

### Water use permits will spur economy in Grant County

Beginning in May 2009, Washington Department of Ecology will issue several dozen new water use permits in the Quincy Basin (QB) near Moses Lake.

The market value of the water alone is estimated to be about \$60 million, which will provide an economic stimulus for Eastern Washington, particularly the communities of Ephrata, George, Moses Lake, Quincy and Warden and for the farms, vineyards and businesses of Grant County.

#### Q: What type of water is available?

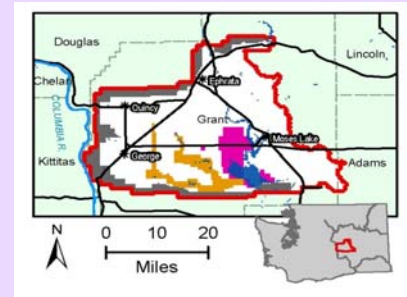
**A:** Ecology will issue unique water permits for “artificially-stored” groundwater (ASGW), water that has accumulated underground over the past 60 years as a result of the federal government’s Columbia Basin Project. The permits are called QB permits.

#### Q: How much water is available?

**A:** The Quincy Ground Water Subarea Management Policy states that “permits under this section shall be limited to a maximum cumulative total of no more than 177,000 acre-feet for each calendar year” (WAC 173-134A-080(2)(I)). Ecology has already allocated nearly 147,000 acre-feet, leaving a balance of roughly 30,000 acre-feet for new QB permits.

#### Q: Who administers the water?

**A:** QB-ASGW permits are jointly administered by Ecology and the United States Department of Interior, Bureau of Reclamation. Ecology authorizes withdrawals of ASGW through QB permits. As a requirement of a permit, the permittee must comply with terms of an executed contract agreement with Reclamation. The agreement requires compliance with certain provisions of federal law and the payment of an annual fee to Reclamation.



Quincy Basin in Grant County

#### DEFINITIONS

**Quincy Basin (QB):** A geographic area in Grant County known for its flat topography and surrounded by hills on three sides. (Detailed map on Page 2.)

**Artificially-Stored Ground Water (ASGW):** The water that has accumulated underground over the years from the federal government’s Columbia Basin Project.

**Columbia Basin Project: (CBP):** The irrigation network in central Washington made possible by the Grand Coulee Dam. Managed by the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation.

**More information:** Visit the Web site: <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wr/wrhome.html>

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Additional contacts on Page 3

#### Special Accommodations:

If you need this publication in an alternate format, call the Water Resources Program at 360-407-6872. Persons with hearing loss, call 711 for Washington Relay Service. Persons with a speech disability, call 877-833-6341.

**Q: Who will get the water?**

**A:** Recipients of the water will be primarily irrigators. Other users will include dairies, food processing plants, golf courses, housing developments, internet data centers, resorts, vineyards, a fish hatchery and municipalities.

**Q: How will the water be allocated?**

**A:** Permits for the 30,000 acre-feet of water will be issued for many, but not all, of the current waiting list of ASGW applications on file at Ecology. Permits will be issued in priority order, based on the dates applications were received by Ecology. QB-ASGW permits require water be put to full beneficial use within three years of the date of issuance of the permit. No extensions are granted.

