



DEPARTMENT OF  
**ECOLOGY**  
State of Washington

# Spokane International Airport PFAS Site

## 2/25/26 Public Meeting

**Protect  
people and  
the  
environment  
by  
reducing risk  
from  
polluted sites**

## **Model Toxics Control Act 1989**

- Citizen mandated
- Implemented by Ecology



Breathing



Touching



Swallowing

# Key principles

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Polluter pays

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Permanent remedies

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Public participation

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Bias toward action

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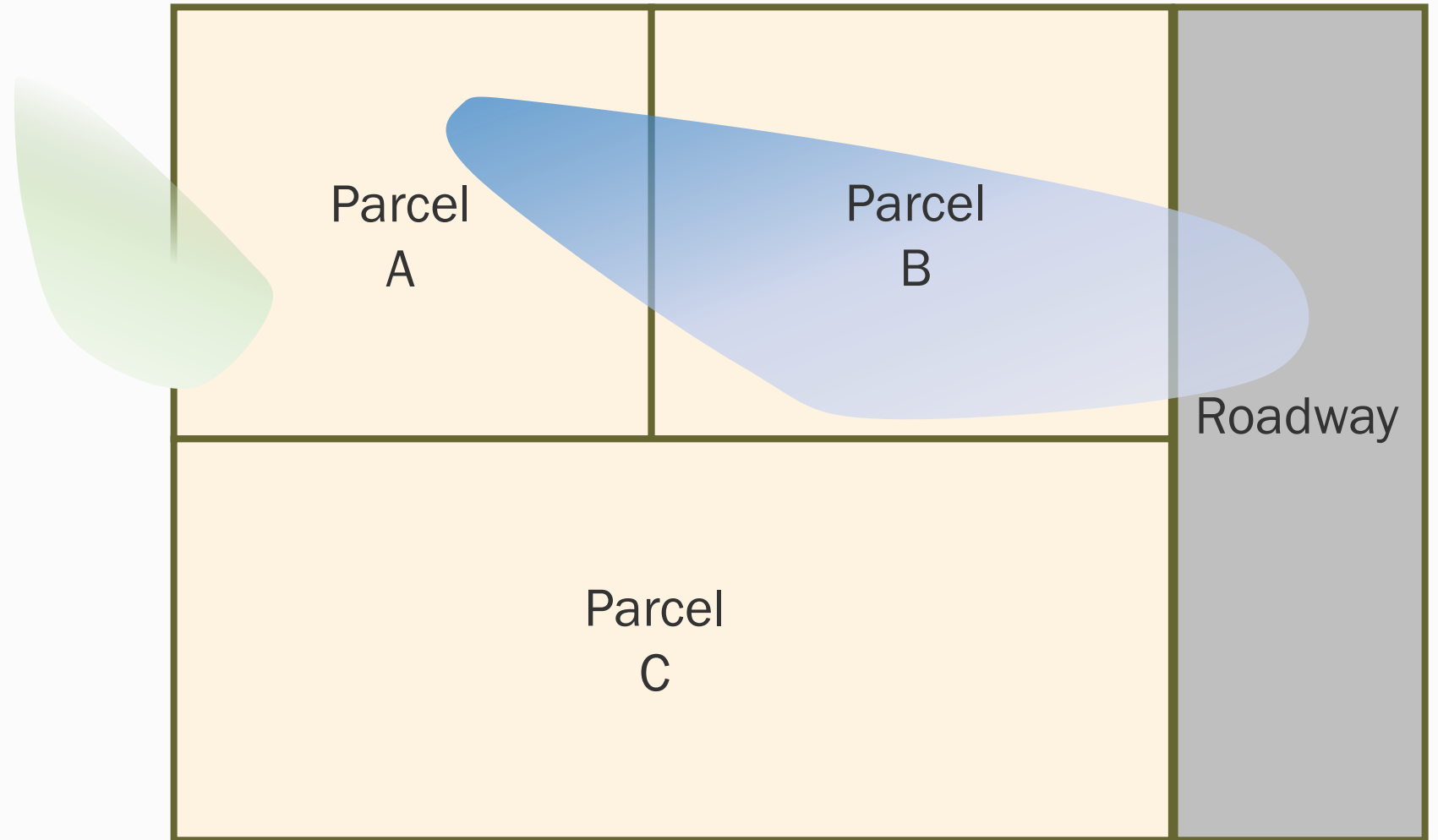
Innovation



Spokane Junk Yard - after fire

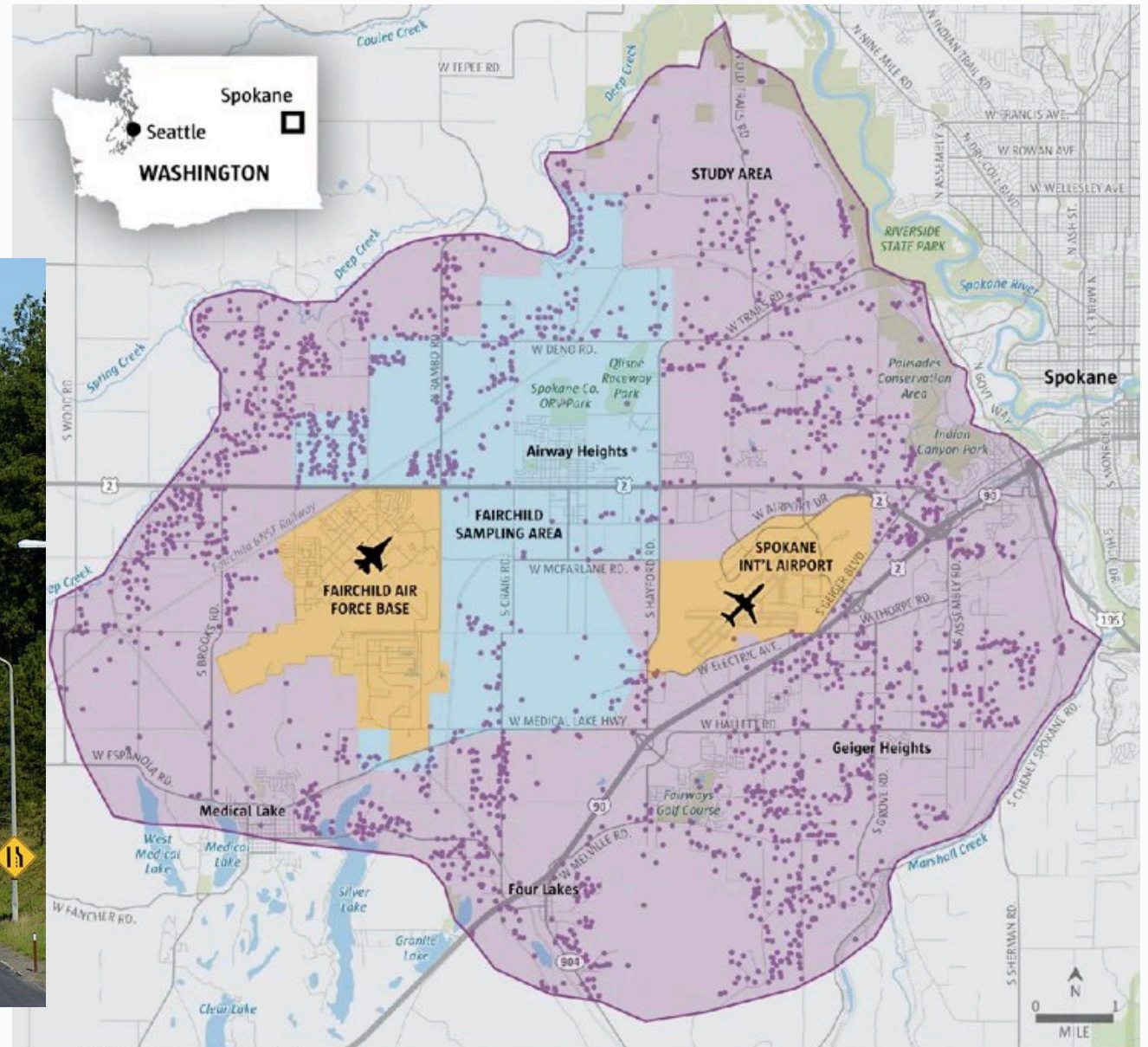


Today - Andrew Rypien Field



What is  
a “site”?

