

# Ensuring Reliable Municipal Water Supply in the Columbia Basin

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HELPING TO ENSURE SAFE AND RELIABLE DRINKING WATER

# Mission

**To protect the health  
of the people of  
Washington State  
by ensuring safe  
and reliable  
drinking water.**



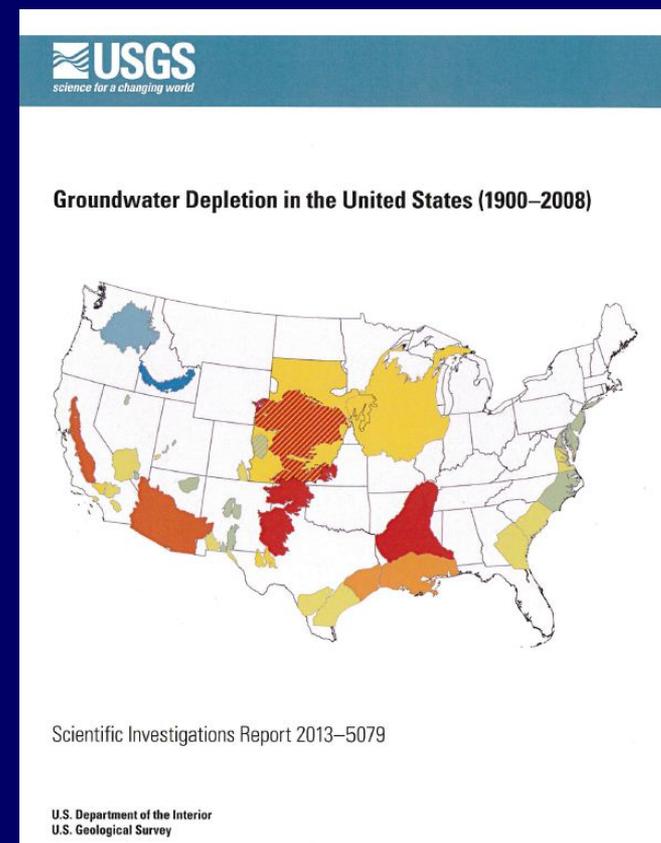
# Declining Water Supplies for Municipalities

- 💧 **How big is the problem?**
- 💧 **Best way to manage?**
- 💧 **Identify information needed**
- 💧 **Overview of DOH strategy**
- 💧 **What tools do we have?**

# USGS Report, GW Depletion in U.S., 2013

## 💧 GW level declines in 83% of wells

- Declines >7.6m were measured in 29% of wells
- Some >30m up to 91m declines
- Greatest in the deeper hydrogeologic units



# Is it really that bad?

City/ County	Total Well Capacity (gpm)	2030 Peak Demand (gpm)	Deficit (gpm)	2060 Peak Demand (gpm)	Deficit (gpm)
Othello/ Adams	5,050	7,900	2,850	13,700	8,650
Warden/ Grant	2,100	2,600	500	4,200	2,100
Quincy/ Grant	8,400	8,500	100	12,500	4,100

# Information Needed

- 💧 **Water Level Measuring Devices in all permanent wells (about 80 total)**
  - **Method of recording/reporting data**
- 💧 **Completion of comprehensive plans to ensure sustainable future water supply**

# Best Way to Manage

- 💧 **Encourage/Require Planning**
  - Long-range
  - Water shortage response plan
- 💧 **Evaluate New Source(s) of Supply**
  - Shallow aquifer/surface water
- 💧 **Consider Water Supply Alternatives**
  - New guidance from DOH

# DOH Strategy

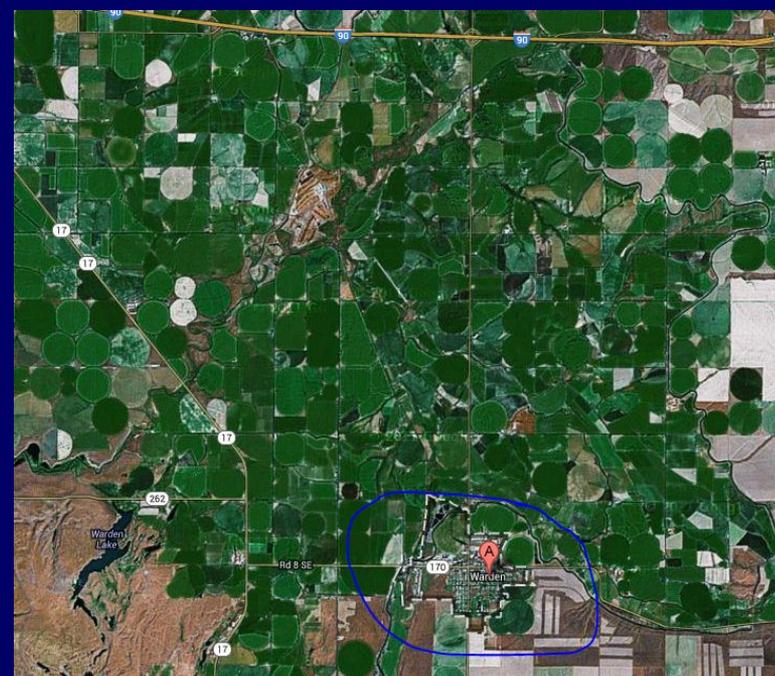
- 💧 **Short questionnaire to all 25 municipalities**
- 💧 **Open house (fall 2013) to develop partnerships & road map to success**
- 💧 **Work with OCR to identify and prioritize installation of water level measuring devices**

# Available Tools

- **Limit growth by capping number of connections**
- **WAC 246-290-415(9)**
  - (9) All purveyors utilizing groundwater wells shall monitor well levels from ground level to the static water level on a seasonal basis, including low demand and high demand periods, to document the continuing availability of the source to meet projected, long-term demands. Purveyors shall maintain this data and provide it to the department upon request.

