

Reducing Interruptible Risk



Presented by

Dan Haller

Office of Columbia River

Washington State Department of
Ecology

RCW 90.90.020(3): Reduce Interruptible Risk

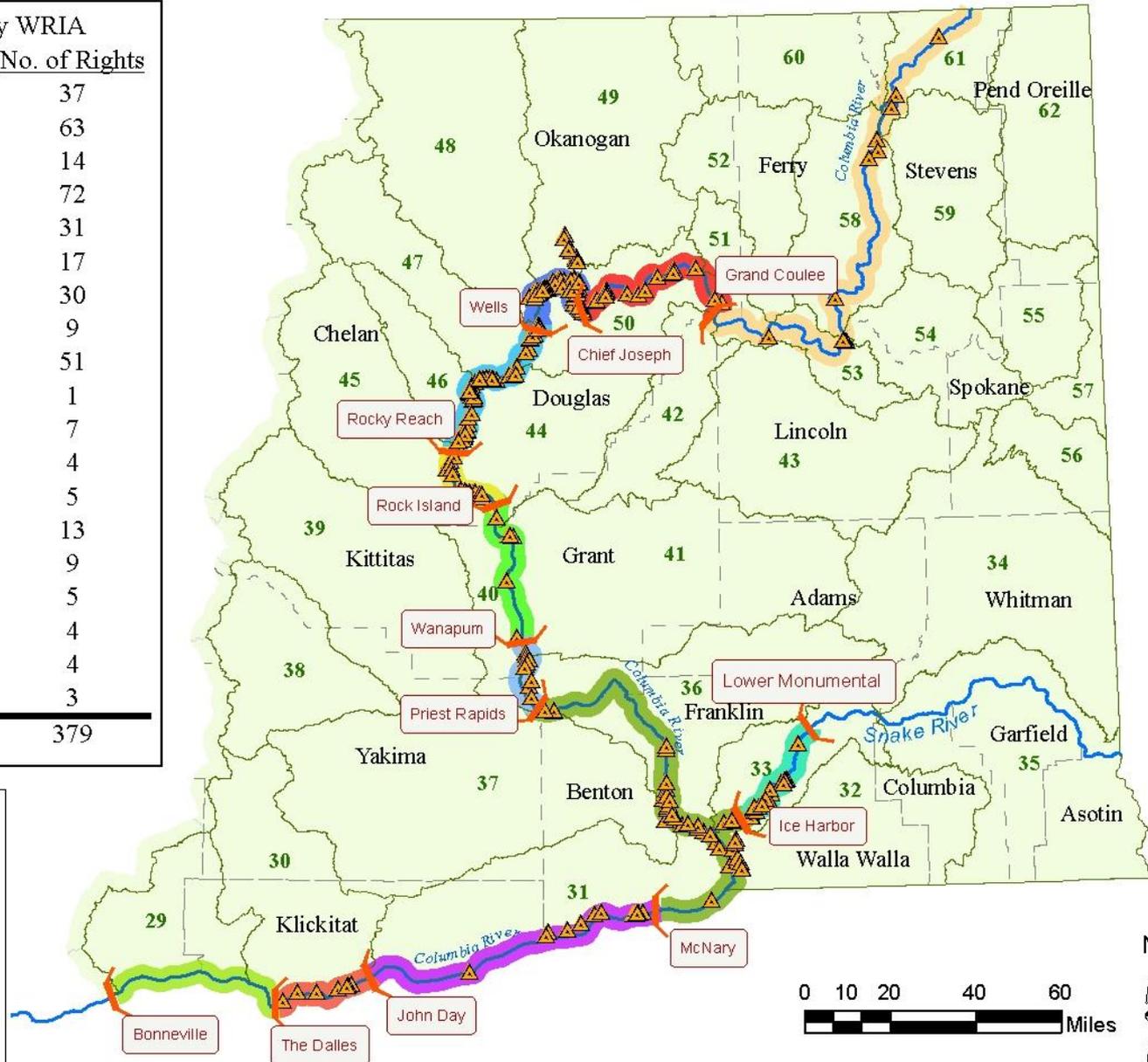
(3) The department of ecology shall focus its efforts to develop water supplies for the Columbia river basin on the following needs:

(c) A new uninterruptible supply of water for the holders of interruptible water rights on the Columbia river mainstem that are subject to instream flows or other mitigation conditions to protect stream flows

Interruptible Water Rights within the Columbia River Program

Interruptible Qa by WRIA

WRIA	Qa (afy)	No. of Rights
33	102,988	37
31	51,699	63
47	34,166	14
50	28,662	72
40	26,764	31
36	17,103	17
49	11,195	30
32	10,815	9
44	9,825	51
37	4,960	1
48	4,537	7
53	1,732	4
45	1,504	5
35	1,425	13
30	824	9
46	412	5
41	400	4
58	150	4
61	34	3
Total	309,159	379



Scope of the Problem

Interruptible Demographics				cfs	gpm	ac-ft
Smallest Diversionary Interruptible				0.01		1.28
Largest Diversionary Interruptible				108.7		28,295
Smallest 10 surface interruptibles				0.25		39.7
Smallest 20 surface interruptibles				0.79		120.23
Smallest 50 surface interruptibles				4.51		809.10
Smallest 10 groundwater interruptibles				0.77	345	41.42
Smallest 20 groundwater interruptibles				2.44	1094.76	140.95
Smallest 50 groundwater interruptibles				13.35	5990.26	917.62

Tools to Reduce Interruptible Risk

1. **Develop drought supplies (e.g. Lake Roosevelt Releases, totaling 33,000 acre-feet).**
2. **Water marketing (e.g. dry year leases, facilitating transfers during a drought).**
3. **Eliminating interruptibility provision through mitigation and overriding consideration of the public interest (OCPI), WAC 173-563-080.**

Tools to Reduce Interruptible Risk

Eliminating interruptibility provision through mitigation and (OCPI), WAC 173-563-080.

“Future authorizations for the use of water which would conflict with the provisions of this chapter shall be authorized by the director only in those situations when it is clear that overriding considerations of the public interest will be served. Such decisions shall be made in consultation with the directors of the Washington state department of fisheries, the Washington state department of wildlife, the Washington state department of agriculture, and the Washington state commissioner of public lands.”

Potential Mitigation Projects

- 1. OCR holds consumptive water every year in trust and removes equal number of interruptibles.**
- 2. OCR holds primary reach water in a key tributary every year in trust and removes some interruptibles.**
- 3. OCR funds a habitat, land acquisition, side channel restoration, or fish barrier removal project and removes some interruptibles.**

Proposed Program Elements

- 1. Coordination with stakeholders to select a pilot project.**
- 2. Negotiate number and location of interruptible rights that can be mitigated. Outreach to those affected.**
- 3. Use \$1 million of funding from 2011 appropriations to fund project.**
- 4. Do formal consultations under WAC 173-563-080.**
- 5. Make OCPI determination in a Departmental Order.**
- 6. Issue superseding documents to new non-interruptible water right holders.**