

Walla Walla Basin Strategy - Update

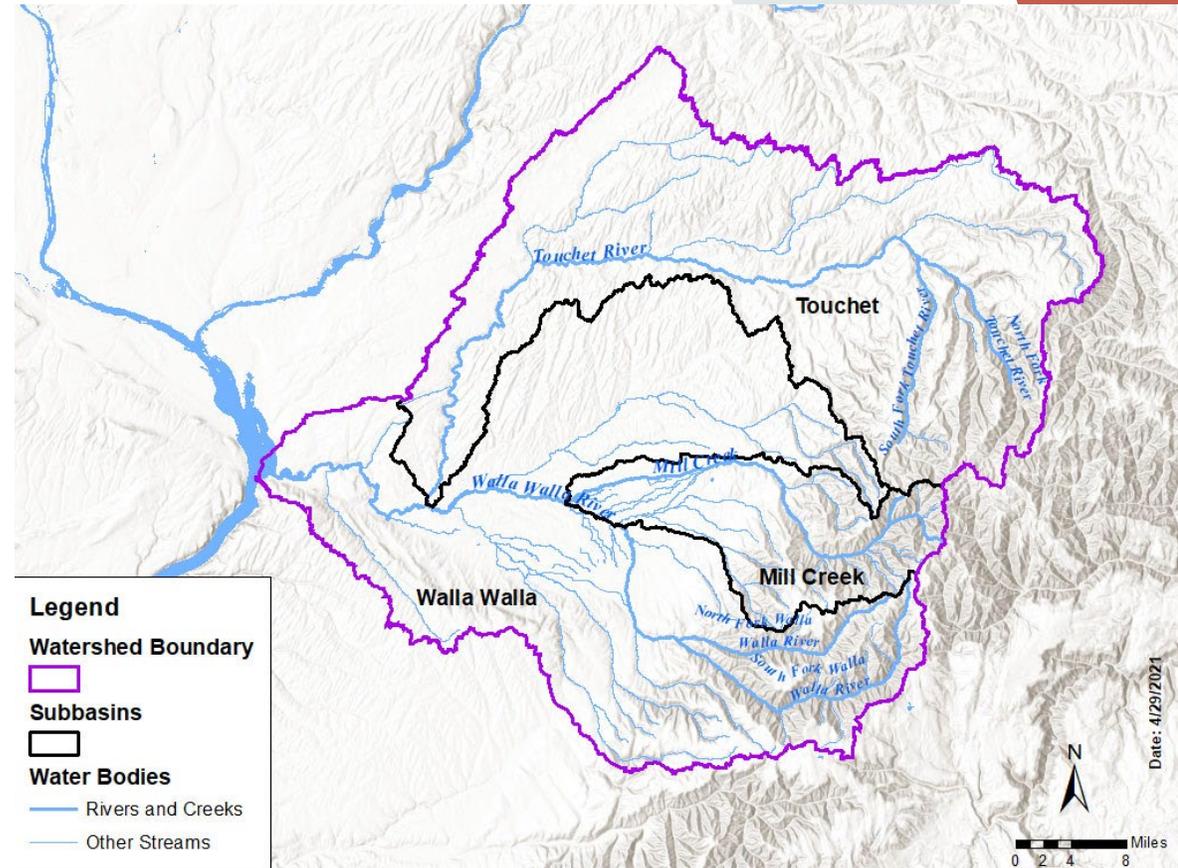
Columbia Basin Policy Advisory
Committee

