Presented To:
Stevens County Board of County Commissioners

On Behalf of:
Colville River Watershed Planning Team

WRIA 59
Colville River Watershed Plan
Version 2.0

March 15, 2007

Cover: Photograph of Waitts Lake, located in the southwest corner of the Colville River Watershed. (Photograph taken by Linda Kiefer, of Chewelah, Washington, September 2004.)

WRIA 59
Colville River Watershed Plan

FINAL Version 2.0
March 15, 2007

Funded through Grant #G0500138 from the Washington State Department of Ecology as authorized in the Watershed Planning Act (Chapter 90.82 RCW).

Presented to:

Stevens County Board of County Commissioners

On Behalf of:

WRIA 59 Watershed Planning Team

Version 2.0 Update Prepared by:

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Project No. 053-1666.008

Together with assistance from:

Stevens County
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APPROVED by the Board of Stevens County Commissioners on March 27, 2007, by a vote of two in favor, one absent.

Malcolm Friedman, Chairman

ATTEST:

Polly Coleman, Clerk of the Board

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The WRIA 59 Colville River Watershed Plan (Watershed Plan) was developed over a five-year period between 1999 and 2004 through the dedicated participation and input of numerous stakeholders from the Colville River Watershed along with local, state, federal, and tribal government representatives. A list of individuals who served on the original 1999-2004 Watershed Planning Team is included in Appendix A4. The individuals listed below have served on the Phase 4 WRIA 59 Watershed Planning Team. Phase 4, the implementation phase, began in 2005 and continues today. Many of the original Planning Team members continued to serve on into Phase 4. Together, both the original and Phase 4 Planning Teams have contributed over 24,660 volunteer hours at more than 556 meetings to represent their constituencies or as individual concerned citizens. These hours do not reflect the additional time volunteered by the WRIA 59 Watershed Planning Team (Planning Team) and other community members who worked individually throughout the project to provide the necessary research, data collection, and technical information needed for the completion of the Watershed Plan and this update. This Watershed Plan Version 2.0 was finalized and approved by the Planning Team on March 15, 2007 to be consistent with the WRIA 59 - Colville River Watershed Detailed Implementation Plan (Golder, 2006).

COLVILLE RIVER WATERSHED PHASE 4 PLANNING TEAM

Wayne Balholm – Substitute representative for City of Chewelah
Scott Barr – Landowner*
Brian Crossley – Spokane Tribe of Indians*
Brian Culler – Forestry & Ag*
Jim Curran – Landowner*
Tony Delgado – Stevens County Commissioner*
Sandy (Lembcke) Dotts – Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife*
Dennis Ferguson – City of Colville*
Malcolm Friedman – Stevens County Commissioner*
Joel Gassaway – City of Kettle Falls
Joe Haley - Granite Point Park
Lloyd Henry – Ag & PUD*
Donna Kortus – Quartzite Nursery*
John Kortus – Landowner
Rick Kroiss – Landowner*
Bill Kurrle – WIL-PACH Forest Management
Greg Lahti – Department of Transportation
Russ Larsen – Stevens County Public Lands Advisory Committee*
Michael Learn – Fogel Pump
David Martineau – City of Colville*
Wes McCart – Stevens County Farm Bureau & Stevens County Water Conservancy Board*
Merrill Ott – Stevens County Commissioner*
Al Parent – Landowner*
David Park – City of Chewelah*
Bob Playfair – Landowner
Dick Price – Stevens PUD*
Ken Rosenberg – Ag & PUD*
Richard Seitters – Agriculture
Jaime Short – Department of Ecology*
Tom Skok – Chewelah Sod Farm*
Don Strand – Department of Natural Resources
Angela Sweat – Landowner*
Bert Wasson – USFS Colville National Forest*
Clay White - Stevens County*
Tom Wilson – Landowner

**** Membership is currently active.***

COMMITTEE CHAIRS, AS OF 2006

Administrative Committee:	Jim Curran, Chair, and David Martineau, Vice Chair
Adjudication Committee:	Jim Curran, Chair, and Dick Price, Vice Chair
Instream Flow Committee:	Brian Culler and Dick Price, Co-Chairs
Plan Update Committee:	Jim Curran, Chair, and David Martineau, Vice Chair
WMP/Board Committee:	Wes McCart, Chair and David Park, Vice Chair

The WRIA 59 Colville River Watershed Planning Team and Stevens County would like to thank those of you who assisted on this project either directly or indirectly. An attempt has been made to identify below the various individuals and organizations that have provided additional assistance. We apologize if any one has been omitted.

ADDITIONAL ASSISTANCE

Chewelah Independent Staff
Matt Ely – USGS
Golder Associates Staff
Dean Hellie - SCCD
KCVL Radio Staff
Lisa Langelier – U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
Senator Bob Morton & Staff
Shelly Short – Rep. McMorris's District
Statesman Examiner Staff
Department of Ecology Eastern Regional Office Staff
Farm Service Agency Staff
HDR Engineering Staff
Sue Kahle – USGS
Charlie Kessler – SCCD
Dave Kreft – NRCS
NE Tri-County Health District Staff
Ray Smith – USGS
WSU Cooperative Extension Colville Office Staff

STEVENS COUNTY STAFF

Joyce Kays, Secretary
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Lloyd Nickel, Prosecuting Attorney Office

GOLDER STAFF

Bryony Stasney – 2007 Watershed Plan Update

SPECIAL 'THANK YOU' TO THOSE WHO HOSTED THE WATERSHED PLANNING MEETINGS

City of Chewelah
City of Colville
Springdale High School
Stevens County
Stevens County Ambulance Ctr.
Stevens County Conservation District
Stevens PUD
Washington Department of Ecology
Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife

TABLE OF CONTENTS

TABLE OF CONTENTS (CONTINUED)

Page No.

List of Tables

List of Figures

TABLE OF CONTENTS (CONTINUED)

APPENDICES

Note: Due to the size of the documents, appendices D, F, G, H and I are not printed in this Plan. Copies are available upon request from:
Stevens County Watershed Planning Office
Stevens County Courthouse Annex, 215 S. Oak Street, Colville WA 99114
(509) 685-2832

ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

ACRONYMS

AMSL = Above Mean Sea Level
BMPs = Best Management Practices
BPA = Bonneville Power Administration
BST = Bacteria Source Tracking
CARA = Critical Aquifer Recharge Area
CFS = Cubic Feet Per Second
CTED = Department of Community Trade and Economic Development
DIP = WRIA 59 Colville River Watershed Detailed Implementation Plan
DOH or WDOH = Washington Department of Health
DNS = Determination of Non-significance
DS = Determination of Significance
Ecology or WDOE = Washington Department of Ecology
EIM = Environmental Information Management
EIS = Environmental Impact Statement
FERC = Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
FPA = Forest Practices Act
FTE = Full Time Equivalent
GIS = Geographical Information System
GMA = Growth Management Act (Chapter 36.70A RCW)
GPD = Gallons Per Day
MIGOA = Mission, Issues, Goals, Objectives and Alternative Actions
MOA = Memorandum of Agreement
MOU = Memorandum of Understanding
NEPA = National Environmental Policy Act
NPCC = Northwest Power Conservation Council
NRCS = Natural Resource Conservation Service
NTE = Not To Exceed
PUD = Stevens Public Utility District (PUD)
RCW = Revised Code of Washington
SCCD = Stevens County Conservation District
SCWCB = Stevens County Water Conservancy Board
SEPA = State Environmental Policy Act
SMA = Shorelines Management Act
SRA = Salmon Recovery Act
SWSL = Surface Water Source Limitations
TMDL = Total Maximum Daily Load
USFS = United States Forest Service
USFWS = United States Fish and Wildlife Service
USGS = United States Geological Survey
WAC = Washington Administrative Code
WDFW = Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
WDOE or Ecology = Washington Department of Ecology
WDOH or DOH = Washington Department of Health
WMP = Watershed Management Partnership (under Chapter 39.34 RCW)

WP = Watershed Planning Alternatives as identified in *Final Environmental Impact Statement for Watershed Planning Under Chapter 90.82 RCW (Ecology, 2003c)*
WPA = Watershed Planning Act (Chapter 90.82 RCW)
WQIP = Water Quality Implementation Plan
WRIA = Water Resource Inventory Area
WRIA 59 = Water Resource Inventory Area 59 (the Colville River Watershed)
WSU = Washington State University

ABBREVIATIONS

Board = WRIA 59 Water Resource Management Board (once activated, will replace the Planning Team)
County = Stevens County
DIP DOC Committee = Detailed Implementation Plan Committee of the WRIA 59 Planning Team
Ecology = Washington Department of Ecology
Planning Team = WRIA 59 Watershed Planning Team (for Phases 1 through 4 of the planning process)
Postema = *John Postema vs. Pollution Control Hearings Board, et al.*, Washington State Supreme Court
Watershed Plan = WRIA 59 Colville River Watershed Plan
WMP = WRIA 59 Watershed Management Partnership (to be formed under Chapter 39.34 RCW)

GLOSSARY

A reference to the terminology in the WRIA 59 Colville River Watershed Plan.

ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT: Continual improvement of management programs, based on information collection and application of various actions over time.

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN: A plan prepared by the cities, county, tribes, state agencies, or other sources that include a thorough, long-range approach for provisions of management for a specified area.

CONSENSUS: As pertaining to the voting process developed and followed by the Water Resource Inventory Area (WRIA) 59 Planning Team for this watershed project, 'consensus' was defined as a general agreement or accord by all voting Planning Team members. The Planning Team's definition of 'Agreement' was defined as members in good standing present minus 3, as a result of a vote, unless any of the 3 dissenting votes would be a government obligated by the vote (per Section 130[3] of Chapter 90.82 RCW).

FRAMEWORK: As pertaining to Section 5 of the WRIA 59 Colville River Watershed Plan, 'framework' is the process developed by the WRIA 59 Planning Team to guide implementation of the WRIA 59 Colville River Watershed Plan, in which the Washington Department of Ecology (Ecology), Stevens County Legislative Authorities, WRIA 59 Water Resources Management Partnership (WMP) and the WRIA 59 Water Resource Management Board (Board) shall work collaboratively toward ongoing water resource management decisions during and beyond the Planning and Implementation Phases of the Watershed Planning Act (i.e. Chapter 90.82 RCW). The Framework is also included in Section 3 of the WRIA 59 Colville River Watershed - Detailed Implementation Plan (Golder, 2006).

HABITAT ELEMENT: One of the three optional elements of Watershed Planning defined in Chapter 90.82 RCW (the Watershed Planning Act). This element addresses fish habitat within the management area.

IMPLEMENTATION TEAM: The name that was to be used for the volunteer group to oversee the Implementation Phase (i.e., Phase 4) of Watershed Planning in WRIA 59. However, by consensus of the WRIA 59 Colville River Watershed Planning Team, the name was not changed to Implementation Team, but was retained as the "Planning Team".

INITIATING GOVERNMENTS: Within each watershed management area, a specific set of local and tribal governments designated by theWatershed Planning Act for the purposes of initiating watershed planning. For the WRIA 59 Watershed Planning Process, the following four entities served as the initiating governments: City of Colville, Public Utility District No.1 of Stevens County, Stevens County, and the Spokane Tribe of Indians.

INSTREAM FLOW ELEMENT: One of the three optional elements of Watershed Planning defined in the Watershed Planning Act. This element addresses recommendations for setting or revising minimum instream flows.

MINIMUM INSTREAM FLOWS: The term, instream flow, is used to identify a specific stream flow (typically measured in cubic feet per second, or cfs) at a specific location for a defined time, and generally following seasonal variations. Instream flows are usually defined as the stream flow

needed to protect and preserve instream resources, such as fish, wildlife, and recreation. Minimum instream flows are most often described and established in a formal legal document, typically an adopted state rule. Once defined, instream flows are used for water management decisions, including regulatory decisions regarding whether additional water can be appropriated for future uses and to define what flows need to be met in the stream. An instream flow can be described as a water right for the instream resources that the stream supports. Statutory provisions related to establishing instream flow rules can be found in Chapters 90.82, 90.22, 90.03, and 90.54 RCW.

NEGOTIATED PROCESS FOR WRIA 59 INSTREAM FLOW STUDY: Per Chapter 90.82.070 RCW, a negotiated instream flow process is the process that involves all participants of the WRIA 59 Watershed Planning Team (Planning Team) or WRIA 59 Water Resource Management Board (Board), if established prior to completion of this process, along with Ecology and the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW). The negotiated process will include reviews of resulting flow numbers collected from the 2006 instream flow work, which was completed by trained Planning Team members along with technical assistance from WDFW, Spokane Tribe of Indians Water Resource Staff, and Ecology, as outlined in the WRIA 59 Instream Flow Scope of Work and MOU (Appendix C1). All parties will then work toward agreement on the recommended flow numbers from the WRIA 59 Instream Flow Anaysis Draft Report, along with text needed for establishing minimum instream flows and subsequent rule revision. Local socio-economic conditions will also be considered.

OBLIGATION: Any agreed upon required action for Stevens County, state agencies, and/or any other government or organization as a result of activities outlined in the WRIA 59 Colville River Watershed Plan (Watershed Plan), and to be undertaken while implementing provisions of the Watershed Plan that impose a fiscal impact, a redeployment of resources, or a change of existing policy, per the Watershed Planning Act.

PLANNING TEAM: The WRIA 59 voluntary group that represents a wide range of water resource interests within the watershed, tasked to organize, conduct a watershed assessment, develop a Watershed Plan, and develop a Detailed Implementation Plan for WRIA 59. The initiating governments of WRIA 59 were responsible for development of the Planning Team.

PLANNING UNIT: A volunteer group that represents a wide range of water resource interests within the watershed, tasked to organize, conduct a watershed assessment, develop a Watershed Plan and develop a Detailed Implementation for each Water Resource Inventory Area, according to the Watershed Planning Act (Chapter 90.82 RCW). The initiating governments in WRIA 59 were responsible for development of the Planning Unit which is referred to as the Planning Team.

STRATEGIES: As pertaining to the WRIA 59 Colville River Watershed Detailed Implementation Plan (Golder, 2006), the strategies are the obligations and recommendations developed by the WRIA 59 Planning Team in the March 2004 WRIA 59 Colville River Watershed Plan and carried over into the WRIA 59 Colville River Watershed - Detailed Implementation Plan (Golder, 2006).

VEGETATIVE MANAGEMENT: The practice of maintaining, restoring and/or enhancing the vegetative environment for water and soil conservation.

WATER QUALITY ELEMENT: One of three optional elements of Watershed Planning defined in the Watershed Planning Act, which addresses surface and groundwater quality within the management area.

WATER QUANTITY ELEMENT: The one element of Watershed Planning that is required if Watershed Planning grant funds are used, as defined in the Watershed Planning Act. The Planning Team was required to address the quantity of water available for both instream and out-of-stream uses, purposes of use, current and future water resource needs, water rights, claims and other commitments, and strategies for long-range management of the water resources.

WATER RESOURCE INVENTORY AREA (WRIA): One of the 62 geographic areas within Washington State, defined on the basis of surface water resources and codified in Washington Administrative Code (WAC) 173-500.040. **WRIA 59** is the number assigned to the Colville River Watershed.

WATERSHED PLAN: A document presenting the findings, obligations and recommendations and draft framework for implementation by the Planning Team or WRIA 59 Watershed Management Partnership (WMP) and WRIA 59 Water Resource Management Board (Board) (when established) for a water management program in the Colville River Watershed and its tributaries. This document is referred to as the WRIA 59 Colville River Watershed Plan. The Watershed Plan was initially approved by the Planning Team and adopted by the Stevens County Board of County Commissioners on November 30, 2004. This WRIA 59 Colville River Watershed Plan Version 2.0 was finalized and approved by the Planning Team on March 15, 2007 to be consistent with the WRIA 59 Colville River Watershed - Detailed Implementation Plan (Golder, 2006). Reference to the Watershed Plan includes any revisions subsequently approved by the Planning Team or WMP and Board (when established), Stevens County, and the State of Washington (as applicable).

WATERSHED PLANNING ACT: Chapter 247 of the laws of 1998 (C247 L98) codified in Chapter 90.82 RCW, which is also known as Engrossed Substitute House Bill 2514 as passed by 1998 Washington State Legislature, and signed by the Governor. The Watershed Planning Act provides grants that can be applied for to complete four phases of the watershed planning process.

WATERSHED PLANNING PROCESS: In Chapter 90.82.040 RCW of the Watershed Planning Act, the watershed planning grants and eligibility criteria are defined, which outline four specific phases of the planning process. The four phases are:

1. **Phase 1 - Initial organization phase.** Planning units have one year to complete this phase, in accordance with Chapter 90.82.060 RCW.
2. **Phase 2 - Technical assessment phase**. Planning units have four years after entering into Phase Two to conduct watershed assessments and complete the watershed plan, in accordance with Chapter 90.82.070 RCW. If the planning units choose to apply for optional funds, the work can include application for supplemental watershed assessment grants to help fund detailed assessments of the following elements: (a) Instream Flows, (b) Water Quality, and/or (c) Multipurpose water storage opportunities.
3. **Phase 3 - Watershed plan development phase.** Planning units have four years after entering into Phase Two to develop and complete a watershed plan, in accordance with Chapters 90.82.060 through 90.82.100 RCW.
4. **Phase 4 - Watershed plan implementation.** If planning units choose to apply for the Phase 4 grant, they must complete an implementation plan within the first year of receiving the grant funds, in accordance with Chapter 90.82.130 RCW. Planning units can apply for up to three years of implementation grant funding, with an additional two-year extension available.

WRIA 59 WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT BOARD (Board): The proposed Board will be developed during the implementation phase, as outlined in Section 5 of the WRIA 59 Colville River Watershed Plan and in Section 3 of the WRIA 59 Colville River Watershed - Detailed Implementation Plan. The Board will provide the ongoing general oversight to the water resource management activities within WRIA 59, as outlined in the curent WRIA 59 Colville River Watershed Plan and WRIA 59 Colville River Watershed - Detailed Implementation Plan.

WRIA 59 WATERSHED MANAGEMENT PARTNERSHIP (WMP): In accordance with Chapter 39.34 RCW, the proposed WMP will be the partnership between two or more public agencies within WRIA 59 (such as, but not limited to: Cities within the watershed, Stevens County, Stevens PUD, and Stevens County Conservation District) to provide the legal mechanism to apply for and administer funding for the ongoing administration of the WMP and Board activities. The WMP is outlined in Section 5 of the WRIA 59 Colville River Watershed Plan and in Section 3 of the WRIA 59 Colville River Watershed Detailed Implementation Plan.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Colville River Watershed, Water Resource Inventory Area (WRIA) 59, depends on sufficient quantities of clean surface and groundwater to support growing communities, economic development, and to help protect the water resources, including the fish and wildlife within the watershed.

This Watershed Plan for WRIA 59 describes and documents:

1. The existing water resources situation;
2. The watershed planning process;
3. The mission of the Colville River Watershed Planning Team;
4. The results from multiple technical assessments performed during the planning period;
5. The issues, goals, objectives, and alternative solutions developed by the Planning Team;
6. The resulting obligations and recommendations to resolve the selected issues; and,
7. The approach to implement the identified solutions.

This document is the second version (Version 2.0, dated March 15, 2007) of the WRIA 59 Colville River Watershed Plan. This Watershed Plan was revised to be consistent with WRIA 59 Colville River Watershed Detailed Implementation Plan (DIP) (Golder, 2006). The DIP was unanimously approved by the Planning Team and was adopted by the Stevens County Board of Commissioners at a public meeting on April 25, 2006.

The primary approach outlined in the Watershed Plan is long-term stewardship and management of the water resources among local and state governments and the citizens within the watershed. Currently, the water resources of WRIA 59 are not being actively managed. Minimal surface water rights have been issued since 1977, and no new groundwater rights have been issued since the mid 1990s. Washington Water Law, the Washington Department of Ecology's (Ecology's) administration of Water Law, coupled with purported resource limitations in available water for appropriation and within Ecology, has severely constrained active management of the water resources throughout the watershed.

The effects of the closures enacted in Chapter 173-559 WAC for the Colville River Basin, combined with Ecology's application of various court decisions, have imposed a major closure of the basin. The decisions to effectively close the basin, together with Ecology's statewide struggle in processing an immense backlog of approximately 6,480 water right applications (D. Gray, Ecology, personal communication, 2004), appears to have had significant negative impacts to the economy within WRIA 59.

Prospective agricultural, industrial, business and property owners within the watershed have been waiting up to 18 years for new water right applications to be processed. During this time span, over 45 economic opportunities for increasing agricultural, commercial, and industrial revenues within the watershed may have been lost or placed on hold. The total number of lost economic opportunities is difficult to estimate since there is no mechanism in place to track interested parties who have not applied for a water right due to the closures. In addition, from the mid 1990s through 2006, only a limited number of changes and transfers of existing water rights were processed by Ecology. As a result of the delays or inability to get

the necessary water right permits to locate or expand their businesses within the watershed, applicants have often selected other more favorable locations elsewhere in the Pacific Northwest.

In 1977, Chapter 173-559 WAC was enacted by Ecology, closing the entire basin to new surface water rights, except for seasonal, conditional water rights along the Colville River. From researching Ecology archive files, it is evident that Ecology did not have the appropriate staff or resources to continue active management of the surface water resources in the basin, thus resulting in the subsequent 1977 closures in Chapter 173-599 WAC. During that year, Ecology also discontinued funding their long-term Northeast Regional Water Master position and closed the field office that had been located in Colville, Washington. The Water Master had provided ongoing active management of the water resources in the watershed.

Ecology produced the *Water Resources Management Program, Colville River Basin* (Ecology, 1977a). This document contains detailed information regarding water resources in the basin, including stream flows and groundwater. On page 11 of this document, it states, "Groundwater appears to be an underutilized source of water in the Colville River Basin." Even though this document was created as a Basin Management Plan, the Planning Team has concluded that critical components of the 1977 plan were never realized.

From 1977 through the early 1990s, new groundwater rights were issued for those applications that Ecology determined were not in continuity with surface water and also met required criteria for processing water rights. As a result of groundwater rights being issued, some economic growth continued, including construction of the NW Alloys Plant near Addy, which created up to 400 family-wage jobs. In 1994 the resulting effects of the Washington State Supreme Court Decision, *John Postema vs. Pollution Control Hearings Board, et al.*, restricted issuance of new groundwater permits in those areas of the State with 'closed surface waters'. Although exempt wells were not affected by this decision, Ecology stopped issuing new groundwater rights in areas where surface waters had been closed to further appropriations within WRIA 59.

In 1998, the Legislature passed the Watershed Planning Act (Chapter 90.82 RCW). The Legislature recognized that if effective water resource management was to be accomplished in Washington State, it would take the active involvement of local citizens, businesses, interest groups, local, state and federal governments, and tribes. In January 1999, under the leadership of the Stevens County Conservation District (SCCD), initiating governments within the Colville River Watershed organized the WRIA 59 Watershed Planning Team. This began the local watershed planning process as envisioned by the Legislature.

The Planning Team developed the following mission statement, guiding their five-year effort:

> ***Develop a long range sustainable Watershed Plan that locally directs management and implementation of this Plan to address current and future water needs, while working to help protect and improve the water resources within the Colville River Watershed.***

The Planning Team worked diligently to study, learn, understand, discuss, debate, and plan for the water resources of WRIA 59. As of December 31, 2006, the Planning Team contributed more than 24,600 hours of time and held more than 556 public meetings in the development of the WRIA 59 Colville River Watershed Plan, the WRIA 59 Colville River Detailed Implementation Plan and the Watershed Plan Update (Version 2.0, March 15 2007).

Attendance at monthly Planning Team meetings has involved 20 to 45 people, of which approximately two-thirds are non-government volunteers. **This process has been one of the most intense and well-**

attended public planning processes ever undertaken in Stevens County. The involvement of the general public has been significant and continuous. Therefore, the results of this process must be considered the best determination of the 'Public Interest' to date on the matter of water resources in WRIA 59.

This Watershed Plan contains a series of obligations and recommendations for the short-term and long-term management of water resources in WRIA 59. Critical recommendations of the Watershed Plan include:

1. An agreement with Ecology to cooperatively guide implementation and shared governance of the WRIA 59 Colville River Watershed Plan;

2. Setting minimum instream flows;

3. Performing a watershed-wide water rights adjudication;

4. Obtaining a Northeast Regional Watermaster;

5. Monitoring stream flows and groundwater levels; and,

6. Managing the water resources by balancing the instream and out-of-stream needs within the watershed, according to a prioritized list of beneficial uses.

The Planning Team recorded their approval of the original WRIA 59 Colville River Watershed Plan (2004) as follows: the first vote of approval was November 8, 2004, followed by a second confirmation of approval on November 15, 2004. The WRIA 59 Colville River Watershed Plan was subsequently adopted by the Stevens County Board of Commissioners on November 30, 2004. The approval and adoption of the Watershed Plan completed the first three phases (Phase 1 Organization, Phase 2 Technical Assessment and Phase 3 Watershed Plan Development) of the Watershed Planning process.

Following adoption of the Watershed Plan, the Planning Team applied for and received funding for Phase 4 Implementation in March 2005. During the first year of Phase 4, the Planning Team completed the WRIA 59 Colville River Watershed Detailed Implementation Plan (DIP) in accordance with the Watershed Planning process (Chapter 90.82 RCW). The DIP was unanimously approved by the Planning Team at two public meetings, on March 23 and March 30, 2006. Ecology approved the DIP on April 6, 2006 and the Stevens County Board of Commissioners unanimously adopted the DIP at a public meeting on April 25, 2006. The DIP guides implementation of this Watershed Plan and includes: an agreed upon process to accomplish the Watershed Plan obligations and recommendations; and, a practical schedule to implement specific projects and programs.

During the second year of Phase 4 Implementation, between March 2006 and March 2007, the Planning Team completed the development of the framework for implementing cooperative water resource management, as outlined in the Watershed Plan and DIP. The Planning Team is currently developing a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) or Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Ecology and Stevens County and WRIA 59 Watershed Management Partnership (WMP) and WRIA 59 Water Resource Management Board (Board). The agreement is essential to direct the successful ongoing implementation of this Watershed Plan.

The WRIA 59 Colville River Watershed Plan is designed to be used in conjunction with the DIP. This version of the WRIA 59 Colville River Watershed Plan (Version 2.0, dated March 15, 2007) was

completed to be consistent with the March 2006 WRIA 59 Colville River Watershed Detailed Implementation Plan and to reflect the current status of the framework for implementation. Future revisions of the Watershed Plan will be completed according to the schedule outlined within this document, to reflect the current status of implementation, to ensure consistency between the Watershed Plan and DIP, and to include new or revised strategies for water resource management in the Colville River Watershed.

SECTION 1.0 INTRODUCTION AND EXISTING CONDITIONS

The Watershed Plan for Water Resource Inventory Area (WRIA) 59, the Colville River Watershed, consists of: descriptions and documentation of the existing situation and planning process; the mission of the Colville River Watershed Planning Unit Team (Planning Team); the issues, goals, objectives, and alternative solutions developed by the Planning Team; the resulting obligations and recommendations to resolve the selected issues; the approach for implementation of the identified solutions; and, Washington State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) compliance.

Section 1 of the Watershed Plan provides an introduction to the Watershed Planning process. This section discusses the following:

- Watershed Planning in Washington State;
- Watershed Planning Process in WRIA 59;
- Public Outreach;
- Other Plans and Processes; and,
- WRIA 59 Watershed Plan's Scope, Scale, and Focus.

1.1 WATERSHED PLANNING IN WASHINGTON STATE

1.1.1 Watershed Planning Act

The purpose of the 1998 Watershed Planning Act is to "develop a thorough and cooperative method of determining what the current water resource situation is in each WRIA of the state and to provide local citizens with the maximum possible input concerning their goals and objectives for water resource management and development" (Chapter 90.82.005 Revised Code of Washington [RCW]). The Legislature stated in Chapter 90.82.010 RCW the following:

> The legislature finds that the local development of watershed plans for managing resources and for protecting existing water rights is vital to both state and local interests. The local development of these plans serves vital local interests by placing it in the hands of people: Who have the greatest knowledge of both the resources and the aspiration of those who live and work in the watershed; and who have the greatest stake in the proper long-term management of the resources. The development of such plans serves the state's vital interests by ensuring that the state's water resources are used wisely, by protecting existing water rights, by protecting instream flows for fish, and by providing for the economic well-being of the state's citizenry and communities. Therefore, the legislature believes it necessary for units of local government throughout the state to engage in the orderly development of these watershed plans.

The Legislature made state funding available for watersheds that elect to initiate this process to develop a watershed plan through three phases. *Phase 1* of this process is to organize a Watershed Planning Unit. *Phase 2* is to assess existing conditions and develop a technical assessment of water resources. *Phase 3* is to develop and adopt a Watershed Plan. *Phase 4*, if selected, is for the development of an implementation plan to carry out the recommendations and obligations outlined in the Watershed Plan.

The Legislature directed state agencies to provide technical assistance to Watershed Planning Units if requested. In response, 12 Washington State agencies signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)

identifying roles and responsibilities for coordination and collaboration under the Watershed Planning Act. This memorandum commits these agencies to work through issues in order to speak with one governmental voice. The following Washington State agencies agreed to this MOU:

1. Department of Agriculture
2. Conservation Commission
3. Department of Community, Trade, and Economic Development
4. Department of Ecology
5. Department of Fish and Wildlife
6. Department of Health
7. Department of Natural Resources
8. Department of Transportation
9. Interagency Committee for Outdoor Recreation
10. Puget Sound Water Quality Action Team
11. Salmon Recovery Office within the Governor's Office
12. State Parks and Recreation Commission

Watershed Planning involves complex water resource issues over a large area. Under Chapter 90.82.120(2) RCW, the Planning Unit is required to make an assessment of water use, such as current water availability and allocations, and future water needs. The Planning Unit is also required to develop potential strategies for managing the water resources within the WRIA. The Watershed Planning Act does restrict Planning Units from changing existing laws, altering water rights or treaty rights, or requiring any party to take an action unless that party agrees (Chapter 90.82.120[2] RCW).

In 2003, the Watershed Planning Act was amended by the Legislature, adding Phase 4, which provided direction for Watershed Plan implementation funding. Unlike the grants for Phases 1, 2, and 3, a ten-percent match is required to obtain Phase 4 funding. The match can take the form of financial contributions or in-kind goods and services directly related to coordination and oversight functions. The match can be provided by the Planning Unit or through combined commitments from government agencies.

The Watershed Planning Act amendment also addresses the following implementation activities:

- Requires the development of an implementation plan that specifies strategies and interim milestones to provide sufficient water for agriculture, municipal needs, and instream flows;
- Allows counties that constitute less than five percent of the watershed to opt out of the planning process; and,
- Allows state agency obligations to be adopted by policy, procedures or agreements.

1.1.2 Planning Focuses and Requirements

The Watershed Planning Act identifies one mandatory and three optional planning components to be addressed in each watershed plan. If grant funds are received, the water quantity element must be addressed according to Chapter 90.82.070 RCW. The water quality, instream flow, and habitat

components are optional, and additional funding is available for those Planning Units that choose to apply for grant funds to address these optional components. Additional funding is also available for the optional assessment of water storage projects as part of the water quantity component. The Watershed Planning Act provides requirements for each of these optional components that become applicable upon receipt of the respective grant funds. While the Watershed Planning Act provides Planning Units a large degree of flexibility and freedom to plan and resolve water resource issues, it does limit or establish boundaries as to what a Watershed Plan's provisions can affect. For specific information on the limits placed on a Watershed Plan's provisions, refer to Chapter 90.82.120 RCW.

1.1.3 Expectations

In addition to the purpose and findings of the Watershed Planning Act presented in Section 1.1.1 above, the Legislature deemed it worthwhile to note additional findings related to intent at the end of Chapter 90.82.040 RCW in 2001. The following passage comes from this note:

> The legislature finds that improved management of the state's water resources, clarifying the authorities, requirements, and timelines for establishing instream flows, providing timely decisions on water transfers, clarifying the authority of water conservancy boards, and enhancing the flexibility of our water management system to meet both environmental and economic goals are important steps to providing a better future for our state.

