

Watershed Planning Accountability and Performance

A Review to Build Progress, Enhance Investments & Assure Positive Environmental Outcomes

Ecology Panel

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Watershed Panel

Walt Edelen - Spokane
Lee Napier - Chehalis
Mike Kaputa - Wenatchee
Keith Folkerts - Kitsap

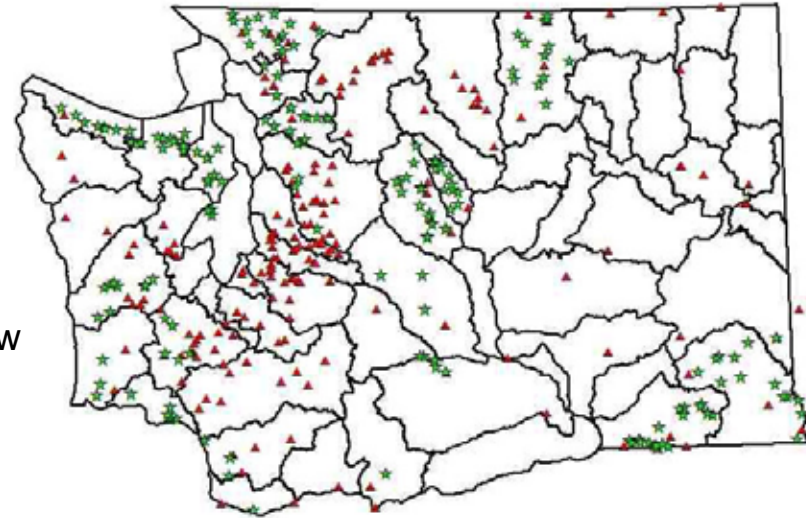
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Why we care about watershed planning

One Example – Limited nature of the resource

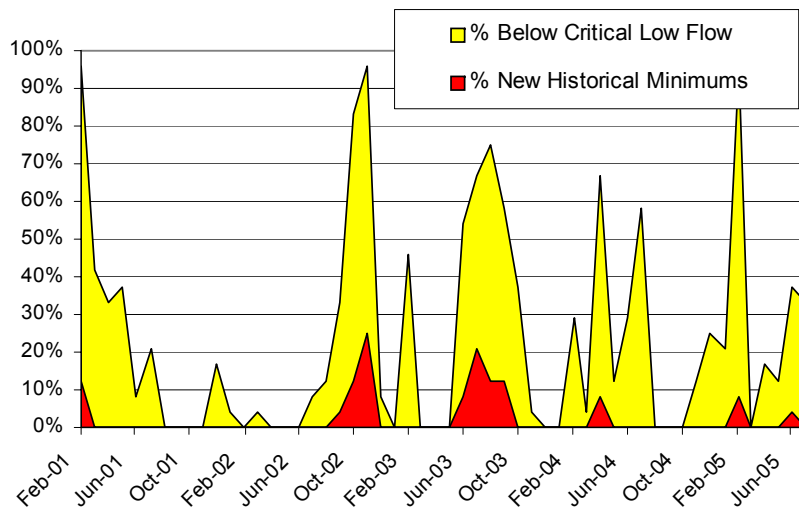
Based on stream gauging information, many streams around the state are often below critical flow levels (yellow in the graphs below) and some have reached new historical lows (red in the graphs below). These extreme low flows put fish and other instream resources at risk. One of Ecology's mandates is to provide for instream values.



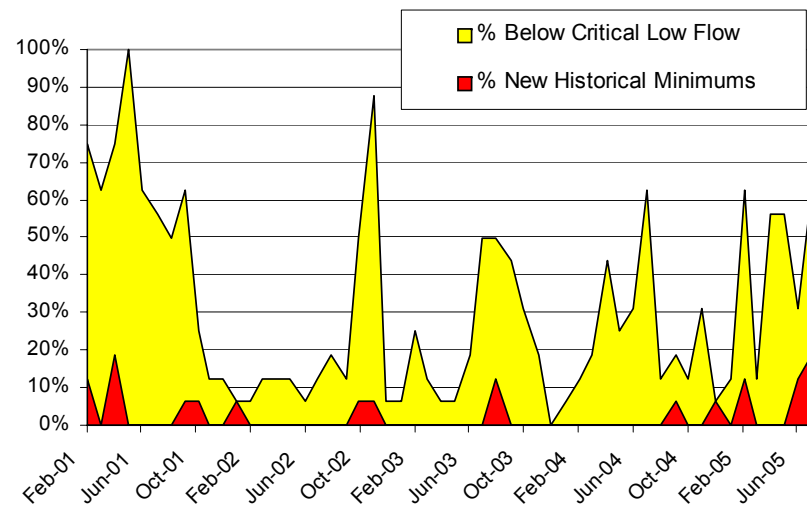
Stream Flow Gauging Stations

- ★ Current Ecology Stations - 2005
- ▲ Current USGS Stations 2005
- WRIA Boundary

Summary of monthly instream flow levels for 24 select stations West of the Cascades



Summary of monthly instream flow levels for 16 select stations East of the Cascades

