential problems with water availability and ground water development in the western portion of the Elwha-Dungeness WRIA. Discussions regarding water supply options in a water-limited area were held during watershed planning. Extensive consultation and discussion of water supplies and rule language will occur across WRIA 18 as part of rule development. Ecology has postponed development of draft rule language till fall of 2006. Experience in the Quilcene/Snow watershed (WRIA 17) and discussions during the WRIA 18 plan adoption process underscored the need for additional work with the community. Ecology will work with governments, planning unit members, interest groups and interested public during 2006/2007 to propose a Dungeness watershed rule in winter 2007/2008.

Clallam County Web site:

[http://www.clallam.net/environment/html/wria\\_18\\_draft\\_watershed\\_plan.htm](http://www.clallam.net/environment/html/wria_18_draft_watershed_plan.htm)

Ecology WRIA 18 Web site: <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/apps/watersheds/planning/18.html>

## **WRIA 19 Lyre-Hoko**

*Watershed Planning Phase: Phase 3–Watershed Plan and Instream Flow recommendations were due December 2005*

*Optional Elements: Water Quality, Habitat, Instream Flows*

*Total Projected Grant Expenditure through June 2007: \$836,000*



The WRIA 19 Planning Unit completed a final draft Watershed Plan that includes instream flow recommendations in November 2005, but was unable to reach consensus agreement on the plan. Local and state staff have continued work in 2006 on a revised draft which will be available for public review before a final planning unit vote on approval, possibly by summer 2007. A

significant amount of extra work has gone into discussing forestry (the current dominant land use in this watershed) and working out refinements to the specific instream flow recommendations. There is interest in proceeding to Phase 4 after plan adoption.

### **Instream Flow Progress**

The Planning Unit agreed to instream flow numbers, and plans to submit them to Ecology with completion of their final plan. Ecology anticipates initiating rule development in the 2007-09 biennia.

### **WRIA 20 Soleduck-Hoh**

*Watershed Planning Phase: Phase 3 - Watershed Plan and Instream Flow recommendations were due December 2005*

*Optional Elements: Water Quality, Habitat, Instream Flows*

*Total Projected Grant Expenditure through June 2007: \$689,000*



The WRIA 20 Planning Unit is in the final stages of developing a watershed plan. Public review was completed and attempts are underway to resolve the few remaining issues. It is hoped that final approval by the Planning Unit and adoption by the Commissioners in Clallam and Jefferson Counties will occur in late 2006 or early 2007. As with WRIA 19, there is interest in proceeding to Phase 4 after plan adoption.

### **Instream Flow Progress**

The Planning Unit addressed some policy-related instream flow recommendations but did not include any flow number recommendations in their draft plan. Some additional stream gauging and limited instream flow studies will facilitate the development of a rule with numeric instream flows in this watershed. Ecology anticipates initiating rule development in the 2007-09 biennia.

### **WRIA 21 Queets-Quinault**

*No instream flow or 2514 watershed planning activities*



### **WRIA 22/23 Upper/Lower Chehalis**

*Watershed Planning Phase: Plan adopted May 2004*

*Phase 4 begun October 2005*

*Optional Elements: Water Quality, Habitat, Instream Flows*

*Total Projected Grant Expenditure through June 2007: \$1,855,000*



Boards of Commissioners from four counties (Grays Harbor, Lewis, Mason, and Thurston) adopted the Chehalis Watershed Plan in May 2004. The Planning Unit initiated Phase 4 implementation in October 2005, and completed and approved their Detailed Implementation Plan in October 2006. Some of their implementation plan recommendations include: development of a water data management system, increased compliance efforts toward illegal water users, and additional incentives for water conservation and reclamation. The Chehalis Partnership has established, through Grays Harbor College, a Geographic Information System Clearinghouse to integrate water quality and other natural resource data/information for the entire watershed. Also,

an expanded water quality monitoring program has been launched with funds appropriated by the Legislature.

### **Instream Flow Status**

Instream flows were set in 1976 (Chapter 173-522 WAC).

The Chehalis Partnership reviewed existing instream flows. Their findings, based on technical studies and existing data, indicated that low-flow conditions may be a concern in many streams and rivers in the Chehalis Basin. Data indicate that stream flows are not met many days from July through October. The Partnership recommended that current instream flows should be retained and regularly monitored. At this time, Ecology does not intend to propose amendments to the existing flow rule.

