

Trust Water Case Study: Permanent Water for Mill Creek

Walla Walla Basin

Trust Water Rights Guidance Workshop

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WASHINGTON WATER TRUST

Working to restore rivers and streams in Washington state

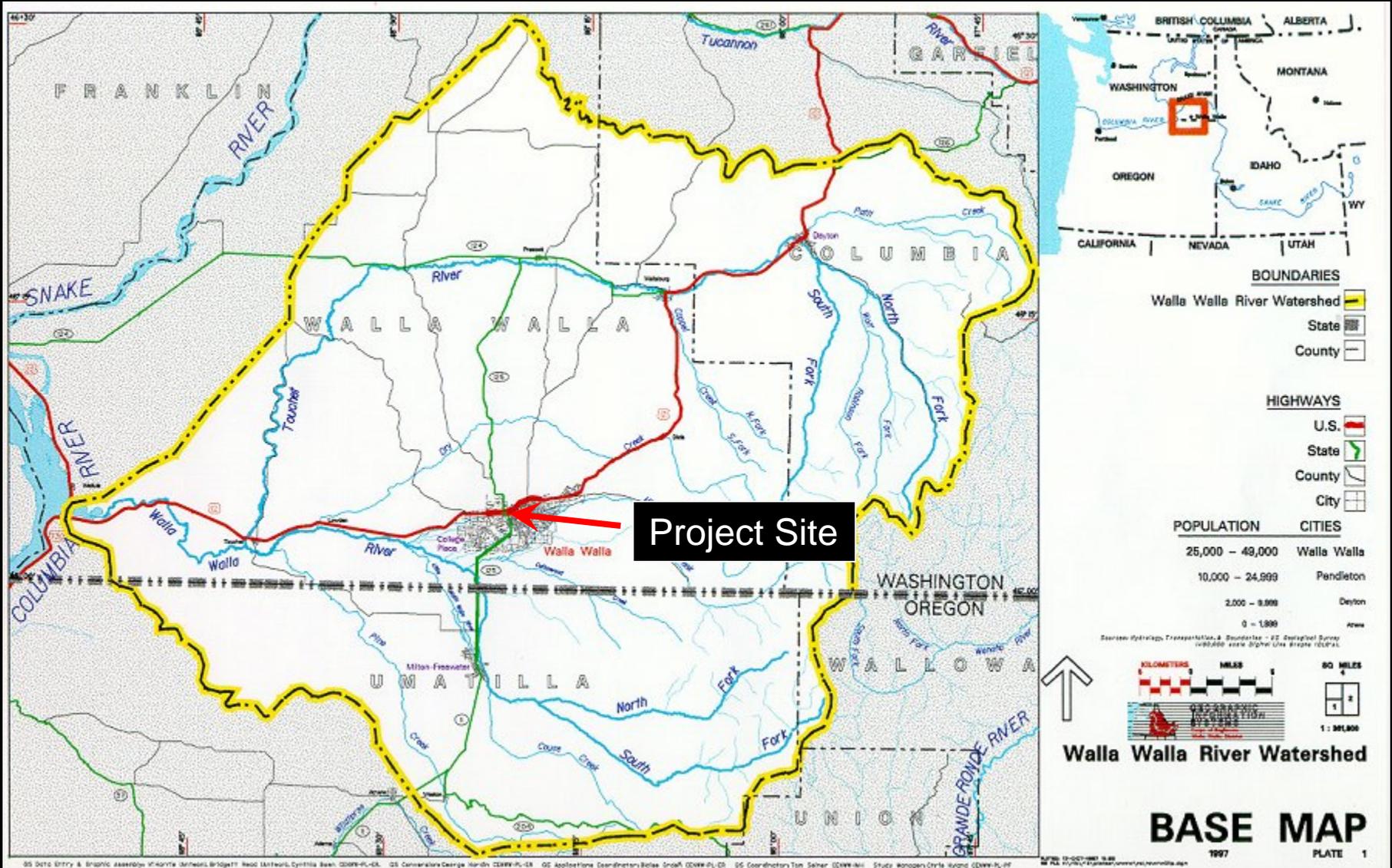
Presentation Summary

- Overview of Bossini Ditch Project
- Project Development
- Addressing complications
- Ecology processing
- Questions and Discussion



Upper Mill Creek

Walla Walla Basin



Project Site



The Paper Water Rights

Certificate Number	Adjudicated Certificate 52			Adjudicated Certificate 54		
Priority Date	1866			1866		
CFS/Timing	Apr-June	June-Oct	Oct-Apr	Apr-June	June-Oct	Oct-Apr
	0.6	0.5	1.0	1.11	0.83	1.66
Acre-Feet	165.42			305.48		
Acres	50			83.3		

Total Acre/ft = 407.91

Total Acres = 133.30

Total cfs = 1.71 Apr-June 1.33 June-Oct 2.66 Oct-Apr

Water Right Details

- Seniority of water right: 1866 senior, uninterrupted April-Oct
- 16 Landowners (not all selling)
- Actual beneficial use:
 - 80-110 acres (of 133 original)
 - 200-300 af (of 407 original)
- Crops: turf, asparagus, onions
- Delivery system: pump with storage pond, wheel lines



Why transfer this water to trust?



Flow is a major limiting factor in Mill Creek and any additional instream flow will benefit all life stages of Chinook and Steelhead

The Deal

- Land and water are both for sale, but separately
- WWWT agreed to purchase portions of water rights from willing sellers
- Development schedule for limited water use by new landowners



Addressing Complications

- Multiple landowners sharing two water rights
 - Separate contracts
 - Separate payments
 - Shared trust water application
- Informal ditch partnership: No records for 140 years!
- Landowner apprehension about Ecology process

More Complications

- Fish screen clogging: led to less irrigated acreage
- Valuation challenges: stream goes subsurface!
- Stream is part of Army Corps Engineers flood control project area
- Land developers also want water: development schedule

Ecology Processing

- WWT submits trust water application with development schedule
- WWT submits request to divide water right
- Ecology processes according to 90.03.380-ACQ, Extent and Validity performed



Expected Outcome: Permanent Trust Water

- Ecology writes trust water report
- Ecology issues superseding certificate to document the acquisition
- Some landowners retain a portion of the water rights
- Developer is allowed use of water on 2-7 acres as per agreement in development schedule for 2.5 years

Questions/Discussion



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