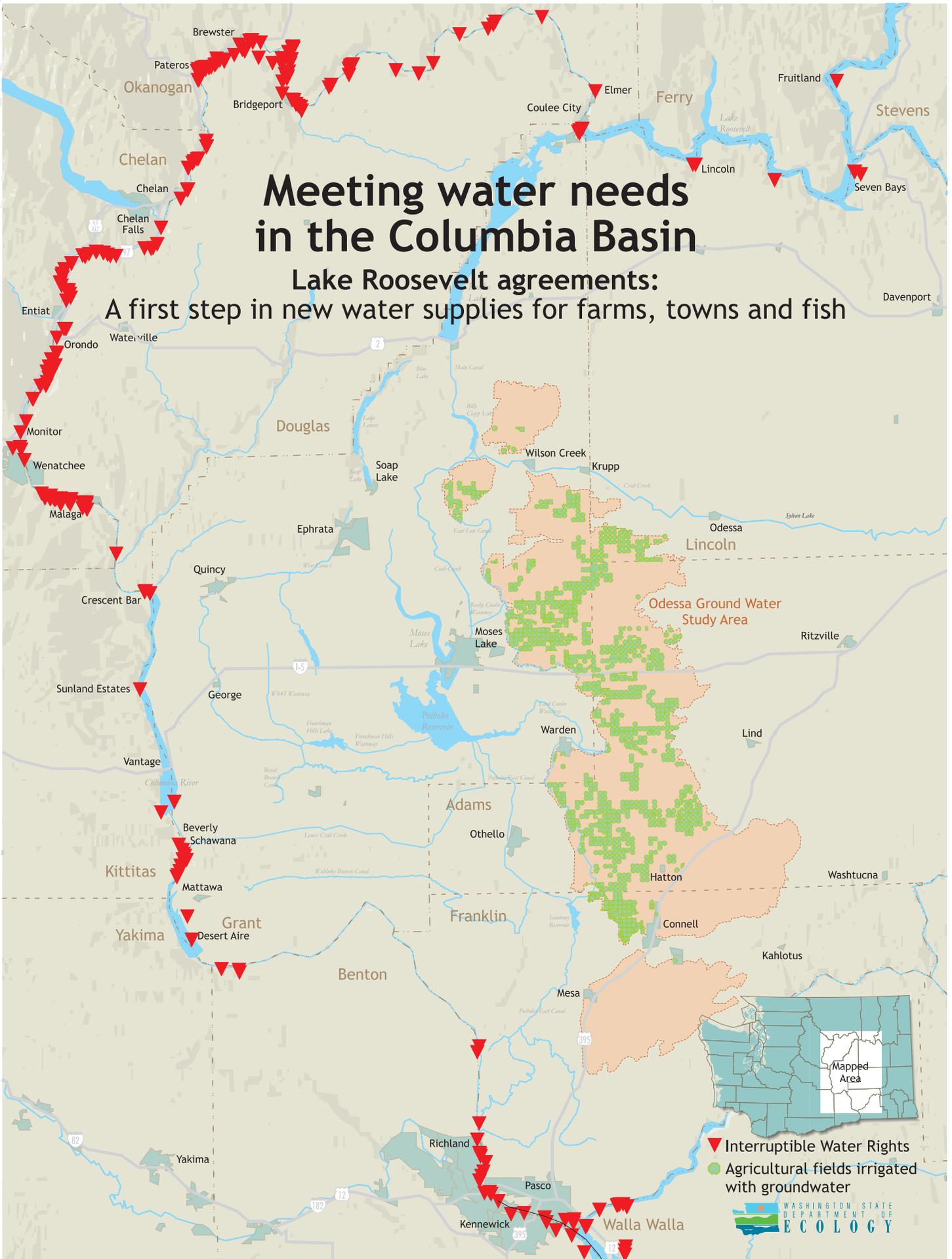


# Meeting water needs in the Columbia Basin

Lake Roosevelt agreements:  
A first step in new water supplies for farms, towns and fish



- ▼ Interruptible Water Rights
- Agricultural fields irrigated with groundwater

# Mapping needs and potential benefits

Gov. Chris Gregoire announced agreements in December with the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation and the Spokane Tribe of Indians that will allow incremental storage releases of up to 132,500-acre feet of water each year from Lake Roosevelt behind Grand Coulee Dam on the Columbia River.

This is a first step in developing new water supplies for the region.

With Legislative approval of the agreements, Lake Roosevelt water will be delivered to the Columbia Basin beginning in the spring of 2008.

- *Two-thirds* of the water will go to farms and towns
- *One-third* of the water will go to fish and instream flows

 **Irrigators** of 10,000 acres of land in the Odessa Ground Water Study Area who currently irrigate with water from the rapidly depleting Odessa ground water aquifer will get new water and lessen their reliance on the aquifer.

 As many as 379 holders of **“interruptible” water rights**, most of whom are irrigators, will benefit from the addition of 33,000 acre-feet of water for use in dry years and will be less at risk of having their water supply interrupted or cut off in drought years.

**Cities** that have been waiting for years for new water supplies are among 128 applicants for water rights who may receive water from Lake Roosevelt.

**Endangered salmon** will benefit from 27,500 acre-feet of Lake Roosevelt water available each year and an additional 17,000 acre-feet available during critical drought years to increase water held instream.