

# WALLA WALLA WATER 2050

**Strategic Planning  
Advisory Committee  
Meeting**

*September 23, 2020*





# GROUND RULES

- Only SPAC members may speak during the meeting.
- Other participants may speak during public comment.
- All participants at SPAC Meetings agree to:
  - Be Respectful
  - Be Constructive
  - Be Productive
  - Bring a Sense of Humor and Have Fun
- General Public (non-SPAC members) may submit comments at any time via the **virtual tools**.



- **WELCOME**
- **INTRODUCTIONS**
- **REVIEW AGENDA**
- **REVIEW & APPROVE MEETING SUMMARY**



# INTRODUCTIONS



## Roll call



**REMINDER:** Unmute yourself to speak to the group.

# AGENDA

- Welcome, Introductions, Review Agenda
- Floodplain Issues
- Updates
  - Report to the Legislature
  - Strategic Plan: Comments on Current Conditions
  - Story Map
  - USGW Groundwater Study Blog and Video
- SPAC Discussion: Desired Future Conditions
- Topics for August SPAC Meeting/Future Meetings
- Public Comment
- Updates and Next Steps



# MEETING SUMMARY



- Questions, comments, edits?
- **SPAC members: Virtual Tools** (*see link in chat*)



**REMINDER:** Use the **chat or hand raise function** to submit questions and comments and/or request to speak to the group.



# Floodplain Issues



# **OVERVIEW OF FLOODPLAIN HEALTH AND MANAGEMENT ISSUES**

Gary James, CTUIR

# WALLA WALLA WATER 2050 MILL CREEK FLOOD PROJECTS

Tracy Schwarz, PE, PMP  
Hydrology and Hydraulics Branch  
Walla Walla District  
Date: 23 Sept 2020



