

The purpose of the Odessa Groundwater Replacement Program is to 1) provide surface water from the Federal Columbia Basin Project (CBP) to replace groundwater from declining irrigation wells in the Odessa Subarea 2) reduce the risk of economic loss to the region's agriculture sector relying on declining and/or failing groundwater wells and 3) provide relief to the declining water levels in the Odessa subarea aquifer.

Eligibility Criteria (General Ground Rules) to participate in Odessa Groundwater Replacement Program

1. Lands must be within the Federal Columbia Basin Project.
2. Lands must have a valid state-issued groundwater right (permit or certificate).
3. Lands must be within the Odessa Subarea Special Study area boundary.
4. Landowners must be able to enter into a water service contract.



Photo courtesy of the Washington State Potato Commission

Questions & Answers

Q1. Is my land eligible for replacement water if I submitted an Odessa Reserve Form?

A1. Yes, if you signed and submitted an Odessa Reserve Form to Ecology under RCW 90.44.520 prior to April 2, 2013, the date the US Bureau of Reclamation issued the Record of Decision on the Odessa Subarea Special Study, your state-issued groundwater right is eligible for replacement water.

Q2. Is my land eligible for replacement water if I am enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) administered by the US Department of Agriculture, Farm Service Agency (FSA)?

A2. Yes, the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) qualifies as a sufficient cause for non-use of a state-issued groundwater right under RCW 90.14.140 and is eligible for replacement water.

Q3. My land currently is not irrigated and does not have a state-issued groundwater right, is there an option to get replacement water to my land?

A3. Yes, there may be opportunities to infill your lands by transferring an existing state-issued groundwater right from a landowner that, in turn, retires the right. This may require a formal water right transfer to your land, permanent donation into the State's Trust Water Rights Program, or voluntary relinquishment of the right. This process may involve filing a water right change application and/or a trust water right application.

Q4. If I participate in the Odessa Acreage Expansion Program, how many acres are eligible for replacement water?

A4. The acres eligible for replacement water corresponds to the number of acres identified on the state-issued groundwater right permit or certificate, in other words expanded acres are not eligible at this time.

Q5. What happens to my temporary authorization for expanded acres under the Odessa Acreage Expansion Program, if I choose to receive replacement water?

A5. Upon entering into a water service contract for replacement water, the temporary authorization will be cancelled.

Q6. What happens to my state-issued groundwater right if I choose to receive replacement water?

A6. Ecology will issue a superseding state-issued permit or certificate that identifies your groundwater wells as standby/reserve sources of water that can be used only when Columbia Basin Project water is unavailable (i.e. canal failure). Additionally, this means your state-issued groundwater right will not be available for use before replacement water deliveries begin or after replacement water deliveries end.

Q7. What if I lease land that has a state-issued groundwater right?

