Overview

- **Wednesday, March 13:** Cutoff in House of Origin

- **Bills:**
  - SHB 1013 and 2SSB 5352 (Walla Walla)
  - SHB 1622 (Drought preparedness and response)
Walla Walla Partnership
SHB 1013, 2SSB 5352

• Extends the Walla Walla Pilot Water Management program through June 30, 2021.

• During the “transition period”, the following must occur:
  • Performance and financial audits;
  • Continuation of the Walla Walla basin flow enhancement study;
  • Development of a 30 year integrated water resource management strategic plan;
  • Report to the legislature (due Nov 30, 2020).
Drought Preparedness and Response
SHB 1622

Modernizing our drought statutes to effectively prepare for and respond to drought emergencies.
Drought – Streamlining our Response

Communication: Authorizes Ecology to issue a “drought advisory” warning.
• Removes the requirement to publish notice of a drought emergency in local newspapers.

Funding: Removes outdated financial accounts and updates current ones.
• Updates the emergency grant program to reflect current practices (addresses flexibility for projects, cash match, eligible entities, and loans).

Emergency permits: Authorizes Ecology to recover the costs of mitigation obtained for emergency water right permits.

Contingency planning: Authorizes Ecology to engage in planning outside of a drought emergency.
Drought – Building Resiliency

**Preparedness projects:**
Authorizes Ecology to fund drought projects outside of a drought emergency.

**Long-term water right leases:**
Establishes a pilot program to investigate the use of long-term water right leases as a drought preparedness strategy.