Thursday, March 3, 2022



Water in the Walla Walla Basin

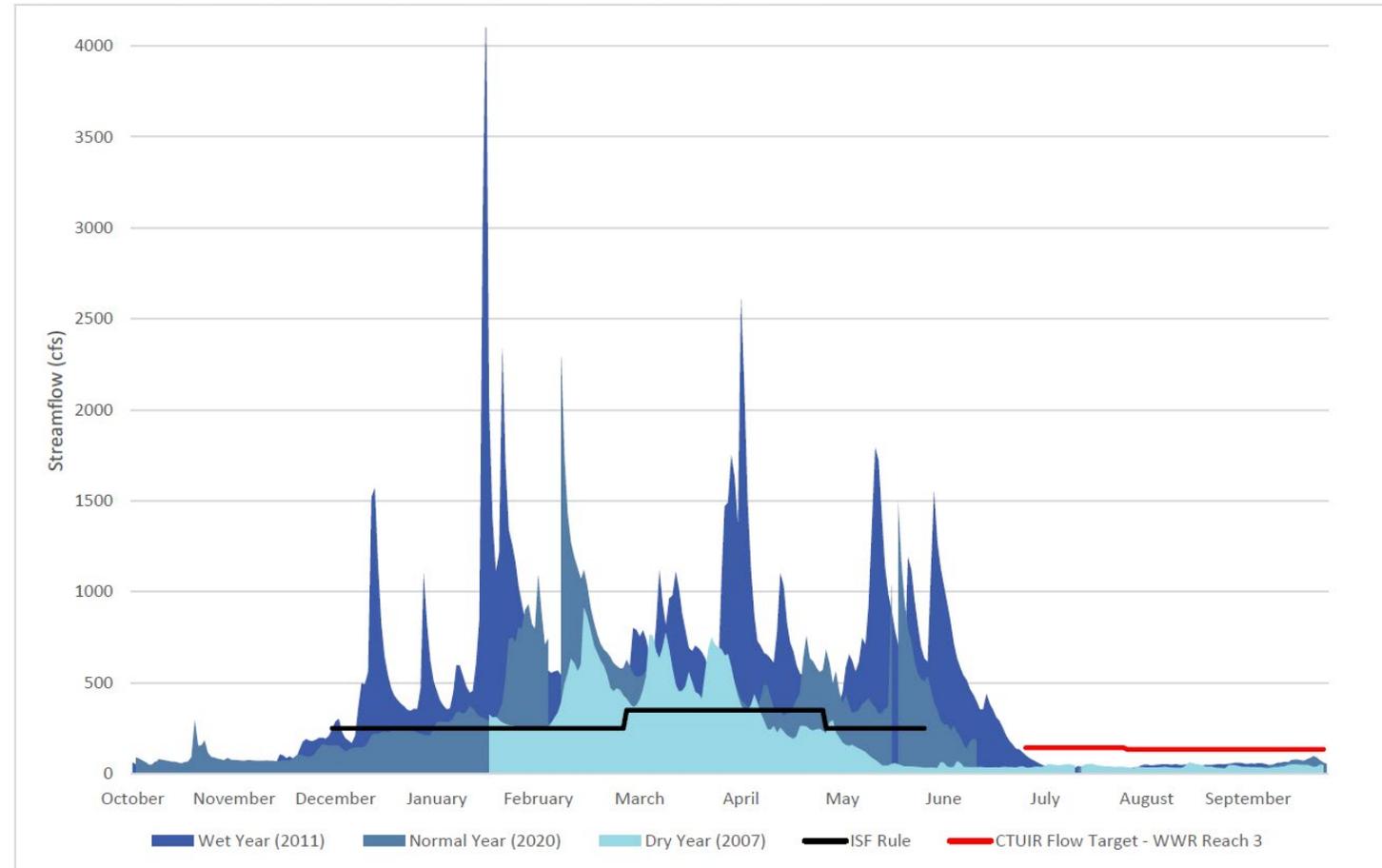
- Bi-state basin
- Overappropriated; junior water rights are curtailed and instream flows go unmet
- ~85,000 irrigated acres
- Municipal, industrial, and habitat demand
- Unique hydrogeology and hydrology



Water in the Walla Walla Basin

- Overappropriated; junior water rights are curtailed and instream flows go unmet during lower flow period

Figure 6. Walla Walla at E. Detour Road (32A100) dry, normal, and wet year streamflows.

