

# STREAMFLOW RESTORATION PROGRAM

## Nisqually Watershed (WRIA 11) Plan Update



The Nisqually River by Mike Noone, Department of Ecology

In January 2018, the Legislature passed the Streamflow Restoration law that helps restore streamflows to levels necessary to support robust, healthy, and sustainable salmon populations while providing water for homes in rural Washington.

The law directs local planning groups to develop watershed plans that offset impacts from new domestic permit-exempt wells and achieve a Net Ecological Benefit (NEB).

The law is codified as Chapter 90.94 RCW.

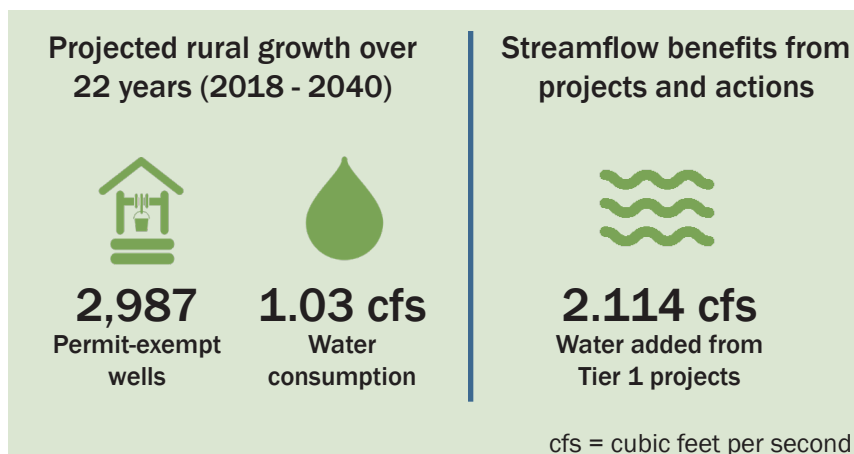
The Nisqually planning group, led by the Nisqually Indian Tribe, updated their watershed management plan to meet the requirements of the law.

