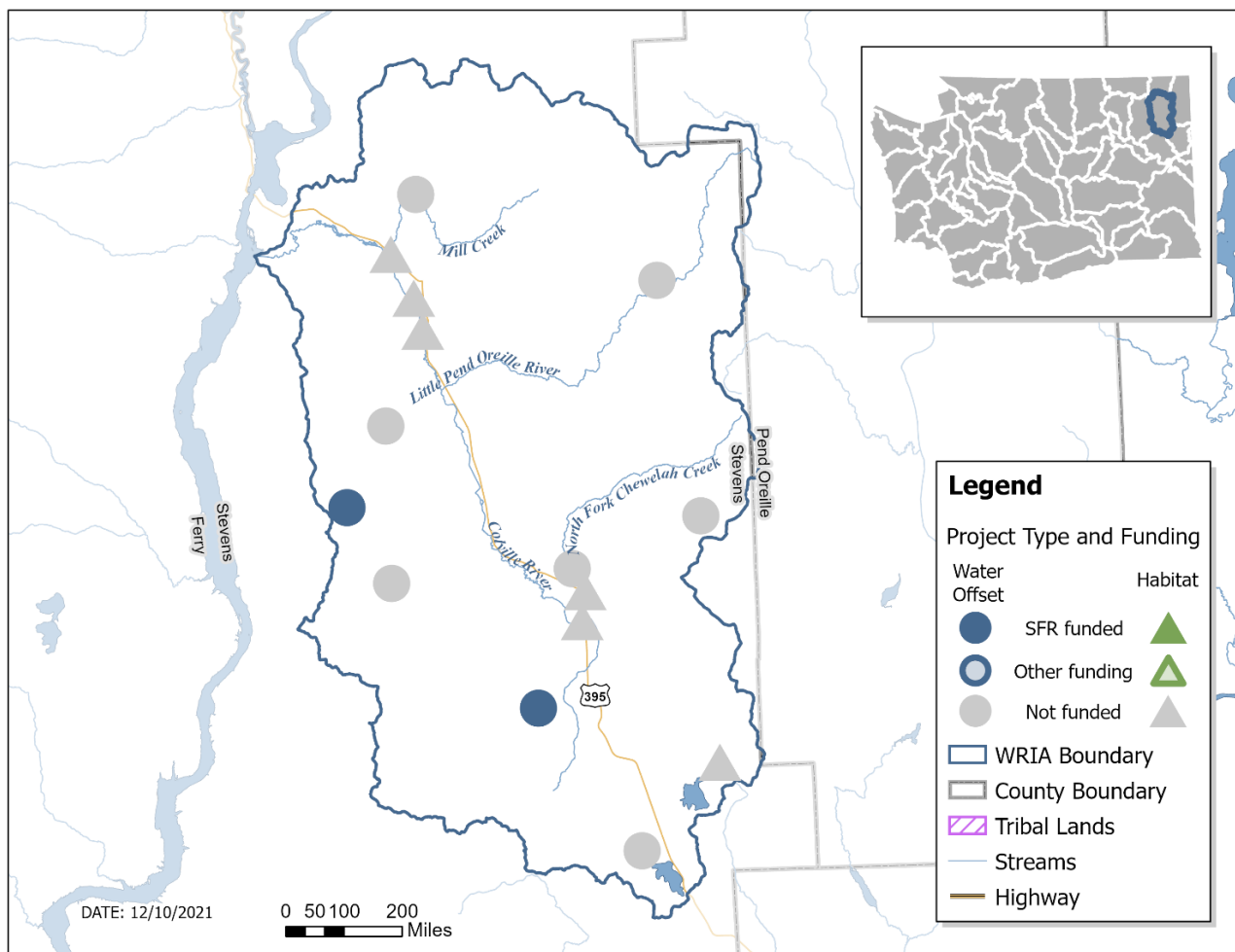


Watershed Plan Implementation Assessment for the Colville Watershed

The Washington Department of Ecology adopted the Colville River Watershed Plan Addendum on June 25, 2020. Plan implementation is ongoing as local entities develop their projects and secure funding. The Colville River Watershed is also known as Water Resource Inventory Area (WRIA) 59.

