

Methow River Basin Improvement Package Projects & Policies

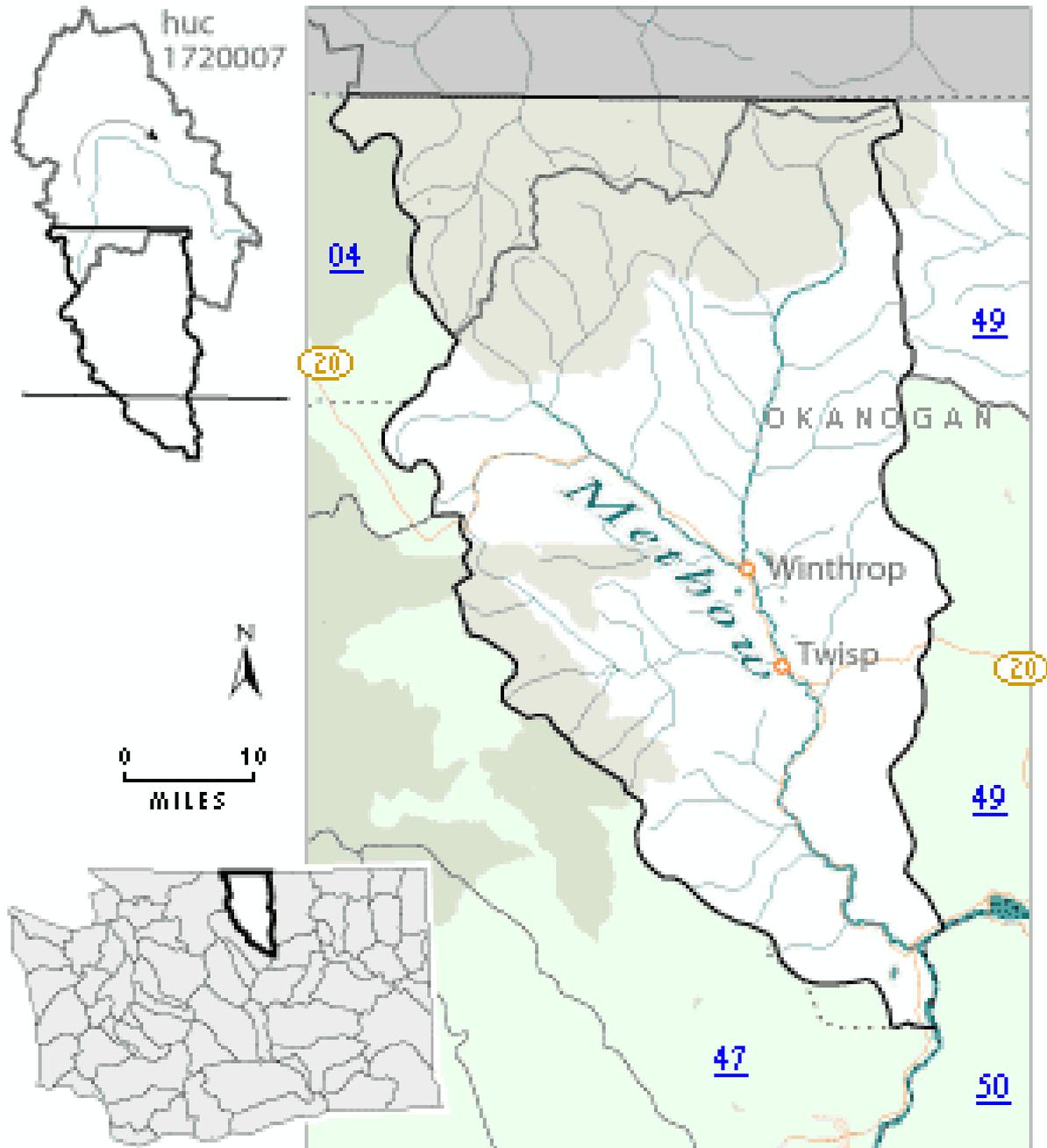
Columbia River Policy Advisory Group
October 17, 2012

Presented by
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Washington State Department of Ecology
Office of Columbia River

