

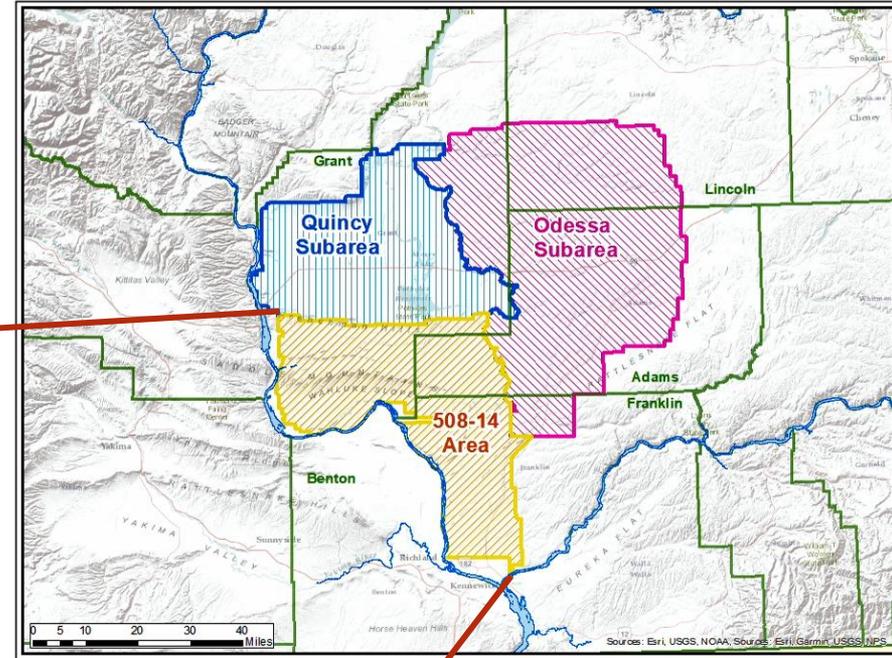
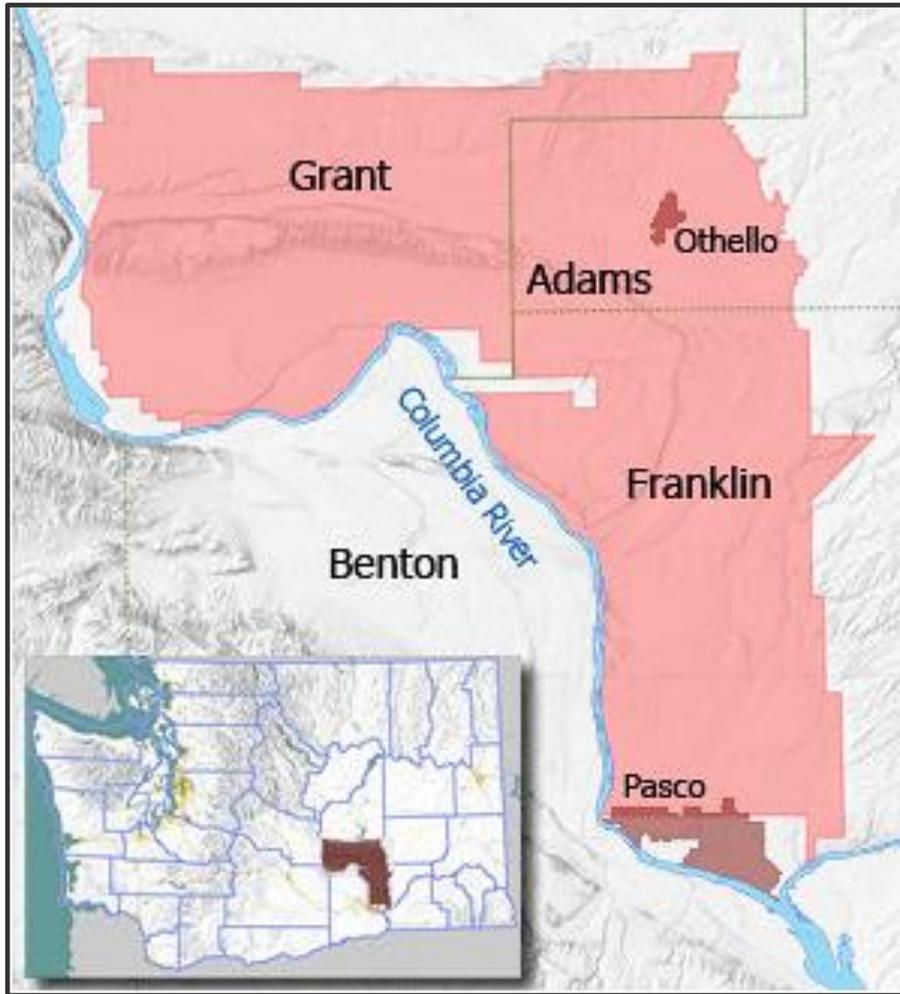