US Army Corps  
of Engineers®



# TWO THINGS TO COVER TODAY



Mill Creek Flood Control Project Operations

Mill Creek GI Study proposed Changes



# MILL CREEK FLOOD CONTROL PROJECT



- Flood Risk Management Features

1. Flood Storage

- Diversion Dam
- Storage Dam

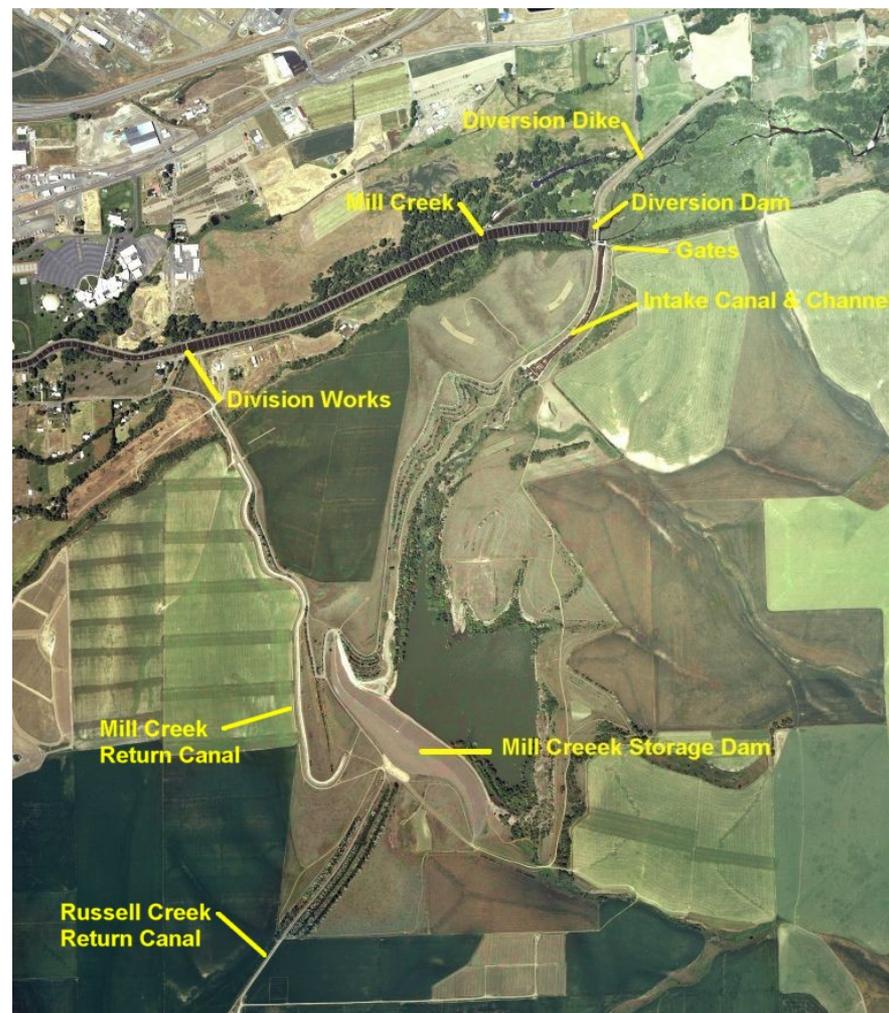
2. Flood Conveyance

- Levee Channel
- Concrete Channel

Primary purpose of the project is to provide the City of Walla Walla and adjacent downstream areas flood protection. Other project functions include fish, wildlife and recreation.

