

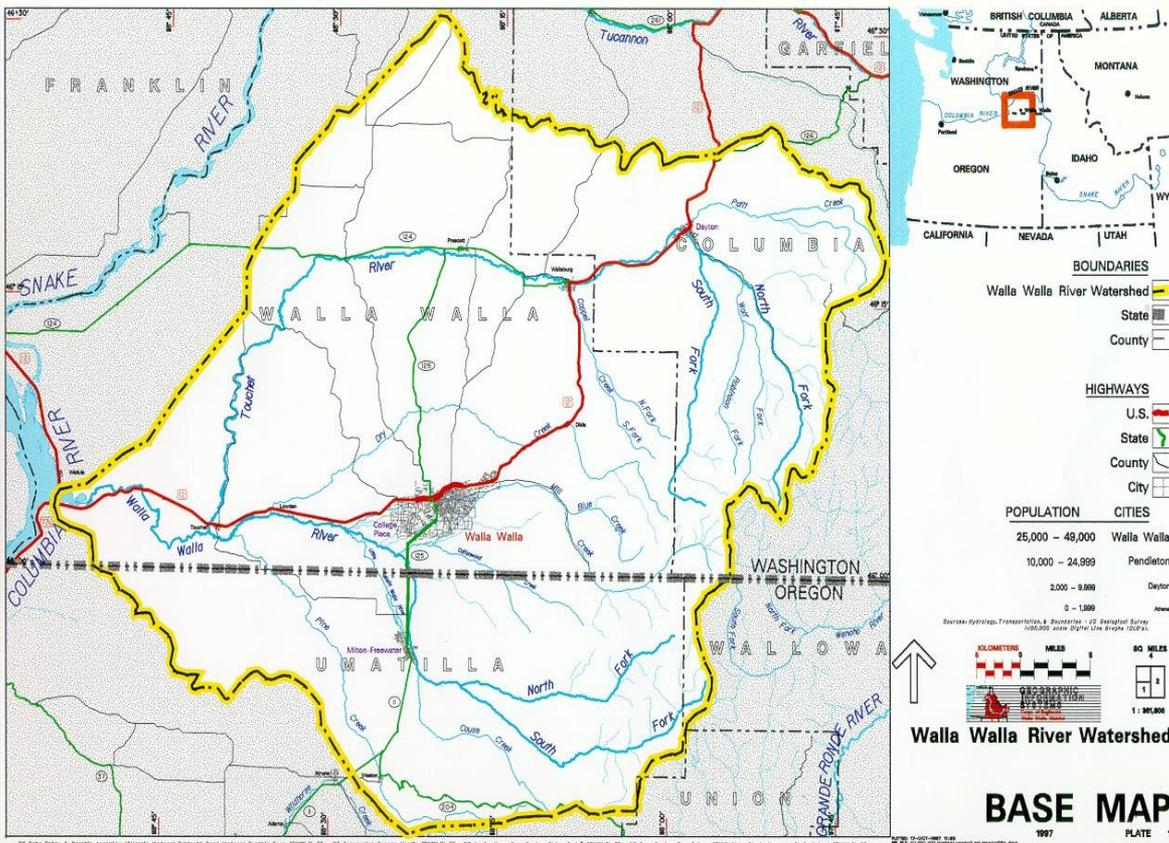
Walla Walla Mitigation Exchange

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and

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Walla Walla Watershed Issues



- Endangered Species Act ESA Bull Trout and Steelhead
- Clean Water Act 303(d) listings
- Bi-State basin
- Overappropriation of water rights
- Braided distributary river system
- Surface and groundwater connection

What is the Instream Flow Rule?



- Amends existing WAC 173-532
- Prohibits new summer surface water diversions
- Limits new water use to flow improvement and environmental enhancement projects
- Restricts withdrawals from the gravel aquifer
- Conditions use of Exempt Wells
 - Exempt from permitting not regulation
 - RCW 90.44.050

Exempt Wells under the Rule

Conditions on NEW gravel-aquifer wells

- As of September 5th, 2007
 - New Commercial and industrial uses not permitted
 - New restrictions on livestock watering
 - This provision applies to the entire WRIA
- Outdoor use must be mitigated May –Nov
 - Beginning May 1, 2008
- Wells must be metered



Outdoor water use mitigation for new exempt wells

- Bypass the Ecology process by using other irrigation water (pre-existing, transferred, or basalt exempt well)
- Utilizing the State-Assisted Mitigation Program



State Assisted Mitigation Exchange



- WWT worked cooperatively with Ecology and Walla Walla County to draft a mitigation Guide that answers all mitigation related questions
- WWT also under contract to acquire water to seed the exchange and administer the program initially

How it works

- WWT seeds the exchange for 2 years by acquiring existing water rights and placing into trust program
- Homebuilders pay WWT \$2000/exempt well
- Homebuilders receive mitigation certificate from Ecology
- WWT and Ecology debit the exchange .5 af for each mitigation certificate
- Homebuilders must meter use, record monthly and report annually to Ecology
- Monitoring & enforcement by WDOE & WDFW

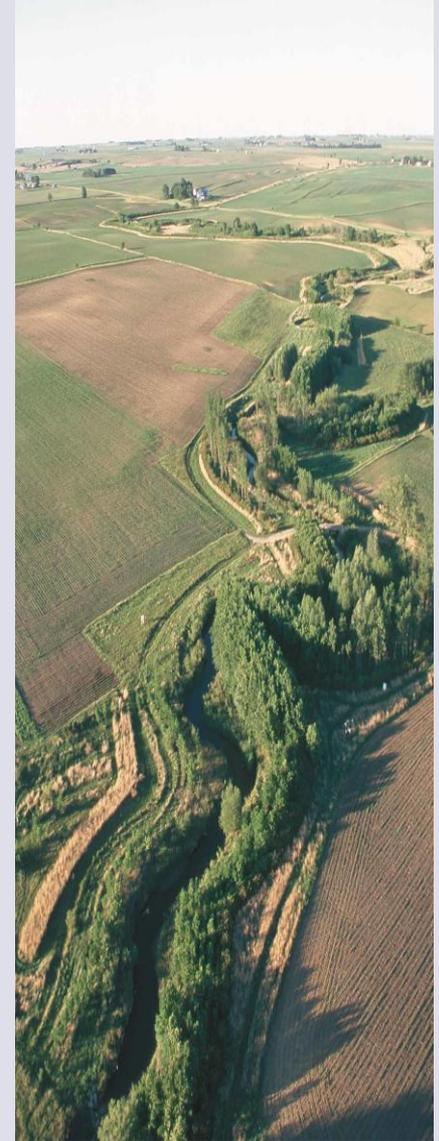
Progress to Date

- Two contracts signed with willing sellers
- No mitigation certificates have been issued
- Slow down in homebuilding, means less initial demand



Lessons Learned

- Consideration of mitigation zones
- Net benefit to the streams and aquifers
- Successful exchange depends on willing sellers and willing buyers
- Outreach and communication are vital
- Unique partnership between WW County, WWT and Ecology yielded success on a very tight timeline



For more information, contact.....

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Information and updates are posted on the
Walla Walla Watershed Planning web page:

<http://www.wallawallawatershed.org>