DEPARTMENT OF
ECOLOGY
State of Washington

Pasco Basin Groundwater Management Efforts

November 3, 2022

Pasco Basin Area

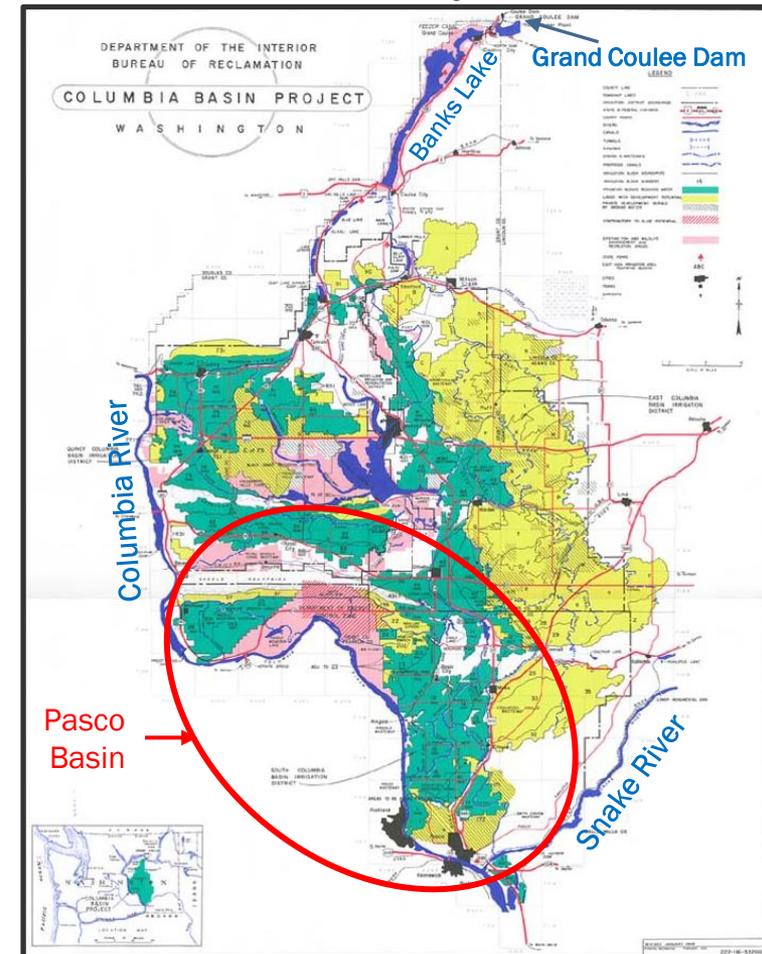


Columbia Basin Project Irrigation

- Columbia Basin Act – early 1940s
- Irrigation in the basin relies on surface water from Federal Project (~680,000 acres)
- Return flows seep into ground and commingled with natural groundwater
- State issues withdrawal of groundwater in coordination with Reclamation, later designated as interim rule 508-14 WAC

