

OFFICE OF COLUMBIA RIVER

Pursuing Water Supply for Families, Farms, and Fish



In 2006, the Washington State Legislature, recognizing a fundamental need to develop reliable water supplies in the Columbia Basin, tasked the Department of Ecology to create a program to meet instream and out-of-stream water supply demand. Ecology's Office of Columbia River works to develop that additional water supply to meet the needs of Washington's people, farms, and fish.

Developing water supply

OCR successfully developed over 516,641 ac-ft of water, to meet the program's priorities to:

- Benefit irrigators in the Odessa subarea.
- Hydrate pending water right applications.
- Secure water for interruptible water right holders.
- Project future water needs.
- Maintain healthy streamflows.

For perspective, that's equivalent to adding nearly three Keechelus Reservoirs to Eastern Washington's water supply. It's enough water to serve roughly 120,000 acres of farmland or 93,000 homes, and address the needs of fish in the Columbia River and 17 tributaries.



OCR's efforts will not stop there. Within the next few years, the program aims to develop another 417,659 ac-ft of water supply.

Solving problems

OCR is securing water for families, farms, and fish through a wide range of projects located throughout Eastern Washington, including:

- Providing 164,000 ac-ft of surface water to replace declining aquifers in the Odessa subarea, home of some of the most productive farmland in the United States.
- Adding 132,500 ac-ft of additional water from Lake Roosevelt for municipalities, farms, interruptible water users, and instream flows for fish.
- Releasing 14,000 ac-ft of water from Sullivan Lake for water users in Northeastern Washington.
- Raising streamflows in Icicle Creek by 86 cubic feet per second, more than doubling the amount available for fish and increasing reliability for municipal and agricultural users.
- Storing thousands of ac-ft of surface water for cities like Yakima, Kennewick, and White Salmon by pumping it into aquifers during the winter and retrieving it in the summer when demand is highest and streamflows are lowest.

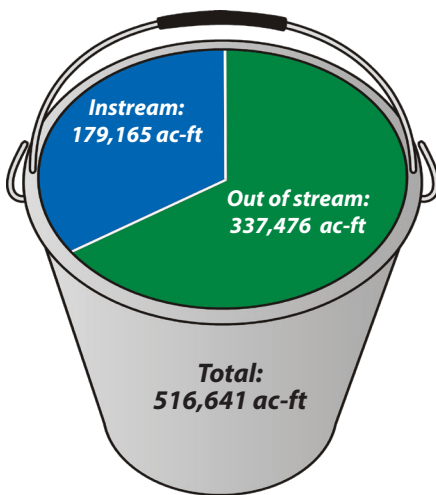
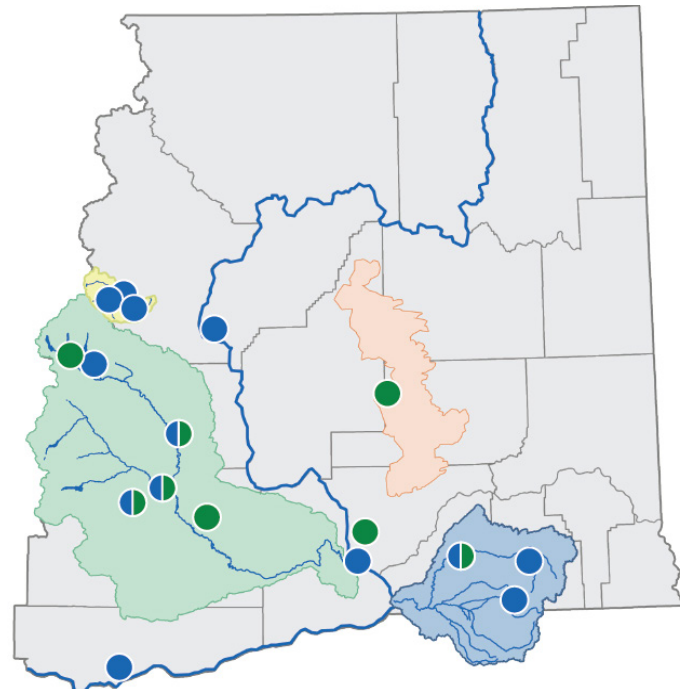
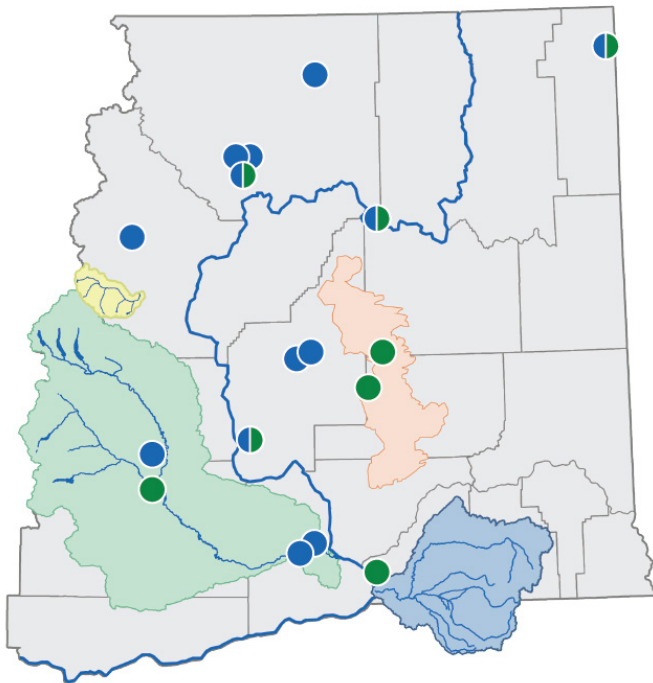
Technical innovation