# Town of Warden

- 💧 **Population 2,700**
- 💧 **1 active well, #7**
  - **Grande Ronde**
  - **-13.4ft avg decline/yr**
  - **2,100 gpm capacity**
    - **Actual: 1400 gpm**
- 💧 **2 emergency wells**
  - **water right issues**
  - **water quality treatment issues**



# Town of Warden (cont'd)

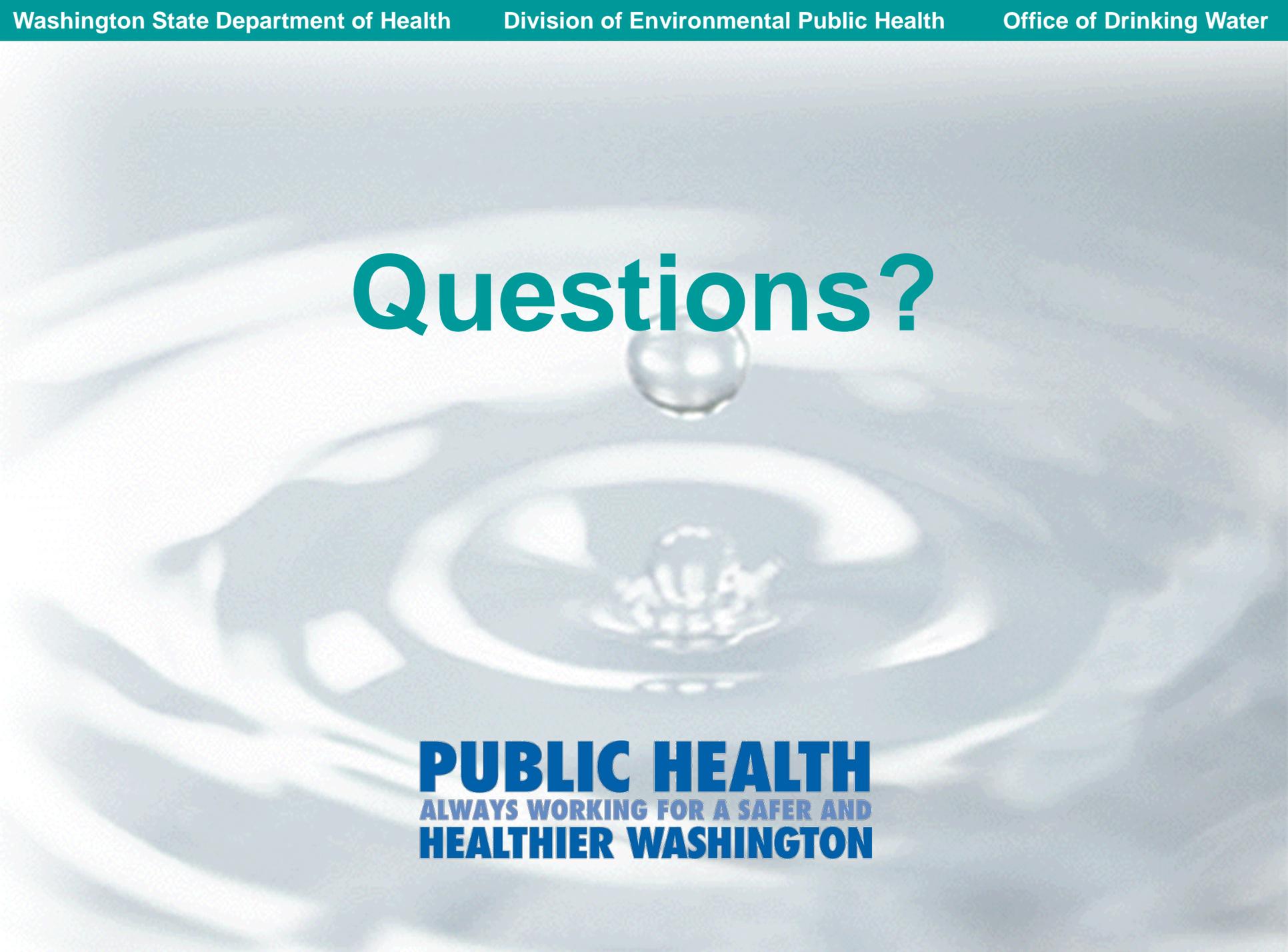
## 💧 GWMA report says:

- Active real-time GW level monitoring
- Explore shallow aquifer for long-term

## 💧 Town of Warden, actions taken:

- Updating water system plan in 2013
- Possible transfer of ag water right to municipal supply

# Questions?



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ALWAYS WORKING FOR A SAFER AND  
**HEALTHIER WASHINGTON**

# For More Information

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