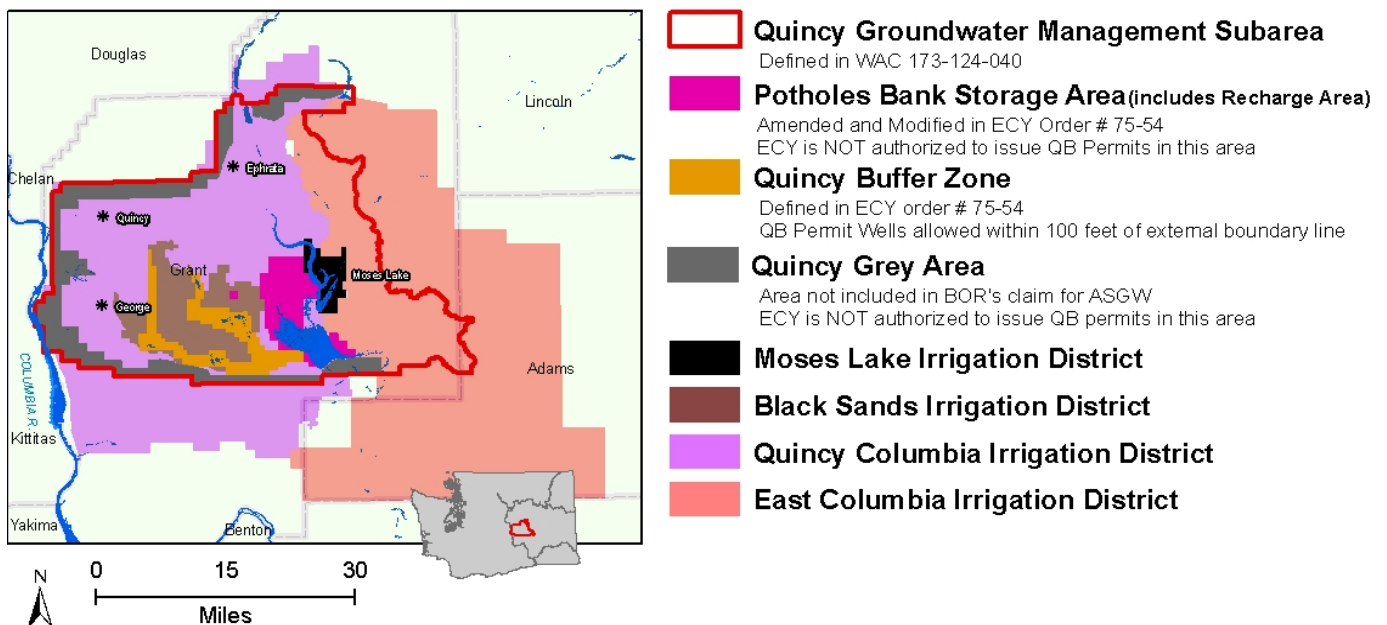
**Q: Can I still apply for this water?**

**A:** Yes, but the current waiting list exceeds the 30,000 acre-feet available for issuance. Future allocations of QB-ASGW permits will be restricted to limited quantities of water that become available as a result of cancellation or reduction of existing permits.

**Q: Is this water being delivered to the Odessa Subarea?**

**A:** No. In 2008 Ecology issued two new state water right permits to Reclamation, of which a portion allows for 30,000 acre-feet of water to be delivered to the Odessa Ground Water Management Subarea, primarily for irrigation purposes. This water is from a planned drawdown of Lake Roosevelt and is not connected to the QB-ASGW program.

**Quincy Groundwater Management Subarea  
and Columbia Basin Project Irrigation Districts**



**Q: What is the economic value of 30,000 acre feet of QB-ASGW?**

<b>Department of Ecology estimates: Value of Access to ASGW</b>		
<b>Agricultural Development</b>	<b>\$12.7 million</b>	This is the land value of the acreage able to be used for irrigated agriculture, relative to dry-land agriculture.
<b>Annual Agricultural Production</b>	<b>\$3.1 million / yr</b>	Average annual value of agricultural production on newly irrigated acreage, relative to dry-land agriculture. Based on typical crop mix in Grant County.*
<b>Commercial Development</b>	<b>\$60 million</b>	Improvements to land value due to commercial development.

\* To reduce uncertainty, estimate excludes orchards. When orchards are included in the possible crop mix, the annual value of agricultural production may be more than \$5.5 million per year once fruit can be harvested.

<b>Grant County Whole-Economy Statistics</b>		
<b>Annual Agricultural Output</b>	<b>\$1.4 billion / yr</b>	Value is rounded to the nearest 1/10th of \$1 billion. Estimates range between \$1.372 billion and \$1.375 billion.
<b>Gross Business Income (All Industries)</b>	<b>\$4.8 billion</b>	Value is rounded to the nearest 1/10th of \$1 billion. Precise estimate is \$4,756,003,825.
<b>Full and Part-Time Employment (All Industries)</b>	<b>35 thousand</b>	Value is rounded to the nearest thousand employees. Precise estimate is 35,008.
<b>Payroll (All Industries)</b>	<b>\$1.0 billion</b>	Value is rounded to the nearest 1/10th of \$1 billion. Precise estimate is \$1,039,488,649.

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