# Location overview



Source: Washington State Department of Ecology

FIONA MARTIN / THE SEATTLE TIMES

# Spokane International Airport (SIA)



- Jointly owned by Spokane County & City of Spokane
  - Airport Board
- Federal certification **required** PFAS firefighting foam use and testing
- Formerly Geiger Field (GEG)

**2017** | Fairchild Air Force Base (FAFB) finds PFAS in groundwater and Airway Heights municipal wells, began response in May 2017



NEWS > SPOKANE

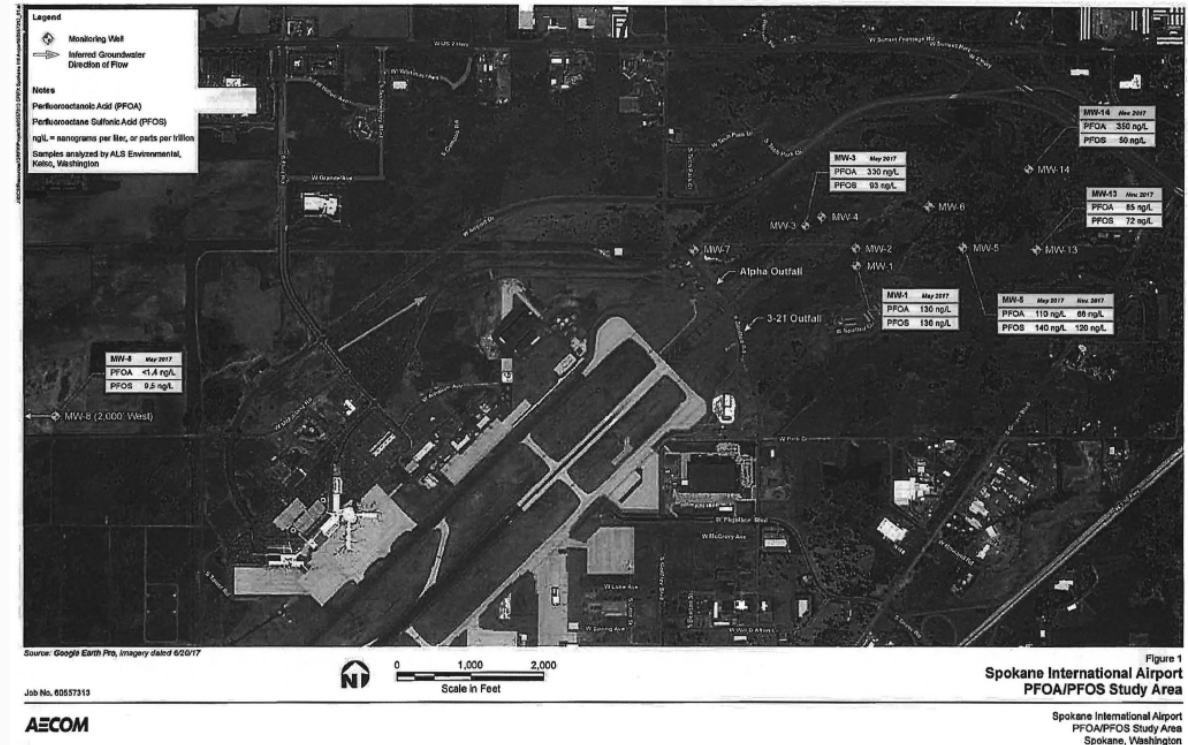
## Firefighting foam may have contaminated groundwater near Fairchild, officials say

April 3, 2017 | Updated Mon., April 3, 2017 at 9:55 p.m.



A KC-135 Stratotanker undergoes maintenance at Fairchild Air Force Base, Feb. 14, 2017. (Dan Pelle / The Spokesman-Review) [Buy this photo](#)

**2017-2019** | SIA samples existing groundwater monitoring wells and finds elevated levels of PFAS



# Timeline: 2021–2024

- **October 2021** | Ecology concludes PFAS are hazardous substances regulated under WA's environmental cleanup law
- **March 2023** | Ecology notified of PFAS contamination at SIA
- **April–August 2023** | Initial Investigation, site listed, SIA identified as responsible party
- **October 2023–March 2024** | Negotiate agreed order for remedial investigation and feasibility study (RI/FS) with SIA
- **March 29, 2024** | Ecology issues enforcement order to SIA



## Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances Chemical Action Plan

Hazardous Waste and Toxics Reduction Program  
Washington State Department of Ecology  
Olympia, Washington

Publication 21-04-048  
Revised September 2022



# Timeline: 2024–present

- **April–August 2024** | SIA completes Site Assessment report
- **January 2025** | SIA completes field work for Initial PFAS Investigation
- **Summer 2025** | Ecology identifies City of Spokane and Spokane County as responsible parties (airport owners)
- **Late 2025** | Ecology, City, and County negotiate agreed order
- **January 2026** | SIA submits draft Initial PFAS Investigation and Ecology, City, and County sign agreed order
- **February 2026** | Ecology requires emergency interim actions

# Agreed Order: What's in it?

- Identifies **City of Spokane** and **Spokane County** as responsible for cleanup
- Lists reasons Ecology named the City and County
- Defines **scope of work** and **schedule** for completing it
  - Identical to **scope of work** in SIA's enforcement order

State of Washington  
Department of Ecology

In the Matter of Remedial Action by:  
City of Spokane/Spokane County  
Agreed Order  
No. DE 24355

To: Alex Scott

City Administrator  
City of Spokane  
808 West Spokane Falls Blvd.  
Spokane, WA 99201

Scott Simmons  
Chief Executive Officer  
Spokane County  
1116 West Broadway Ave.  
Spokane, WA 99260

1. Introduction.....	2
2. Jurisdiction.....	2
3. Parties Bound.....	2
4. Definitions.....	2
5. Findings of Fact.....	3
6. Ecology Determinations.....	5
7. Work to be Performed.....	6
8. Terms and Conditions.....	8
8.1 Payment of Remedial Action Costs.....	8
8.2 Designated Project Coordinators.....	9
8.3 Performance.....	10
8.4 Access.....	10
8.5 Sampling, Data Submittal, and Availability.....	11
8.6 Public Participation.....	11
8.7 Access to Information.....	13
8.8 Retention of Records.....	13
8.9 Resolution of Disputes.....	14
8.10 Extension of Schedule.....	15
8.11 Amendment of Order.....	16
8.12 Endangerment.....	17
8.13 Reservation of Rights.....	17
8.14 Transfer of Interest in Property.....	18