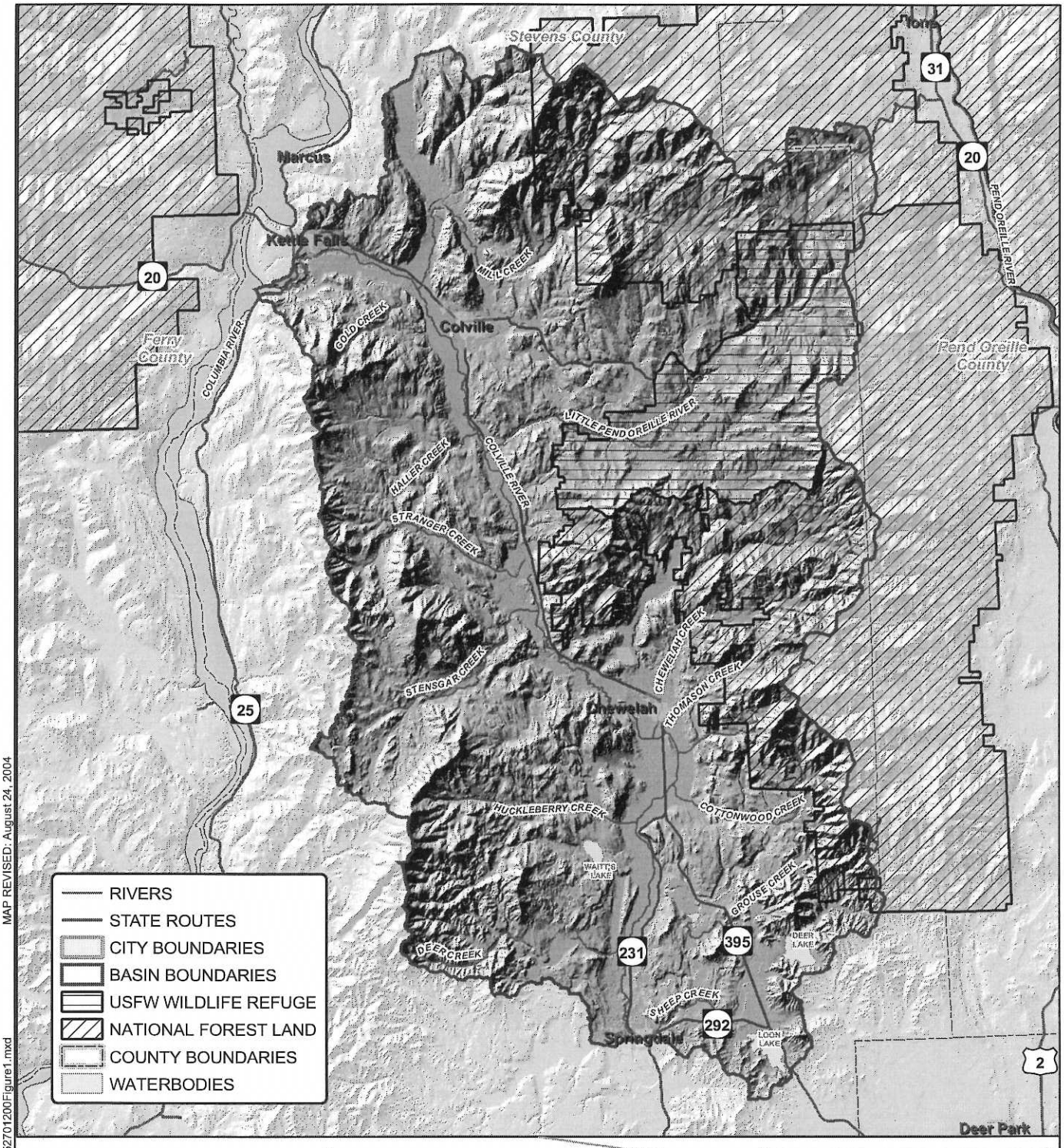
This passage further defines the expectations the Legislature has for the Watershed Planning Act, Planning Units, and the resulting watershed plans.

1.2 WATERSHED PLANNING IN WRIA 59 – THE COLVILLE RIVER WATERSHED

1.2.1 Overview of WRIA 59 Watershed

What Is WRIA 59? There are 62 designated major watersheds within Washington State, as identified and described in Chapter 173-500 WAC. These watersheds are classified as Watershed Resource Inventory Areas (WRIAs). The Colville River Watershed has been designated as the 59th major watershed and is referred to as WRIA 59.

The Colville River Watershed is a 1,007 square-mile area located mostly in Stevens County in northeastern Washington (Figure 1). It is a roughly north-south oriented basin, about 45 miles long and 23 miles wide. WRIA 59 extends from the towns of Springdale and Loon Lake at the southern end of the basin to the town of Kettle Falls at the northwestern extent of the basin. The Colville River's headwaters are Sheep Creek at the southern end of the basin, flowing generally north to the town of Chewelah and continuing north-northwest to the town of Colville. Beyond Colville, the river follows a more westerly course and empties into Franklin D. Roosevelt Lake, also known as Lake Roosevelt, approximately 2 miles southwest of the town of Kettle Falls (USGS, 2003).

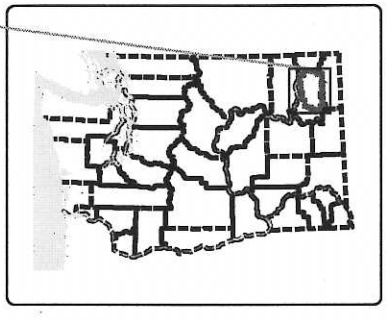


Data Sources: Rivers, national forest land and USFW wildlife refuge obtained from Golder. WRIA boundary (24K), subbasin boundaries and waterbodies from Brown and Caldwell. Hillshade from USGS National Elevation dataset (obtained August 2004). City (24K) and county (500K) boundaries from Department of Transportation. State routes from TIGER 2000.

This drawing is for informational purposes. Data were compiled from multiple sources as listed on this map. The data sources do not guarantee these data are accurate or complete. There may have been updates to the data since the publication of this map. The master file is stored at GeoEngineers, Inc. and will serve as the official record of this communication. The locations of all features are approximate.

GeoEngineers

WRIA 59 VICINITY MAP
FIGURE 1



RO: SPO PATH: 2252701200\GIS\2527012001Figure1.mxd MAP REVISED: August 24, 2004

1.2.2 History of Watershed Planning In WRIA 59

Prior to the 1970s, water resource management and planning was limited to mostly water quantity decisions on individual water right applications and adjudications of specific water bodies or segments throughout Washington State. Generally, it has taken even longer for other important aspects (e.g., water quality, instream flow, and habitat) of water resource management to gain sufficient status to warrant stand alone planning or inclusion in comprehensive watershed planning on a smaller, more refined scale.

In 1971 the Legislature directed Ecology to develop and implement a comprehensive state water resource management program through the Water Resources Act (Chapter 90.54.040 RCW). As a result of this direction, Ecology published the *Water Resources Management Program, Colville River Basin* and promulgated Chapter 173-559 Washington Administrative Code (WAC) in 1977. The *Water Resources Management Program, Colville River Basin* (Ecology, 1977a) documented the previous adjudications, closures or low flow limitations applied to the rivers, streams, and lakes of WRIA 59. The primary goal of this management program was protection and utilization of the Colville River Basin's water resources for maximum public benefit on a statewide scale, with a secondary goal to represent the desires of the residents of the basin (Ecology, 1977a).

Water resource management and planning has also occurred in WRIA 59 for preservation and improvement of water quality. The Stevens County Conservation District (SCCD) conducted a three-year project focused on water quality monitoring in the Colville River and select tributaries. The purpose of the project was to characterize the water quality conditions to facilitate ranking sub-watersheds for planning purposes (SCCD, 1993). The SCCD also completed projects that have resulted in sub-watershed management plans for water quality in Chewelah Creek (SCCD, 1994), Jumpoff Joe Creek (SCCD, 1998), and Mill Creek (SCCD, 2000). The SCCD is currently involved in other sub-watershed plans within WRIA 59.

A historical list of watershed and water quality planning, implementation, and water quality monitoring efforts completed by local, state and federal agencies for the Colville River Watershed has been captured in the WRIA 59 supplemental water quality assessment (Golder, 2004). This report is referred to in Section 1.2.3.2 and is included in Appendix I.

1.2.3 The WRIA 59 Planning Process

Local citizens and governments within the Colville River Watershed recognized the opportunity and importance of participating in a watershed scale planning effort stressing local involvement, and became actively involved in a project that spanned nearly five years (between 1999 and 2004). The Planning Team worked vigorously to research and develop strategies to help meet the needs of current and future water demands within the Colville River Watershed, while working to help protect and improve the basin's water resources, including fish and wildlife.

1.2.3.1 Watershed Planning Phase 1 – Organization

In 1998, the SCCD approached the four local governments that represent the initiating governments described in the Watershed Plan Act, Chapter 90.82.060 RCW, set in regulation (Chapter 173-559 WAC) to begin the Watershed Planning process for the Colville River Watershed. The initiating governments agreed to enter into Watershed Planning in 1999, and designated SCCD as the Lead Agency. During the summer of 1999, the initiating governments sent SCCD letters of support for the WRIA 59 Watershed Planning Phase 1 grant application.

The four initiating governments were:

1. City of Colville;
2. Stevens Public Utility District (PUD);
3. Spokane Tribe of Indians; and,
4. Stevens County.

On December 9, 1999, SCCD was formally presented with Phase 1 Organizational Grant funds from Ecology to begin the Watershed Planning in WRIA 59. SCCD served as Lead Agency for the first three and one-half years. The Organizational Phase 1 and a portion of the Technical Assessment Phase 2 were completed during the tenure of SCCD as Lead Agency. During the latter part of Phase 2, Stevens County was awarded the responsibility to serve as Lead Agency. Stevens County has served as Lead Agency during the completion of Phase 2, Phase 3 (the Watershed Plan development phase), and the first two years of Phase 4 (the implementation phase.) The WRIA 59 Planning Team hired a Project Manager/Coordinator in 1999. This position continues to provide oversight and organization for project operations.

Starting in January 2000, the initiating governments completed the following tasks: 1) developed a comprehensive list of potential Planning Team members representative of the community; 2) performed the initial selection of the Watershed Planning components; and 3) drafted operating procedures and guidelines for the new Planning Team to review, revise, and adopt. The initiating governments originally selected, and the Planning Team later confirmed, the selection of the following three watershed planning elements:

1. Water Quantity
2. Water Quality
3. Instream Flow

Water Quantity Element
Acceptance of the water quantity component was required upon receipt of Watershed Planning Act grant funding. The Planning Team selected this component in which to perform the majority of the technical assessments, since there were only limited amounts of available data on the quantities of surface and groundwater within the watershed.

Water Quality Element
The water quality component was selected in order to review existing water quality data and conditions and to compile all available information into one report as part of the planning process. The Planning Team understood a significant amount of water quality data had already been collected in the watershed through various studies and programs. A supplemental Water Quality Grant, under provisions of the Watershed Planning Grant, was applied for and received by Stevens County at the request of the Planning Team, to perform the scope of work for this element.

Instream Flow Element
The instream flow component was selected in order to: (1) review and assess the existing instream flows that had been set for the Colville River main stem and the closures on the tributaries; (2) to research the flow situations in the tributaries; and (3) to develop a recommendation for the Watershed Plan as whether to keep the current flows or to request additional instream flow studies be performed. Although supplemental grant funds were made available during the technical assessment phase of the WRIA 59

Watershed Planning Process, the Planning Team elected not to apply for the supplemental funding at that time. However, during Phase 3 of the planning process, following a thorough study of the watershed's instream flow issues, the Planning Team agreed unanimously to perform instream flow studies during the implementation phase of the project. Additional information on the scope of work, agreements and proposed schedule for this project is included in Appendix C1.

Organization of Planning Team

During January and February of 2000, the initiating governments drafted a comprehensive preliminary list of potential Planning Team members, making a concerted effort to include a broad representation of various local water resource user interest groups, in compliance with Chapter 90.82.060 RCW. Draft operating procedures and guidelines were also developed during this time for the Planning Team's future consideration, adoption, and use.

Fifty-two people attended the first Planning Team meeting held on March 23, 2000. Local citizens of the Colville River Watershed realized the importance of this local watershed planning opportunity and over 40 participants became actively involved in the five-year project.

Approximately two-thirds of the original Planning Team consisted of non-governmental local water resource user interest groups and the other one-third of the members represent local, state, tribal and federal governments. The Planning Team completed Phase 1 of the project about five months ahead of schedule and considerably under budget. Much of this group's success has been attributed to their ongoing dedication and willingness to commit their time and resources toward the successful completion of the Watershed Planning process.

The non-governmental Planning Team members included representation from the following water user interests:

- Agriculture;
- Local Associations;
- Business and Industry;
- Environmental and Conservation;
- Forestry and Natural Resources; and,
- Landowners.

The local, state, and other government agencies that were active voting participants on the Planning Team included representation from the following entities:

- Cities of Chewelah, Colville, and Kettle Falls;
- Stevens Public Utility District (PUD);
- Stevens County;
- Ecology and the other state agencies signatory to the state agency MOU; and,
- Spokane Tribe of Indians.

The U.S. Forest Service (USFS) provided representation and technical assistance at the Planning Team meetings throughout the process. Periodic technical assistance was provided to the Planning Team from

SCCD, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), and Washington State University (WSU) Cooperative Extension Office in Colville, Washington.

Scope of Work

Between March and June of 2000, the Planning Team reviewed and confirmed the Watershed Planning components originally selected by the initiating governments. The Planning Team considered the habitat component, but did not select it due to limited funding in addition to there being no endangered or threatened fish species identified within the watershed. However, the Planning Team noted that the habitat component needed to be considered during the studies of the other selected elements and during the process of developing recommendations on various habitat issues.

During the first five months of Phase 1, the Planning Team developed an initial scope of work, schedule and budget for Phases 2 and 3, and voted unanimously to move forward with grant applications for those phases. In June of 2000, the Planning Team submitted applications and received approval for grants to fund Phases 2 and 3. Additionally, the Planning Team finalized and adopted a set of operating procedures and ground rules. The Planning Team revised portions of the operating procedures periodically during the five-year project to help provide further clarity. The current version of the operating procedures (approved 06/02/5 by the Planning team) is included in Appendix A2.

As a result of establishing a strong foundation at the start of this project, such as the operating procedures, the Planning Team has stayed on task and has remained committed.

1.2.3.2 Watershed Planning Phase 2 – Technical Assessment

In Phase 2 of Watershed Planning, the Planning Team elected to place the majority of the available grant funding for technical assessment into the water quantity component, since little was known or available on groundwater and a minimal amount of information was available on surface waters within the watershed.

Furthermore, a groundwater assessment would provide a better understanding of and validate statements in the *WRIA 59 Water Resources Management Program, Colville River Basin* (Ecology, 1977a) that referred to the basin's ground waters for future growth and development. On page 11 in paragraph 3, the document states "Ground water appears to be an underutilized source of water in the Colville River Basin" and "…much of the future growth of water resource development will likely use ground water as a source." On page 12, paragraph 3, it states "To date, the Colville Basin does not have a water level decline problem and annual recharge potential far exceeds present development. Basin-wide, aquifer recharge is thought to be over 70,000 acre-feet per year." Again, on page 19, under the title 'Ground Water', four paragraphs define specifics as to the "ground water (as) a major potential source of water supply…in the future". Paragraph 2 in that same section states, "Even assuming fairly rapid growth in ground-water development, the recharge rate of the Basin as a whole should insure that adequate water will remain available."

The Planning Team concluded that it was critical to obtain as much technical information as possible on the aquifers and surface waters in order to develop a long-range sustainable water resource management plan for the Colville River Watershed.

USGS Phase One Technical Assessment

The Planning Team elected to contract with the United States Geological Survey (USGS) to perform a Phase One water resources technical assessment of the groundwater system of the Colville River Watershed. In order to contract with USGS when limited grant funds were available, the Planning Team and Lead Agency creatively funded the technical assessment. Through a joint funding agreement, USGS

utilized local field staff to assist in the collection of scientific data, thus cutting the original estimated costs by over one-third and adding to the local economy, along with helping to keep the project on course.

The USGS completed their Phase One study (USGS, 2003) in August 2003. A copy of this report is included in Appendix F.

USGS Phase Two Technical Assessment & Groundwater Model

The Planning Team contracted with USGS to perform a Phase Two study to develop a watershed-wide groundwater model to improve understanding of the aquifers in WRIA 59. The final report (USGS, 2004), and the groundwater model were completed in November 2004. A copy of this report is included in Appendix G. As part of the cooperative agreement, USGS provided training to local entities on the use and maintenance of the groundwater model so that local resource managers can continue to utilize the model as a tool in active management of the water resources. Additional funds for the USGS Phase 1 and 2 technical assessments were obtained through the assistance of two local governments, the SCCD and Stevens County.

Multi-purpose Water Storage Assessment

A supplemental multi-purpose water storage grant was obtained under the Watershed Planning Act to augment the technical assessment performed for the water quantity component for the watershed. This assessment (Brown and Caldwell, 2003) was conducted to assist in planning and developing potential future water supply solutions. A copy of this report is included in Appendix H.

Water Quality Assessment

A second supplemental grant was acquired to perform a technical assessment of the water quality in the watershed. The purpose of the study (Golder, 2004) was to compile the existing water quality information into one report to provide the Planning Team with an organized and understandable summary of issues and plans related to water quality in WRIA 59, and to develop strategies to perform monitoring and implementation of Best Management Practices (BMPs). A copy of this report is included in Appendix I.

Change in Lead Agency during Phase 2

In addition to the technical assessment work conducted in Phase 2, Stevens County replaced the SCCD as Lead Agency for the WRIA 59 Watershed Planning Project, per a unanimous decision by the Planning Team, on July 1, 2003. Stevens County continued to serve in this role through adoption of this Watershed Plan. As part of the transition, the Planning Team requested that Ms. Linda Kiefer continue to serve as the WRIA 59 Watershed Coordinator through this transition, through completion of Phase 3, and into Phase 4. Prior to the transfer of Lead Agency status, the Planning Team and Stevens County developed and signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) that outlined the roles and responsibilities of the Lead Agency, the Watershed Coordinator, and the Planning Team. This MOA, along with additional MOAs and amendments to MOAs covering the original Lead Agency work, the transitioning of Lead Agencies, and an interim MOA with Stevens County are included in Appendix A.

1.2.3.2.1 Planning Team Research

In an effort to expand their understanding of the existing situation in the WRIA 59 Colville River Watershed, the Planning Team researched a number of topics. These topics included the following and are further explained below:

- Development of the Water Resources Management Program for the Colville River Basin (Ecology 1977a);
- Water resource case law applicable to WRIA 59;
- Historical WRIA 59 water rights and claims; and,
- Historic, current and future water use estimates for WRIA 59.

The important findings of the Planning Team's research are documented in the summary titled **Planning Team's Statements of Understanding,** which is included at the end of this section. The following sections summarize the documents reviewed by the Planning Team.

Water Resources Management Program, Colville River Basin (Ecology, 1977a)

Several members of the Planning Team performed an extensive review of approximately 1,400 pages recorded during the development of the *Water Resources Management Program, Colville River Basin* (Ecology, 1977a) and the promulgation of Chapter 173-559 from the Ecology public records stored at the Washington State archives in Olympia.

As a result of the Planning Team's research of this document, the following conclusions were recorded:

- This document was thorough and comprehensive. However, it appears that essential portions of the 1977 basin management plan were not fully implemented.
- Assured updates to the 1977 Water Resources Management Program plan did not occur as outlined on page 'ix' of that plan. On page 'ix', provisions had been outlined for Ecology to "constantly monitor (the plan's) effectiveness. If current conditions in the basin change significantly after adoption, the basin management program will be updated accordingly. Even if conditions do not change significantly, a reevaluation will be conducted five years after adoption of the program." In reviewing these statements, along with critical changes that occurred within the basin over the past 25 years, the Planning Team concluded that the assured and necessary updates to the 1977 basin management plan did not occur. (See Section 1.2.3.2.1 Water Resource Case Law Applicable to WRIA 59 and Effects of Surface Water Closures and Postema Decision for more information on significant changes that occurred after the adoption of the 1977 Plan.)
- Base flows for the tributaries were developed in this document, but not established into rule. Although this Watershed Plan acknowledges that both surface water and groundwater were available for additional appropriation, from researching Ecology archive files, it is evident that Ecology did not have the appropriate staff or resources to continue active management of the surface water resources in the basin in 1977. On page 14 of the June 1977 Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), in the discussions as to whether to set and manage different base flows or to do a full closure of the basin, the draft stated "Regulation of the stream(s) would develop into an 'administrative headache', with unacceptable manpower requirements" (G. Wallace and G. Farmer, Ecology, personal communication, 1977). The end result was the subsequent 1977 closures adopted in Chapter 173-559 WAC, which resulted in year-round closures of the watershed's tributaries and seasonal closures of the Colville River.

Water Resource Case Law Applicable to WRIA 59

Members of the Planning Team reviewed a number of water resource cases to identify particular court decisions effecting WRIA 59. Various court cases, beginning in 1994, appear to have resulted in significant negative impacts on the economy in WRIA 59.

POSTEMA CASE: The 2000 Washington State Supreme Court decision, which was originally released in 1994 and finalized in 2000, was of particular interest. The Supreme Court Decision in the *John Postema vs. Pollution Control Hearings Board, et al.* (Postema) effects the management of groundwater in areas where surface waters have been closed to further appropriations. Under the Attorney General's interpretation and Ecology's application of the Postema decision, areas closed to further surface water appropriations cannot allocate new groundwater rights that may potentially affect those surface waters through hydraulic continuity.

KIM CASE: The results of the January 2003 Washington State Court of Appeals Case Number 115 Wn App 157, *Joo II Kim vs. Pollution Control Hearings Board*, may be important for further understanding in future watershed planning. The Planning Team recognizes the importance of protecting the current use of exempt wells. The Planning Team also worked to provide a 20-year projected use of commercial agricultural industry water from and covered under the Exempt Well Statute. The Planning Team has defined commercial agricultural industries as those operations that grow plants and produce crops for sale, and irrigate up to or over one-half acre of land for this use, under the 5,000 gallons per day (gpd) Exempt Well Statute.

Effects of Surface Water Closures and Postema Decision

In 1977, as part of the *Water Resources Management Program, Colville River Basin*, Chapter 173-599 WAC was enacted, which closed the basin to new surface water rights, except for seasonal and conditional rights along the mainstem of the Colville River. The effects of the surface water closures, when combined with the application of the Postema decision, have imposed a major closure of the Colville River Basin. This series of developments appear to have resulted in significant negative impacts on the economy in the Colville River Watershed since mid-1994 when the Postema decision first came to the forefront. The impacts of these decisions have added to the backlog of new water right applications waiting to be processed in WRIA 59. Ecology, which oversees the issuance of water rights throughout the state, continues to struggle with an immense backlog of approximately 6,480 water rights applications (D. Gray, Ecology, personal communication, 2004) waiting to be processed statewide.

Locally, over 45 Colville River Watershed property owners and prospective agricultural, industrial and business applicants within the watershed have been waiting, sometimes up to 18 years, for a water rights application to be processed. During this time span, over 45 economic opportunities for increasing agricultural, commercial, and industrial revenues within the watershed may have been lost or placed on hold due to the effects of the Postema decision and Chapter 173-559 WAC on the pending water right applications within the watershed. It is important to note that the number of lost economic opportunities is underestimated due to the inability to track those parties who may not have applied for a water right within the watershed over the past ten years because of the major closure of 1994. As a result, prospective agricultural, industrial and business applicants registered under the pending water right applications at Ecology have not been able to get the necessary water right permits to locate or expand their businesses within the watershed and have often selected other more favorable locations in the Pacific Northwest.

Historical Water Rights and Claims

Members of the Planning Team researched the historical water rights and claims in 2001 with the assistance of Ecology's Eastern Regional Office Water Resources Program staff. This research is documented on page 68 of the assessment on the groundwater resources of the unconsolidated deposits of WRIA 59 (USGS, 2003). In summary, the Planning Team's research of historical water rights and claims in WRIA 59 highlighted the following:

- The total number of water rights and claims on file as of December 12, 2001 was 4,243.
- The total estimated quantity of water represented by those rights and claims was 112,575 acre-feet.
- The estimated actual water use equates to only 25.5 percent of the total estimated quantity of water allocated in the water rights and claims on file with Ecology for WRIA 59, per results of comparing the 'Registered Water Rights & Claims Report' (J. Covert, Ecology, personal communication, 2001), with the Planning Team's 2002-2003 summary results from their estimated Current Water Use Reports.

Historic, Current and Future Water Use to the year 2025

In order to gain a better understanding of the quantities of actual water use in WRIA 59, the Planning Team researched the actual groundwater and surface water use in the watershed during the year 2001 and completed their reports in 2002. A summary of the current water use research is documented on pages 68 through 76 of the assessment on the groundwater resources of the unconsolidated deposits of WRIA 59 (USGS, 2003).

The 'Actual Water Use' research for WRIA 59 resulted in the following:

- Total estimated acres under irrigation in 2001 were 7,190 acres.
- Total estimated amount of water used for irrigation in 2001 was 21,570 acre-feet[1].
- Total estimated water use by Group A public water systems in 2001 was 4,667 acre-feet.
- Total estimated water use by Exempt Wells in 2001 was 1,871 acre-feet.
- Total estimated water use reported by Industry in 2001 was 239 acre-feet.
- Total estimated amount of water used for watering livestock in 2001 was 310 acre-feet.
- Total estimated return flows in 2001 from private and public septic systems were 792 acre-feet.

Total surface water and groundwater withdrawals during 2001 were estimated to be 9,340 million gallons or 28,700 acre-feet, which is equivalent to only 2 percent of total annual precipitation (USGS, 2003). Surface water supplied 65 percent of the total estimated withdrawals, while groundwater supplied 35 percent. Water use in 2001, as a percentage of the total, was approximately 75.3 percent for irrigation, 16.3 percent for public supply, 6.5 percent for private wells, and approximately 1 percent each for industrial and livestock watering use. The estimated actual total water use in 2001 equates to nearly

[1] Formula to convert acre-feet to gallons: 1 acre-foot = approximately 325,900 gallons

2 percent of the average total annual precipitation in WRIA 59 (USGS, 2003). Groundwater recharge is estimated by USGS at one and one-half inches per year, or 80,400 acre-feet per year. Total groundwater usage is estimated at 35 percent of 28,700 acre-feet per year (or about 10,045 acre-feet per year), which is only 13 percent of the estimated recharge (USGS, 2003).

During 2003 and 2004, the Planning Team completed a number of future water use calculations through 2025 and reported future water needs using the same water use categories as those assigned for the actual water use estimates for 2001. The results of the future water use estimates for WRIA 59 can be found below and on the last page of Appendix B.

In summary, the research performed to estimate future water use in WRIA 59 found the following:

- Estimated a 38.4 percent increase in water used for irrigation as of 2025, if WRIA 59 is opened and managed by instream flows.
- Estimated annual increase in municipal water use:

City of Chewelah:	1.4 percent estimated increase per year for Chewelah South, and 5.0 percent estimated increase per year for Chewelah North (golf course area)
City of Colville:	2.7 percent estimated increase per year
City of Kettle Falls:	1.2 percent estimated increase per year

- Estimated a water use increase of 1.8 percent per year for other Group A Public Water Systems and Exempt Wells.
- Estimated a 1 percent increase in water use for Industry.
- Estimated a 2.6 percent decrease in water use for livestock watering.**

Note: **The 2.6 percent decrease was based on the past five-year trend, from USDA Livestock Reports. This number may fluctuate in the upcoming years, depending on this area's livestock market.

Planning Team's Statements of Understanding[2]

The Planning Team has worked diligently for seven years to study, learn, understand, discuss, debate, and plan for managing the water resources of WRIA 59. The Planning Team has contributed more than 24,660 volunteer hours of time and held more than 556 meetings. Attendance at monthly Planning Team meetings usually involved 20 to 45 participants, of which approximately 66 percent were non-government volunteer representatives. This process has been one of the most intense and well-attended long-term planning processes undertaken in Stevens County. The involvement of the public has been significant and continuous. **Therefore, the results of this process must be considered the best determination of 'Public Interest' to date related to managing water resources in WRIA 59.**

[2] The State is not included in the Planning Team's Statements of Understanding Section, and does not necessarily agree with the statements herein.

The following statements list the general understanding reached by the Planning Team and upon which the alternative solutions that can be found in Section 3.0 of this Watershed Plan are derived.

1. A significant amount of the water used for "consumptive" uses, such as domestic exempt wells, public water systems, crop and lawn irrigation, and other uses, is not "lost" from the watershed; rather it recharges shallow aquifers and surface water. It has been estimated that at least 50 percent of the water consumed recharges groundwater (USGS, 2003). The water quantities allocated to these uses should not be considered completely "consumed," and therefore, should be considered available for other uses, such as the enhancement of water quality, fish habitat, hydropower production, water reuse and other water conservation recommendations.
2. On an annual basis, WRIA 59 has sufficient water resources for current and foreseeable future needs (USGS, 2003). On page 38, USGS noted that 'Actual total water use for 2001 is **only 2 percent** of total precipitation. In 2001, only 12 percent of the total estimated surface and groundwater outflow from the watershed was used for human and related purposes as reported in Table 8 on page 33, and Table 10 on page 38 of the assessment on the groundwater resources of the unconsolidated deposits of WRIA 59 (USGS, 2003). This amount is reduced in half to 6 percent, when the 50 percent recharge from human activities and livestock is applied. The need and challenge is to manage and distribute these water resources throughout the year when needed, for the maximum net public benefit, without over-utilizing the resource.
3. The estimated actual current annual irrigation water usage in WRIA 59 is approximately 18.5 percent of the total quantity recorded in the existing water rights and claims on file with Ecology (USGS, 2003).
4. Existing water usage in WRIA 59 is approximately 65 percent surface water and 35 percent groundwater (USGS, 2003). Following review of the assessment on the groundwater resources of the unconsolidated deposits of WRIA 59 (USGS, 2003), the Planning Team estimates new water allocations need to be higher in groundwater usage than surface water. For example, the Planning Team estimates that allocating approximately 80 percent groundwater and 20 percent surface water or less, especially during low-flow periods, could help protect the limited surface waters within the watershed.

   Because of the continuity issues between surface and groundwater, the WRIA 59 Planning Team should use the WRIA 59 Groundwater Model developed by the USGS as one of many tools to further study the water resources.
5. Protection of the customs, culture, and economic stability of the citizens of WRIA 59 and the protection and use of their environment are inseparably tied to their ability to be involved in determining any regulation of their rights to use and enjoy their unique water resources.

1.2.3.3 Phase 3 – Development of the WRIA 59 Watershed Plan

The original 2004 WRIA 59 Watershed Plan was developed through the completion of four tasks: (1) Review of the Watershed Information; (2) Issue and Solution Development; (3) Watershed Plan Preparation; and, (4) Watershed Plan Approval.

The first task, information review, included compiling, organizing, and reviewing the relevant information for WRIA 59.

The second task, issue and solution development, included identifying and characterizing the issues, considering and naming the goal(s) and objectives for each issue, determining and evaluating alternative solutions to attain applicable goals and objectives, and making recommendations or attaining obligation

agreements with government agencies. The work performed for this task linked together the information from Phases 1 and 2, completing a comprehensive understanding of the issues facing the Colville River Watershed. Identification of the watershed issues allowed the Planning Team to reach consensus on the goals and objectives that helped define potential solutions. The recommendations and obligations presented in this Watershed Plan have been established to achieve the locally based goal(s) and objectives for each specific issue selected by the Planning Team.

The third task, Watershed Plan preparation, included designing an implementation program to bridge the period of time between adoption of the Watershed Plan and receipt of implementation funding and preparing the WRIA 59 Colville River - Detailed Implementation Plan (DIP).

The fourth task, the Watershed Plan approval process used for the adoption of the original 2004 WRIA 59 Watershed Plan, is described in detail in the following section.

1.2.4 Watershed Plan Approval and Obligations

1.2.4.1 Watershed Plan Approval Process

The fourth and final task of Phase 3 was approval of the Watershed Plan, which included public review and comment on the Draft Watershed Plan, development of comment responses, revision of the Watershed Plan to address comments according to accepted responses, and attainment of the Planning Team's approval to submit the Watershed Plan to the Stevens County Legislative Authorities. In accordance with Chapter 90.82.130(1)(a) RCW, the original 2004 Watershed Plan was approved by the Planning Team in early November 2004 and was unanimously adopted by the Stevens County Board of County Commissioners on November 30, 2004.

1.2.4.2 Watershed Plan Update Approval Process

Approval of Watershed Plan updates will follow the same process as described above for the original 2004 Watershed Plan. Watershed Plan updates will be approved by the Planning Team or WRIA 59 Water Resource Management Board (Board), when established, at two public meetings. The approved Watershed Plan update will then be provided to the Stevens County Board of County Commissioners. The Stevens County Board of County Commissioners will then present the Watershed Plan update to the public for review and comment at two public hearings. Following the public hearings, the Stevens County Board of County Commissioners may adopt the Watershed Plan Update, or return it to the Planning Team or Board (when established) for revision.

The WRIA 59 DIP will be reviewed on an annual basis to allow the status of each action to be tracked annually. When the WRIA 59 Watershed Plan is scheduled for update, the Watershed Plan will be revised to be consistent with the DIP.

1.2.4.3 Watershed Plan Obligations

As a result of Ecology's membership on the Planning Team and its designation as the lead for the other signatories of the state agencies MOU, approval of the Watershed Plan by Ecology constituted agreement to the obligations pertaining to Ecology and the other state agencies documented in this Watershed Plan.

