

**DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY'S ORDER
ADOPTING THE
WATERSHED RESTORATION AND ENHANCEMENT PLAN
FOR WATER RESOURCES INVENTORY AREA 10
(PUYALLUP RIVER BASIN)**

In accordance with the Streamflow Restoration Act, RCW 90.94.030, the Department of Ecology (Ecology) received the Watershed Restoration and Enhancement Plan (Watershed Plan) for the Puyallup River Basin watershed (WRIA 10 Watershed Plan) submitted by the Water Resources Inventory Area 10 Watershed Restoration and Enhancement Committee on April 26, 2021.

Ecology has reviewed the WRIA 10 Watershed Plan to determine whether it meets the requirements for adoption under RCW 90.94.030. As part of this review, Ecology staff conducted a technical review of this Watershed Plan, and produced a report dated March 2021 and entitled the "Technical Staff Net Ecological Benefit Determination RCW 90.94.030 Watershed Restoration and Enhancement Plan Puyallup River Basin (WRIA 10)." This technical report supports Ecology's decision on the WRIA 10 Watershed Plan and is incorporated into this Order by reference.

Ecology's Water Resources Program, through its Program Manager, issued a Memorandum to Ecology's Director delivering the Program's Recommendation to adopt the Puyallup River Basin Watershed Plan. This Memorandum supports Ecology's decision on the WRIA 10 Watershed Plan and is incorporated into this Order by reference.

Under RCW 90.94.030(3)(c), and prior to plan adoption, Ecology "...must determine that actions identified in the plan, after accounting for new projected uses of water over the subsequent twenty years, will result in a net ecological benefit [NEB] to instream resources within the [WRIA]."

Ecology finds that the Puyallup River Basin Watershed Plan's projection of 688 new permit-exempt domestic (PE) wells being installed over the twenty-year period, resulting in 0.38 cubic feet per second (cfs) of new consumptive water use, is based on sound methodology. In particular, the Watershed Restoration and Enhancement Committee (Committee) calculated consumptive water use based on guidance provided by Ecology which, by design, assumes greater water use than most homeowners will likely use for their lawns and gardens.

Ecology finds that the 9 different projects and actions i.e. projects, identified in the Puyallup River Basin Watershed Plan provides sufficient assurances that they will offset consumptive use impacts to instream flows that would be caused by the 688 new PE wells projected to occur throughout the watershed over the twenty-year period.

Ecology's technical review examined the Puyallup River Basin Watershed Plan's analyses that led to the determination that the total projected consumptive use impacts through 2038 will be 0.38 cfs. Likewise, Ecology's technical review examined each of the 9 projects included in the Watershed Plan and has concluded the analysis is thorough and well executed, and uses reasonable and scientifically-sound methods. Furthermore these projects are well integrated with existing and current watershed protection and restoration efforts, and include a robust implementation and adaptive management strategy that clearly indicates the Committee's intent to implement the plan.

Ecology finds, based on Ecology's technical review, that the 9 projects in the Puyallup River Basin Watershed Plan, when totaled, are projected to offset approximately 1.09 cfs of stream flow impacts. Therefore, this Watershed Plan is designed to exceed projected impacts by 0.71 cfs or 284%.

After evaluation of the Puyallup River Basin Watershed Plan to determine if it identifies adequate

strategies to offset all potential consumptive use impacts to instream flows, Ecology's technical review also evaluated the Watershed Plan to assess if it includes projects or strategies necessary to achieve a net ecological benefit. In doing so, Ecology considered the unique hydrogeological characteristics of the basin, projected locations of potential new permit-exempt domestic wells, and habitat benefits of the 9 strategies described in the Watershed Plan. This finding is further reinforced by the Plan's vast exceedance of the projected impacts, the inclusion of 22 additional promising habitat projects, as well as its approach to project prioritization based on the Committee's assessment of projects that are more ready to proceed than others and that also have an identified project sponsor.

Ecology finds, that the Department of Ecology further considered the environmental impacts of the plan and after doing so issued a determination of non-significance under the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) and sought public comment on this environmental review. No comments were received after the comment period.

Therefore, **Ecology finds** that the Watershed Plan meets the requirement "that actions identified in the plan, after accounting for new projected uses of water over the subsequent twenty years, will result in a net ecological benefit to instream resources within the water resource inventory area."

Based on the foregoing, Ecology **ADOPTS** the WRIA 10 Watershed Plan, with the following **CONDITION**:

1. Ongoing Compliance with RCW 90.94.030(4). Planning Committee governments will continue to fulfill the requirements of RCW 90.94.030(4), which include recording relevant restrictions on titles, and recording and reporting the number of building permits issued by the Counties and Cities, after Ecology's adoption of the WRIA 10 Watershed Plan.

Neither this decision to adopt the Watershed Plan, nor the inclusion of any conditions in this approval, provide any guarantee that Ecology will approve any requests for project funding.

So ordered this 14th day of June, 2021.



Laura Watson, Director
Department of Ecology

Enclosure: Your Right to Be Heard

YOUR RIGHT TO APPEAL

You have a right to appeal this Decision to the Pollution Control Hearings Board (PCHB) within 30 days of the date of receipt of this Decision. The appeal process is governed by chapter 43.21B RCW and chapter 371-08 WAC. "Date of receipt" is defined in RCW 43.21B.001(2).

To appeal you must do all of the following within 30 days of the date of receipt of this Decision:

- File your appeal and a copy of this Decision with the PCHB (see addresses below). Filing means actual receipt by the PCHB during regular business hours.
- Serve a copy of your appeal and this Decision on Ecology in paper form - by mail or in person. (See addresses below.) E-mail is not accepted.

You must also comply with other applicable requirements in chapter 43.21B RCW and chapter 371-08 WAC.

ADDRESS AND LOCATION INFORMATION

Street Addresses	Mailing Addresses
Department of Ecology Attn: Appeals Processing Desk 300 Desmond Drive SE Lacey WA 98503	Department of Ecology Attn: Appeals Processing Desk PO Box 47608 Olympia WA 98504-7608
Pollution Control Hearings Board 1111 Israel Road SW, Suite 301 Tumwater WA 98501	Pollution Control Hearings Board PO Box 40903 Olympia WA 98504-0903

For additional information, visit the Environmental Hearings Office Website: <http://www.eluho.wa.gov>

To find laws and agency rules visit the Washington State Legislature Website: <http://www.leg.wa.gov/CodeReviser>