



Watershed planning from a water utility perspective

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Why utilities need watershed planning



- Legal obligation to serve customers
- Need predictable, adequate water supply
- Need long-term planning in sync with growth management

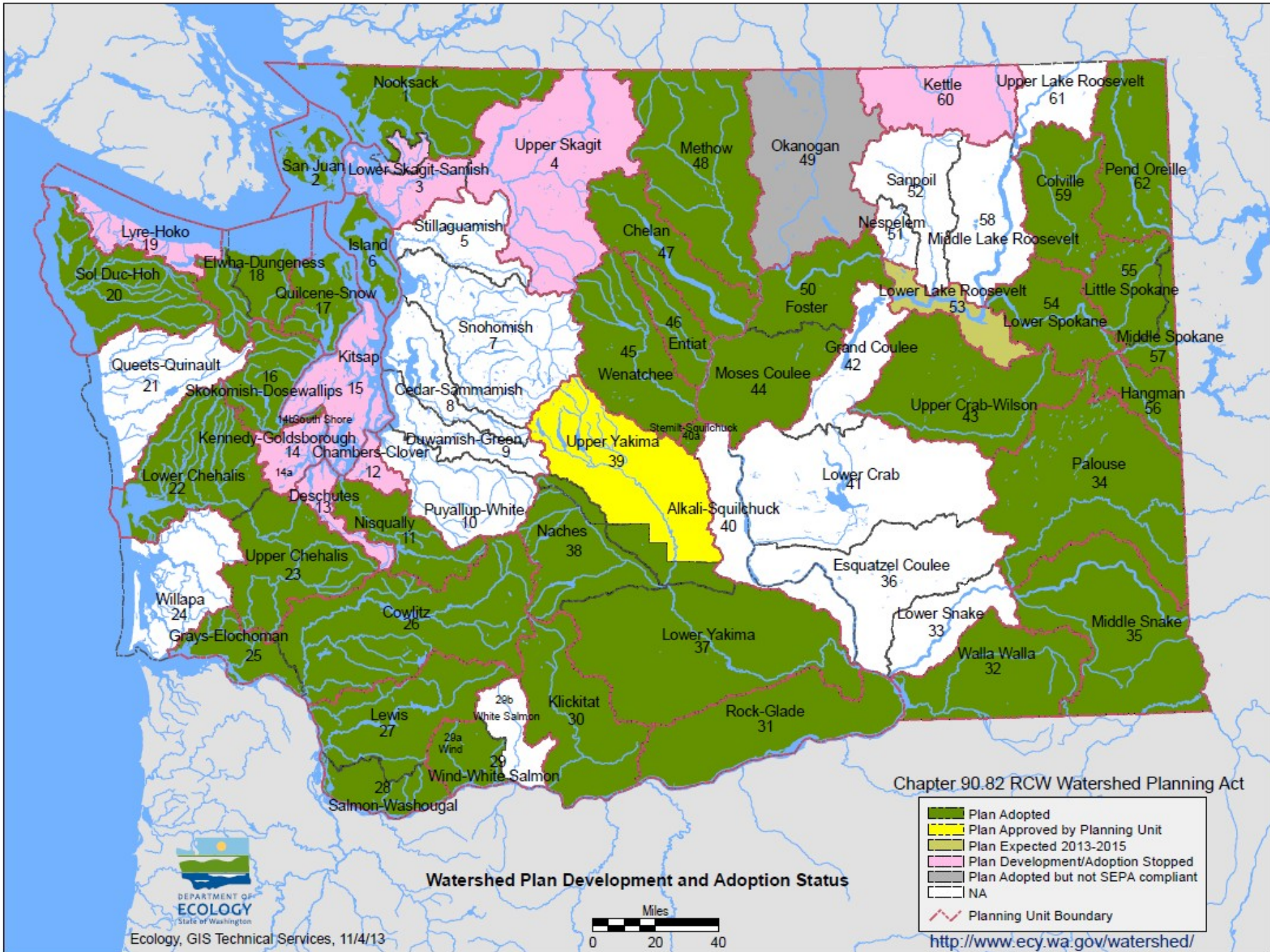
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Utilities' history with watershed planning

- At the table from the beginning... examples:
- Chelan Agreement (1990)
- Watershed Planning Act in RCW 90.82 (1997-98)
- Mixed record of wins and losses



Nooksack 1 Upper Skagit 4 Methow 48 Okanogan 49 Kettle 60 Upper Lake Roosevelt 61

San Juan 2 Lower Skagit-Sanish 3 Stillaguamish 5 Chelan 47 Colville 59 Pend Oreille 62

Lyre-Hoko 19 Elwha-Dungeness 18 Quilcene-Snow 17 Island 6 Upper Yakima 39 Stemilt-Squilchuck 40a

Sol Duc-Hoh 20 Queets-Quinault 21 Skokomish-Dosewallips 15 Cedar-Sammamish 8 Duwamish-Green 9 Upper Crab 43

Lower Chehalis 22 Upper Chehalis 23 Willapa 24 Grays-Elochoman 25 Cowlitz 26 Naches 38

Kennedy-Goldsborough 14 Chambers-Clover 12 Deschutes 13 Puyallup-White 10 Nisqually 11 Lower Yakima 37

Lower Snake 33 Walla Walla 32 Middle Snake 35

Lower Spokane 54 Little Spokane 55 Middle Spokane 57 Hangman 56

Upper Crab-Wilson 43 Esquatzel Coulee 36 Lower Snake 33

Lower Snake 33 Walla Walla 32 Middle Snake 35

Lower Snake 33 Walla Walla 32 Middle Snake 35

Lower Snake 33 Walla Walla 32 Middle Snake 35

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Lower Snake 33 Walla Walla 32 Middle Snake 35



Hard lessons learned

- Patience and persistence required
- Planning table must be inclusive
- Planning product must pass muster in court (e.g. Foster, Swinomish, Hirst rulings)

ESSB 6091: Today's watershed planning



- Mainly about mitigating permit-exempt wells – response to Hirst ruling
- Not aimed at utilities' water needs
- Exception: Secs. 301-303 response to Foster ruling

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Foster Task Force in ESSB 6091

- Foster ruling: strict “water for water, in-time and in-place” mitigation requirement
- Legislative task force and five pilot projects to explore broader, “sequenced” mitigation options

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Foster Task Force in ESSB 6091

- Under review: in-kind and out-of-kind mitigation for net environmental benefit
- Still a work in progress but utilities hopeful

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