This plan implementation assessment provides an update based on the best currently available information:

- Local water offset and habitat projects (as defined in the watershed plan) implemented to offset the consumptive water use impacts from new domestic permit-exempt (PE) wells and achieve a net ecological benefit.
- Current and projected new domestic PE wells.
- Current estimated and projected consumptive water use impacts from these new wells.

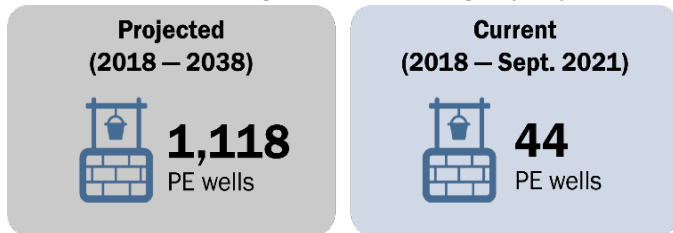


Approximate locations of projects in WRIA 59 from the adopted plan. Projects contribute to the anticipated net ecological benefit and offset the impacts from new PE wells. Projects are funded through either Ecology’s Streamflow Restoration (SFR) grant or other funding sources.

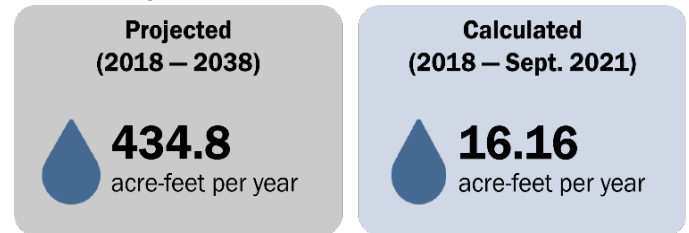
Watershed plan implementation

Ecology is using the following parameters to track progress on plan implementation. We will update these parameters in future versions of the publication.

Number of new permit-exempt (PE) wells

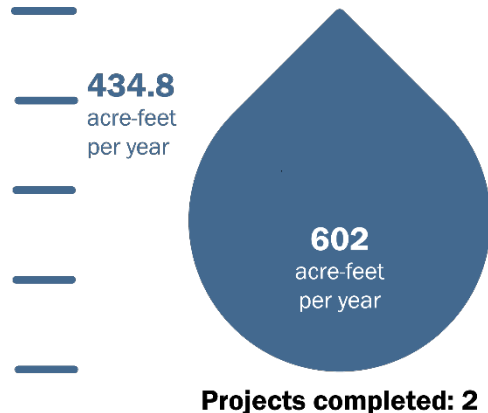


Consumptive water use from PE wells



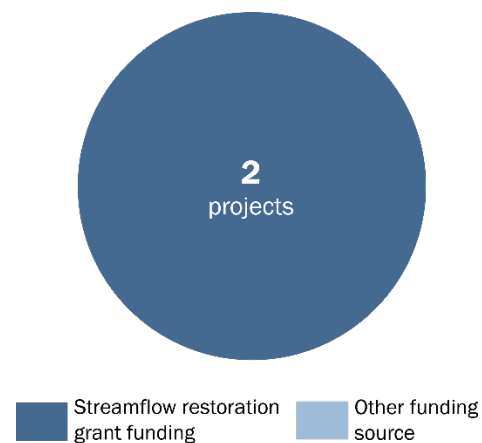
Water offset from plan implementation

Based on two completed projects, we estimate the water offsets are higher than projected need.



Funding sources

The two completed projects were funded by Ecology’s streamflow restoration grants.



Implementation snapshot

- Installation of new permit exempt wells in WRIA 59 (Colville River Watershed) is proceeding at a slower rate than the local watershed plan projected (26% below the projected rate). Using the plan’s assumption of consumptive water use per new PE well, Ecology estimates the consumptive water use impacts from these new wells is likewise proceeding at a slower rate (26% below the projected rate).
- Based on the available information, the two completed projects together offset more water than projected in the plan. In 2019 and 2020, Ecology received 5 applications seeking competitive streamflow restoration grant funding for projects in the WRIA 59 watershed plan. Two of those projects received scores sufficient for a funding offer.