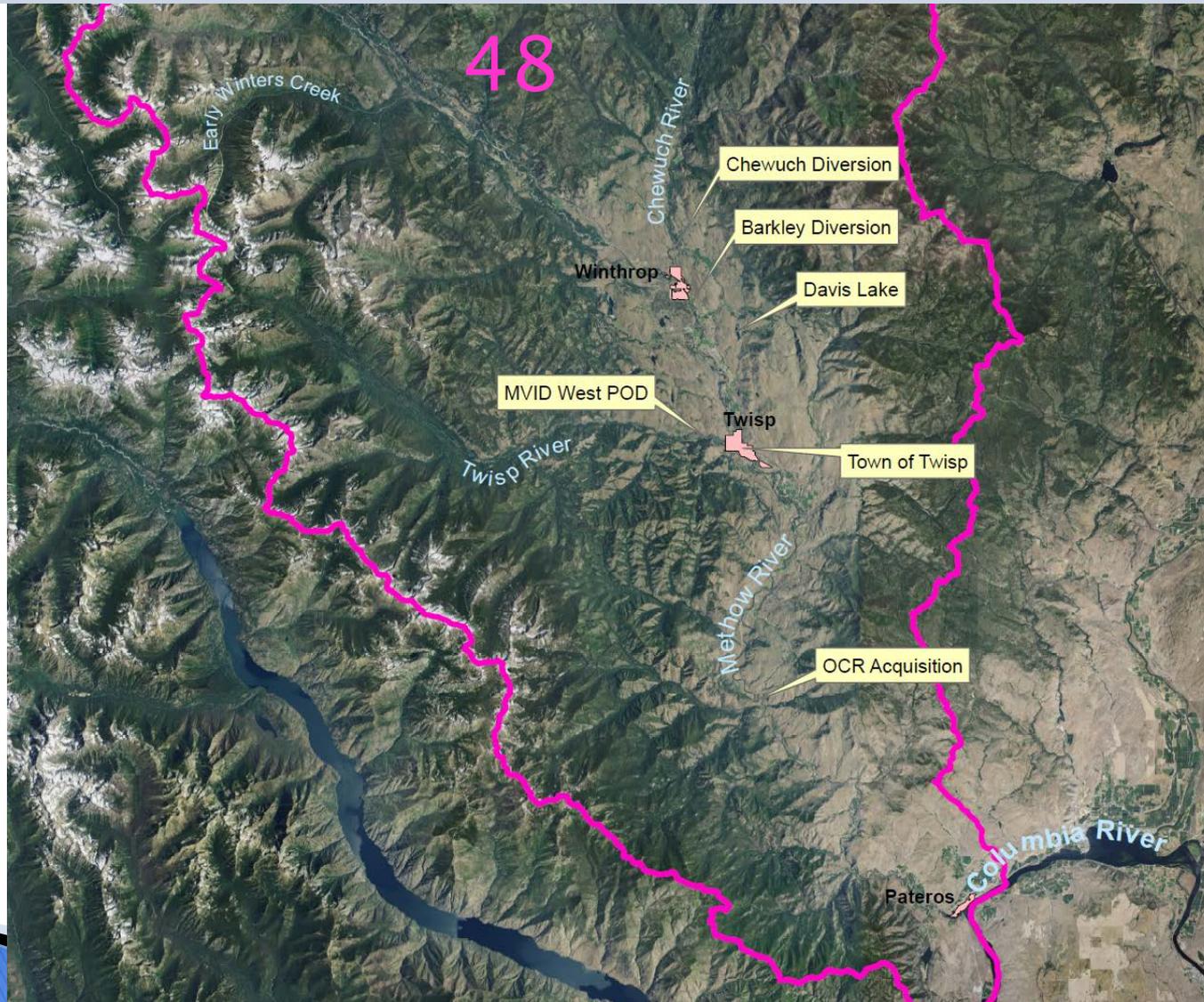


DEPARTMENT OF
ECOLOGY
State of Washington

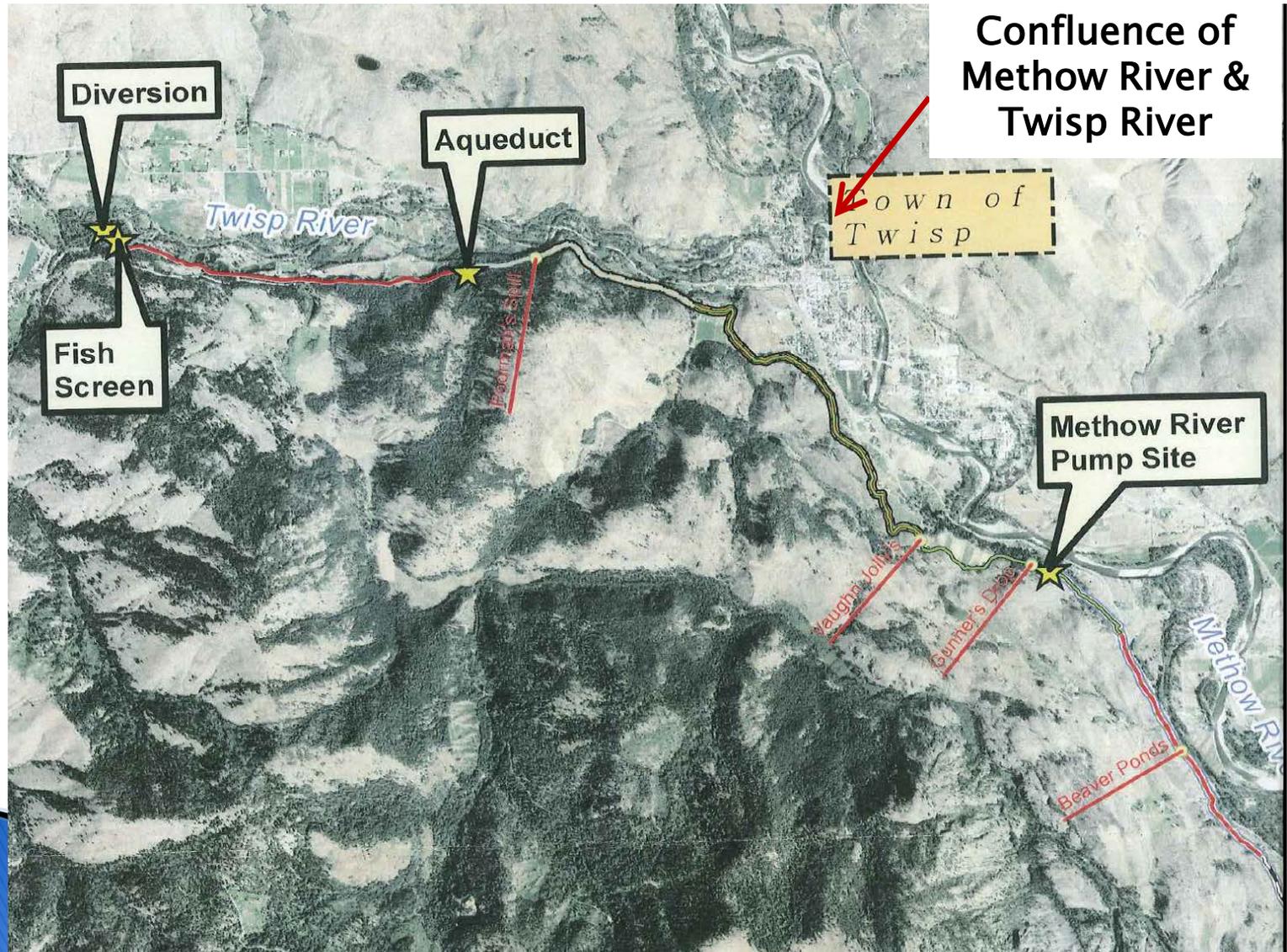
Methow River Basin WRIA 48



Methow River Basin Project Locations



Methow Valley Irrigation District West Canal – Diversion & Canal Improvements



Methow Valley Irrigation District

West Canal – Diversion & Canal Improvements

▶ Project Partners

- MVID
- Trout Unlimited
- Bureau of Reclamation
- National Oceanic
Atmospheric Admin.
- Office of Columbia River

