



# Final Guidance for Determining Net Ecological Benefit

Cedar-Sammamish (WRIA 8) Watershed Restoration and Enhancement Committee

September 26, 2019



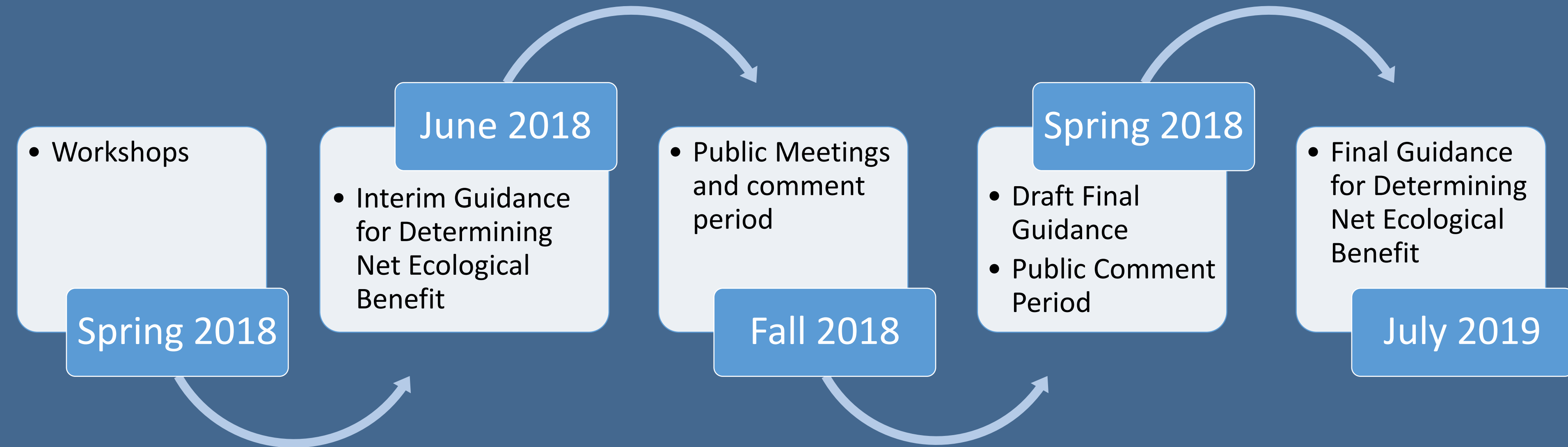


# What is the Net Ecological Benefit guidance and why does it matter?



- Ecology's interpretation of the term "Net Ecological Benefit" used in RCW 90.94.
- The standards Ecology will apply when reviewing watershed plans submitted to Ecology under RCW 90.94.020 and RCW 90.94.030.