Project sponsors can update Ecology on the status of project implementation by emailing WRProjects@ecy.wa.gov.

Watershed plan summary

The Colville River watershed planning unit met from February 2018 to November 2019 to develop a watershed plan addendum that:

- Projected 1,118 new PE wells from years 2018 to 2038.
- Estimated the impact of these wells on rivers and streams at 434.8 acre-feet per year.
- Identified 10 water offset projects,¹ 5 non-water offset projects, and 1 WRIA-wide project to provide a [net ecological benefit](#) to streamflows.

Projected PE well growth and consumptive water use (years 2018 - 2038)



1,118
PE wells



434.8
acre-feet per year

Projected streamflow benefits from planned projects



752
acre-feet per year

A volume of 434.8 acre-feet is about 214 Olympic-sized swimming pools.

Benefits of WRIA 59 plan implementation



Initiates locally led solutions.



Improves rivers and streams in the watershed.



Offsets consumptive water use from rural homes.

Streamflow Restoration Law (RCW 90.94)

In January 2018, the Washington State Legislature passed the Streamflow Restoration law (RCW 90.94) to help restore streamflows to levels necessary to support robust, healthy, and sustainable salmon populations while providing water for homes in rural Washington.

Ecology has been actively implementing this law since its passage. Ecology, in coordination with state and local agencies, tribal governments, and non-profit organizations has funded, led, and supported a range of 15 diverse local watershed plans across the state. Ecology, with generous support from the Legislature has also implemented a competitive grant offering to help state and local agencies, tribal governments, and non-profit organizations implement projects in their local watershed plans required by this law.

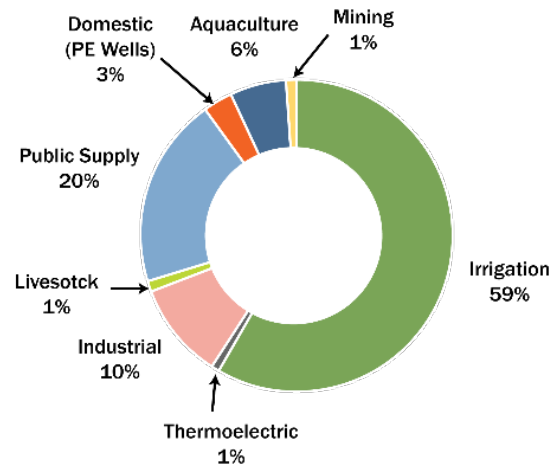
¹ From NEB Guidance (Publication number 19-11-079): Offset is the anticipated ability of a project or action to counterbalance some amount of the new consumptive water use over the next 20 years (2018 – 2038). Offsets need to continue beyond the 20-year period for as long as new well pumping continues.

Consumptive water use in Washington State

Significant resources and collaboration went into statewide and local planning and ongoing local plan implementation to offset water use from domestic permit-exempt (private) wells in Washington State.

Consumptive water use from these wells accounts for about 3% of water use in Washington, a small portion compared with other consumptive water uses.

Consumptive Water Use in Washington State



Data adapted from U.S. Geological Survey’s report on Water Use in Washington (2015).

Webpages

- [Streamflow Restoration](http://ecology.wa.gov/StreamflowRestoration): ecology.wa.gov/StreamflowRestoration
- [Streamflow Restoration Grants](http://ecology.wa.gov/StreamflowGrants): ecology.wa.gov/StreamflowGrants

Publications

- [Streamflow Restoration Program Status](#): Publication number 21-11-016
- [Final Guidance for Determining Net Ecological Benefit](#): Publication number 19-11-079

Other Resources

- [WRIA 59 Watershed Plan Addendum²](#) (PDF)



Streamflow restoration program
 WRProjects@ecy.wa.gov
 360-407-6757



To request an ADA accommodation, contact Ecology by phone at 360-407-6872 or email at WRPubs@ecy.wa.gov, or visit <https://ecology.wa.gov/accessibility>. For Relay Service or TTY call 711 or 877-833-6341

² <https://apps.wr.ecology.wa.gov/docs/WaterRights/wrwebpdf/wria59/WRIA59WatershedPlanAddendum.pdf>