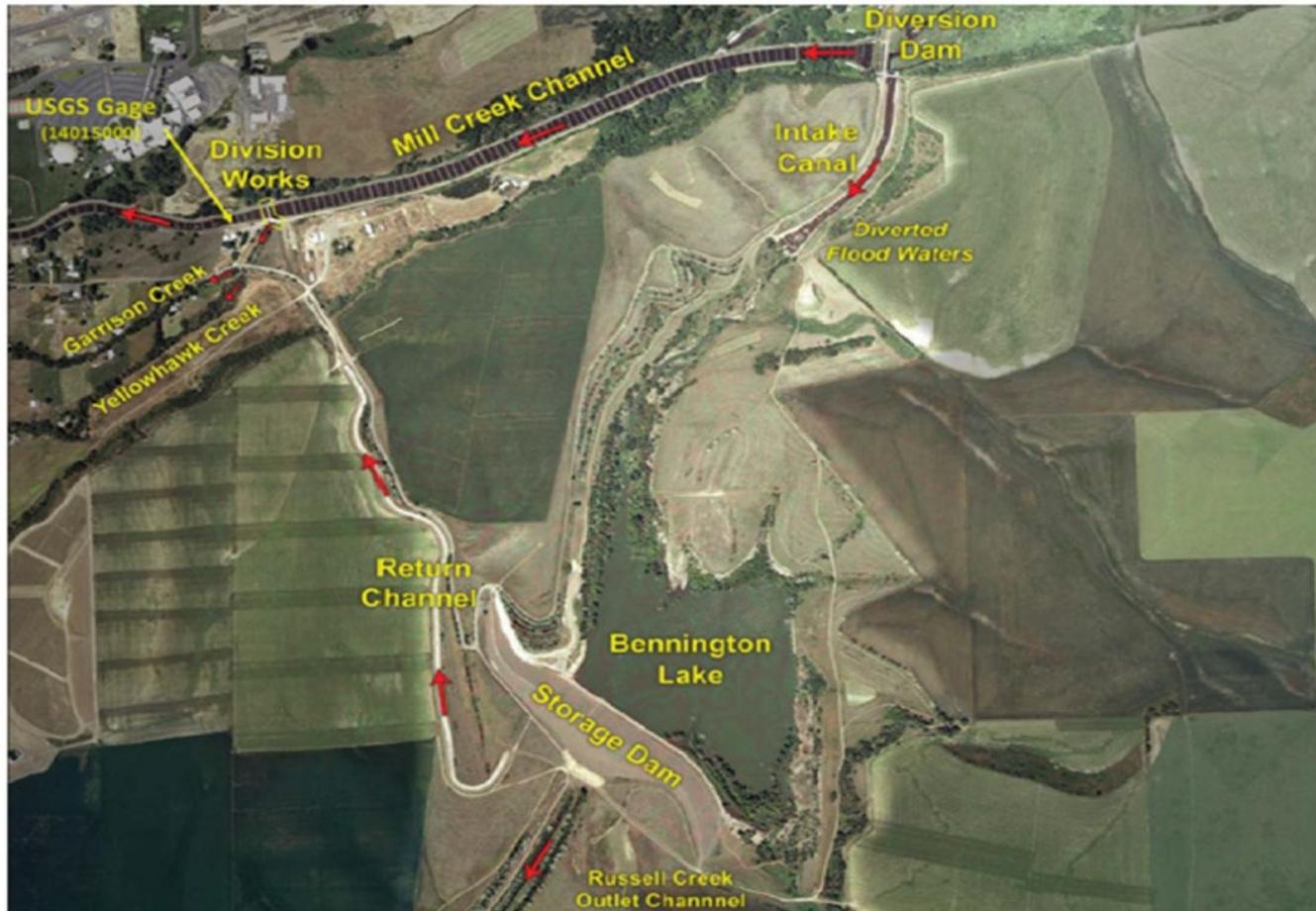
# STORAGE PROJECT FEATURES

- Diversion Dike and Dam
  - Spillway 17,000 cfs capacity
- Gates
- Intake Canal & Channel
  - 7,000 cfs capacity
- Reservoir (Bennington Lake)
  - Operating range 1180-1265 feet
  - Recreation Pool 1205 feet
- Storage Dam
- Two Outlet/Return Canals



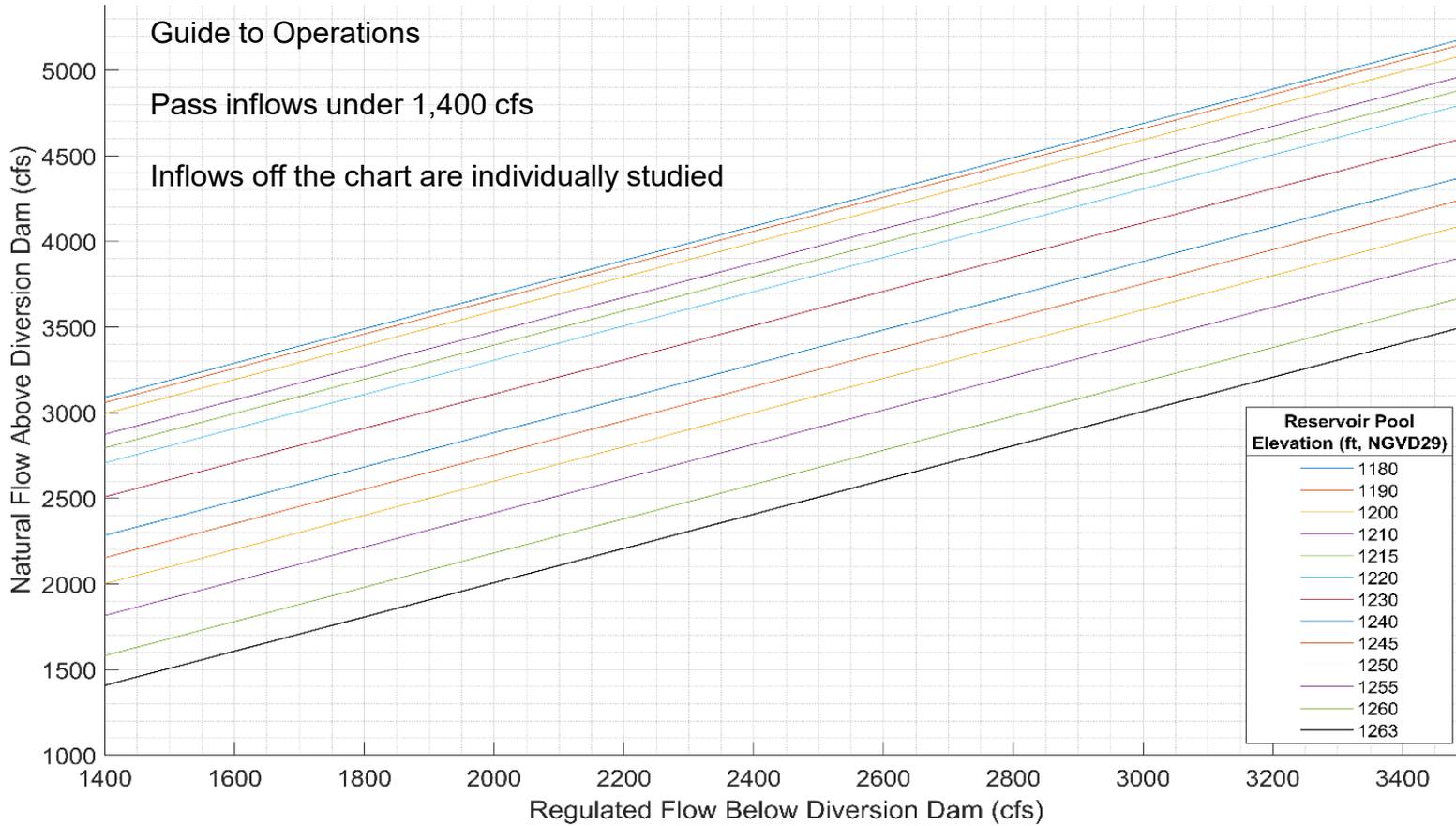


# MILL CREEK PROJECT OPERATIONS





# MILL CREEK FLOOD CONTROL PROJECT



Off the Chart

1931

1996

2020



# DRAWDOWN OF THE LAKE

Reservoir can discharge ~400 cfs but outflow reduces as lake is drawn down (250 cfs Russel Creek, 190 cfs Return)

Russel Creek outlet is only used when out of bank flooding along Russel Creek will not be induced.

