

WATER RESOURCES: THE LIMITS OF LAWSUITS



Chuck Mosher October 26, 2016

Eastern Region Growth Management Hearings Board

Washington State Growth Management Hearings Board

Eastern Region

Western Region

Central Puget
Sound Region



Click below to view one of the regions



Eastern Washington



Western Washington



Central Puget Sound

Kittitas County Cases	Whatcom County "Hirst" Case
07-1-0004c	12-2-0013
07-1-0015	



1988 Environmental Protection Agency: Protecting Human Health and the Environment Through Improved Management
(RCED-88-101)

American Water Resources Association



VISION

- ▶ To be recognized as the pre-eminent multidisciplinary association for information exchange, professional development and education about water resources and related issues.

MISSION

- ▶ To advance multidisciplinary water resources education, management and research.



- ▶ Lake Washington Watershed Forum



- ▶ Tri-County Salmon Coalition



- ▶ Shared Strategies for Salmon Recovery Task Force



Growth Management Hearings Board



MEDIATION





BUILDING A FUTURE FOR WATER, WILDLIFE AND WORKING LANDS

YAKIMA RIVER BASIN INTEGRATED WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN

Reservoir Fish Passage

Provide fish passage at:

1. Clear Lake
2. Cle Elum
3. Bumping
4. Tieton (Rimrock)
5. Keechelus
6. Kachess

Structural & Operational Changes

1. Raise the Cle Elum Pool by three feet to add 14,600 ac-ft in storage capacity.
2. Modify Kittitas Reclamation District canals to provide efficiency savings.
3. Construct a pipeline from Lake Keechelus to Lake Kachess to reduce flows and improve habitat conditions during high flow releases below Keechelus and to provide more water storage in Lake Kachess for downstream needs.
4. Decrease power generation at Roza Dam and Chandler power plant to support outmigration of juvenile fish.
5. Make efficiency improvements to the Wapatox Canal.

Enhanced Water Conservation

1. Implement an agricultural water conservation program designed to conserve up to 170,000 acre-feet of water in good water years.
2. Create a fund to promote water use efficiency basin-wide using voluntary, incentive-based programs. Focus on outdoor uses as top priority.

Habitat/Watershed Protection & Enhancement

1. Protect ~70,000 acres of land by acquiring high elevation portions of the watershed and forest and shrub steppe habitat.
2. Evaluate potential wilderness area and wild and scenic river designations to protect streams and habitat.
3. Create a habitat enhancement program to address reach-level floodplain restoration priorities and restore access to key tributaries.

Market Reallocation

Employ a water market and/or a water bank to improve water supply in the Yakima River basin. Market reallocation would be conducted in two phases:

The near-term phase would continue existing water marketing and banking programs in the basin, but take additional steps to reduce barriers to water transfers.

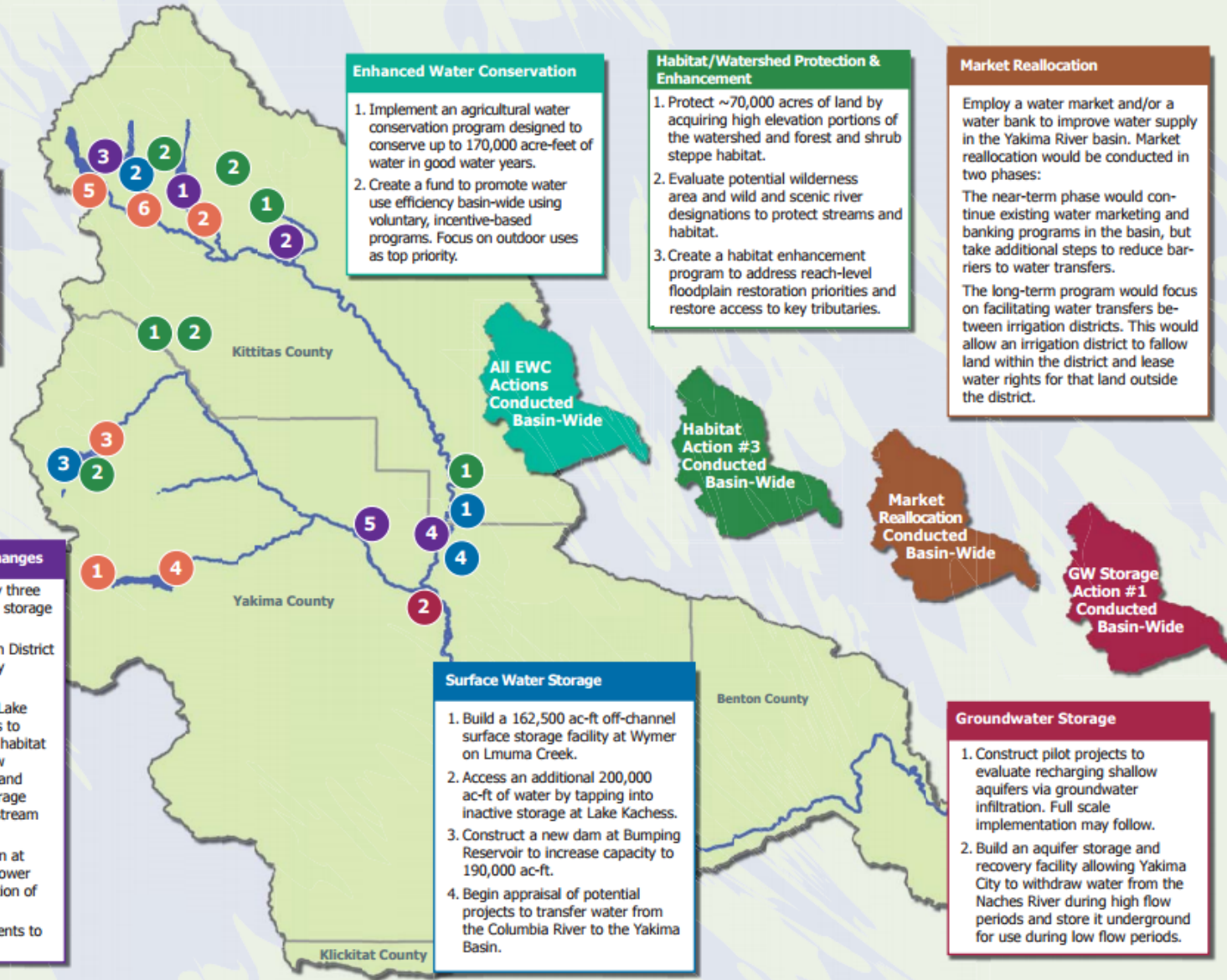
The long-term program would focus on facilitating water transfers between irrigation districts. This would allow an irrigation district to fallow land within the district and lease water rights for that land outside the district.

Surface Water Storage

1. Build a 162,500 ac-ft off-channel surface storage facility at Wymer on Lmuma Creek.
2. Access an additional 200,000 ac-ft of water by tapping into inactive storage at Lake Kachess.
3. Construct a new dam at Bumping Reservoir to increase capacity to 190,000 ac-ft.
4. Begin appraisal of potential projects to transfer water from the Columbia River to the Yakima Basin.

Groundwater Storage

1. Construct pilot projects to evaluate recharging shallow aquifers via groundwater infiltration. Full scale implementation may follow.
2. Build an aquifer storage and recovery facility allowing Yakima City to withdraw water from the Naches River during high flow periods and store it underground for use during low flow periods.



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Questions?

