

Water Resources 2007 - 2009 Program Plan

Activity	Activity Description	2007- 09 Results	Performance Measures
Adjudicate Water Rights	<p>Agency supports water rights adjudication. Adjudication reduces water right conflicts & supports sound water management by increasing certainty regarding validity & extent of water rights. Is a judicial determination of water rights & claims, including federal, tribal, & non-tribal claims. Current focus is completing the Yakima River Basin surface water adjudication and pre-adjudication work in the Spokane area and Colville watershed. (Authorizing law: RCW 90.03.110).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Work with Tribes on water settlements. 	<p>Increased water rights certainty and reduced conflict.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Major uncertainty regarding the validity & extent of the water rights in the Yakima Basin is removed. 	<p>Number of tribal water right settlement processes initiated.</p>
Assess, Set and Enhance Instream Flows	<p>The agency evaluates and sets instream flows that are fundamental to water resources management. Instream flows are used to determine how much water needs to remain in streams to meet environmental needs, how much can be allocated, and when to regulate junior water users based on flow levels. The agency acquires water and uses other management techniques to restore and protect flows, while meeting out-of-stream needs. (Authorizing law: RCW 90.22)</p>	<p>Water availability is determined and water is sustained for current and future needs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased setting & enhancing of instream flows in critical water basins to benefit people, fish, farming & the environment. • Six instream flows are set (Walla Walla, Wenatchee, Lewis, Salmon-Washougal, Quilcene, Dungeness) working with local watershed groups & critical basins not engaged in watershed planning. 	<p>Number of instream flow rules adopted.</p> <p>Acre-feet of water acquired for instream flow (statewide).</p> <p>Acre-feet of additional water acquired in Eastern Washington (Columbia River)</p>
Ensure Dam Safety	This activity protects life, property, &	Public & environmental health &	Number of dams inspected.

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	<p>the environment by overseeing the safety of Washington's dams. Includes inspecting the structural integrity, flood & earthquake safety of existing state dams not managed by the federal government; approving & inspecting new dam construction & repairs; and taking compliance and emergency actions. (Authorizing law: RCW 90.03.350)</p>	<p>safety is protected.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduced risk of potentially catastrophic dam failures for the safety of people & property located below dams. 	
<p>Manage Water Rights</p>	<p>Agency allocates surface & ground water to meet the many needs for water. It makes decisions on applications for new water rights & on applications for changes to existing water rights to reallocate water. Water right decisions assess many factors, including determining whether water is available & whether existing rights would be impaired. Agency is responsible for managing an existing water rights portfolio of over 49,000 certificates, 3,000 permits and 166,000 claims. (Authorizing law: RCW 90.03)</p>	<p>Water needs are met and existing water users and the environment are protected.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved allocation of new water rights and changes to existing rights • New municipal water right provisions are implemented with the Department of Health. • Timely & sound decisions are made on applications for new water rights & changes to existing rights to (re)allocate water. 	<p>Number of water right change decisions completed.</p> <p>Number of new water right decisions completed.</p>
<p>Prepare and Respond to Drought</p>	<p>The agency provides services to reduce the impact of droughts and to prepare for future droughts and climate change. When droughts are declared, services include providing water via emergency transfers, water right changes, and temporary wells. The agency also provides</p>	<p>Drought effects are monitored and, where feasible, mitigated (such as impacts to water supply and drought preparedness) through improved planning, communication, coordination, and loss prevention efforts.</p>	

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	drought related information and financial assistance and coordinates drought response efforts. Emerging information on climate change is also monitored for future water supply implications. (Authorizing law: RCW 43.83.B)		
Promote Compliance with Water Laws	Agency helps ensure water users comply with the state's water laws so that other legal water users are not impaired; water use remains sustainable over the long term; & the environment is protected for the benefit of people & nature. Activities include water metering & reporting 80% of water use in 16 fish critical basins, along with education, technical assistance, and strategic enforcement in egregious cases. (Authorizing law: RCW 90.03.400)	Increased awareness of, and compliance with, the state's water laws so that legal water users and applicants for water rights are not impaired, water use remains sustainable, and the environment is protected. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 90% of water is metered and reported in 16 critical water basins. • Water right holders receive compliance information, assistance, and strategic enforcement action. • Water use on streams with flows set is regulated during low flow periods. 	Number of compliance actions [non-metering] Percent of water use metered in 16 critical basins.
Provide Water Resources Data and Information	The collection, management, and sharing of data and information is critical to modern water management. It is essential to local watershed groups, conservancy boards, businesses, local governments, nonprofit groups, the Legislature, other agencies, and the	Sound water management is supported through improved agreement and more informed water resources decisions based on increasingly timely and accurate data and improved public access to information. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Data and information systems are 	

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	<p>media. It supports daily agency operations, including making water allocation decisions; setting and achieving stream flows; identifying the location and characteristics of wells, dams, and water diversions; supporting compliance actions; metering; tracking progress; communicating with constituents; and serving other water resource functions. (Authorizing law: RCW 90.54.030)</p>	<p>developed and maintained by increasing the numbers of external users (watershed groups, conservancy boards, businesses, etc.).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved collection, preservation and availability of data and information for water allocation, dam safety, well construction, instream flows and communication. 	
Regulate Well Construction	<p>The agency protects consumers, well drillers, & the environment by licensing & regulating well drillers, investigating complaints, approving variances from construction standards, & providing continuing education to well drillers. Work is accomplished in partnership with delegated counties delivering technical assistance to homeowners, well drillers, tribes, & local governments. (Authorizing law: RCW 18.104)</p>	<p>The public's safety, environment, and property are protected.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Well drillers get licensing and training services. • Well drilling is regulated. 	Percent of water supply wells inspected by delegated counties.
Support Local Watershed Management of Water Resources	<p>Involves work with other agencies, local watershed planning groups, & tribes to address water quantity issues under the Watershed Management Act. Includes providing technical support & studies for local watershed planning groups to develop & adopt local</p>	<p>Sound local watershed management plans are developed, adopted, and implemented with enough information and agreement to support sound water use and actions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 42 local watershed planning groups get technical support. 	Percent of watersheds in the implementation of watershed planning.

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	plans to serve as a basis for sound water management. (Authorizing law: RCW 90.82)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regional initiatives for central Puget Sound, Columbia & Yakima Rivers, Dungeness, Quincy-Odessa, and Spokane Aquifer get technical support. 	
Support Water Use Efficiency	The agency provides agricultural, commercial/industrial, and nonprofit water users with services that deliver water savings. These include information, planning, and technical, engineering, and financial assistance. Support also is provided for water re-use projects and to the Department of Health for municipal water conservation. (Authorizing law: RCW 90.54.020 (7))	<p>Increased water, energy and cost savings to protect the environment, increase business competitiveness and reduce pressure on water supplies and waste treatment facilities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agricultural, commercial, industrial, and non-profit water users get technical support. • Department of Health water conservation and reclaimed water efforts get support. 	Volume of water acquired for instream flow (statewide).