Feb. 12, 2020 combined release was ~280 cfs

Time to Elevation 1213 ft: 10 days (Top of Cutoff Wall/reservoir is ~ 20% full)

Time to Elevation 1205 ft: 13 days (Rec. Pool / reservoir is ~ 13% full)

Time to Elevation 1187 ft: 16 days (Empty)



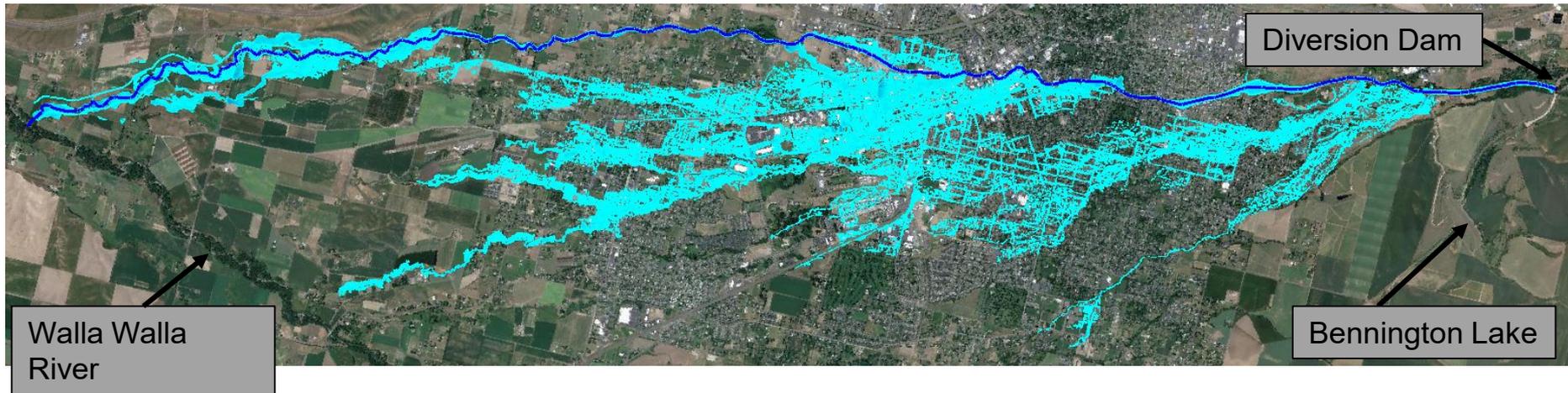
Reservoir on Feb 7<sup>th</sup>, 2020



# CONVEYANCE - DOWNSTREAM CHANNEL



# MILL CREEK GI STUDY



Note: 6,000 cfs at risk of inundation is areas of light blue, dark blue is primary Mill Creek channel.



# MEASURES DEVELOPMENT

- Input from stakeholders and the public was sought for the development of measures at the following events:
  - 4-day USACE/sponsor workshop
  - Stakeholder charrette
  - Public scoping meeting
- 25 structural measures and 8 non-structural measures were identified for the initial qualitative screening.





# INITIAL QUALITATIVE SCREENING RELATIVE RANKING

Initial screening and relative ranking eliminated measures that:

- Did not in part meet the project purpose – FRM
- Did not meet applicable treaties, laws, executive orders, and regulations
- Were not Feasible based on initial analysis of costs and benefits
- Did not rank (cost) higher than other measures that offered the same FRM benefits

## MEASURES CARRIED FORWARD FOR ANALYSIS

1. **Rehabilitate Deteriorating Sections of Concrete Channel**
2. **Lake Excavation: To Increase Storage Capacity**
3. **Levee Raise: To increase Conveyance Capacity**
4. **Modify Project Operations**