There is no economic impact of the WRIA 59 Watershed Plan. All costs for the proposed obligations and recommendations of this Watershed Plan will be analyzed during the implementation phase, as each project is considered.

1.2.5 Related Planning Efforts

Given that watershed boundaries do not follow political boundaries, watershed-based planning may be a component of, or be affected by, water-related plan or project activities in adjacent WRIAs or watersheds of different scale. While the Watershed Planning Act would seem to encompass all other water resource-related plans and processes, WRIA 59 Watershed Planning occurred concurrently with other water resource related planning efforts within the watershed. It is the intent of the Planning Team that this Watershed Plan serve the citizens of WRIA 59 first, and complement other water resource-related planning efforts in adjacent WRIAs, from different sponsorship, and basins of different scale secondarily. Other water resource-based projects include federal, state, and local government lead processes that may require integration with this Watershed Plan in the future. A brief summary of other water resource planning projects in WRIA 59 is presented below. More details can be found in Appendix H of the WRIA 59 Colville River Detailed Implementation Plan (Golder, 2006).

Sub-Basin Planning is a federal process with a much larger scale than Watershed Planning. The first phase of Sub-Basin Planning was conducted for the Northwest Power and Conservation Council and funded by the Bonneville Power Administration (GEI Consultants, Inc., 2004). This planning effort is similar in its inclusion of water quantity and quality characteristics, but differs in its focus on habitat (GEI Consultants, Inc., 2004).

A state initiative closely related to Watershed Planning is the Salmon Recovery Act (Chapter 77.85 RCW), which requires careful coordination and collaboration between the two processes for basins with endangered or threatened fish species. Integration of this Watershed Plan with the Salmon Recovery Act is not required at this time because salmonid recovery under this act has not been initiated in WRIA 59.

A process closely tied to the water quality component of Watershed Planning is the method required to determine Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDL) on water bodies throughout Washington State. A description of the WRIA 59 TMDL efforts is included as Section 1.6 of Appendix H of the WRIA 59 Detailed Implementation Plan (Golder, 2006). There are three TMDL processes currently underway in WRIA 59: The Colville River Watershed fecal coliform bacteria TMDL (Ecology, 2003b); the Colville River dissolved oxygen TMDL (Ecology, 2003a); and, temperature, fecal coliform, pH and dissolved oxygen TMDLs for Colville National Forest Lands (Ecology, 2005a and Ecology, 2005b).

At the local government level, a number of other processes, such as the Growth Management Act (GMA), Shorelines Management Act (SMA), Forest Practices Act (FPA), and the Salmon Recovery Act (SRA), will need understanding and coordination, as applicable, with Watershed Planning in the future. To the extent that Watershed Planning (under Chapter 90.82 RCW) addresses these potential cross-boundary situations, water management personnel must give strict attention through implementation of this Watershed Plan and beyond.

1.3 PUBLIC OUTREACH

From the beginning of the WRIA 59 Planning Project in January 2000 through the end in November 2004 when the original Watershed Plan was approved and adopted, the Planning Team made every attempt to ensure that the public was informed of and invited to all of the Planning Team meetings. The Planning Team consistently provided news releases and local radio announcements prior to each monthly Planning Team meeting.

Public comment periods were provided at each of these meetings and at the various committee meetings to ensure visitors the opportunity to share their comments and concerns on local water resource issues.

Developing several options within the operating procedures to allow new members to join the Planning Team at any time throughout the life of the project is an example of the Planning Team's efforts to welcome public participation. In addition, numerous members of the Planning Team and the WRIA 59 Watershed Coordinator gave presentations to various local, regional and state associations, along with hosting booths at fairs and workshops, in order to inform the public about the Colville River Watershed Planning Project. From December 2004 up through the second year of Phase 4 Implementation (March 2007), the Planning Team has continued to provide similar ongoing public outreach efforts to the citizens of WRIA 59.

1.4 WATERSHED PLAN SCOPE, SCALE, AND FOCUS

1.4.1 Scope

The scope of the Watershed Plan was originally outlined in the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) (Appendix A) between the initiating governments to include water quantity, water quality, and instream flow. However, this scope was amended and accepted by the Planning Team, and resulted in receiving grant funds for only the water quantity and quality components. As the Planning Team and committees have worked through the development of solutions to attain their goals and objectives for each issue, the importance of instream flows was more thoroughly understood. As a result, this Watershed Plan contains a number of recommendations and obligations related to instream flows to address water quantity issues, although supplemental funding was not sought after or used to perform an assessment during the first three phases of the Watershed Planning process.

The Planning Team contracted USGS to perform two assessments of the Colville River Watershed. The work included: 1) an assessment of the water quantity (USGS, 2003); and, 2) development of a watershed-scale, steady-state groundwater model (USGS, 2004). In addition, the Planning Team applied for and received funding under the Watershed Planning Act for supplemental technical assessments for water quality and storage. The resulting technical assessment reports provide much more detail than is presented in this Watershed Plan. These assessments are discussed below, and a copy of the reports may be reviewed, along with the administrative record of this project, in the Stevens County Land Services Department, in Colville, Washington.

1.4.1.1 Water Quantity Assessments

USGS Phase One Report - WRIA 59 Technical Assessment

The USGS performed a technical assessment of the water resources in WRIA 59 (USGS, 2003), that provided the Planning Team an assessment from which solutions were developed to attain goals and objectives related to the issues selected. The USGS study (noted in Appendix F) provided the following:

- Preliminary determinations of how the shallow and deep parts of the groundwater system interact with each other and with the surface water system;
- Descriptions of water quantity characteristics, including water-use estimates and an estimated water budget; and,
- An assessment of further data needs.

USGS Phase Two Report and Groundwater Model for WRIA 59

The Planning Team contracted with USGS to develop a calibrated 'steady-state' groundwater model of the watershed, and subsequent report (USGS, 2004). A copy of the report is noted in Appendix G. The model results provided further understanding about the interaction of the shallow and deep aquifers with the surface water system. Since the development of the groundwater model was taking place concurrently with the Planning Team's development of the original Watershed Plan, preliminary findings of the WRIA 59 groundwater model report were provided by USGS to the Planning Team to help validate pertinent recommendations and conclusions in this Watershed Plan. This model should be used in the future as one of many tools for water resource management.

1.4.1.2 Supplemental Water Quality Assessment

The primary purpose of selecting the water quality component was to provide guidance and consistency for long-term monitoring of surface and groundwater quality in WRIA 59. The purpose of the water quality assessment (Golder, 2004.) was to:

- Compile, list and assess all available water quality data for the watershed;
- Identify and assess water quality problems in the watershed;
- Research and identify solutions to these problems;
- Develop recommendations for implementation strategies to improve water quality conditions, where possible;
- Develop a monitoring plan based on strategies for improving water quality; and,
- Provide a water quality assessment report to be included as part of Phase 2 Watershed Planning in WRIA 59.

The findings of the water quality assessment report provided the basis for the Planning Team to better understand the water quality issues in WRIA 59 in order to develop goals, objectives, and solutions, and in turn, to recommend or seek agreements to obligate government agencies to implement. A copy of the report is noted in Appendix I.

1.4.1.3 Supplemental Water Storage Assessment

The supplemental water storage assessment (Brown & Caldwell, 2003) was conducted with the purpose of determining the feasibility of storing water during periods of the year with excess flow for use during the low flow periods of the year. The water storage assessment includes:

1. A general review of past storage proposals and projects;
2. Identification of possible storage methods;
3. Identification of potential storage areas;
4. Development of water storage alternatives;
5. Analysis of selected water storage alternatives; and,
6. Recommendations for water storage projects and programs.

The findings of this assessment provided a basis for the Planning Team to better understand the complexity of storing water in regard to physical, environmental, and cost factors. This assessment (noted in Appendix H) also provided the Planning Team an understanding of the importance of their goals

and objectives in developing feasible projects in an attempt to solve or alleviate issues related to water quantity. For further explanation of the recommended goal, along with the specific recommended objectives and alternative actions for water storage, see Goal #4 in Table 2. The Planning Team recommends that further water storage studies be undertaken as this study was not comprehensive.

1.4.2 Scale

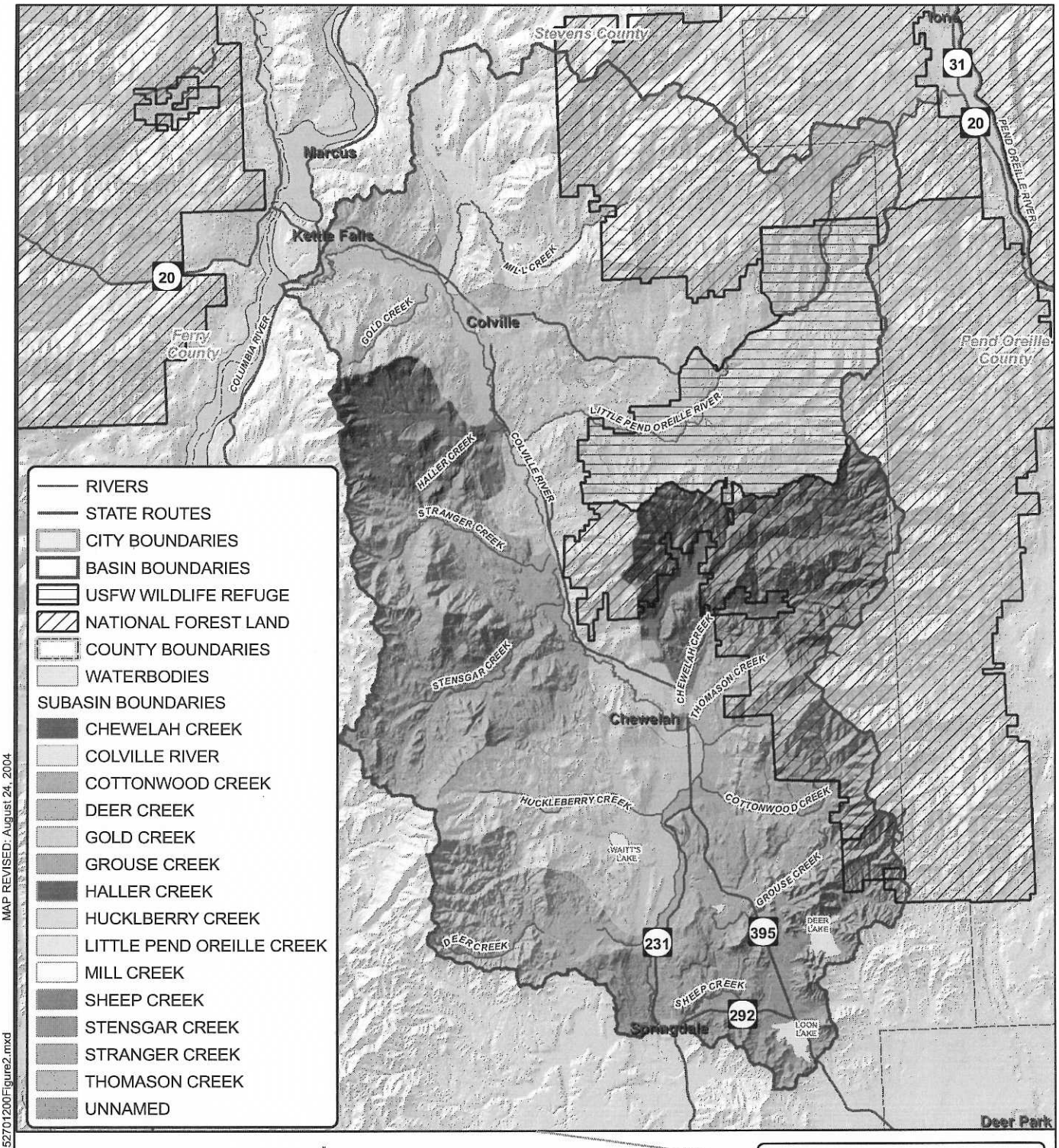
The Colville River Watershed is presented in Figure 1. Sub-basins are the drainage area of significant tributaries to the Colville River and are delineated in Figure 2. Sub-basins in the Colville River Watershed are as follows:

- Gold Creek,
- Haller Creek,
- Stranger Creek,
- Stensgar Creek,
- Huckleberry Creek,
- Deer Creek,
- Sheep Creek,
- Grouse Creek,
- Cottonwood Creek,
- Sherwood Creek,
- Thomason Creek,
- Chewelah Creek,
- Addy Creek,
- Little Pend Oreille River, and
- Mill Creek.

The Planning Team elected to address watershed-wide issues within this Watershed Plan, rather than to identify priority sub-basins. Sub-basin specifics or action plans may be included in future versions of this Watershed Plan.

1.4.3 Focus

The Planning Team focused on a limited number of key issues in order to address them in detail. This Watershed Plan is focused on improving the ability of agencies and others responsible for implementation to consider specific recommended actions and carry out their intent. Although many issues were raised in the Planning Team, Committees, and Public Meetings, only those agreed to be the most urgent and important are discussed in detail in this Watershed Plan. However, those issues, recommendations or possible actions not included in this version of the Colville River Watershed Plan have been recorded and can be found in Appendix C2.



Data Sources: Rivers, national forest land and USFW wildlife refuge obtained from Golder. WRIA boundary (24K), subbasin boundaries and waterbodies from Brown and Caldwell.
Hillshade from USGS National Elevation dataset (obtained August 2004). City (24K) and county (500K) boundaries from Department of Transportation. State routes from TIGER 2000.

This drawing is for informational purposes. Data were compiled from multiple sources as listed on this map. The data sources do not guarantee these data are accurate or complete. There may have been updates to the data since the publication of this map. The master file is stored at GeoEngineers, Inc. and will serve as the official record of this communication. The locations of all features are approximate.

GeoEngineers

WRIA 59 SUBBASIN MAP
FIGURE 2

MAP REVISED: August 24, 2004
PATH: 2\2527012\00\GIS\2527012\00Figure2.mxd
RO: SPO

File No. 2527-012-00
November 15, 2004

SECTION 2.0 MISSION STATEMENT

The original WRIA 59 Watershed Planning Team developed the following mission statement:

> **"Develop a long range sustainable Watershed Plan that locally directs management and implementation of this Watershed Plan to address current and future water needs, while working to help protect and improve the water resources within the Colville River Watershed."**

This mission statement continues to be the guiding principal for the ongoing WRIA 59 Phase 4 Implementation process.

SECTION 3.0 ISSUES, GOALS, OBJECTIVES, AND ALTERNATIVE SOLUTIONS

This section of the Watershed Plan identifies the WRIA 59 water resource issues and summarizes the background and identification of alternative solutions developed by the Planning Team from their goals and objectives for each issue. An issue defines a water resources problem or challenge that needs to be addressed. In this Watershed Plan, issues are defined under the categories of:

- Planning;
- Water Quantity;
- Water Quality; and,
- Habitat.

Original Goals, Objectives and Solutions

The goals and objectives specified for each issue define how the Planning Team or Board (when established) intends to resolve the issue identified. When reviewing the alternative solutions identified for each planning component, the issue, goal, and objectives need to be revisited to attain a complete understanding of the role of the proposed solution. For this reason, updates to the goals, objectives and alternate solutions in Section 3 (including Tables 1 through 4) have not been edited from the original 2004 WRIA 59 Watershed Plan.

Updated Recommendations and Obligations

The Recommendation and obligations that originate from the goals, objectives and alternate solutions in Section 3 have been updated to reflect current status and to be consistent with the DIP (Golder, 2006). Appendix D contains the records of the mission, issues, goals, objectives, and alternative solutions developed for the original 2004 WRIA 59 Watershed Plan, including the comments submitted at various points throughout the process.

3.1 PLANNING

3.1.1 Issue

The primary issue identified during the development of the original Watershed Plan (GeoEngineers, 2004) was that a comprehensive plan to manage the water resources of the Colville River Watershed did not exist.

3.1.1.1 Background

Although several planning attempts had been made to address specific aspects of water resources in WRIA 59, a process had not been initiated that would review the entire watershed to resolve water resource issues comprehensively. The WRIA 59 Colville River Watershed Plan (GeoEngineers, 2004) was the result of the first planning attempt to manage the Colville River Watershed water resources with an understanding of its complexities, and to institute a process to cooperatively manage the water resources of the watershed by state and local governments.

3.1.2 Goals and Objectives

Four goals were identified to address this issue:

1. Develop and implement the scope of work to complete a locally developed Colville River Watershed Plan.
2. Develop provisions for updating the WRIA 59 Watershed Plan on a regular basis.
3. Develop organizational provisions for moving the WRIA 59 Watershed Planning project into Phase 4.
4. Develop framework and provisions for moving the WRIA 59 Watershed Plan into Phase 4 and in the future.

Each goal has a number of objectives that further define the actions needed to resolve the issue. Table 1 presents the objectives developed for each of the four goals identified.

Note: The planning goals and objectives in Table 1 are taken from the original 2004 WRIA 59 Watershed Plan.

3.1.3 Alternative Solutions

The WRIA 59 Administrative Committee developed the alternative solutions presented in Table 1. These solutions evolved through the process of selecting the issue related to having a comprehensive water resource management plan and developing goals and objectives. The alternative solutions were then presented to those entities that would be responsible for implementation. Agreement to some of these recommendations and obligations occurred during the approval and adoption of this Watershed Plan, and will continue to occur throughout the ongoing implementation of this Watershed Plan.

Note: The alternative solutions in Table 1 are taken from the original 2004 WRIA 59 Watershed Plan. The updated planning obligations and recommendations (that are derived from the alternative solutions) are included in Tables 5 and 6.

TABLE 1: PLANNING GOALS, OBJECTIVES AND ALTERNATIVE SOLUTIONS

ISSUE #1: There is no comprehensive plan to manage the Colville River Watershed water resources.		
Goals	**Objectives**	**Alternative Solutions**
1 Develop and implement scope of work to complete a locally developed Colville River Watershed Plan.	a. To complete the WRIA 59 Colville River Watershed Plan by November 30, 2004	i. The alternative actions for this goal and objective are outlined in the WRIA 59 Phases Two and Three grant scope of work tasks and sub-tasks, which was approved by the Team on 10/05/2000 for Grant #G0000105.
	b. To include results from the WRIA 59 Phase Two Technical Assessments in the Watershed Plan providing updated scientific evidence to help guide the local management of the WRIA 59 water resources.	i. The WRIA 59 Watershed Planning Technical Assessments include: USGS Water-Resources Technical Report and USGS WRIA 59 Ground Water Model, WRIA 59 Water Storage Assessment, and Water Quality Assessment Reports.
2 Develop provisions for updating the WRIA 59 Watershed Plan on a regular basis.	a. To develop and approve provisions for updating the WRIA 59 Colville River Watershed Plan on a regular basis.	i. Recommend the first review/update of this Plan be scheduled within 18 months of adoption to provide local opportunity to work out any deficiencies that get identified. In addition, the Stevens County Legislative Authorities can request an unscheduled update of the WRIA 59 Watershed Plan, due to significant events that affect the use and/or availability of the water resources (e.g., major changes in water law that affect the Plan.).
		ii. Recommend Stevens County establish a schedule for regular updates of this Plan not to exceed the GMA planning update schedule that is outlined in Chapter 36.70A.130 RCW. The Planning Team acknowledges that the Stevens County Legislative Authorities may want the WRIA 59 Watershed Plan updates to coincide with the GMA update schedule in order to procure state funding and other efficiency benefits.
		iii. Recommend Stevens County work to ensure that the land use objectives in the County's Comprehensive Plan operated in tandem with the WRIA 59 Watershed Plan information/recommendations.
3 Develop organizational provisions for moving the WRIA 59 Watershed Planning project into Phase Four.	a. To provide steps necessary for application of the Phase Four implementation grant from the Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology).	i. Recommend Planning Team's approval to move forward in preparing an application for the Phase Four implementation grant by or before December 2004, so that the application can be submitted to Ecology immediately after the Plan is adopted by the Stevens County Legislative Authorities.
		ii. Recommend the Watershed Coordinator, together with the Planning Team's oversight, draft the Phase Four grant application by or before December 2004 to have the application ready for the Planning Team's review and approval, and then submitted to the Stevens County Legislative Authorities as soon as the County's Legislative Authorities have approved and adopted the Watershed Plan per Chapter 90.82.130 RCW.
		iii. Recommend Stevens County, as Lead Agency, submit the Phase Four Implementation Grant on behalf of the Implementation Team, upon adoption of this Plan by the Stevens County Legislative Authorities per the requirements of Chapter 90.82.040(2)(e) RCW.
	b. To provide overall guidance for the administration and facilitation of the Phase Four grant, in accordance to this Plan.	i. Recommend Stevens County continues as Lead Agency and reserve a portion of the Implementation Grant to fund the administration of implementation as needed. The costs to administrate the Phase Four implementation grant would be covered with Phase Four implementation grant funds as it was for Phases One through Three. As far as future costs for long-term funding of local watershed planning implementation, the Planning Team and Stevens County will research options available.
		ii. Recommend Stevens County, together with the Implementation Team, outline a proposed long-range financial support proposal during Phase Four - Implementation, for local water resource management within Stevens County Government, to ensure the ongoing implementation and updates of the Watershed Plan and Implementation Plan, and long-range stewardship of the watershed's water resources.
		iii. Recommend Stevens County, as Lead Agency, oversee the administration of the Implementation Grant, which would include a project manager to provide ongoing oversight, facilitation, and coordination of the grant project along with support staff as necessary.
		iv. Recommend a project manager provide oversight of the grant funds to ensure Phase Four implementation is completed on time and within grant funding.
	c. To provide overall guidance for setting up the Phase Four Implementation Team to carry out the goals of the implementation grant in accordance with this Plan.	i. Recommend at the start of and throughout Phase Four that the Stevens County WRIA 59 Project Manager, under the direction of the Stevens County Legislative Authorities, set up and work to maintain a Planning Team that is representative of the community with volunteer representation from each of the interest groups established in Phase One to participate on the Implementation Team for the potential 5-year Phase Four project. Any member of the WRIA 59 Watershed Planning Team would be welcomed to serve on the Implementation Team, to help carry forward the knowledge and experiences learned during the first three phases of watershed planning.
		ii. Recommend the Implementation Team replace the Planning Team at the start of Phase Four to guide the work and provide general oversight of the Grant in accordance with the recommendations of this Plan.
		iii. Recommend the Implementation Team adopt Operating Procedures to guide the Implementation Team during Phase Four.
		iv. Within one year of accepting Phase Four grant funding, recommend the Implementation Team to complete a detailed Implementation Plan. Submittal of a detailed Implementation Plan to Ecology is a condition of receiving grants for the second and all subsequent years of the Phase Four grant (Chapter 90.82.043(1) RCW).
		v. Recommend Stevens County, as Lead Agency, and the Implementation Team establish a MOA to guide the administration of Phase Four Implementation Grant and scope of work.
		vi. Recommend the Implementation Team provide direct oversight of the allocation of grant funds for both the implementation of the grant and prioritized projects outlined in this Plan. The Implementation Team also should provide direct oversight of the scope of work for Phase Four.
4 Develop framework and provisions for moving the WRIA 59 Watershed Plan and its implementation into Phase Four and into the future.	a. To establish a framework under Chapter 90.82 RCW to provide ongoing local management of water resources with state agencies assisting in accordance with this Plan, and in coordination with other ongoing programs with other agencies. The timing of implementing Goal #4 Framework Objectives and Actions would be dependent on when this Plan is adopted, and when the Phase Four Implementation Grant was applied for, received, and implementation planning initiated.	i. Stevens County and Ecology, with the assistance of the Implementation Team, are obligated to enter into a process to negotiate a MOA to be signed by Ecology and Stevens County as the "Second Order of Business" of implementation, Phase Four immediately following the completion of the Framework for Implementation outlined in Section 5.2.2 of this Plan. This cooperative agreement shall set in place the 'framework' for implementation of the WRIA 59 Watershed Plan. This MOA is absolutely critical for establishing an essential collaborative working relationship between Stevens County and Ecology, and to establish an agreed upon process and procedures for managing the WRIA 59 water resources during implementation and beyond.
		ii. Stevens County is obligated to establish a department within its county government and/or to restructure to provide ongoing project oversight to the implementation and updates of the WRIA 59 Watershed Plan.
		iii. Recommend Stevens County establishes a viable means for supporting the ongoing local management of the water resources in accordance with this Plan.
		iv. Obligate Stevens County to incorporate all applicable information from the Watershed Plan into other local planning/land use documents to preserve the success of the Watershed Plan, and to use the Plan information as a preference in land use elements related to the water resources in the Stevens County Comprehensive Plan.

3.2 WATER QUANTITY

3.2.1 Issue

The water quantity issue identified for WRIA 59 was that its water resources were not being actively managed.

3.2.1.1 Background

In August 1977, Ecology concluded an investigation of the water resources of the Colville River Watershed and development of policies based on their findings. This investigation was conducted under the direction of the Water Resources Act of 1971. Chapter 173-559 WAC was filed as a result of this effort in June 1977 (Ecology, 1977b). Enactment of this regulation closed the main stem of the Colville River from July 16 to September 30 and its tributaries on a year-round basis to new allocations of surface water resources, except for single, in-house domestic supply, stock watering, and reservoir storage from November 1 through May 31 (Chapter 173.559.050 (1) WAC). This regulation also closed the natural lakes to further consumptive appropriations (Ecology, 1977b). At the time, Ecology's Water Resources Management Program suggested groundwater development for future demands, but recent court cases have significantly restricted these possibilities because of the hydraulic continuity of the source aquifer with nearby surface waters and potential effects on base flows (Ecology, 1977b). Figure 5 displays the known wells grouped by yield from the groundwater rights in WRIA 59. As a result of promulgation of Chapter 173-559 WAC, few water resource appropriations have been allocated over the past 27 years. Local government has become increasingly frustrated with the realization that the limited options currently available under this program for appropriating water are cost prohibitive and time consuming. Until the recent institution of the Stevens County Water Conservancy Board (SCWCB), water right changes and transfers had been at a virtual standstill. These experiences have led the local citizens and local government to conclude that the water resources of WRIA 59 were not being actively managed but have been regulated through the existing program and affected by decisions in the courts in such a way to result in gridlock.

3.2.2 Goals and Objectives

Five goals were identified to address this issue:

1. Establish framework for active management of WRIA 59 water resources.
2. Develop strategies to increase water supplies in WRIA 59.
3. Make locally directed and timely water rights decisions. [3]
4. Develop multiple water storage projects in WRIA 59.
5. Develop water conservation strategies.

Each goal has a number of objectives that further define the actions needed to resolve the issue. Table 2 presents the objectives developed for each of the five goals identified.

Note: The water quantity goals and objectives in Table 2 are taken from the original 2004 WRIA 59 Watershed Plan.

[3] The State does not support Goal #3 since the goal requires changes in existing statute and regulation.

3.2.3 Alternative Solutions

The WRIA 59 Water Quantity Committee developed an extensive set of alternative solutions. These proposed solutions evolved throughout the process of defining the issue related to water quantity and developing goals and objectives. The alternative solutions were presented to those entities asked to be responsible for implementation. The revised set of alternative solutions were then presented to and approved by the Planning Team (Table 2.) Agreement to some of these obligations and recommendations occurred during the approval and adoption of this Watershed Plan, and will continue to occur throughout the ongoing implementation of this Watershed Plan.

Note: The alternative solutions in Table 2 are taken from the original 2004 WRIA 59 Watershed Plan. The updated water quantity obligations and recommendations (that are derived from the alternative solutions) are included in Tables 7 and 10.

TABLE 2. WATER QUANTITY GOALS, OBJECTIVES AND ALTERNATIVE SOLUTIONS

Issue: WRIA 59 water (quantity) resources are not being actively managed.

Goal	Objective	Alternative Solutions
1 Establish framework for management of WRIA 59 water resources for the maximum net benefits of the people as intended by the Planning Team's Mission Statement.	a. Assess minimum instream flows on the tributaries and Colville River in WRIA 59 for negotiations and rule revision and subsequent management of those water resources by balancing the instream and out of stream needs, as stated in this Plan, in accordance with current Washington Water Law.	i. Obligate Ecology and Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) provide technical assistance to the WRIA 59 Watershed Plan Implementation Team (Implementation Team) to assess minimum instream flows* in WRIA 59 on the Colville River and its tributaries in the collaborative manner described in Chapter 90.82 RCW, see Appendix A, WRIA 59 Instream Flow Roadmap. Ecology and WDFW will work together and provide technical assistance to the Implementation Team during the preparation of a scope of work for instream flow studies, including fieldwork, report review and flow negotiations. Ecology is obligated to provide approximately 0.25 of a Full Time Equivalent (FTE) staff person to accomplish this action. WDFW will provide the following specifics for the proposed instream flow obligations as detailed in the Draft WRIA 59 Instream Flow Roadmap dated August 10, 2004. Appendix A includes Attachments A and B to provide additional details on the proposed scope of work, schedule, and the following: (A) A Watershed Stewardship Team Biologist Not To Exceed (NTE) 0.25 FTE from January 2005 to December 2006 for technical assistance, field data collection, and negotiations; (B) A Fish Biologist NTE 80 hrs from January 2005 to December 2006; and (C) Water Team Biologist(s) NTE 120 hrs from January 2005 to December 2006. (D) Proposed start dates of January 2005, or as soon as possible thereafter. *See Section 4.2.1.1 Instream Flows and Closures for more information.
		ii. Obligate Ecology to proceed with rulemaking in Spring 2007 (or as soon as possible thereafter) following the final negotiated minimum instream flow* amounts on those water bodies where mutually agreed upon minimum instream flows are reached between the state agencies, Stevens County, and the Implementation Team, subject to available funding and/or resources. Obligate Ecology to proceed with rulemaking for any final negotiated instream flows on those water bodies where mutually agreed upon minimum instream flows are reached between the state agencies, Stevens County and the Implementation Team, subject to available funding and resources. Note: The minimum instream flows should not be approved and adopted until the agreed upon Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) outlined in Section 5 is signed by Ecology and Stevens County. *See Section 4.2.1.1 Instream Flows and Closures for more information.
		iii. Obligate Ecology to process water rights according to the current and appropriate Washington Water Laws, Regulations, etc.*. If this Plan is approved per Chapter 90.82.130 RCW, Ecology will be obligated per Chapter 90.82.130(4) RCW to "…use the plan as the framework for making future water resource decisions for the planned watershed."
		iv. Obligate Ecology to support Legislative request to provide a Northeast Regional water master, to serve the northeastern Washington Counties, including Stevens, Pend Oreille, Ferry and possibly Lincoln Counties, as a budgetary add item from the Legislature. Obligate Ecology to accept written input from local government during the Water Master's performance evaluation period, through the Water Master's immediate supervisor.
		v. Recommend the duties of the Water Master include, but not be limited to the following: · Permit Writer functions, to make water right decisions, including short-term permits, in accordance current Washington Water Laws, Regulations, etc.*, and with adopted Watershed Plan. For any state water rights on federal lands, the water master would help oversee the management of those water rights. However, all Federal Special-Use Permits, which can include water use, are managed specifically by USFS regional staff; · To assist in outreach and other aspects of the proposed WRIA 59 Adjudication process. · Enforce instream flows; · Take periodic flow measurements in streams and measure static water levels in selected wells as recommended in the USGS Report; · Pursue voluntary relinquishments starting with letters and news releases and in coordination with a future Local Water Resource Group; · Be available to local residents to provide water rights/water resources assistance, answer questions, and provide educational outreach materials via brochures, presentations (such as at WSU Extension Office in Colville), and attendance of local meetings about water resource topics or issues; · Attend pertinent water resource meetings when requested by cities, Stevens County Commissioners, Stevens County Planning Commission, SCCD, PUD, CTED, Tri-County Health, SCWCB, etc. · Recommend Ecology to strongly consider supporting an office in Stevens County for the Water Master, subject to available resources and budget constraints. · Recommend the water master to coordinate efforts with Implementation Team, SCWCB, and the proposed WRIA 59 Water Resources Management Board (to be defined further in the Implementation Framework MOA), to build relationships between local residents and state agencies, and help provide solutions to local water concerns.
		vi. Recommend upon approval of the WRIA 59 Watershed Plan, an adjudication of the Watershed be performed in accordance with the goals, objectives and alternative solutions documented in this Plan; in coordination with the Implementation Team and/or proposed WRIA 59 Water Resources Management Board; and according to local, state, federal and tribal law.

