

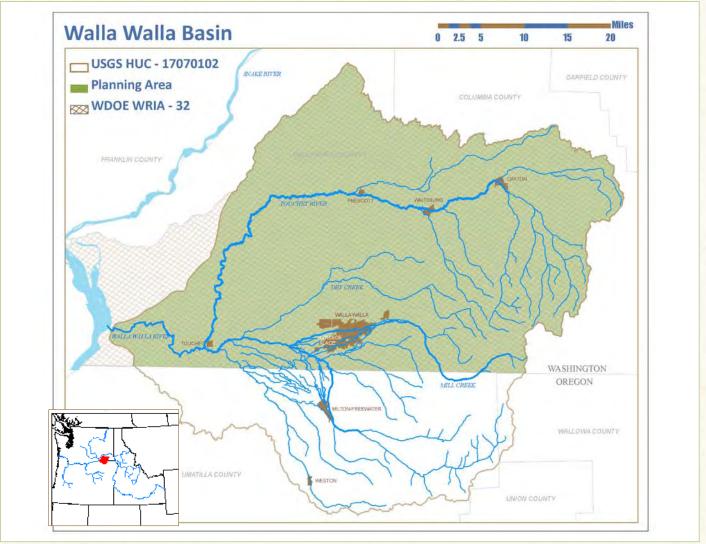
Water Marketing and Mitigation in Washington

Walla Walla Watershed Management Partnership Cathy Schaeffer, Executive Director

Montana Legislature Water Policy Interim Committee

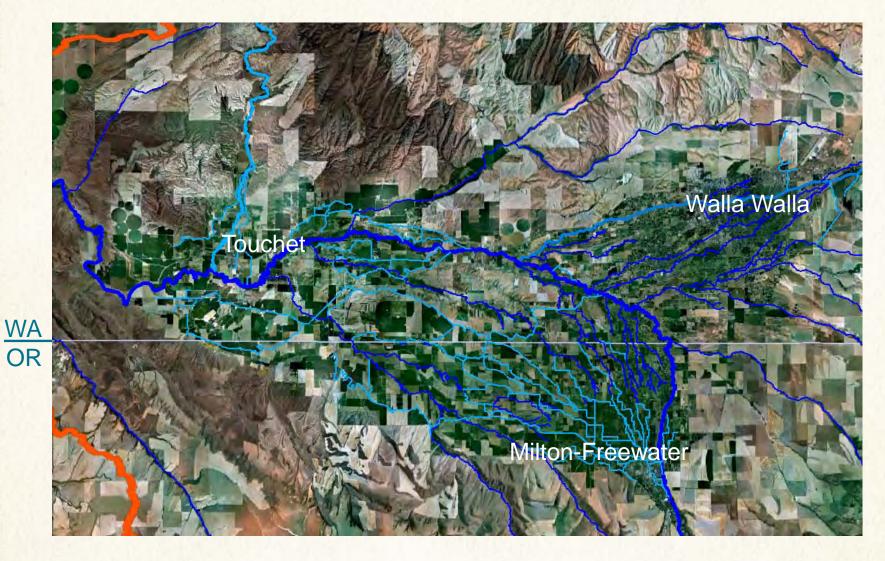
January 10, 2012

Walla Walla Watershed





Walla Walla River: Braided, Distributary System



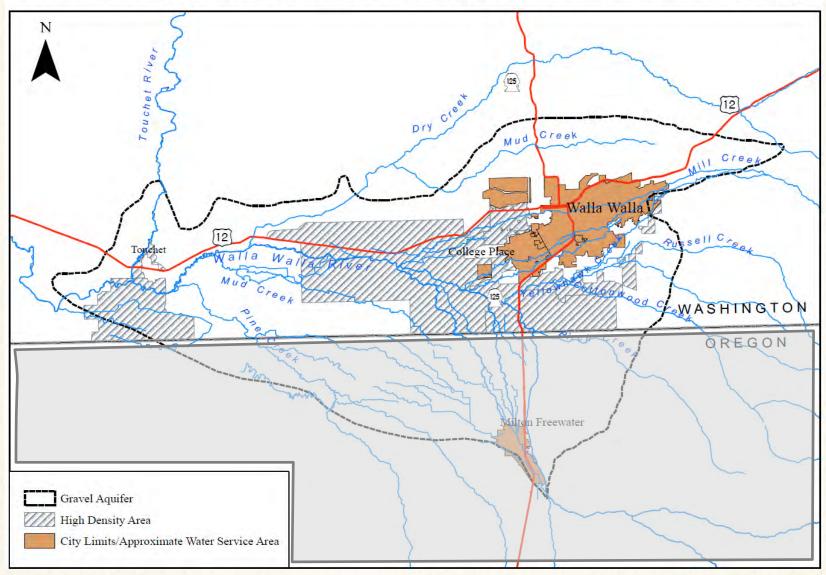


Selected Requirements of Walla Walla Instream Flow Rule (WAC 173-532)

- In the high density zoning areas (10-acres or more dense), new exempt wells in gravel aquifer are limited: domestic and outdoor use
- A single residence is limited to 1,250 gallons per day
- Multiple residences that are part of a group use are limited to 5,000 gallons per day
- Meters to be installed and data collected monthly from May 1 through November 30. Meter data is to be submitted to Ecology annually by December 31st
- <u>Water-for-water mitigation required</u> for new outdoor water use withdrawing from the shallow aquifer in the high density zones



Zoning and Approximate Extent of Gravel Aquifer in Walla Walla County





Mitigation for Outdoor Use

- Outdoor water use during May-November requires mitigation: about 1,000 gallons per day (since ~250 gpd indoor use is non-consumptive, septic returns)
- Over the May-November mitigation season, the total required mitigation is 0.55 acre/feet of water
- A new well user cannot exceed 1,250 gpd, combined indoor and outdoor use: approx 1/12th acre of lawn
- Partnership administers a Mitigation Exchange with Ecology, with banked water available to provide a source of mitigation in small increments to new wells



Options for Outdoor Water Use

Individual Options for securing water

Mitigation Options for securing water

Option 1
Use existing
valid water right
on the user's
property*

Option 2
Acquire a valid
water right and
receive transfer
approval to
user's property*

Option 3
Withdraw
water from a
well drilled in
the basalt
aquifer as
demonstrated
by well log

Option 4A
Home builders
secure own
mitigation
Acquire a valid
water right*
and receive
approval for
transfer into
the State trust
water rights
program

Option 4B
State-Assisted
Mitigation
Secure
mitigation water
through State

Submit fee to Walla Walla Watershed Management Partnership

Provide evidence of payment to Ecology

Ecology issues a legal mitigation certification

Record water use monthly and report annually to Ecology



How it works: The Exempt Well Mitigation Exchange

- Partnership acquires surface water and gravel aquifer water rights to "seed" the exchange, placing water into state Trust program- Wet water is purchased and held as mitigation
- Homebuilders pay Partnership \$2,000 application fee to obtain a mitigation credit for their new exempt well
- With Partnership approval, Ecology issues a mitigation certificate to new well user for outdoor use May-Nov
- Partnership and Ecology debit the exchange 0.55 ac/ft for each mitigation certificate
- Homebuilders must meter use, record monthly and report annually to Ecology
- Monitoring and enforcement by Ecology



Walla Walla Watershed Management Partnership

FOR FISH.

FOR FARMS.

FOR EVERYONE.

BOATS

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