



# Watershed Restoration and Enhancement Plan Content and Overview of Draft Final NEB Guidance

Webinar for WRIAs 10 and 15 Committees

May 13, 2019





**1** QUANTIFY EXPECTED  
CONSUMPTIVE WATER  
USE 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

- Delineate Sub-basin boundaries.
- Estimate
  - Number of new domestic permit-exempt wells expected over 20 years
  - Cumulative consumptive water use of these new wells.
- Evaluate the quantity and location of anticipated consumptive water use.
- Identify projects and actions to offset impacts
- Estimate the cost of offsetting these consumptive uses.





# What Does the Plan Look Like?



# Draft Net Ecological Benefits

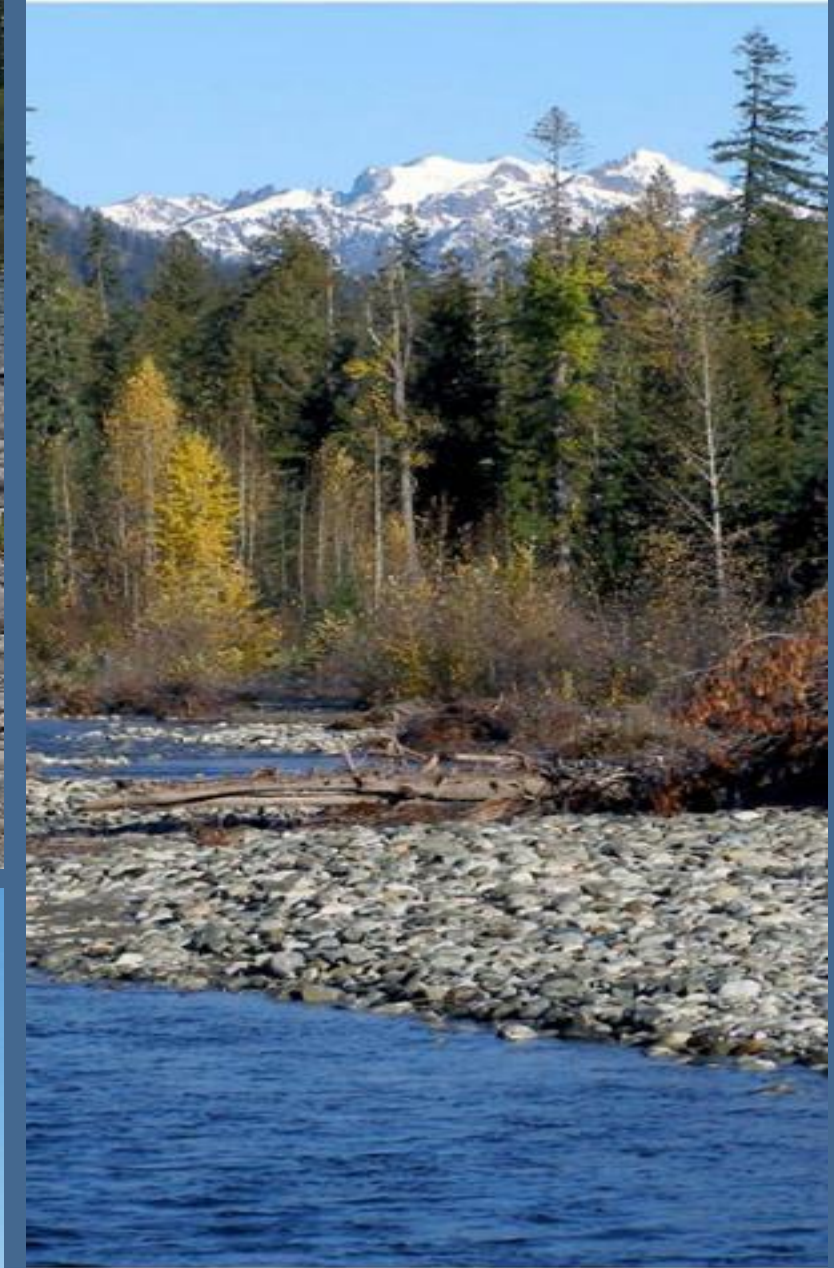
## Provide Feedback

Available on the [Streamflow Restoration](https://ecology.wa.gov/Water-Shorelines/Water-supply/Streamflow-restoration) section of Ecology's website.

<https://ecology.wa.gov/Water-Shorelines/Water-supply/Streamflow-restoration>

## Comment Period

May 6, 2019 thru June 7, 2019





Water supply

Water availability

**Streamflow restoration**

Streamflow restoration  
planning

Watershed plan archive

Water rights

Wells

Water supply projects in  
Eastern Washington

Dams

Protecting stream flows

Water recovery solutions

## Streamflow restoration

Washington has a new law that helps protect rivers and streams while providing water for homes in rural Washington.

The law, primarily codified in [Streamflow Restoration \(Chapter 90.94 RCW\)](#), was passed and signed in January 2018. We immediately began implementation and are committed to success.