TABLE 2. WATER QUANTITY GOALS, OBJECTIVES AND ALTERNATIVE SOLUTIONS

Goal	Objective	Alternative Solutions	
1 Establish framework for management of WRIA 59 water resources for the maximum net benefits of the people as intended by the Planning Team's Mission Statement.	a. (Continued) Assess minimum instream flows on the tributaries and Colville River in WRIA 59 for negotiations and rule revision and subsequent management of those water resources by balancing the instream and out of stream needs, as stated in this Plan, in accordance with current Washington Water Law.	vii.	Recommend the Implementation Team, local governments, and/or local public and private groups apply for grants to enhance the WRIA 59 Groundwater Model from a steady state to a transient model, so it may provide additional information on surface water and groundwater continuity, aquifer capacities, aquifer locations, and recharge areas.
		viii.	Strongly recommend continued financial support and the development of a MOA for continued operation of the USGS Gauge at Meyers Falls by the owner of Meyers Falls Hydropower Plant, USGS, Stevens County, SCCD, Cities of Kettle Falls, Colville, Chewelah, the PUD, and Spokane Tribe.
		ix.	Recommend the Implementation Team develop during Phase Four a permanent flow monitoring program to provide necessary data for ongoing management of the watershed's water resources. Recommend the Implementation Team apply for grants to purchase and install stream gauges and well measurement devices. The WRIA 59 Implementation Team requests agencies notify them about funding sources to help fund the monitoring stations, well measurement devices, and implementation of the monitoring program.
		x.	Recommend Ecology allocate new groundwater water rights until groundwater withdrawals equal 95 percent of the average annual recharge to the applicable source aquifer per calculations quoted in Ecology's *Water Resources Management Program, Colville River Basin* (1977) on page 19 under Ground Water; and also referenced in the Water-Resources Investigation Report 03-4128 in Table 9 on pg. 37 (USGS, 2003).
		xi.	Recommend petitioning the Legislature to change Chapter 173-559 WAC to allow allocation of groundwater up to 95% of the average annual recharge of applicable aquifer.
		xii.	Obligate Ecology to process water rights according to the current and appropriate Washington Water Laws, Regulations, etc.*. If this Plan is approved per Chapter 90.82.130 RCW, Ecology will be obligated per Chapter 90.82.130(4) RCW to "…use the plan as the framework for making future water resource decisions for the planned watershed."
		xiii.	Recommend setting up a mechanism to provide an opportunity for increasing water supplies when groundwater withdrawals in a particular aquifer reaches and/or equals 70% of the average annual aquifer recharge. Please see 1(a)xiv and 1(a)xv below.
		xiv.	Recommend petitioning the Legislature to change Chapter 173-559 WAC to include the mechanism described in Alternative Solution 1(a)xii.
		xv.	Recommend Ecology notify the Stevens County Legislative Authorities when groundwater withdrawal in a particular aquifer equals 70% of average annual aquifer recharge in the watershed to provide local management an opportunity to increase water supplies.
		xvi.	When determined appropriate by the Implementation Team, recommend Ecology work together with the Team and/or WRIA 59 Water Resources Management Board on the feasibility of a water reservation for WRIA 59 per Chapter 90.54.020(3)(a) RCW and Chapter 90.54.050 RCW.
		xvii.	Recommend Implementation Team investigate the need and feasibility of potential future actions to add to Goal #1 including consideration of irrigation districts.
	b. Legislatively lift the WRIA 59 closures and manage WRIA 59 water resources by instream flows, by balancing the in-stream and out of stream needs, as stated in this Plan. Comment: In the absence of instream flows set in regulation, Ecology would regulate and manage water resources based on Surface Water Source Limitations (SWSL), until instream flows are set, per Alternative Solution ii.	i.	Recommend petitioning the Legislature to open WRIA 59 through legislation for local management of the water resources by instream flows, in accordance with this Plan, and for the maximum net benefit of the people (Chapter 90.54.020(2) RCW).
		ii.	Obligate Ecology, WDFW, and other appropriate state agencies to work together with the Implementation Team to perform mutually agreed upon minimum instream flow studies. The Planning Team requests agencies notify the Implementation Team about funding sources for the instream flow studies in accordance with this Plan. (See the Draft WRIA 59 Instream Flow Roadmap and Attachments dated August 10, 2004 in Appendix A for the proposed basic scope of work and schedule.)
		iii. - xvii.	For Alternative Solutions #1(b)iii through #1(b)xvii, see the Alternative Solutions 1(a)iii through 1(a)xvii above, as they are duplicated for 1(b)iii - xvii.
	c. Determine if implemented actions are providing maximum net benefit to the people	i.	Recommend comments be solicited from the local public identifying their concerns and issues related to water resources that could be addressed in the updates to this Plan.
2 Develop strategies to increase water supplies in WRIA 59.	a. To develop and implement strategies that will increase water supplies for future use within the watershed.	i.	Recommend the Implementation Team and local water purveyors/users apply for funding to support and implement the following action items: · Encourage public and private parties in the construction of multiple water storage projects throughout the watershed, and encourage cooperative agreements for shared water storage projects with adjacent watersheds. Any proposed water storage projects on private and state lands will need to go through the required permitting and SEPA review. Any proposed water storage projects on federal lands would be subject to current federal regulations and permits including NEPA review. Multi-purpose water storage projects are encouraged where ever possible. · Encourage public and private parties in the development of irrigation projects including pre-season and post-season irrigation to increase aquifer recharge and/or instream flows during low flow periods. · Encourage public and private parties to help conserve water including educational outreach and incentive based programs. · Encourage public and private parties in the development and implementation of water reuse and reclamation projects, when feasible. · Encourage public and private parties in the construction of surface water infiltration projects.

TABLE 2. WATER QUANTITY GOALS, OBJECTIVES AND ALTERNATIVE SOLUTIONS

Goal	Objective	Alternative Solutions
3 Make locally directed and timely water rights decisions.	a. During the review of WRIA 59 Water Right Applications (e.g., new, change, leases and transfers), if Ecology notes the submitted application has a likelihood of denial and prior to denial of the application, Ecology would contact the applicant to work on strategies with the applicant and the SCWCB, when applicable, in order to help local citizens obtain the needed water for economic improvements and also to help improve the conditions of the water resources in WRIA 59.	i. Obligate Ecology to compile a list of accepted strategies for water right applicant information per the objective. Ecology has fulfilled obligations on October 1, 2004. The Planning Team was provided two copies of the publication "Mitigate Measures used in Water Rights Permitting" (Ecology, 2003).
	b. Expedite processing of new water rights applications, so that a preliminary determination must be made within 60 days, applicant notified, and a final decision must be made within 6 months.	i. Recommend petitioning the Legislature to pursue options to expedite water rights processing according to the timeframe identified in the objective. ii. Recommend Ecology establish a policy or regulation to implement objective.
	c. The Team places a high priority on expediting issuance of new, non-consumptive water rights, such as hydropower in accordance with WAC 173-152-050 (2)(b) and hatchery use on the Colville River and its tributaries without requiring unreasonable studies.	i. Obligate Ecology to elevate the priority of process pending and future non-consumptive water right applications in accordance with WAC 173-152-050 if the application meets the criteria in WAC 173-152-050(2)(b), which sates "An application may be processed prior to competing applications if the department determines: The proposed water use is non-consumptive and if approved would substantially enhance or protect the quality of the natural environment."
	d. Upon request of the applicant, process new surface and groundwater rights in the vicinity of the Colville River immediately in accordance with the current Chapter 173-559 WAC and this Plan, and prior to results of the new minimum instream flow recommendations.	i. Recommend Ecology to process pending water rights in the Colville River areas in accordance with Washington Water Laws, Regulations, etc.*, including temporary pre- and post-growing season irrigation upon the request of the applicant and prior to setting new minimum instream flows.
	e. Once instream flows are established in cooperation with adjacent landowners, WRIA 59 Implementation Team, and appropriate agencies; begin processing new water right applications throughout the watershed in accordance to this Plan.	i. Obligate Ecology, WDFW, and other appropriate state agencies to work with the Implementation Team to perform mutually agreed upon minimum instream flow studies on the Colville River and its tributaries, in the collaborative manner described in Chapter 90.82 RCW, subject to available funding and/or resources. The Planning Team requests agencies to notify the Implementation Team of funding sources to help fund the minimum instream flow studies, as outlined in the Draft WRIA 59 Instream Flow Roadmap and Attachments dated August 10, 2004 in Appendix A for proposed draft scope of work, field work, negotiation of setting minimum instream flows and schedule, in accordance with this Plan. ii. Recommend Implementation Team make recommendations to the Stevens County Legislative Authorities on final recommendation to Ecology related to minimum instream flows. iii. Obligate Ecology to proceed with rulemaking to implement mutually agreeable minimum instream flow(s). iv. Obligate Ecology to process new water right allocations in accordance with Washington Water Laws, Regulations, etc.*. If this Plan is approved per Chapter 90.82.130 RCW, Ecology will be obligated per Chapter 90.82.130(4) RCW to "…use the plan as the framework for making future water resource decisions for the planned watershed."
	f. The Planning Team places high value on the opportunities of exempt wells. Therefore, the Team encourages no permitting or water metering requirements for current and new exempt wells, including livestock watering, in the entire watershed to ensure that exempt wells be excluded from instream flow regulation purposes and restrictions.	i. Recommend Stevens County, Ecology, and other appropriate state agencies adopt policy to implement exempt well objective for WRIA 59.

TABLE 2. WATER QUANTITY GOALS, OBJECTIVES AND ALTERNATIVE SOLUTIONS

Goal	Objective	Alternative Solutions
3 Make locally directed and timely water rights decisions.	g. To assist with the management of water resources in WRIA 59, the Planning Team requests an adjudication of water rights within the watershed. Some of the options considered were: negotiated settlements that would lead to a Consent Decree, and streamlined procedures.	i. Recommend petitioning the Legislators to change existing adjudication process in Washington State to meet the objective.
		ii. Recommend petitioning the Legislators to support an adjudication of WRIA 59.
		iii. Recommend the Implementation Team and appropriate agencies provide educational outreach to local and regional groups on adjudication procedures.
		iv. Recommend Implementation Team and appropriate agencies provide educational outreach to local water right holders in preparation for an adjudication.
		v. Obligate Ecology to support a legislative request for a northeastern Regional Water Master. (For information on proposed recommended duties, see Alternative Solution 1(a)v in this table.)
	h. Allow short-term temporary water withdrawals for commercial and non-commercial agricultural and other uses for pre- and post-growing season and regular growing season irrigation when and where water is proven available.	i. Recommend petitioning the Legislators to change the WAC to allow for this objective.
		ii. Obligate Ecology to administer WAC changes to implement objective, in accordance with current Washington Water Laws, Regulations, etc.*
		iii. Obligate Ecology to support a legislative request for a Northeast Regional Water Master for the northeastern Washington Counties, as a budgetary add item from the Legislature.
		iv. Recommend Ecology to process temporary permits to meet this objective, as a HIGH PRIORITY, in accordance with Washington Water Laws, Regulations, etc.*
	i. Expand Ecology's EIM database to include accumulated and correlated past, present, and future water resource data (i.e., stream flow, well level, and water quality data). Data must be readily available to the public via the Internet and GIS compatible.	i. Encourage and support Ecology in the expansion of their current EIM database to include comprehensive historic, current, and future water quality, quantity (flows) and other available data, such as groundwater quality. These data should be GIS compatible.
		ii. Encourage and support the WRIA 59 Water Master, local governments, SCWCB, Ecology, and other appropriate state agencies to use information from the repository to assist with site specific water right decisions, and other water resources work/decisions.
	k. Develop Non-profit Water Rights Clearinghouse to provide a local forum to bring together buyers and willing sellers of water rights.	i. Obligate the PUD to implement a Non-Profit Water Rights Clearinghouse as a pilot project for a period of at least two years.
	l. Increase current 5-year water right relinquishment period to at least 15 years, with a 15-year statute of repose.	i. Recommend petitioning the Legislators to change existing Law related to relinquishment (i.e., Chapter 90.14 RCW) to extend the 5-year relinquishment period to at least 15 years, with a 15-year statute of repose.
	m Prior to the sale of any WRIA 59 water rights to the state and/or any other non-local user, every possible effort should be made to provide an opportunity for local transfer of the available water right to interested water users within the watershed for domestic, agriculture, municipal, commercial, and other prioritized beneficial uses as listed in this Plan. The purpose of this objective is to maintain and enhance economic opportunities within the watershed, while protecting the water rights of WRIA 59 for the maximum net benefit of the people in the watershed.	i. Recommend petitioning the Legislature to ensure protection of water rights for the benefit of the people in the WRIA 59 along with establishing a possible cap on allowable funding for governments to purchase water rights so that purchase prices would be comparable with private purchases of comparable water rights.
		ii. Recommend Ecology provide public notice or news releases to meet this objective, unless prohibited by law.

TABLE 2. WATER QUANTITY GOALS, OBJECTIVES AND ALTERNATIVE SOLUTIONS

Goal	Objective	Alternative Solutions
4 Develop multiple water storage projects in WRIA 59.	a. Create a written "Water Storage Program" that can be used anywhere in the entire watershed. The purpose is to establish a clear and defined process that includes criteria, guidelines, and procedures providing clear requirements and streamlined procedures for the design, permitting, and construction of small to medium-sized water storage projects in the Colville River Watershed. Included in the Water Storage Program would be a streamlined permitting procedure and reduced requirements that the various permitting agencies have previously approved. The basic idea for this is to have a program, so that each proposed water storage project does not have to "reinvent the wheel." Also, this Program will be approved by the state agencies. Water storage projects could be privately or publicly owned and could be located on public or private land. Types of storage projects that would be included in the "Water Storage Program" are: infiltration; on-stream storage; off-stream storage; seasonal storage; continuous storage; and hydropower. Multi-purpose water storage projects funds will be sought, wherever possible, to help bring in additional revenues for the actual construction and ongoing maintenance of these water storage projects (e.g., hydropower projects). Examples of similar successful programs are: Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) Hydropower Licensing Programs and Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) Wetlands Enhancement Programs.	i. Recommend the Implementation Team and/or proposed WRIA 59 Water Resources Management Board and local public and private parties, with technical assistance from Ecology, WDFW, other appropriate local governments and federal agencies, apply for grants to fund and implement the development of the "Water Storage Program." ii. Recommend Implementation Team hire a consultant and provide direct oversight of that consultant during the writing of the "Water Storage Program" as described in this objective. iii. Recommend Implementation Team and a consultant work together with Ecology, WDFW, and other appropriate agencies to achieve an approved Water Storage Program as outlined in the objective for WRIA 59. iv. Strongly recommend continued financial support for ongoing operation of USGS Gauge at Meyers Falls to ensure ongoing monitoring of the stream flows and to assist in measuring the beneficial effects of implemented water storage projects. Multi-purpose water storage projects are strongly encouraged, whenever possible, to help bring in additional revenues for the actual construction and ongoing maintenance of these water storage projects.
	b. The Implementation Team will choose 3 or 4 actual sites for potential water storage projects. Consultant will evaluate each of these sites' water resources, biology, geotechnical aspects, and hydrogeology along with conducting a cost benefit analysis.	i. Recommend the Implementation Team apply for grants to perform a Phase Two Feasibility Study on selected WRIA 59 water storage projects. ii. Recommend Implementation Team hire and provide direct oversight of a consultant to perform the Phase Two Feasibility Study on selected Water Storage Projects in WRIA 59 as described in the objective.

TABLE 2. WATER QUANTITY GOALS, OBJECTIVES AND ALTERNATIVE SOLUTIONS

Goal	Objective		Alternative Solutions
4 Develop multiple water storage projects in WRIA 59.	c. Encourage and develop multiple small water storage impoundments throughout WRIA 59 per Chapter 90.54.020(4) RCW. The development of medium and large water storage impoundments are also encouraged, where feasible. Any proposed water storage projects on private and/or state land will need to go through the required permitting, such as the SEPA review. Any proposed water storage projects on federal land would be subject to current federal regulations and permits including NEPA review.	i.	Recommend Implementation Team, local governments, citizens, and/or interest groups apply for grants to fund the construction of multiple storage projects in the watershed.
		ii.	Recommend local governments, citizens and/or interest groups construct water storage projects in the watershed, when financially feasible. Multi-purpose water storage projects are strongly encouraged. (NOTE: Stevens County supports water storage projects, per Stevens County Ordinance #108-2003, dated Sept. 9, 2003.)
		iii.	Obligate Ecology to process new water rights based from stored water, in accordance with Chapter 90.03.370 RCW (Reservoir permits) and Chapter 173-152-030 WAC, which meet the provisions of Chapters 90.03.250 through 90.03.320 RCW.
		iv.	Recommend Ecology, as a high priority, to process pre- and post-growing season irrigation water right applications and temporary/seasonal water right permits on tributaries (once instream flows have been set on the tributaries) and the Colville River from stored waters, in accordance with Chapter 90.03.370 RCW (Reservoir permits) and Chapter 173-152-030 WAC, which meet the provisions of Chapters 90.03.250 through 90.03.320 RCW.
		v.	To ensure ongoing monitoring of the stream flows that would measure the beneficial effects of water storage projects, the WRIA 59 Team recommends the support of local, state, and federal agencies to help implement a flow monitoring program and continued financial support for ongoing operation of USGS Monitoring Gauge at Meyers Falls.
	d. Develop flood control water storage projects to reduce flooding and erosion per Chapter 90.54.020(6) RCW. Please note Flood Plain Management is under Local County Authority.	i.	Recommend Implementation Team, local governments, citizens, and/or interest groups apply for grants for the construction of flood control storage projects in the watershed including dredging and construction of sediment basins.
		ii.	Recommend local governments, Ecology, WDFW, and other appropriate state and federal agencies permit and implement dredging when necessary to reduce flooding and erosion within the watershed.
		iii.	Recommend Ecology, WDFW, and other appropriate state and federal agencies permit and implement construction of sediment basins, where applicable.
		iv.	Recommend local governments support these actions when deemed necessary.
		v.	Recommend Implementation Team, local governments, citizens and/or interest groups pursue and obtain funding for ongoing maintenance including cleaning of sediment basins.
	e. Develop surface water infiltration projects to increase aquifer recharge.	i.	Recommend Implementation Team, local governments, citizens, and/or interest groups apply for grants to fund construction of water storage infiltration projects, including vegetative management projects, in the watershed.
		ii.	Recommend local governments, citizens and/or interest groups construct water storage infiltration projects in the watershed, whenever financially feasible.
	f. Develop and implement early action water storage projects for the Planning and/or Implementation Team to begin as soon as funding becomes available.	i.	The Team identified, prioritized and unanimously approved at their June 3, 2004 meeting the following two early action water storage projects to pursue during the planning phase of the WRIA 59 Watershed Planning Project, if grant funding could be obtained: (A) Loon Lake Overflow Infiltration Project, and (B) Walter Davis' Water Storage Project.
5 Develop water conservation strategies.	a. Local cities and towns, PUD, and other sewer utilities construct and operate wastewater reclamation and reuse facilities to provide water for beneficial uses, when financially feasible, to provide for long-range stewardship of management of the water resources.	i	Recommend Implementation Team and/or proposed WRIA 59 Water Resources Management Board work together with local governments, Ecology, DOH, and other appropriate state agencies to devise a list of water reclamation and reuse strategies for WRIA 59.
		ii	Recommend Implementation Team and/or proposed WRIA 59 Water Resources Management Board work together with local cities and towns, the PUD, and other sewer utilities, with technical assistance from local governments, Ecology, DOH, and other appropriate state and federal agencies, to apply for grants to fund determining feasibility of proposed projects and implementing water reclamation and reuse projects.
		iii.	Recommend local cities and towns, PUD, and other sewer utilities construct projects, when financially feasible.
	b. Continue to develop and implement agricultural water conservation, including vegetative management, urban interface, wildlife management plans and irrigation efficiency efforts through individual, regional or irrigation district infrastructure improvements, when financially feasible, to provide for long-range stewardship of management of the water resources.	i.	Recommend the Implementation Team and/or proposed WRIA 59 Water Resources Management Board, and local public and private parties, with technical assistance from local governments, Ecology, DOH, and other appropriate state and federal agencies, apply for grants to help implement agricultural water conservation.
		ii.	Recommend SCCD, NRCS, and other appropriate state and federal agencies provide ongoing educational outreach on water conservation strategies.
		iii.	Recommend construction and implementation of both public and private water conservation projects, including vegetative management projects, urban interface, and wildlife management plans, when financially feasible.

TABLE 2. WATER QUANTITY GOALS, OBJECTIVES AND ALTERNATIVE SOLUTIONS

Goal	Objective	Alternative Solutions
5 Develop water conservation strategies.	c. Develop contingency plans for drought years providing ample water storage for fire fighting, drinking water, etc., and including emergency conservation plans, when financially feasible, to provide for long-range stewardship of management of the water resources.	i. Recommend the Implementation Team and/or WRIA 59 Water Resources Management Board, and local public and private parties, with technical assistance from local governments, Ecology, DOH, and other appropriate state and federal agencies, apply for grants to help prepare water use contingency plans for drought years.
		ii. Recommend Implementation Team and/or proposed WRIA 59 Water Resources Management Board work together with local governments, Ecology, DOH, and other appropriate state agencies to develop drought emergency plans. Some water systems within WRIA 59 have developed emergency plans as part of their water planning efforts that include information on water shortage. This information is available from DOH. DOH published information on emergency response and water shortage response program that water systems may use to develop a drought emergency plan. Please see the DOH training website (http//www4.doh.wa.gov/dw/publications/ for the publications).
		iii. Recommend SCCD, NRCS, and other appropriate state and federal agencies provide ongoing educational outreach. DOH has offered training to water systems on emergency response, which includes contingency plans for drought. (See the DOH website: http://www.doh.wa.gov/ehp/dw/our main pages/training.htm for when training may next be available.)
	d. Continue to develop and implement industrial conservation measures, including vegetative management, urban interface, and wildlife management plans when financially feasible, to provide for long-range stewardship of management of the water resources.	i. Recommend local governments, SCCD, NRCS, with appropriate state and federal agencies providing technical assistance, apply for grants to help fund industrial water conservation projects, including vegetative management programs, and provide educational outreach in WRIA 59.
		ii. Obligate Ecology to perform educational outreach to meet this objective. NOTE: Ecology is currently meeting this obligation through their Technical Resources for Engineering Efficiencies (TREE) Team. Further information on this may be found on Ecology's website: http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/hwtr/TREE/index.html
	e. Continue to develop and implement municipal conservation programs, including demand management and operational efficiency measures, vegetative management projects, urban interface and wildlife management plans, when financially feasible, to provide for long-range stewardship of management of the water resources.	i. Recommend the Implementation Team and/or proposed WRIA 59 Water Resources Management Board, and local public and private parties, with technical assistance from local governments, Ecology, DOH, and other appropriate state and federal agencies, apply for grants to fund and implement the development of municipal water conservation strategies, incentive programs, and water conservation projects, including vegetative management projects, urban interface, and wildlife management plans.
		ii. Highly recommend DOH perform educational outreach via media, schools, associations, etc.
		iii. Recommend incorporated cities within WRIA 59 and PUD distribute water conservation pamphlet to customers once per year.
	f. Continue to develop and implement Conservation programs for Group B Water Systems and people using Exempt Wells, when financially feasible, to provide for long-range stewardship of management of the water resources.	i. Recommend the Implementation Team and/or WRIA 59 Water Resources Management Board, and local public and private parties, with technical assistance from local governments, Ecology, DOH, and other appropriate state and federal agencies, apply for grants to fund and implement the development of conservation strategies, incentive
		ii. Highly recommend DOH perform educational outreach via media, schools, associations, etc.
		iii. Recommend Stevens County Building Department and/or other appropriate local governments distribute DOH Water Conservation Pamphlet.

*Washington Water Law consists of numerous RCWs, including the Surface Water Code, Chapter 90.03 RCW, the Ground Water Code, Chapter 90.44 RCW, Well Construction Code, Chapter 18.104 RCW, Water Resources Act of 1971, Chapter 90.54 RCW; in addition there are numerous court cases that have established Case Law on the methods of interpretation and specific applicability of the Laws and Regulations in many conditions. Regulations, codes and case law, including various policies, procedures and Memorandums of Agreement, are used to evaluate appropriate procedures and enforcement of the State Water Laws.

3.3 WATER QUALITY

3.3.1 Issue

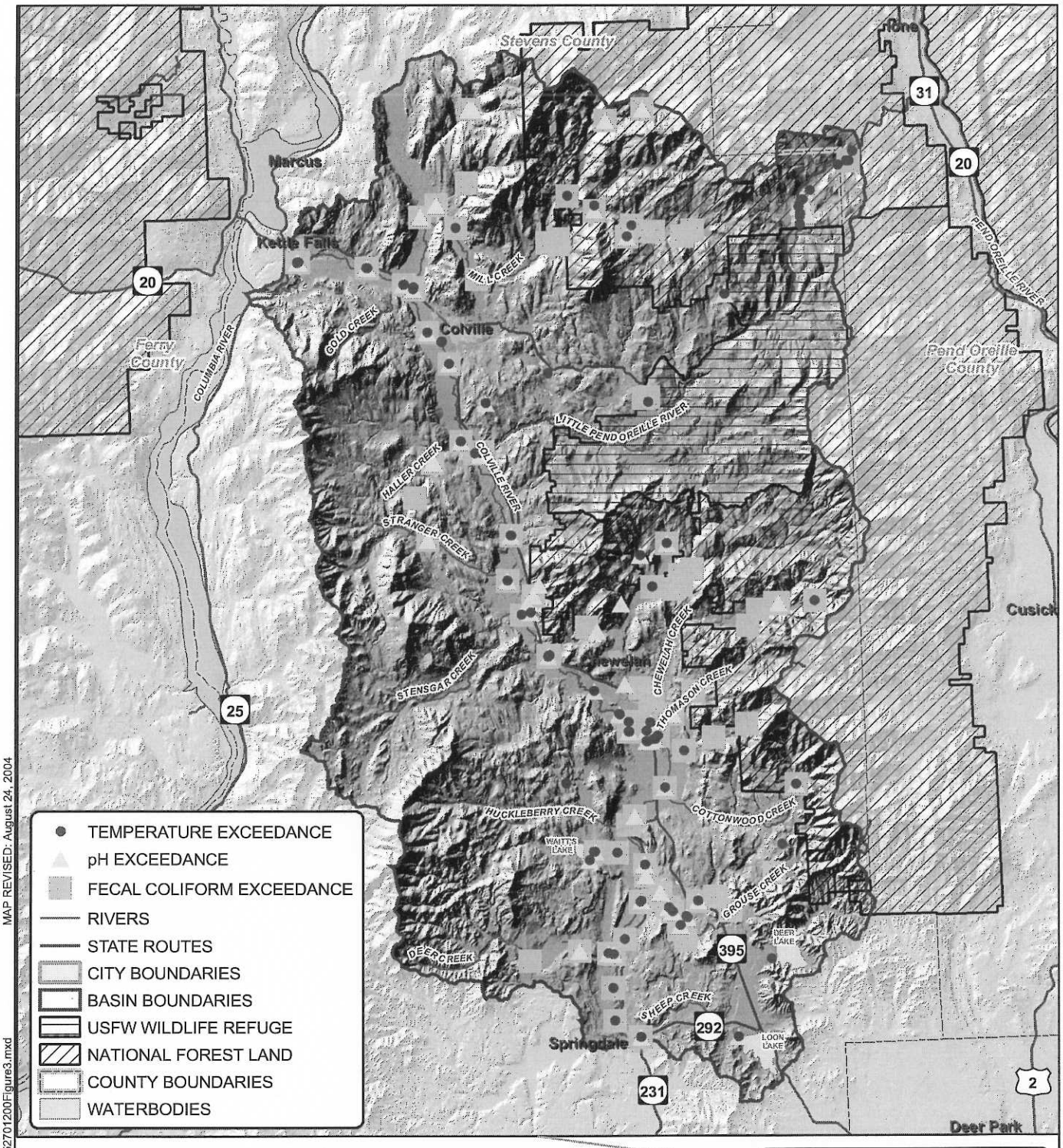
Based on the review reported in the water quality assessment (Golder, 2004), along with participation and monitoring of the ongoing TMDL processes by several individuals on the Planning Team, the Water Quality Committee identified one main issue to focus on in this Watershed Plan that the Planning Team confirmed. The primary water quality issue identified was that Washington State's water quality standards were not being met in some of the WRIA 59 water bodies.

3.3.1.1 Background

The supplemental water quality assessment for WRIA 59 (Golder, 2004) identified key issues related to water quality based on a review of existing information. A complete tabular summary of the water quality impairments in WRIA 59 can be found in Table 9 of the water quality assessment report (Golder, 2004). The most common surface water quality impairments in the water bodies of WRIA 59 were identified as temperature, pH, and fecal coliform (Golder, 2004). Figure 3 displays the location of these impairments. This report found groundwater quality to be in compliance with current standards (Golder, 2004). However, there is a potential that nitrate, phosphorus, and bacteria contamination may impair groundwater quality in the future if existing land use trends continue (Golder, 2004). Figure 4 displays existing land use.

This study was intended to provide an overall perspective of water quality conditions in WRIA 59 (Golder, 2004). Eight problem statements were identified and developed, and later prioritized by the Water Quality Committee and the Planning Team. Of these eight identified problem statements, Golder was given direction to expand on the top three priority statements. These three priority problem statements: Development of Best Management Practices (BMPs); Review of Fecal Coliform Source Tracking Methods; and, Temperature Impairments, were integrated into implementation strategies and monitoring plans within Section 7.3 of the supplemental water quality assessment (Golder, 2004).

These three problem statements focused on providing specifics for use in developing alternative solutions as recommendations or obligations for government agencies. All eight problem statements identified were defined in the assessment report, but the Planning Team only focused on the top three for developing monitoring and implementation strategies to address the overarching issues identified. These specific concerns reflect the Planning Team's understanding that the main water quality issue identified for WRIA 59 was that Washington State's water quality standards were not being met in some of the WRIA 59 water bodies.

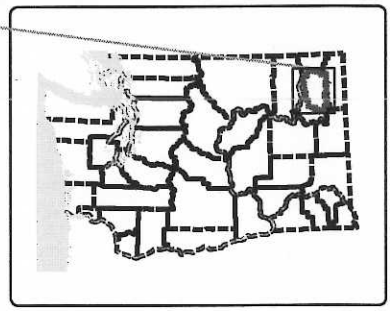


Data Sources: Rivers, surface water quality data, national forest land and USFW wildlife refuge obtained from Golder. WRIA boundary (24K), and waterbodies from Brown and Caldwell.
Hillshade from USGS National Elevation dataset (obtained August 2004). City (24K) and county (500K) boundaries from Department of Transportation. State routes from TIGER 2000.

This drawing is for informational purposes. Data were compiled from multiple sources as listed on this map. The data sources do not guarantee these data are accurate or complete. There may have been updates to the data since the publication of this map. The master file is stored at GeoEngineers, Inc. and will serve as the official record of this communication. The locations of all features are approximate.

GeoEngineers

WRIA 59 SURFACE WATER QUALITY IMPAIRMENTS
FIGURE 3



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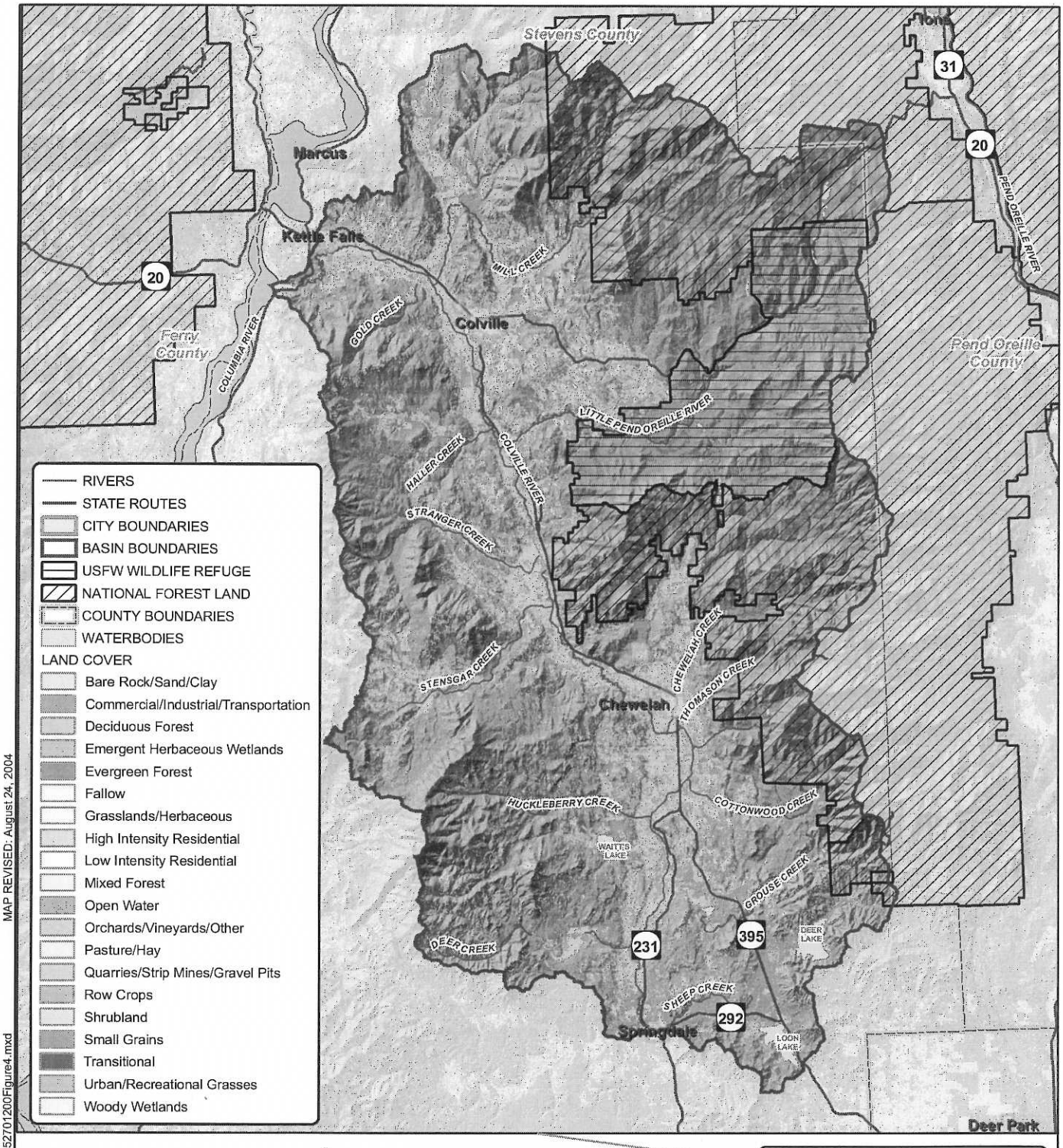

7 Miles

Data Sources: Rivers, surface water quality data, national forest land and USFW wildlife refuge obtained from Golder. WRIA boundary (24K), and waterbodies from Brown and Caldwell. Hillshade and land cover (30m resolution) from USGS National Elevation dataset (obtained August 2004). City (24K) and county (500K) boundaries from Department of Transportation. State routes from TIGER 2000.