Plan Web site: [http://www.co.grays-harbor.wa.us/info/pub\\_svcs/ChehalisBasin/Index.html](http://www.co.grays-harbor.wa.us/info/pub_svcs/ChehalisBasin/Index.html)

### **WRIA 24 Willapa**

*No instream flow or 2514 watershed planning activities.*



### **WRIA 25/26 Grays-Elochman/Cowlitz**

*Watershed Planning Phase: Plan adopted July 2006*

*Intend to begin Phase 4 in January 2007*

*Optional Elements: Water Quality, Habitat, Instream Flows*

*Total Projected Grant Expenditure through June 2007: \$1,300,000*



The WRIA 25/26 adopting counties (Wahkiakum, Lewis, Cowlitz, and Skamania) unanimously approved the watershed plan in July 2006, following a county remand process and modifications to the plan by the Planning Unit.



### **Instream Flow Progress**

The watershed plan contains recommendations for numeric flows, open and closed areas, water reservations for future use, and mitigation requirements. Ecology intends to continue work on the rule in 2006, with a draft rule likely by late 2007.

Plan Web site: <http://www.lcfrb.gen.wa.us/default1.htm>

## **WRIA 27/28 Lewis/Salmon-Washougal**

**Watershed Planning Phase:** *Plan adopted July 2006  
Intend to begin Phase 4 in January 2007.*

**Optional Elements:** *Water Quality, Habitat, Instream Flows*  
**Total Projected Grant Expenditure through June 2007:** *\$1,300,000*

The WRIA 27/28 adopting counties (Cowlitz, Clark, and Skamania) unanimously approved the watershed plan in July 2006, following a county remand process and modifications to the plan by the Planning Unit.



### **Instream Flow Progress**

The watershed plan contains recommendations for numeric flows, open and closed areas, water reservations for future use, and mitigation requirements. Ecology intends to continue work on the rule in 2006, with a draft rule likely by late 2007.

Plan Web site: <http://www.lcfrb.gen.wa.us/default1.htm>

## **WRIA 29 Wind-White Salmon**

**Watershed Planning Phase:** *Plan adopted November 2006*  
**Optional Elements:** *Water Quality, Habitat*  
**Total Projected Grant Expenditure through June 2007:** *\$600,000*

A watershed plan for the western half of the watershed was approved by the Planning Unit in December of 2005. On November 29, 2006, the plan was adopted by Skamania and Klickitat Counties. Phase 4 will likely not be pursued until next fiscal year.



### **Instream Flow Status**

The Planning Unit, in consultation with Ecology, is working on instream flow recommendations. Instream flow work began in the summer of 2006 and will continue through 2007.

## **WRIA 30 Klickitat**

**Watershed Planning Phase:** *Plan adopted August 2006*  
**Optional Elements:** *Water Quality, Habitat*  
**Total Projected Grant Expenditure through June 2007:** *\$798,000*

Klickitat County adopted the watershed plan in August 2006, and submitted an application in November 2006 for Phase 4 funding on behalf of the Planning Unit.



### **Instream Flow Status**

No instream flows are set in this watershed. The Planning Unit elected not to undertake instream flows. However, the plan contains strategies for improving stream flows. Ecology does not anticipate adopting rules at this time.

## **WRIA 31 Rock-Glade**

*Watershed Planning Phase: Phases 2/3—Plan due October 2007*

*Optional Elements: Water Quality, Storage*

*Total Projected Grant Expenditure through June 2007: \$700,000*



Phase 2 assessment work is continuing, and work is progressing on their draft plan, targeted for completion in late 2007.

### **Instream Flow Status**

No instream flows are set in this watershed. The Planning Unit elected not to undertake instream flows. However, the plan is expected to contain strategies for improving stream flows. Ecology does not anticipate conducting any instream flow activities at this time.

## **WRIA 32 Walla Walla**

*Watershed Planning Phase: Plan adopted June 2005*

*Phase 4 begun January 2006*

*Optional Elements: Water Quality, Habitat, Instream Flows, Storage*

*Total Projected Grant Expenditure through June 2007: \$1,135,000*



The Walla Walla Watershed Detailed Implementation Plan was finalized in June 2006. Three on-the-ground projects were funded during the first year of Phase 4 implementation. Scoping for second year funding will include refining project selection and coordination with Salmon Recovery, BPA Subbasin Planning as well as the “Walla Walla Water Management Initiative” (see below).

### **Instream flow progress**

Ecology and the Planning Unit have negotiated rule amendments to the existing Water Resources Program rule (Chapter 173-532 WAC), which was adopted in 1976. These amendments include: instream flows on the Walla Walla River, Mill Creek, North Fork Touchet River and Touchet River; seasonal closures on surface water and the gravel aquifer; limits on future permit-exempt ground water withdrawals; and a provision for capturing high winter flows and using natural storage for projects which benefit streams during summer low-flow periods. The revised rule is expected to be adopted in April 2007.

