



# SWRO Water Resources Update 2021

Mike Noone

Water Resources - Southwest Regional Office

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# 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

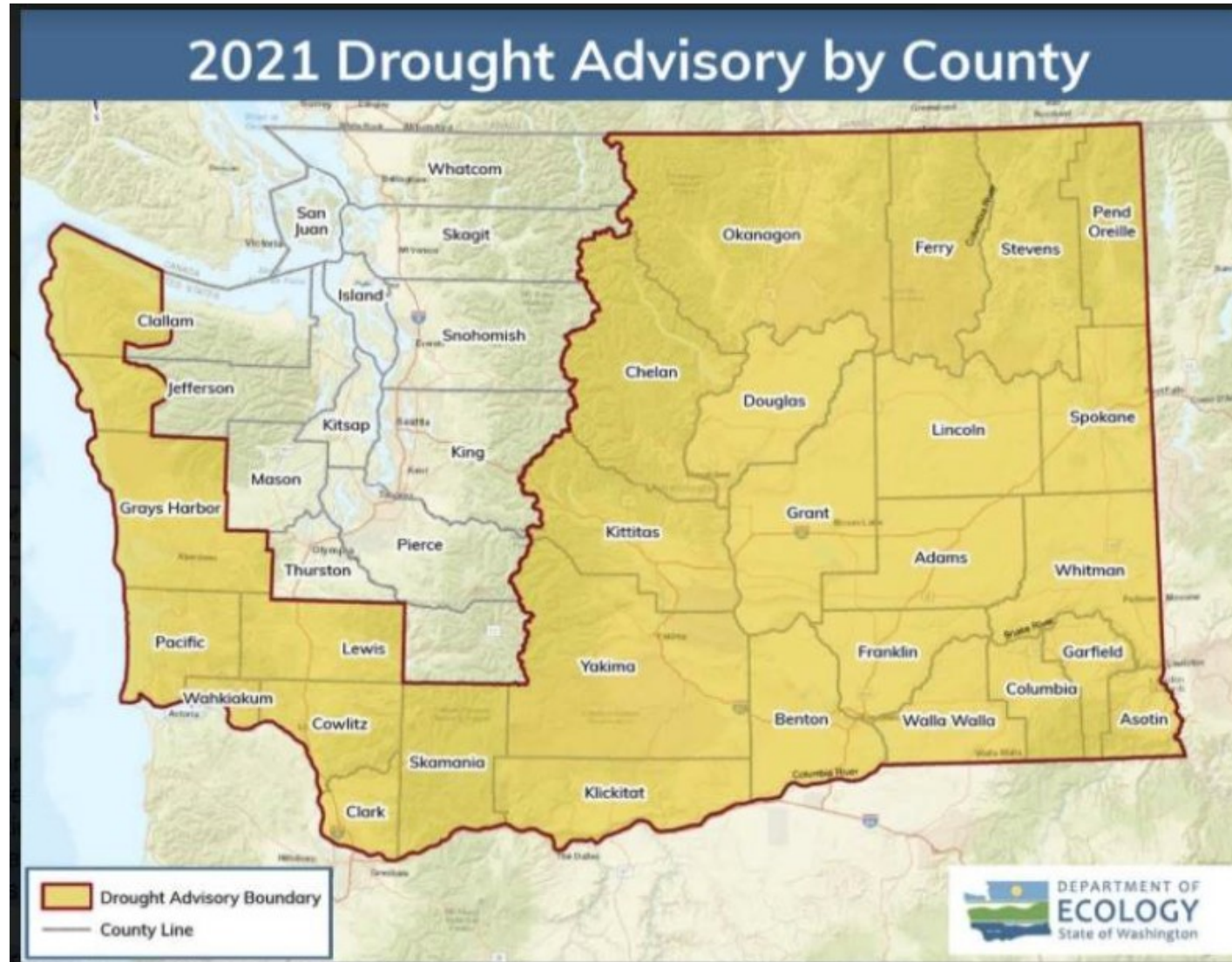
# 2021 Drought Advisory in Washington

- 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



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# Drought Watch

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DEPARTMENT OF  
**ECOLOGY**  
State of Washington

Check drought updates at [ecology.wa.gov/drought](https://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.