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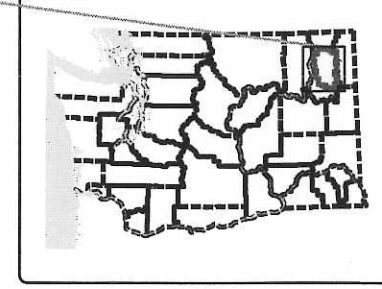
GeoEngineers

WRIA 59 LAND USE MAP
FIGURE 4



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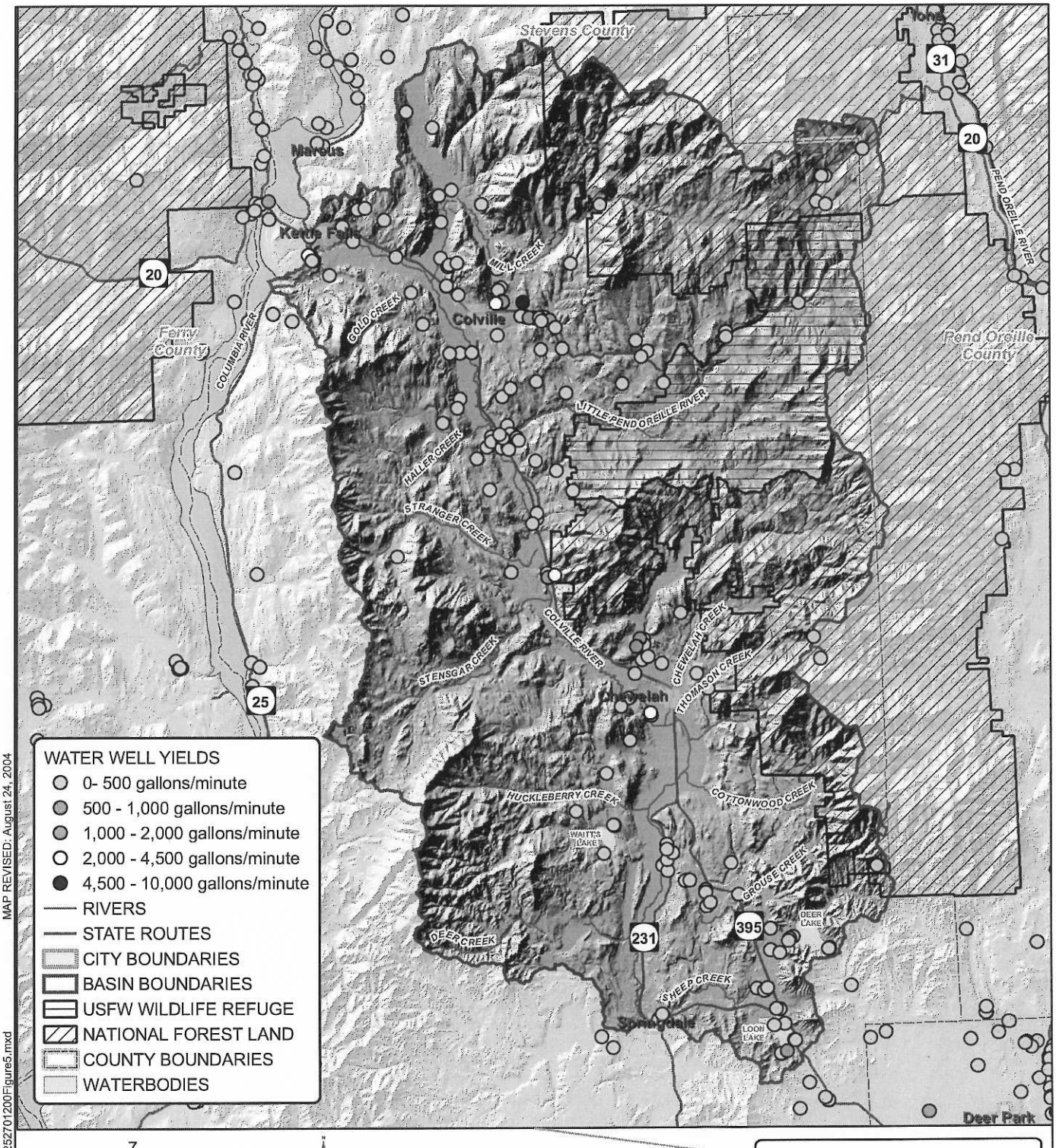
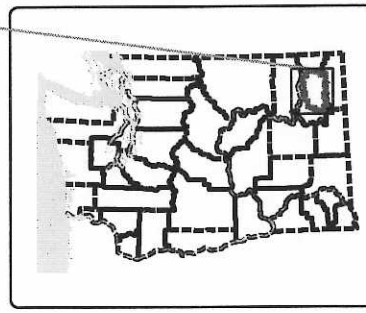


Data Sources: Rivers, surface water quality data, national forest land and USFW wildlife refuge obtained from Golder. WRIA boundary (24K), and waterbodies from Brown and Caldwell. Hillshade and land cover (30m resolution) from USGS National Elevation dataset (obtained August 2004). City (24K) and county (500K) boundaries from Department of Transportation. State routes from TIGER 2000. Groundwater wells (Group A and Group B) obtained from Washington Department of Health.

This drawing is for informational purposes. Data were compiled from multiple sources as listed on this map. The data sources do not guarantee these data are accurate or complete. There may have been updates to the data since the publication of this map. The master file is stored at GeoEngineers, Inc. and will serve as the official record of this communication. The locations of all features are approximate.

GeoEngineers

WRIA 59 GROUNDWATER WELLS
FIGURE 5



RO: SPO PATH: 2\2527012\00\GIS\2527012\00Figure5.mxd MAP REVISED: August 24, 2004

File No. 2527-012-00
November 15, 2004

3.3.2 Goals and Objectives

Three goals were identified for the issue of water quality compliance:

1. Develop an implementation plan to provide guidance and recommended actions to help achieve water quality improvement objectives throughout WRIA 59 using BMPs for inclusion into the WRIA 59 Watershed Plan;
2. Develop a water quality monitoring plan for WRIA 59 that would include monitoring methods and approaches to expand the baseline database, address selected water quality issues in the watershed, and help evaluate the effectiveness of the strategies; and
3. Develop a water quality education and outreach plan for WRIA 59.

Each goal has a number of objectives that further define the actions needed to resolve the issue. Table 3 presents the objectives developed for each of the three goals identified.

Note: The water quality goals and objectives in Table 3 are taken from the original 2004 WRIA 59 Watershed Plan.

3.3.3 Alternative Solutions

The WRIA 59 Water Quality Committee developed the alternative solutions presented in Table 3. These solutions evolved throughout the process of selecting the issue related to water quality and developing goals and objectives while the water quality assessment was being conducted. The alternative solutions were presented to those entities that would implement them. Implementation of these recommendations will occur throughout the ongoing execution of this Watershed Plan.

Note: The alternative solutions in Table 3 are taken from the original 2004 WRIA 59 Watershed Plan. The updated water quality recommendations (that are derived from the alternative solutions) are included in Table 11.

TABLE 3. WATER QUALITY GOALS, OBJECTIVES AND ALTERNATIVE SOLUTIONS

ISSUE: Water Quality Standards are not being met in some of the basin's water bodies.		
Goal	**Objective**	**Alternative Solutions**
1 To provide guidance and recommended actions to help achieve water quality improvement objectives using BMPs throughout WRIA 59 for inclusion in this Plan and to assist in developing the follow-up Implementation Plan.	a. Develop a process that monitors the effectiveness of implementing BMPs.	i Consultant and WRIA 59 Water Quality Committee develop a post-implementation evaluation process for the identified BMPs.
		ii. Recommend WRIA 59 Planning and/or Implementation Team; together with applicable governments through coordinated planning efforts implement the post-implementation evaluation process. Apply applicable knowledge gained and results to subsequent water quality BMPs projects and future water quality BMPs educational outreach projects.
	b. Identify septic system BMPs for WRIA 59 and develop an approach for implementing these BMPs.	i. Consultant and WRIA 59 Water Quality Committee develop a list of BMPs for Septic Systems.
		ii. Consultant and WRIA 59 Water Quality Committee develop educational outreach strategies for implementing the BMPs.
		iii. Recommend WRIA 59 Planning and/or Implementation Team and applicable governments, through coordinated planning efforts, apply for grant funding to support the implementation of recommended water quality educational outreach strategies associated with these BMPs.
		iv. Under the oversight and coordination of the WRIA 59 Watershed Planning and /or Implementation Team, recommend applicable governments and planning efforts implement educational outreach strategies for these BMPs.
	c. Identify agricultural BMPs for WRIA 59 and develop an approach for implementing these BMPs.	i. Consultant and WRIA 59 Water Quality Committee develop a list of BMPs for Agricultural Practices.
		ii. Consultant and WRIA 59 Water Quality Committee develop educational outreach strategies to accomplish implementation of the BMPs for agricultural practices.
		iii. Recommend the WRIA 59 Planning and/or Implementation Team and applicable governments, through coordinated planning efforts, apply for grant funding to support the implementation of recommended water quality educational outreach strategies for agricultural BMPs.
		iv. Under the oversight and in coordination with the WRIA 59 Watershed Planning and/or Implementation Team, recommend applicable governments and planning efforts implement educational outreach strategies for Agricultural BMPs.
	d. Identify streamside BMPs for WRIA 59 and develop an approach for educational outreach and implementing these BMPs.	i. Consultant and WRIA 59 Water Quality Committee develop a list of BMPs for streamside areas.
		ii. Consultant and WRIA 59 Water Quality Committee develop educational outreach strategies for implementing streamside BMPs.
		iii. Recommend the WRIA 59 Planning and/or Implementation Team and applicable governments, through coordinated planning efforts, apply for grant funding to support the implementation of educational outreach strategies related to streamside BMPs and the actual BMPs.
		iv. Under the oversight of and coordination with the WRIA 59 Watershed Planning and/or Implementation Team, recommend applicable governments and planning efforts implement educational outreach strategies for streamside BMPs.
	e. Implementation Program: (1) Prioritize the identified BMPs, identify current practices the BMPs apply too, and identify additional BMPs that should be considered in developing the WRIA 59 Water Quality Implementation Program. (2) Pursue implementation dependent on available funding, as follows: Develop strategies, identify project funding sources, implement recommendations, and perform maintenance of existing water quality improvement projects. (3) Where funding is limited, seek additional funding wherever possible, to help keep the implementation process ongoing and active.	i. Consultant and WRIA 59 Water Quality Committee prioritize list of BMPs for incorporation of results into a WRIA 59 Water Quality Implementation Program.
		ii. Recommend WRIA 59 Planning and/or Implementation Team and applicable governments through coordinated planning efforts apply for grant funding to support the development of the WRIA 59 Water Quality BMPs Implementation Program.
		iii. Recommend WRIA 59 Watershed Implementation Team and applicable governments coordinate with landowners to appropriately implement identified BMPs (including early action projects where possible) to help improve impaired water quality in the watershed.
		iv. Recommend WRIA 59 Planning and/or Implementation Team develop strategies to address ongoing maintenance for water quality improvement projects (e.g., sediment catch basins, off-stream watering projects, etc.)
		v. Recommend WRIA 59 Planning and/or Implementation Team and applicable governments, through coordinated planning efforts, apply for funding to support ongoing maintenance of projects.

TABLE 3. WATER QUALITY GOALS, OBJECTIVES AND ALTERNATIVE SOLUTIONS

Goal	Objective	Alternative Solutions
2 To develop a Water Quality Monitoring Plan for WRIA 59 that will include monitoring methods and approaches to expand the baseline database, address selected water quality issues, and evaluate the effectiveness of the strategies.	a. Review and recommend Bacteria Source Tracking (BST) and other methods to evaluate the fecal coliform contributions from various sources in the watershed, as part of the WRIA 59 Water Quality Monitoring Plan and to assist with the Fecal Coliform TMDL Process.	i. Consultant compiles detailed information on the techniques available for BST and other methods and to facilitate the evaluation and comparison of effectiveness for these methods.
		ii. Recommend WRIA 59 Watershed Planning and/or Implementation Team, in cooperation with government agencies select BST and/or other source tracking methods that would provide results at the highest confidence level.
		iii. Recommend WRIA 59 Planning and/or Implementation Team and applicable governments, through coordinated planning efforts apply for grant funding to support the implementation of a BST monitoring program.
		iv. Under the oversight of and coordination with the WRIA 59 Watershed Planning and/or Implementation Team, recommend applicable governments and planning efforts implement a BST Monitoring Plan.
	b. Research temperature dynamics in WRIA 59, and develop temperature monitoring plan for inclusion into the WRIA 59 Water Quality Monitoring Plan.	i. Consultant compiles detailed information on the causes of stream temperature variability.
		ii. Consultant work with WRIA 59 Water Quality Committee to develop monitoring approach to begin identifying solutions to temperature impairments, develop a baseline for future temperature fluctuations, evaluate relationships between riparian vegetation and temperature variances, and provide a backdrop to compare post-implementation project evaluations.
		iii. Consultant compile and assess the available WRIA 59 water quality temperature data; review available water quality temperature monitoring data with WRIA 59 Water Quality Committee, and identify data gaps.
		iv. Recommend WRIA 59 Watershed Planning and/or Implementation Team prioritize and approve a list of potential solutions for WRIA 59 temperature impairments to help address and work to eliminate, where possible, in the watershed.
		v. Recommend WRIA 59 Planning and/or Implementation Team and applicable governments, through coordinated planning efforts, apply for grant funding to support implementation of recommended water quality monitoring program and recommended water quality improvement projects.
		vi. Under the oversight and coordination of the WRIA 59 Watershed Planning and/or Implementation Team, recommend applicable governments and other planning efforts implement the Temperature Monitoring Plan and recommended water quality improvement projects.
	c. Develop strategies and implement a long-term water quality monitoring program of the WRIA 59 Watershed that includes multiple parameters.	i. WRIA 59 Watershed Planning and/or Implementation Team with assistance from local, state and federal government agencies recommend developing a long-term monitoring program of multiple water quality parameters, including but not limited to fecal coliform, pH, temperature, sediment tracking and holding capacities of sediment in the Colville River and its tributaries to monitor cyclic and/or long-term changes.
		ii. Recommend WRIA 59 Planning and/or Implementation Team and applicable governments, through coordinated planning efforts, apply for grant funding to support the implementation of recommended WRIA 59 Water Quality Monitoring Program.
		iii. The WRIA 59 Watershed Planning and/or Implementation Team recommend applicable governments and planning efforts implement a long-term water quality monitoring program under the oversight and in coordination with the WRIA 59 Implementation Team. DOH will assist with developing a long-term monitoring program as it relates to their drinking water program.
	d. Develop a well monitoring plan to document long-term conditions of water quality within the watershed.	i. Recommend WRIA 59 Watershed Planning Team and/or Implementation Team develop a well monitoring program, utilizing volunteer well sites selected to establish a baseline of water quality parameters, and monitor cyclic and/or long-term changes.
		ii. Recommend WRIA 59 Planning and/or Implementation Team and applicable governments, through coordinated planning efforts, apply for grant funding to support a long-term water quality Well Monitoring Plan.
		iii. The WRIA 59 Watershed Planning and/or Implementation Team recommend that applicable governments and other planning efforts implement a long-term water quality Well Monitoring Plan under the oversight of and in coordination with the WRIA 59 Implementation Team. DOH will assist with developing a long-term monitoring program as it relates to their drinking water program.
	e. Support an agency to maintain a comprehensive water resource information database that would be responsible for accumulating and correlating past, present, and future water resource data, including water quality data and water quantity (flows) data readily available to the public via the internet and Geographical Information System (GIS) compatible.	i. Encourage and support Ecology in the expansion of their Environmental Information Management (EIM) database to include comprehensive, historic, current, and future water quality, quantity, and/or other water resource data available, including groundwater quality to be readily available to public via the internet and GIS compatible.
		ii. Recommend WRIA 59 Implementation Team and/or proposed WRIA 59 Water Resources Management Board, along with local and state agencies use information from Ecology's EIM database for site-specific water quality management decisions.

TABLE 3. WATER QUALITY GOALS, OBJECTIVES AND ALTERNATIVE SOLUTIONS

Goal	Objective	Alternative Solutions
3 Develop water quality education and outreach plan for WRIA 59 Watershed.	a. Increase WRIA 59 residents' awareness of watershed and water quality information.	i. Consultant compiles general watershed and water quality information for WRIA 59 to be included in an educational publication and/or outreach program.
		ii. Consultant work with WRIA 59 Water Quality Committee to set timelines and deliverables for this objective.
		iii. Recommend WRIA 59 Planning and/or Implementation Team and applicable governments, through coordinated planning efforts, work to provide ongoing support to achieve objective (a) and alternative solutions.
	b. Increase WRIA 59 residents' awareness about new or ongoing TMDL studies and other water quality baseline assessments that identify pollution sources, and update information periodically.	i. Consultant compile information about new and ongoing TMDL studies in the WRIA 59 Watershed for inclusion into an educational publication and/or outreach program.
		ii. Consultant work with WRIA 59 Water Quality Committee to set timelines and goals for this objective.
		iii. Recommend WRIA 59 Planning and/or Implementation Team and applicable governments, through coordinated planning efforts, work to provide ongoing support to achieve Objective (b) and alternative solutions.
	c. Identify target audiences for specific land use/household management activities related to water quality issues in WRIA 59.	i. Consultant work with WRIA 59 Water Quality Committee to identify target audiences for specific educational outreach strategies involving water quality problems in WRIA 59 for inclusion in an educational publication and/or outreach program.
		ii. Consultant work with WRIA 59 Water Quality Committee to set timelines and performance measures for this objective.
		iii. Recommend WRIA 59 Planning and/or Implementation Team and applicable governments, through coordinated planning efforts, work to provide ongoing support to reach target audiences and timelines outlined in Objective (c) and alternative solutions.
	d. To outline a process for evaluating the success of the water quality educational outreach strategies implemented.	i. Consultant work with WRIA 59 Water Quality Committee to develop a process to evaluate the success of the educational outreach strategies for the WRIA 59 Watershed. *(ACTION COMPLETE. See Appendix J.)*
		ii. Recommend WRIA 59 Planning and/or Implementation Team and applicable governments through coordinated planning efforts, provide ongoing support to evaluate the success of education/outreach strategies.

3.4 HABITAT

3.4.1 Issue

The issue regarding habitat identified for WRIA 59 was that comprehensive proactive planning to protect existing habitats and fish populations has not occurred to date.

3.4.1.1 Background

The habitat component of Watershed Planning was considered but not selected in the WRIA 59 planning process due to funding limitations and the fact that WRIA 59 is not a fish critical area. However, the Planning Team understood that while this watershed does not currently have an endangered or threatened fish species, proactive planning needs to occur to ensure protection of the existing habitats and fish populations as an effort to prevent these types of issues from arising in the future.

3.4.2 Goals and Objectives

One goal identified for the issue of habitat protection and preservation was to develop proactive strategies for the protection of aquatic habitat. This goal has a number of objectives that further define the actions needed to resolve the issue. Table 4 presents the objectives developed for the goal identified.

Note: The habitat goal and objectives in Table 4 are taken from the original 2004 WRIA 59 Watershed Plan.

3.4.3 Alternative Solutions

The WRIA 59 Water Quantity/Instream Flow Committee developed the alternative solutions presented in Table 4. These solutions evolved throughout the process of selecting the issue and developing goals and objectives. The alternative solutions were presented to those entities that would implement them. Agreement to some of the recommendations occurred during the approval and adoption of this Watershed Plan and will continue to occur throughout the ongoing implementation of this Watershed Plan.

Note: The alternative solutions in Table 4 are taken from the original 2004 WRIA 59 Watershed Plan. The updated habitat recommendations (that are derived from the alternative solutions) are included in Table 12.

TABLE 4. HABITAT GOALS, OBJECTIVES AND ALTERNATIVE SOLUTIONS

ISSUE: Habitat Element was considered, but not specifically addressed in the WRIA 59 Watershed Planning Process.		
REFERENCE NUMBER EXAMPLE: 1(A)ii = Habitat Goal #1, Objective #a, Alternative Solution #ii		
Goal	**Objectives**	**Alternative Solutions**
1 Develop proactive strategies for the protection of aquatic habitat.	a. Encourage voluntary stream habitat projects both instream and out of stream based on site-specific conditions to help in the protection of aquatic habitat within WRIA 59, when financially feasible.	i. Recommend WRIA 59 Watershed Plan Implementation Team (Implementation Team) with the assistance of local, state, and federal governments develop a list of local and state government contacts and available resources to help volunteer applicants to accomplish this objective.
		ii. Recommend Ecology, WDFW, Department of Natural Resources, Department of Transportation, and other appropriate state agencies apply site-specific flexible cooperative decision-making with landowners and agencies working together on projects in WRIA 59 within existing laws and regulations.
		iii. Recommend the Implementation Team and/or proposed WRIA 59 Water Resources Management Board and local public and private parties, together with technical assistance from local governments, WDFW, NRCS, SCCD, and other appropriate state and federal agencies, apply for grants to fund and implement site specific projects that would improve fish habitat in WRIA 59.
	b. Pursue Incentive-based programs, including Educational Outreach Programs that highlight success stories related to local implementation of BMPs to help protect aquatic habitat in WRIA 59.	i. Recommend the Implementation Team and/or proposed WRIA 59 Water Resources Management Board and local public and private parties, together with technical assistance from local governments, WDFW, NRCS, SCCD, and other appropriate state and federal agencies, apply for grants to fund and implement revised incentive programs, including educational outreach that would help protect aquatic habitat.
	c. Implement water storage and recharge projects to augment summer low-flows.	i Recommend the Implementation Team and/or proposed WRIA 59 Water Resources Management Board, and local public and private parties, together with technical assistance from local governments, WDFW, NRCS, SCCD, and other appropriate state and federal agencies, apply for grants to fund and implement water storage/recharge projects to help augment summer low flows for aquatic habitat in WRIA 59.
		ii. Very highly recommend Ecology consider site specific pre- and post-growing season irrigation projects for the purpose of groundwater storage/recharge to increase low flows through aquifer discharge to surface water bodies and to improve aquatic habitat in WRIA 59.

SECTION 4.0 OBLIGATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The Watershed Planning Act provides Planning Units the ability to develop actions that create obligations for state or local government that become binding upon approval by the obligated government, in accordance with Chapter 90.82.130 RCW. Recommended actions, by contrast, are not binding for the entities involved but are the result of actions the Planning Units have deemed as significant guidance for active water resource management of the watersheds.

This section highlights the obligations and recommendations agreed to by local and state government agencies that need to be implemented during and beyond Phase 4. The obligations and recommendations are identified below, and enumerated with a reference number to assist with tracking implementation in the future and tracing each obligation or recommendation back to Section 3.0. This was done to help gain an understanding of the intent of obligations or recommendations in regard to attaining an objective and goal to resolve an issue.

The Planning Team determined goals and objectives in which strategies and alternative actions were developed to implement those objectives. The Planning Team determined which alternative actions should be carried forward as obligations or recommendations. The obligations and recommendations are included under issue categories of Planning (Tables 5 and 6), Water Quantity (Tables 7 and 10), Water Quality (Table 11) and Habitat (Table 12). The current approach and schedule for implementing these obligations and recommendations are included in Section 4.0 and Section 5.0 of the Colville River Watershed Detailed Implementation Plan (Golder, 2006).

During preparation of the Colville River Watershed Detailed Implementation Plan (Golder, 2006), the Planning Team agreed by consensus not to change their name to Implementation Team (as recommended in the original November 2004 WRIA 59 Colville River Watershed Plan). As a result, all references to the Implementation Team in this version of the Watershed Plan (Version 2.0, dated March 15, 2007) have been replaced with Planning Team.

During preparation of the 2006 Colville River Watershed Detailed Implementation Plan (DIP), the Framework for Implementation of the Watershed Plan (presented in Section 5.2.3 of this Watershed Plan) was further developed. The Framework begins to describe the roles and responsibilities for shared governance of WRIA 59 water resources; provides a structure for implementing cooperative local water resources management; and, lays out the operational relationship between the Washington Department of Ecology (Ecology), local citizen groups and other governments for the purpose of cooperative management of the WRIA 59 water resources into the future. After review of various options (presented in Appendix E1 of the March 2006 DIP), the Planning Team selected development of a WRIA 59 Watershed Management Partnership (WMP) per an Interlocal Agreement (Chapter 39.34 RCW) in conjunction with the formation of a the WRIA 59 Water Resource Management Board (Board). In accordance with the March 2006 DIP, the Planning Team finalized and approved this Interlocal Agreement in February 2007.

Once established, the WMP will replace Stevens County to serve as the local governing body for providing the legal mechanism to administer funding and apply for grants and other funding sources to support implementation of the Watershed Plan and DIP. As of March 2007, and per the Planning Team's request, Stevens County agreed to continue serving as the Lead Agency within the WMP / Board structure (once established). If, over time, the WMP option proves unfeasible, Stevens County would continue to serve as Lead Agency until such time that another Lead Agency may be confirmed by the Planning Team. In order to clarify this, reference to Stevens County or the WMP or Board (when

established), has been added to the obligation and recommendation Tables below (i.e., Tables 5, 6, 7, 10, 11 and 12).

4.1 PLANNING

4.1.1 Obligations

The obligations that address the issue of not having comprehensive planning for local water resource management in WRIA 59 are presented in Table 5 below.

TABLE 5. OBLIGATIONS RELATED TO PLANNING

(Text for Table 5 was extracted from Table 1 of this Watershed Plan)

ISSUE: There is no comprehensive plan to manage the Colville River Watershed Water Resources.

REFERENCE NUMBER EXAMPLE: 1(a)ii = Planning Goal #1, Objective #a, Alternative Solution #ii

Reference Number	Obligations Related to Planning
4(a)i	Stevens County or WMP (when established) and Ecology, with assistance of the Planning Team or Board (when established), are obligated to enter into a process to negotiate a MOA to be signed by Ecology and Stevens County or WMP and/or Board (when established) as the "Second Order of Business" of Phase 4 Implementation immediately following the completion of the Framework for Implementation. The Framework begins to describe the roles and responsibilities for shared governance of WRIA 59 water resources; provides a structure for implementing cooperative local water resources management; and, lays out the operational relationship between the Washington Department of Ecology (Ecology), local citizen groups and other governments for the purpose of managing water resources in WRIA 59 into the future. The current version of the MOA is included in Appendix A2. ***(ACTION ONGOING)***
4(a)ii	Stevens County is obligated to provide for the ongoing administrative oversight for updates of the WRIA 59 Colville River Watershed Plan and DIP. ***(ACTION ONGOING)***
4(a)iv	Stevens County is obligated to incorporate all applicable information from the Watershed Plan into other local planning/land use documents, to preserve the success of the Watershed Plan, and to use the Watershed Plan information as a preference in land use elements related to the water resources in the *Stevens County Comprehensive Plan* (Adopted 2006). ***(ACTION ONGOING)***

With assistance from the Planning Team, Stevens County or WMP and Board (when established), is obligated to develop and enter into a cooperative agreement (i.e., an MOA) with Ecology for implementing the Watershed Plan and DIP. Stevens County is also obligated to provide administrative oversight for updating the Watershed Plan and DIP.

4.1.2 Recommendations

The recommendations that address the issue of not having a comprehensive water resource plan for WRIA 59 are presented below in Table 6.

TABLE 6. RECOMMENDATIONS RELATED TO PLANNING	
(Text for Table 6 was extracted from Table 1 of this Watershed Plan)	
ISSUE: There is no comprehensive plan to manage the Colville River Watershed Water Resources.	
REFERENCE NUMBER EXAMPLE: 1(a)ii = Planning Goal #1, Objective #a, Alternative Solution #ii	
Reference Number	**Recommendations Related to Planning**
2(a)i	Recommend the first review/update of this Plan be scheduled within 18 months of adoption to provide local citizens an opportunity to work out any deficiencies that get identified. In addition, the Stevens County Legislative Authorities or WMP and/or Board (when established) can request an unscheduled update of the Watershed Plan, due to significant events that affect the use and/or availability of the water resources (e.g., major changes in water law that affect the Watershed Plan.). ***(ACTION ONGOING)***
2(a)ii	Recommend Stevens County or WMP and/or Board (when established) establish a schedule for regular updates of the Watershed Plan not to exceed the GMA planning update schedule that is outlined in Chapter 36.70A.130 RCW. The Planning Team acknowledges that the Stevens County Legislative Authorities or WMP and/or Board (when established) may want the Watershed Plan updates to coincide with the GMA update schedule in order to procure state funding and other efficiency benefits.
2(a)iii	Recommend Stevens County work to ensure that the land use objectives in the *Stevens County Comprehensive Plan* (Adopted 2006) operate in tandem with the WRIA 59 Watershed Plan information/recommendations pursuant to Stevens County Policy NR-11.
3(a)i	Recommend requesting an application for the Phase 4 implementation grant by or before December 2004. ***(ACTION COMPLETED)***
3(a)ii	Recommend the Watershed Coordinator, together with the Planning Team's oversight, draft the Phase 4 grant application by or before December 2004 to have the application ready for the Planning Team's review and approval, and submitted to the Stevens County Legislative Authorities as soon as the County Legislative Authorities have adopted the Watershed Plan per RCW 90.82.130. ***(ACTION COMPLETED)***
3(a)iii	Recommend Stevens County, as Lead Agency, submit the Phase 4 Implementation Grant application on behalf of the Planning Team upon adoption of this Watershed Plan by the Stevens County Legislative Authorities, per the requirements of RCW 90.82.040(2)(e). ***(ACTION COMPLETED)***
3(b)i	Recommend Stevens County: (1) continues as Lead Agency until establishment of the Watershed Management Partnership (WMP); (2) continues serving as Lead Agency within the WMP; and (3) and continues to reserve a portion of the Implementation grant to fund the administration of implementation as needed. The costs to administrate the Phase 4 implementation grant would be covered with Phase 4 implementation grant funds as it was for Phases 1 through 3. ***(ACTION ONGOING)***
3(b)ii	Recommend Stevens County or WMP (when established), together with the Planning Team or Board (when established), outline a proposed long-range financial support proposal during Phase 4 Implementation, for local water resource management within Stevens County Government together with the WMP and Board, to ensure the ongoing implementation and updates of the Watershed Plan and Detailed Implementation Plan, and long-range stewardship of the watershed's water resources.
3(b)iii	Recommend Stevens County (as Lead Agency) or WMP and Board (when established), oversee the fiscal administration of the Phase 4 Implementation Grants, which would include WRIA 59 Water Resource Personnel to provide ongoing oversight, facilitation, and coordination of the grant project along with support staff as necessary. ***(ACTION ONGOING)***
3(b)iv	Recommend WRIA 59 Water Resource Personnel provide oversight of the grant funds to ensure Phase 4 implementation is completed on time and within grant funding. ***(ACTION ONGOING)***

TABLE 6. RECOMMENDATIONS RELATED TO PLANNING	
(Text for Table 6 was extracted from Table 1 of this Watershed Plan)	
ISSUE: There is no comprehensive plan to manage the Colville River Watershed Water Resources.	
REFERENCE NUMBER EXAMPLE: 1(a)ii = Planning Goal #1, Objective #a, Alternative Solution #ii	
Reference Number	**Recommendations Related to Planning**
3(c)i	Recommend at the start of and throughout Phase 4 that WRIA 59 Water Resource Personnel, under the direction of the Stevens County Legislative Authorities or WMP and Board (when established), work to maintain a Planning Team or Board that is representative of the community with volunteer representation from each of the interest groups established in Phase 1, to participate on the Planning Team or Board (when established) for the potential 5-year Phase 4 project. Planning Team members that served during the first three phases of the project have been encouraged to continue serving in Phase 4, to carry forward the knowledge and experiences learned from the first three phases of watershed planning. ***(ACTION ONGOING)***
3(c)ii	Recommend the Planning Team or Board (when established) at the start of and throughout Phase 4, guide the work and provide general oversight of the grant in accordance with the recommendations of the Watershed Plan and DIP. (***Note: At the start of Phase 4, the Planning Team agreed by consensus to retain their original name throughout Phase 4. Therefore, the wording for this recommendation has been changed to reflect their decision.)***
3(c)iii	Recommend the Planning Team or WMP and Board (when established) adopt operating procedures (and/or by-laws) to guide the Planning Team or WMP and Board during and beyond Phase 4. ***(ACTION COMPLETED)***
3(c)iv	Recommend the Planning Team, within one year of accepting Phase 4 grant funding, to complete a detailed Implementation Plan. Submittal of a detailed Implementation Plan to Ecology is a condition of receiving grants for the second and all subsequent years of the Phase 4 grant (Chapter 90.82.042(1) RCW) ***(ACTION COMPLETED – March 2006)***
3(c)v	Recommend Stevens County (as Lead Agency) or WMP (when established) and the Planning Team or Board (when established) establish and maintain a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) to guide the administration of the Phase 4 Implementation grant and scope of work. ***(ACTION ONGOING)***
3(c)vi	Recommend the Planning Team or Board (when established) provide general oversight of the allocation of grant funds for both the implementation of the grant and prioritized projects outlined in the Watershed Plan and DIP. The Planning Team or Board (when established) also should provide general oversight of the scope of work for Phase 4. ***(ACTION ONGOING)***
4(a)iii	Recommend Stevens County or WMP and Board (when established) establish a viable means for supporting the ongoing local cooperative management of the water resources in accordance with this Watershed Plan.