▶ Cost \$6.2M – \$8M

- OCR contribution \$6 – 7M

Pushup
Dam

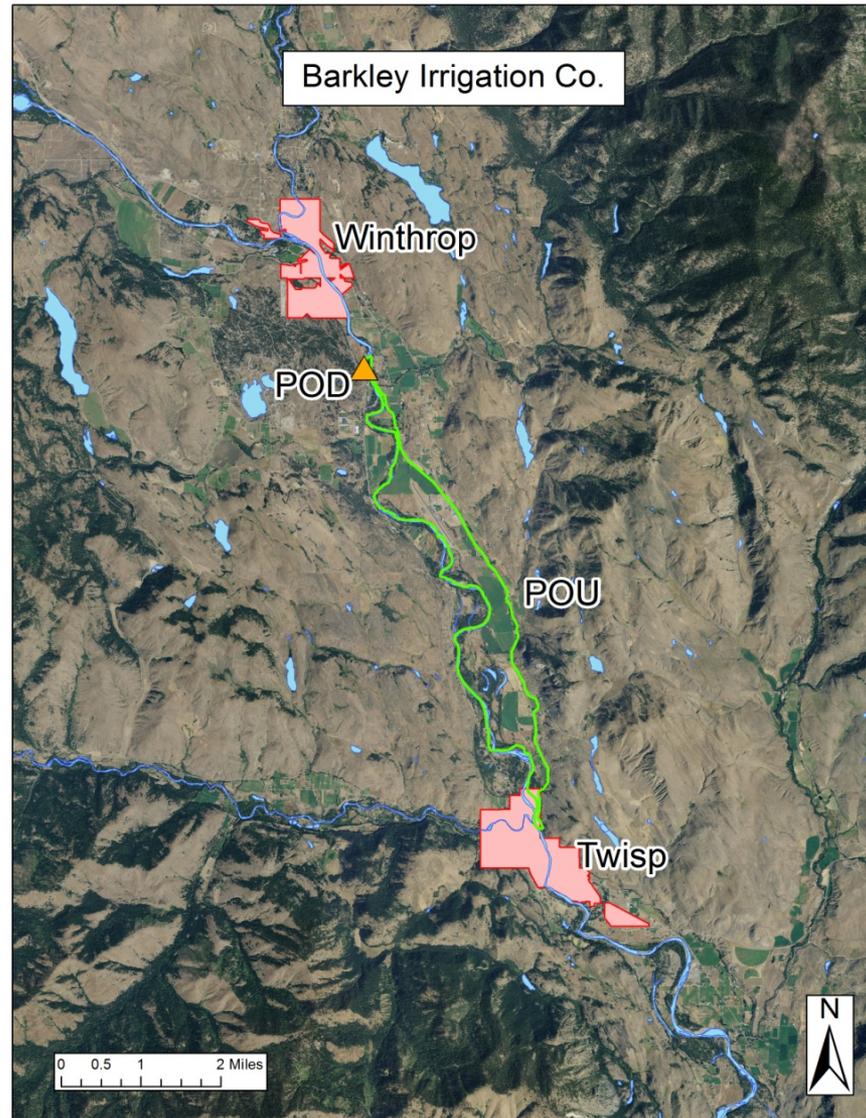


Methow Valley Irrigation District

West Canal – Diversion & Canal Improvements

- ▶ Move MVID West Canal diversion off the Twisp River to a diversion on Methow River (or combination of diversion and well field or a combination of wells) and pipe a majority of the West Canal
- ▶ Improves Twisp River instream flows by 11 cfs in the lower 3.5 river miles & eliminates historic pushup dam
- ▶ Policy consideration – large instream flow project to offset large out-of-stream project

Barkley Irrigation Company Diversion Replacement



Barkley Irrigation Company

Diversion Replacement

▶ Project Partners

- Barkley Irrigation Co.
- Trout Unlimited
- Bureau of Reclamation
- Methow Conservancy
- National Marine Fisheries Services
- Bonneville Power Administration
- Office of Columbia River