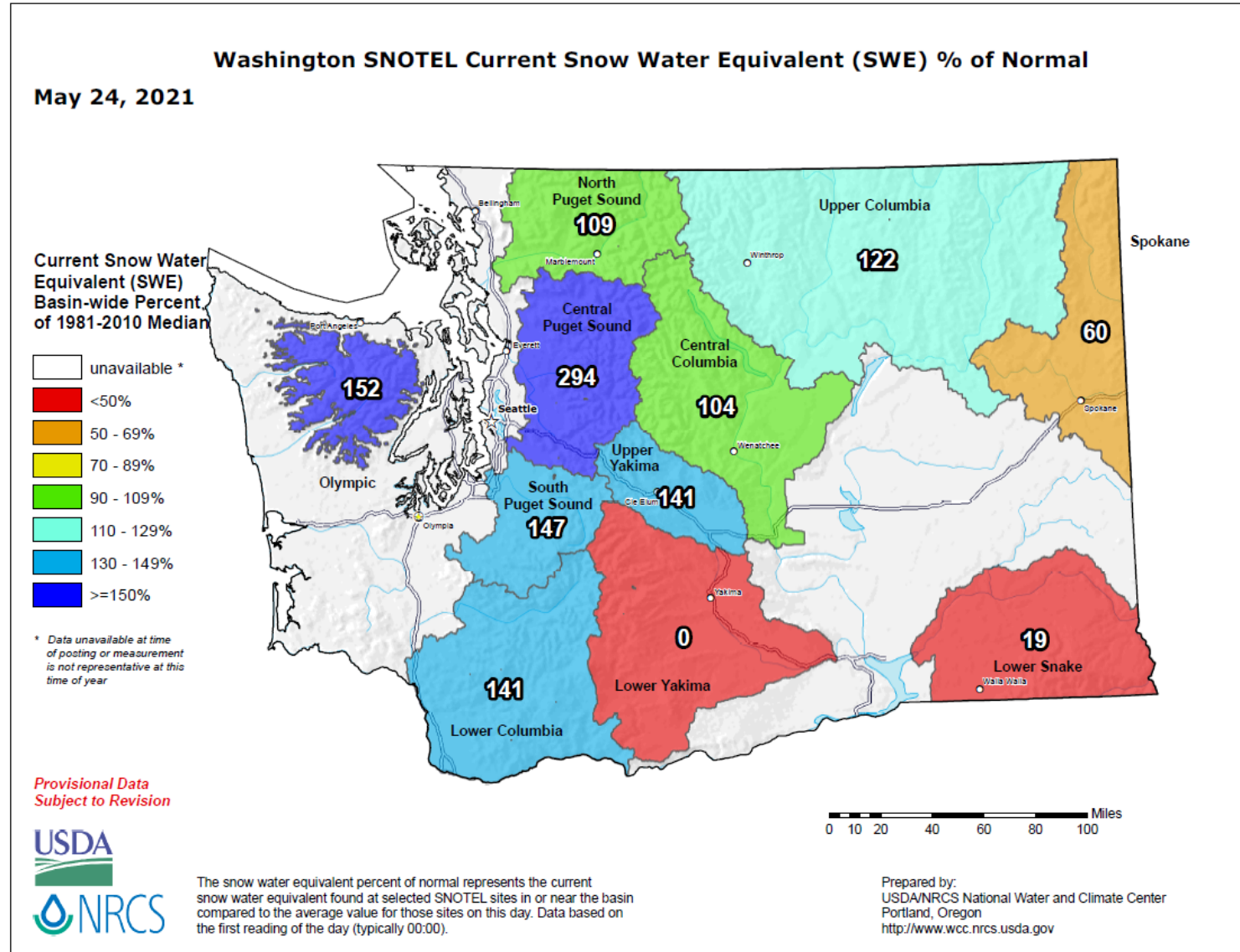


## Drought emergency

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







# 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)