# How did Ecology develop the NEB guidance?

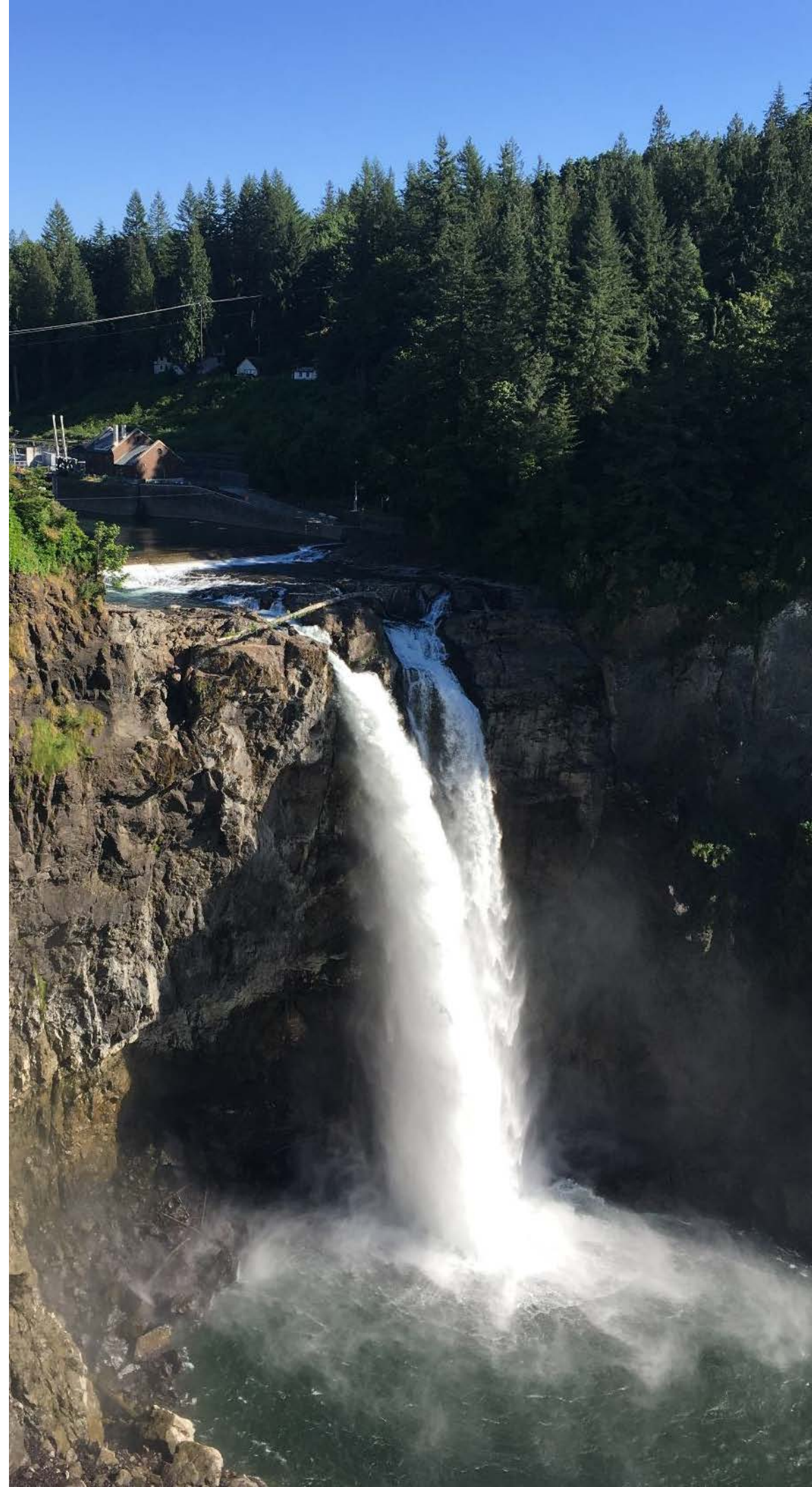




# Who should use it?



# NEB for Watershed Planning



From the final NEB guidance:

*“...local planning groups are best situated, and will therefore determine the appropriate amount of benefits beyond the offsetting of projected impacts ...”*

# How do we use the final NEB guidance?

## WATER RESOURCES PROGRAM GUIDANCE

**Final Guidance for  
Determining Net Ecological Benefit**  

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*GUID-2094 Water Resources Program  
Guidance*

July 31, 2019  
Publication 19-11-079

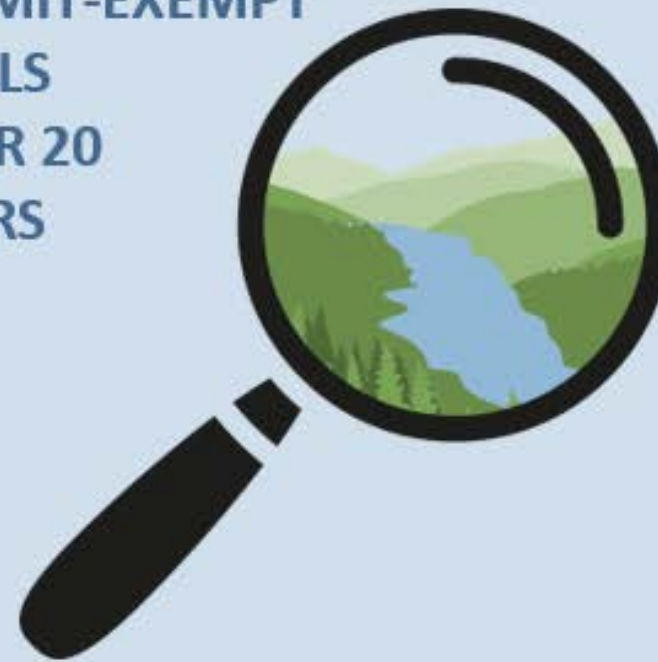
Water Resources Program  
Washington State Department of Ecology  
Olympia, Washington





# Required Plan Elements – Legislation

- 1 QUANTIFY EXPECTED CONSUMPTIVE WATER USE FROM NEW PERMIT-EXEMPT WELLS OVER 20 YEARS



- 3 ECOLOGY MUST EVALUATE: DOES THIS PLAN HAVE A NET ECOLOGICAL BENEFIT?

