

Benton County Rural Water Supply Mitigation Program Update for Yakima Basin Drainage Area in Benton County (March 1, 2019)

Background

Benton County is in the process of finalizing a draft Settlement Agreement with FutureWise for the 2018 Benton County Comprehensive Plan. One of the provisions in the draft Settlement Agreement is to mitigate for impacts on the Yakima River from exempt wells that intercept water in hydraulic continuity with the Yakima River. In addition, the County has received a letter from Washington State Department of Ecology encouraging the development of a program to address mitigation of impacts from existing and future development relying on exempt wells that could impact the Yakima River.

The County has been working for the past several months to develop draft mitigation program elements, acquire water rights, and receive stakeholder input. The County is now initiating outreach efforts with the broader public and additional stakeholders to share information and receive feedback.

Preliminary Additional Cost Range Per Household in Mitigation Area

The County is still working on fee basis (preliminary range could be from \$1500 to potentially over \$5,000, depending upon water package selected and associated fee components). Initial fee elements will cover costs for at least the following:

- 1) Mitigation certificate to cover county water right acquisitions (*County has acquired 75 acre-feet so far; targeting 300 to 400 AF total to meet estimated consumptive use demand for 2038 growth projection*)
- 2) Application processing
- 3) Water supply management, tracking and reporting
- 4) Meter purchase/installation/inspections

Additionally, some type of annual fee will be assessed per household in the mitigation area associated with meter data collection, management and replacement.

EXCERPTS FROM **PRELIMINARY DRAFT BENTON COUNTY RURAL WATER SUPPLY MITIGATION PROGRAM DESCRIPTION (For Discussion Purposes Only)**

XX.YY.020 Applicability.

Effective Date: From XX/XX/2019 (add BOCC Adoption date here) onward, the provisions of this chapter shall apply to all new Benton County uses for building permits and land division applications that require potable water from a permit-exempt well located in the Yakima River drainage (WRIA 37) area where water drains to the Yakima River (Yakima River Mitigation Area). That geographic area is depicted on the attached Exhibit A and is displayed on an inventory map available at the Planning Department. Mitigation shall be for Total Water Supply Available (TWSA) for the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation Yakima Project and associated irrigation districts

served by the project, as measured at the Parker and Prosser gauges on the Yakima River. Water rights included as part of the Yakima Project TWSA are used to serve seasonal irrigation needs included in the Yakima Project, with a May 10, 1905 priority date.

XX.YY.030 Mitigation Measures

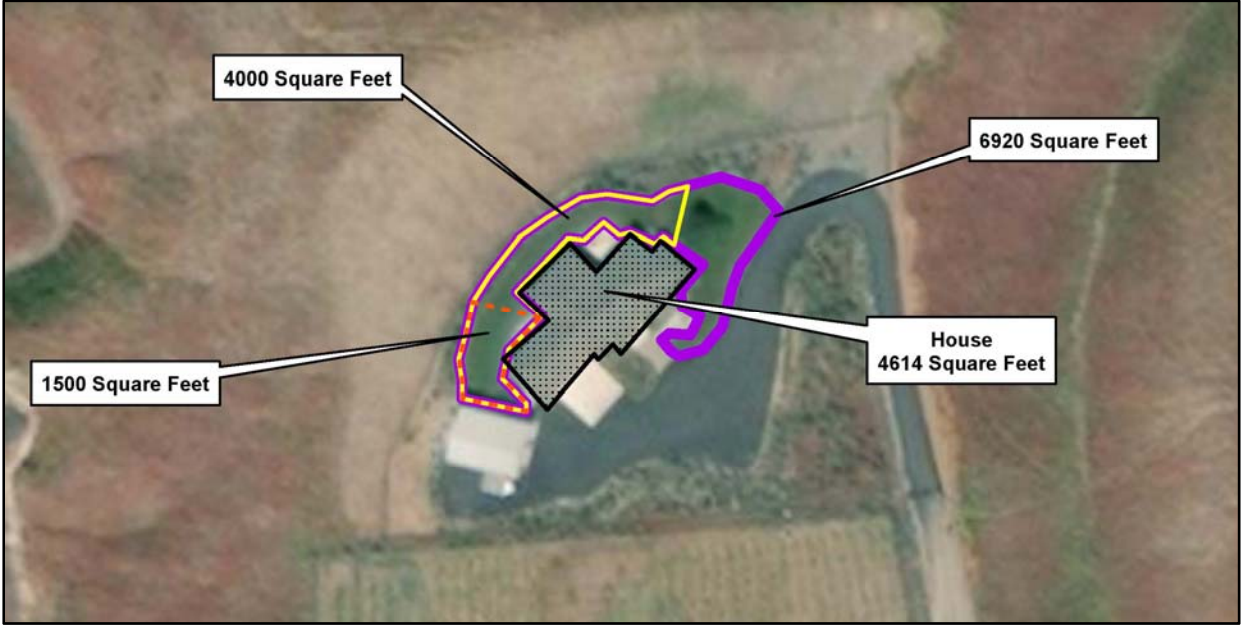
All new uses of ground water from a permit-exempt well within the Mitigation Area shall purchase a mitigation certificate from the County or other legal documentation acceptable to Benton County from another water bank program within the Yakima Basin with water rights upstream of Benton allowing the applicant to demonstrate water budget neutrality to the Yakima River. No new use to which this chapter is applicable shall be approved without one of these.