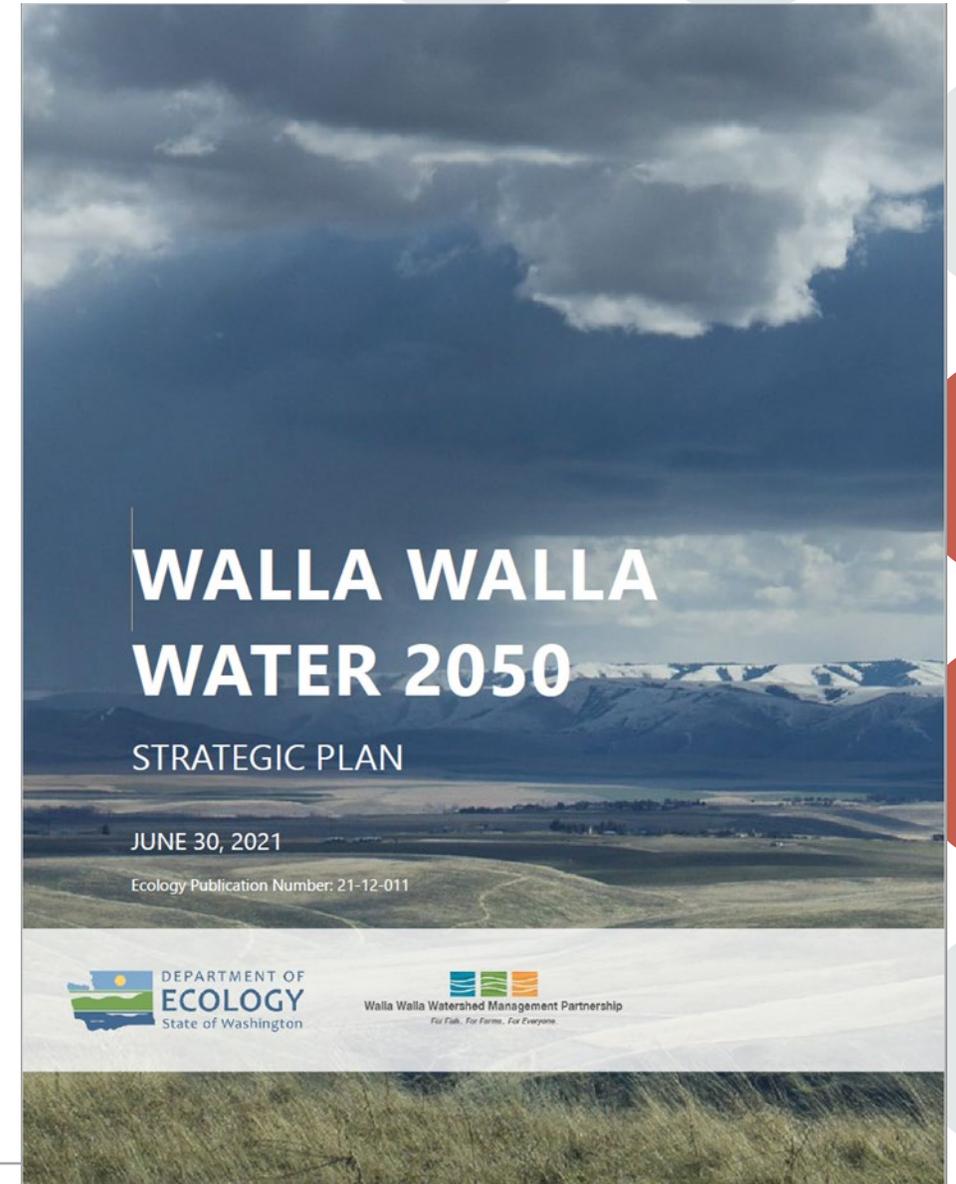


Overview of Phase 1

- Walla Walla Basin Strategic Plan Advisory Committee and Working Group meetings 2020-2021
- Walla Walla Water 2050 Strategic Plan completed June 2021
- Bi-State Flow Study Update December 2019; amended July 2021

Walla Walla Strategic Plan

- Current Conditions
- Desired Future Conditions
- Recommended Strategies
 - 3 tiers of strategies within categories



Overview of Phase 2 - Walla Walla Basin Strategy

WWBAC: Membership

Interest Group	Primary	Alternate
Agriculture	Mark Wagoner Gardena Farms Irrigation District	TBD
	Renee Hadley Walla Walla Conservation District	Annie Byerley WA Irrigation at Large
	Allie Newhouse Little River Group	TBD
	Travis Trumbull Walla Walla River Irrigation District	TBD
Environment	Ralph Perkins Walla Walla Basin Watershed Council	Arnold Coe Walla Walla Basin Watershed Council
	Judith Johnson Kooskooskie Commons	Sarah Dymecki Washington Water Trust
	John Foltz Snake River Salmon Recovery Board	TBD
Recreation/Quality of Life	Linda Herbert Blue Mountain Land Trust	Jerry Norquist Community Member
Economic Development	Nicholas Velluzzi Walla Walla Community College	TBD
Local Government	Steven Patten City of Milton Freewater	TBD
	Frank Nicholson City of Walla Walla	TBD
	Dan Dorran Umatilla County	TBD
	Todd Kimball Walla Walla County	Marty Hall Columbia County
Tribal Government	Gary James CTUIR	David Haire CTUIR
	Chris Marks CTUIR	
Federal Government	Justin Yeager NOAA NMFS	Colleen Fagan NMFS
	Cindy Boen US Army Corps of Engineers	Bret Walters US Army Corps of Engineers
State Government	Brook Beeler WA Department of Ecology	TBD
	Mark Wachtel WA Department of Fish and Wildlife	TBD
	Chris Kowitz OR Water Resources Department	Bill Goss OR Health Authority
	Randy Jones OR Department of Environmental Quality	Taylor McCroskey OR Department of Environmental Quality