Notes: Washington Water Law consists of numerous RCWs including: the Surface Water Code, RCW 90.03, the Ground Water Code RCW 90.44, Well Construction Code, RCW 18.104, Water Resources Act of 1971, RCW 90.54. In addition, there are numerous court cases that have established Case Law on the methods of interpretation and specific applicability of the Laws and Regulations in many conditions. Regulations, codes and case law, including various policies, procedures and Memorandums of Agreement, are used to evaluate appropriate procedures and enforcement of the State Water Laws.

In summary, the Planning Team recommends the following:

1. Reviewing or updating this Watershed Plan 18 months after adoption of Version 2.0;
2. Establishing a schedule for regular updates to this Watershed Plan in the future;
3. Requesting and submitting an application for a Phase 4 grant ***(ACTION COMPLETED)***;
4. Developing a WRIA 59 Watershed Management Partnership (WMP) per an Interlocal Agreement (Chapter 39.34 RCW) in conjunction with the formation of the WRIA 59 Water Resource

Management Board (Board). In accordance with the March 2006 WRIA 59 Colville River Watershed DIP, the Planning Team finalized this Interlocal Agreement in February 2007 and plans to begin implementation of the WMP / Board structure in April 2007 ***(ACTION ONGOING)***;

5. Stevens County continuing as Lead Agency until the WMP is in place and to continue serving as Lead Agency within the WMP structure ***(ACTION ONGOING)***;
6. Retaining WRIA 59 Water Resource Personnel to provide oversight of the grant funds ***(ACTION ONGOING)***;
7. Developing and adopting operating procedures/by-laws for the Planning Team or WMP and Board (when established) ***(ACTION COMPLETED);***
8. Establishing and maintaining an MOA between Stevens County or WMP (when established) and the Planning Team or Board (when established) ***(ACTION ONGOING)***; and
9. Establishing a viable means for supporting the ongoing local management of the water resources in WRIA 59.

4.2 WATER QUANTITY

4.2.1 Obligations

The obligations documented in Table 7 have been agreed to by the agencies identified. These obligations are actions that would occur upon approval and adoption of this Watershed Plan to resolve the water quantity issue identified in Section 3.2.1.

TABLE 7. OBLIGATIONS RELATED TO WATER QUANTITY

(Text for Table 7 was extracted from Table 2 of this Watershed Plan)

ISSUE: WRIA 59 water quantity resources are not being actively managed.

REFERENCE NUMBER EXAMPLE: 1(a)ii = Water Quantity Goal #1, Objective #a, Alternative Solution #ii

Reference Number	Obligations Related to Water Quantity
1(a)i	Obligate Ecology and WDFW to provide technical assistance to the Planning Team or Board (when established) to assess minimum instream flows in WRIA 59 on the Colville River and its tributaries in the collaborative manner described in Chapter 90.82 RCW. (See Appendix C1,for Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the agencies and the Planning Team (April 2006) and the WRIA 59 2005-2007 Instream Flow Project Scope of Work (June 16, 2006) which is the updated and finalized version of the draft WRIA 59 Instream Flow Roadmap (August 10, 2004). Ecology and WDFW will work together with and provide technical assistance to the WRIA 59 Planning Team or Board (when established) under the guidelines of the MOU and Final Scope of Work for instream flow studies, including fieldwork, report review and flow negotiations. Ecology is obligated to provide approximately 0.25 of a full time equivalent (FTE) staff person to accomplish this action. WDFW will provide the following specifics for the proposed instream flow obligations as detailed in the 2006 MOU and Scope of Work (included in Appendix C1): * (A) A Watershed Stewardship Team Biologist NTE 0.25 FTE hrs from January 2005 to December 2006 for technical assistance, field data collection, and negotiations; (B) A Fish Biologist Not To Exceed (NTE) 80 hrs. from January 2005 to December 2006; and (C) Water Team Biologist(s) NTE 120 hrs. from January 2005 to December 2006. * Proposed start date for this work is January 2005, or as soon as possible thereafter. ***(ACTION ONGOING)***
1(a)ii	Obligate Ecology to proceed with rulemaking in Spring 2007 (or as soon as possible thereafter); following the final negotiated minimum instream flow* on those water bodies where mutually agreed upon instream flows are reached between the state agencies, Stevens County and the Planning Team or Board (when established), subject to available funding and/or resources. NOTE: The minimum instream flows should not be approved and adopted until the agreed upon Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) outlined in Section 5 is signed by Ecology and Stevens County or the WMP and/or Board (when established). *See Section 4.2.1.1 of this Watershed Plan (Instream Flows and Closures) for more information.
1(a)iii	Obligate Ecology to process water rights according to the current and appropriate Washington Water Laws, Regulations etc.[1] If the Watershed Plan is approved per RCW 90.82.130, Ecology will be obligated per Chapter 90.82.130(4) RCW to "…use the plan as the framework for making future water resource decisions for the planned watershed."
1(a)iv	Obligate Ecology to support Legislative request to provide a Northeast Regional Watermaster, to serve the northeastern Washington Counties, including Stevens, Pend Oreille, Ferry, and possibly Lincoln Counties, as a budgetary add item from the Legislature. Obligate Ecology to accept and consider written input from local government during the Watermaster's performance evaluation period, through the Watermaster's immediate supervisor.

TABLE 7. OBLIGATIONS RELATED TO WATER QUANTITY

(Text for Table 7 was extracted from Table 2 of this Watershed Plan)

ISSUE: WRIA 59 water quantity resources are not being actively managed.

REFERENCE NUMBER EXAMPLE: 1(a)ii = Water Quantity Goal #1, Objective #a, Alternative Solution #ii

Reference Number	Obligations Related to Water Quantity
1(a)xi	Obligate Ecology to process water rights according to the current and appropriate Washington Water Laws, Regulations etc.[1] If the Watershed Plan is approved per RCW 90.82.130, Ecology will be obligated per Chapter 90.82.130(4) RCW to "…use the plan as the framework for making future water resource decisions for the planned watershed."
1(b)ii	Obligate Ecology, WDFW, and other appropriate state agencies to work together with the Planning Team or Board (when established) to perform mutually agreed upon minimum instream flow studies. The Planning Team requests agencies notify the Planning Team or WMP and Board (when established) about funding sources for the minimum instream flow studies in accordance with this Watershed Plan. (See Appendix C1 for the proposed scope of work and schedule). ***(ACTION ONGOING)***
1(b)iii – 1(b)xvii	Obligations within 1(b)iii – 1(b)xvii are the same actions as those in 1(a)iii through 1(a)xvii. Therefore, see above obligations for those items.
3(a)i	Obligate Ecology to compile a list of accepted strategies for water right applicant information per the objective. Note: Ecology has fulfilled this obligation and on October 1, 2004 the Planning Team was provided two copies of the publication 'Mitigation Measures Used in Water Rights Permitting' (Ecology, 2003). (***ACTION COMPLETED)***
3(c)i	Obligate Ecology to elevate the priority of processing pending and future non-consumptive water rights in accordance with current Washington Water Laws, Regulations, etc.[1], including WAC 173-152-050 if the application meets the criteria in WAC 173-152-050(2)(b), which states "An application may be processed prior to completing applications if the department determines: The proposed water use is non-consumptive and if approved would substantially enhance or protect the quality of the natural environment".
3(e)i	Obligate Ecology, WDFW, and other appropriate state agencies to work with Planning Team or Board (when established) to perform mutually agreed upon instream flow studies on the Colville River and its tributaries, in the collaborative manner described in Chapter 90.82 RCW, subject to available funding and/or resources. The Planning Team or WMP and Board (when established) requests agencies to notify the Planning Team or WMP and Board (when established) of funding sources to help fund the minimum instream flow studies. The finalized MOU, Scope of Work, and original draft Roadmap for the instream flow work is included in Appendix C1. ***(ACTION ONGOING)***
3(e)iii	Obligate Ecology to proceed with rulemaking for any final negotiated minimum instream flows on those water bodies where mutually agreed upon minimum instream flows are reached between the state agencies, Stevens County and the Planning Team or Board (when established), subject to available funding and resources.
3(e)iv	Obligate Ecology to process new water right allocations in accordance with Washington Water Laws, Regulations etc.[1] , including Chapter 173-152 WAC and Chapter 173-559 WAC. If the Plan is approved per RCW 90.82.130, Ecology will be obligated per RCW 90.82.130(4) to "…use the plan as the framework for making future water resource decisions for the planned watershed."
3(g)v, and 3(h)iii	Obligate Ecology to support a Legislative request for a Northeast Regional Watermaster to serve the north eastern Washington Counties, as a budgetary add item from the Legislature.
3(k)i	Obligate Stevens PUD to implement a Non-Profit Water Rights Clearinghouse, as a pilot project for a period of at least 2 years.***(ACTION ONGOING)***

TABLE 7. OBLIGATIONS RELATED TO WATER QUANTITY	
(Text for Table 7 was extracted from Table 2 of this Watershed Plan)	
ISSUE: WRIA 59 water quantity resources are not being actively managed.	
REFERENCE NUMBER EXAMPLE: 1(a)ii = Water Quantity Goal #1, Objective #a, Alternative Solution #ii	
Reference Number	**Obligations Related to Water Quantity**
4(c)iii	Obligate Ecology to process new water rights from stored water, in accordance with current Washington Water Laws, Regulations, etc.[1], including RCW 90.03.370 (Reservoir permits) and WAC 173-12-030, which meet the provisions of RCW 90.03.250 through 90.03.320..
5(d)ii	Obligate Ecology to perform educational outreach to meet this objective. (Note: The Planning Team was informed on 10/1/04 that Ecology is currently meeting this obligation through the Technical Resources for Engineering Efficiency (TREE) Team. Further information on this may be found on Ecology's website: http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/hwtr/TREE/index.html ***(ACTION COMPLETED)***

[1] Note: Washington Water Law consists of numerous RCWs, including the Surface Water Code, RCW 90.03, the Ground Water Code, RCW 90.44, Well Construction Code, RCW 18.104, Water Resources Act of 1971, RCW 90.54. In addition, there are numerous court cases that have established Case Law on the methods of interpretation and specific applicability of the Laws and Regulations in many conditions. Regulations, codes and case law, including various policies, procedures and Memorandums of Agreement, are used to evaluate appropriate procedures and enforcement of the State Water Laws.

In summary, Ecology is the primary government agency obligated to perform or act related to the water quantity issue identified in this Watershed Plan. Ecology is obligated to provide technical assistance to the WRIA 59 Planning Team or Board (when established) to assess minimum instream flows in collaboration with the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) and to support a Legislative request for a Northeast Regional Watermaster. The Stevens PUD is another government agency obligated to address the water quantity issue. The Stevens PUD is obligated to implement a Non-Profit Water Rights Clearinghouse as a pilot project for a period of at least two years.

4.2.1.1 Instream Flows and Closures

The objective of the WRIA 59 Watershed Planning process is to develop a long-range water resource management plan to cooperatively manage the available water resources. Setting minimum instream flows help in the process of water resource management. Review of the basin's current closures as to their continuance will be a component of the instream flow negotiation process outlined within this Watershed Plan.

As established in 1977 in Chapter 173-559 WAC, closures may have been appropriate in 1977, when WRIA 59 was closed by rule. However, under current Watershed Planning, closures may be removed with the setting of minimum instream flows. The flows become the regulatory limits to control management practices for that stream or river. With closures replaced by minimum instream flows, alternative actions can then be contemplated, rather than be restricted by previous closures. Once minimum instream flows are set, it does not necessarily create new water for appropriation. For any given stream or river segment in which a minimum instream flow has been set, previously existing senior water rights, claims or certificates may already exceed the instream flow. It is important to note that all existing valid water rights will be senior to any new instream flows set in regulation. For the purposes of this Watershed Plan, it is intended that setting minimum instream flows will facilitate active, cooperative management of the water resources within the watershed.

4.2.2 Recommendations[4]

The recommendations made to address the issue of the water resources in WRIA 59 not being actively managed are presented below. General recommendations have been made by the Planning Team that are not a result of specific objectives, but are made to address the goal of establishing a framework for local cooperative management of the WRIA 59 water resources for the maximum net benefit of the people. In addition to these general recommendations below, Table 10 identifies the specific recommendations that have been incorporated into the WRIA 59 DIP (Golder, 2006).

The Planning Team generally recommends the following:

1. Stevens County pass an ordinance or establish a MOA to document the basis and process to work toward a new cooperative relationship among local, state, and federal agencies on actions affecting management of water resources in WRIA 59 to protect the citizens' customs, culture, and economic stability, while protecting and using their environment as it relates to water resources.
2. Conservation and development of water resources are essential to protecting the customs, culture, and economic stability of the citizens in WRIA 59, along with protection and use of the water resources. The Planning Team recommends that federal and state agencies, to the extent permitted by law, not take actions affecting water rights, private property rights, and water resources that are incompatible with local customs, culture, and economic stability or protection and use of the environment that otherwise fail to protect private property rights.
3. Any federal or state action that has changed, or has the potential to change, existing water rights or water uses within WRIA 59 should be critically considered in relationship to the historic and current water uses by humans, vegetation, livestock, and wildlife. It is the intent of the Planning Team or Board (when established) to co-manage WRIA 59 with federal and state agencies regarding the planning and management of natural, cultural, economic and environmental resources in WRIA 59 related to water use. Since the regulation of any aspect of water rights or water use may impact the ability of WRIA 59 citizens to use land and natural resources, all federal and state agencies should, when taking any action related to restricting or limiting water use or rights: (i) notify Stevens County or Board (when established) of proposed actions; (ii) provide a detailed statement assessing the specific effects on the customs, culture, economy and environment of Stevens County; (iii) consider all alternatives to the taking of such actions; and, (iv) to the extent permitted by law, implement appropriate mitigation measures adopted with the concurrence of Stevens County, in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the Washington State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA).
4. In coordination with private landowners and governmental agencies, Stevens County and Planning Team or the Board (when established) help develop water management plans that encompass water resources on public and private lands.
5. In accordance with NEPA and SEPA, any action affecting the management of river and stream flows, wells or any source of water for irrigation, and any other federal or state action that has any affect on water rights or water uses within WRIA 59 should: (i) be coordinated with Stevens County and the Planning Team or Board (when established); (ii) to the extent permitted by law, comply with all Stevens County water use plans; and, (iii) not violate any water rights.

[4] The State does not support or necessarily agree (due to statutory and/or regulatory limitations) with all of the statements and recommendations made in Section 4.2.2, "Recommendations".

6. Prior to the sale of any WRIA 59 water right(s) to the state and/or any other non-local user, every possible effort should be made to provide an opportunity for local transfer of the available water rights to interested water users within the watershed. The purpose of this recommendation is to help maintain and enhance economic opportunities within the watershed, while protecting the active water rights of WRIA 59 for the maximum net benefit of the people.

7. In accordance with NEPA and SEPA, Stevens County and Planning Team or the Board (when established) should be the first point of contact for state and federal agencies taking actions related to water resources in WRIA 59.

8. Permanently lift the Colville River Basin closures to allow for local management of the water resources in the watershed through proper supervision of instream flows. The purpose of permanently lifting the closures is to provide active local management the opportunity to avoid the costly and time consuming steps of closing and reopening the basin or specific tributaries within the basin as conditions or situations change. (See Section 4.2.1.1.)

9. Apply the prioritized list of beneficial uses for water resources in WRIA 59 (Table 8), which were determined through the WRIA 59 Watershed Planning Process as beneficial uses related to state and local government determinations at various times and purposes when applying "public interest" as required in Section 5(4) of House Bill (HB) 1336, RCW 90.54.020 (10) and (11) and other laws and regulations. These priorities should also be considered in determining local customs, cultures, and economic stability as related to water resources in WRIA 59. The Planning Team emphasizes that all the listed beneficial water uses are deemed important in protecting the customs, cultures and economic stability within the watershed. However, at such time in the future that limited availability of water resources restrict additional allocations of water in specific areas of the watershed, then the ranked list of beneficial water uses should be applied to provide guidance as to the top priorities for issuance of future water allocations as the law allows, including potential future water reservations. The Planning Team encourages all local, state and federal agencies and other parties who grant funding for water resource projects to consider and give equal priority to all categories of beneficial uses when reviewing grant applications from WRIA 59. The Planning Team has proposed recommended projects for all eight categories, and all should be given the same priority pertaining to future grants.

TABLE 8. GENERAL LIST OF BENEFICIAL WATER USES	
WRIA 59 Watershed Planning General List of Beneficial Water Uses	**Ranking**
DOMESTIC WATER SUPPLY & FIRE PROTECTION: Water for Private, Public, and Municipal drinking water, household, and lawn/garden water use, and exempt wells (includes commercial irrigation <5,000 gpd), and water for fire protection/control.	#1
AGRICULTURAL: Water for farming, agricultural irrigation, dairies, beef, poultry, and all other livestock, game bird farming, frost protection or heat control for crops, orchards, and vineyards.	#2
WATER STORAGE: Water for water storage projects, augment summer low flows for all listed WRIA 59 General Beneficial Water Uses, and other beneficial uses; to help control flooding; and provide pass through water for maintaining water quality in water storage facilities.	#3
COMMERCIAL/INDUSTRIAL: Includes cannery operations, food processing and packaging, highway construction and general construction, sand and gravel processing, asphalt plant, dust control, lumber, shingle or plywood milling, log storage ponds, log watering, metal processing and manufacturing, pulp and paper manufacturing, aquatic plant culture, petroleum refining, beverage manufacture, car washes, laundries, laundromats, any other commercial or industrial purpose, golf course irrigation, mining, thermal power production, and greenhouses.	#4
NON-CONSUMPTIVE USES: Water for hydropower, and fish hatcheries.	#5
HABITAT: Water for the support of current populations of fish and wildlife.	#6
FISH & WILDLIFE: Water for enhancement of Fish and Wildlife.	#7
RECREATION & BEAUTIFICATION: Water for recreation uses and/or beautification, (e.g., fishing, swimming, boating, & development of ponds).	#8

In addition to the general list of beneficial uses shown in Table 8, a list of beneficial uses of stored water that may be made available through the development of future storage projects has been prioritized and presented in Table 9 below.

TABLE 9. WRIA 59 RANKING OF BENEFICIAL USES FOR STORED WATER

WRIA 59 Watershed Planning General List of Stored Water	Ranking
Provide Drinking Water	#1
Irrigation of Cropland	#2
Prevent and Control Flooding	#3
Hydroelectric Power	#4
Provide Water for Current Populations of Fish and Wildlife	#5
Release Water to Improve Water Quality	#6
Consumption by Livestock	#7
Support of Vegetation for Range Grazing	#8
Product Contains Water (e.g., brewery, golf course)	#9
Provide Household Water Needs (cleaning)	#10
Home Lawn and Garden Irrigation	#11
Cooling Water Supply	#12
Process Water Supply (e.g., water for boiler or production)	#13
Provide Water for Increased Populations of Fish and Wildlife	#14
Provide Water for Home Wastewater (sewage) System Operation	#15
On and/or Near Water (e.g., fishing)	#16
Provide Scenic Beauty	#17
In the Water (e.g. swimming)	#18

Table 10 identifies the specific recommendations approved from Section 3.2 to address the issue of not actively managing the water resources in WRIA 59.

TABLE 10. RECOMMENDATIONS RELATED TO WATER QUANTITY	
(Text for Table 10 was extracted from Table 2 of this Watershed Plan)	
Issue: WRIA 59 water (quantity) resources are not being actively managed.	
REFERENCE NUMBER EXAMPLE: 1(a)ii = Water Quantity Goal #1, Objective #a, Alternative Solution #ii	
Reference Number	**Recommendations Related to Water Quantity**
1(a)v	Recommend the duties of the Watermaster include, but not be limited to the following: a. Refer to, and utilize the Watershed Plan and DIP as guidance for making WRIA 59 water resource decisions. b. Perform Permit Writer functions, to make water right decisions, including short-term permits, in accordance current Washington Water Laws, Regulations, etc. [1], and in accordance with the adopted WRIA 59 Colville River Watershed Plan and DIP. For any state water rights on federal lands, the Watermaster will help oversee the management of those water rights. However, all Federal Special-Use Permits, which can include water use, are managed specifically by USFS regional staff. c. Assist in public outreach and other aspects of the proposed WRIA 59 Adjudication process. Coordinate public outreach in the watershed with the Planning Team or Board (when established) and the WRIA 59 Water Resource Personnel. d. Enforce instream flows. e. Take periodic flow measurements in streams and measure static water levels in selected wells as recommended in the USGS Report. f. In coordination with the Planning Team or Board (when established), pursue voluntary relinquishments starting with letters and news releases. g. Be available to local residents to provide water rights/water resources assistance, answer questions, and provide educational outreach materials via brochures, presentations (such as at WSU Extension Office in Colville), and attendance at local meetings regarding water resource topics or issues. h. Attend WRIA 59 Water Resource Management Board Meetings, and serve on the Board. i. Attend other pertinent water resource meetings, as requested by Planning Team or Board (when established.) j. Ecology will strongly consider supporting an office within Stevens County or one of the WMP government offices (when established) for the Watermaster, subject to available resources and budget constraints. k. Coordinate efforts with the Planning Team or Board (when established), and the Stevens County Water Conservancy Board (SCWCB), to build relationships between local residents and state agencies, to help provide solutions to local water issues, and to effectively negotiate and make every effort to help resolve water rights conflicts within the watershed. l. Serve as Ecology's liaison to the WRIA 59 residents concerning state and federal water allocation issues pertinent to WRIA 59. m. Work with the Planning Team or Board (when established) on the coordinated implementation of water resource management strategies and priorities for WRIA 59, as directed in the WRIA 59 Colville River Watershed Plan and DIP per the MOA/MOU between Ecology and the Board, and/or the WMP on behalf of the Board.

TABLE 10. RECOMMENDATIONS RELATED TO WATER QUANTITY	
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Issue: WRIA 59 water (quantity) resources are not being actively managed.	
REFERENCE NUMBER EXAMPLE: 1(a)ii = Water Quantity Goal #1, Objective #a, Alternative Solution #ii	
Reference Number	**Recommendations Related to Water Quantity**
1(a)vi	Recommend, upon approval of the WRIA 59 Watershed Plan, an adjudication of the Watershed be performed in accordance with the goals, objectives and alternative solutions documented in the Watershed Plan and DIP; in coordination with the Planning Team or Board (when established); and according to local, state, federal and tribal law.
1(a)vii	Recommend the Planning Team or Board (when established), local governments, and/or local public and private groups apply for grants to enhance the WRIA 59 Groundwater Model from a steady state to a transient model, so it may provide additional information on surface water and groundwater continuity, aquifer capacities, aquifer locations, and recharge areas.
1(a)viii	Strongly recommend continued financial support and the development of a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) for continued operation of the USGS Gauge at Meyers Falls by the owner of Meyers Falls Hydropower Plant, USGS, Stevens County, SCCD; Cities of Kettle Falls, Colville, Chewelah, the Stevens PUD, and others. ***(ACTION ONGOING)***
1(a)ix	Recommend the Planning Team or Board (when established) develop during Phase 4 a permanent flow-monitoring program to provide necessary data for ongoing management of the watershed's water resources. Recommend the Planning Team or WMP and Board (when established) apply for grants to purchase and install stream gauges and well measurement devices. The Planning Team or WMP and Board (when established) requests agencies notify them about funding sources to help fund the monitoring stations, well measurement devices, and implementation of the monitoring program. ***(ACTION ONGOING)***
1(a)x	Recommend Ecology allocate new groundwater water rights until groundwater withdrawals equal 95 percent of the average annual recharge to the applicable source aquifer per calculations quoted on page 19 under Ground Water in Ecology's *Water Resources Management Program, Colville Basin* (1977); and also referenced in Table 9 on pg. 37 in the USGS Water-Resources Investigation Report 03-4128 (USGS, 2003).
1(a)xi	Recommend petitioning the Legislature to change Chapter 173-559 WAC to allow allocation of groundwater up to 95% of the average annual recharge of applicable aquifer.
1(a)xiii	Recommend setting up a mechanism to provide an opportunity for increasing water supplies when groundwater withdrawals in a particular aquifer reaches and/or equals 70% of the average annual aquifer recharge. See 1(a)(xiv) and 1(a)xv below.
1(a)xiv	Recommend petitioning the Legislature to change Chapter 173-559 WAC to include the mechanism described in Alternative Solution 1(a)xiii.
1(a)xv	Recommend Ecology notify the Stevens County Legislative Authorities or Board (when established) when ground water withdrawal in a particular aquifer equals 70 percent of average annual aquifer recharge in the watershed to provide local management an opportunity to increase water supplies.
1(a)xvi	When determined appropriate by the Planning Team or Board (when established), recommend Ecology work together with the Planning Team or Board on the feasibility of a water reservation for WRIA 59 per Chapters 90.54.020(3)(a) RCW and 90.54.050 RCW.
1(a)xvii	Recommend the Planning Team or Board (when established) investigate the need and feasibility of potential future actions to add to Goal #1 including consideration of irrigation districts.
1(b)i	Recommend petitioning the Legislature to open WRIA 59 through legislation for local cooperative management of the water resources by instream flows, in accordance with the Watershed Plan and DIP, and for the maximum net benefit of the people (Chapter 90.54.020(2) RCW).
1(b)iv – 1(b)xvii	Recommends for actions 1(b)iv through 1(b)xvii are the same as stated in 1(a)iv through 1(a)xvii. Therefore, see above recommendations for those actions
1(c)i	Recommend comments be solicited from the local public identifying their concerns and issues related to water resources that could be addressed in the updates to this Watershed Plan.

TABLE 10. RECOMMENDATIONS RELATED TO WATER QUANTITY	
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REFERENCE NUMBER EXAMPLE: 1(a)ii = Water Quantity Goal #1, Objective #a, Alternative Solution #ii	
Reference Number	**Recommendations Related to Water Quantity**
2(a)i	Recommend the Planning Team or WMP and Board (when established) and local water purveyors/users apply for funding to support and implement the following action items: **1.** Encourage public and private parties in the construction of multiple water storage projects throughout the watershed, and encourage cooperative agreements for shared water storage projects with adjacent watersheds. Any proposed water storage projects on private and state lands will need to go through the required permitting and SEPA review. Any proposed water storage projects on federal lands would be subject to current federal regulations and permits including NEPA review. Multi-purpose water storage projects are encouraged whenever possible. **2.** Encourage public and private parties in the development of irrigation projects including pre-season and post-season irrigation to increase aquifer recharge and/or instream flows during low flow periods. **3.** Encourage public and private parties to help conserve water including educational outreach and incentive based programs. **4.** Encourage public and private parties in the development and implementation of water reuse and reclamation projects, when feasible. **5.** Encourage public and private parties in the construction of surface water infiltration projects.
3(b)i	Recommend petitioning the Legislature to pursue options to expedite water rights processing according to the timeframe identified in the objective.
3(b)ii	Recommend Ecology establish a policy or regulation to implement objective.
3(d)i	Recommend Ecology to process pending water rights in the Colville River Watershed in accordance with Washington Water Laws, Regulations, etc.[1], including temporary pre- and post-growing season irrigation upon the request of the applicant and prior to setting new minimum instream flows.
3(e)ii	Recommend the Planning Team or Board (when established) make recommendations to the Stevens County Legislative Authorities on final recommendation to Ecology related to minimum instream flows.
3(f)i	Recommend Stevens County, Ecology, and other appropriate state agencies adopt policy to implement exempt well objective for WRIA 59.
3(g)i	Recommend petitioning the Legislators to change existing adjudication process in Washington State to meet the objective.
3(g)ii	Recommend petitioning the Legislators to support an adjudication of WRIA 59.
3(g)iii	Recommend the Planning Team or Board (when established) and appropriate agencies provide educational outreach to local and regional groups on adjudication procedures.
3(g)iv	Recommend the Planning Team or Board (when established) and appropriate agencies provide educational outreach to local water right holders in preparation for an adjudication.
3(h)i	Recommend petitioning the Legislators to change the WAC to allow for this objective.
3(h)iv	Recommend Ecology to process temporary permits to meet this objective, as a HIGH PRIORITY, in accordance with Washington Water Laws, Regulations, etc.[1],
3(l)i	Recommend petitioning the Legislators to change existing Law related to relinquishment (i.e., Chapter 90.14 RCW) to extend the 5-year relinquishment period to at least 15 years, with a 15-year statute of repose.
3(m)i	Recommend petitioning the Legislature to ensure protection of water rights for the benefit of the people in WRIA 59 along with establishing a possible cap on allowable funding for governments to purchase water rights so that purchase prices would be comparable with private purchases of comparable water rights.
3(m)ii	Recommend Ecology provide public notice or news releases to meet this objective, unless prohibited by law.

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Reference Number	**Recommendations Related to Water Quantity**
4(a)i	Recommend the Planning Team or WMP and Board (when established) and local public and private parties, with technical assistance from Ecology, WDFW, other appropriate local governments and federal agencies, apply for grants to fund and implement the development of the "Water Storage Program."
4(a)ii	Recommend the Planning Team or WMP and Board (when established) hire a consultant and provide direct oversight of that consultant during the writing of the "Water Storage Program" as described in this objective.
4(a)iii	Recommend the Planning Team or Board (when established) and a consultant work together with Ecology, WDFW, and other appropriate agencies to achieve an approved Water Storage Program as outlined in the objective for WRIA 59.
4(a)iv	Strongly recommend continued financial support for ongoing operation of USGS Gauge at Meyers Falls to ensure ongoing monitoring of the stream flows and to assist in measuring the beneficial effects of implemented water storage projects. Multi-purpose water storage projects are strongly encouraged, whenever possible, to help bring in additional revenues for the actual construction and ongoing maintenance of these water storage projects.
4(b)i	Recommend the Planning Team or WMP and Board (when established) apply for grants to perform a Phase II Feasibility Study on selected WRIA 59 water storage projects.
4(b)ii	Recommend the Planning Team or WMP and Board hire and provide direct oversight of a consultant to perform the Phase II Feasibility Study on selected Water Storage Projects in WRIA 59 as described in the objective.
4(c)i	Recommend the Planning Team or WMP and Board (when established), local governments, citizens, and/or interest groups apply for grants to fund the construction of multiple storage projects in the watershed.
4(c)ii	Recommend local governments, citizens and/or interest groups construct water storage projects in the watershed, when financially feasible. (NOTE: Stevens County supports water storage projects per Stevens County Ordinance #108-2003 dated Sept. 9, 2003.)
4(c)v	To ensure ongoing monitoring of the stream flows that would measure the beneficial effects of water storage projects, the Planning Team or Board (when established) recommends the support of local, state, and federal agencies to help implement a flow monitoring program and continued financial support for ongoing operation of USGS Monitoring Gauge at Meyers Falls.
4(d)i	Recommend the Planning Team or WMP and Board (when established), local governments, citizens, and/or interest groups apply for grants for the construction of flood control storage projects in the watershed including dredging and construction of sediment basins.
4(d)ii	Recommend local governments, Ecology, WDFW, and other appropriate state and federal agencies permit and implement dredging when necessary to reduce flooding and erosion within the watershed.
4(d)iii	Recommend Ecology, WDFW, and other appropriate state and federal agencies permit and implement construction of sediment basins, where applicable.
4(d)iv	Recommend local governments support these actions when deemed necessary.
4(d)v	Recommend the Planning Team or WMP and Board (when established), local governments, citizens and/or interest groups pursue and obtain funding for ongoing maintenance including cleaning of sediment basins.
4(e)i	Recommend the Planning Team or WMP and Board (when established), local governments, citizens, and/or interest groups apply for grants to fund construction of water storage infiltration projects, including vegetative management projects, in the watershed.
4(e)ii	Recommend local governments, citizens and/or interest groups construct water storage infiltration projects in the watershed, whenever financially feasible.

