

Columbia River Watermaster Duties and First Year Progress

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	Kasey Ignac - Nooksack Basin
	Thomas Buroker - Stillaguamish Basin & Skagit County
	Susan Burgdorf-Beery - Methow & Okanogan basins, Chelan, Entiat & Wenatchee basins
	Lynn Maser - Grant County
	Darrell Monroe - Kittitas, Yakima, Klickitat, Benton Counties
	Tom Perkow - 1-mile Columbia River corridor
	Bill Neve - Walla Walla and SE Washington
	Non-Dedicated Compliance Staff



What do Watermasters do?

- 💧 Provide technical assistance
- 💧 Investigate complaints
- 💧 Investigate possible unauthorized use
- 💧 Ensure that water is being used within the limits set by a water right
- 💧 Have authority to issue notices of violation and regulation, and recommend penalties
- 💧 Some perform “ditch-rider” duties
- 💧 Issue “show cause” orders for relinquishment



Watermasters do not:

- 💧 Actively seek to “take one’s water away”
- 💧 Shut off pumps, pull out diversions
- 💧 Play a “water cop” role
- 💧 Conduct water right adjudications



Attaining Compliance... How?

By statute (RCW 90.03.605)

- Provide Technical Assistance
- Encourage Voluntary Compliance
- Notice of Violation
- Formal Administrative Order
- Notice of Penalty



Attaining Voluntary Compliance

Emphasis on voluntary compliance

- 💧 Research Department records
- 💧 Discussion with responsible party
- 💧 Provide technical assistance
- 💧 Agree on course of action
- 💧 Monitor



Mapped Water Rights vs. Aerial Photography

Discrepancies

- Irrigation appears to be occurring outside of mapped places of use (POU)
 - 57 areas
- Mapped POUs appear to be inundated by Columbia River
 - 167 areas

