

Focus on: Lake Chelan

Coordinated cost reimbursement program

More information online

[Lake Chelan coordinated cost reimbursement program](#)¹

Contact information

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ADA accommodations

To request ADA accommodation including materials in a format for the visually impaired, call Ecology at 360-407-6872 or visit <https://ecology.wa.gov/accessibility>. People with impaired hearing may call Washington Relay Service at 711. People with speech disability may call TTY at 877-833-6341.

In December 2019, Ecology and Chelan County partnered to initiate a Lake Chelan Coordinated Cost Reimbursement Program in order to process pending water right applications from the Lake Chelan Reserve. Under the program, applicants may acquire a water right permit by sharing costs with other applicants to process their applications.

We have contracted with a consultant to investigate the applications and develop the Reports of Examination and subsequent water right permits. Applicants must pay for the cost of the consultant to manage and do the work (Option 1).

Applicants seeking water for domestic use may instead elect to be processed under a program through Chelan County (Option 2). If so, their application would remain on file with us, and retain its place in line until the county processes their application. Although this is a less expensive option, Chelan County will only process permit-exempt requests and the processing time may be delayed by the requirement of a building permit.

The Lake Chelan Basin has a finite reserve of water to allocate. Processing applications under both options will continue until all of the pending applications have been processed or the “Reserve” water is used up, whichever occurs first.

What It Will Cost

Applicants choosing to take part in **Option 1** will pay their share of the overall cost for application processing. Costs are based on how much water is requested in the application and processing fees go to Ecology to pay for consultants.

Summary Total Surface Water Costs	<0.05 CFS	0.05-1.00 CFS	>1.00 CFS
Base Surface Water Cost with Permit	\$6,302	\$7,028	\$9,991
Summary Total Groundwater Costs*	<50 GPM	50-200 GPM	>200 GPM
Base Groundwater Cost with Permit	\$9,034	\$11,366	\$13,832

*Ecology’s hydrogeological analysis cost will be added.

Applicants for domestic uses who choose **Option 2** will pay Chelan County to process their application and issue their mitigated permit. It is expected that the county’s process will cost around \$2,000 or more.

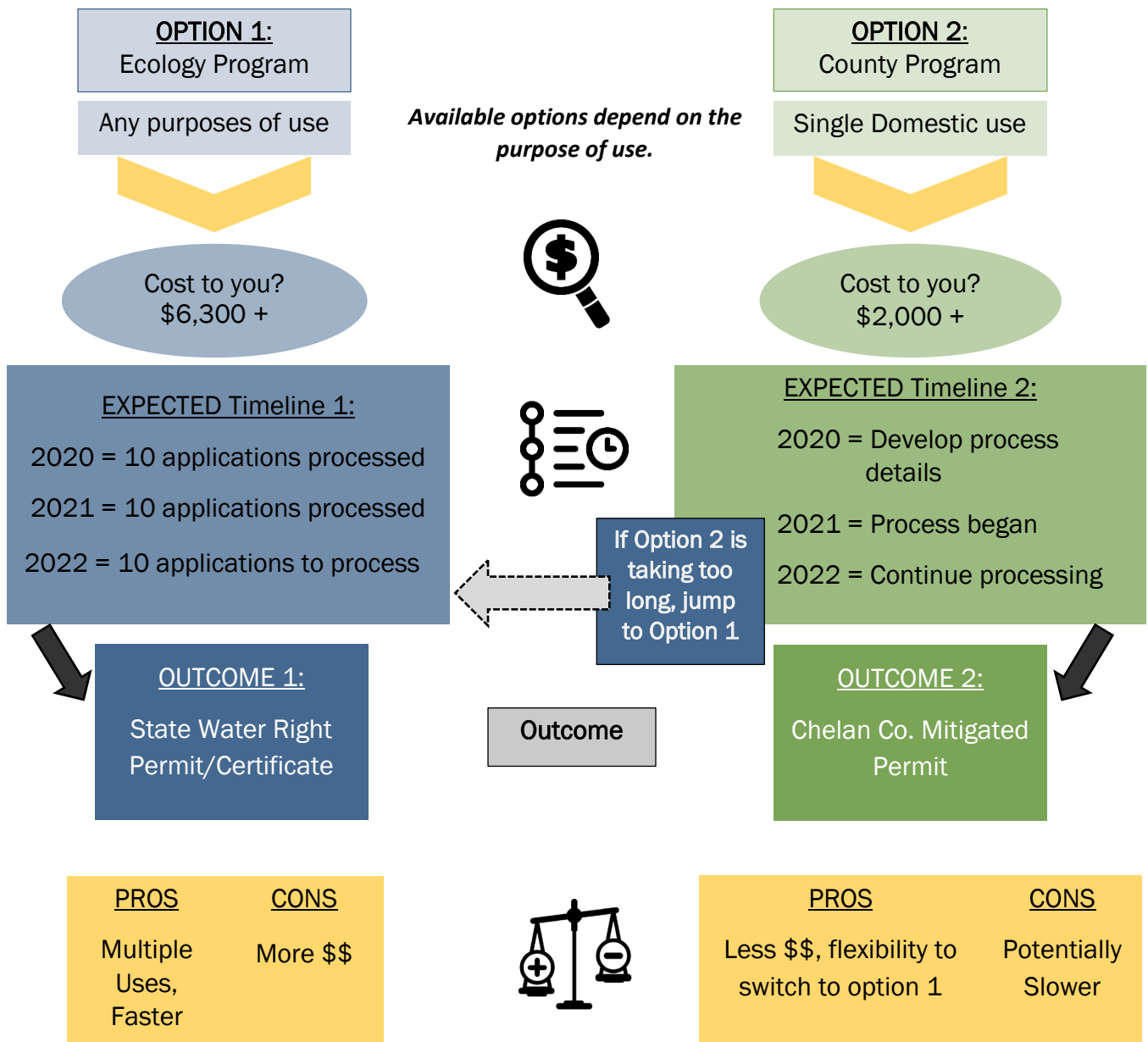
When Will I Receive My Water Right Permit?

Your wait time depends on where you are in line and which option you choose. Ecology expects to process ten applications or more each year (Option 1). Once work begins on your application, you will likely have a permit within a year, if approved. Investigation and development of the draft Report of Examination for the project will take about six to eight months, followed by a 30-day public comment period. We expect to issue its final decision within two weeks. The final decision is followed by a 30-day appeal period and issuance of your permit.

Chelan County processing time depends upon whether a building permit and construction is needed. Applicants can return to Option 1 at any time, but once the reserve water is gone, Option 1 processing will stop.

¹ <https://ecology.wa.gov/Water-Shorelines/Water-supply/Water-rights/Cost-reimbursement/Lake-Chelan-CCR>

Options for Lake Chelan Watershed Applicants



OPTION 1:

Ecology’s Program started with the first 10 applications based on priority date and processes about 10 applications each year until the Reserve is fully allocated or all applications are processed, whichever occurs first. The cost for this Program is approximately ≥\$6,300 for domestic uses and more for other uses. Applicants will receive a state-issued permit/certificate.

OPTION 2:

Chelan County’s Program began in early 2021 and continues until all applications who opt for this Program are processed. The cost for this Program is approximately ≥\$2,000 for domestic uses ONLY. No other uses are eligible. Applicants will receive a mitigated permit from the county.