# What does the Scope of Work require?

- Remedial Investigation (RI) Work Plan
- Remedial investigation
- RI and feasibility study (FS) reports
- Interim actions
- Groundwater monitoring
- Progress reporting

## Exhibit B | Scope of work and schedule

- Task 1.A Site Assessment Report for PFAS **Complete**
- Task 1.B Initial Investigation for PFAS **Almost complete**
- Task 1.C Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study (RI/FS) Work Plan
- Task 2. Remedial Investigation
- Task 3.A Remedial Investigation (RI) Report
- Task 3.B Feasibility Study (FS) Report
- Task 4. Ecology Required Emergency Interim Action(s) (if required)
- Task 5. Additional Interim Action(s) (if required)
- Task 6. Quarterly Groundwater Monitoring and Reporting **In progress**
- Task 7. Progress Reports **Ongoing**

# SIA investigation timeline



\*May take longer depending on investigation iterations

\*\*RI and FS reports available for public comment

# A0 public comment period

Submit comments through March 9

- Online: [go.ecology.wa.gov/CommentSIA-PFAS](https://go.ecology.wa.gov/CommentSIA-PFAS)
- Email: [Jeremy.Schmidt@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:Jeremy.Schmidt@ecy.wa.gov)
- Mail: 4601 N. Monroe St.  
Spokane, WA 99205

## Toxics Cleanup Program



### Spokane International Airport PFAS cleanup site

Public input opportunity

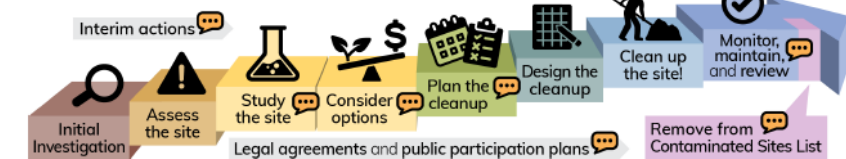


Figure 1. The steps in Washington's environmental cleanup process.

#### Comments accepted:

12 a.m. February 6 –  
11:59 p.m. March 9, 2026

#### Submit comments

Online:  
<https://go.ecology.wa.gov/CommentSIA-PFAS>

Mail:  
Jeremy Schmidt, site manager  
4601 N. Monroe St.  
Spokane, WA 99205

Email:  
[Jeremy.Schmidt@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:Jeremy.Schmidt@ecy.wa.gov)  
Questions: 509-724-1164

#### Review documents

Online:  
<https://go.ecology.wa.gov/SIA-PFAS>

In print:  
Please contact Erika Beresovoy at  
[Erika.Beresovoy@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:Erika.Beresovoy@ecy.wa.gov) or  
509-385-2290.

#### Site information

Spokane International Airport  
9000 W. Airport Dr.  
Spokane, WA 99224

Facility Site ID: 6332493  
Cleanup Site ID: 16774

#### Documents ready for public review and comment

You are invited to review and comment on the following documents for the Spokane International Airport PFAS cleanup site:

- **Agreed order**, which requires the City of Spokane and Spokane County to complete a remedial investigation, feasibility study (yellow steps in Figure 1), and potential interim actions, which can occur at any time during the cleanup process. The investigation will determine the full extent of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) and other contamination in soil and groundwater, and the feasibility study will evaluate cleanup options. The order includes a scope of work and schedule for completing the investigation and study, excluding any work Spokane International Airport (SIA) will do or has already done. Interim actions could include cleaning up areas of high concern or providing safe drinking water if off-property impacts are found.
- **Updated Public Participation Plan**, which describes how you can be involved during the cleanup process.

We issued an enforcement order to SIA in March 2024, which requires them to do the same work as this agreed order. In August 2025, we named the City of Spokane and Spokane County as parties responsible for cleanup because the airport is jointly owned by the two local governments. The city, county, and SIA are responsible for investigation and cleanup costs. Because SIA is already in progress on the work, it continues during this public comment period.

#### Public meeting

Please join Ecology for a public meeting where we will discuss the documents, provide an update on the investigation, answer your questions, and accept written comments.

- 6 p.m., Wednesday, Feb. 25, 2026
- Shriners Event Center, 7217 W. Westbow Blvd., Spokane

# Draft Initial PFAS Investigation (IPI) Report

- Submitted January 15
- Ecology provided comments February 10
- Final due March 13



## DRAFT INITIAL PFAS INVESTIGATION REPORT

**DRAFT FOR AGENCY REVIEW  
SUBJECT TO CHANGE**

### **SPOKANE INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT**

Spokane, WA  
Facility Site ID: 6332493; Cleanup Site ID: 16774

Prepared for:



**SPOKANE INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT**  
9000 W. Airport Drive, Suite 204  
Spokane, Washington 99224

Prepared by:

**GSI ENVIRONMENTAL INC.**  
1115 West Bay Drive NW, Ste. 202  
Olympia, WA 98502  
www.gsienv.com

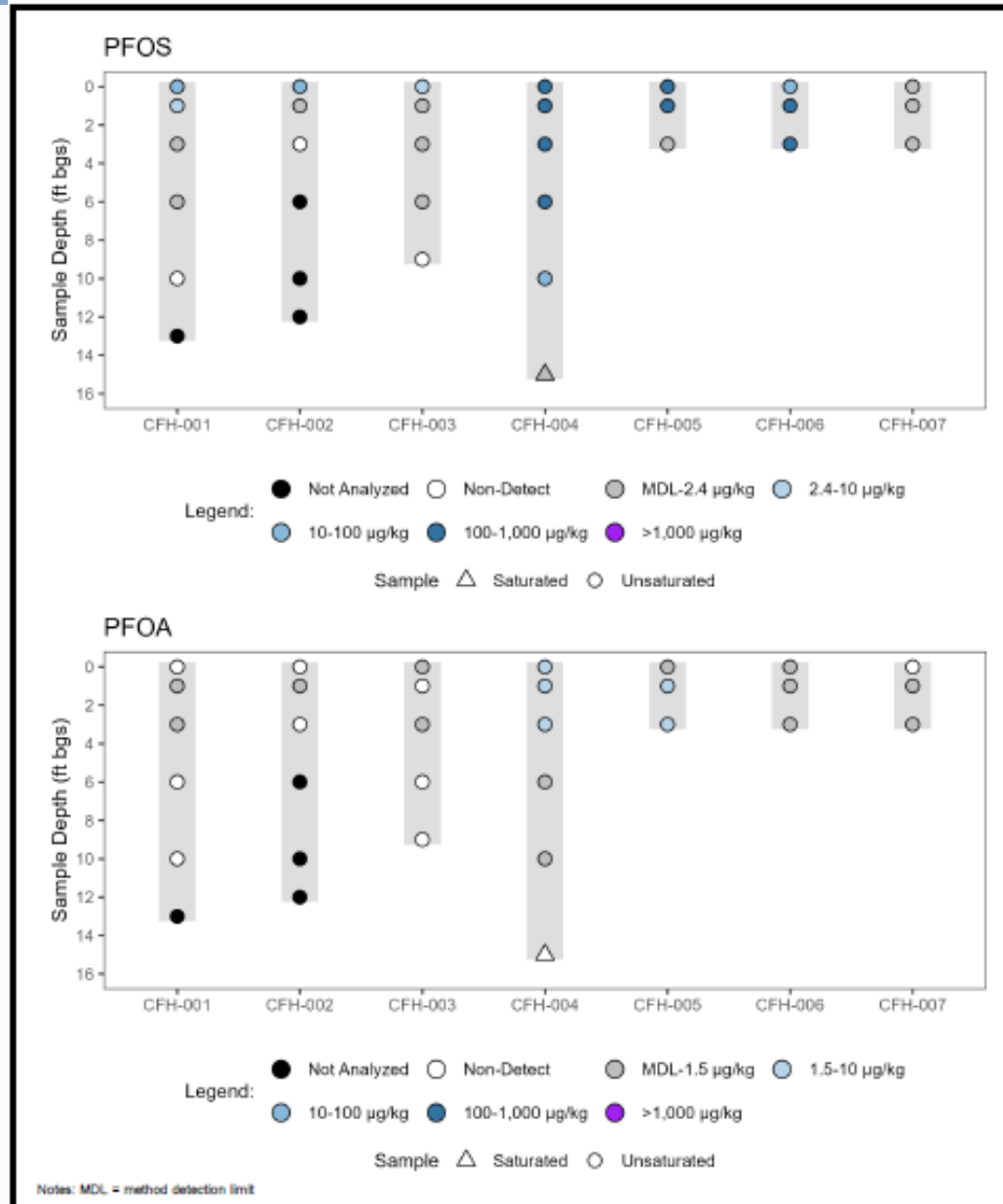
**Job No.:** 6892  
**Issued:** 15 January 2026