▶ Cost \$1.5M

- OCR budget request \$750,000



Photo: Courtesy of Trout Unlimited

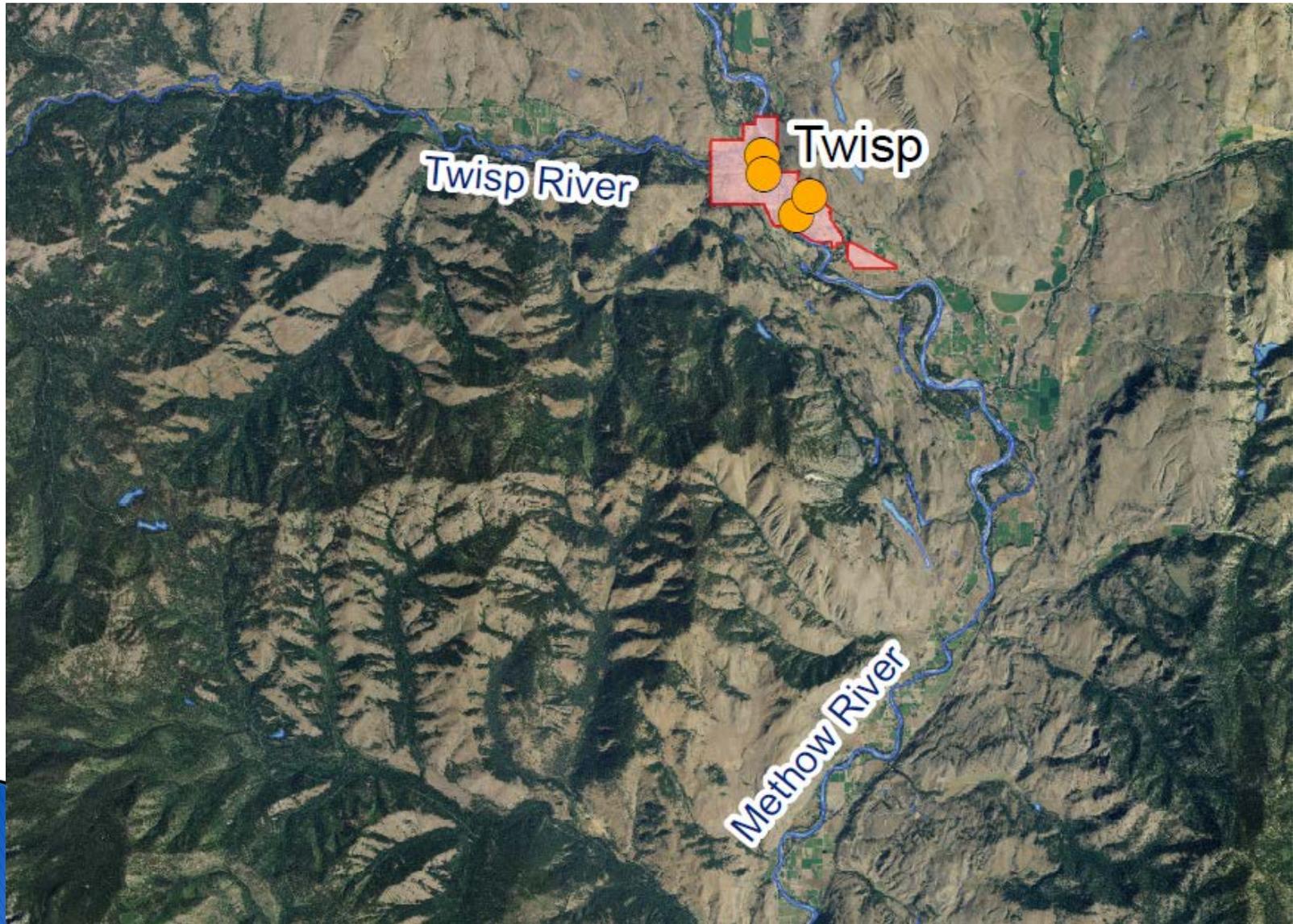
Barkley Irrigation Company

Diversion Replacement

- ▶ **Eliminate current wing dam. Provide irrigation company fish-friendly diversion alternatives.**
- ▶ **Reconnects Bear Creek to the Methow River, eliminates wing dam, provides approx 20 cfs of instream flow benefit in a section of Methow River, improves water quality, lowers fish mortality**
- ▶ **Policy consideration – One option up for consideration is to move the point of diversion upstream**

Town of Twisp

New Water Right



Town of Twisp

New Water Right

▶ Project Partners

- Town of Twisp
- Office of Columbia River
- Dept of Fish and Wildlife

- ▶ Cost \$50,000 – \$100,000
which will be repaid by the Town



Town of Twisp

New Water Right

- ▶ Issue a new water right (50–300 ac–ft) to Town of Twisp that is offset by consumptive use from an irrigation water right
- ▶ Meets two OCR directives – hydrate existing applications, & solve municipal needs within the Columbia River Basin
- ▶ Provides public reliability and conservation–minded development within town boundaries and eliminates exempt well promulgation
- ▶ Policy Considerations – Does summer benefits outweigh winter impacts, is out-of-kind mitigation an option, OCPI determination to waive interruptibility (WAC 173–548)

Chewuch Canal Company Project Improvements



Map: Courtesy of Trout Unlimited

Chewuch Canal Company

Project Improvements



A grouted rock ramp constructed below the dam in October 2008 will increase boater safety and reduce sediment build up in the fish passage channel next to the dam

Photo: Courtesy of Methow Salmon Recovery Foundation

▶ Project Partners

- Trout Unlimited
- BPA/NFWF
- National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration
- Yakama Nation
- US Fish and Wildlife Service
- Methow Salmon Recovery Foundation
- Office of Columbia River