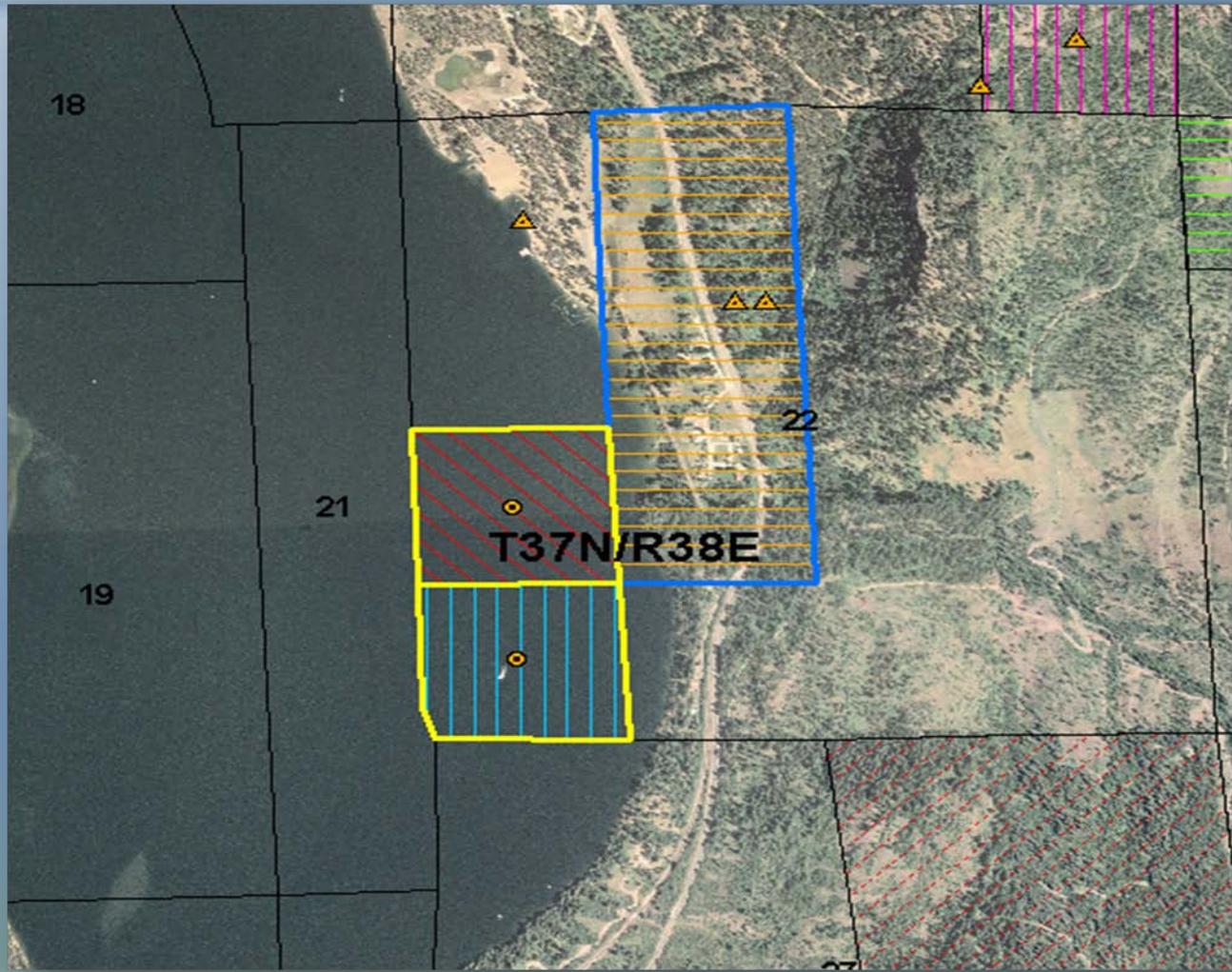


Example of Irrigation Outside A Mapped Place of Use





Example of an Inundated Place of Use





Some Statistics

💧 57 Areas prioritized as such:

💧 12 Very High

💧 11 High

💧 10 Medium-High

💧 12 Medium

💧 3 Medium-Low

💧 8 Low

💧 1 Unrated



Actions Taken

57 Areas (23 Actions to date)