## POPULAR MEASURES NOT CARRIED FORWARD

1. **New Dam in the Basin**
2. **Bypass Channel around Community**
3. **Setback Levees**
4. **Mill Creek Storage Dam Raise to Increase Storage Capacity**
5. **Improve Fish Passage**
6. **Improve Concrete Channel Aesthetics**



# TENTATIVELY SELECTED PLAN FOR MILL CREEK GI PROJECT

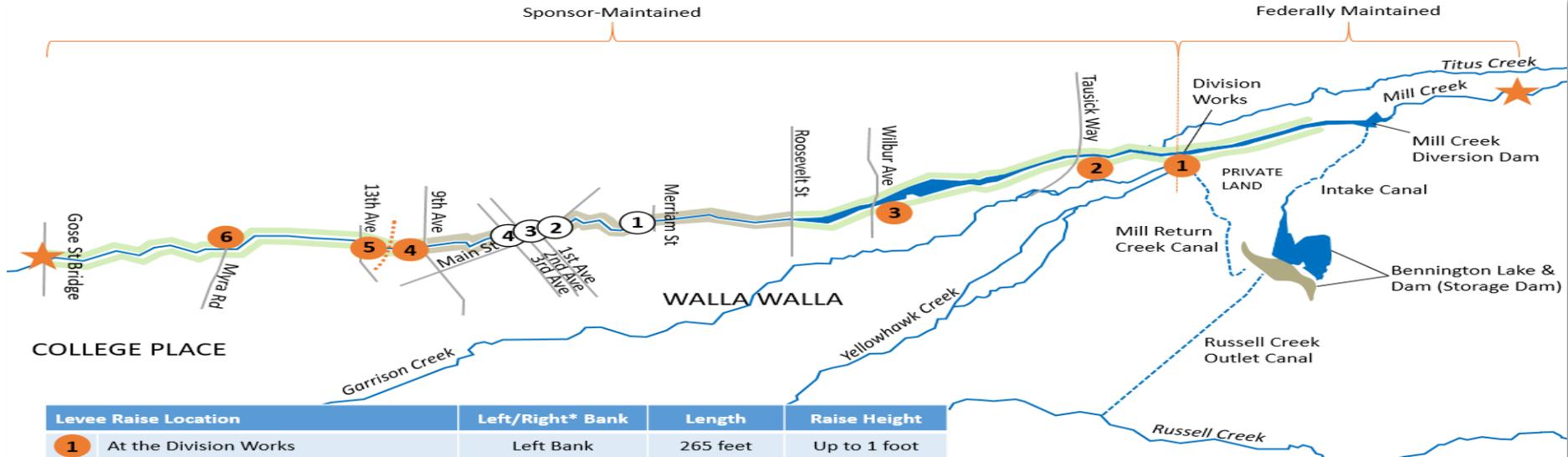
- Initial diversions start at 1,700 cfs (up from 1,400 cfs),
- Levee Raise to design flow of 3,700 cfs (up from 3,500 cfs),
- Channel Rehabilitation: Pier replacement under Building at 1<sup>st</sup> and Main, Otis Street Wall Repair, Parking lot/channel cover removal between 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenues



Picture Above – Concrete Channel repair location  
Picture to Left – Levee Raise location



# LEVEE RAISE AND CONCRETE CHANNEL REPAIRS



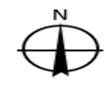
Levee Raise Location	Left/Right* Bank	Length	Raise Height
1 At the Division Works	Left Bank	265 feet	Up to 1 foot
2 Directly east of Tausick Way	Left Bank	560 feet	Up to 1 foot
3 Directly east of Wilbur Ave	Left Bank	450/10 feet	Up to 1.5 feet
4 Directly east of the railroad bridge	Left & Right Banks	800/20 feet	Up to 2.2 feet
5 Between 13th and the railroad bridge	Left & Right Banks	730/20 feet	Up to 2 feet
6 Directly east and west of Myra Road	Right Bank	890/20 feet	Up to 0.5 feet

\*Facing downstream

Concrete Channel Repair Location	Repair Type
1 Between Merriam St and Otis St	Wall Tie Back
2 Directly east of 1st Ave	Center Wall Reinforcement
3 Directly east of 2nd Ave	Ceiling Span Removal
4 Parking area between 2nd Ave and 3rd Ave	Ceiling Span Removal

- Beginning/End of the Mill Creek Flood Control Project (MCFCP)
- Upstream/Downstream Channel Sections (levees on both sides of Mill Creek)
- Concrete Channel Section (Roosevelt to 9th Avenue)
- Roads/Bridges (for context only; not fully extended)
- Railroad (for context only; not fully extended)
- Levee Raise/Concrete Repair Location

4,000 feet





# WHY A LEVEE RAISE?



We just passed well over 4,000 cfs February 7, 2020. Why do we need to raise the levees for 3,700 cfs?