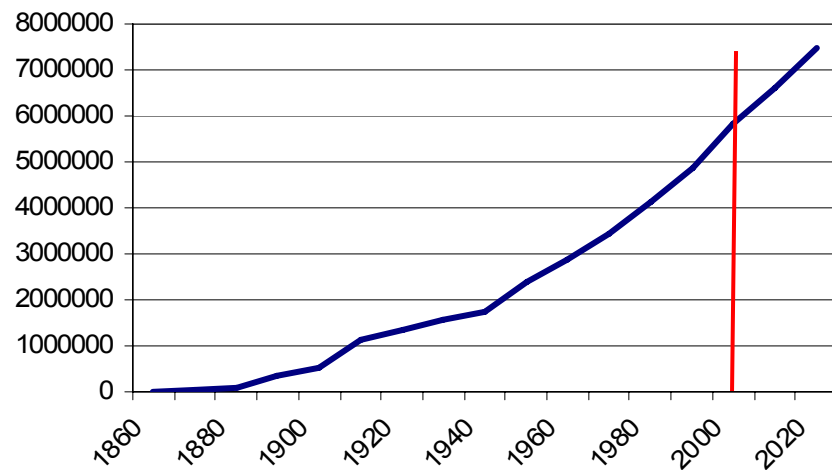


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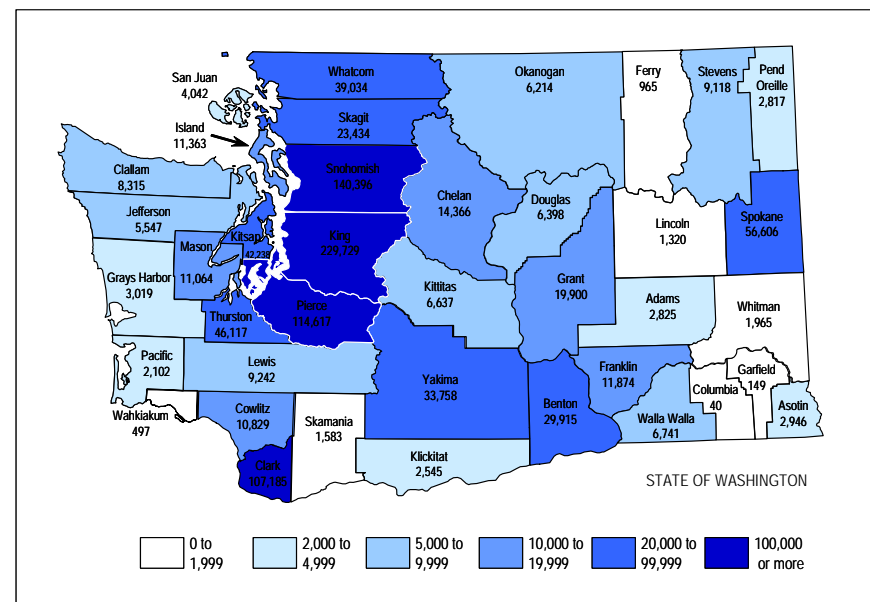
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Why we care about watershed planning

Projected Population Growth



Population Change: 1990 to 2000

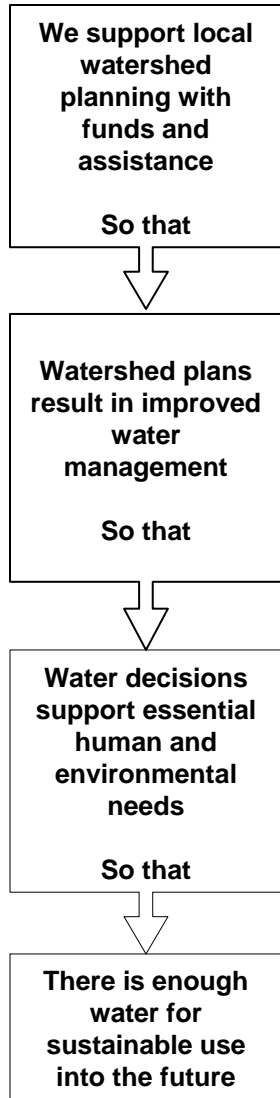


During the 1990s Washington added over one million people. King, Pierce, Snohomish, and Clark Counties each gained over 100,000 people. While some counties had very slow growth, no county declined population.