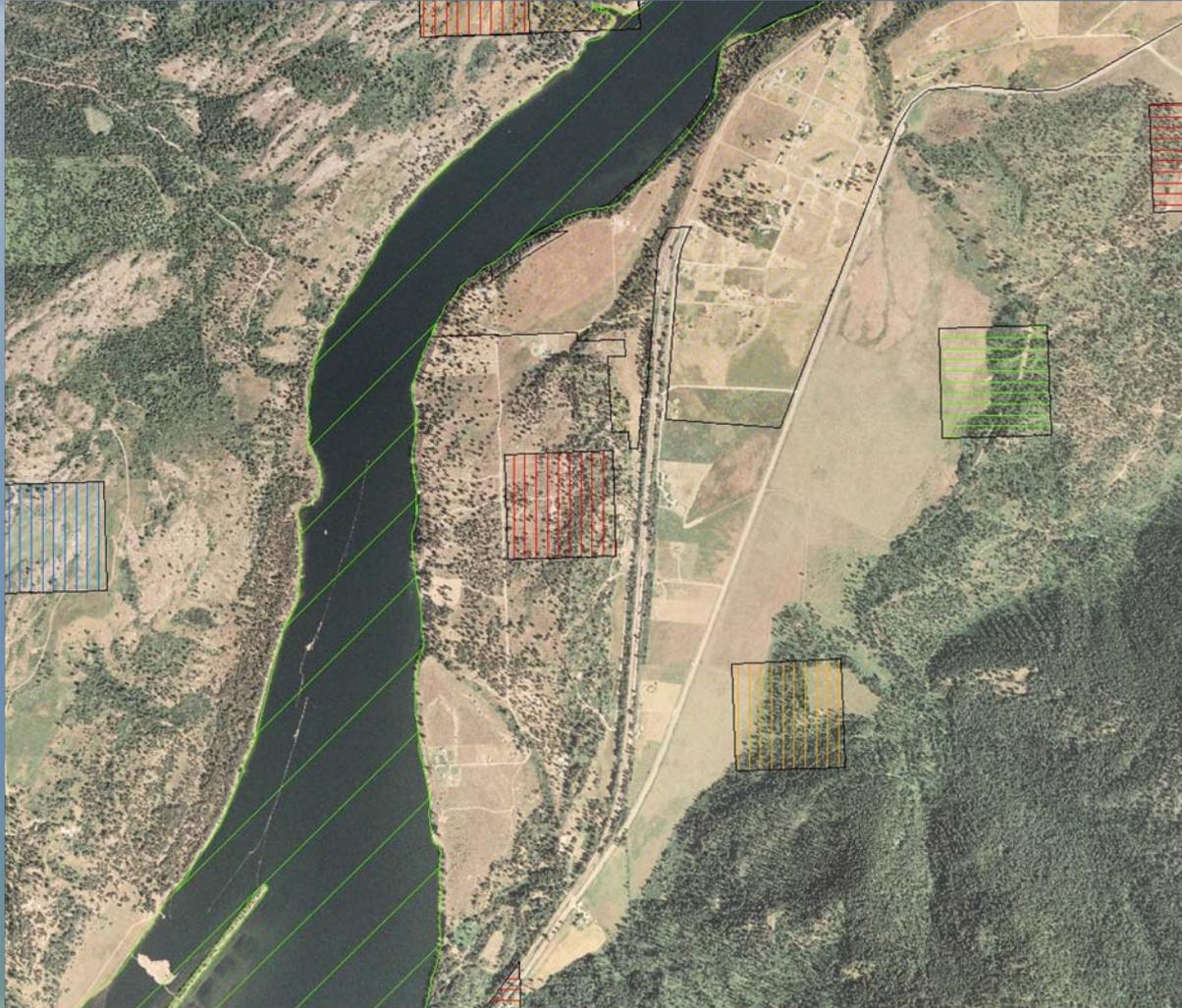
- 6 resolution by field visit
- 4 assistance given, pending resolution
- 4 in process with Colville Tribe
- 2 irrigation under an irrigation district
- 2 mapping issue
- 2 temp permits issued by Walla Walla WM
- 1 "de facto" place of use change
- 1 temp permit about to issue
- 1 conservancy board change