Levees need assurance (freeboard) for uncertainty.

- Uncertainty in operations/hydrology
  - Gages cannot be trusted during a flood – the gage read up to 800 cfs low in Flood of 2020.
  - Fluctuation in regulated flows 400 cfs observed in 2020 (we cannot maintain a steady regulated flow)
- Uncertainty in hydraulics
  - Waves
  - Friction
  - Banking



Waves Downstream 9<sup>th</sup> and upstream Gose Street



# Questions!





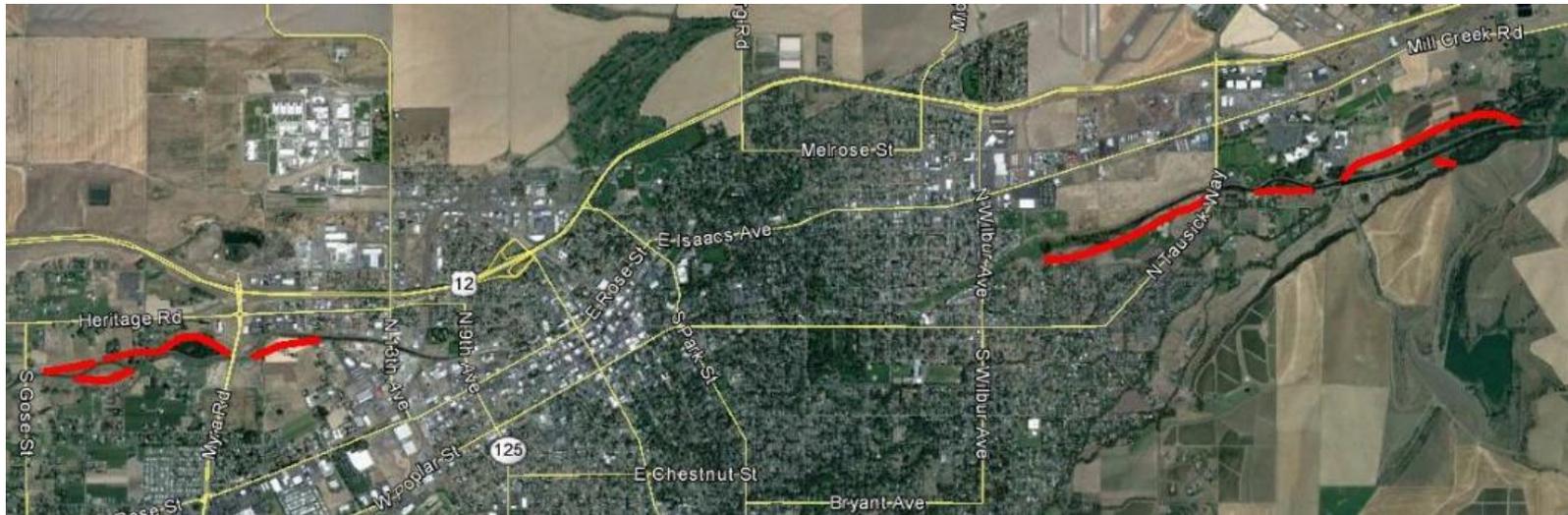
Following Slides are extras that may help with questions



# SETBACK LEVEE



Length – 17,400 feet Upstream + Middle + Downstream





# **NURSERY BRIDGE FLOOD ISSUES**

Brian Wolcott, Walla Walla Watershed Basin Council



# **LOCAL EFFORTS TO ADDRESS FLOOD CONTROL**

Todd Kimball, Walla Walla County



# Updates



# REPORT TO THE LEGISLATURE

- Status updates
- SPAC questions and discussion?



**REMINDER:** Use the **chat or hand raise function** to submit questions and comments and/or request to speak to the group.



