

Delivering Water

For Families, Farms, and Fish

OFFICE OF COLUMBIA RIVER

MARCH 2015

Delivering Water

As of January 1, 2015, the Department of Ecology's Office of Columbia River (OCR) has developed 375,815 acre-feet of new water supply at a cost of around \$175 million dollars. That pencils out to about \$465 per acre foot, an incredible bargain in a market where water typically sells for well over \$1,500 per acre-foot.

As part of that same effort, OCR funded projects to improve nearly 90 miles of stream habitat for endangered and threatened runs of salmon, steelhead, and bull trout.

Additionally, OCR led innovative integrated water supply planning processes in the Yakima, Walla Walla, and Wenatchee basins to solve serious long-term regional water supply problems. These efforts proved to be so successful, the US Department of Interior is using them as a model for addressing water supply problems throughout the west.

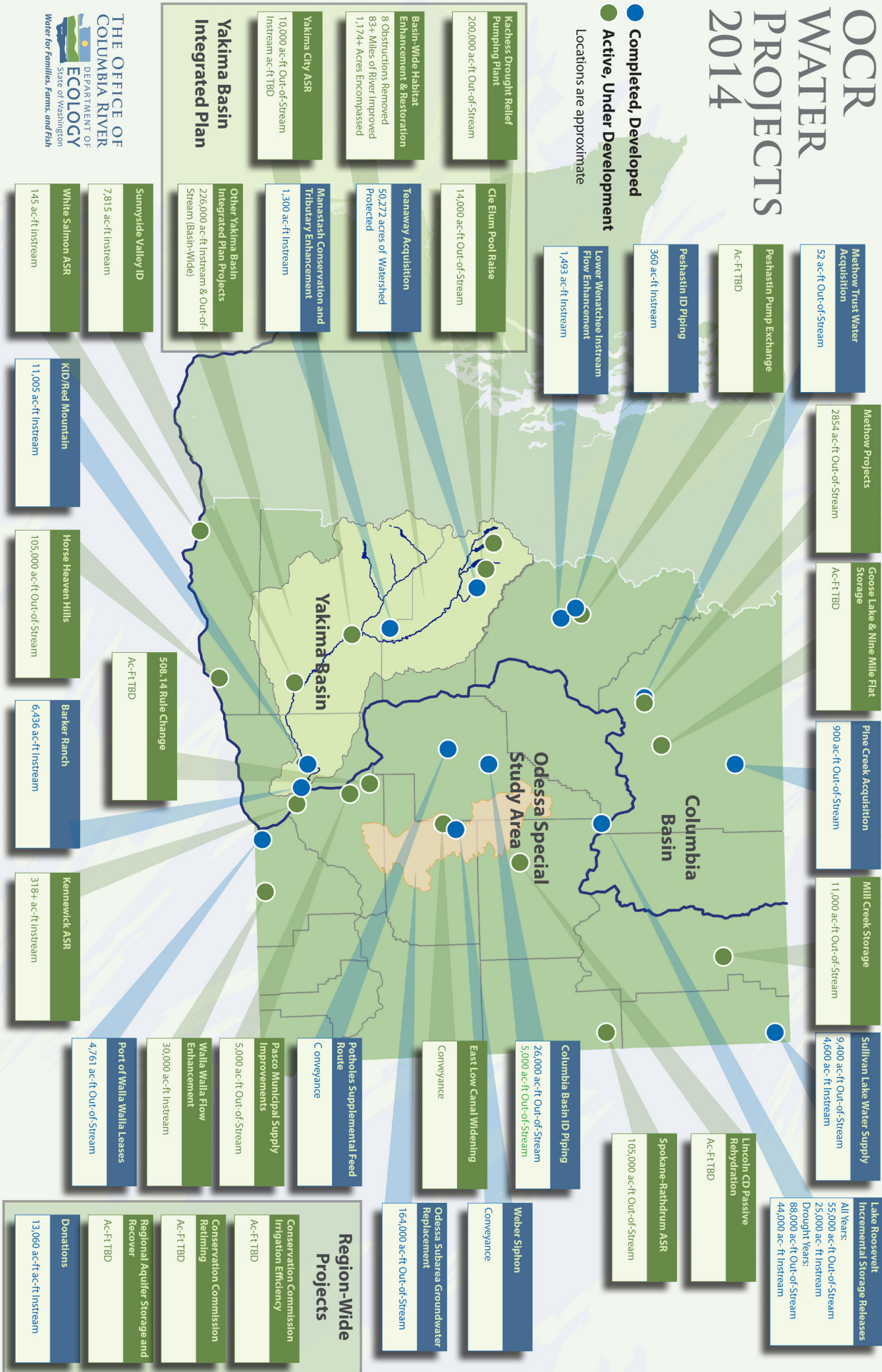
Background

In 2006, the legislature directed the Department of Ecology to "aggressively pursue the development of water supplies to benefit both instream and out-of-stream uses" (Chapter 90.90 RCW.) The Columbia River Basin Development Account was created to fund this effort. The account held \$200 million in general bond authority to fund development of new water supplies over approximately five biennia. The legislature closely oversaw spending from this account by requiring specific legislative appropriations for the monies spent.

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OCR WATER PROJECTS 2014

- Completed, Developed
 - Active, Under Development
- Locations are approximate



Delivering Water for Agriculture

Aquifers in the Odessa Subarea are quickly declining, endangering an annual \$840 million in annual agricultural income and 3,600 Washington jobs. The **Odessa Groundwater Replacement Program** brings 164,000 ac-ft of surface water supply to replace groundwater irrigation sources for 70,000 acres of farm land. OCR's Lake Roosevelt Incremental Storage Releases and Coordinated Conservation projects provide an additional 60,000 ac-ft of relief to the Odessa.



Widening East Low Canal to bring additional water to the Odessa Subarea

Delivering Water for Communities

Working with the US Bureau of Reclamation to create additional water supply by finding new ways to operate existing reservoirs, OCR secured 25,000 ac-ft of water for communities and industry.

In addition to increasing municipal supply, the **Lake Roosevelt Incremental Storage Releases Project** also provides 30,000 ac-ft of agricultural water supply to the Odessa Subarea, 27,500 ac-ft to increase streamflows for fish, and 50,000 ac-ft for instream and out-of-stream drought relief.



Inside the Weber Siphon. The siphon brings Lake Roosevelt water to the Odessa Subarea

Delivering Water for Fish

The **Manastash Creek Restoration Project** conserves 1,300 acre-feet of water by converting open canal into a piped system. The project significantly improves access to approximately 25 miles of important habitat for steelhead, coho, bull trout, and spring Chinook. Other benefits include reduced seepage, improved local irrigation system reliability, and on-farm efficiencies through the use of pressurized sprinkler systems.



Gov Inslee and others sign pipe to be laid to increase flows in Manastash Creek

Acre-Feet?

An acre-foot is the amount of water needed to cover an acre with one foot of water.

The 375,815 ac-ft of water OCR has delivered to Eastern Washington so far is equal to:

- One foot of water covering an area 587.21 of square miles.
- Nearly the amount of water needed to supply the Seattle metro area's domestic water needs for three years.
- Almost twice the active storage capacity of Rimrock Reservoir.



Rimrock Reservoir