Other Actions to date

- 6 Complaint investigations
- 5 Trust Water Applications Processed
- 3 Presentations (Coulee Dam City, Wenatchee, Tri-Cities)



Scenario #1





Scenario #1 (Photo 1)



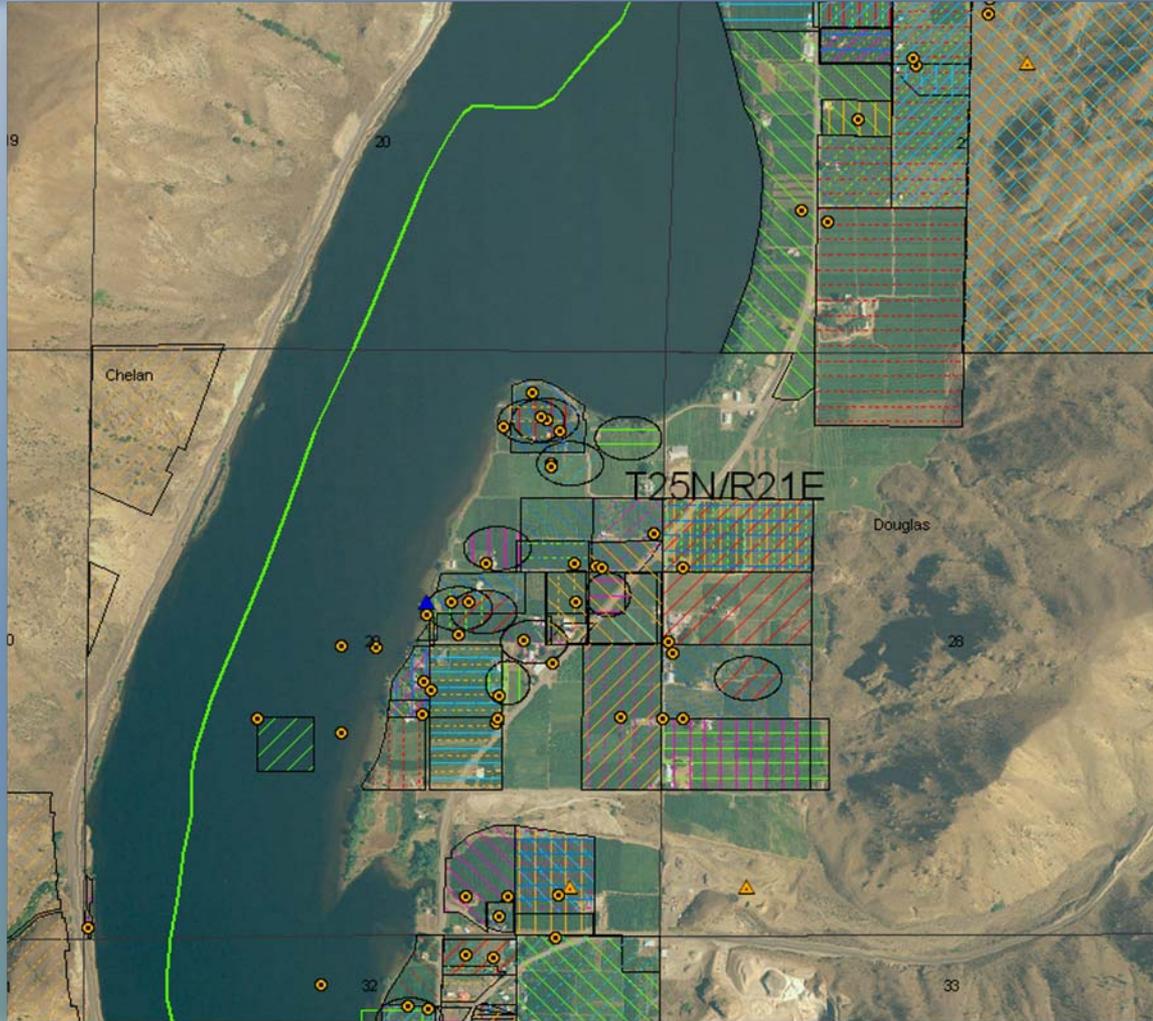


Scenario #1 (Photo 2)



