



SWRO Water Resources Update 2021

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Water Resources - Southwest Regional Office

6/4/2021



Presentation Outline

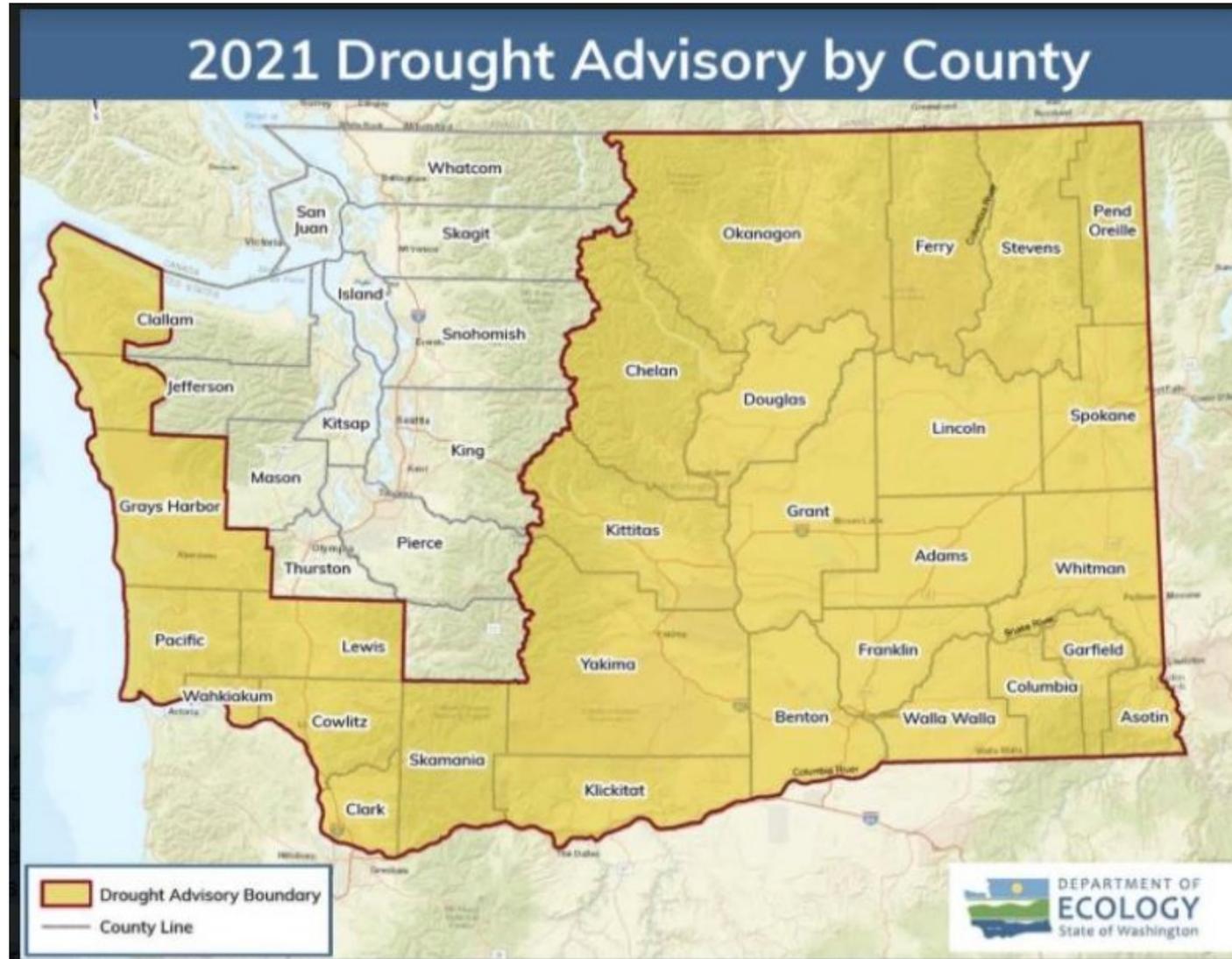
- 2021 Drought Advisory
- Curtailments of Junior Water Right Holders in the Upper and Lower Chehalis Watersheds
- 4 WRIAs Voted on by Committees in SWRO
 - 2 were locally approved - WRIAs 10 and 12
 - 2 were not locally approved - WRIAs 13 and 14

2021 Drought Advisory in Washington

- Ecology is closely monitoring snowpack, precipitation, and local weather conditions in collaboration with our partners to anticipate drought conditions
- In certain places, local spring dryness is raising concerns. However, this year, we have an ample snowpack in most places to supply our mountain-fed stream systems through the summer
- Ecology is declaring drought advisories in listed counties the week of May 24, 2021. Ecology is not declaring any drought emergencies at this time.

2021 Drought Advisory

On May 24, 2021, Ecology issued a “drought advisory” for the following counties in the State



Drought Watch



DEPARTMENT OF
ECOLOGY
State of Washington

Check drought updates at ecology.wa.gov/drought



Normal Conditions

Water supply is within normal range. Experts are watching conditions. Report any dry conditions in your area.



