

# New Water Management in the Lower Columbia

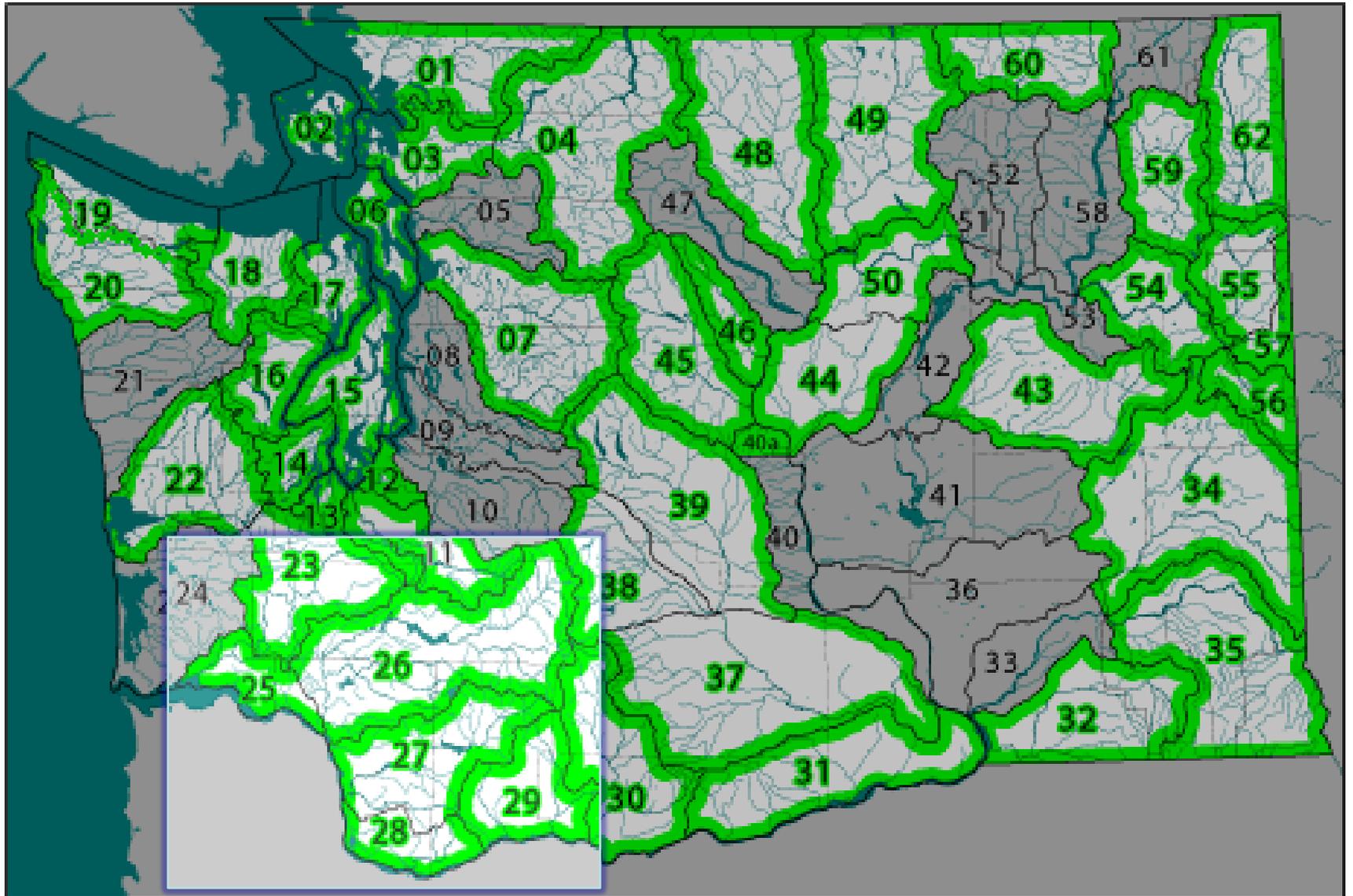


## Salmon/Washougal and Lewis Watershed Rules

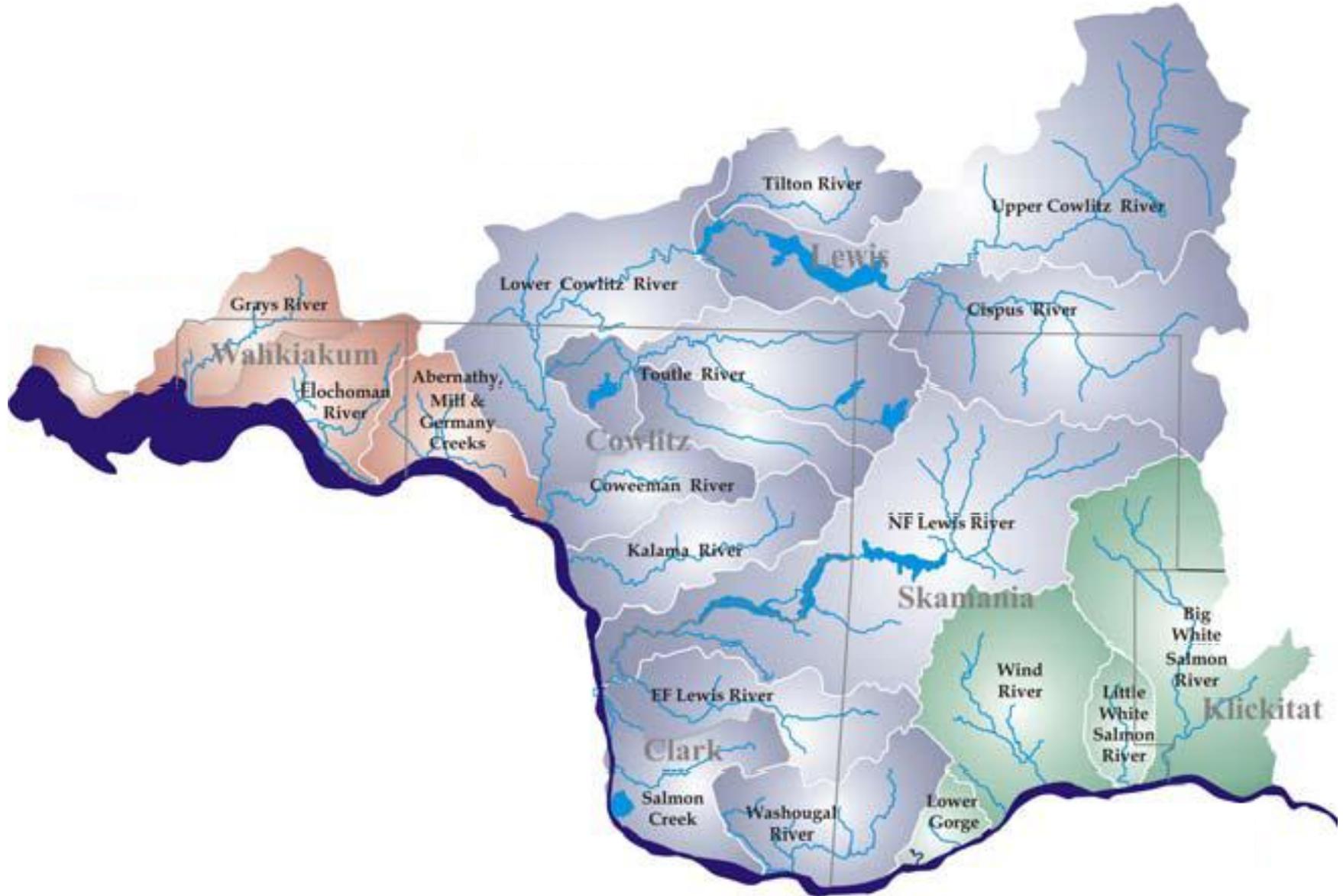
Water Resources Inventory Areas 27 & 28

Prepared by Travis Burns, Department of Ecology

October 6 / November 21, 2008



# Lower Columbia Salmon Recovery



# Watershed Strategy:

- In the Watershed Plan, the local Planning Unit recognized the long-term advantages of shifting future ground water withdrawals away from sources that impact water-critical headwaters.
- The Plan set up a management scheme to better protect water critical areas through avoidance, minimization, and mitigation.