### **Walla Walla Water Management Initiative**

An important element of the recommendations in the Walla Walla Watershed Plan was local responsibility and authority in water management decisions. To that end, Ecology, working in partnership with the local planning unit, has agreed to try alternative water management strategies. The Water Management Initiative is part of a “new” generation of performance-based environmental management that emphasizes flexibility, efficiency, innovative solutions, and measurable results. It’s an approach that gives local water managers and users great flexibility to design and implement solutions that are more efficient and environmentally effective than conventional approaches.

Walla Walla watershed web site: <http://www.wallawallawatershed.org>

### **WRIA 33 Lower Snake**

*No instream flow or 2514 watershed planning activities.*



### **WRIA 34 Palouse**

*Watershed Planning Phase: Phases 2/3 - Plan due Fall 2007*

*Optional Elements: Water Quality, Instream Flows*

*Total Projected Grant Expenditure through June 2007: \$800,000*



Phase 2 assessment work has been completed and the Planning Unit is working hard to integrate the technical information gathered on water quality and storage into their watershed plan. Concurrently, they are also deliberating on Palouse basin instream flows. Close to one year remains before their plan is due.

#### **Instream Flow Status**

Ecology will consider rule development when recommendations are received from the watershed planning group.

### **WRIA 35 Middle Snake**

*Watershed Planning Phase: Phases 2/3—Plan due Fall 2007*

*Optional Elements: Water Quality, Habitat, Instream Flows*

*Total Projected Grant Expenditure through June 2007: \$800,000*



Phase 2 assessment work has been completed and the Planning Unit is working hard to integrate the technical information gathered on water quality and storage into their watershed plan. Concurrently, they are also deliberating on Tucannon River and Asotin Creek instream flows. The Planning Unit has targeted spring of 2007 for plan approval.

#### **Instream Flow Progress**

Ecology will consider rule making when recommendations are received from the Planning Unit.

Plan Web site: <http://www.asotinpud.org/msww/>

### **WRIA 36 Esquatzel Coulee**

*No instream flow or watershed planning activities.*



## WRIA 37/38/39 Yakima/Naches

*Watershed Planning Phase: Plan adopted November 2005  
Phase 4 begun September 2006*

*Optional Elements: Water Quality, Habitat*

*Total Projected Grant Expenditure through June 2007: \$1,957,000*

Three years after planning unit approval, Boards of Commissioners of three counties, (Yakima, Benton, and Klickitat) approved and adopted the Yakima Basin Watershed Management Plan (Kittitas County “opted out” of final plan approval). The Yakima Basin Water Resources Agency (lead agency) received Phase 4 funding in September 2006 and has initiated the process to develop the Detailed Implementation Plan. While the watershed plan contains no obligations for county or state agencies, it reaffirms the Planning Unit’s commitment and strong desire for continued and improved cooperation and coordination among local, state, federal and tribal governments for water management and salmon recovery.



### **Instream Flow Status**

No instream flows are set in rule; however, target flows (enacted by Congress) and instream flow tribal treaty rights (affirmed by the Yakima Superior Court) are in place in the Yakima Basin. Both are managed by the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation. Ecology anticipates no additional instream flow activities at this time.

Plan Web site: <http://www.co.yakima.wa.us/tricnty/watershedplan.htm>

## WRIA 40a Stemilt-Squilchuck

*Watershed Planning Phase: Phases 2/3 – Plan due 2008*

*Optional Elements: Storage*

*Total Projected Grant Expenditure through June 2007: \$150,000*

Phase 2 and Phase 3 assessment work are being done concurrently in WRIA 40a. The Planning Unit anticipates completing the watershed plan ahead of schedule, by June 2007. At this point, the Planning Unit has not elected to do instream flows.



## WRIA 40b Alkali

*No instream flow or 2514 watershed planning activities.*



## WRIA 41 Lower Crab

*No instream flow or 2514 watershed planning activities.*



## WRIA 42 Grand Coulee

*No instream flow or 2514 watershed planning activities.*



## WRIA 43 Upper Crab-Wilson

*Watershed Planning Phase: Phase 3 - Plan due November 2006*

*Optional Elements: Water Quality, Habitat, Instream Flows, Storage*

*Total Projected Grant Expenditure through June 2007: \$850,000*



The draft WRIA 43 Watershed Plan was released for review and comment in July 2006. The Planning Unit is currently working through the comments received on the draft plan in preparation of finalizing their watershed plan. Planning Unit approval of the WRIA 43 Watershed Plan is expected by January 2007.