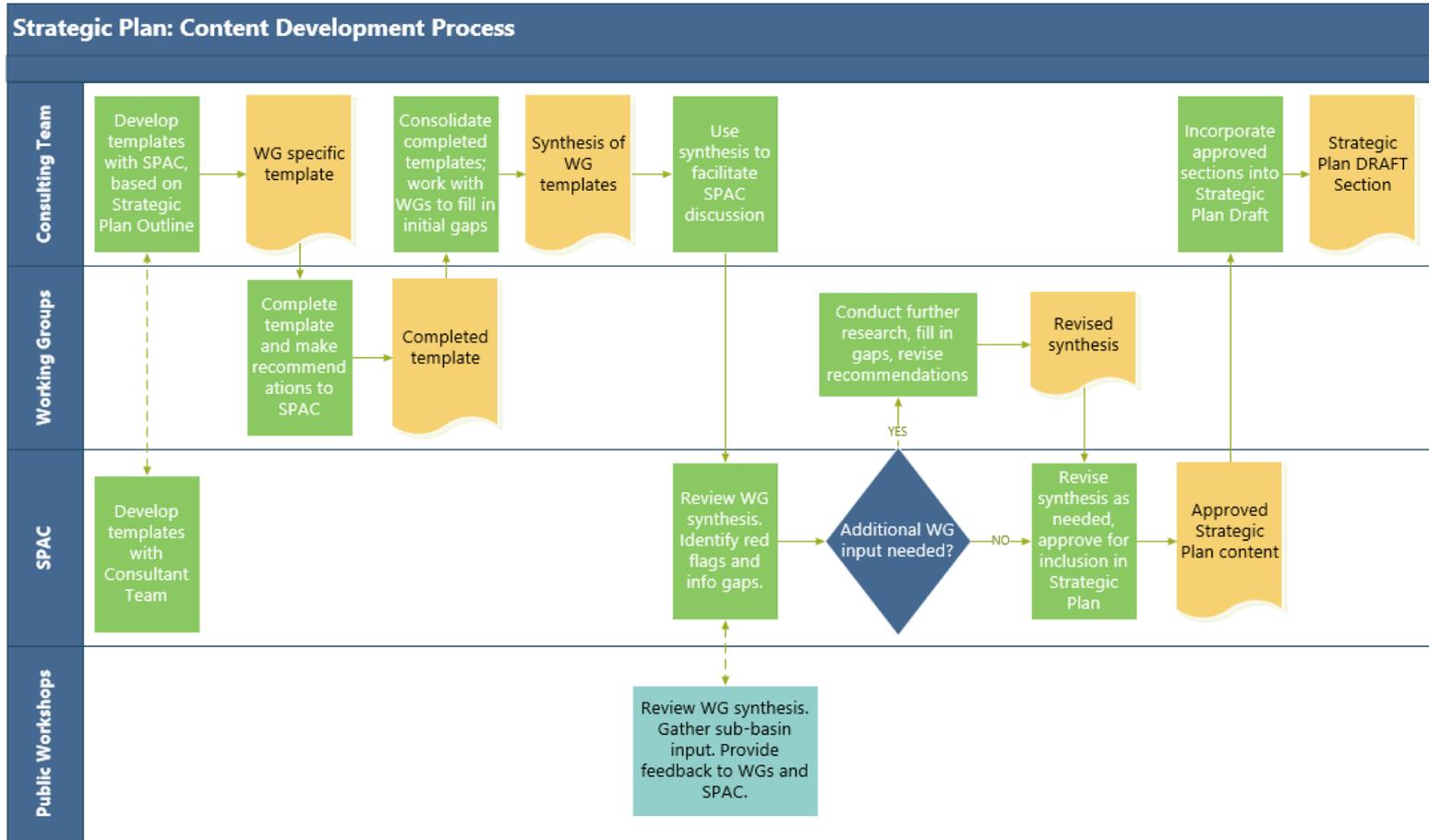
# CURRENT CONDITIONS DRAFT CHAPTER

- **Preliminary review of draft chapter:**
  - Working Groups 9/4 - 9/15
  - SPAC 9/28 - 10/2
- **Planned Timeline for SPAC/WG review of full drafts:**
  - Informal Draft #1 – 3/1 - 3/12
  - Formal Draft #2 – 5/3 - 5/14
- **Final Draft due to Ecology 6/25**



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# REMINDER ON PROCESS



**REMINDER:** Use the **chat or hand raise function** to submit questions and comments and/or request to speak to the group.



# STORY MAP: OUTLINE



## 1. Introduction

- a. Brief paragraph about the basin and the planning efforts
  - i. Location of basin, area, population
  - ii. Legislation behind planning efforts
    - Statutory requirements
    - High points of what the major efforts are
  - iii. Brief summary of planning efforts goals/purpose

## 2. Historic and current of water use in the basin (both surface/groundwater uses)

- a. Ag water use
- b. Tribal needs for water resources – fisheries resources
- c. Other (muni, industry, existing water storage, water delivery infrastructure, recreation, tourism, quality of life, etc.)