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REFERENCE NUMBER EXAMPLE: 1(a)ii = Water Quantity Goal #1, Objective #a, Alternative Solution #ii	
Reference Number	**Recommendations Related to Water Quantity**
5(a)i	Recommend the Planning Team or Board (when established) work together with local governments, Ecology, DOH, and other appropriate state agencies to devise a list of water reclamation and reuse strategies for WRIA 59.
5(a)ii	Recommend the Planning Team or WMP and Board (when established) work together with local cities and towns, the Stevens PUD, and other sewer utilities, with technical assistance from local governments, Ecology, DOH, and other appropriate state and federal agencies, apply for grants to fund determining feasibility of proposed projects and implementing water reclamation and reuse projects.
5(a)iii	Recommend local cities and towns, the Stevens PUD, and other sewer utilities construct projects, when financially feasible.
5(b)i	Recommend the Planning Team or WMP and Board (when established), and local public and private parties, with technical assistance from local governments, Ecology, DOH, and other appropriate state and federal agencies, apply for grants to help implement agricultural water conservation.
5(b)ii	Recommend SCCD, NRCS, and other appropriate state and federal agencies provide ongoing educational outreach on water conservation strategies.
5(b)iii	Recommend construction and implementation of both public and private water conservation projects, including vegetative management projects, urban interface, and wildlife management projects, when financially feasible.
5(c)i	Recommend the Planning Team or WMP and Board (when established), and local public and private parties, with technical assistance from local governments, Ecology, DOH, and other appropriate state and federal agencies, apply for grants to help prepare water use contingency plans for drought years.
5(c)ii	Recommend the Planning Team or Board (when established) work together with local governments, Ecology, DOH, and other appropriate state agencies to develop drought emergency plans. Some water systems within WRIA 59 have developed emergency plans as part of their water planning efforts that include information on water shortage. This information is available from DOH. DOH published information on emergency response and water shortage response program that water systems may use to develop a drought emergency plan (see the DOH training website (http//www4.doh.wa.gov/dw/publications/) for the publications).
5(c)iii	Recommend SCCD, NRCS, and other appropriate state and federal agencies provide ongoing educational outreach. DOH has offered training to water systems on emergency response, which includes contingency plans for drought (see http://www.doh.wa.gov/ehp/dw/our main pages/training.htm for when training may next be available).
5(d)i	Recommend local governments, SCCD, NRCS, with appropriate state and federal agencies providing technical assistance, apply for grants to help fund industrial water conservation projects, including vegetative management projects, and provide educational outreach in WRIA 59.
5(e)i	Recommend the Planning Team or WMP and Board (when established), and local public and private parties, with technical assistance from local governments, Ecology, DOH, and other appropriate state and federal agencies, apply for grants to fund and implement the development of municipal water conservation strategies, incentive programs, and water conservation projects, including vegetative management projects, urban interface, and wildlife management plans.
5(e)ii	Highly recommend DOH perform educational outreach via media, schools, associations, etc.
5(e)iii	Recommend incorporated cities within WRIA 59 and the Stevens PUD distribute water conservation pamphlet to customers once per year.
5(f)i	Recommend the Planning Team or WMP and Board (when established), and local public and private parties, with technical assistance from local governments, Ecology, DOH, and other appropriate state and federal agencies, apply for grants to fund and implement the development of conservation strategies, incentive programs, and water conservation projects.

TABLE 10. RECOMMENDATIONS RELATED TO WATER QUANTITY	
(Text for Table 10 was extracted from Table 2 of this Watershed Plan)	
Issue: WRIA 59 water (quantity) resources are not being actively managed.	
REFERENCE NUMBER EXAMPLE: 1(a)ii = Water Quantity Goal #1, Objective #a, Alternative Solution #ii	
Reference Number	**Recommendations Related to Water Quantity**
5(f)ii	Highly recommend DOH perform educational outreach via media, schools, associations, etc.
5(f)iii	Recommend Stevens County Land Services Department and/or other appropriate local governments distribute DOH Water Conservation Pamphlet.

[1] Note: Washington Water Law consists of numerous RCWs, including the Surface Water Code, RCW 90.03, the Ground Water Code, RCW 90.44, Well Construction Code, RCW 18.104, Water Resources Act of 1971, RCW 90.54. In addition, there are numerous court cases that have established Case Law on the methods of interpretation and specific applicability of the Laws and Regulations in many conditions. Regulations, codes and case law, including various policies, procedures and Memorandums of Agreement, are used to evaluate appropriate procedures and enforcement of the State Water Laws.

In summary, these general and specific recommendations from the Planning Team's thorough review and research of the WRIA 59 water resources issues provide a basis for establishing a framework for cooperative management of the water resources for the maximum net benefit of the people. Lifting the closures will allow for cooperative water resources management of the basin through instream flows, with the assistance of a full-time water master. In addition, the Planning Team has recommended installing and operating permanent monitoring devices in the Colville River and its tributaries and other water bodies to help provide the necessary instream flow information for this task. The Planning Team also recommends establishing multiple water storage facilities throughout the watershed to help augment seasonal low flows and to provide additional water for future growth. It is through these recommendations that the Planning Team proposes balancing future water needs with increased water supplies through active cooperative l management of the water resources.

4.3 WATER QUALITY

4.3.1 Obligations

There are no alternative solutions that obligate government agencies to take an action related to resolving the primary water quality issue in WRIA 59. Therefore, there are no obligations to report.

4.3.2 Recommendations

The recommendations made to address the issue of compliance with water quality standards are presented in Table 11. These recommendations are identified and detailed in Section 3.1. Some of these recommendations have already been achieved through completion of the supplemental water quality project. The supplemental water quality report entitled, "*Water Quality Assessment Report - Supplemental Water Quality Assessment, Colville River Watershed (WRIA 59)*" (Golder, 2004) is noted in Appendix I. To guide the implementation of the remainder of these recommendations, these additional recommendations have been incorporated into the WRIA 59 DIP (Golder, 2006).

TABLE 11. RECOMMENDATIONS RELATED TO WATER QUALITY	
(Text for Table 11 was extracted from Table 3 of this Watershed Plan)	
ISSUE: Water Quality Standards are not being met in some of the basin's water bodies.	
(REFERENCE NUMBER EXAMPLE: 1(a)ii = Water Quality Goal #1, Objective #a, Alternative Solution #ii)	
Reference Number	**Recommendations Related to Water Quality**
1(a)ii	Recommend the Planning Team or Board (when established) together with applicable governments, through coordinated planning efforts, implement the post-implementation evaluation process. Apply applicable knowledge gained and results to subsequent water quality BMPs projects and future water quality BMPs educational outreach projects.
1(b)iii	Recommend the Planning Team or WMP and Board (when established) and applicable governments, through coordinated planning efforts, apply for grant funding to support the implementation of recommended water quality educational outreach strategies associated with BMPs.
1(b)iv	Under the oversight and coordination of the Planning Team or Board (when established), recommend applicable governments and planning efforts implement educational outreach strategies for these BMPs.
1(c)iii	Recommend the Planning Team or WMP and Board (when established) and applicable governments, through coordinated planning efforts, apply for grant funding to support the implementation of recommended water quality educational outreach strategies for agricultural BMPs.
1(c)iv	Under the oversight and in coordination with the Planning Team or Board (when established), recommend applicable governments and planning efforts implement educational outreach strategies for Agricultural BMPs.
1(d)iii	Recommend the Planning Team or WMP and Board (when established), and applicable governments through coordinated planning efforts, apply for grant funding to support the implementation of educational outreach strategies related to streamside BMPs and the actual BMPs.
1(d)iv	Under the oversight of and coordination with the Planning Team or Board (when established), recommend applicable governments and planning efforts implement educational outreach strategies for streamside BMPs.
1(e)ii	Recommend the Planning Team or WMP and Board (when established) and applicable governments through coordinated planning efforts, apply for grant funding to support the development of the WRIA 59 Water Quality BMPs Implementation Program.
1(e)iii	Recommend the Planning Team or Board (when established) and applicable governments coordinate with landowners to appropriately implement identified BMPs (including early action projects where possible) to help improve impaired water quality in the watershed.
1(e)iv	Recommend the Planning Team or Board (when established) develop strategies to address ongoing maintenance for water quality improvement projects (e.g., sediment catch basins, off-stream watering projects, etc.).
1(e)v	Recommend the Planning Team or WMP and Board (when established) and applicable governments, through coordinated planning efforts, apply for funding to support ongoing maintenance of projects.
2(a)ii	Recommend the Planning Team or Board (when established), in cooperation with government agencies select a Bacteria Source Tracking (BST) and/or other source tracking methods that would provide results at the highest confidence level.
2(a)iii	Recommend the Planning Team or WMP and Board (when established) and applicable governments, through coordinated planning efforts apply for grant funding to support the implementation of a BST monitoring program.
2(a)iv	Under the oversight of and in coordination with the Planning Team or Board (when established), recommend applicable governments and planning efforts implement a BST Monitoring Plan.
2(b)iv	Recommend the Planning Team or Board (when established), prioritize and approve a list of potential solutions for WRIA 59 temperature impairments to help address and work to eliminate, where possible, in the watershed.
2(b)v	Recommend the Planning Team or WMP and Board (when established) and applicable governments through planning efforts, apply for grant funding to support implementation of recommended water quality monitoring program and recommended water quality improvement projects.
2(b)vi	Under the oversight of and in coordination with the Planning Team or Board (when established), recommend applicable governments and other planning efforts implement the Temperature Monitoring Plan and recommended water quality

TABLE 11. RECOMMENDATIONS RELATED TO WATER QUALITY	
(Text for Table 11 was extracted from Table 3 of this Watershed Plan)	
ISSUE: Water Quality Standards are not being met in some of the basin's water bodies.	
(REFERENCE NUMBER EXAMPLE: 1(a)ii = Water Quality Goal #1, Objective #a, Alternative Solution #ii)	
Reference Number	**Recommendations Related to Water Quality**
	improvement projects.
2(c)i	Recommend the Planning Team or Board (when established), with assistance from local, state and federal government agencies, develop a long-term monitoring program of multiple water quality parameters, including, but not limited to fecal coliform, pH, temperature, sediment tracking and holding capacities of sediment in the Colville River and its tributaries to monitor cyclic and/or long-term changes.
2(c)ii	Recommend the Planning Team or WMP and Board (when established) and applicable governments through coordinated planning efforts, apply for grant funding to support the implementation of recommended WRIA 59 Water Quality Monitoring Program.
2(c)iii	Recommend applicable governments and planning efforts implement a long-term water quality monitoring program under the oversight of and in coordination with the WRIA 59 Planning Team or Board (when established). DOH will assist with developing a long-term monitoring program as it relates to their drinking water program.
2(d)i	Recommend the Planning Team or Board (when established) develop a well monitoring program, utilizing volunteer well sites selected to establish a baseline of water quality parameters, and monitor cyclic and/or long-term changes.
2(d)ii	Recommend the Planning Team or WMP and Board (when established) and applicable governments, through coordinated planning efforts, apply for grant funding to support a long-term water quality Well Monitoring Plan.
2(d)iii	Recommend that applicable governments and other planning efforts implement a long-term water quality Well Monitoring Plan under the oversight of and in coordination with the Planning Team or Board (when established). DOH will assist with developing a long-term monitoring program as it relates to their drinking water program.
2(e)ii	Recommend the Planning Team or Board (when established), along with local and state agencies use information from Ecology's EIM database for site-specific water quality management decisions.
3(a)iii	Recommend the Planning Team or WMP and Board (when established) and applicable governments through coordinated planning efforts, work to provide ongoing support to achieve objective (a) and alternative solutions.
3(b)iii	Recommend the Planning Team or WMP and Board (when established) and applicable governments, through coordinated planning efforts, work to provide ongoing support to achieve Objective (b) and alternative solutions.
3(c)iii	Recommend the Planning Team or WMP and Board (when established) and applicable governments, through coordinated planning efforts, work to provide ongoing support to reach target audiences and timelines outlined in Objective (c) and alternative solutions.
3(d)ii	Recommend the Planning Team or WMP and Board (when established) and applicable governments, through coordinated planning efforts, provide ongoing support to evaluate the success of education/outreach strategies.

In summary, the Planning Team recommends developing and supporting grant applications for the funding of the following:

1. Developing a water quality BMPs implementation program;
2. Identifying and developing strategies to address ongoing maintenance of water quality improvement projects;
3. Prioritizing and approving potential solutions for WRIA 59 temperature impairments;
4. Selecting a Bacteria Source Tracking (BST) and/or other source tracking method; and
5. Establishing a well monitoring program.

4.4 HABITAT

4.4.1 Obligations

No alternative solutions were developed that obligate government agencies to provide support or planning to address habitat issues in WRIA 59.

4.4.2 Recommendations

The recommendations made in the Watershed Plan for preventing habitat related issues are presented in Table 12. While the habitat component of the Watershed Planning Act was not selected for the WRIA 59 planning process, the Growth Management Act (GMA) has provided for habitat protection through the Critical Areas Ordinance, which is required and enacted by Stevens County. Due to the GMA habitat provisions, the Planning Team has chosen to highlight certain proactive strategies for this element. These are non-binding recommendations, which, if addressed, will be consistent with existing policies and procedures that Stevens County addresses in other programs.

TABLE 12. RECOMMENDATIONS RELATED TO HABITAT

(Text for Table 12 was extracted from Table 4 of this Watershed Plan)

ISSUE: Habitat element was considered, but not specifically addressed in the WRIA 59 Watershed Planning Process.

REFERENCE NUMBER EXAMPLE: 1(a)ii = Habitat Goal #1, Objective #a, Alternative Solution #ii

Reference Number	Recommendations Related to Habitat
1(a)i	Recommend Planning Team or Board (when established), with the assistance of local, state, and federal governments, develop a list of local and state government contacts and available resources to help volunteer applicants to accomplish this objective.
1(a)ii	Recommend Ecology, WDFW, DNR, DOT, and other appropriate state agencies agree to apply site-specific, flexible, cooperative decision-making with landowners and agencies working together on projects in WRIA 59 within existing laws and regulations.
1(a)iii	Recommend the Planning Team or WMP and Board (when established), and local public and private parties, together with technical assistance from local governments, WDFW, NRCS, SCCD, and other appropriate state and federal agencies, apply for grants to fund and implement site specific projects that would improve fish habitat in WRIA 59.
1(b)i	Recommend the Planning Team or WMP and Board (when established), and local public and private parties, together with technical assistance from local governments, WDFW, NRCS, SCCD, and other appropriate state and federal agencies, apply for grants to fund and implement incentive programs, including educational outreach that would help protect aquatic habitat.
1(c)i	Recommend the Planning Team or WMP and Board (when established), and local public and private parties, together with technical assistance from local governments, WDFW, NRCS, SCCD, and other appropriate state and federal agencies, apply for grants to fund and implement water storage/recharge projects to help augment summer low flows for aquatic habitat in WRIA 59.
1(c)ii	Very highly recommend Ecology consider site specific pre- and post-growing season irrigation projects for the purpose of groundwater storage/recharge to increase low flows through aquifer discharge to surface water bodies and to improve aquatic habitat in WRIA 59.

In summary, the Planning Team recommends developing a list of local and state government contacts and available resources; employing site-specific flexible cooperative decision-making with landowners and agencies working together on projects; applying for grants to fund and implement site-specific incentive projects that would improve fish habitat; implementing incentive programs, including educational outreach, to help protect aquatic habitat; and identify and develop water storage/recharge projects to help augment summer low flows for aquatic habitat in WRIA 59. In addition, the Planning Team recommends pre- and post-growing season irrigation projects for the purpose of groundwater storage/recharge to increase low flows through aquifer discharge to surface water bodies and to improve aquatic habitat.

SECTION 5.0 IMPLEMENTATION

5.1 PREPARATION

In an effort to sustain the momentum and involvement the Planning Team exhibited throughout the first three phases of Watershed Planning, the following series of actions were completed to bridge the gap between approval and adoption of this Watershed Plan (in November 30, 2006) and receipt of Phase 4 grant funds (in March 2005):

1. Stevens County, as Lead Agency, retained the WRIA 59 Water Resource Personnel under the guidance of the Planning Team;
2. The WRIA 59 Water Resource Personnel completed the following:
    a. Identified and attained agreement for matching funds;
    b. Applied for and obtained grant funds, including the first and second year Phase 4 grant funds;
    c. Though ongoing communication, helped to maintain the Planning Team's active participation into Phase 4;
    d. Provided follow-up on obligations and recommendations in the Watershed Plan; and,
    e. Tracked ongoing water resource monitoring in the watershed.

These activities helped position the Planning Team to enter Phase 4 in an organized and operational manner.

5.2 PHASE 4 – IMPLEMENTATION OF THE WATERSHED PLAN

5.2.1 Grant Funding

Phase 4 of the Watershed Planning Act allows for up to $400,000 in grant funds over a five-year period with a required ten percent match. While this funding is significant, a cursory review of the obligations and recommendations contained in this Watershed Plan will result in an understanding that this amount of funding will not provide for all of the needs identified. Therefore, all implementation actions shall include an economic impact analysis, as required by the 2006 Stevens County Comprehensive Plan). Consequently, it is imperative that the Planning Team or WMP and Board (when established) be efficient and effective with grant funds received.

Special Note: In the event that one or more agencies or governments are unable to fully fund and/or to provide for the obligations as outlined in this Watershed Plan, then this locally developed Watershed Plan may not be able to be successfully carried out by Stevens County and the state agencies as outlined. However, this Watershed Plan provides for many recommendations that can be carried out and moved forward through grants, incentive programs and other pro-active opportunities available.

5.2.2 Phase 4 Scope Of Work Outline

The following outline is provided to guide the essential Phase 4 tasks for implementation by the Planning Team or the WMP and/or Board (when established):

1. Apply for and approve Phase 4 grant applications (Stevens County as Lead Agency, or WMP (when established)) for submitting to Ecology for funding, which includes five years of potential grants. ***(ACTION ONGOING)***
2. Complete the Planning Team's Framework for Implementation as described in Section 5.2.3. ***(ACTION COMPLETED in March 2006 DIP)***
3. Immediately following the finalization of the Framework for Implementation, Stevens County and Planning Team incorporate the agreed upon framework into an MOA between Stevens County or WMP and/or Board (when established) and Ecology. ***(ACTION ONGOING)***
4. Outline a scope of work and proposed budget for prioritized obligations presented in the Watershed Plan to help address overall concerns by local governments and state and federal agencies for carrying out the proposed actions and obligations during and beyond Phase 4. ***(ACTION ONGOING)***
5. Develop a financial plan to ensure long-range funding of local water resource management within Stevens County providing for the successful ongoing implementation of and long-range sustainability of the Watershed Plan and DIP.
6. Prioritize and establish schedules for the implementation of the recommended actions. ***(ACTION ONGOING)***
7. Complete a Detailed Implementation Plan, in accordance with Chapters 90.82.043 and 90.82.048 RCW, within one year of obtaining Phase 4 grant funds from Ecology, and include the above work tasks in items #1 through #6. ***(ACTION COMPLETED MARCH 2006)***
8. Develop financial plan to ensure long-range funding for the successful ongoing updates and implementation of the Watershed Plan and DIP beyond Phase 4.

Regarding the above-stated essential tasks #2 and #3, the Planning Team has developed a Framework (described in Section 5.2.3) that outlines the steps for cooperative water resource management during implementation of the WRIA 59 Plan and DIP and beyond.

5.2.3 Framework for Implementation of the Watershed Plan[5]

The Framework for Implementation (Framework) was developed by the Planning Team to describe the roles and responsibilities (e.g., shared governance) and to provide the structure for implementing cooperative local water resource management, as outlined in Section 5 of this Watershed Plan and in Section 3 of the WRIA 59 Colville River Watershed Detailed Implementation Plan (DIP) (Golder 2006). Also, the Framework lays out the operational relationship between Ecology, local citizen groups and other governments for the purpose of cooperatively managing the water resources of WRIA 59.

[5] IMPORTANT NOTE: Applicable to ALL of Section 5.2.3 and all subsections to 5.2.3 - although Ecology and Stevens County have yet to agree to the proposed duties and responsibilities as outlined in the Framework for Implementation of the Plan, these areas need to be part of future negotiations under the proposed MOA.

In developing the Framework, the Planning Team worked to comply with and fulfill the intent of the Watershed Planning Act (Chapter 90.82 RCW) and other water resource statutes, in order to meet local citizens' desires for local water resource management and also be workable for state agencies. The Watershed Planning Act (Chapter 90.82 RCW), as amended, authorizes the Planning Team to prepare a Detailed Implementation Plan to direct the local management of the water resources. House Bill (HB) 1336 (now part of Chapter 90.82 RCW) refers to a "negotiated rule-making process" as well as "authorizing adoption of policies, procedures or agreements in lieu of rules." Therefore, these regulatory processes are a legal and allowable way for minimum instream flows and other water resource management decisions to be made through a collaborative process as outlined in the 2004 WRIA 59 Colville River Watershed Plan.

During the first year of Watershed Planning Phase 4 Implementation, the Planning Team researched and evaluated options for implementing the ongoing administrative structures and water resource projects outlined in the Watershed Plan. These funding options were then prioritized through an evaluation process of feasibility and attainability considering both the short-term and long-term implementation of the Watershed Plan. The top recommendation, as detailed in the DIP (Golder, 2006) is to develop the WRIA 59 Watershed Management Partnership (WMP) per an Interlocal Agreement (Chapter 39.34 RCW) in conjunction with the formation of the WRIA 59 Water Resource Management Board (Board). The necessary steps for development of this structure are outline in the sections below.

5.2.3.1 Develop an Interlocal Agreement (per Chapter 39.34 RCW)

The purpose of the Interlocal Agreement is to set in place a legal mechanism to apply for and administer the funding for the ongoing administration of the current WRIA 59 Colville River Watershed Plan and DIP. The Interlocal Agreement will be developed in accordance with the Interlocal Cooperation Act (Chapter 39.34 RCW and included in Appendix A2). The Interlocal Agreement will include the formation of the WRIA 59 Watershed Management Partnership (WMP) and the WRIA 59 Water Resource Management Board (Board).

The Planning Team will finalize this Interlocal Agreement during 2006/2007. If the WMP option proves unfeasible, Stevens County would continue as Lead agency until such time that another Lead Agency may be confirmed by the Planning Team or Board.

5.2.3.2 Develop and Finalize Additional Agreements to Implement Plans

Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) or Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Ecology and WRIA 59 WMP and/or Board

In the first version of the WRIA 59 Colville River Watershed Plan (GeoEngineers, 2004), a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) was considered a critical element to build the working relationship between Stevens County (as the Lead Agency) and the Washington Department of Ecology (Ecology). The Planning Team emphasizes that it is still of utmost importance to solidify a binding agreement or agreements between Ecology and the WRIA 59 Water Resource Management Board (Board), which includes the WRIA 59 Watershed Management Partnership (WMP).

To meet this goal, an MOA or MOU will be established between Ecology and the Board and/or the WMP on behalf of the Board. The MOA/MOU will document the shared governance roles and responsibilities between Ecology, the WMP, and the Board for the implementation of the Watershed Plan and DIP, for the purpose of cooperative management of the WRIA 59 water resources. The MOA/MOU will include acknowledgement that the WRIA 59 Colville River Watershed Plan and the WRIA 59 DIP are the local determination of "public interest", because they were developed as a result of an arduous six-year public

process with many local citizens and governments, in conjunction with state, federal and tribal representation.

The Planning Team or Board (when established) will develop this MOA/MOU, with Ecology during 2006/2007. This MOA/MOU is essential to further direct the successful implementation of the WRIA 59 Watershed Plan and DIP.

Additional Memoranda of Agreement and/or Memoranda of Understanding

The Planning Team or WMP and/or Board (when established) may pursue additional agreements, such as Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) between Ecology, other agencies, the WMP and/or the Board to help guide the process of future involvement of local, state and federal agencies in implementing the Watershed Plan and DIP. Since there is currently no binding agreement at the state level for Ecology to continue representing the multiple state agencies after the completion of Watershed Planning Phase 4, there may be a need for the Board, and/or the WMP on behalf of the Board, to develop additional MOAs or MOUs with other state agencies to help support continued implementation of the Watershed Plan and DIP.

5.2.3.3 Roles and Responsibilities of Each Entity

The following roles and responsibilities were developed by the Planning Team in the first year of Phase 4 to guide and ensure the successful long-term implementation of the WRIA 59 Colville River Watershed Plan. The Planning Team envisioned that strong cooperative management of the water resources is critical to balance needs for: (1) necessary water for all users; (2) economic stability; and, (3) the local fish and wildlife.

Roles and Responsibilities of Planning Team

Planning Team Roles during Phase 4 Implementation

During Phase 4 Implementation, the Planning Team will continue to be responsible for the following:

1. Develop the MOA/MOU with Ecology detailing the 'Roles and Responsibilities' of Ecology, the WRIA 59 Watershed Management Partnership (WMP), and the WRIA 59 Water Resource Management Board (Board). This task may be completed by the Planning Team or WMP and Board, if they are established prior to finalizing the MOA/MOU.
2. Develop the Watershed Management Partnership (WMP) by finalizing an Interlocal Agreement between any two (2) or more public agencies within the WRIA 59 Watershed (per RCW 39.34.200). The purpose of the Interlocal Agreement is to establish the legal mechanism for administering funding, and applying for grants to fund the ongoing implementation of the WRIA 59 Colville River Watershed Plan and DIP. The WMP could include public agencies such as, but not limited to, the following: Stevens County, Cities within WRIA 59, Stevens PUD, and Stevens County Conservation District.
3. Develop an MOA/MOU for the WMP and Board, using the current MOA #2005-1 between Stevens County and the Planning Team as guidance (see Appendix A2 for a copy of MOA #2005-1). The MOA/MOU will define the roles and responsibilities for the WRIA 59 Water Resource Personnel, for the actual time the Personnel work for the Board and WMP. This task may be completed by the Planning Team or WMP and Board, if established prior to finalizing the MOA/MOU.

4. Develop additional agreements as needed, such as MOUs between other agencies, the WMP, and/or the Board to help guide the process of future involvement of local, state and federal agencies in carrying out the WRIA 59 Colville River Watershed Plan and DIP. This task may be completed by Planning Team or WMP and Board, when established.
5. Designate one of the agencies within the WMP to serve as the initial Lead Agency for the Board and WMP.
6. Develop Operating Procedures and/or By-laws during 2006/2007, to guide the ongoing operations of the WMP and Board, and WRIA 59 Water Resource Personnel, including accountability measures.
7. Provide direct oversight to all WRIA 59 Committees and committee work. This task may be completed by the Board when established.
8. Help develop and provide final reviews and approvals of all Phase 4 Implementation documents, processes, etc. This task may be completed by the Board when established.
9. Provide ongoing oversight and direction to implement the Watershed Plan and DIP, until the Board is activated. This task includes ongoing oversight of early implementation projects, such as the WRIA 59 Instream Flow Study and subsequent negotiations and rule making that may occur before the WMP and Board are operational.
10. Continue to work under the Planning Team's Operating Procedures or By-laws for the WMP and Board when established (included in Appendix A2 of this Plan) to guide their work. The WMP and Board may also revise or establish their own by-laws and operating procedures.

Planning Team Responsibilities Completed when WMP and Board Activated

By or before the end of Watershed Planning Phase 4, and by the request and approval of the Planning Team, the WMP and Board will be activated. The Planning Team's responsibilities will then be fulfilled. From that point forward, the Planning Team's responsibilities will be transferred to the Board. The Board will then provide for the ongoing oversight, coordination and public participation for local water resource management under the guidelines established by the Planning Team in the Interlocal Agreement, the WMP By-laws and the Board By-laws and any relevant MOAs or MOUs.

Roles and Responsibilities of WRIA 59 Watershed Management Partnership

Under the guidance set forth by the Planning Team in the MOA/MOU and Interlocal Agreement, a WRIA 59 Watershed Management Partnership (WMP) will be established during Watershed Planning Phase 4. By or before the end of Phase 4, and by the request and approval of the Planning Team, the WMP will be activated. The WMP will provide the legal mechanism to apply for and administer the funding for the ongoing administration of the WMP and Board activities.

Once operational, the WMP will be responsible for the following:

1. Provide assistance to cooperatively maintain the Board, in accordance with the Operating Procedures established by the Planning Team.
2. Members of the WMP will also serve on the Board, to help provide an ongoing base of knowledge of the WRIA 59 Colville River Watershed Plan and DIP.
3. Through the recommendations and assistance of the Board, pursue short-term and long-range financial support of local water resource management within the WRIA 59 Watershed.

4. As funding becomes available, and under the direction of the Board, be the funding mechanism for the WRIA 59 Water Resource Personnel, equipment, and office space.
5. Review and confirm the MOA/MOU developed by the Planning Team or Board (when established), for the WMP and Board, which outlines the roles and responsibilities for the WRIA 59 Water Resource Personnel for the actual time the Personnel works for the Board and WMP.

Roles and Responsibilities of WRIA 59 Water Resource Management Board

Under the guidance set forth by the Planning Team in the WMP Inter-local Agreement and WMP/Board By-Laws, the WRIA 59 Water Resource Management Board (Board) and WMP structure will be established during Watershed Planning Phase 4. By or before the end of Phase 4, and by the request and approval of the Planning Team, the WMP and Board will be activated to provide ongoing cooperative management of the WRIA 59 water resources.

When the Board is activated by the Planning Team, the WMP and Board will work to include the representatives from the local interest groups that served on the 2000 through 2006 WRIA 59 Watershed Planning Team. Current and past members of the Planning Team will be invited to serve on the Board to provide an ongoing base of knowledge of the Watershed Plan and DIP.

Those invited to participate on the Board will include, but not be limited to representatives from the following interest groups:

1. Current and past members of the Planning Team (which include many of the following groups);
2. Members of the WRIA 59 WMP;
3. Agriculture / Farming;
4. Business;
5. Environmental and Conservation Groups;
6. Forestry and Natural Resource Groups;
7. Commodity Associations;
8. Non-Commodity Associations;
9. Individual Land Owners;
10. Local, State and Federal Agencies; and
11. Tribes.

To help provide an ongoing balanced representation and voting process for the WRIA 59 Board, the Board could utilize the same or similar Operating Procedures developed by the Planning Team to guide the process (see Appendix A2 for the WRIA 59 Phase 4 Operating Procedures).

The Board will provide ongoing general oversight to the cooperative management of the water resources in WRIA 59, as outlined in the current WRIA 59 Colville River Watershed Plan, and commensurate with current statues, regulations, and case law. The Board's responsibilities, through the MOA/MOU with Ecology, and other various agreements as necessary, to cooperatively manage the WRIA 59 water resources, would begin when deemed appropriate by the Planning Team. The Board would be responsible for, but not limited to, the following:

1. Assume responsibility of cooperative water resource management in accordance with the MOA/MOU between Ecology and the Board, and/or the WMP on behalf of the Board, to help ensure that management of the water resources in the watershed is consistent with the directives of the Watershed Plan and DIP.
2. Act in accordance with the intent of Chapter 90.82 RCW (i.e. local management of water resources), and within applicable federal laws, state statutes, and local ordinances when implementing cooperative water resource management, to help achieve the maximum net benefit to citizens within the WRIA 59 Watershed.
3. Set up an Executive Committee within the Board, to operate under the Board's authority, to direct the day-to-day operations of the Board and WMP projects, project funding, and staffing activities.
4. Select a chairperson from the members of the WRIA 59 Water Resource Management Board. State and federal representatives may not serve as chair of the Board.
5. Provide assistance and recommendations to the WMP as to the funding, and ongoing administration activities in support of implementation of the Watershed Plan and DIP.
6. Review and confirm the MOA/MOU developed by the Planning Team or Board (when established) for the WMP and Board, which outlines the roles and responsibilities for the WRIA 59 Water Resources Personnel.
7. Under the MOA/MOU between the WMP and Board, provide ongoing oversight of duties of the WRIA 59 Water Resources Personnel, for the actual time the Personnel work for the Board.
8. Provide assistance to the WMP, if needed, in the hiring process for WRIA 59 Water Resources Personnel, including submitting written input on Personnel performance evaluations to the supervisor of the public agency designated for hiring and supervising the Personnel.
9. Work within the By-laws developed by the Planning Team, and revise/update as needed.
10. Pursue ongoing grants and other funding sources or processes for:
    - ***a.*** Implementing and building projects outlined in the adopted Watershed Plan and DIP, such as, but not limited to, non-profit status.
    - ***b.*** Support of ongoing operation and maintenance of stream flow equipment, flow monitoring stations, and other water resource projects implemented throughout the watershed.
    - ***c.*** Implementation of technical studies to assess and update water resource conditions in accordance with the current Watershed Plan and DIP.
11. Provide oversight of the ongoing implementation of the Watershed Plan and long-range stewardship of local water resource management.
12. Work collaboratively with Ecology and other agencies on negotiations of WRIA 59 water use management decisions, such as, but not limited to: (1) negotiated rule making; (2) discussing and/or negotiating other active water resource management options for tributaries where data

cannot be collected during 2006 flow studies (in order to include all tributaries in the opening of the basin to provide opportunities for ongoing active water resource management throughout the watershed); and (3) water rights processing.