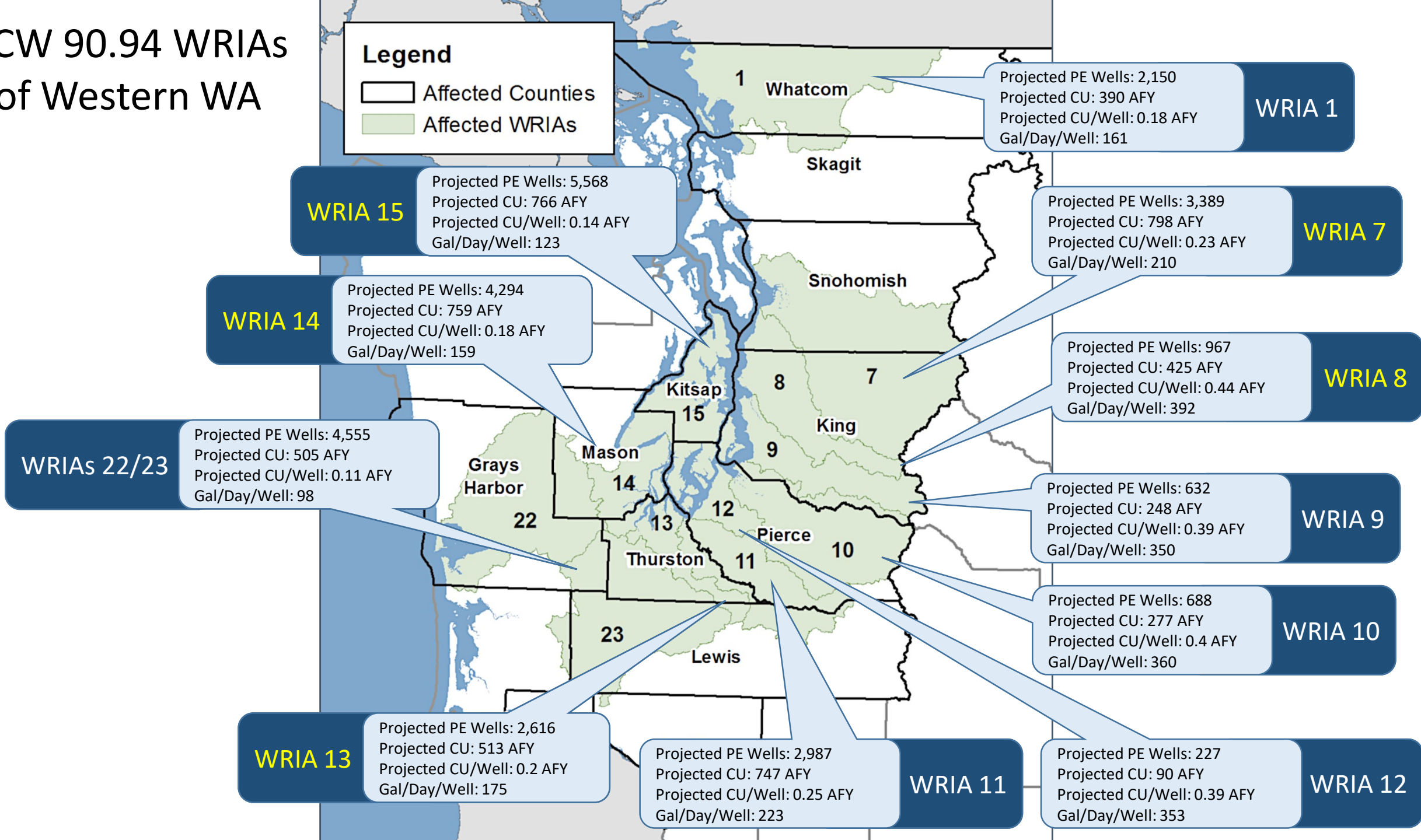
# Next Steps for Plans Not Locally Approved

- 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?