Phase 2: Work Plan Overview

Facilitated Process	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Advisory Committee meetings• Implementation WG meetings• Funding, Policy, and Outreach WG meetings• Bi-State Flow Study WG meetings• Fall Public Workshop
Phase 2 Basin Strategy Flow Study Update	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Strategy Scoping Memos• Implementation Workplan and Funding Strategy• Strategic Plan & Flow Study Update Report

Phase 2 Work Plan

Phase 2 is focused on strategy development and implementation by matching up projects with funding opportunities and polishing strategies for legislative asks.

- **Facilitation of Advisory Committee and Work Group Meetings**
 - The Implementation WG will focus on refining technical details.
 - The Funding, Policy, and Outreach (FPO) WG will focus on the non-technical aspects.
 - Bi-State Flow Study WG will continue to move the infrastructure solutions forward.
- **Technical Work**
 - Further refinement of strategies; strategy scoping memos by category
 - Development of an implementation workplan and funding strategy
 - Bi-State Flow Study coordination

Strategy Categorization

Strategy Number	Strategy Name	Strategy Category
1.01	Reconnect floodplain and restore channel complexity Basin wide to reduce flood risk and improve habitat	Floodplains, Habitat & Fish Passage
1.06	Improve fish passage and habitat conditions in weired and concrete channel sections of flood control project in Mill Creek	
1.07	Restore and protect riparian habitat along tributaries, small streams, and the Walla Walla River Basin wide	
1.09	Protect and improve fish passage at Nursery Bridge and implement levee setback projects upstream and downstream of Milton Freewater	
1.12	Improve flow and timing of fish passage through the Hofer Dam fishway	
1.19	Improve fish passage at Gose Street long term	
1.23	Improve fish passage at Bennington Diversion Dam	
1.1	Develop an overarching monitoring strategy and adaptive management plan for fish, habitat, and water to inform actions and evaluate effectiveness	Monitoring and Metering
1.15	Expand and fund streamflow gages throughout the Basin	
1.2	Improve agricultural irrigation water use metering and reporting programs in WA and OR by installing telemetry and improving data use by agencies and water users	Water Policy and Management
1.11	Address legal implications of Bi-State surface water management and protection of instream flow across the state border and protection of instream flow within States	
1.14	Improve coordination and response to drought management Basin-wide	
1.16	Increase coordination and enforcement of floodplain and riparian regulations and management between Counties and State water management entities	
1.21	Additional Bi-State coordination on groundwater regulation	
1.02	Support the ongoing analyses of the Bi-State Flow Study and work toward a recommendation on implementation of the preferred alternative	Streamflows, Groundwater and Water Supply
1.03	Direct additional winter flow down the Little Walla Walla River to support alluvial aquifer recharge and stream function	
1.08	Decrease surface water diversions or substitute for basalt wells during low flow periods	
1.04	Water rights acquisitions (short-term, long-term, and split season) to restore streamflows	
1.05	Improve and expand managed aquifer recharge (MAR)	
1.13	Expand and support Aquifer Storage and Recovery (ASR) to maintain groundwater quality and capacity	
1.17	Increase infiltration of stormwater rather than discharge to surface water bodies and improve coordination and management	Water Quality
1.18	Upgrade Dayton wastewater treatment plant to meet Ecology requirements and watershed community environmental goals	
1.22	Implement conservation tillage and soil erosion BMPs to decrease nonpoint source pollution	

Additional Next Steps/Updates

- Short-term funding priority: 2023-2025 biennium funding request
- WA legislation: authorize implementation of the plan
- Continued Bi-State coordination with the Tri-Sovereigns (WA Ecology, Oregon Water Resources Department and Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation)
- Application submitted for WaterSMART Basin Study to USBR
- Bi-State USGS Groundwater Study ongoing

Thank You! Questions?

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