



Rule Adoption Notice

Wenatchee River Basin, Chapter 173-545 WAC

The Department of Ecology has adopted rule amendments needed to protect instream values within the Wenatchee river basin, to avoid injury of existing water rights from future appropriations of water and implement the recommendations of the Wenatchee Watershed Planning Unit.

Requirements of the rule

This rule amends chapter 173-545 WAC, Instream Resources Protection Program for the Wenatchee River basin, water resource inventory area (WRIA) 45. The original rule, adopted in 1983, established instream flow levels for perennial rivers, streams and lakes. In 2006, state and local agencies, the Yakama Nation, and many community participants completed a watershed plan. The Wenatchee River Watershed Plan (April 2006) recommended that Ecology adopt: revised instream flow levels; a reserve of water for certain uses that is not subject to instream flows; and maximum allocation limits to protect intermittent high flows.

Summary of the rule changes adopted on December 11, 2007

The proposed rule amendments guide water use planning and decision-making for future human domestic needs while maintaining enough water in streams to protect important fish species and existing water rights. Specifically, the rule amendments:

- revise existing instream flow levels,
- establish a reservation of water for future use, and
- set maximum allocations above the instream flows for the Wenatchee River and its tributaries.

Effective January 12, 2008

This amendment to Chapter 173-545 WAC becomes effective on January 12, 2008.

Appeal procedures

This adoption can be appealed under procedures described in the Administrative Procedure Act (RCW 34.05.330). For additional information about appealing this adoption please contact Jerry Thielen, Ecology's Regulatory Affairs Manager at (360) 407-7551 or by email jthi461@ecy.wa.gov.

If you require this document in an alternate format please call the Water Resources Program at 360-407-6600. Persons with a hearing loss please call 711 for Washington Relay Service. Persons with a speech disability please call 877-833-6341.

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MORE INFORMATION ONLINE

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

To get updates on Ecology's rule-making activities, sign-up for the **WAC Track** e-mail list. Go to: www.ecy.wa.gov/maillist.html.