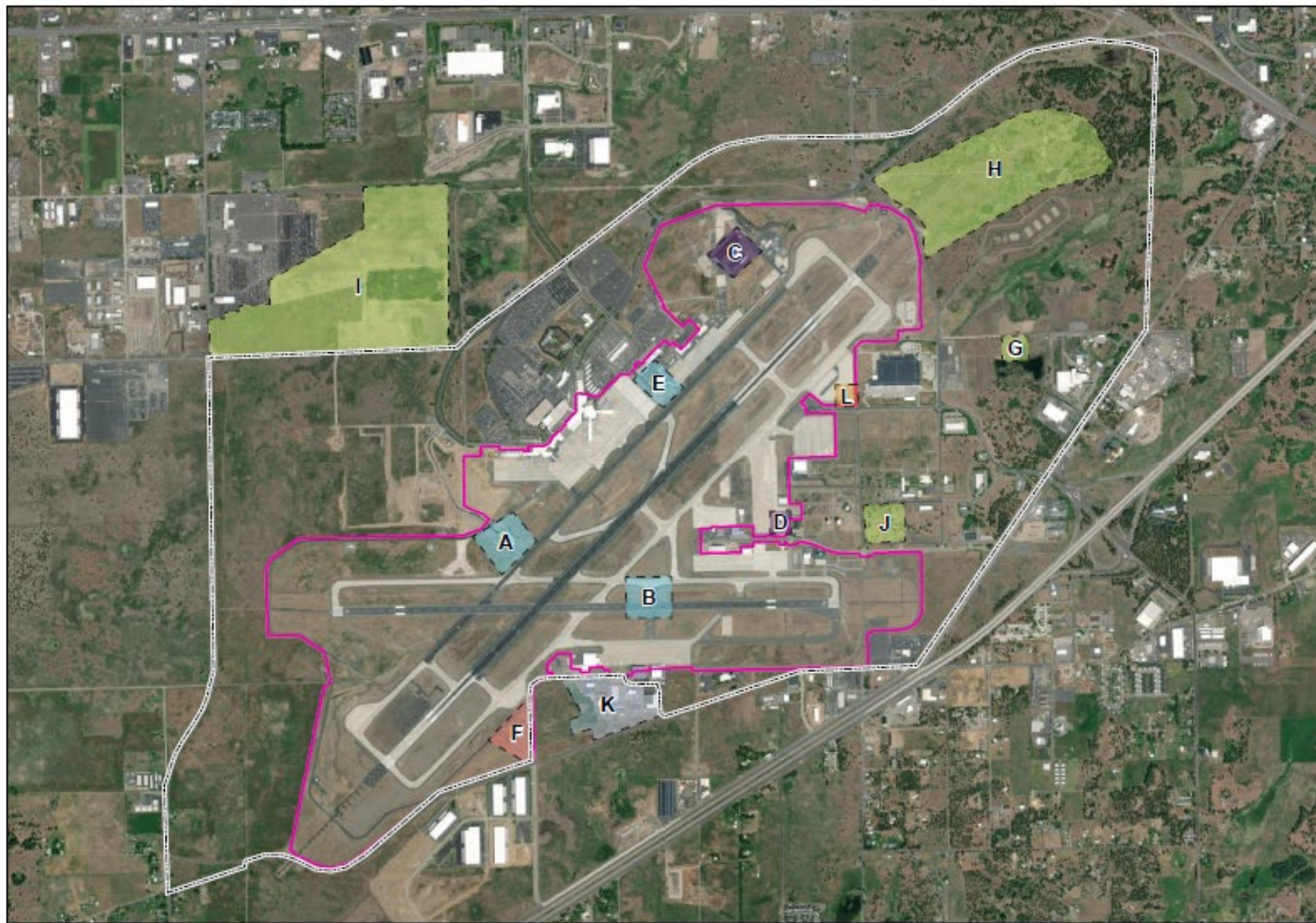
# Draft IPI

## Soil data and results

Areas with elevated PFAS in soil:

- Current Fire House
- Historical Fire House
- Joint Fire Training Area
- Stormwater Recovery Area





**LEGEND**

- Primary Airport Area
- AOA Fenceline
- Potential Areas of Concern by Usage Type:**
- AFFF Storage
- FAA Mandated Testing
- Other Investigation Areas
- Joint Fire Training Area
- AFFF Storage and Training
- Firefighting Training Area (Water Only)

- Notes**
- 1.) AOA - Air Operations Area
  - 2.) Spatial extent of highlighted areas for visual purposes only and subject to further evaluation during subsequent investigations.
  - 3.) Aerial Imagery provided by Esri ArcGIS Online, 2023.