▶ Cost – \$2.1 M

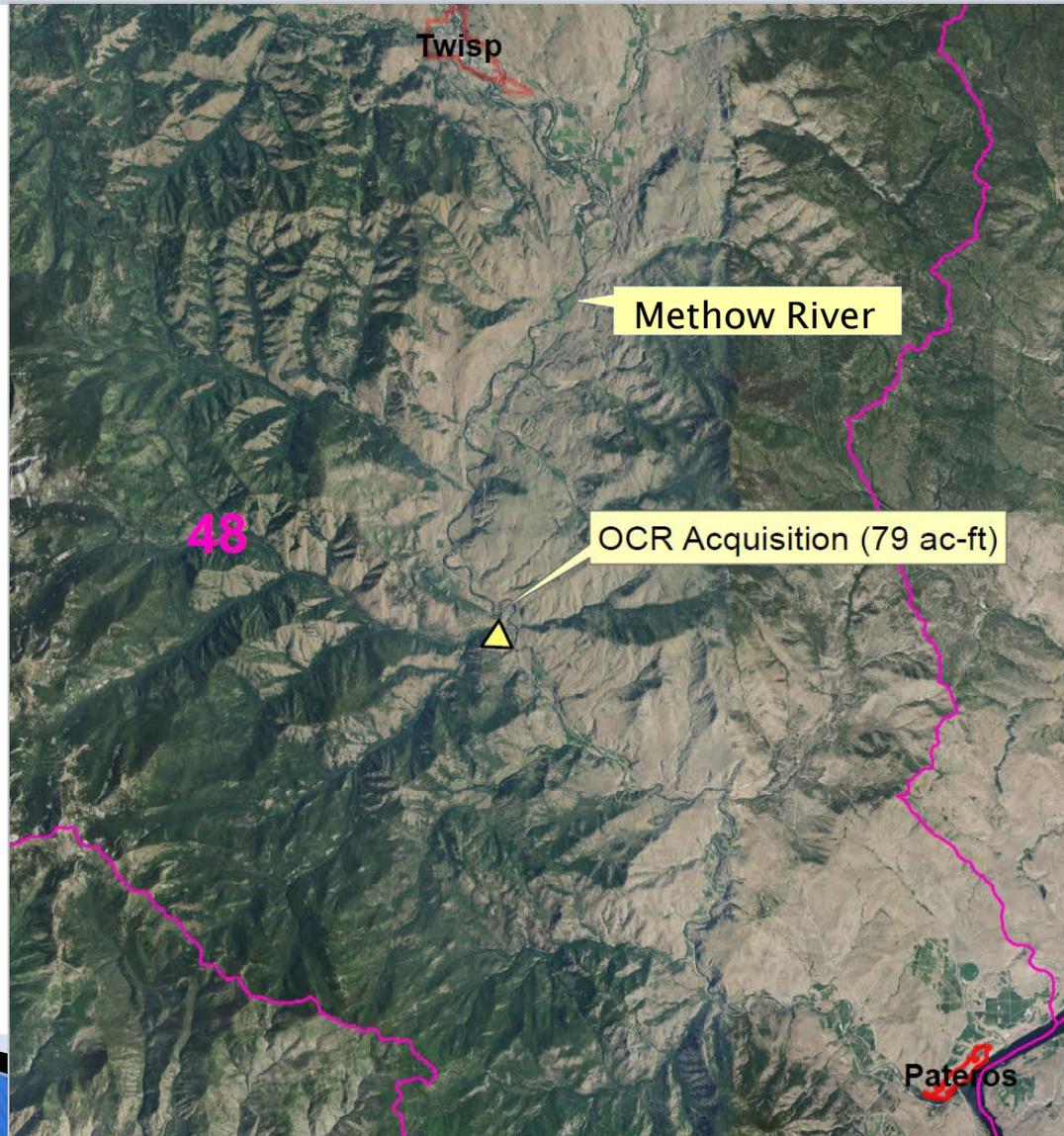
- OCR budget request– up to \$200,000

Chewuch Canal Company

Project Improvements

- ▶ **Additional canal piping, eliminates diversion during low flow periods to fill Pearrygin Lake (reservoir)**
- ▶ **Improves:**
 - **Instream flows by 9.5cfs on Chewuch River in lower 7 miles of river**
 - **Irrigation reliability**
 - **Recreation opportunities**
- ▶ **Policy Consideration – OCPI determination to waive instream flows in WAC 173–548 to allow river diversion during high flow periods in exchange for diversion reduction during low flow periods**

Water Acquisitions



Water Acquisitions

- ▶ **Existing Acquisition**
 - 79 ac-ft (52 ac-ft CU) in the Lower Methow Reach

- ▶ **13–15 Opportunistic Acquisitions and Leases for Eastern Washington**
- ▶ **Project Proponent – Ecology OCR**
- ▶ **Legislative Budget request for approx \$4M**



Eastern Washington Irrigation Efficiency Projects

- ▶ Project Proponent - Conservation Commission
- ▶ Legislative Budget request for approx \$7.2M
- ▶ Monies would provide for approx 15 conservation and habitat projects
- ▶ Project areas in general are all Columbia River Tributaries