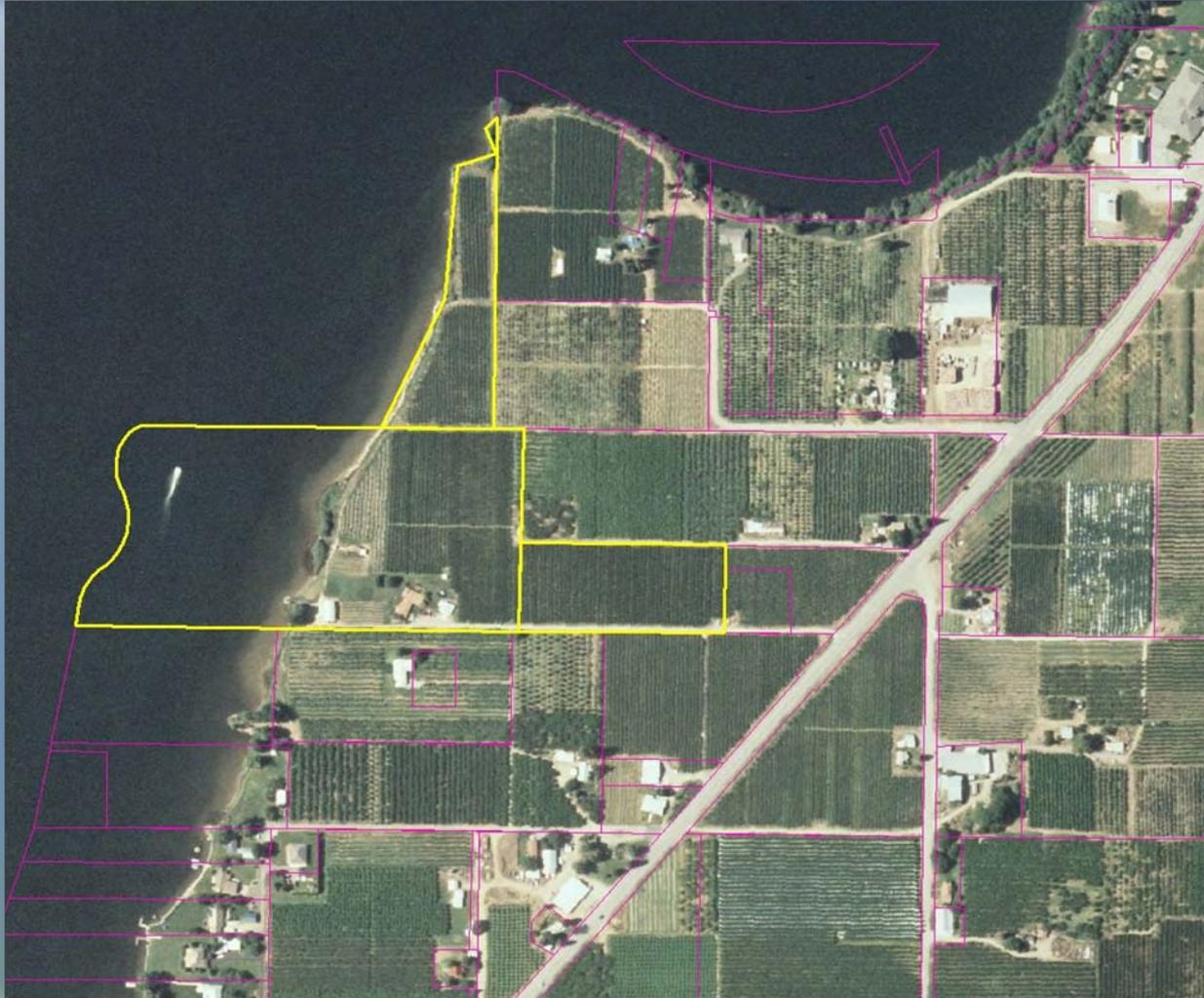


Scenario #2





Scenario #2a



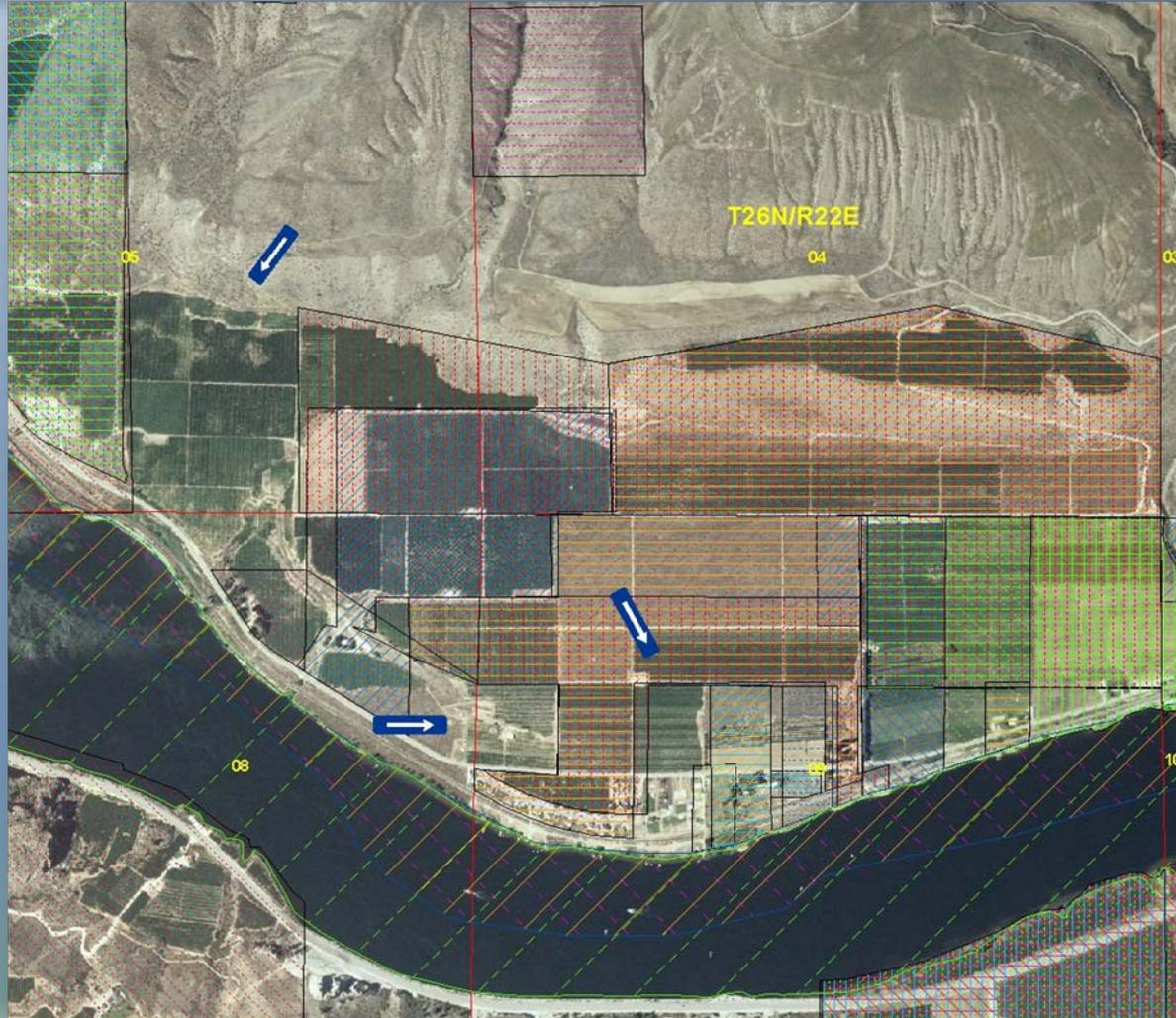


Scenario #2b





Scenario #3





The Last Slide

Take Home Messages

- 💧 Work toward voluntary compliance
- 💧 Good success so far
- 💧 Unexpected complexities arise

Final Statistics

- 💧 Approximately 5657 acres with possible unauthorized use
- 💧 Approximately 3296 acres addressed (~58%)
- 💧 Approximately 1 million acres of authorized irrigation
 - 💧 Does not include claims
- 💧 0.6% of possible unauthorized use