Drought advisory

Drought conditions may develop in the future. Conserve water and report dry conditions in your area. Watch for further information.



Drought emergency

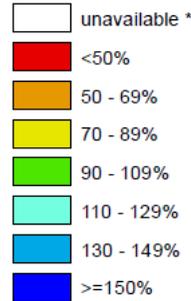
Water supply is likely below 75 percent of average. There is a risk of undue hardship to water users. Emergency relief may be available. Take steps to conserve water and follow local guidelines.

Current Snowpack in WA Snow-Water Equivalent

Washington SNOTEL Current Snow Water Equivalent (SWE) % of Normal

May 24, 2021

Current Snow Water Equivalent (SWE) Basin-wide Percent of 1981-2010 Median



* Data unavailable at time of posting or measurement is not representative at this time of year

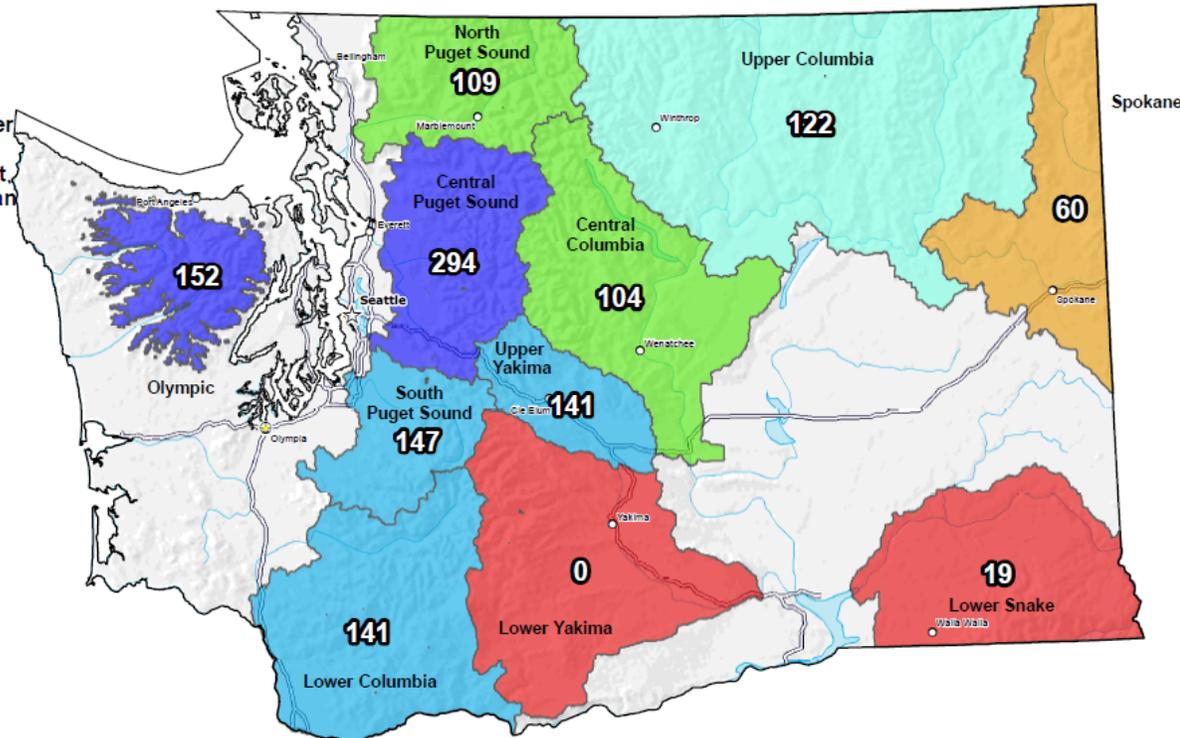
Provisional Data
Subject to Revision



The snow water equivalent percent of normal represents the current snow water equivalent found at selected SNOTEL sites in or near the basin compared to the average value for those sites on this day. Data based on the first reading of the day (typically 00:00).



Prepared by:
USDA/NRCS National Water and Climate Center
Portland, Oregon
<http://www.wcc.nrcs.usda.gov>





Curtailment of Junior Water Rights

Current Streamflow Conditions in the Upper Chehalis (WRIA 232) and Lower Chehalis (WRIA 22) Watersheds

*(Year 7/7 of curtailing 93 water right holders
that are junior in priority to the Chehalis
instream flow regulation:
2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020 and 2021)*

Based on streamflow levels dropping below minimum flows in WAC 173-522, Ecology's SWRO Water Resources Section issued curtailment notices again in 2021 to approximately 93 "*Junior*" water right holders of surface water diversion irrigation water rights that are junior to the Chehalis Instream Flow regulation, adopted in 1976.

(Any junior surface water rights for indoor domestic purposes are not curtailed.)

Streamflow Restoration Planning



WRIA 10 and 12 Current Status

WRIA 10

- Committee Approved
- ECY Director's Decision:
 - Adoption deadline June 30, 2021.

