

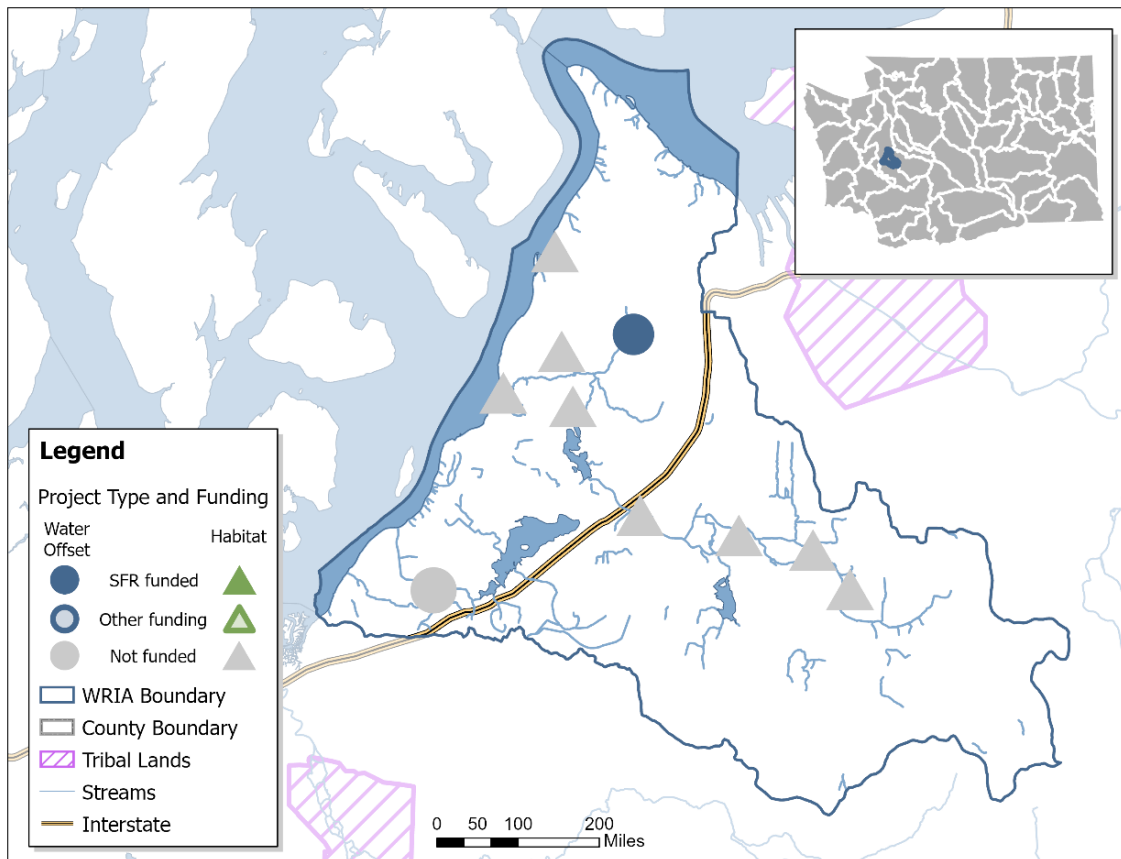
Watershed Plan Implementation Assessment for the Chambers-Clover Watershed

The Washington Department of Ecology adopted the Chambers-Clover Watershed Restoration and Enhancement Plan on June 14, 2021, as a part of the Streamflow Restoration law (RCW 90.94.030). The Chambers-Clover Watershed is also known as Water Resource Inventory Area (WRIA) 12. Plan implementation is ongoing as local entities secure funding and develop their projects intended to offset the impacts on streamflows from new domestic permit-exempt (PE) wells and achieve a net ecological benefit (NEB).

Ecology assesses plan implementation periodically and conducts outreach to WRIA 12 partners and project sponsors to present information to the best of our ability. This assessment provides an update on:

- Local water offset and habitat projects (as defined in the watershed plan).
- Current and projected new domestic PE wells.
- Current estimated and projected consumptive water use impacts from these new wells.

Projects in WRIA 12 (Chambers-Clover Watershed)

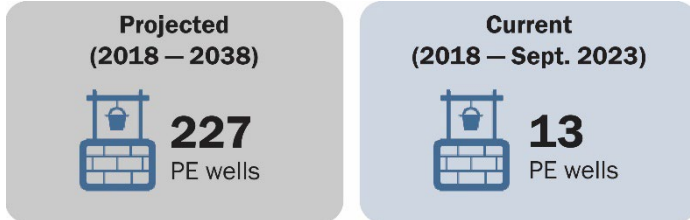


Approximate locations of projects in WRIA 12 from the adopted plan. Projects contribute to the anticipated net ecological benefit and offset impacts from new PE wells. Projects are funded through either Ecology's Streamflow Restoration (SFR) grant or other funding sources. Basin-wide projects are not shown on the map.

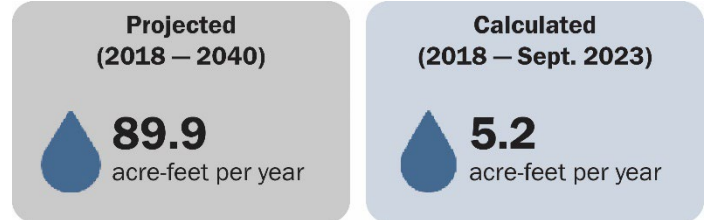
Watershed plan implementation

Ecology is using the following parameters to track progress on plan implementation.