### **Instream Flow Progress**

An instream flow study has been completed. Agreement on flows for two control points on Crab Creek has been reached. However, a recommendation from the Planning Unit is not expected in the Watershed Plan because of disagreements about flow conditions recommended for inclusion in a rule.

## WRIA 44/50 Moses Coulee/Foster Creek

*Watershed Planning Phase: Plan adopted November 2004*

*Phase 4 begun February 2005*

*Optional Elements: Water Quality, Habitat, Instream Flows*

*Total Projected Grant Expenditure through June 2007: \$1,761,000*



The final WRIA 44/50 Watershed Management Plan was approved and adopted by Boards of Commissioners from Douglas and Grant Counties in November 2004. The Planning Unit began Phase 4 in February 2005 and completed their Detailed Implementation Plan in February 2006. In addition to reaching agreement on instream flow recommendations, other implementation plan recommendations include: support for a Trust Water Rights Program, further exploration of potential water storage projects, and continued monitoring of surface and ground water quality.

### **Instream Flow Progress**

Flow recommendations from the WRIA 44/50 Planning Unit were received with the final Watershed Plan in November 2004. The Planning Unit will also be considering three additional instream flows recommendations during 2006.

Plan Web site: [http://www.fostercreek.net/WRIA44-50\\_Final\\_Watershed\\_Plan.pdf](http://www.fostercreek.net/WRIA44-50_Final_Watershed_Plan.pdf)

## **WRIA 45 Wenatchee**

*Watershed Planning Phase: Plan adopted June 2006*

*Optional Elements: Water Quality, Habitat, Instream Flows*

*Total Projected Grant Expenditure through June 2007: \$1,187,000*



The Watershed Plan, which includes instream flow recommendations, was approved and adopted by the Chelan County Board of Commissioners in June 2006. The Planning Unit intends to begin Phase 4 early in 2007.

### **Instream Flow Progress**

Instream flows were set in 1983 (Chapter 173-545 WAC). The Planning Unit developed and approved a new water resource management strategy for WRIA 45 that includes management flows (revised instream flows) at specified control points, a water reserve, and maximum allocations. The Watershed Plan recommends Ecology adopt this new water management strategy in rule. Ecology plans to file a draft rule incorporating recommended instream flows in 2007.

Plan Web site: <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/apps/watersheds/planning/45.html>

## **WRIA 46 Entiat**

*Watershed Planning Phase: Plan adopted September 2004*

*Phase 4 begun February 2005*

*Optional Elements: Water Quality, Habitat, Instream Flows*

*Total Projected Grant Expenditure through June 2007: \$859,000*



The Entiat Watershed Management Plan was the first watershed plan in the state to include instream flow recommendations when it was adopted by the Chelan County Board of Commissioners in September 2004. Other recommendations in the Plan include development of programs for water conservation, water acquisition, and trust water rights, and ongoing and increased water quality monitoring. The Phase 4 Detailed Implementation Plan was completed in February 2006, and work is continuing on implementation.

### **Instream Flow Status**

Ecology adopted Chapter 173-546 WAC, "Water Resources Management Program -- Entiat River Basin Water Resource Inventory Area (WRIA) 46" in August 2005.

Plan Web site: <http://www.chelancd.org/watershed.htm>

## **WRIA 47 Chelan**

*No instream flow or 2514 watershed planning activities.*



## **WRIA 48 Methow**

*Watershed Planning Phase: Plan Adopted June 2005*

*Optional Elements: Water Quality, Habitat*

*Total Projected Grant Expenditure through June 2007: \$1,174,000*



Okanogan County Commissioners approved and adopted the final Methow Watershed Plan in June 2005. Phase 4 Implementation is anticipated to begin in 2007. Plan recommendations included a review of, and additional work to support, an amendment to the existing instream flow rule; protection for ground water recharge from unlined irrigation ditches; and relaxation of the water relinquishment statute.

### **Instream Flow Progress**

Instream flows were set in 1976 (Chapter 173-548 WAC). The Planning Unit and Ecology have agreed that the rule will be revisited after the submittal of new, adequate data.

Plan Web site: <http://okanogancounty.org/water/watershed%20planning;%20methow.htm>

## **WRIA 49 Okanogan**

*Watershed Planning Phase: Phase 2 - Plan due 2009*

*Optional Elements: Water Quality, Habitat, Instream Flows*

*Total Projected Grant Expenditure through June 2007: \$445,000*



The Planning Unit is conducting Phase 2 assessment work, and has almost three years remaining until their final watershed plan is due.