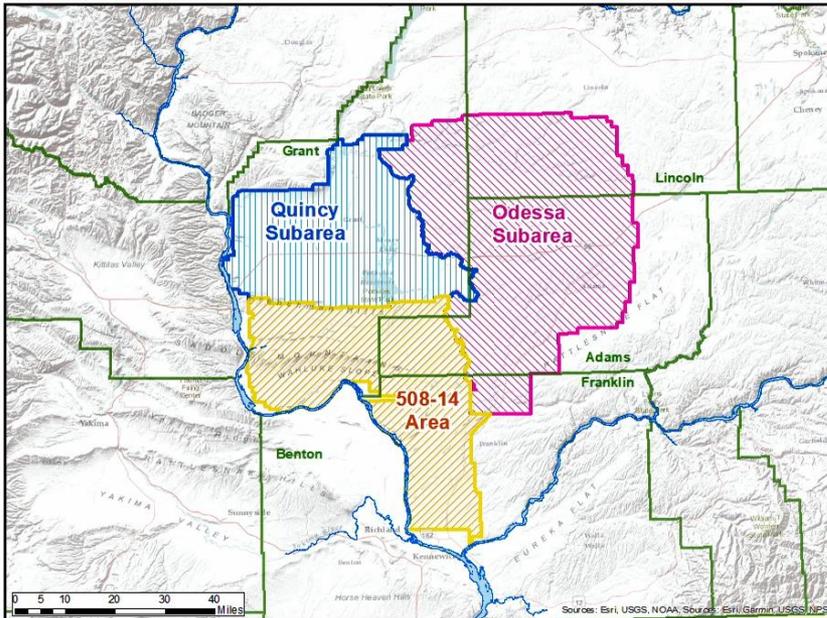
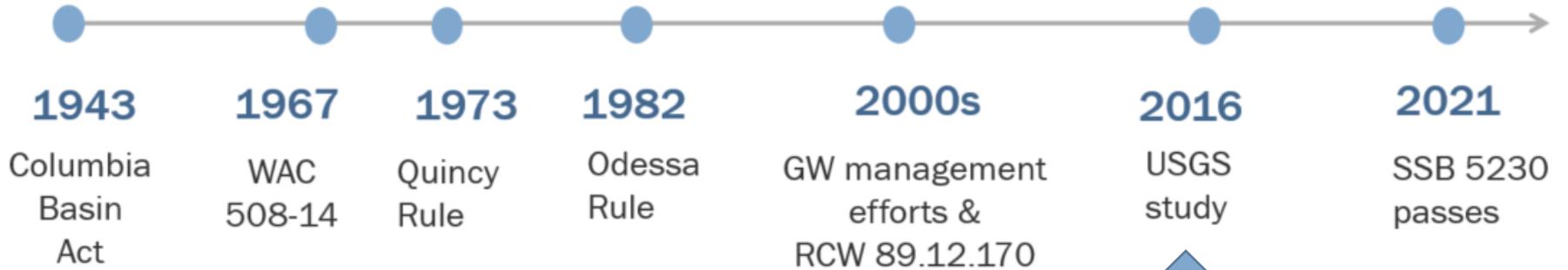


