

Focus on: Upper Kittitas County Mitigation Suitability Maps



Overview

The Upper Kittitas Groundwater Rule (WAC 173-539A) requires that new groundwater uses be mitigated. Mitigation is available from state-endorsed Water Banks. The Department of Ecology has developed mitigation suitability maps as a visual tool to assist prospective water users and local stakeholders. Map delineations are not water use decisions, but provide insight into the likelihood that mitigation will be adequate for new groundwater uses.

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Special accommodations

To request ADA accommodation, call Ecology at 360-407-6872, 711 (relay service), or 877-833-6341 (TTY).

Suitability Map Legend

GREEN – Mitigation is likely suitable. Groundwater is expected to be generally available to meet ¹domestic water needs.

YELLOW – Mitigation may be suitable. Groundwater supplies and impacts to local water users needs to be evaluated and/or potential impacts to ²ESA listed fish must be assessed. Additional project information is needed and/or additional technical assessment is necessary.

RED – Mitigation is currently not suitable. New groundwater withdrawals are likely not available due to over allocation of water rights and/or protection of ²ESA listed fish. Local mitigation would be necessary to address impacts to senior water right holders and/or ESA listed fish.

¹Suitability map applies to groundwater uses will be established under the “permit-exemption” allowed under RCW 90.44.050. Permitted uses will be considered on an individual basis.

²Mitigation offered in Upper Kittitas County is assumed to include an assignment to the USBR-Ecology Water Exchange Contract which requires specific protections for ESA listed fish.

NOTE: Map designations are based on: geologic and hydrogeologic investigations, documented water rights, observed streamflow, current land use, documentation of ESA listed fish, and stakeholder input.