### **Instream Flow Status**

Instream flows were set in 1976 (Chapter 173-549 WAC).

## **WRIA 51 Nespelem**

*No instream flow or 2514 watershed planning activities.*



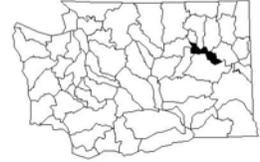
## **WRIA 52 Sanpoil**

*No instream flow or 2514 watershed planning activities.*



## **WRIA 53 Lower Lake Roosevelt**

*No instream flow or 2514 watershed planning activities.*



## **WRIA 54 Lower Spokane**

*Watershed Planning Phase: Phases 2/3 - Plan due September 2009*

*Optional Elements: Water Quality, Instream Flows, Storage*

*Total Projected Grant Expenditure through June 2007: \$530,000*



The Planning Unit has nearly completed Phase 2, and is expected to begin Phase 3 in early 2007. The lead agency is working aggressively to provide as much time as possible for plan development.

### **Instream Flow Progress**

The Planning Unit has retained a consultant to perform an instream flow study of selected reaches of the Spokane River and several tributaries. The field work for this study has been completed and the reporting of findings is expected in early 2007. Ecology will consider rule making when recommendations are received from the Planning Unit.

## **WRIA 55/57 Little/Middle Spokane**



*Watershed Planning Phase: Plan adopted January 2006*

*Optional Elements: Instream Flows, Storage*

*Total Projected Grant Expenditure through June 2007: \$1,848,000*

The Boards of Commissioners from Spokane, Stevens, and Pend Oreille counties adopted their final watershed plan in joint session in January 2006. The Planning Unit anticipates beginning Phase 4 in late 2006 or early 2007. Since plan adoption, additional work has continued on instream flow assessment, a feasibility study on reusing wastewater, and developing education and outreach materials about water conservation.

### **Instream Flow Progress**

Instream flows were set in 1976 for WRIA 55 (Chapter 173-555 WAC). No instream flows are set in WRIA 57. The Planning Unit has agreed to make an instream flow recommendation when identified data needs have been satisfied. Instream flow data collection has been completed, and the findings of this effort are expected to be published in early 2007. Ecology plans to work on developing a rule in this basin in conjunction with Planning Unit recommendations, likely in 2007.

Plan Web site: <http://www.spokanecounty.org/wqmp/projects/ASP/Home.asp>

## WRIA 56 Hangman

*Watershed Planning Phase: Plan adopted September 2005*

*Phase 4 begun October 2006*

*Optional Elements: Water Quality, Habitat, Instream Flows, Storage*

*Total Projected Grant Expenditure through June 2007: \$973,000*



Spokane and Whitman Counties approved and adopted the final WRIA 56 Watershed Management Plan in September 2005. Phase 4 implementation was initiated in October 2006. Some of the plan recommendations include: strategies to address compliance and enforcement of water rights and claims; evaluating policies to limit the maximum daily withdrawal of domestic exempt wells to less than 5000 gallons per day; additional gauging and monitoring of both surface and ground water; and changing a water right source from surface to ground water where feasible.

### **Instream Flow Progress**

The Planning Unit completed a hydrological investigation to evaluate stream flow conditions primarily for fisheries. Flow recommendations were developed for three levels of habitat protection, however, the Planning Unit did not reach consensus on all elements of a recommendation for instream flows. The data and progress were submitted to Ecology. Ecology intends to initiate rule development in collaboration with the Planning Unit in 2007.

Plan Web site: <http://www.sccd.org/water/hangman/>

## WRIA 58 Middle Lake Roosevelt

*No instream flow or 2514 watershed planning activities.*



## WRIA 59 Colville

*Watershed Planning Phase: Plan adopted November 2004*

*Phase 4 begun March 2005*

*Optional Elements: Water Quality, Storage*

*Total Projected Grant Expenditure through June 2007: \$979,000*



Stevens County adopted the Colville Watershed Management Plan in November 2004 and began Phase 4 implementation shortly thereafter. In March 2006, the Planning Unit completed their Detailed Implementation Plan (DIP). One of their implementation activities was to conduct additional stream flow studies to support modifying the existing stream closures in the basin. They also recommended establishing a Watermaster position, and recently submitted a formal request to Ecology to conduct a stream adjudication.