Bureau of Reclamation
Federal Columbia Basin Project



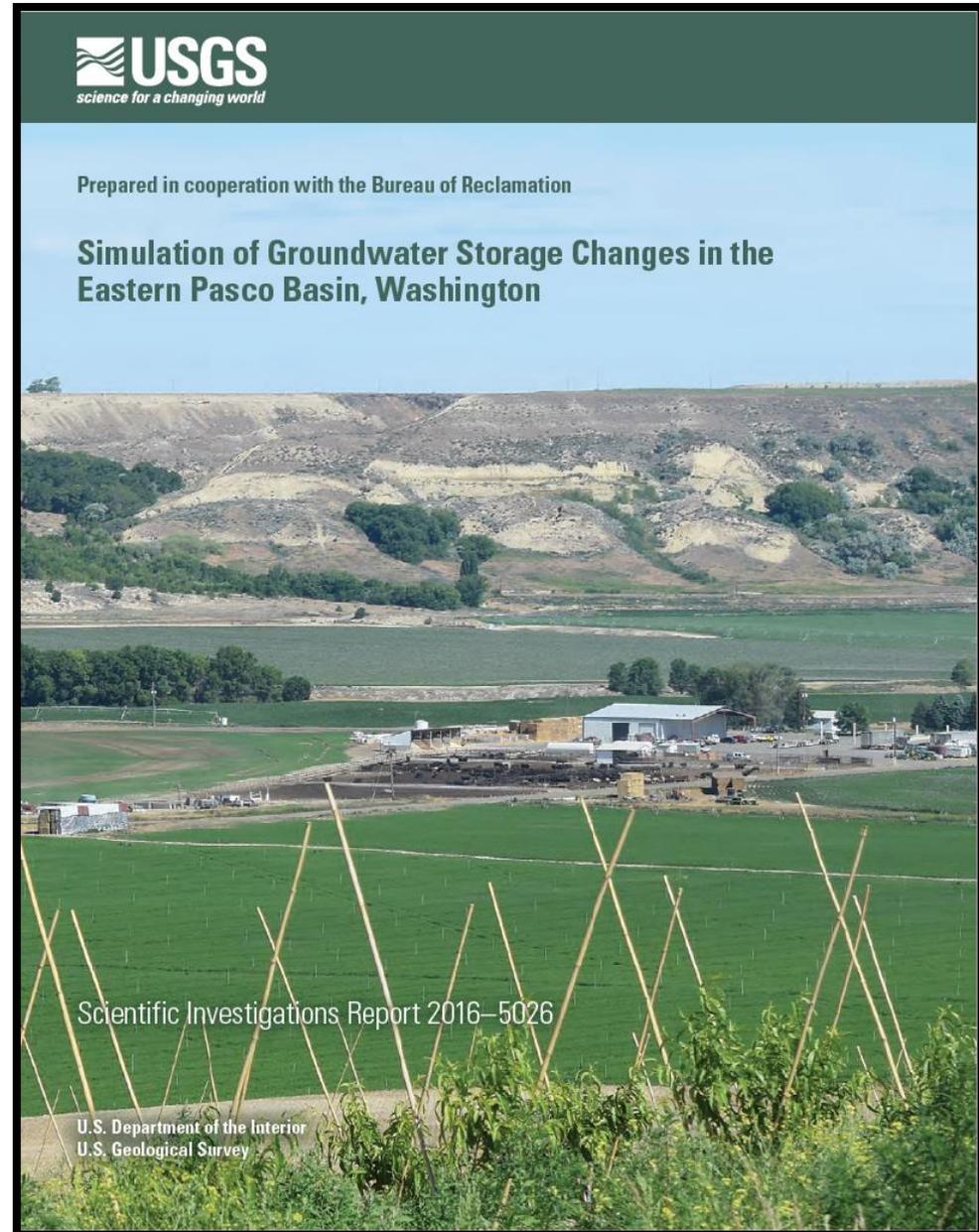
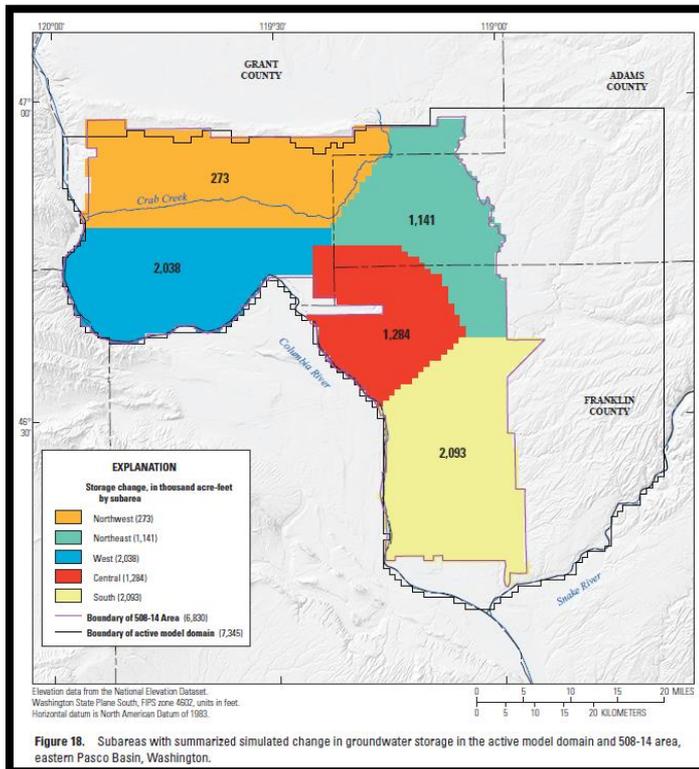
Adapted from DOI, Bureau of Reclamation Columbia Basin Project Map