WRIA 12

- Committee Approved
- ECY Director's Decision:
 - Adoption deadline June 30, 2021.

WRIA 13 and 14 Current Status

WRIA 13

- Committee Did Not Approve
- Ecology to prepare final plan under RCW 90.94.030(3)(h)

WRIA 14

- Committee Did Not Approve
- Ecology to prepare final plan under RCW 90.94.030(3)(h)

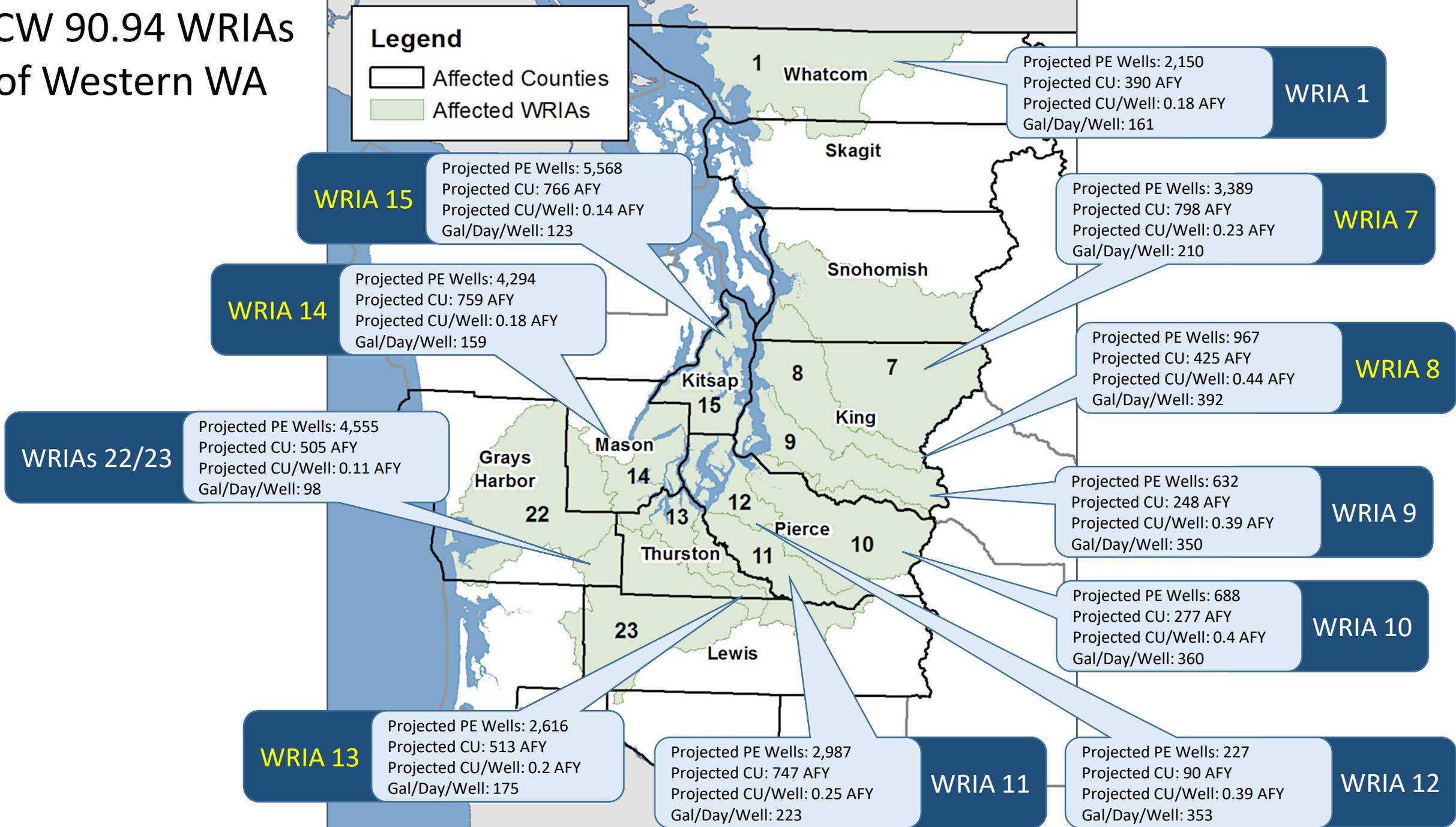
Next Steps for Plans Not Locally Approved

- Currently includes WRIAs 7, 8, 13, 14, and 15
- Ecology to prepare final plans under 90.94.030(3)(h)
 - Ecology to prepare and submit final draft plans to the Salmon Recovery Funding (SRF) Board for technical review and plan recommendations.
 - Following SRF Board process, Ecology to adopt plans and initiate rulemaking within 6 months of plan adoption, and adopt amended rules within 2 years of initiation of rulemaking.
- No timeline identified in the law for Ecology to finalize/adopt plans

RCW 90.94 WRIAs of Western WA

Legend

-  Affected Counties
-  Affected WRIAs





Questions?