13. Participate in the hiring process for the NE Washington Watermaster, and provide written input on performance evaluations of the Watermaster, through his or her supervisor at Ecology, and consistent with Article 5 of the 2005-2007 Collective Bargaining Agreement, by and between the State of Washington and the Washington Federation of State Employees.

14. Develop and maintain a work plan to address the continued implementation and updating the Watershed Plan and DIP.

15. Work with federal agencies and tribes as deemed necessary or as requested.

16. Develop and maintain a work plan to address the continued implementation and updating the Watershed Plan and DIP.

17. Coordinate efforts with the Watermaster and the Stevens County Water Conservancy Board (as detailed in responsibility 3 (k) for Ecology on Page 27 of the March 2006 DIP).

18. Help provide resource contacts, technical information, and funding options to the public for water resource projects within the watershed, such as water storage projects.

19. As a public service, help facilitate WRIA 59 water resource issues between the residents of WRIA 59 and other residents, local, state and/or federal agencies.

20. Consider all recommendations offered to the Board, and record reason(s) for their decisions.

21. Work to keep informed of public notices on the watershed's water resource decisions and perform ongoing reviews of Ecology's WRIA 59 water resource decisions to help ensure those decisions are consistent with the Watershed Plan directives.

22. Provide coordination and oversight of ongoing news releases that describe the Board's activities, meetings, etc. and that are developed by the WRIA 59 Water Resource Personnel.

23. Provide at least one annual review of the Board's activities, through a public forum, to solicit ongoing public participation regarding local water resource management issues and watershed planning activities.

24. Pursue ongoing water resource training opportunities for both the WRIA 59 Water Resource Personnel and Board members, to assist with all aspects of cooperative water resource management and public outreach strategies of the Watershed Plan and DIP.

25. Develop additional agreements, such as MOUs, as needed.

Duties and Responsibilities of WRIA 59 Water Resources Personnel

As funding becomes available, WRIA 59 Water Resource Personnel (Personnel), such as a Project Manager, will be hired by the WMP on behalf of the Board, to coordinate activities for implementing the Watershed Plan and DIP. The Personnel will be accountable for the actual time worked for the WMP and Board, and work for the designated agency in accordance with the MOA/MOU between the WMP and Board. Under the guidance and direction set forth in the MOA/MOU and other applicable agreements, the roles and responsibilities of the Personnel could include but not be limited to the following tasks:

1. Provide local support and assistance to the Board, including coordination for the Board meetings.
2. Provide ongoing coordination and outreach with local, state, and federal agencies regarding local water resource management.
3. Provide ongoing local public information, education, and additional contacts for the public to communicate with on aspects of water law, water resource management and permitting.
4. Provide annual and other outreach opportunities for involvement of local residents regarding local water resource management issues and watershed planning activities.
5. Provide ongoing news releases of Board activities, meetings, etc. under the direct oversight of the Board.
6. Thoroughly understand the Watershed Plan and DIP. Keep the Board, WMP, and public informed as to the ongoing working relationship and progress of WRIA 59 water resource management, in cooperation with the Watermaster, and other local, State and Federal agencies and Tribes.
7. Represent the Board when other local planning entities, groups, agencies or organizations are dealing with matters that involve water resource issues of the Board.
8. Work to accomplish the Watershed Plan's Obligations, Recommendations, and Framework (including Interlocal Agreement and MOA/MOU), in cooperation with Ecology and other State and Federal agencies.
9. Create and maintain public records of Board meetings as required by law.
10. As approved by the Board, pursue and attend pertinent local, state and federal water resource meetings, training courses, and/or workshops, and provide updated water resources materials to the Board and local groups.
11. Be a local point of contact for local residents to discuss water resource matters of concern and attempt to solve problems.
12. Be an advocate and spokesperson for local water interests. Be a source for accurate statutory, rules, guidelines and policy information.
13. Other duties as assigned by the Board.

Roles and Responsibilities of Washington Department of Ecology

The Department of Ecology will be responsible for the following:

1. Support the ongoing Legislative request to provide a regional Watermaster for the Northeast Counties, which could include Stevens County, Pend Oreille County, and Ferry County. If a Watermaster is not funded, provide an Ecology representative from the Ecology Eastern Regional Office to perform as many of the duties stated below for the Watermaster as possible.
2. Accept and consider written input from the Board during the Watermaster's performance evaluation period, through his or her immediate supervisor, and consistent with 'Article 5' of the 2005 – 2007 Collective Bargaining Agreement by and between the State of Washington and the Washington Federation of State Employees.
3. The Watermaster's duties for WRIA 59 shall include the following, as written in the Watershed Plan:
    a) Refer to, and utilize the Watershed Plan and DIP as guidance for making WRIA 59 water resource decisions.
    b) Perform Permit Writer functions, to make water right decisions, including short-term permits, in accordance current Washington Water Laws, Regulations, etc.[6], and in accordance with the adopted Watershed Plan. For any state water rights on federal lands, the Watermaster will help oversee the management of those water rights. However, all Federal Special-Use Permits, which can include water use, are managed specifically by USFS regional staff.
    c) Assist in public outreach and other aspects of the proposed WRIA 59 Adjudication process. Coordinate public outreach in the watershed with the Board and WRIA 59 Water Resource Personnel.
    d) Enforce instream flows.
    e) Take periodic flow measurements in streams and measure static water levels in selected wells as recommended in the USGS Report.
    f) In coordination with the Board, pursue voluntary relinquishments starting with letters and news releases.
    g) Be available to local residents to provide water rights/water resources assistance, answer questions, and provide educational outreach materials via brochures, presentations (such as at WSU Extension Office in Colville), and attendance at local meetings regarding water resource topics or issues.
    h) Attend Board Meetings, and serve on the Board.
    i) Attend other pertinent water resource meetings, as requested by Board.

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[6] Note: Washington Water Law consists of numerous RCWs, including the Surface Water Code, RCW 90.03, the Ground Water Code, RCW 90.44, Well Construction Code, RCW 18.104, Water Resources Act of 1971, RCW 90.54. In addition, there are numerous court cases that have established Case Law on the methods of interpretation and specific applicability of the Laws and Regulations in many conditions. Regulations, codes and case law, including various policies, procedures and Memorandums of Agreement, are used to evaluate appropriate procedures and enforcement of the State Water Laws.

j) Ecology will strongly consider supporting an office within Stevens County for the Watermaster, subject to available resources and budget constraints.

k) Coordinate efforts with the Board, and the Stevens County Water Conservancy Board (SCWCB), to build relationships between local residents and state agencies, to help provide solutions to local water issues, and to effectively negotiate and make every effort to help resolve water rights conflicts within the watershed.

l) Serve as Ecology's liaison to the WRIA 59 residents concerning state and federal water allocation issues pertinent to WRIA 59.

m) Work with the Board on the coordinated implementation of water resource management strategies and priorities for WRIA 59, as directed in the Watershed Plan and DIP and per the MOA/MOU between Ecology and the Board, and/or the WMP on behalf of the Board.

4. Work collaboratively with the Board on applicable water resource issues within the watershed, under the direction set forth in the MOA/MOU.

5. Work with the Board on the coordinated development and implementation of policies and strategies to manage water resources within the watershed.

6. Upon request, provide technical assistance related to compliance with applicable statutes and administrative codes.

7. When allowed by law, provide information and communication to the Board regarding proposed water resource regulatory decisions in the watershed, prior to making final enforcement decisions. This action provides the Board opportunity to work toward resolution on those actions prior to Ecology's final decision.

8. Continue to work collaboratively with the Planning Team, or the Board, once activated, on negotiations regarding WRIA 59 water use management decisions, such as, but not limited to: (1) negotiated rule making, (2) discussing and/or negotiating other active water resource management options for tributaries where data cannot be collected during 2006 flow studies (in order to include all tributaries in the opening of the basin to provide opportunities for ongoing active water resource management throughout the watershed); and, (3) water rights processing.

9. On an ongoing basis, inform the Board of water resource workshops and training opportunities throughout the region.

10. Coordinate ongoing data collection from WRIA 59 flow monitoring stations and other authorized surface water and ground water sites within the watershed with the Board. Data will be shared when legally acceptable.

11. Provide ongoing maintenance and calibration of flow monitoring stations installed within the WRIA 59 Watershed, as funding and resources allow.

12. Other duties that may be identified and agreed upon by participating parties/agencies.

SECTION 6.0 STATE ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT

The State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) (Chapter 43.21C RCW) was enacted by the Washington State Legislature to ensure that state and local agencies consider potential environmental consequences of proposed actions during decision-making processes concerning such activities. Under SEPA rules, non-project actions are defined as governmental actions involving changes to policies, plans, and programs (Chapter 197-11 WAC). Such actions can include the adoption or amendment of policies, programs, and plans, such as Watershed Plans, under Chapter 90.82 RCW. Any non-project action must be reviewed under SEPA unless specifically exempted. This review process consists of identification and evaluation of probable impacts of a proposed action, reasonable alternatives to the proposed action, and mitigation measures, before committing to a particular course of action.

In accordance with SEPA, Ecology's Watershed Planning Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) (Ecology, 2003c) provides Planning Teams with the following four options for SEPA compliance:

1. **ADOPTION OF THE PROGRAMMATIC WATERSHED PLANNING EIS and DETERMINATION OF SIGNIFICANCE (DS):** This is an option if the Watershed Planning EIS adequately addresses all probable adverse impacts.
2. **ADOPTION, DS and ADDENDUM:** This option is the same as #1; however, an addendum provides local decision makers with additional local information, such as land cover, environment, etc.
3. **ADOPTION and SUPPLEMENTAL EIS:** This option provides for additional independent analyses of environmental impacts, if the Final Watershed Planning EIS does not address all of the probable significant adverse environmental impacts.
4. **ADOPTION and DETERMINATION OF NON-SIGNIFICANCE (DNS):** This option could be used if it is determined that there are no probable significant adverse impacts associated with the recommended actions contained in the Watershed Plan.

There is already a SEPA review process in place for adoption or modification of some ordinances, rules, regulations, comprehensive plans, specific projects, etc. Many recommended actions in watershed management plans involve updates or changes to these plans, policies, or programs. If thorough environmental review occurs at the broad non-project level, focused project or non-project review for individual actions can be carried out at the time the individual action, such as the comprehensive plan update, is carried out.

Actions, also called alternatives in Ecology's Watershed Planning EIS (Ecology, 2003c) are defined by the SEPA Rules as follows:

- New and continuing activities, including projects and programs, entirely or partly financed, assisted, conducted, regulated, licensed, or approved by agencies;
- New or revised agency rules, regulations, plans, policies, or procedures; and,
- Legislative proposals (Chapter 197-11-704 WAC) (Ecology, 2003c).

6.1 CONCLUSION OF REVIEW PROCESS AND SELECTION OF EIS OPTION

Ecology's Watershed Planning EIS (Ecology, 2003c) presents a range of alternatives, including a no action alternative, which represents the types of recommended actions that Planning Teams may include in their watershed plans to achieve the objectives of the Watershed Planning Act. The Planning Team reviewed the four EIS options stated above and concluded that since the alternatives were discussed in Ecology's Watershed Planning EIS (Ecology, 2003c) it would be redundant to discuss alternatives to the actions identified in this Plan. Therefore, Option #1 (**Adoption of the Programmatic Watershed Planning EIS and Determination of Significance)** was selected and applied.

6.2 NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT COMPLIANCE

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) is triggered when action by or permit from a federal agency is required or if federal funding is involved. The Colville National Forest and other federal lands make up approximately 23 percent of the land base within WRIA 59 (J. Coates, U.S. Forest Service, personal communication, 2004). This Plan does not require a permit, action or funding by any federal agency. Stevens County reserves its right to exercise powers granted to local governments under NEPA.

6.3 SEPA COMPLIANCE FOR THE WRIA 59 WATERSHED PLAN

Stevens County is the Lead Agency for SEPA and the Watershed Planning process in WRIA 59. Stevens County has opted to adopt the programmatic Watershed Planning EIS and to issue a DS for the WRIA 59 Watershed Plan. Ecology's Watershed Planning EIS (Ecology, 2003c) lists alternatives that are intended to represent the recommended actions that Planning Teams may include in their Watershed Plans. Recommended actions in this Watershed Plan that are consistent with alternatives in the programmatic watershed planning EIS (Ecology, 2003c) do not require supplemental information for SEPA compliance, nor do they require enumeration of alternatives and potential impacts (i.e., action versus no action) in the standard SEPA format. In addition, the following qualifications also apply to the use of the programmatic watershed planning EIS and SEPA compliance for the watershed planning:

1. Recommended actions for studies typically do not have the potential to cause an adverse environmental impact and will not trigger a determination of significance.
2. Recommended actions for convening interest/stakeholder groups do not have an adverse environmental impact.
3. Recommended actions that involve review or revision of existing ordinances, policies, or programs will go through a SEPA review process during adoption of the revised ordinance, policy, or program. The SEPA rules state that, "The fact that proposals may require future agency approvals or environmental review shall not preclude current consideration, as long as proposed future activities are specific enough to allow some evaluation of their probable impacts." Since a number of alternatives in Ecology's Watershed Planning EIS (Ecology, 2003c) address modifications to ordinances, plans, and policies, impacts and mitigation measures associated with these types of recommended actions have been addressed adequately for the level of environmental review required for the watershed planning process. These actions may also undergo individual environmental review at the time that each of the revisions is actually proposed.
4. If it is determined that a recommended action will not result in probable significant adverse environmental impacts, such as formation of the Phase 4 Planning Team, further environmental review of such an action under SEPA is not required.

Based upon alternatives listed in Ecology's Watershed Planning EIS (Ecology, 2003c) and the factors listed above, this Watershed Plan does not require an addendum or additional EIS for its DS. The watershed planning EIS (Ecology, 2003c) will be used for all actions in this Watershed Plan that requires SEPA review.

6.3.1 Water Quantity Component for WRIA 59

Ecology's Watershed Planning EIS (Ecology, 2003c) lists 25 alternatives for achieving the goals of the water quantity component of watershed planning, which fit into the following three general categories:

1. Promote water use efficiency;
2. Effectively manage allocation and use of water resources through legal mechanisms; and,
3. Develop or improve water resources storage infrastructure.

In Ecology's Watershed Planning EIS (Ecology, 2003c), alternative actions are listed as WP 1, WP 2, etc. WP stands for Watershed Planning Alternatives. Of those alternatives listed for the water quantity component in the EIS document, the following apply to this Watershed Plan:

- WP 1: Develop and implement municipal conservation programs.
- WP 2: Develop and implement agricultural water conservation and irrigation efficiency efforts.
- WP 3: Develop and implement on-farm agricultural water conservation and irrigation efficiency efforts.
- WP 4: Develop and improve industrial conservation measures.
- WP 5: Request local governments or sewer utilities to construct and operate water reclamation and reuse facilities.
- WP 9: Transfer water through inter-ties of public water systems or irrigation systems.
- WP 10: Request Ecology to allocate additional groundwater or surface water on a short-term or long-term basis.
- WP 12: Request Ecology to initiate an adjudication of a basin or sub-basin.
- WP 13: Request Ecology to assign a water master to a basin, sub-basin, or other geographic area.
- WP 14: Request Ecology to increase enforcement against illegal water use within a basin or sub-basin.
- WP 15: Request Ecology to evaluate some set or subset of existing water rights within a basin or sub-basin to identify those water rights that are subject to relinquishment.
- WP 17: Where adequate public water supplies are available, extend public water system service into areas served by exempt wells and require any new development to connect to such public water supplies.
- WP 19: Construct and operate new on-channel storage facilities.
- WP 20: Raise and operate existing on-channel storage facilities.
- WP 21: Construct and operate new off-channel storage facilities.
- WP 22: Raise and operate existing off-channel storage facilities.

- WP 23: Use existing storage facilities for additional beneficial uses.
- WP 24: Construct and operate artificial recharge/aquifer storage projects.

6.3.2 Instream Flow Component for WRIA 59

Ecology's Watershed Planning EIS (Ecology, 2003c) lists two alternatives for achieving the goals of the instream flow component of watershed planning. Of the alternatives listed for the instream flow component, the following one applies to this Watershed Plan:

- WP 26: Request Ecology to set instream flows by administrative rule in Washington Administrative Code.

6.3.3 Water Quality and Habitat Components for WRIA 59

Ecology's Watershed Planning EIS (Ecology, 2003c) lists 30 alternatives for achieving the goals of the water quality component and/or habitat of watershed planning. Of the alternatives listed for the water quality and habitat components, the following nine alternatives apply to this Watershed Plan:

- WP 28: Request local governments or sewer utilities to construct and operate water reclamation and reuse facilities.
- WP 33: Request conservation districts or irrigation districts to assist in achieving reductions in non-point pollution.
- WP 35: Request local governments and state agencies to continue to implement or more fully implement existing water quality plans.
- WP 36: Develop and implement a water quality public education program intended to prevent or reduce non-point pollution.
- WP 37: Request local governments and Ecology to develop and operate water quality monitoring programs, including installation and maintenance of monitoring devices.
- WP 42: Implement habitat improvement projects.
- WP 44: Request local governments to route treated storm water to water-limited streams to allow for channel maintenance.
- WP 47: Implement habitat improvement projects involving out-of-stream riparian restoration, such as replanting or bank stabilization projects.
- WP 52: Request conservation districts and irrigation districts to assist in achieving protection of habitat to control erosion and sedimentation.

6.4 APPLICATION OF FINAL WATERSHED PLANNING EIS ALTERNATIVES TO WRIA 59 WATERSHED PLAN

The following tables identify specific SEPA alternatives that apply to the actions in this Watershed Plan. Actions that do not require a SEPA alternative are noted by the following type:

- Actions that are studies (Study);
- Actions without a foreseeable adverse environmental impact (No impact); and
- Actions that are still in Early Planning Stages (EPS).

Each table presents the reference number, action title, and the application of SEPA Alternative for each planning component. The reference number provided allows for tracing the Action Title by component to the specific obligation or recommendation in Section 4.0.

TABLE 13. WATER QUALITY ACTIONS		
REFERENCE NUMBER EXAMPLE: 1(a)ii = Water Quality Goal #1, Objective #a, Alternative Solution #ii.		
Reference Number	**Action Title**	**Application of SEPA Alternative**
1(a)ii	Implement the post-implementation evaluation process.	Study
1(b)iii	Apply for grant funding to support the implementation of recommended water quality educational outreach strategies.	No impact
1(b)iv	Implement educational outreach strategies for BMPs.	No impact
1(c)iii	Apply for grant funding to support the implementation of recommended water quality educational outreach strategies for agricultural BMPs.	No impact
1(c)iv	Implement educational outreach strategies for Agricultural BMPs.	WP 36
1(d)iii	Apply for grant funding to support the implementation of educational outreach strategies related to streamside BMPs and the actual BMPs.	No impact
1(d)iv	Implement educational outreach strategies for streamside BMPs.	WP 36
1(e)ii	Apply for grant funding to support the development of the WRIA 59 Water Quality BMPs Implementation Program.	No impact
1(e)iii	Implement identified BMPs (including early action projects where possible) to help improve impaired water quality in the watershed.	WP 35
1(e)iv	Develop strategies to address ongoing maintenance for water quality improvement projects.	Study
1(e)v	Apply for funding to support ongoing maintenance of projects.	No impact
2(a)ii	Select BST and/or other source tracking methods.	No impact
2(a)iii	Apply for grant funding to support the implementation of a BST monitoring program.	No impact
2(a)iv	Implement a BST Monitoring Plan.	WP 37
2(b)iv	Prioritize and approve a list of potential solutions for WRIA 59 temperature impairments.	No impact
2(b)v	Apply for grant funding to support implementation of recommended water quality monitoring program and recommended water quality improvement projects.	No impact
2(b)vi	Implement the Temperature Monitoring Plan and recommended water quality improvement projects.	WP 37
2(c)i	Developing a long-term monitoring program of multiple water quality parameters.	Study
2(c)ii	Apply for grant funding to support the implementation of recommended WRIA 59 Water Quality Monitoring Program.	No impact
2(c)iii	Implement a long-term water quality monitoring program.	WP 37
2(d)i	Develop a well monitoring program.	Study
2(d)ii	Apply for grant funding to support a long-term water quality Well Monitoring Plan.	No impact
2(d)iii	Implement a long-term water quality Well Monitoring Plan.	WP 37
2(e)ii	Use information from Ecology's EIM database for site-specific water quality management decisions.	No impact
3(a)iii	Provide ongoing support to achieve Objective (a) and associated actions.	No impact
3(b)iii	Provide ongoing support to achieve Objective (b) and associated actions.	No impact
3(c)iii	Provide ongoing support to reach target audiences and timelines outlined in Objective (c) and associated actions.	No impact
3(d)ii	Provide ongoing support to evaluate the success of education/outreach strategies.	No impact

TABLE 14. WATER QUANTITY ACTIONS		
REFERENCE NUMBER EXAMPLE: 1(a)i = Water Quantity Goal #1, Objective #a, Alternative Solution #i.		
Reference Number	**Action Title**	**Application of SEPA Alternative**
1(a)i	Assess minimum instream flows in WRIA 59 on the Colville River and its tributaries.	Study
1(a)ii	Proceed with rulemaking in Spring 2007; where mutually agreed upon instream flows are reached.	EPS
1(a)iii	Process water rights according to current Washington Water Laws, Regulations, etc.	WP 10
1(a)iv	Provide a qualified full-time water master for WRIA 59	EPS
1(a)xi	Process water rights under Alternative Solution 1(a)(x) according to the requested rule changes.	WP 10
1(b)ii	Perform mutually agreed upon instream flow studies.	Study
1(b)iii	Process water rights according to obligations and recommendations made in this Watershed Plan.	WP 10
1(c)vii	Process water rights under Alternative Solution x according to the requested rule changes.	WP 10
3(a)i	Compile a list of accepted strategies for water right applicant information per the objective.	Study
3(a)ii	Contact and work with applicants and the SCWCB prior to denying an application.	No impact
3(c)i	Process pending and future non-consumptive water right applications as a high priority.	WP 10
3(d)i	Process pending water rights in the Colville River areas in accordance to this Watershed Plan.	WP 10
3(e)i	Perform mutually agreed upon instream flow studies.	Study
3(e)iii	Establish policy or regulations to implement mutually agreeable instream flow(s).	WP 26
3(e)iv	Process new water right allocations.	WP 10
3(g)v	Hire full-time Water Master to assist in the outreach and other aspects of the adjudication process.	EPS
3(h)ii	Administer WAC changes to implement objective.	EPS
3(h)iii	Hire full-time Water Master to help process and monitor short term permits.	EPS
3(k)i	Implement a Non-Profit Water Rights Clearinghouse.	EPS
4(c)iii	Process new water rights based on stored water.	WP 10
4(c)iv	Process pre- and post-growing season irrigation water right applications and temporary/seasonal water right permits.	WP 10
5(d)ii	Perform educational outreach.	No impact
1(a)vi	Adjudicate the Watershed.	WP 12
1(a)vii	Apply for grants to enhance the WRIA 59 Groundwater Model from a steady state to a transient model.	No impact
1(a)viii	Continue financial support and develop a MOA for continued operation of the USGS Gauge at Meyers Falls.	No impact
1(a)ix	Develop during Phase 4 a permanent flow monitoring program.	No impact
1(a)x	Allocate new groundwater water rights until groundwater withdrawals equal 95% of the average annual recharge.	WP 10
1(a)xi	Petition the Legislature to change Chapter 173-559 WAC to allow allocation of groundwater up to 95% of the average annual recharge of applicable aquifer.	No impact
1(a)xiii	Set up a mechanism to provide an opportunity for increasing water supplies.	No impact
1(a)xiv	Petition the Legislature to change Chapter 173-559 WAC.	No impact
1(a)xv	Notify the Stevens County Commissioners when ground water withdrawal in a particular aquifer equals 70% of average annual aquifer recharge.	No impact

TABLE 14. WATER QUANTITY ACTIONS		
REFERENCE NUMBER EXAMPLE: 1(a)i = Water Quantity Goal #1, Objective #a, Alternative Solution #i.		
Reference Number	**Action Title**	**Application of SEPA Alternative**
1(a)xvi	Determine the feasibility of a Water Reservation for WRIA 59.	Study
1(a)xvii	Investigate the need and feasibility of potential future actions including consideration of Irrigation Districts.	Study
1(b)i	Petition the Legislators to open WRIA 59 through legislation.	No impact
1(c)i	Adjudicate the Watershed.	WP 12
1(c)ii	Apply for grants to enhance the WRIA 59 Groundwater Model from a steady state to a transient Model.	No impact
1(c)iii	Continue financial support and development of a MOA for continued operation of the USGS Gauge at Meyers Falls.	No impact
1(c)iv	Develop a permanent flow monitoring program.	Study
1(c)v	Allocate new groundwater water rights.	WP 10
1(c)vi	Petition the Legislature to change Chapter 173-559 WAC.	No impact
1(c)viii	Set up a mechanism to provide an opportunity for increasing water supplies.	No impact
1(c)ix	Petition the Legislature to change Chapter 173-559 WAC.	No impact
1(c)x	Notify the Stevens County Commissioners when ground water withdrawal in a particular aquifer equals 70% of average annual aquifer recharge.	No impact
1(c)xi	Determine the feasibility of a Water Reservation for WRIA 59.	Study
1(c)xii	Investigate the need and feasibility of potential future actions including consideration of Irrigation Districts.	Study
1(d)i	Solicit local public concerns and issues related to water resources.	No impact
2(a)i	Apply for funding to support and implement the following action items: • Construction of multiple water storage projects • Development of irrigation projects • Conservation of water including educational outreach and incentive based programs. • Development and implementation of water reuse and reclamation projects when feasible. • Construction of surface water infiltration projects.	No impact
3(b)i	Petition the Legislature to pursue options to expedite water rights processing.	No impact
3(b)ii	Establish a policy or regulation to implement objective.	EPS
3(e)ii	Make recommendations on instream flows.	EPS
3(f)i	Adopt policy to implement exempt well objective for WRIA 59.	EPS
3(g)i	Petition the Legislators to change existing adjudication procedures.	No impact
3(g)ii	Petition the Legislators to support adjudication.	No impact
3(g)iii	Provide educational outreach to local and regional groups on adjudication procedures.	No impact
3(g)iv	Provide educational outreach to local water right holders in preparation for an adjudication process.	No impact
3(h)i	Petition Legislators to change the WAC.	No impact
3(l)i	Petition Legislators to change existing Law related to relinquishment.	No impact
3(m)i	Petition the Legislature to ensure protection of water rights for the benefit of the people.	No impact
3(m)ii	Provide public notice or news releases to meet this objective, unless prohibited by law.	No impact
4(a)i	Apply for grants to fund and implement the development of the "Water Storage Program."	No impact
4(a)ii	Hire a consultant and provide direct oversight of that consultant during the writing of the "Water Storage Program."	No impact

TABLE 14. WATER QUANTITY ACTIONS		
REFERENCE NUMBER EXAMPLE: 1(a)i = Water Quantity Goal #1, Objective #a, Alternative Solution #i.		
Reference Number	**Action Title**	**Application of SEPA Alternative**
4(a)iii	Achieve an approved Water Storage Program.	WP 5, 19, 21, and 24
4(a)iv	Continue financial support for ongoing operation of USGS Gauge at Meyers Falls.	No impact
4(b)i	Apply for grants to perform a Phase II Feasibility Study on water storage projects.	No impact
4(b)ii	Hire and provide direct oversight of a consultant to perform the Phase II Feasibility Study.	No impact
4(c)i	Apply for grants to fund the construction of multiple storage projects.	No impact
4(c)ii	Construct water storage projects.	WP 5, 19, 21, and 24
4(c)v	Implement a flow monitoring program and continued financial support for USGS Monitoring Gauge at Meyers Falls.	No Impact
4(d)i	Apply for grants for the construction of flood control storage projects.	No impact
4(d)ii	Permit and implement dredging when necessary to reduce flooding and erosion.	WP 19 and 20
4(d)iii	Permit and implement construction of sediment basins, where applicable.	WP 19 and 20
4(d)iv	Support actions when deemed necessary.	No impact
4(d)v	Pursue and obtain funding for ongoing maintenance.	No impact
4(e)i	Apply for grants to fund construction of water storage infiltration projects.	No impact
4(e)ii	Construct water storage infiltration projects.	WP 24
5(a)i	Devise a list of water reclamation and reuse strategies.	Study
5(a)ii	Apply for grants to fund determining feasibility of proposed projects and implementing water reclamation and reuse projects.	No impact
5(a)iii	Construct projects.	WP 5, 19, 21, and 24
5(b)i	Apply for grants to help implement agricultural water conservation.	No impact
5(b)ii	Provide ongoing educational outreach on water conservation strategies.	No impact
5(b)iii	Construction and implementation of both public and private water conservation projects.	WP 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5
5(c)i	Apply for grants to help prepare water use contingency plans for drought years.	No impact
5(c)ii	Develop drought emergency plans.	Study
5(c)iii	Provide ongoing educational outreach.	No impact
5(d)i	Apply for grants to help fund industrial water conservation projects and provide educational outreach.	No impact
5(e)i	Apply for grants to fund and implement the development of municipal water conservation strategies, incentive programs, and water conservation projects.	No impact
5(e)ii	Perform educational outreach.	No impact
5(e)iii	Distribute water conservation pamphlet.	No impact
5(f)i	Apply for grants to fund and implement the development of conservation strategies, incentive programs, and water conservation projects.	No impact
5(f)ii	Perform educational outreach.	No impact
5(f)iii	Distribute DOH Water Conservation Pamphlet.	No impact

TABLE 15. HABITAT ACTIONS

REFERENCE NUMBER EXAMPLE: 1(a)i = Habitat Goal #1, Objective #a, Alternative Solution #i.

Reference Number	Action Title	Application of SEPA Alternative
1(a)i	Develop a list of local and state government contacts and available resources.	No impact
1(a)ii	Apply site-specific flexible cooperative decision-making with landowners and agencies.	No impact
1(a)iii	Apply for grants to fund and implement site specific incentive projects.	No impact
1(b)i	Apply for grants to fund and implement incentive programs.	No impact
1(c)i	Apply for grants to fund and implement water storage/recharge projects.	No impact
1(c)ii	Consider site specific pre- and post-growing season irrigation projects.	No impact

TABLE 16. PLANNING ACTIONS

REFERENCE NUMBER EXAMPLE: 1(a)iii = Planning Goal #1, Objective #a, Alternative Solution #iii.

Reference Number	Action Title	Application of SEPA Alternative
4(a)iii	Establish a viable means for supporting the ongoing local management of the water resources.	EPS
3(d)iii	Provide direct oversight of the allocation of grant funds.	No impact
3(d)ii	Establish a MOA to guide Phase 4.	No impact
3(c)iii	Adopt Operating Procedures/By-laws to guide the Planning Team or Board (when established) during Phase 4.	No impact
3(c)ii	Guide the work and provide general oversight of the Watershed Plan and DIP.	No impact
3(c)i	Set up and work to maintain a Phase 4 Planning Team or Board.	No impact
3(b)iii	Provide oversight of the grant funds.	No impact
3(b)ii	Oversee the administration of the Implementation Grants.	No impact
3(b)i	Continue as Lead Agency and reserve a portion of the Implementation Grant.	No impact
3(a)iii	Submit the Phase 4 Implementation Grants.	No impact
3(a)ii	Draft the Phase 4 Grant applications.	No impact
3(a)i	Request an application for the Phase 4 Implementation Grants.	No impact
2(a)ii	Establish a schedule for regular updates of the WRIA 59 Watershed Plan.	No impact
4(a)i	Develop a MOA.	No impact
4(a)ii	Establish a department within its county government and/or to restructure.	No impact

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