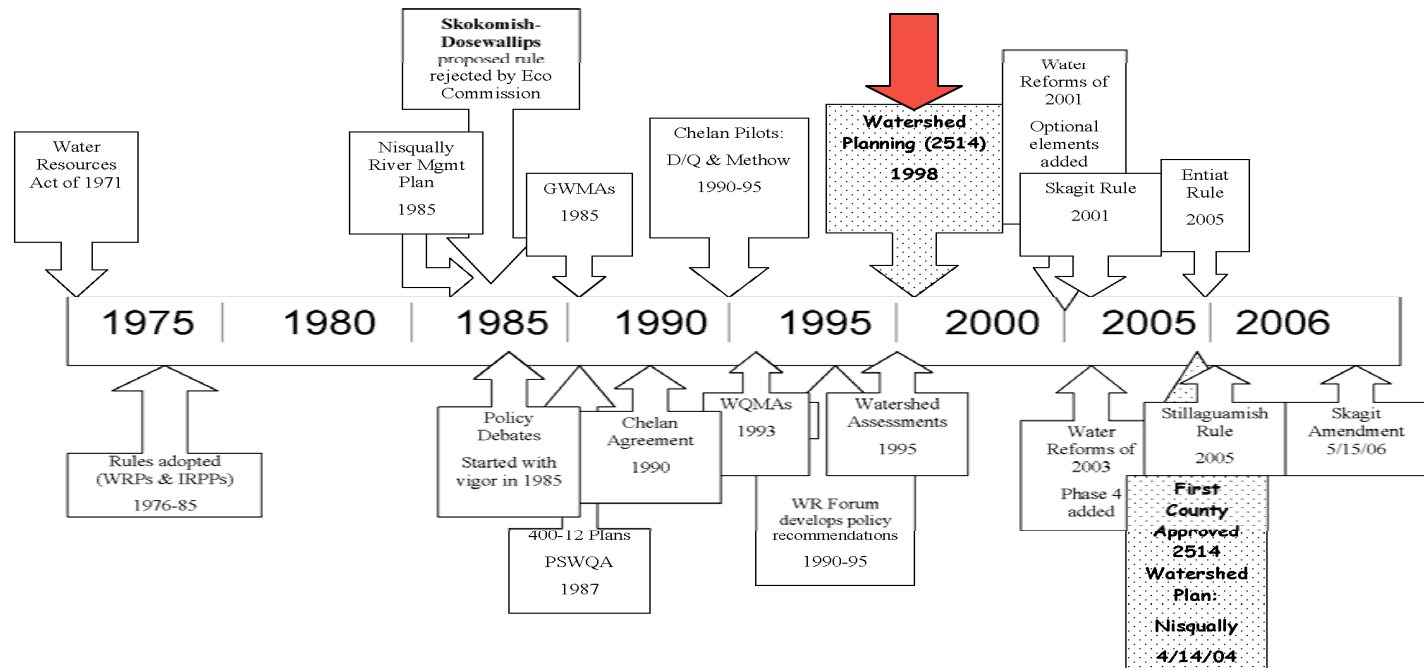
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Watershed Planning – Context/Historic Background

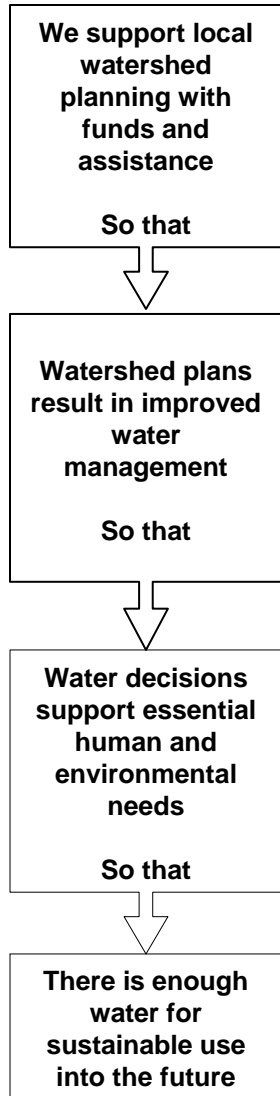


“Watershed” Events in Watershed Planning



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Purpose of Watershed Planning:

- Improved water management solutions in each Watershed Resource Inventory Area (WRIA) through a cooperative and inclusive process
- Assure local values and objectives are primary drivers of WRIA water management decisions
- Legislature integrated state responsibilities with local involvement but empowered state agencies to move forward should local processes fail.

2514 Elements covered in watershed plans

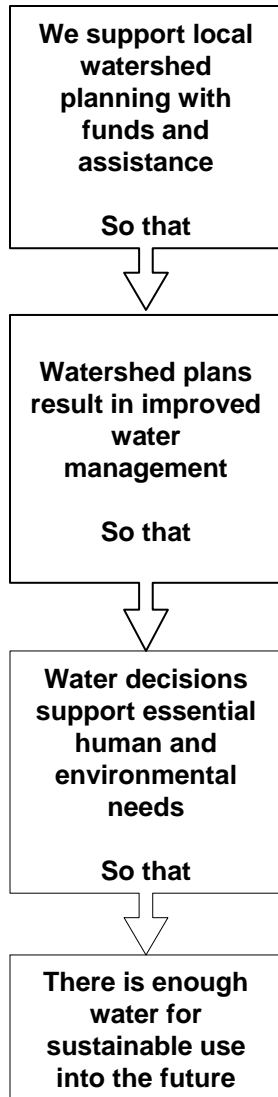
- Required – Water Quantity
- Optional – Instream flow, water quality, storage

Funding Structure for each watershed planning unit

– Phase 1 – Organizing	\$ 50,000
– Phase 2 – Assessment	\$200,000
– Phase 3 – Plan development	\$250,000
– Up to 3 Optional elements (supplemental)	\$300,000 (\$100K each)
– Phase 4 – Implementation	<u>\$400,000 (over 5 years)</u>
– Total	Up to \$1,200,000 each

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Assumptions and Milestones for Review Via GMAP

Assumptions

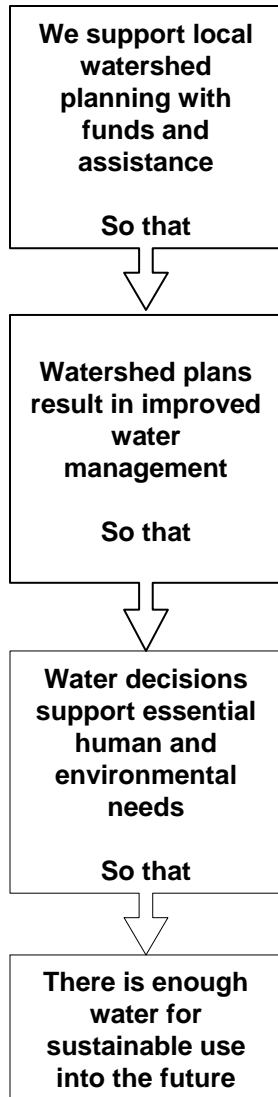
- Planning via RCW 90.82 is the predominant setting for community-based water management
- Effort is progressing, but dependent on long, hard hours of work (much of it volunteer) by all parties
- Shared governance “experiment” embodied in RCW 90.82 has been more successful than not