XX.YY.050 Mitigation Packages

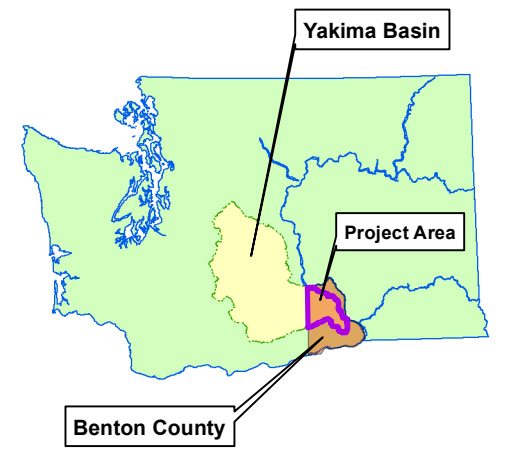
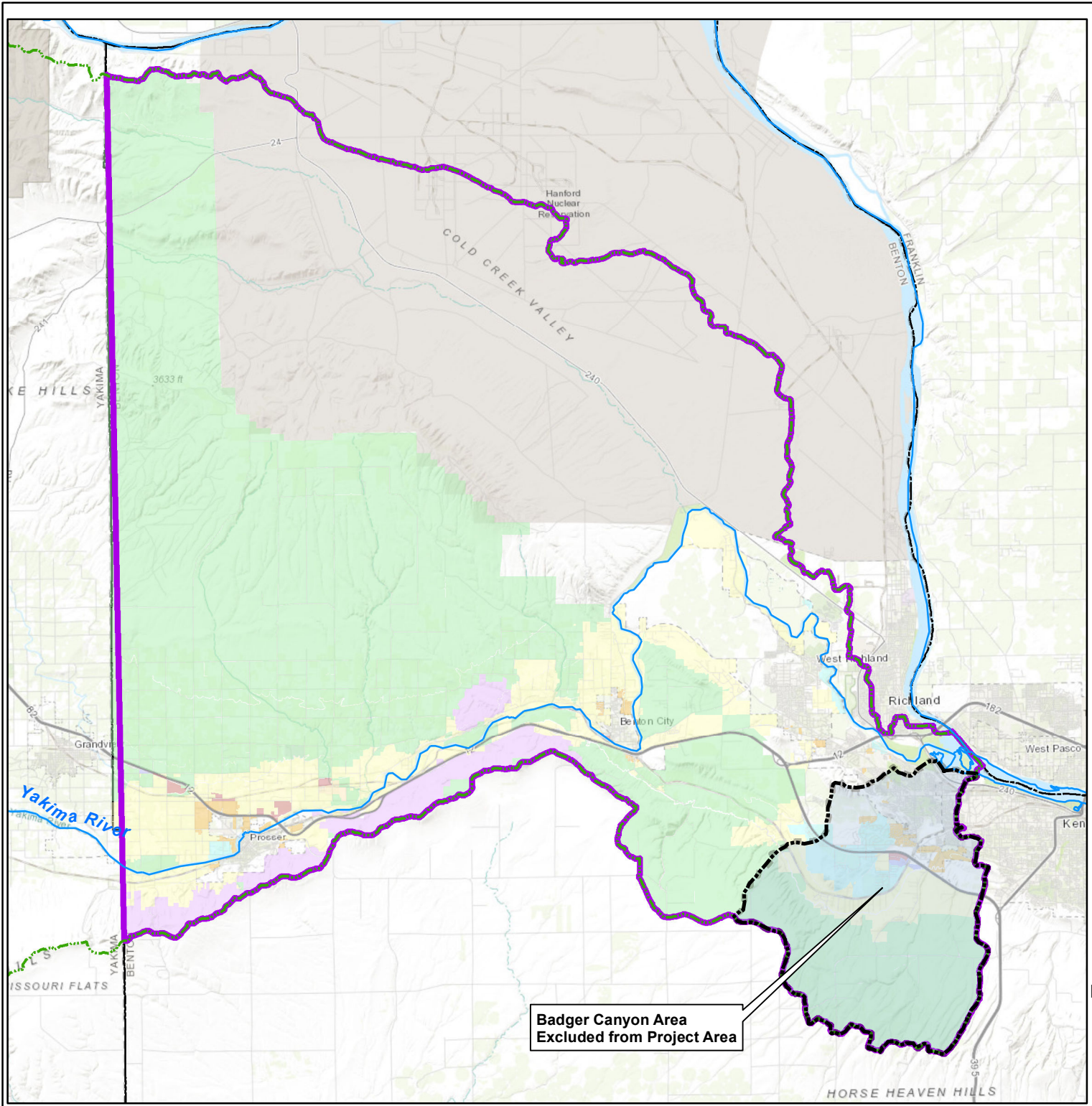
Applicants seeking mitigation through the Benton County Yakima Basin Water Bank will be required to purchase one of the following three mitigation packages:

- a. Package A, which is for applicants with access to outdoor irrigation (as determined by a signed affidavit) and consists of an annual average of 200 gallons per day of indoor domestic use only. The daily maximum withdrawal allowed on any given day for Package A is 675 gallons per day, as long as the annual average is not exceeded.
- b. Package B, which is for applicants without access to outdoor irrigation (as determined by a signed affidavit) and consists of an annual average of 200 gallons per day of indoor domestic use only and up to an annual average of 100 additional gallons per day for outdoor irrigation of up to 1500 square feet or other area that could be larger through use of low-water vegetation and/or xeriscape landscaping, but would not exceed the annual average of 100 gallons per day for outdoor use. The daily maximum withdrawal allowed on any given day for Package B is 900 gallons per day, as long as the annual average is not exceeded.
- c. Package C, which is for applicants without access to outdoor irrigation (as determined by a signed affidavit) and consists of an annual average of 200 gallons per day of indoor domestic use only and up to an annual average of 250 additional gallons per day for outdoor irrigation of up to 4000 square feet or other area that could be larger through use of low-water vegetation and/or xeriscape landscaping, but would not exceed the annual average of 250 gallons per day for outdoor use. The daily maximum withdrawal allowed on any given day for Package C is 1200 gallons per day, as long as the annual average is not exceeded.

Picture for illustration purposes only



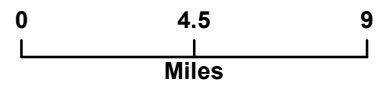
Draft Program Elements (for discussion purposes only; elements and descriptions subject to change)



Land Use Category

- | | |
|------------------|------------------------|
| Rural Remote | GMA Ag |
| Rural Resource | Rural Commercial |
| Rural Transition | Rural Community Center |
| Urban | Rural Industrial |

- | | |
|--------------|--------------|
| Yakima Basin | Project Area |
|--------------|--------------|



Benton County Rural Water Supply Program
Figure 1 - Project Area