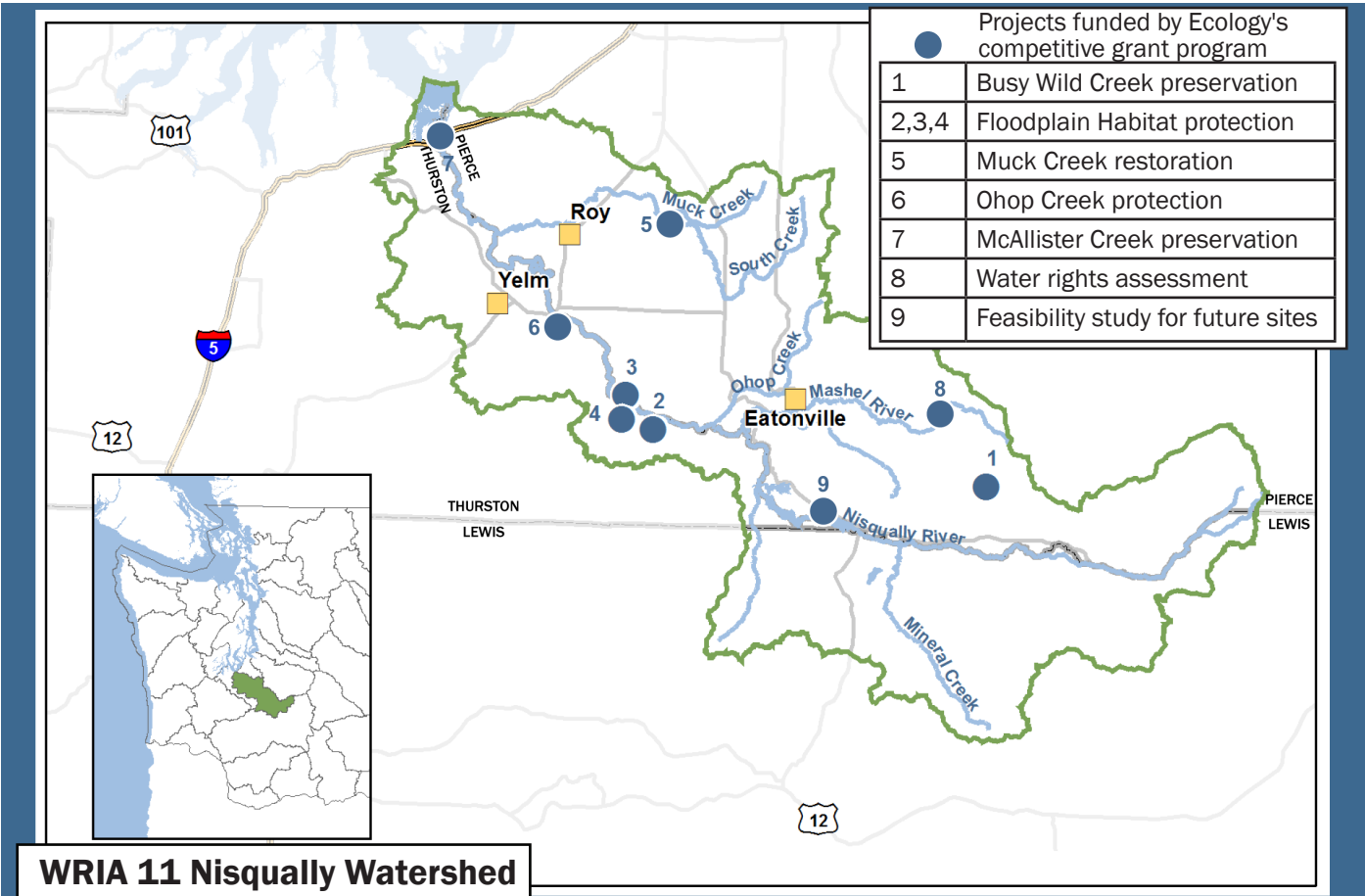
### Plan Update Summary

The Nisqually Watershed, or the Water Resource Inventory Area (WRIA) 11, covers parts of Thurston, Pierce, and Lewis counties

As required, the Nisqually planning group forecasted rural growth in their watershed as well as the impact of permit-exempt wells through 2040. The planning group then identified 22 projects and actions to offset the impacts from new permit-exempt wells on rivers and streams and result in a net ecological benefit.

Ecology adopted the plan update on time, after a rigorous review process on February 1, 2019.

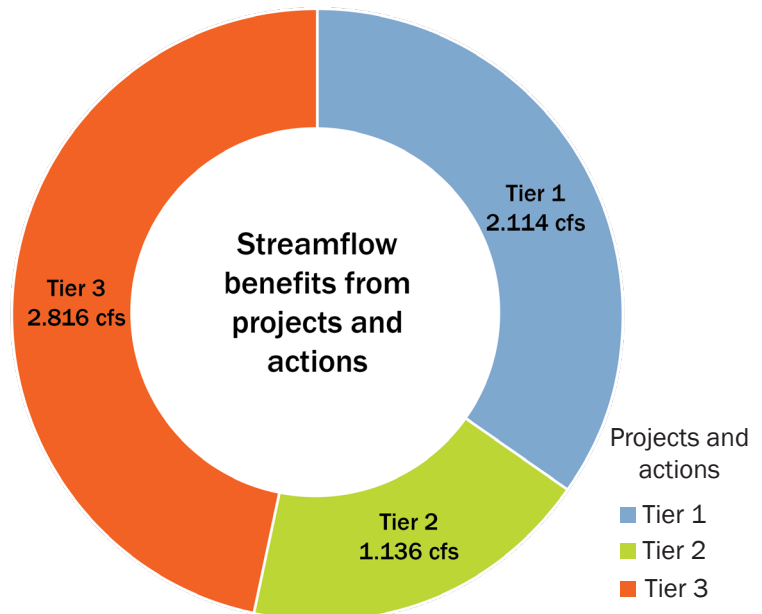




### Net Ecological Benefit

The Streamflow Restoration law requires Ecology to determine that the projects in the plan will result in a Net Ecological Benefit (NEB) in the WRIA.

The Nisqually planning unit identified 22 projects to achieve NEB. Projects included are:



During the plan review process, Ecology organized the 22 projects into three categories based on Ecology's determination of their likelihood to benefit rivers and streams. Tier 1 has projects with the highest likelihood, followed by Tiers 2 and 3.

To learn more about Streamflow Restoration please visit: [ecology.wa.gov/Streamflowrestoration](http://ecology.wa.gov/Streamflowrestoration)

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