### **Instream Flow Progress**

Instream flows and stream closures were set in 1977 (Chapter 173-559 WAC). The DIP calls for additional flow studies to support possible opening of some of the closures. Ecology, along with the state Department of Fish & Wildlife, the Spokane Tribe of Indians, and the Planning Unit worked this summer to gather flow and habitat data throughout the basin. They expect to begin instream flow negotiations early in 2007 with the goal of rule revision in 2008-2009.

Plan Web site: <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/apps/watersheds/planning/59.html>

### **WRIA 60 Kettle**

*Watershed Planning Phase: Discontinued at completion of Phase 2*

*Optional Elements: Instream Flows*

*Total Grant Expenditure through June 2007: \$223,000*

In 2004 the Kettle Planning Unit voted to discontinue their planning effort at the end of Phase 2, and not move forward into Phase 3 plan development. Ecology does not plan to conduct additional studies or to propose instream flow rules in the current biennium.



### **WRIA 61 Upper Lake Roosevelt**

*No instream flow or 2514 watershed planning activities.*



### **WRIA 62 Pend Oreille**

*Watershed Planning Phase: Plan adopted June 2005*

*Phase 4 begun September 2005*

*Optional Elements: Water Quality, Habitat*

*Total Projected Grant Expenditure through June 2007: \$750,000*

Pend Oreille County Board of Commissioners adopted the WRIA 62 Watershed Management Plan in June 2005 and began their first year of Phase 4 Implementation shortly thereafter. The Pend Oreille Planning Unit completed their Detailed Implementation Plan in October 2006, and is directing a portion of their first year funds to develop a scope of work to complete instream flow studies in the basin.



### **Instream Flow Progress**

No instream flows are set in WRIA 62. Instream flow field work is expected to begin in spring 2007. Ecology is providing technical and grant assistance but does not currently have rule making scheduled in this basin.

Plan Web site: <http://www.pocd.org/wria.html>

## **Appendices:**

**Appendix A: Watershed Planning Map  
Watershed Planning Units in Each Phase of 2514 Watershed Planning  
Watershed Planning Unit Names and WRIA Numbers**

**Appendix B: Description of Watershed Planning Phases**

**Appendix C: High Priority Projects Lists—Operating and Capital**

**Appendix D: Map of Instream Flow Rule Making Activities**



## Appendix A: Watershed Planning Units in Each Phase of 2514 Watershed Planning

Phase 1: Organize	Phase 2: Assessment	Phase 3: Develop Plan	Plan Approved by County Government	Phase 4: Implementation	2514 Process Terminated
	WRIA 40a WRIA 49 WRIA 54	WRIA 19 WRIA 20 WRIA 31 WRIA 34 WRIA 35 WRIA 43	WRIA 1 WRIA 2 WRIA 6 WRIA 11 WRIA 16 WRIA 17 WRIA 18 WRIA 22/23 WRIA 25/26 WRIA 27/28 WRIA 29 WRIA 30 WRIA 32 WRIA 37/38 WRIA 44/50 WRIA 45 WRIA 46 WRIA 48 WRIA 56 WRIA 55/57 WRIA 59 WRIA 62	WRIA 1 WRIA 2 WRIA 6 WRIA 11  WRIA 17  WRIA 22/23   WRIA 32 WRIA 37/38 WRIA 44/50  WRIA 46  WRIA 56  WRIA 59 WRIA 62	WRIA 3/4 WRIA 12 WRIA 13 WRIA 14 WRIA 15 WRIA 60

## Appendix A: Watershed Planning Unit Names and WRIA Numbers

Nooksack (WRIA 1)	Klickitat (WRIA 30)
San Juan (WRIA 2)	Rock Glade (WRIA 31)
Lower/Upper Skagit-Samish (WRIA 3/4)	Walla Walla (WRIA 32)
Island (WRIA 6)	Palouse (WRIA 34)
Snohomish (WRIA 7)	Middle Snake (WRIA 35)
Nisqually (WRIA 11)	Lower/Upper Yakima/Naches (WRIA 37/39/38)
Chambers-Clover (WRIA 12)	Stemilt-Squilchuck (WRIA 40a)
Deschutes (WRIA 13)	Upper Crab/Wilson (WRIA 43)
Kennedy-Goldsborough (WRIA 14)	Moses Coulee/Foster (WRIA 44/50)
Kitsap (WRIA 15)	Wenatchee (WRIA 45)
Skokomish-Dosewallips (WRIA 16)	Entiat (WRIA 46)
Quilcene-Snow (WRIA 17)	Methow (WRIA 48)
Elwha-Dungeness (WRIA 18)	Okanogan (WRIA 49)
Lyre-Hoko (WRIA 19)	Lower Spokane (WRIA 54)
Sol Duc-Hoh (WRIA 20)	Little/Middle Spokane (WRIA 55/57)
Lower/Upper Chehalis (WRIA 22/23)	Hangman (WRIA 56)
Grays-Elochoman/Cowlitz (WRIA 25/26)	Colville (WRIA 59)
Lewis/Salmon-Washougal (WRIA 27/28)	Kettle (WRIA 60)
Wind-White Salmon (WRIA 29)	Pend Oreille (WRIA 62)