As OCR continues to work to solve today's water needs, the Office is also looking to the future, investing in new technologies like the use of satellite imagery to determine real crop water demand and developing 3-D visualization techniques for USGS models to provide more data for making water management decisions. OCR employs extensive state-of-the-art modeling to develop long term water demand forecasts we report to the Legislature every five years. The studies combine hydrological, crop production, and Columbia River operation models to forecast water use and demand for the succeeding 20 years.

Water Supply Development by the Office of Columbia River - 2025

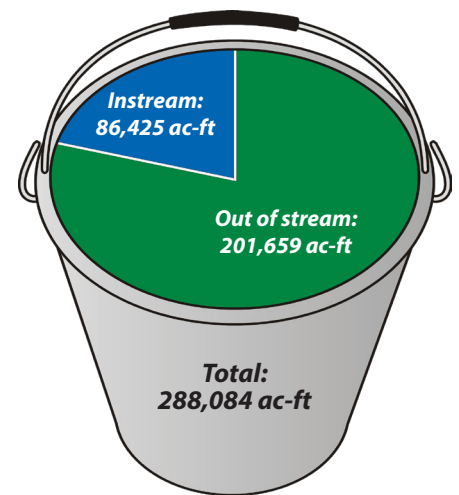
Developed 2025

Near Term 2025-2029



Key

- **Instream**
- **Out of Stream**
- ◐ **Both**
- **Odessa Subarea**
- **Icicle Basin**
- **Yakima Basin**
- **Walla Walla Basin**



Developed

- Avuil Shadecloth Conservation Project, 4,294 ac-ft
- Barker Ranch: 6,436 ac-ft
- Columbia Basin ID Piping: 35,000 ac-ft
- City of Kennewick ASR: 1,456 ac-ft
- Conservation Commission Irrigation Efficiency: 3,476 ac-ft
- Cascade Orchards Irrigation Company Improvements: 4,012 ac-ft
- Donations: 57,045 ac-ft
- East Low Canal Widening: (conveyance)
- KID/Red Mountain: 11,005 ac-ft
- Kennewick General Hospital 4,000 ac-ft
- Lake Roosevelt: 132,500 ac-ft
- Lower Wenatchee Piping: 7,823 ac-ft
- Manastash: 1,300 ac-ft
- Methow Trust Water Acquisition: 79 ac-ft
- Methow Projects: 2854 ac-ft
- Odessa Subarea: 164,000 ac-ft
- Pasco Mini Improve/Piping: 5000 ac-ft
- Peshastin ID Piping: 360 ac-ft
- Pine Creek Acquisition: 900 ac-ft
- Sullivan Lake: 14,000 ac-ft
- Port of Walla Walla Leases: 4,170 ac-ft

- Upper Kittitas Tributary Enhancement (conveyance)
- Weber Siphon (conveyance)
- Yakima City ASR: 10,000 ac-ft
- YBIP Water Conservation: 46,931 ac-ft

Near Term

- City of White Salmon ASR: 600 ac-ft
- Cle Elum Pool Raise: 14,600 ac-ft
- Coppei Creek Streamflow Restoration: TBD
- Kachess Drought Relief Pumping Plant: 200,000 ac-ft
- Icicle Creek Water Management Strategy Projects: 20,000+ ac-ft
- IPID Irrigation Efficiencies: TBD
- Jones Shotwell Conservation: 15 ac-ft
- Kittitas Managed Aquifer Recharge: TBD
- Leavenworth National Fish Hatchery Conservation: TBD
- Mill Creek Streamflow Restoration: TBD
- Pasco Basin Water Supply: TBD
- Pasco Municipal Supply Improvements: 5,000 ac-ft
- Potholes Feed Route (conveyance)
- SVID: 7,815 ac-ft
- White Salmon ASR: 600 ac-ft
- Yakima Basin Enhanced Conservation: 85,000 ac-ft
- Yakima Basin Shallow Aquifer Recharge: TBD