**LOCATION KEY**

Key	Name
A	Current SIA Fire House
B	FAA Inspection Testing
C	Field Maintenance Area
D	Hangar 725
E	Historical SIA Fire House
F	Joint Fire Training Area
G	Park Drive West / Waste to Energy Plant
H	Stormwater Recovery Area
I	Land Treatment Area
J	Former Geiger Field
K	Air National Guard
L	Triangle Ramp Training Area



GSI Job No.	6892	Drawn By:	EKS
Issued:	13 Dec 2024	Checked By:	KW
Map ID:	SIAWA_PI_AOC	App'd By:	KW
<b>FIGURE 1.2</b>			

**Potential or Known PFAS Areas of Concern**

Initial PFAS Investigation Work Plan  
Spokane International Airport  
Spokane, Washington

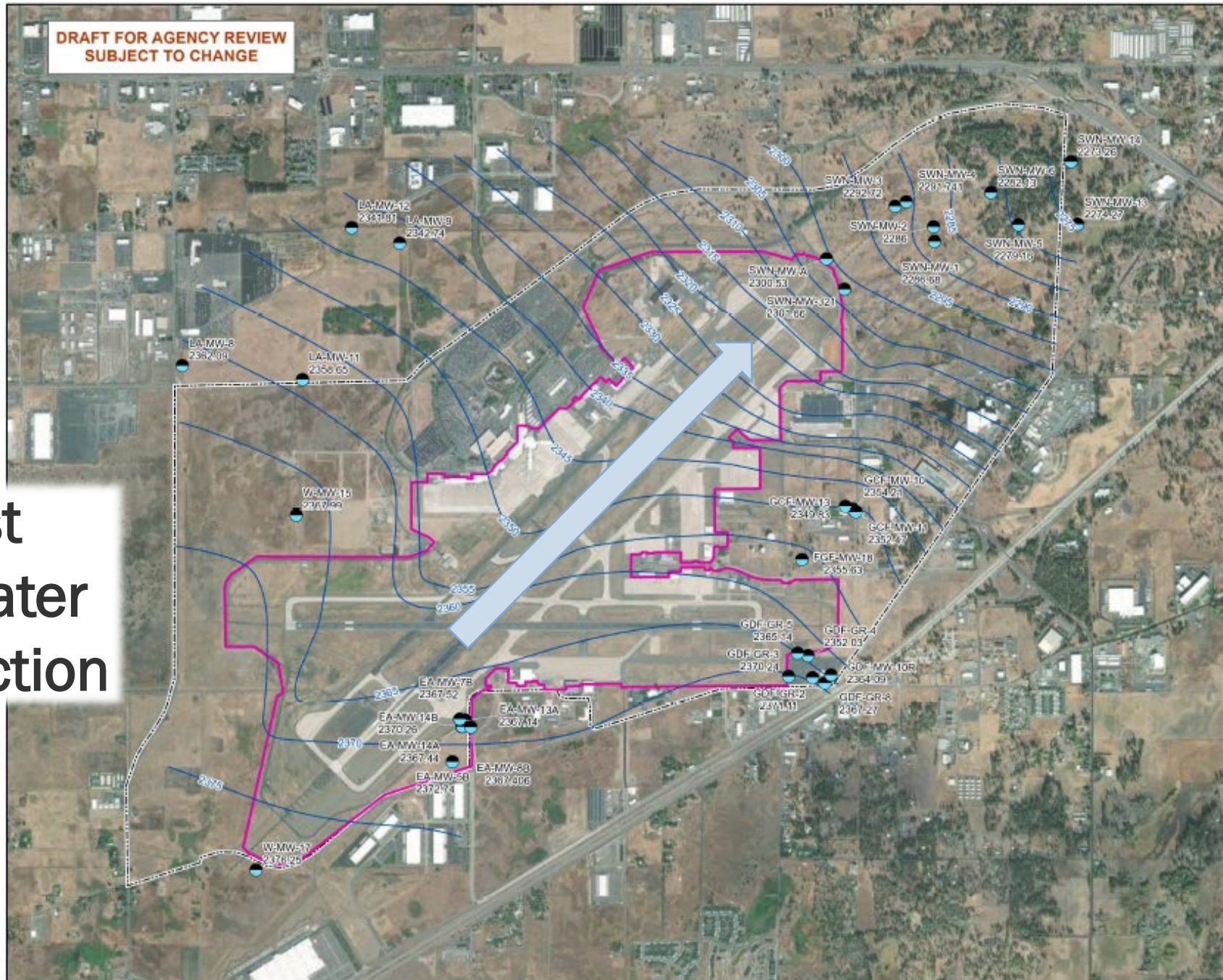
Projected Coordinate System  
Datum: NAD 83  
State Plane Washington North  
Units: Feet  
Feet 0 1,000 2,000

# Draft IPI groundwater data and results

- Areas with high levels of PFAS in groundwater:
  - ✓ Joint Fire Training Area
  - ✓ Stormwater Recovery Area
- Non-detect to low concentrations in upgradient wells to the south and west of SIA's property
- No groundwater monitoring wells exist near the current and historical fire houses where some of the highest soil concentrations were found

DRAFT FOR AGENCY REVIEW  
SUBJECT TO CHANGE

Northeast  
groundwater  
flow direction

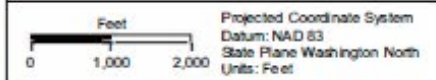


LEGEND

- Wells - Unconsolidated Formation
- 5 Foot Groundwater Elevation Contours - Unconsolidated Formation
- AQA Fenceline
- Primary Airport Area

Notes

1. AOA - Air Operations Area
2. Aerial imagery provided by Esri ArcGIS Online, 2025.



Site Potentiometric Surface:  
Unconsolidated - January 2025

Initial PFAS Investigation Report  
Spokane International Airport  
Spokane, Washington

GIS Job No.	6892	Drawn By:	NK
Issued:	15-Jan-2026	Checked By:	AT
Map ID:	SIWA_PAA	Approved By:	DRAFT

Figure 6-2



DEPARTMENT OF  
**ECOLOGY**  
State of Washington

# 2024 NE West Plains results

- No PFAS Found
- PFAS found below drinking water standards
- At least one PFAS compound found at levels 1 to 5 times the drinking water standard
- At least one PFAS compound found at levels 5 to 10 times the drinking water standard
- At least one PFAS compound found at levels 10 to 20 times the drinking water standard
- At least one PFAS compound found at levels more than 20 times the drinking water standard

Non-detect	111
Below	64
Above	<b>236</b>

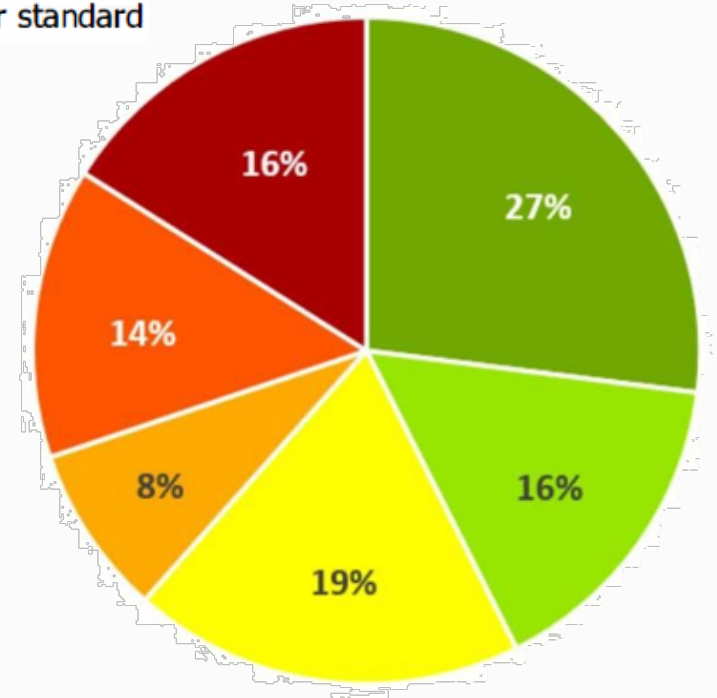
**\*411 residential drinking water wells**