## Appendix B: Description of Watershed Planning Phases

Watershed Planning under Chapter 90.82 RCW is structured according to the following:

Phase 1: Organization, start-up

Phase 2: Technical Assessment

    Putting existing data to work

    Short-term collection of new data

    Long-term data collection and monitoring

Phase 3: Plan Development

Phase 4: Implementation

The only required element of planning under Ch. 90.82 RCW is water quantity:

*“Watershed planning under this chapter shall address water quantity in the management area by undertaking an assessment of water supply and use in the management area and developing strategies for future use.” (RCW 90.82.070)*

Optional components are instream flows, water quality and habitat.

## Appendix C: High Priority Projects Lists—Operating and Capital

### Implementing Local Watershed Plans Operating Budget Request 2007-09

#### Preliminary List of High Priority Planning Unit Project Requests

WRIA	Project by Region	\$ in millions
	<b>NWRO</b>	
1	Nooksack/Lummi Settlement	\$0.550
1	ISF Negotiations	\$0.240
1	Bertrand Creek Mitigation Bank Study	\$0.040
3	Skagit ISF Rule Startup	\$0.150
3	Skagit ISF Rule GW Study	\$0.150
	<i>SUBTOTAL:</i>	\$1.130
	<b>SWRO</b>	
10	Puyallup River Watershed Surface/GW Transport Modeling	\$0.100
11	Nisqually & McAllister Sub-Area GW Monitoring	\$0.150
12	Chamber Clover Creek Basin Surface/GW Transport Modeling	\$0.250
14	Water Quality Monitoring Plan Implementation	\$0.060
16	Skokomish and Dosewallips Water Right Enforcement Verification	\$0.040
17	Hydrologic Modeling Project for Quilcene-Snow	\$0.049
17	Quilcene GW Study	\$0.250
29	Surface/GW monitoring	\$0.120
22/23	Chehalis Basin Comprehensive Water Quality Monitoring Program	\$0.300
22/23	Develop a Watershed-Wide Water Conservation Strategy	\$0.100
25/26	Monitor Forest & Fish Rules	\$0.250
25/26	Pilot Compliance Assessments, Potential Enforcement Against Illegal Water Users	\$0.250
27/28	Map Regional Aquifers	\$0.250
27/28	Pilot Compliance Assessments, Potential Enforcement Against Illegal Water Users	\$0.250
	<i>SUBTOTAL:</i>	\$2.419
	<b>CRO</b>	
30	Refine Estimates of Water Use and Water Available for Allocation in Little Klickitat	\$0.090
30	Evaluate Shade Conditions Along Warm Stream Segments	\$0.064
31	Instream Habitat Assessment - Rock Creek	\$0.150
39	Mill Ditch Conversion to Salmon Habitat	\$0.050
45	Chumstick Basin – Cumulative Impacts Analysis	\$0.250
45	Chumstick/Mission Creek – Determine Water Availability	\$0.150
45	Evaluate Consumptive Use of Eligible Reserve Uses - Wenatchee	\$0.150
45	Develop Amended ISF Rule for Wenatchee	\$0.100
46	Ecology CRO Staff Support for Entiat Water Resources Program	\$0.180

## Appendix C: High Priority Projects Lists—Operating and Capital

44/50	Exempt Well Use Study – Foster Creek	\$0.055
44/50	Jameson Lake Nutrient Reduction Study	\$0.157
44/50	Moses Coulee Water Rights Discrepancy	\$0.011
	<i>SUBTOTAL:</i>	\$1.407
	<b>ERO</b>	
35	Ground water Monitoring Middle Snake	\$0.070
55	W. Branch Little Spokane Assessment	\$0.500
56	Hangman Creek GW Monitoring	\$0.065
59	Colville Pre-Adjudication Activity	\$0.500
62	Pend Oreille ISF Assessment	\$0.300
55/57	Water Conservation Education and Awareness Program	\$0.275
	<i>SUBTOTAL:</i>	\$1.710
	<b>WALLA WALLA</b>	
32	Measurement of Smolt/Adult Ratio: Mainstem Walla Walla	\$0.200
32	Best Management Practices Outreach/Education	\$0.270
32	Fund locals for water quality/flow gauges - O&M	\$0.090
	<i>SUBTOTAL:</i>	\$0.560
	<b>STATEWIDE</b>	
	EAP Stream Gauging O&M - Pass-through grants (128 stations)	\$0.620
	Stream gauging grant management (24 stations)	\$0.220
	<i>SUBTOTAL</i>	\$0.840
	<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>\$8.066</b>