Number of new PE wells installed

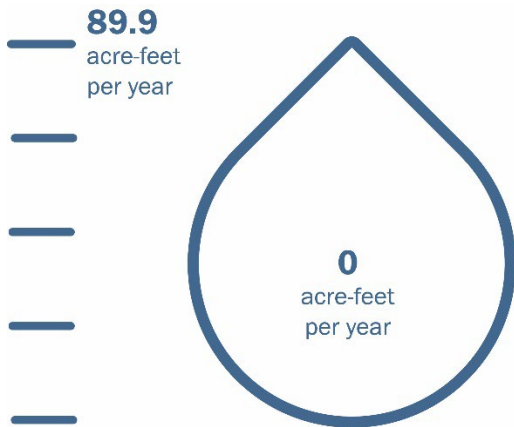


Consumptive water use from PE wells



Water offset from completed projects

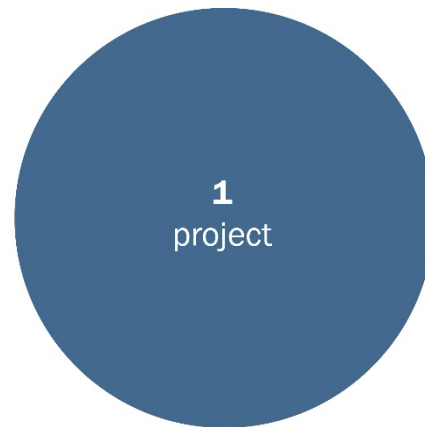
No water offsets have yet been realized, because no water offset projects are complete.



Water offset projects completed: 0

Secured funding for projects

One project has been funded by Ecology’s streamflow restoration grants.



Streamflow restoration grant funding
 Other funding source

Implementation snapshot

- Installation of new PE wells WRIA 12 (Chambers-Clover Watershed) is proceeding at a slower rate (79% below the projected rate) than both the high projection and the most likely projection the local watershed plan anticipated. 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 also 79% below the projected rate.
- Plan implementation is in early stages. In 2019, 2020, and 2022, Ecology received only one application seeking competitive streamflow restoration grant funding for projects in the Chambers-Clover watershed plan. Ecology awarded \$387,200 to the City of Tacoma for the first phase of a multiphase project expected to enhance streamflows in Flett Creek by 701 acre-feet per year (AFY), thereby offsetting all new PE well use in the watershed.
- It’s anticipated that the Federal government will provide funding in 2024 to a project on Joint Base Lewis McChord that will enhance streamflows in Sequelitchew Creek by 724 AFY.

Watershed plan summary

The Chambers-Clover watershed planning committee met from November 2018 to April 2021 to develop a new watershed restoration and enhancement plan that:

- Projected 227 new PE wells from years 2018 to 2038.
- Estimated the impact of these wells on rivers and streams at 89.9 acre-feet per year.
- Identified 2 water offset¹ and 8 habitat projects to provide a [net ecological benefit](#) to streamflows.

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



227
PE wells



89.9
acre-feet per year

Projected streamflow benefits from planned projects



1,425
acre-feet per year

A volume of 89.9 acre-feet is equal to about 45 Olympic-sized swimming pools.

Benefits of WRIA 12 plan implementation



Initiates locally led solutions.



Improves rivers and streams for salmon.



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 new 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.

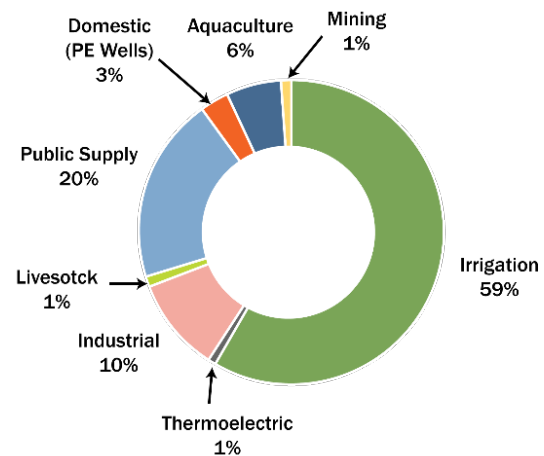
¹ From NEB Guidance (Publication number 19-11-079): Offset is the anticipated ability of a project or action to counterbalance some amount of the new consumptive water use over the next 20 years (2018 – 2038). Offsets need to continue beyond the 20-year period for as long as new well pumping continues.

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 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 (2015)



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

Webpages

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

Publications

- [Streamflow Restoration Competitive Grants Status](#): Publication number 22-11-026
- [Streamflow Restoration Planning Update](#): Publication number 21-11-015
- [WRIA 12 Watershed Restoration and Enhancement Plan](#): Publication number 21-11-012
- [Final Guidance for Determining Net Ecological Benefit](#): Publication number 19-11-079

Watershed partners and project sponsors can update Ecology on the status of watershed plan implementation by emailing WRProjects@ecy.wa.gov.



Streamflow restoration program
WRProjects@ecy.wa.gov
360-688-8928



To request an ADA accommodation, contact Ecology by phone at 360-407-6831 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.