Strategic Goal: Maximize the State Investment in Watershed Management by:

- Effectively investing \$30M in Phase 4 implementation projects
 - Includes support for innovative approaches in Walla Walla, Nooksack and others
- New flows set in 10 basins by end of FY 09
- Expand metering (90%/16basins) and compliance programs
- Integrate with Shared Strategy, Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) implementation, Puget Sound Partnership

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How Does RCW 90.82 (2514) Differ from Other Planning Models?

- Shared governance
 - Over 120 initiating governments (tribes, cities, utility districts, counties) participated
 - 45 watershed inventory areas initiated planning
 - Colville reports 22,000 hours of volunteer time, 440 meetings (30-40 people/meeting, 2/3 non-governmental)
 - Skokomish 7000 hours, 125 meetings (10 people/meeting)
- Locally driven, consensus based
- Numerous outputs/reports (information & data, GIS maps, rules, relationships, improved knowledge base)
- Integrated management (water quantity & flows, water quality, & habitat)
- Legislative authorization and interest – multiple bill revisions and strong budget support

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We support local watershed planning with funds and assistance

So that

Watershed plans result in improved water management

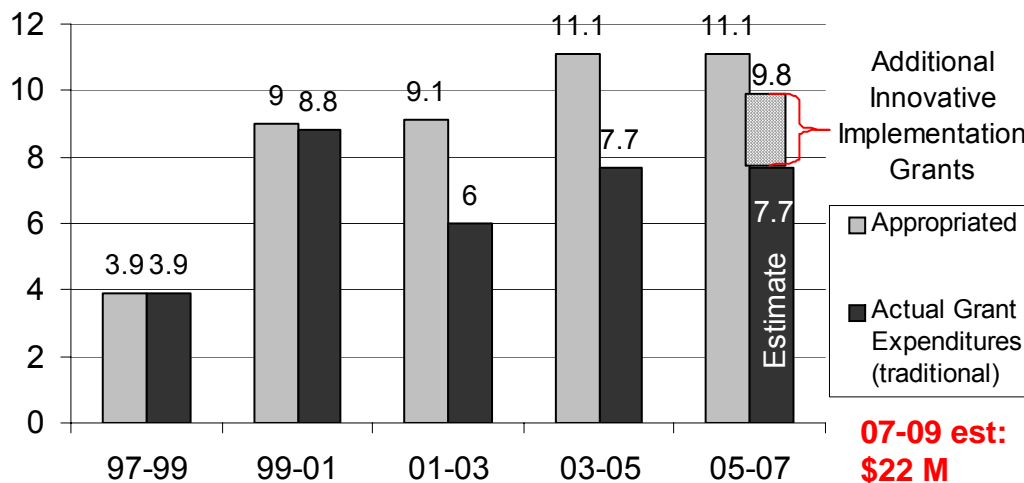
So that

Water decisions support essential human and environmental needs

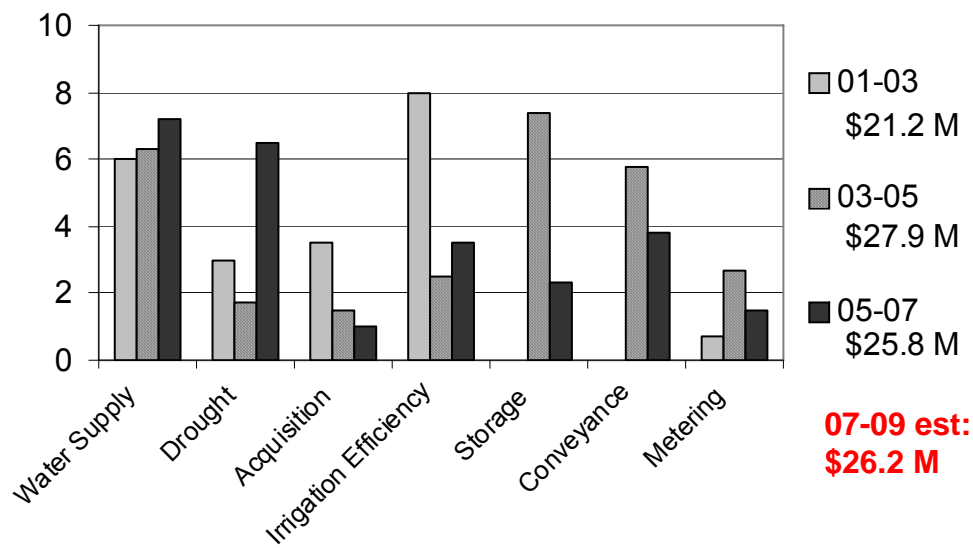
So that

There is enough water for sustainable use into the future

2514 Watershed Planning Operating Budget In Million Dollars



2514 Watershed Planning Capital Budget in Million Dollars

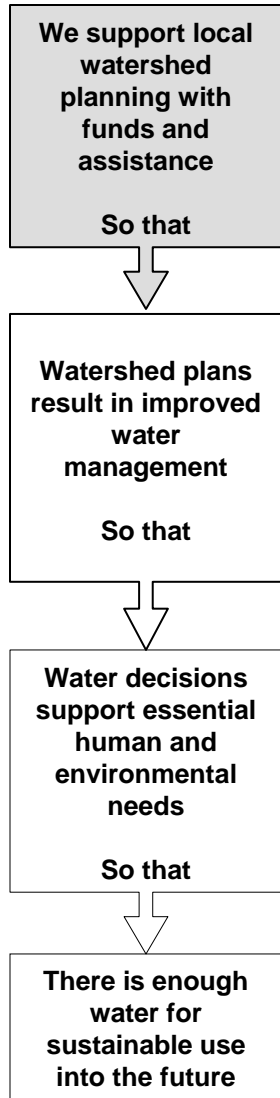


- Total Operational \$\$ invested to date = \$44M
- Total Capital \$\$ invested to date = \$75M
- 05-07 Estimated expenditures includes \$2.1 M in innovative implementation grants
- Of the \$11.1 M appropriation, estimate that \$6.2 M will go to implementation
- The 07-09 initial projections are:
 - \$22 M
 - \$26.2 M
 - \$2 M
 - on

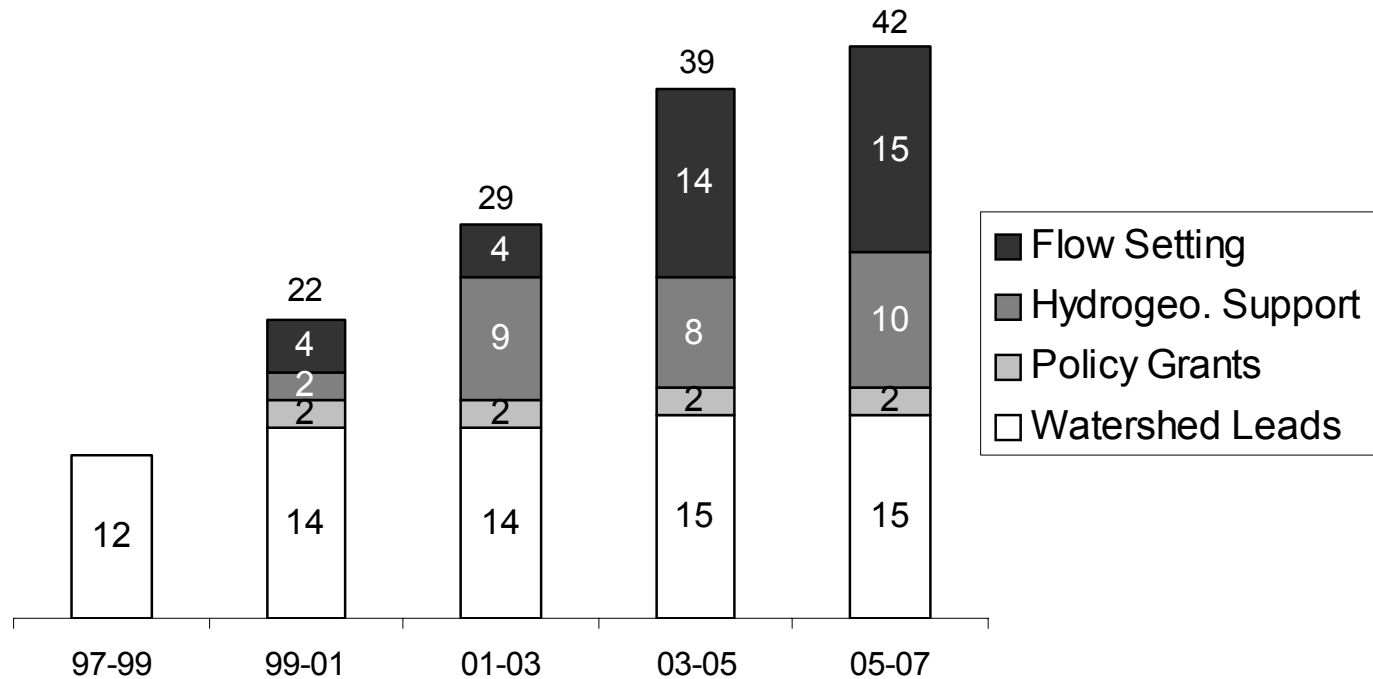
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What is Ecology's staffing for watershed planning?



Number of Staff Supporting Watershed Planning



Estimated FTE Costs

97-99	99-01	01-03	03-05	05-07
0.8M	3.0M	4.9M	6.6M	7.1M

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Which watersheds either started, then stopped, or never started 2514 planning?