**ISF = Instream Flow**

**GW = Ground water**

**O&M = Operation and Maintenance**

**EAP = Ecology's Environmental Assessment Program**

## Appendix C: High Priority Projects Lists—Operating and Capital

### Implementing Local Watershed Plans

#### Capital Budget 2007-09

#### Preliminary List of High Priority Planning Unit Project Requests

WRIA	Project by Region	\$ in millions
	<b>NWRO</b>	
1	Nooksack River Basin Stream Gauging	\$0.153
2	GW/SW Monitoring and Assessment	\$0.100
15	Kingston Wastewater Treatment Plant Reclaimed Water Design	\$0.300
15	Kitsap Reclaimed Water Distribution System	\$0.500
	<i>SUBTOTAL:</i>	\$1.05M
	<b>SWRO</b>	
12	Stormwater Retrofitting for Treatment and Infiltration/Detention	\$0.240
14	John's Creek GW Modeling	\$0.300
16	Hydrologic Characterization and Seepage Analysis	\$0.160
16	Hood Canal Web – Public Information Hub and Report Card	\$0.250
18	GW Assessment for Acquisition of Water for GW Reserve	\$0.650
18	Acquisition of Water to Augment Late Season Flows	\$0.500
19	Continuous Turbidity Monitoring	\$0.040
20	Soleduc Stream Flow Gauges	\$0.150
25/26	Replace Water Source with Lower Stream-Flow Impact Source	\$0.500
25/26	Install + O&M for Stream Gauges	\$0.300
27/28	Replace Water Source with Lower Stream-Flow Impact Source	\$0.500
27/28	Install + O&M for Stream Gauges	\$0.300
	<i>SUBTOTAL:</i>	\$3.89M
	<b>CRO</b>	
31	Establish Streamflow Gauging Network, Rock Creek	\$0.155
39	Mill Ditch Conversion to Salmon Habitat - Kittitas	\$0.400
45	Install 3 New Gauging Stations - Wenatchee	\$0.100
46	Knapp/Wham/Hangin Irrigation System Consolidation - Entiat	\$0.375
48	Install 3 New Gauging Stations - Methow	\$0.100
44/50	Watershed Planning Implementation - Water Quality Monitoring	\$0.099
	<i>SUBTOTAL:</i>	\$1.23M
	<b>ERO</b>	
34	Cow Creek Well Decommissioning and Casing -	\$0.250
43	Crab Creek Gauging at Irby and Rocky Ford	\$0.160
55	Little Spokane River Gauge Activation	\$0.165
56	Install Spokane River Stateline Gauging Station	\$0.045

## Appendix C: High Priority Projects Lists—Operating and Capital

56	Water Conservation Incentives Program - Spokane	\$0.030
57	Water Conservation Pilot Projects for Irrigation of Public/Private Properties	\$0.100
59	Colville Water Storage Feasibility Study	\$0.250
59	Colville Instream Flow Monitoring Program	\$0.200
62	Pend Oreille Water Storage Assessment	\$0.100
55/57	Spokane Wetland Restoration Feasibility Study	\$0.250
	<i>SUBTOTAL:</i>	\$1.55M
	<b>WALLA WALLA</b>	
32	Hydrogeologic Study of the Walla Walla Mainstem and Spring Branches	\$0.500
32	Walla Walla/Columbia Irrigation Piping/Lining	\$2.500
32	Shallow Aquifer Recharge	\$0.500
32	Walla Walla/Columbia Surface/GW Monitoring	\$0.260
32	Coordination of Planning Unit and Integration with other Processes	\$0.200
	<i>SUBTOTAL:</i>	\$3.96M
	<b>STATEWIDE</b>	
	Water Acquisition Activities	\$2.000
	Agricultural Water Conveyance	\$2.000
	<b>SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>\$4.000M</b>
	<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>\$15.680</b>

**GW = Ground water**

**SW = Surface water**

**O&M = Operation and Maintenance**