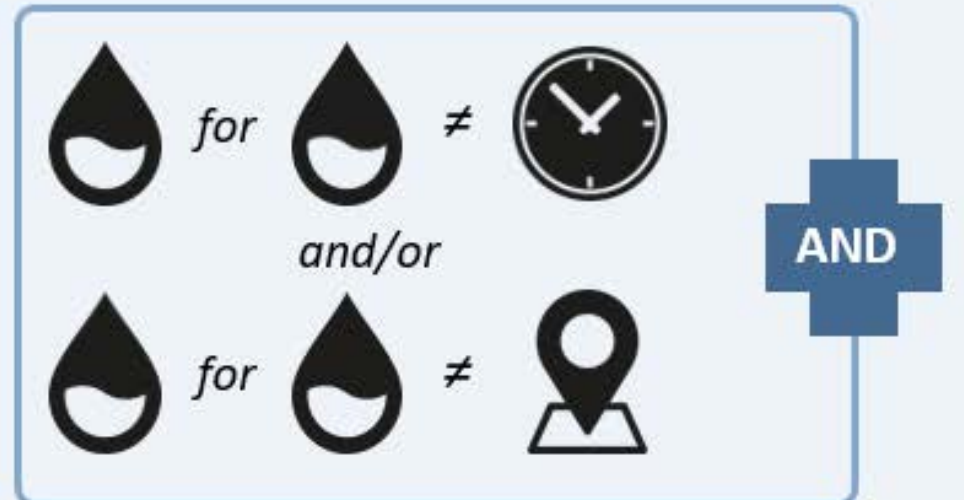


- 2 IDENTIFY WHERE IT IS POSSIBLE TO OFFSET

FIRST PRIORITY



SECOND PRIORITY



Projects that enhance



# Required Plan Elements – NEB Guidance

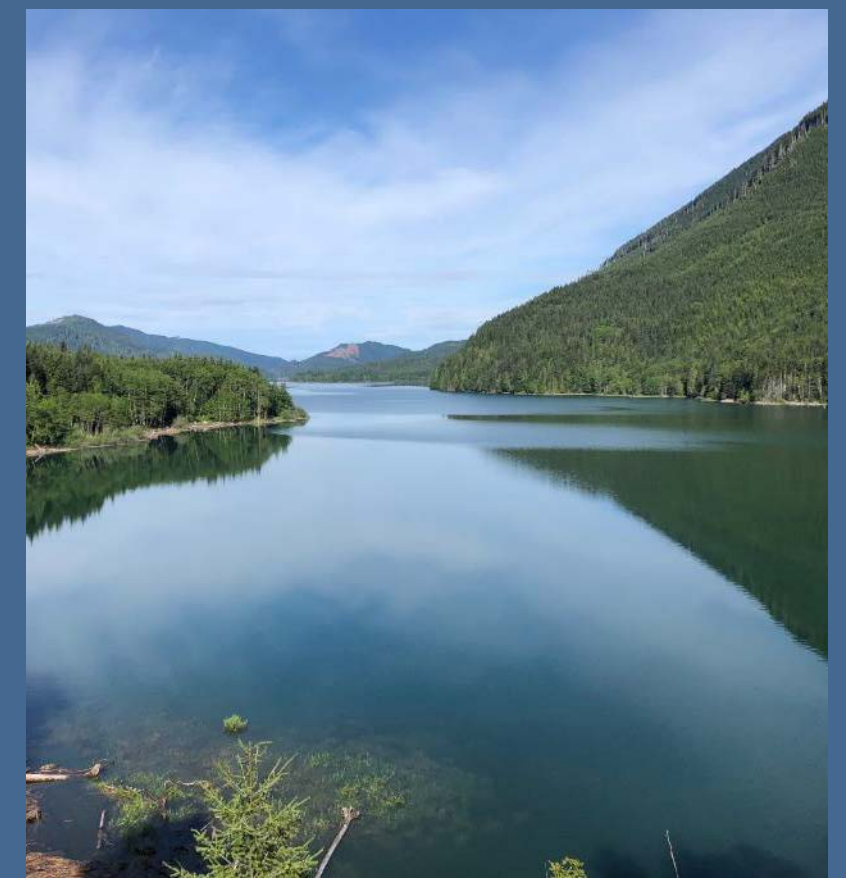
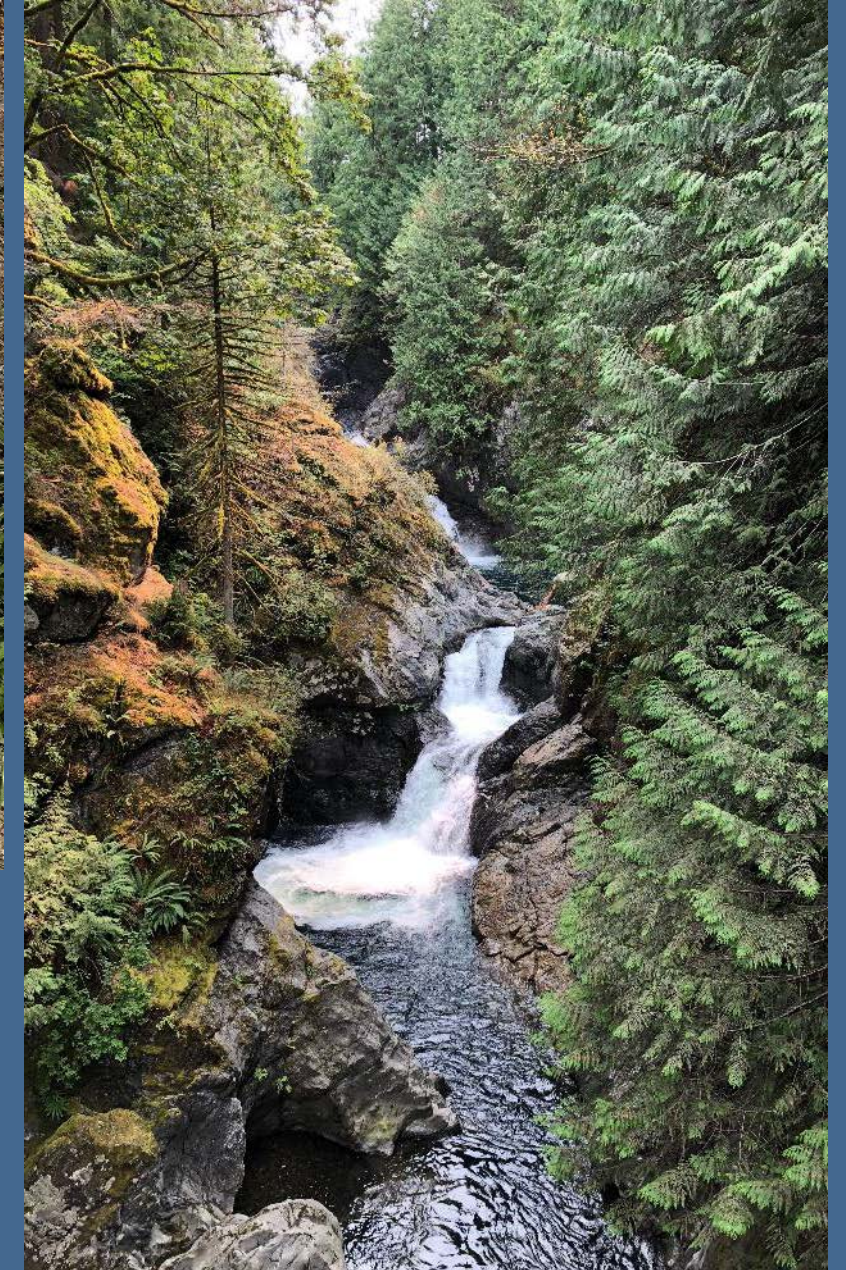
- Document assumptions and methods
- Delineate subbasins
- Estimate new consumptive water use
- Evaluate impacts from new consumptive water use
- Describe and evaluate offsets from projects and actions





