

Water Resources Program Summary FY 2006 – 2007 Program Plan

Program Mission: Support sustainable water resources management to meet the present and future water needs of people and the natural environment, in partnership with Washington’s communities.

POG Result: Improve the Quality of Natural Resources.			
Activity What We Do	Desired Results What We Want To Achieve	Strategies How We Will Do It	Accountability Measures How We Will Measure Success
Sustain Water Resources So Water Remains Available For Current & Future Needs			
Assess, set & help achieve instream flows	Determine water availability and sustain water for current and future needs Progress toward setting & achieving instream flows to benefit people, fish, farming & the environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assess & set instream flows working with local watershed groups & in basins not engaged in watershed planning • Make progress & help achieve instream flows by acquiring water & other water management actions • Provide administrative support for implementation of instream flow rule management plans, water reservation systems, etc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of flows set • Volume of water saved - annual acre feet (via acquisitions and irrigation efficiency projects) • Flow achievement (Future measure to be developed)
Support local watershed management of water resources	Sustain water for current and future needs Development, adoption & implementation of sound local watershed management plans	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide technical assistance & support for development, adoption & increasing implementation of watershed plans • Support other geographic initiatives - e.g. Columbia River, Pilot Projects, Walla Walla, Nooksack 	
Support water use efficiency	Sustain water for current and future needs Increased water, energy & cost savings to protect the environment, increase business competitiveness & reduce pressure on water supplies & waste treatment facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide technical & financial assistance to limited number of agricultural, commercial, industrial & non-profit water users • Work on Ecology TREE effort, DOH municipal water conservation, DOH/WQ reclaimed water & state sustainability Executive Order 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Volume of water saved - annual acre feet (see measure under activity #1 above)

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<p>Provide water resources data & information</p>	<p>Support sound water management</p> <p>Increased availability of accurate & timely water resources data & information essential for modern water management, improved public service & business decisions</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop & implement information management services plan & prioritize efforts (metering & dam safety data bases, WRTS to WEB, IF support, mapping etc.). • Collect, clean, maintain, make available & use sound data & information for effective program operations, public service & external use • Expand data partnerships with federal & local agencies • Use sound data & information to strengthen relationships with constituents • Apply "Plain Talk" techniques to documents to improve readability • Support efforts to define, build and sustain stream gauging network with EAP & USGS 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of documents/pages "Plain Talked"
<p>Promote compliance with water right laws</p>	<p>Prevent impairment of legal water users and to sustain water for current and future needs</p> <p>Increased awareness of, & compliance with, water right laws so that legal water users & applicants for water rights are not impaired, water use remains</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop & implement strategic compliance plan • Provide compliance information, assistance & strategic enforcement for egregious cases in each region • Protect investment in acquired water • Broaden geographic capacity to regulate water use during periods of low flows on streams with instream flow 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of enforcement orders • \$ value of penalties <p>(Future additional compliance measures may be developed, e.g. water users brought into compliance, metering reporting rate, etc.)</p>

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	sustainable & environment is protected	limits <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expand water use metering & reporting to more basins &/or 80% volume • Support implementation of compliance elements of watershed management plans and adjudication court orders. 	
Allocate Water To Meet Needs While Protecting The Environment & Existing Water Users			
Manage Water Rights	Meet water needs & protect existing water users & the environment Timely & sound decisions on applications for new water rights & changes to existing rights to (re)allocate water; more active management of the existing water rights portfolio	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Process application for permanent changes & new rights - at some-what lower rate & increase other water rights management activities • Move to new water rights in some areas • Implement application processing consistency/quality improvements & training (handbook, potential rule for regulatory improvement) • Increase post-decision management of water rights & claims, conditions, etc. • Implement new fee structure • Implement municipal water supply plan review & conservation requirements • Process temporary, seasonal, drought applications 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of water right decisions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ New water rights <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Completed ▪ Pending ○ Changes to water rights <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Completed ▪ Pending • Number of post-decision actions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Certificates issued ○ Permit extensions granted
Adjudicate Water Rights	Reduce Conflict and Increase Water Rights Certainty Removal of major uncertainty regarding the validity & extent of	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Move Yakima adjudication toward completion • Prepare for future adjudication/settlements 	

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Prepare & respond to drought & climate change	the water rights in the Yakima Basin Mitigation of drought effects & climate change through improved planning, communication, coordination & loss prevention efforts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plan, communicate, coordinate on drought & climate change • Develop drought standard operating procedures • Support agency climate change response agenda 	
Protect Public And Environmental Health And Safety By Ensuring That Wells And Dams Are Safe			
Regulate well construction	Protect public & environmental health and safety Improved protection of consumers, well drillers & the Environment & reduction in the risk of aquifer contamination & cleanup costs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop rule & implement new fee bill • Increase number of delegated county partners • Increase percentage of wells inspected 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Well inspection rate
Ensure dam safety	Protect public & environmental health & safety The risk of potentially catastrophic dam failures is reduced, increasing the safety of people & property located below dams.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inspect dams for structural, flood & earthquake safety • Review new construction plans & modification plans & inspect onsite construction • Take emergency & compliance actions • Support federal & state security efforts • Reduce incident response time • Support water storage efforts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dam inspection rate • Number of deficient dams repaired

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