

Family farms, industry, water purveyors to benefit from Quincy Basin water use permits

Family farms, municipal and industrial users will benefit from water use permits that Ecology will soon be issuing to as many as 90 applicants in the Quincy Basin west of Moses Lake.

Here's how some of the applicants will put the water to use:

- Stanley Kaufmann will be able to expand the family corn and hay farm and cattle operation in the Moses Lake, Ephrata and Soap Lake areas.

“Basically the land has no value without water,” said Kaufmann who has been in business since 1969. “I’ve watched the land grow from bare ground to beautiful farm land with a good economy.”

- The Grant County Public Utility District will be using the water to support a summer Chinook fish hatchery facility.

Obtaining the water is “a critical first step in the process,” said Ross Hendrick, limnologist with the PUD. The district will be operating multiple fish hatchery programs, a requirement of its license to operate the Priest Rapids and Wanapum dams.

- Jeff Cochran is a mint processor but will be able to open up new ground for his rotation crops like hay and potatoes.

“The availability of ground (for rotation crops) has gotten tighter and tighter in recent years, going into orchards and vineyards,” said Cochran whose family farm, headquartered in Royal City, was started by his father in the 1960s.

Quincy Basin water use permits issued in March

On March 6, Ecology issued 15 permits for the use of artificially stored groundwater in the Quincy Basin. The permits authorize the use of 2,496 acre-feet of water. Permittees and their purposes of use are:

Permittee	Purpose of Use
Weber Family Farms	Industrial Supply; (Potato) Processing Plant
Plagerman, David R. & Janis	Dairy; including domestic supply and non-ag lawn & garden irrigation
Gilbert, Gerald	Dairy; including domestic supply and non-ag lawn & garden irrigation
Berg, Arthur & Janet	Irrigation
Kibby, Jason L. & Rosalinda	Irrigation
Whitmus, Matthew A.	Irrigation
Robinson, Frank D. & Elaine S.	Irrigation
Smith, Colt; Cross "B" Estates	non-ag lawn & garden irrigation
Aney, Mark A. & Viki L.	Irrigation
DeHerrera, Charlene D.	Irrigation
Lucas, Rodney B. & Jeanette	Irrigation
Hall, John M.	Irrigation
Department of Natural Resources	Irrigation
Street, Mark A. & Betty L.	Irrigation
Klingeman, Paul & Kerrie	Irrigation

Economic value of water use permits for Grant County

FINAL ESTIMATES: Value of Access to ASGW		
VALUE TO AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT	\$23 million	This is the land value of the new irrigated acreage if it is able to be used for irrigated agriculture, versus dry-land agriculture. (Note that this does not include the value of agricultural production.)
VALUE DUE TO COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENT	\$60 million	Improvements to land value due to commercial development.

FINAL ESTIMATES: Grant County Whole-Economy Statistics		
VALUE OF AGRICULTURAL OUTPUT	\$1.4 billion	Value is rounded to the nearest 1/10th of \$1 billion. Estimates range between \$1.372 billion and \$1.375 billion.
GROSS BUSINESS INCOME (ALL INDUSTRIES)	\$4.8 billion	Value is rounded to the nearest 1/10th of \$1 billion. Precise estimate is \$4,756,003,825.
FULL AND PART-TIME EMPLOYMENT (ALL INDUSTRIES)	35 thousand	Value is rounded to the nearest thousand employees. Precise estimate is 35,008.
PAYROLL (ALL INDUSTRIES)	\$1.0 billion	Value is rounded to the nearest 1/10th of \$1 billion. Precise estimate is \$1,039,488,649.

Sources include U.S. Geological Survey reports and studies, Grant County Assessor's Office, U.S. Census Bureau, U.S. Department of Agriculture Census, the Washington Department of Revenue and the Washington Employment Security Department.