**Max:** PFOS = 530 ppt, PFOA = 120 ppt, PFHxS = 530 ppt

Long-chained PFAS were predominant

PFHxS most detected at high concentrations

- PFBS also common, but at low concentrations

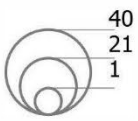


# Summary of PFAS Levels by Section

Results from March & June 2024 West Plains Sampling Events

- No PFAS Found
- PFAS found below drinking water standards
- At least one PFAS compound found at levels 1 to 5 times the drinking water standard
- At least one PFAS compound found at levels 5 to 10 times the drinking water standard
- At least one PFAS compound found at levels 10 to 20 times the drinking water standard
- At least one PFAS compound found at levels more than 20 times the drinking water standard

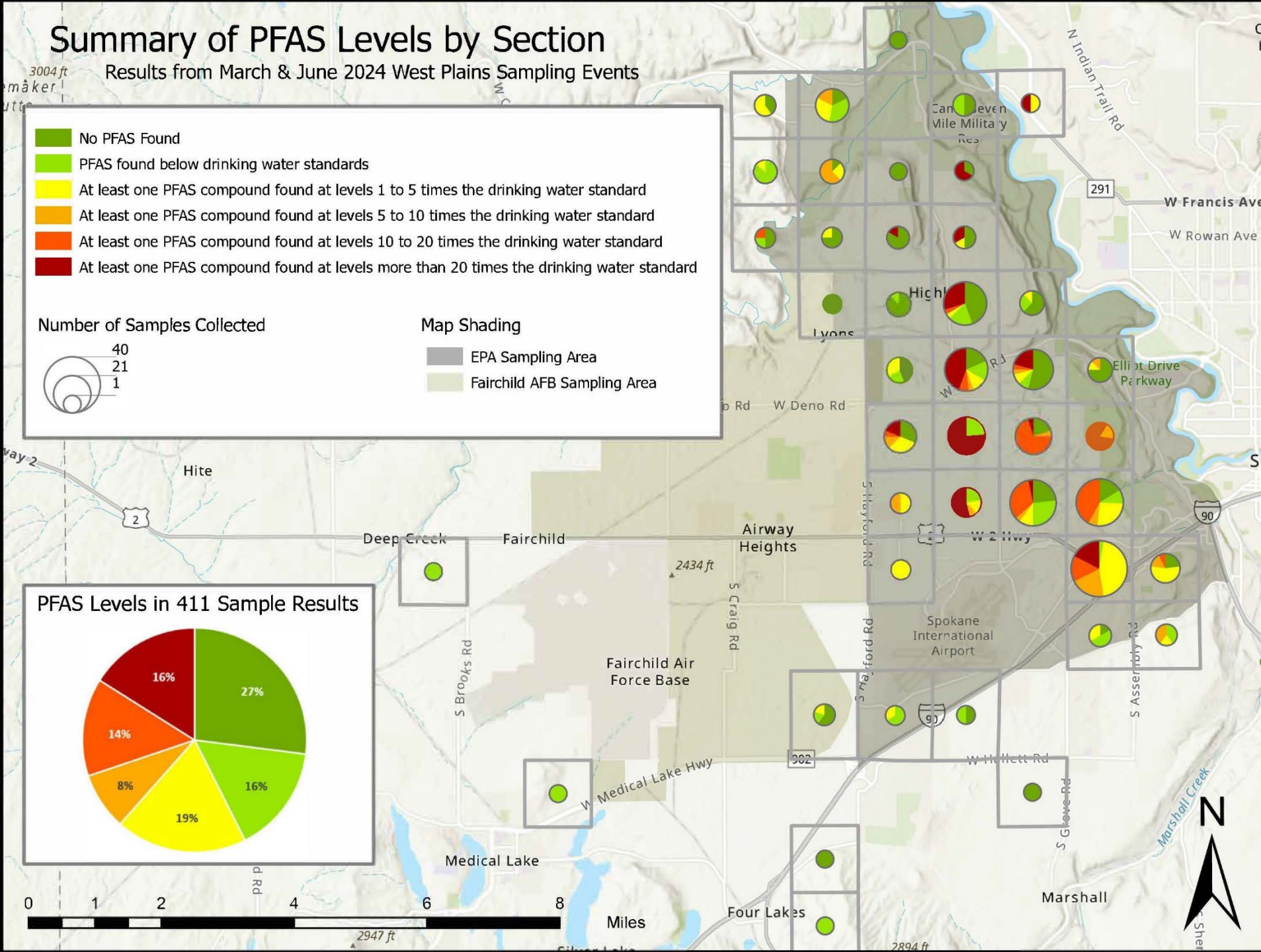
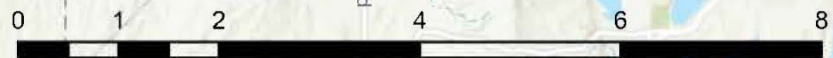
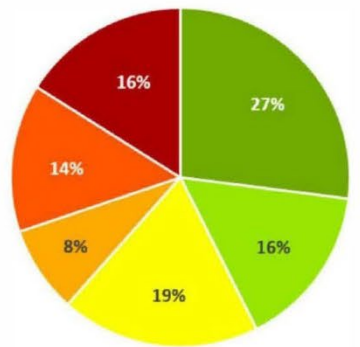
Number of Samples Collected