- Started & stopped 2514 Planning process:

Plan not completed by Watershed Units

- Kettle, Upper Skagit, Lower Skagit/Samish

Plan completed - Tribal veto

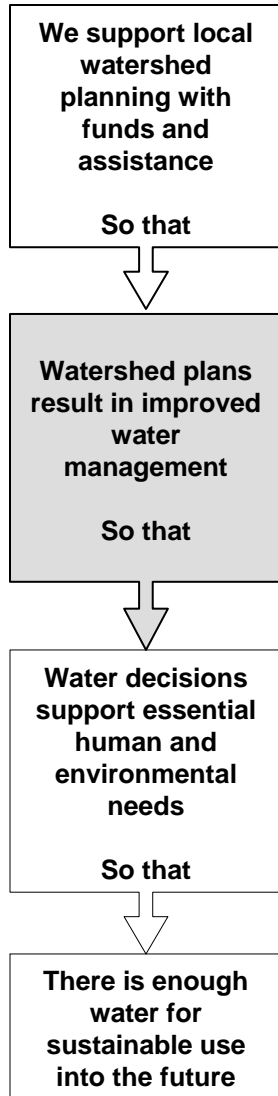
- Chambers/Clover, Deschutes, Kitsap, Kennedy/Goldsborough

- Never started 2514 process:

- 11 Columbia basin watershed
- Queets/Quinault
- Willapa
- 5 Central Puget Sound watersheds

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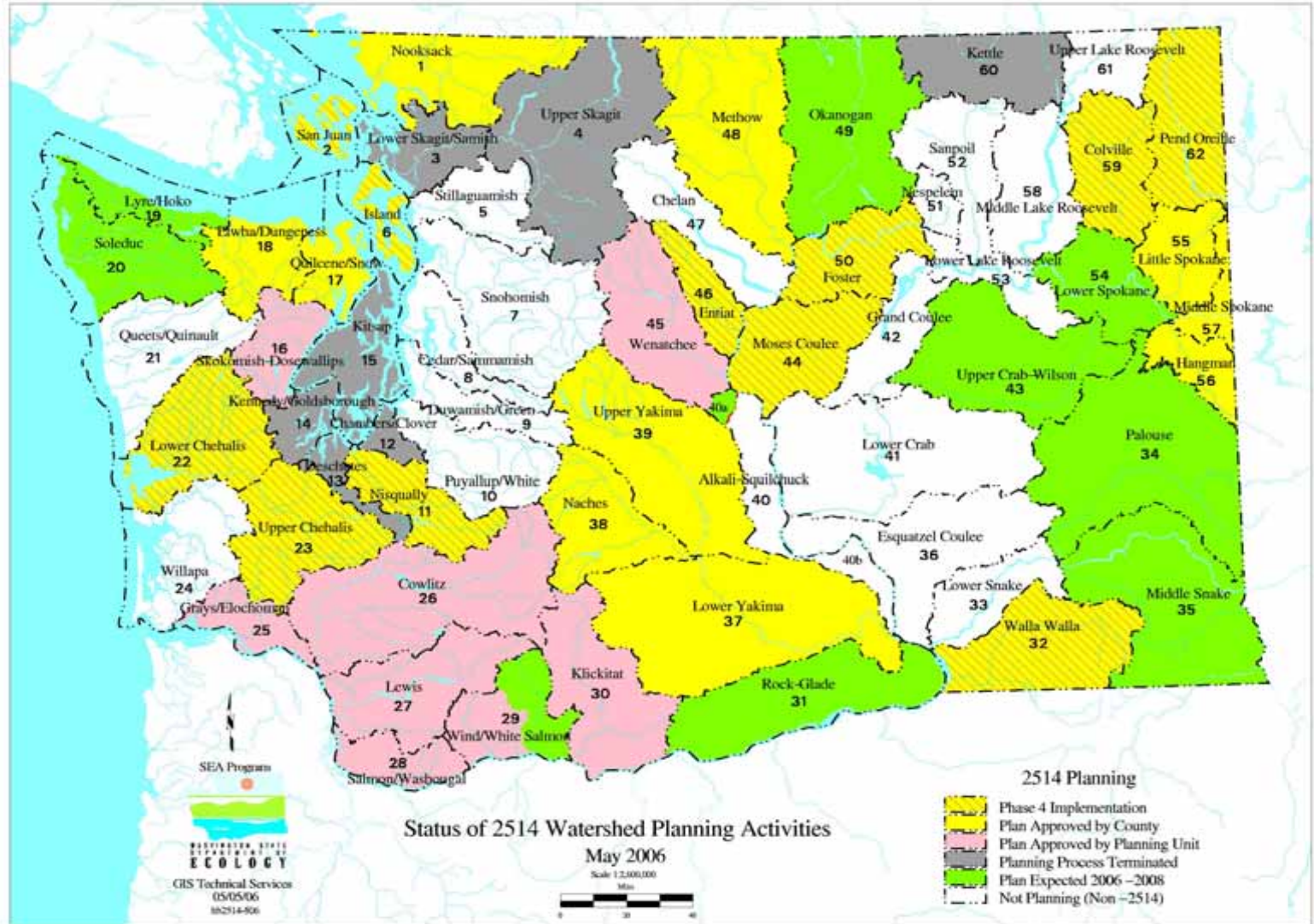
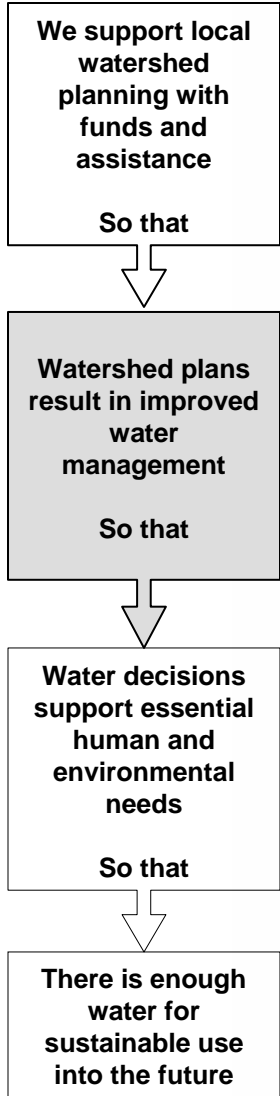
Which watersheds used alternative models to 2514 planning?