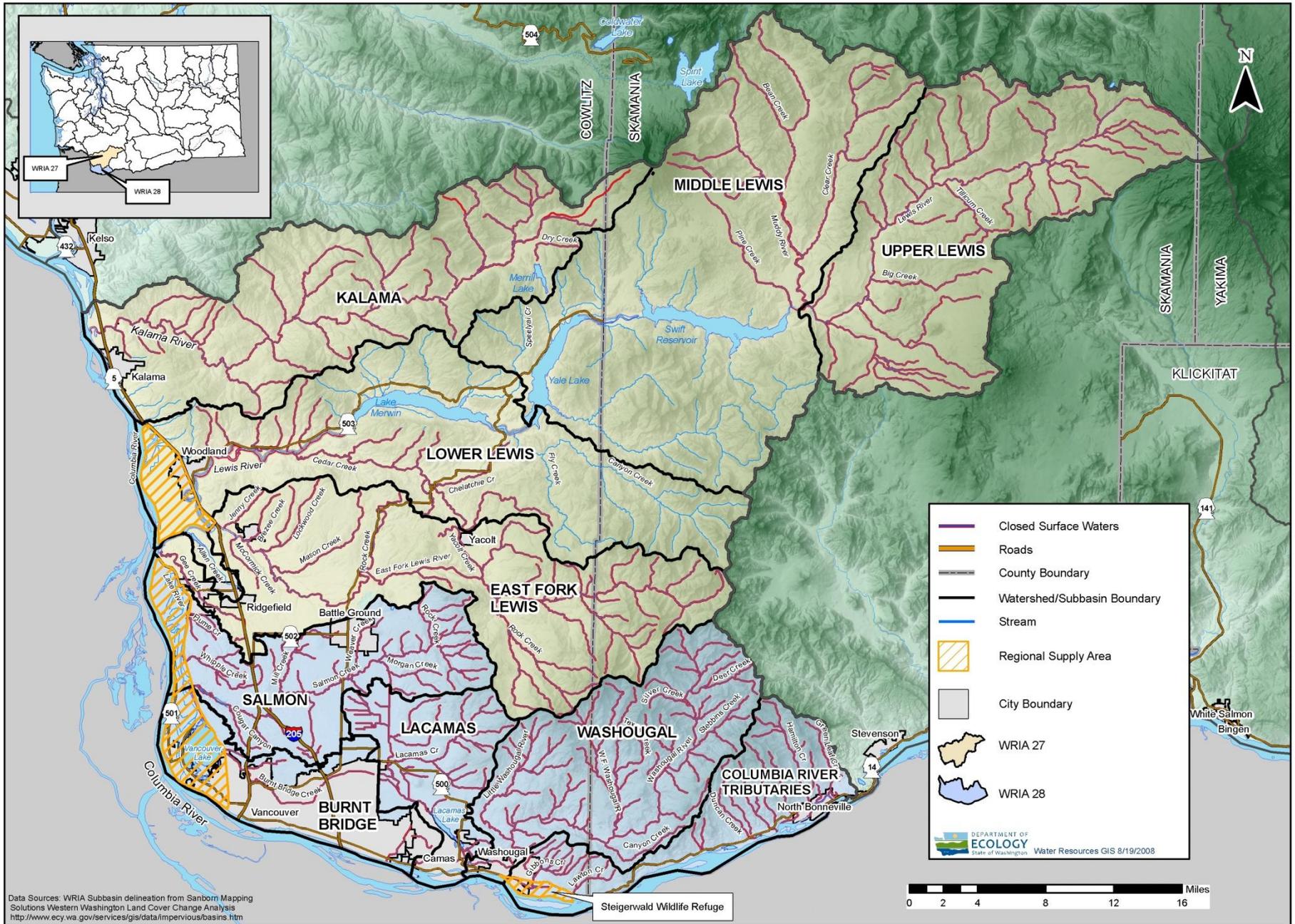


- Ecology's water management rules implement the local Watershed Plan.

# Proposed Rule Features:

- Establishes instream flows (34 rivers and streams).
- Closes sub-basins to future withdrawals.
- Designates “regional supply areas” for future water supply.
- Establishes limited reservations of water for future use.
- \*\*\* Establishes conditions of use for access to the water reserves.

# Regional Supply Areas and Surface Water Closures for WRIA's 27 and 28



Data Sources: WRIA Subbasin delineation from Sanborn Mapping Solutions Western Washington Land Cover Change Analysis <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/services/gis/data/impervious/basins.htm>