Odessa Groundwater Replacement Program Q&A

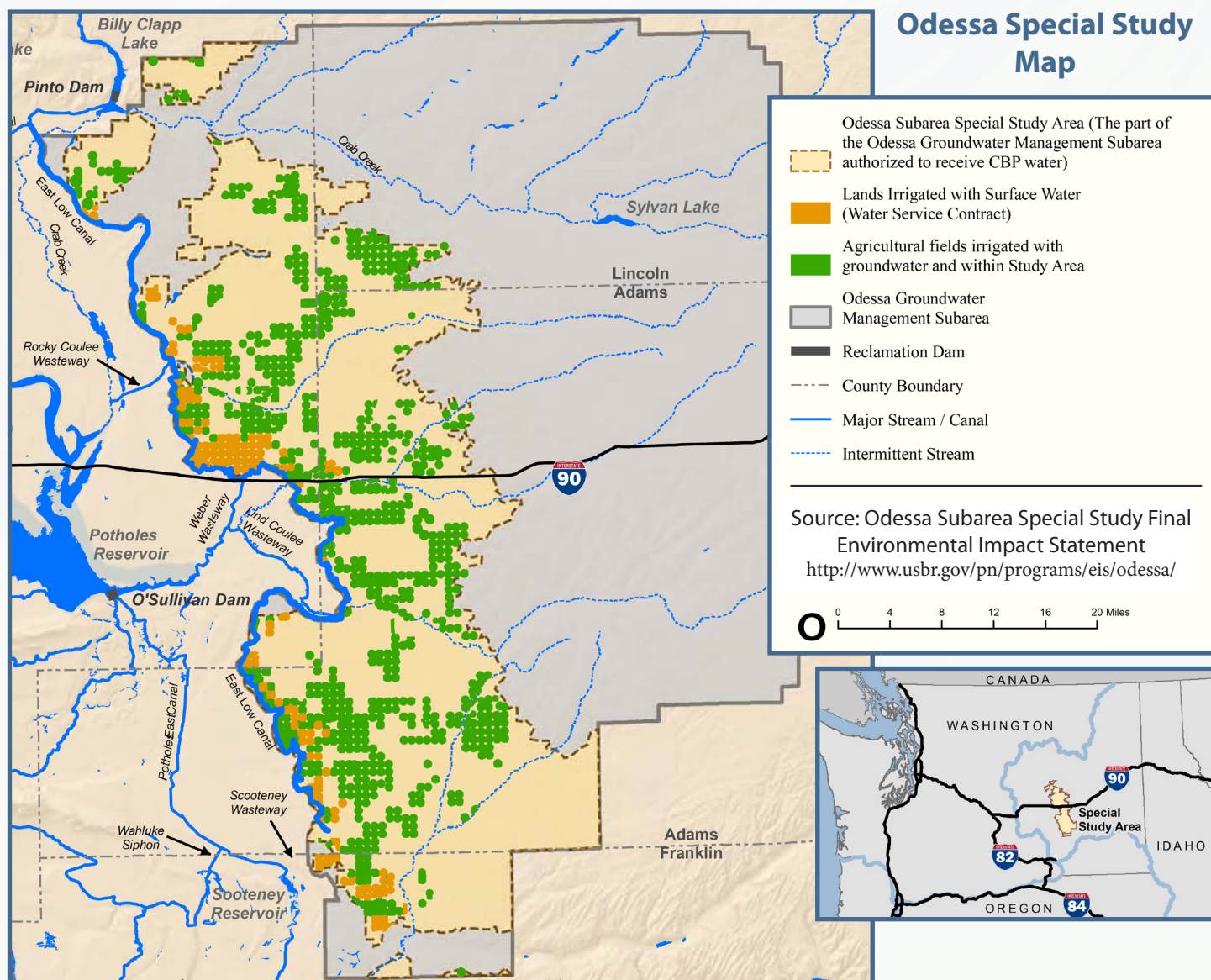
A7. In this case, multiple signatures may be required on any water right documents. The landowner's signature will be required on any replacement water contracts.

Q8. Is it an option to receive replacement water on only a portion of my Odessa eligible lands?

A8. Yes, it is possible for only a portion your Odessa eligible lands to receive replacement water. This may require your state-issued groundwater right be split, with definition around the place of use for lands being irrigated by the groundwater well(s) and the lands being irrigated by replacement water.

Q9. How many acres are available to receive replacement water under the Odessa Groundwater Replacement Program?

A9. The Odessa Subarea Special Study resulted in 70,000 acres. Additionally, the Lake Roosevelt Incremental Storage Release Program resulted in 10,000 acres, and the Coordinated Conservation Program, involving all 3 Columbia Basin Irrigation Districts, will result in a maximum of 10,000 acres. In total, approximately 90,000 acres of Odessa lands are eligible for replacement water from the Federal Columbia Basin Project via the Odessa Groundwater Replacement Program.



More about Odessa groundwater replacement: http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wr/cwp/cr_odessa.html

To ask about the availability of this document in a format for the visually impaired, call the Office of Columbia River at 509-575-2490. Persons with hearing loss can call 711 for Washington Relay Service. Persons with a speech disability can call 877-833-6341.