



For more information, please contact:

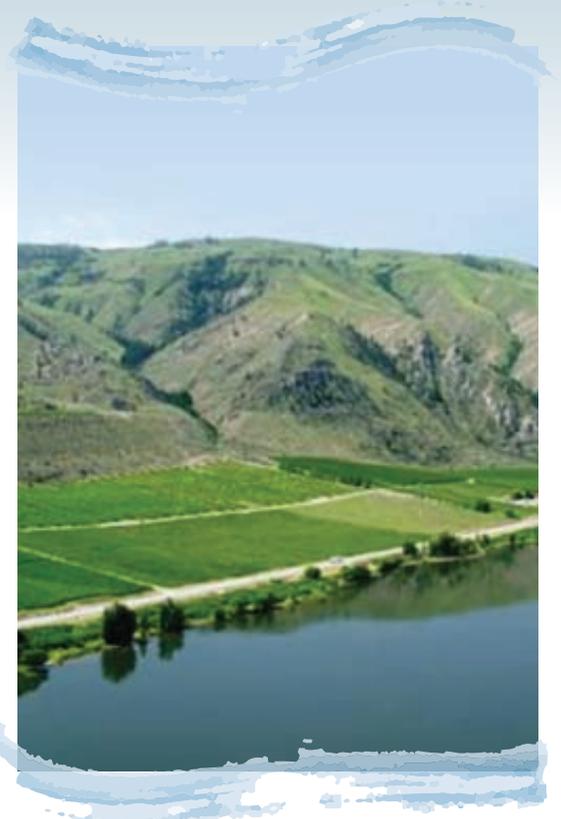


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The Columbia River Basin Drought Insurance Program



The Columbia River Basin Drought Insurance Program

A pilot project for buying and leasing water rights is currently underway as part of the Columbia River Basin Water Management Program (Chapter 90.90 RCW).

Washington will use the water rights acquired through this project to improve stream flows, to provide water to interruptible water right holders in times of drought, and to issue new water rights.

This pilot serves as a short-term, streamlined strategy while a long-term program is created.



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Making Trust Water Work For You

Washington Water Trust - Washington Rivers Conservancy
Columbia River Basin Water Management Program

What is Trust Water?

Trust water is water the state acquires and manages for both instream and out-of stream uses. The state acquires trust water by leasing or buying it from water right holders.

Why should I participate?

Taking part in the program allows you to profit from water you are not using either temporarily or permanently. Possible scenarios include:

- You change to a crop that requires less water
- You forego water use on later-season, lower-yield crops
- You protect your water right during periods of transition or non-use
- You install center pivots and sell or lease the water from (fallowed) corner acreage
- You sell or lease water from acreage enrolled in riparian enhancement programs
- You purchased property with water rights and need time to decide how to use the rights
- You rotate acreage for harvest, allowing for lease of water from acreage not used

Placing your water in the Trust Program allows you to put your water to beneficial use for fair compensation. While in Trust, your water right is exempt from “use it or lose it” rules. (RCW 90.14.140).

How will the water be used?

The Columbia River Trust Water Program will manage the water to provide water for agricultural and municipal uses and to enhance stream flows to help the environment.

Where will my water be used?

Your water will be used to help stream flows and water users in or near your community. Under state law, we may not transfer the water outside your watershed without Legislative approval. For example: If trust water is acquired in Water Resource Inventory Area (WRIA) 49 in Okanogan County, it must be used to benefit stream flows and new permits in WRIA 49. It will not be used to supply permits anywhere else.

What is “fair compensation?” How much can I get for my water?

Water is an emerging market and prices differ greatly by region. Compensation for water is based on many factors, including, but not limited to:

- Existing competitive water sales in the Columbia River basin
- Region of sale
- Ability to transfer the water right
- Quantity of water
- Seniority of your water right

Whenever possible, we will base our offer on the local market. If there is no established local price, we will look at comparable sales outside the region to form our offer.

In the end, it is your decision. You decide whether to accept the offer or not.

If I lease my water, will I get it all back?

Yes. The state will return the full measure of the leased water to the water right holder at the end of the contract.

Can I sell only a portion of my water?

Yes. Creativity, flexibility, and innovation are important elements of this project. If you have water to sell, we will work with you to make that happen.

I have saved water through on-site efficiencies; can I sell it to the program?

It depends. Some efficiency projects make water available for sale and transfer and some do not. It depends on the type and management of your project. If you have questions, please contact us.

Can I be part of an irrigation district and still participate?

Yes, with the consent and participation of the irrigation district board.

How long would the process take?

Each sale and lease is different. If there are no complicating factors, we can complete the process in under a year.