Pasco Basin History

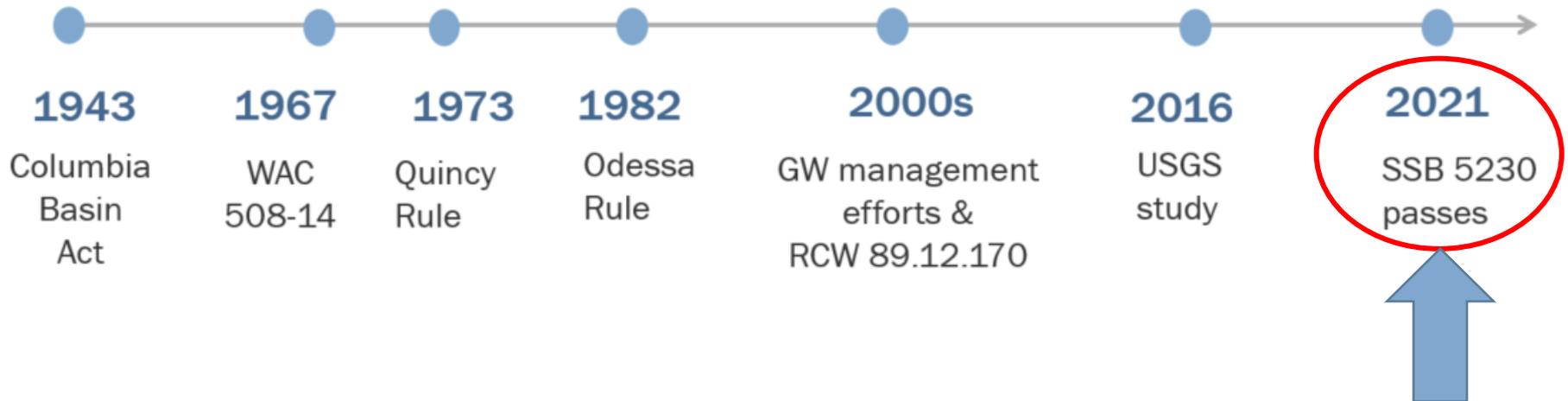


USGS Study and Groundwater Model

- 2016 USGS Report
- Increase in Groundwater Storage
- Model Updates/Revisions
- Management Scenarios



Pasco Basin History: 2021 Legislative Amendment



- Allocation through agreement of groundwater that exists as a result of the Columbia Basin Project
- Clarify process with subarea boundary designation under RCW 90.44.130
- Agreements fulfill requirements for groundwater availability
- Directs Ecology to conduct rulemaking including outreach

Current Efforts and Next Steps



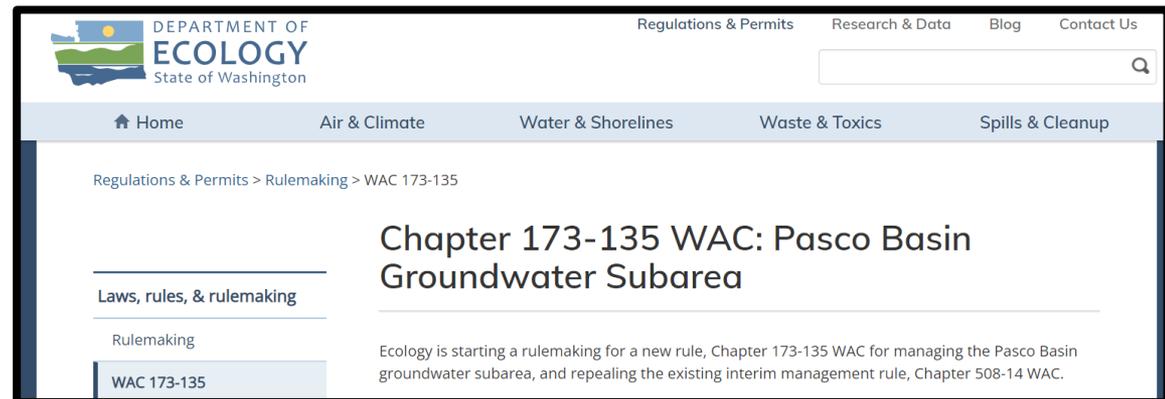
Outreach and Public Input



Pasco Basin Rulemaking

Chapter 173-135 WAC

- RCW 89.12.170 directs Ecology to adopt a rule laying out the process for implementing the co-management agreement
- Rulemaking will result in a new rule Chapter 173-135 WAC and repeal of older interim rule Chapter 508-14 WAC
- Includes a review under State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA)
- Visit our website:



Boundary Designation

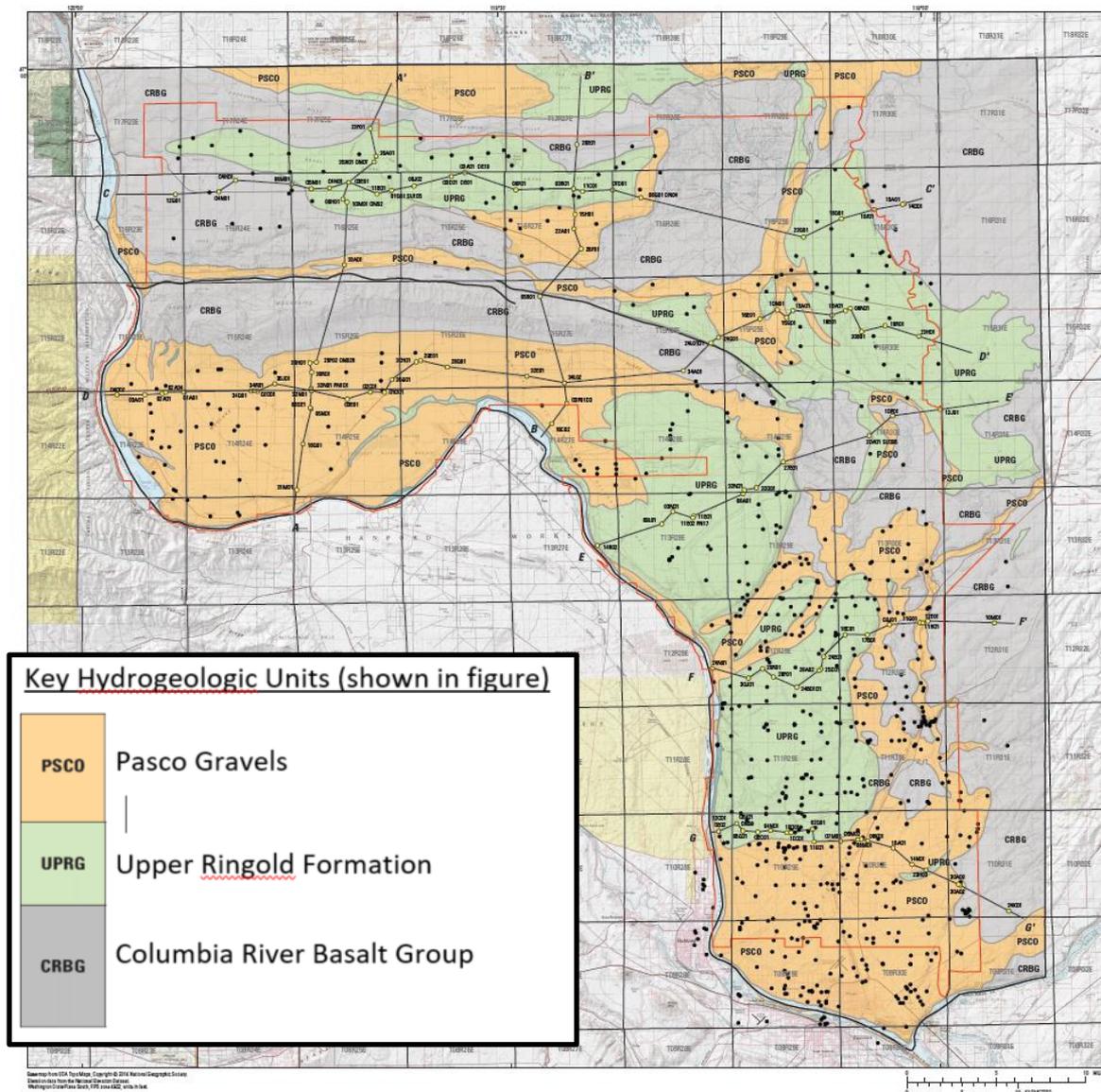
- Designate boundary under RCW 90.44.130
- Process: public notices, Ecology findings, and final order
- Boundary is defined by order, but volumes to be allocated within the boundary are determined through agreement and supported by groundwater studies