- Puget Sound WRIAs (WRIAs 5, 7, 8, 9, 10)
Utility driven, some tribal participation, new focus on regional water demand, tribal rights, and restoration. reinforcing planning need.
 - Skagit - Settlement of flow rule
 - Lake Tapps Decision – people and flows, regional planning
 - Puget Sound Partnership
 - King County Water Supply Plan – fish, flows, people
 - Seattle/Muckleshoot Agreement – fish, people
 - Habitat Conservation Plans (HCPs) – fish, people
 - Stillaguamish instream flows adopted (under Ch. 90.54 RCW)
- Columbia Basin - legislation, federal sub-basin planning, storage/conservation emphasis

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What is the status of watershed planning?



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What is the status of watershed plans?

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So that

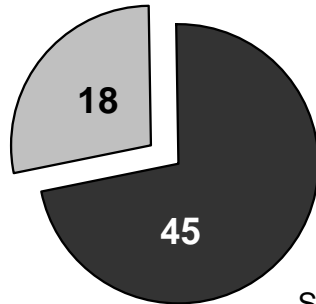
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So that

There is enough water for sustainable use into the future

Status of 63 WRIs Planning Activities

Never Started
2514 or Had
Alternate
Process

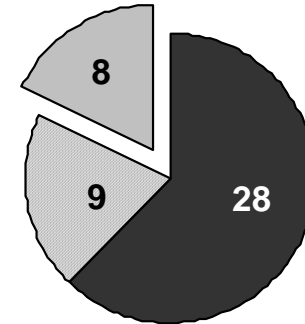


WRIs
Started 2514

Status of 45 WRIs Started (2514)

Started
Process &
Stopped

Currently in
Plan
Development



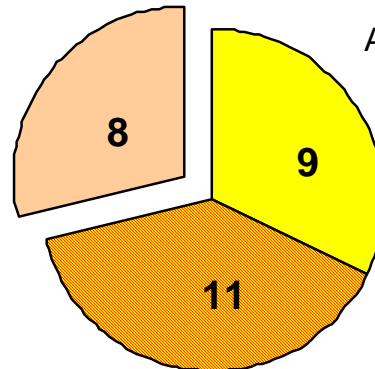
Approved by
Planning Unit

Status of 28 Plans Approved by Planning Unit

In Final
Approval
Process

Adopted by
County

Adopted by
County &
Started
Implementation



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What are some key results related to watershed plans?

We support local watershed planning with funds and assistance

So that

Watershed plans result in improved water management

So that

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There is enough water for sustainable use into the future



Data and Studies Statewide

- **Ground water** – aquifer storage & recovery assessments, groundwater characterizations, surface/ground water interactions, water levels, more
- **Surface water** - quality, hydraulic continuity, flow levels, instream flows



Water Quality

- 21 of the planning efforts were funded to address water quality
- 4 watersheds developed good water quality chapters
- Provided \$1.9M to develop water quality chapters

Gauging Information

- 115 total new gauges
- 85 new *telemetered* sites
- Watershed planning units driving increased demand



Water Use Statistics

(partially driven by 2514)

- 648 meters installed
- \$2,247,000 invested



Storage

- Aquifer storage & recovery rule adopted 2003
- 15 Feasibility Studies Funded (includes Black Rock)
- \$7,943,000 invested (\$4,000,000 Black Rock)
- Nearing construction – Pine Hollow, Atterberry

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So that

Infrastructure Improvements

- 21 projects funded: 4 water use efficiency measures, 11 improved diversions & removed barriers, 6 “other” types.
- \$7,586,000 (capital, not including unencumbered \$ or Ref. 38)

Water Acquisition (Water ***IN*** streams)

- \$7,204,000 invested (capital)
- Amount of water acquired
 - 54,201 acre feet in trust via permanent acquisition
 - 38,860 acre feet in via through leases (mostly drought)

Water decisions support essential human and environmental needs

So that



There is enough water for sustainable use into the future

Agricultural Water - Irrigation Efficiencies

- 27 projects approved
- \$5,938,000 invested (capital)
- 32.8 cfs saved into critical reaches
- More efficient use of water on crops

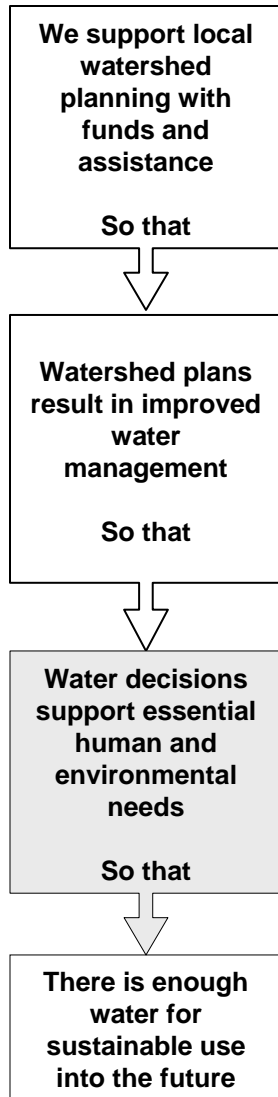
City Water

- New conservation & metering effort with Department of Health
- Aquifer Storage & Recovery (Yelm, Goldendale, Walla Walla)
- Inchoate rights reviewed in Phase 4

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What policy outcomes have resulted from 2514 planning?