# Evaluate Offsets

- Project and action description
- Offset estimates
- Benefit summary
- NEB evaluation
- Adaptive management





# Examples of Projects & Actions

- Water rights acquisition offset projects
- Non-acquisition water offset projects
- Habitat and other related projects
- Regulatory actions





# What is the Committee's role?

Committee

- Evaluates NEB
- Approves Plan

Ecology

- Determines NEB
- Adopts Plan





# What will the plans look like?



# Plan Outline Required

Purpose of the plan

Overview of the  
planning process and  
committee structure

Overview of the WRIA  
and Subbasin  
Delineation

Anticipated Growth in  
the WRIA

Consumptive Use  
Estimates for Indoor  
and Outdoor Use

Projects and Actions,  
including cost  
evaluation

Benefit Summary

Detailed Appendices

Required

# Plan Outline

## Recommended

Purpose of the plan

Overview of the planning process and committee structure

Overview of the WRIA and Subbasin Delineation

Anticipated Growth in the WRIA

Consumptive Use Estimates for Indoor and Outdoor Use

Projects and Actions, including cost evaluation

Benefit Summary

Detailed Appendices

Required

NEB Evaluation

Adaptive Management/  
Plan Implementation

Recommended



# Plan Outline

## Optional

Purpose of the plan

Overview of the planning process and committee structure

Overview of the WRIA and Subbasin Delineation

Anticipated Growth in the WRIA

Consumptive Use Estimates for Indoor and Outdoor Use

Projects and Actions, including cost evaluation

Benefit Summary

Detailed Appendices

### Required

NEB Evaluation

Adaptive Management/  
Plan Implementation

### Recommended

Climate change

History of water use and anticipated future water use, beyond permit-exempt wells

Detailed funding strategy

Others

### Other Considerations



# Questions

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Watershed Restoration and Enhancement Committee