This page provides information on key requirements of the statute and related milestones.

The law was in response to the [Hirst decision](#), a 2016 Washington State Supreme Court decision, and clarifies how counties issue building permits for rural homes that use a well (a [permit-exempt well](#)) for a water source.

### I want to...

- See an interactive map of where the law applies
- Track Streamflow Restoration planning

#### Net Ecological Benefit (NEB) - Comments requested

The law requires planning in 15 watersheds that were impacted by the 2016 Hirst decision. At a minimum, plans must recommend actions to offset the potential consumptive impacts of new, rural, domestic water use on protected rivers and streams. The plans must also result in a net ecological benefit to the watershed.

We are leading eight planning groups. The seven other groups are led by local entities.

- [Learn more about planning efforts](#)

The law requires us to determine that a net ecological benefit (NEB) will result from the plans.



# Final NEB Guidance

- Provides more detail than interim guidance.
- Defines working terms.
- Detailed appendices.





# Final NEB Guidance

- Sets expectations on what should and must be included in the plan.
- Adds an Adaptive Management element
- Guides Ecology's NEB evaluation.





# NEB Definition



From the draft final NEB guidance:  
The outcome that is anticipated to occur through implementation of projects in a plan to yield offsets that exceed impacts within the planning horizon and WRIA boundary.



# What is the Committee's role?

Committee

- Evaluates NEB
- Approves Plan

Ecology

- Determines NEB
- Adopts Plan



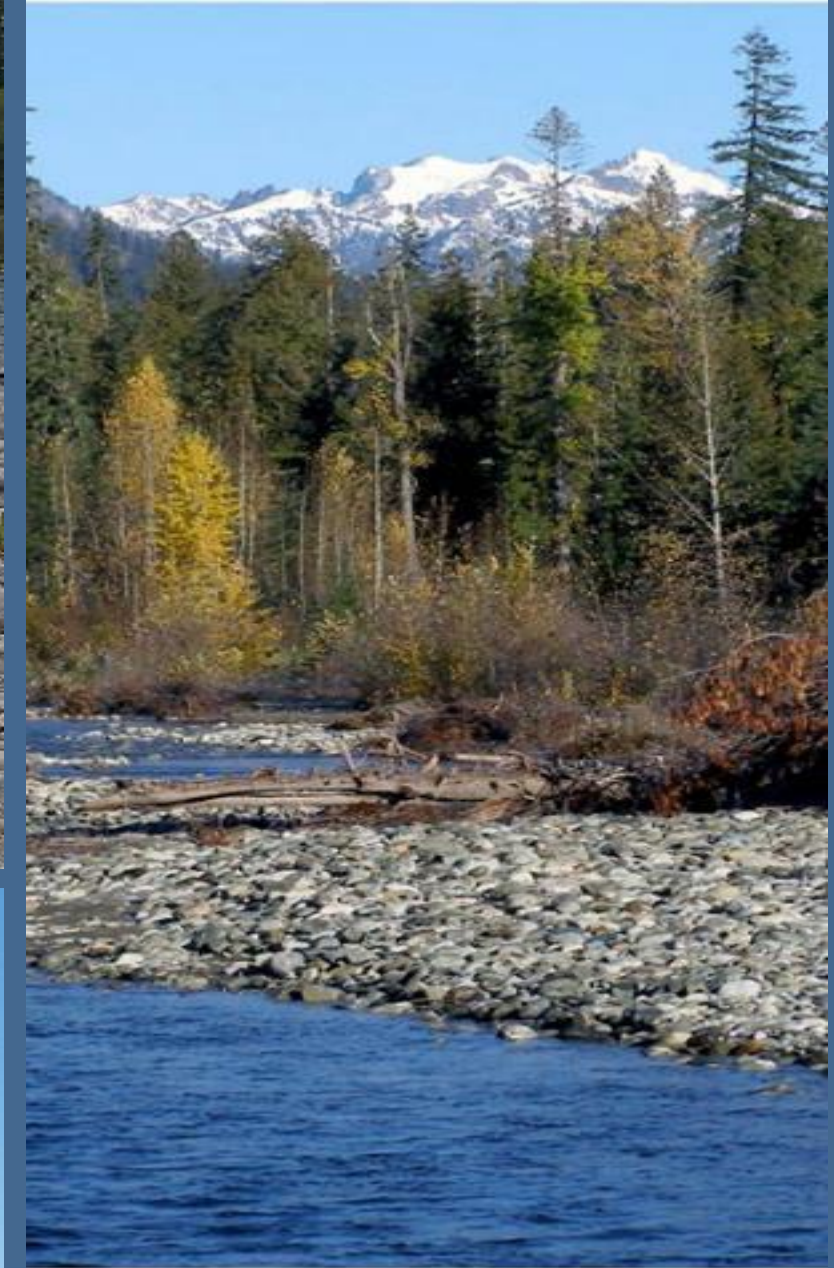
# Draft Net Ecological Benefits

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# *Questions*