



Online Study Guide for Certified Water Rights Examiners

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Ecology offers the following information to applicants preparing to become a Certified Water Rights Examiner (CWRE). In order to pass the test the applicant will need a *working* knowledge of Washington State water law and regulations. As required in RCW 90.03.665, the following subjects will be covered on the test:

- a) Water law in Washington State.
- b) Measurement of the flow of water through open channels and enclosed pipes.
- c) Water use and water level reporting.
- d) Estimation of the capacity of reservoirs and ponds.
- e) Irrigation crop water requirements.
- f) Aerial photo interpretation.
- g) Legal descriptions of land parcels.
- h) Location of land and water infrastructure through the use of maps and global positioning.
- i) Proper construction and sealing of well bores.
- j) Other topics related to the preparation and certification of water rights in Washington State.

Applicable Washington Water Laws

[RCW 90.03.665](#) – Certified water rights examiners

[Title 90 RCW](#)—Water Rights—environment (all water right laws)

[Chapter 90.03 RCW](#)—Water code

[Chapter 90.14 RCW](#)—Water rights – registration – waiver and relinquishment, etc.

[Chapter 90.44 RCW](#)—Regulation of public ground water

[Chapter 90.54 RCW](#)—Water resources act of 1971

[Chapter 90.66 RCW](#)—Family farm water act

[Chapter 90.94 RCW](#)—Streamflow restoration

[Chapter 18.104 RCW](#)—Water well construction

[Chapter 43.27A RCW](#)—Water resources

Applicable Washington Water Rules

[Chapter 173-100 through 173-175 WAC](#)—Department of Ecology

[Chapter 173-500 through 173-591 WAC](#)—Instream flow rules and reservations

[Chapter 508-12 WAC](#)—Administration of surface and groundwater codes

Significant Case Law in Washington

- [Department of Ecology v. Abbott, 103 Wn.2d 686, 694 P.2d 1071 \(1985\)](#)
- [Department of Ecology v. Campbell & Gwinn et al., 70279-9 \(2002\)](#) - Includes dissents
- [Department of Ecology v. Grimes, 121 Wn.2d 459, 852 P.2d 1044 \(1993\)](#)
- [Hillis v. Department of Ecology, 131 Wn.2d 373, 932 P.2d 139 \(1997\)](#)
- [Hubbard v. Department of Ecology, 86 Wn. App. 119, 936 P.2d 27 \(1997\)](#)
- [Kim v. Pollution Control Hearings Board, 161, 115 Wn. App. 157 \(2003\)](#)
- [R.D. Merrill Co. v. Pollution Bd., 137 Wn.2d 118, 969 P.2d 459 \(1999\)](#)
- [Motley-Motley, Inc. v. Department of Ecology \(2005\)](#)
- [Postema, et al., Appellants, v. The PCHB, et al., Respondents. 142 Wn.2d 68 \(2000\)](#)
 - [Postema v. PCHB, et al., Citation pending, \(2000\)](#) (Dissent)
- [PUD Dist. 1 of Pend Oreille v. Department of Ecology, 70372-8 \(2002\)](#) (Includes dissents) Otherwise known as Sullivan Creek
- [Rettkowski v. Department of Ecology, 219 122 Wn.2d 219, 858 P.2d 232 \(1993\)](#)
Otherwise known as Sinking Creek
 - [Supreme Court Order Changing Opinion](#) November 1993
- [Schuh v. Department of Ecology, 100 Wn.2d 180, 667 P.2d 64 \(1983\)](#)
- [Department of Ecology v. Theodoratus, 135 Wn.2d 582, 957 P.2d 1241 \(1998\)](#)
- [Okanogan Wilderness v. Town of Twisp, 133 Wn.2d 769, 947 P.2d 732 \(1997\)](#)
- [Department of Ecology v. City of Union Gap and Ahtanum Ridge Business Park, LLC](#) - November 2008 Published Opinion
- [Department of Ecology v. Yakima Reservation Irrig. Dist., 121 Wn.2d 257, 850 P.2d 1306 \(1993\)](#) Otherwise known as Acquavella 2
- [Department of Ecology v. Acquavella, 131 Wn.2d 746, 935 P.2d 595 \(1997\)](#) Otherwise known as Acquavella 3

Department of Ecology, Water Resources Program Policies, Procedures, & Guidance

- <https://ecology.wa.gov/Regulations-Permits/Plans-policies/Water-rights-policies>

Pollution Control Hearings Board decisions

- [Environmental and Land Use Hearings Office](#) - This site includes all dispositive and significant orders issued by the three boards within the Environmental Hearings Office, since its inception in 1970.
- [Digest of Water Resources Decisions](#)—2005 Edition, Cases through October 1, 2005
- [Water Resource Management: Where we are Today](#)—2016 Edition,

United States Department of Agriculture

Natural Resources Conservation Service

- Washington Irrigation Guide (WAIG):
https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/wa/technical/engineering/?cid=nrcs144p2_036314
- National Engineering Handbook:
https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail//?cid=nrcs141p2_024573

Farm Service Agency

[National Agriculture Imagery Program \(NAIP\)](#)

National Aeronautics and Space Administration

[The Landsat Program](#)

Office of the Attorney General

[An Introduction to Washington Water Law](#)

For More Information

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