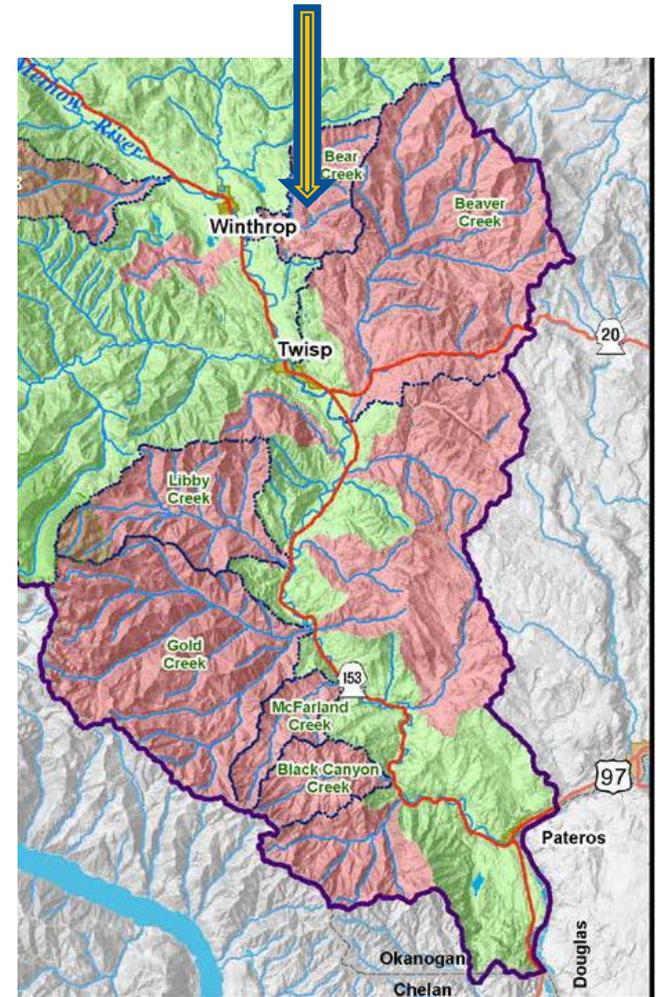


Methow Watershed Council

Davis Lake Storage Project

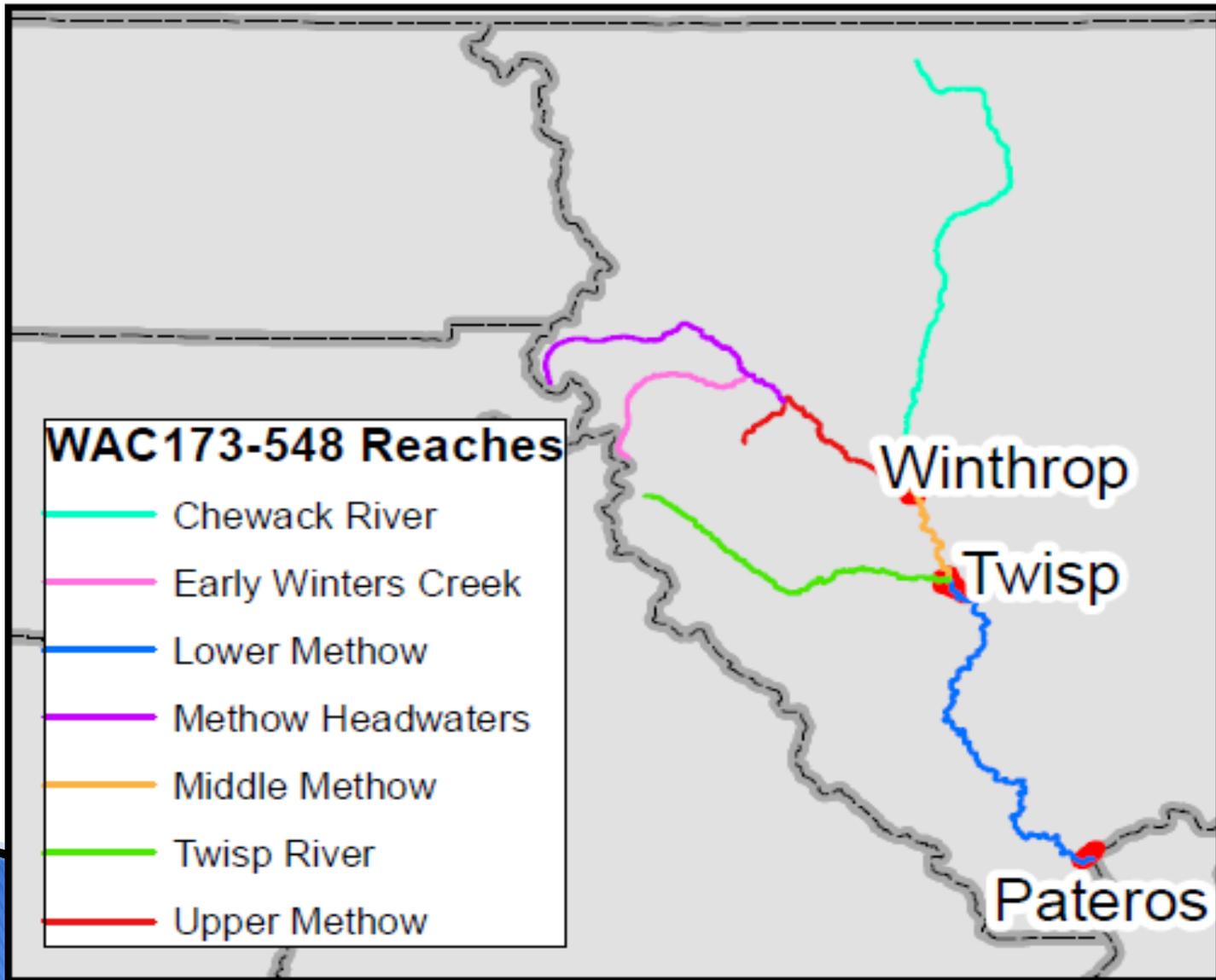
- ▶ Improve storage capabilities in Methow Basin
- ▶ Davis Lake was the most feasible storage project out of 3 proposed
- ▶ Davis Lake and Bear Creek are an adjudicated basin