Three State Flow Rules Deal with New Framework (Balancing Instream/Out of Stream)

- Integrating sustainable growth with fish species viability
- Reservations for future linked to growth, include management of exempt withdrawals,
- Advancement of water metering
- Improved explanation of hydrology/biology relationship
- State/County partnership on water management. More local engagement on rules

New Water Acquisition Program

- Prioritization of purchases and stream stretches
- Broad acclaim for 2001 and 2005 drought response
- Linkage with improving existing flows

New capital programs

- Examples – infrastructure improvements, meters, irrigation efficiencies, storage, acquisition
- Criteria for prioritization and awards

New Policy/Rule Development

- Improved connections w/agencies (local, state, tribal & federal)
- Increased understanding & predictability



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...more...Policy Outcomes

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Information & Education

- Appreciation for complex issues
- More local “capacity”
- More/better data for decision makers
- Future internet access

TMDL/Flow Integration

- Joint hearings on Stillaguamish TMDL & instream flow rule
- Walla Walla, Spokane, other basins

Watershed Advancement Group (WAG)

Water Resources Mgmt Team/Staff Empowerment

- Active water program policy group
- High dependence on regional water teams
- Evolving/increasing staff engagement

Budget realignment

- Increasing transition to implementation
- Legislature responsive to needs
- Increasing funding program efficiencies
- Need to build “audit proof” systems
- Ecology/Planning Units partnership on 07/09 budget

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What water management solutions are being proposed?

Implementation Budget Needs/Requests for 2007-2009
Project requests submitted by Planning Units

We support local watershed planning with funds and assistance

So that



Watershed plans result in improved water management

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Water decisions support essential human and environmental needs

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There is enough water for sustainable use into the future

Operating Budget Requests

of Requests = 119

\$\$ Amount = \$21.9M

Examples:

- Nooksack (Bertrand Ck.) Wetland Mitigation Bank
- Chehalis Basin Comprehensive WQ monitoring
- Wenatchee Instream Flow Rule Amendment
- Spokane Water Conservation Education Program



Capital Budget Requests

of Requests = 59

\$\$ Amount = \$26.2M

Examples:

- Walla Walla Shallow Aquifer Recharge
- Entiat Irrigation Efficiency Improvements
- Dungeness Water Right Acquisition
- Kitsap Reclaimed Water Distribution System

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How has 2514 planning affected local, tribal, state and citizen partnerships?

Let's Ask Our Panel What They Think!!

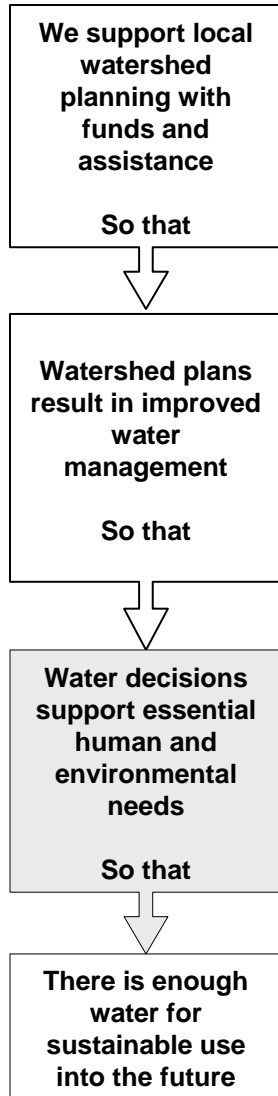
Panel Members

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Lee Napier – Chehalis Basin

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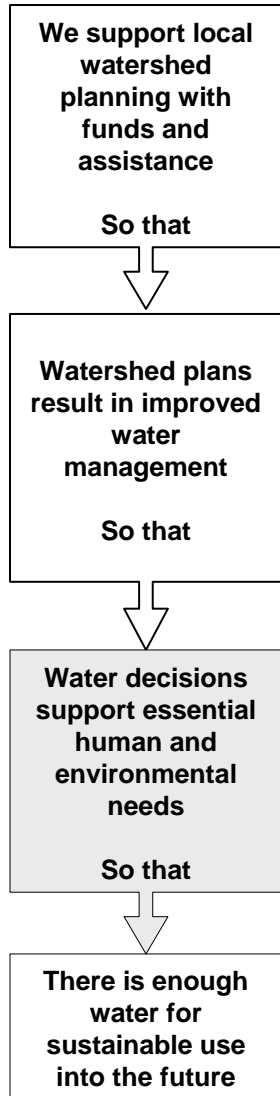


Questions

1. Describe the quality of local involvement
2. What is your sense of satisfaction with: a) the process; b) your access to data; c) state support?
3. What is your sense of local ownership of water management challenges:
4. Describe actions you have taken that resulted in improved environmental outcomes
5. What are the major lessons learned?

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What lessons are we learning?

- Provide flexible and provide responsive support
- Aggressively pursue sufficient resources
- Develop and improve fund management systems
- Allow for continued evolution of our organization, e.g. move staff to regional offices/field offices or within the WRIAs for familiarity and responsiveness
- Provide “carrots and sticks” to serve as incentives to address linked processes
- Keep focused on movement of planning units to Phase 4
- Put strong effort to “Government to Government” relations with Tribes