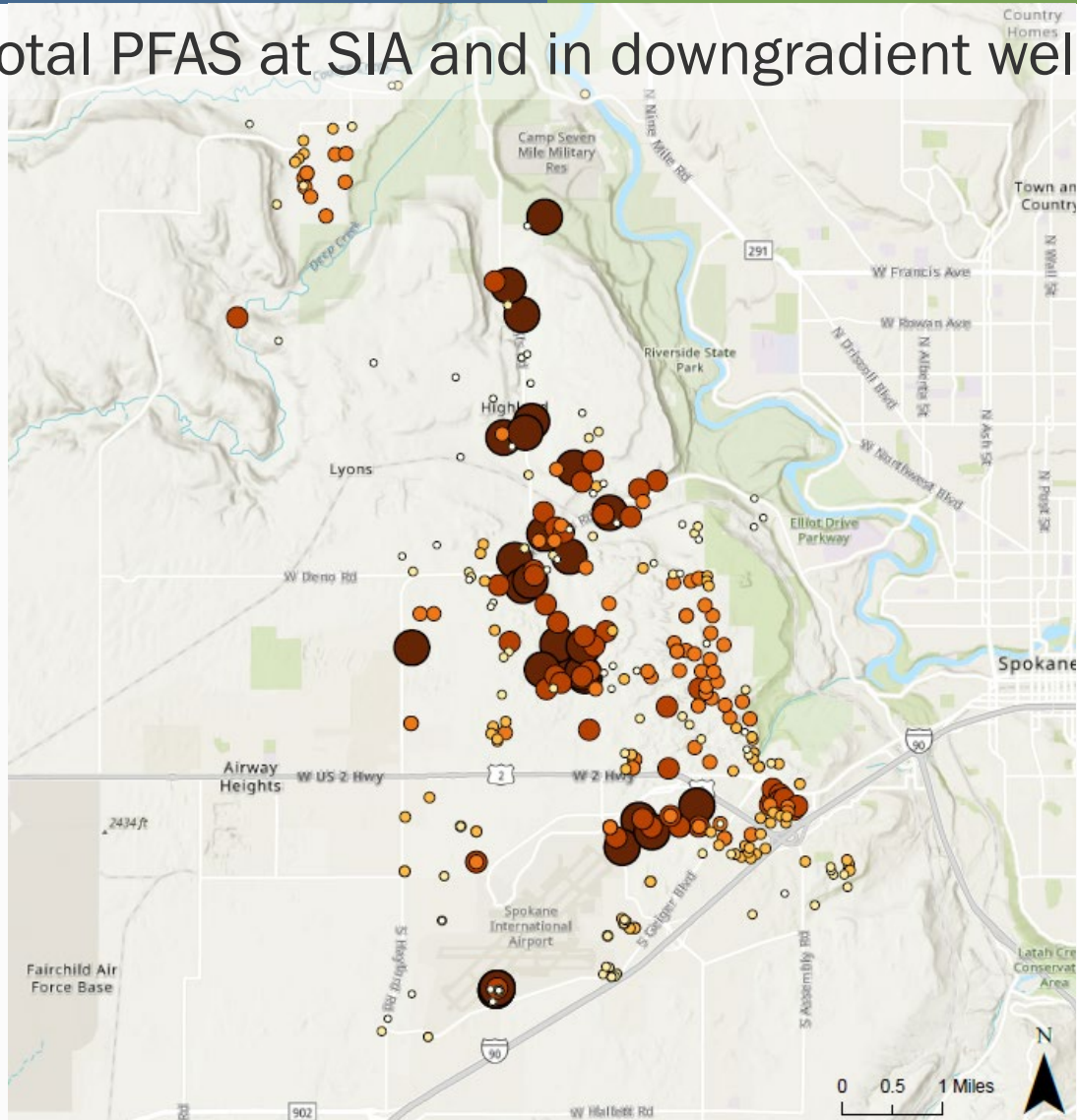
Map Shading

- EPA Sampling Area
- Fairchild AFB Sampling Area

PFAS Levels in 411 Sample Results



# Total PFAS at SIA and in downgradient wells

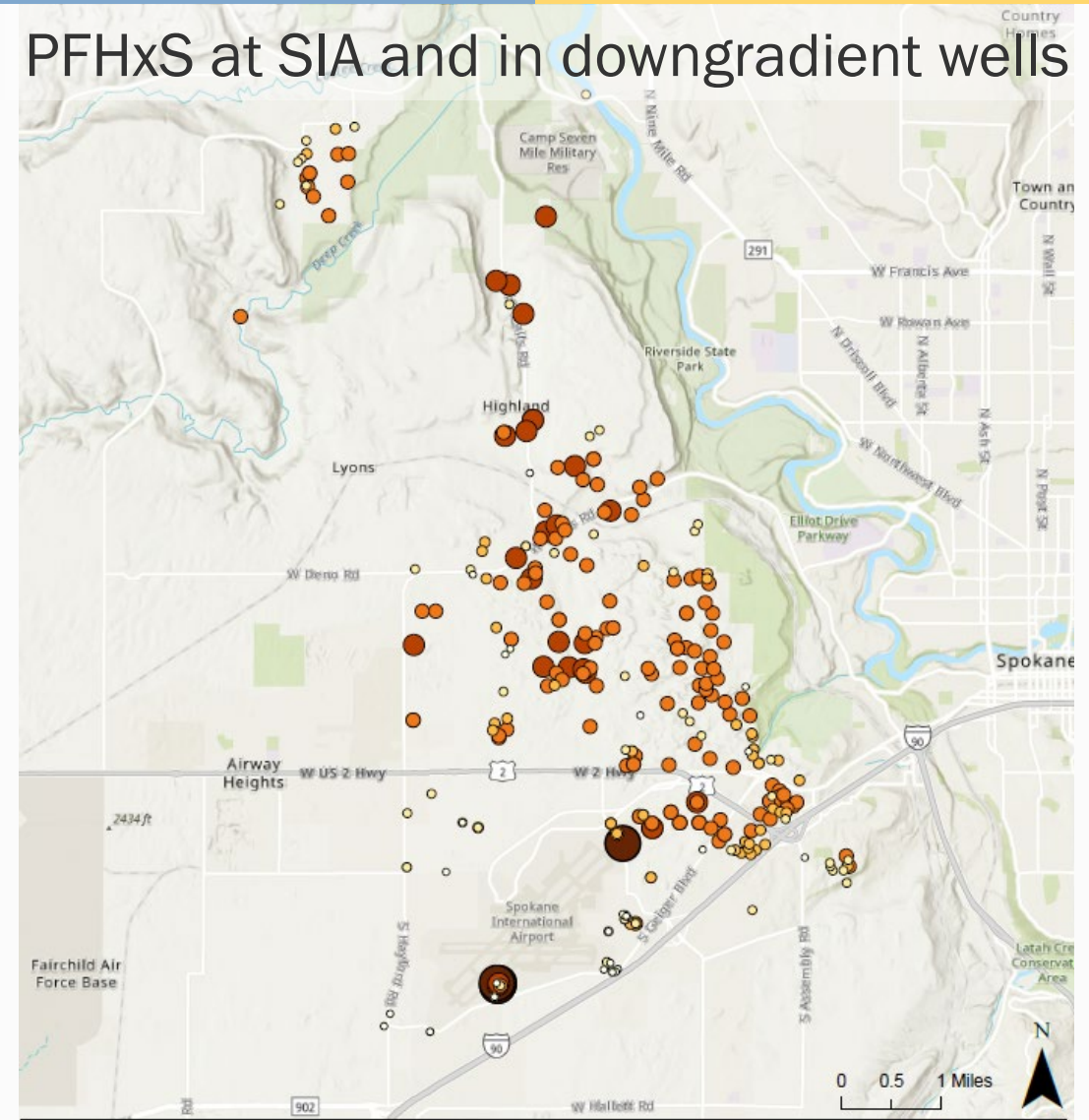


**Total**  
**West Plains PFAS Samples**

- <math>< 4\text{ ng/L}</math>
- 5 ng/L - 40 ng/L
- 41 ng/L - 150 ng/L
- 151 ng/L - 300 ng/L
- 301 ng/L - 600 ng/L
- > 600 ng/L