## 3. Basin overview (hydrology)

- a. Discussion of the major rivers and streams
- b. Irrigation canal systems
- c. State of salmon and their habitat

## 4. Water rights

- a. Brief intro to water rights
- b. Adjudication
- c. Talk about over appropriation and interstate issues

## 5. Major Issues in the basin

- a. \*Sourced from SPAC\*
- b. Takeaways from gap analysis (delta between current conditions and desired future conditions)

## 6. Future plans and needs

- a. What does the basin need to succeed moving into the future (i.e., strategies / recommendations)



# STORY MAP: DISCUSSION



- Ecology wants to use the story map as a communication tool for the Walla Walla 2050 planning effort.
- However, Ecology strongly feels that the core message about what's important should come from the people that call the WW basin their home.
- Ecology wants input on whether the SPAC recommends that we highlight specific issues.
- What should be the **main focus of the story map?**
- **SPAC members: Virtual Tools** (*see link in chat*)
  - Submit **comments on Slide 2**



**REMINDER:** Use the **chat or hand raise function** to submit questions and comments and/or request to speak to the group.



## **10-MINUTE BREAK**

*(come back at 3:00 PM)*

# USGS GROUNDWATER STUDY: VIDEO & BLOG



Regulations & Permits

Research & Data

**Blog**

Contact Us

Home

Air & Climate

Water & Shorelines

Waste & Toxics

Spills & Cleanup

## Bi-state partnership boosts understanding of Walla Walla River basin

Groundwater study will inform future policy



Sept. 9, 2020

Ryan Lancaster

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### Related links

• [Walla Walla 2050 - Washington Department of Ecology page](#)

• [Oregon Water Resources](#)



# SPAC Discussion: Desired Future Conditions



# OVERVIEW



- Please refer to the “**Discussion Guide: Desired Future Conditions**” and “**WWW2050 WG Desired Future Conditions Printable Version.**”
- WGs and Consultant Team have been gathering input and synthesizing data on desired future conditions.
- Intention of today’s discussion is to identify key questions with the Desired Future Conditions as well as gather input from SPAC.

# KEY DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- For each category, are there **Desired Future Conditions** you would like to add? Delete? Revise?
- Are there **metrics to measure progress**—and **potential sources** for metrics—you would like to add? Delete? Revise?
- What are the **most important future conditions** (and/or metrics) to focus on?
- What **level of detail** would you like to see for these Desired Future Conditions in the strategic plan?
- What **additional ideas** would you like the Working Groups to address regarding the Desired Future Conditions?



**REMINDER:** Use the **chat or hand raise function** to submit questions and comments and/or request to speak to the group.



# Topics for Future Meetings

# DISCUSSION

- Review additional materials from Working Groups for Strategic Plan
- Presentation Ideas from past discussions:
  - Using LIDAR to anticipate how and where hydrology impacts flooding
  - Overview of Irrigators and Irrigation in Watershed
  - Past, current and potential funding sources for basin projects
  - Bi-State Flow Study
  - How is each state addressing the instream flow protections?
  - Basin hydrology, including existing monitoring sites
  - Forest management
  - Existing and future conservation projects
  - Agency programs and roles in watershed (which agencies?)
  - Other



**REMINDER:** Use the **chat or hand raise function** to submit questions and comments and/or request to speak to the group.

# PUBLIC COMMENT

- **Comments/questions?**
  - **General Public: Virtual Tools** (*see link in chat*)
- Public comments may also be **submitted online at anytime**: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/WWW2050>
  - Anyone may submit comments at this link throughout this process.



**REMINDER:** Use the **chat or hand raise function** to submit questions and comments and/or request to speak to the group.



- **UPDATES & NEXT STEPS**



# UPDATES & NEXT STEPS



- **Action items**
- **Updates and announcements**
- **Upcoming meetings:**
  - **SPAC:** October 28 from 1-4:30 pm
  - **Working Groups:**
    - Joint Ecological Function & Water Supply Needs WG: October 15 from 1-3 pm
    - Land Use, Admin, and Implementation: Look for Doodle Polls soon!



**REMINDER:** Use the **chat or hand raise function** to submit **updates and announcements**, and/or request to speak to the group.