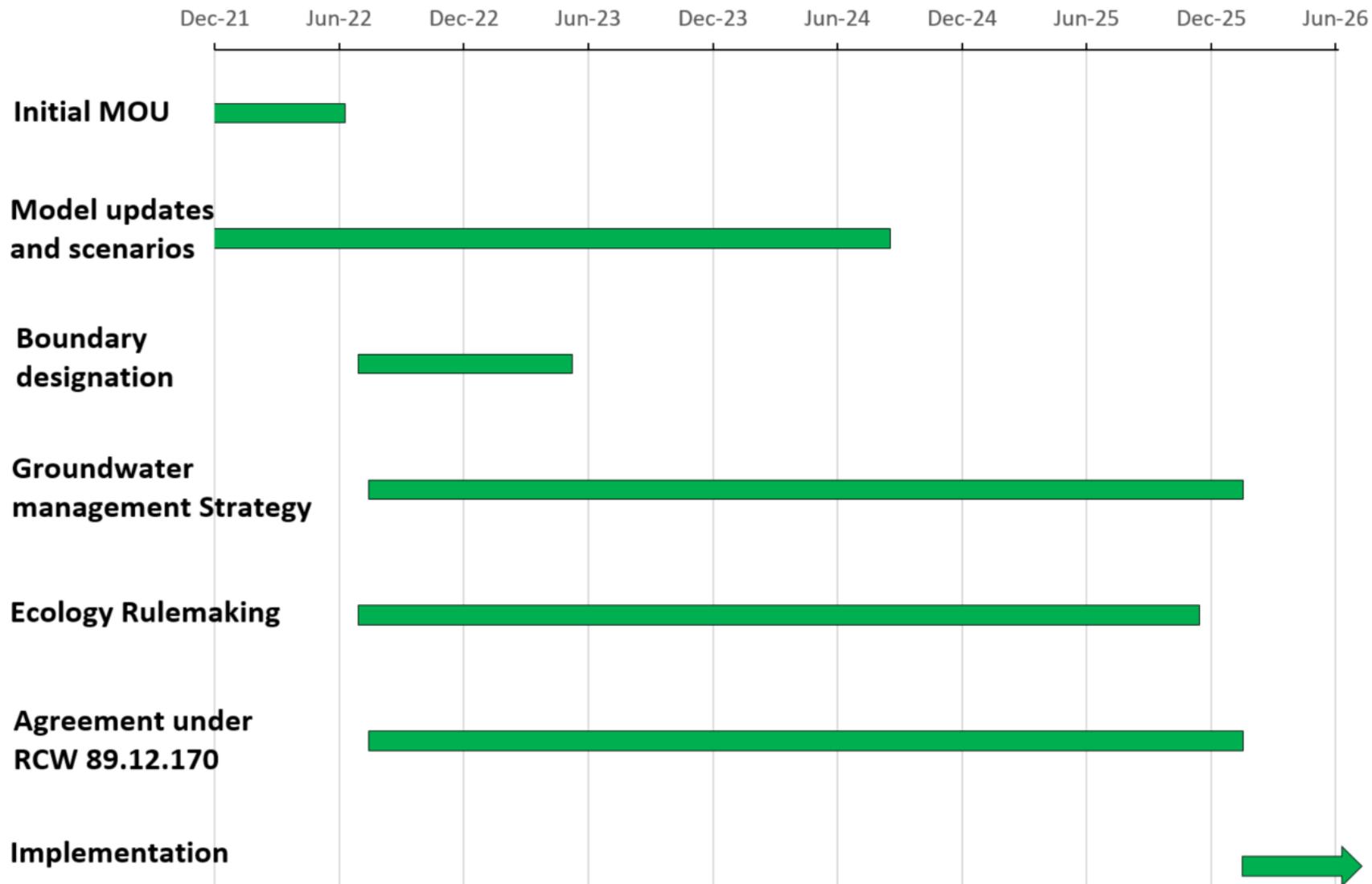
Outline of 508-14 area [filed 1986]

USGS Study and Groundwater Model

- Study seeks to quantify increases in groundwater storage as result of Columbia Basin Project return flows
- Majority of mounded water in sedimentary deposits that overlie the basalts
- Revisions and recalibration underway to update model
- Next steps: peer review and modeling scenarios to:
 - support development of co-management strategy
 - help inform agreement on groundwater allocation volumes and depth/location, habitat considerations



Draft Schedule



Questions?