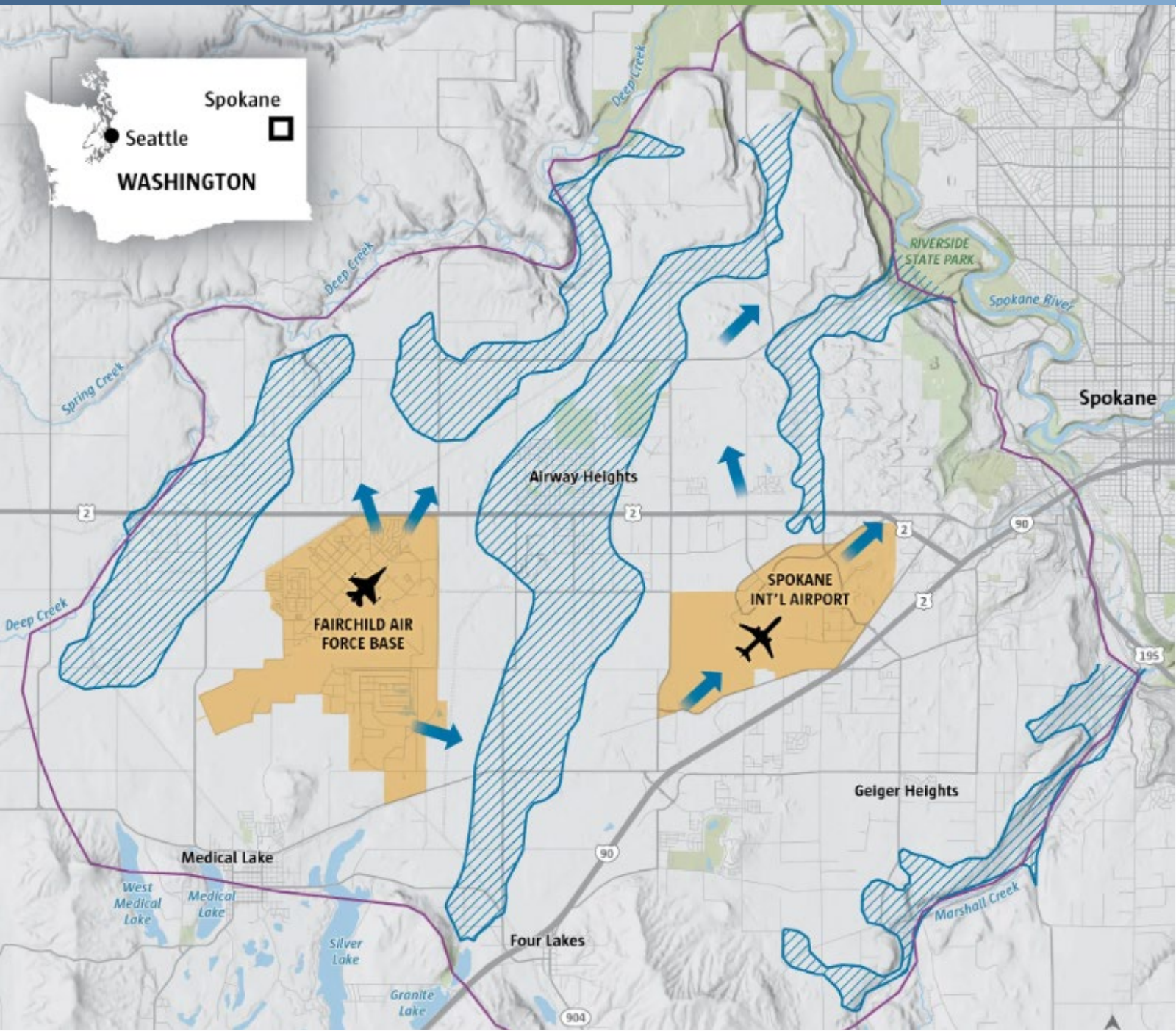
# PFHxS at SIA and in downgradient wells



**PFHxS**  
**West Plains PFAS Samples**

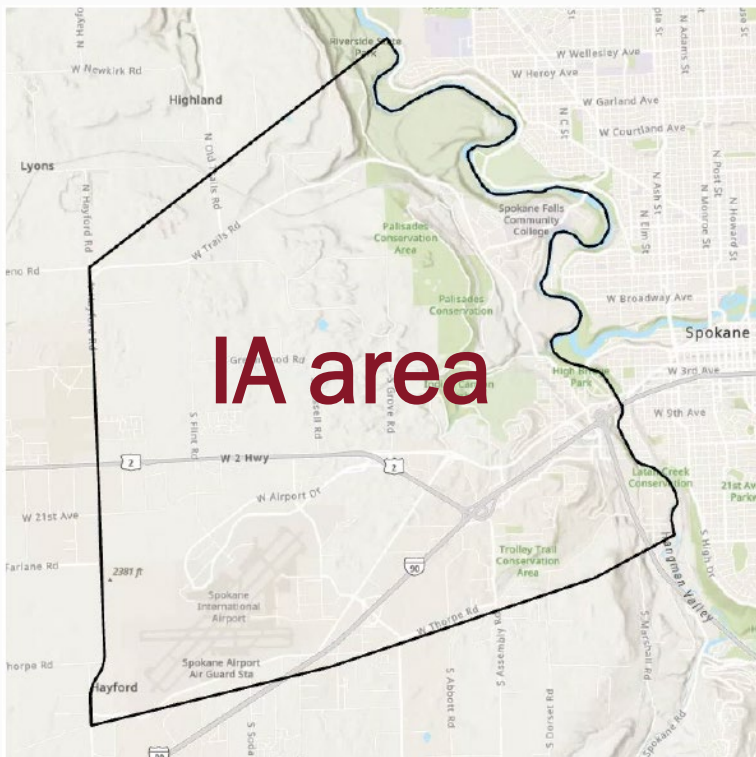
- <math>< 4\text{ ng/L}</math>
- 5 ng/L - 16 ng/L
- 17 ng/L - 40 ng/L
- 41 ng/L - 150 ng/L
- 151 ng/L - 600 ng/L
- > 600 ng/L





- Geology and hydrogeology of the West Plains is well understood
- Airway Heights paleochannel between FAFB and SIA
- Airport paleochannel immediately north of SIA

# Emergency interim actions (IA) basis



- ✓ Data in the draft IPI Report
- ✓ Historical data from the airport property
- ✓ Well-established/published regional hydrogeology
- ✓ Very low to non-detect levels of PFAS in groundwater upgradient of the airport's property
- ✓ High levels of PFAS in groundwater immediately downgradient of the airport's property
- ✓ Extensive PFAS impacts to drinking water wells further downgradient from the airport's property

**Ecology has determined off-property impacts to regional groundwater exist from contamination originating from SIA property.**

# Emergency interim actions required

- Formal notice given February 10, 2026
- Scope of Work tasks
  - Short-term Interim Action Work Plan (STIAWP)
  - Complete work in the STIAWP
  - Long-term Interim Action Work Plan (LTIAWP)
  - Complete work in the LTIAWP
  - Annual interim action performance reports
  - Interim action progress reports

# Short-term emergency interim actions

- ❑ Bottled water or point-of-use filters to known contaminated private wells in the IA area
- ❑ Initial round of sampling at all private wells in the IA area
- ❑ STIAWP due March 20

## Components of STIAWP

- Interim action description
- Subcontractor information
- Logistical information
  - Personnel and schedule
  - Outreach procedures
- Outreach material samples
- Monitoring, sampling, quality assurance, and health and safety plans

# Long-term emergency interim actions

- ❑ Point-of-entry treatment or municipal connection to contaminated private wells in the IA area
- ❑ Periodic sampling at all private wells in the IA area
  - ❑ Annually for impacted wells
  - ❑ Every 2 years for non-detect wells
- ❑ LTIAWP due May 11

## Components of LTIAWP

- Interim action description
- Subcontractor information
- Logistical information
  - Personnel and schedule
  - Outreach procedures
- Well and demographic info
- Outreach material samples
- Monitoring, sampling, quality assurance, and health and safety plans

# Emergency IA required | Public outreach

- Feb. 10 and 24 webpage updates and messages to West Plains PFAS updates email list
- 60-day public comment periods for IA work plans
  - Webpage announcements
  - West Plains PFAS updates email list messages
  - Mailed notices
  - Meetings for both work plans
- What else would be helpful?



# Open discussion

 Public input opportunity