Davis Lake



Methow Watershed Council

WAC 173-548 Instream Flow Reserve Accounting



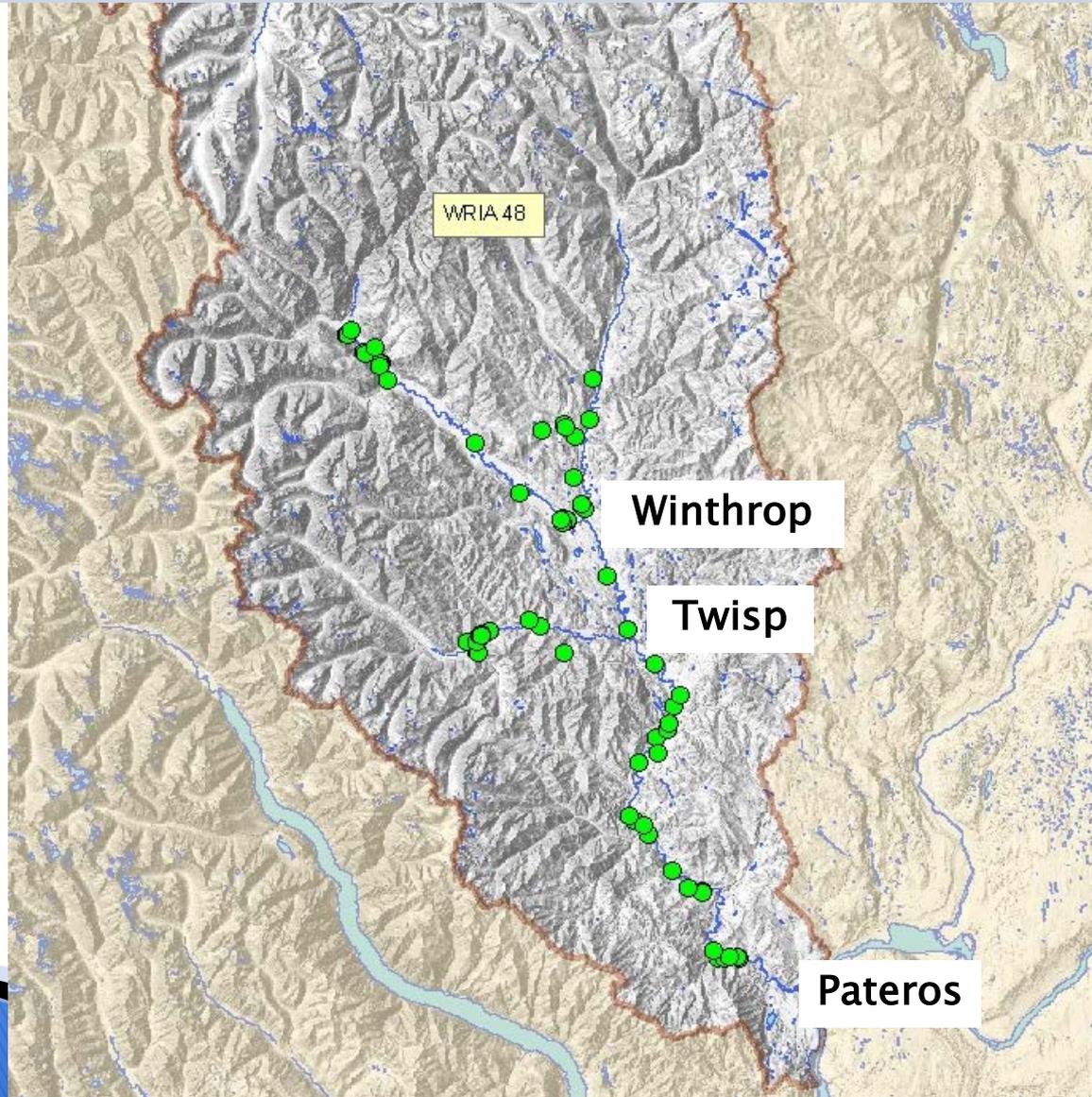
Methow Watershed Council

WAC 173-548 Instream Flow Reserve Accounting

- ▶ **7 reaches defined in Rule**
- ▶ **Each reach has a 2 cfs reserve quantity, totaling 14 cfs**
- ▶ **Council is undergoing reserve accounting to understand remaining reserve quantities**
- ▶ **Policy Consideration – Can these reach reserve quantities move up/down stream?**
 - **Likely will require an update to the rule**

Interruptible Water Rights

WAC 173-548



Interruptible Water Rights

WAC 173-548

- ▶ **Currently 67 interruptible water rights on the Methow River**
- ▶ **Cannot store enough water in the basin to fix all interruptible water rights**
- ▶ **Policy Consideration – Is there an opportunity to make some/all of these water rights whole in this Greater Methow Improvement Package?**

General Policy Questions

- ▶ **Climate Change – Do we need to consider the hydrograph change for fish habitat and instream flow benefits?**
- ▶ **Irrigation Canals Improvement– Can we move a block of water savings upstream?**
- ▶ **Is out-of-kind mitigation an option in the Basin?**

Questions?