# Reservations for Future Use

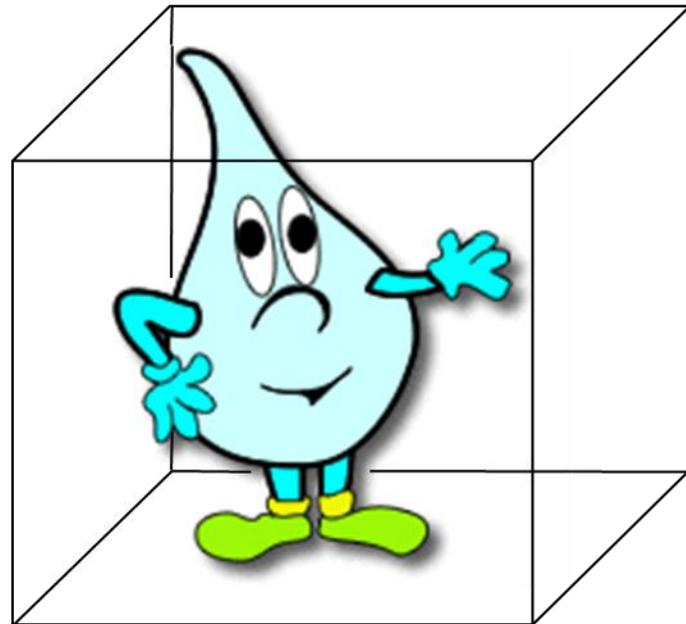
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- Both rules provide reservations of water to supply . . .  
small water systems, domestic wells,  
and city/utility demands.
- Reserves should (1) be sufficient to meet projected needs over the next **twenty years**, and (2) result in no significant degradation to instream values.  
[OCPI determination]

# Conditions to Accessing the Reservation

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Conditions of use in place to *stretch* both instream flows and limited out-of-stream water supplies. (avoidance, minimization, and mitigation)



# Reservation Conditions of Use

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- New water users will need to . . .
  - Conduct an **alternatives analysis** before accessing a reserve,
  - **Offset** to the “**maximum extent practicable**” the anticipated impacts that will result from use of the reservation, and
  - Provide other information/analysis as required in rule.
  
- Conditions apply to all “**public water systems.**” However, conditions **do not apply** to individual residential wells (permit-exempts).

# Reservation Offset Requirements

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- ❑ An applicant must first seek to offset the overall depletion(s) through water-related actions to the maximum extent practicable.
- ❑ Water-related offsets may have a greater or lesser “weighted value” due to seasonality, location, or quality of water provided.
- ❑ Any remaining depletion that has not been offset by water-related actions must be offset through habitat-related offsets in quantities prescribed by guidance.

# Guidance and Banking Issues

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- ❑ What is a reasonable limit on the cost of offsets?
- ❑ Can offsets be performed and banked for later use?  
Are they transferable?
- ❑ Fee in-lieu option provided to smaller public water systems . . .
  - Pooled water acquisitions and habitat restoration made available for one-time payment.
  - Fee approximated at about \$50,000 per 1/10<sup>th</sup> of a cfs.

# Status of Proposal

- Ecology is currently preparing both a response to comments and final rule documents for adoption.
- Anticipated date of adoption – **December 2008 or January 2009**
- Rule goes into effect 31 days after adoption.
- Rule implementation strategy being developed, and guidance for evaluating out-of-kind offsets is being completed by watershed group.

# Any Further Questions or Comments?



**Rulemaking: Travis Burns**

**360.407.7207**

**[tbur461@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:tbur461@ecy.wa.gov)**

**Watershed Planning: Scott McKinney**

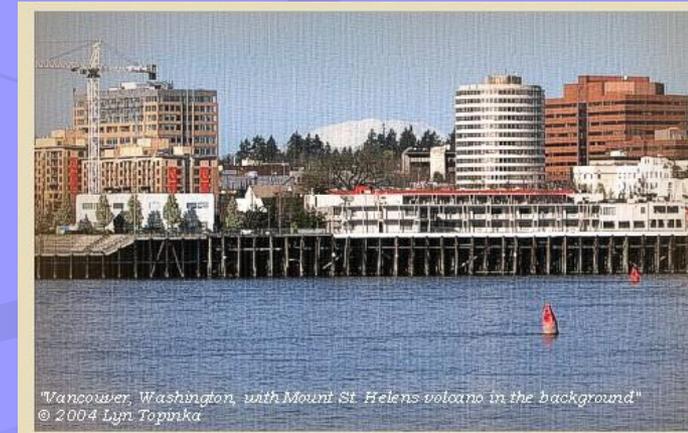
**360.407.6389**

**[smck461@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:smck461@ecy.wa.gov)**

**Ecology web site:**

**[http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wr/instream-](http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wr/instream-flows/lewis_salmon_washougal.html)**

**[flows/lewis\\_salmon\\_washougal.html](http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wr/instream-flows/lewis_salmon_washougal.html)**



*"Vancouver, Washington, with Mount St. Helens volcano in the background"  
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