# Discussion Guide: Climate Resilience Considerations for WRIA 13

April 2020

## Purpose of Discussion

At the October committee meeting, the committee agreed that it did want to address climate resilience in its plan, but needed more discussion to determine how to do that. The purpose of this discussion is to determine which options the committee would like to pursue.

## What is Required?

Chapter 90.94.030 RCW does not require Ecology or WRE Committees to consider climate change in the planning process. Likewise, the Final Guidance on Net Ecological Benefit Determination (GUIDE-2094) released by Ecology to inform the planning process on how plans will be evaluated, does not address or require climate change.

## October Discussion

The following summarizes the discussion at the October committee meeting (drawn from the meeting summary)

* Potential areas to address climate change in the plan are in the consumptive us calculation (evapotranspiration likely to change with higher temperatures), and resiliency of projects.
* Consider projects with higher resiliency and effective risk management.
* WDFW commented that they have done an analysis for sizing factors of culverts with climate change considerations in mind.
* Consider conditional addition of metering to address changes in water use due to climate change – some Committee members expressed concerns with this approach.
* Suggestion that consumptive use calculations should not be changed to factor in climate considerations on the front end due to data uncertainties.
* Consider weighting projects in regards to climate considerations – Angela commented that this is a component of the draft project screening criteria.
* The Committee will need to consider how to use climate project data.
* Angela will incorporate more climate discussions in future meetings.

## Options for Committee Consideration

There are many options or considerations for climate change inclusions. The ideas described below are a starting point for committee discussion.

* Projects and Actions
  + Each project included in the plan could address climate considerations, such as:
    - Water timing, and how it may shift due to climate change (e.g. flashier systems, more water in the winter, change from snow-dominant to rain-dominant or mixed system).
    - Include criteria that evaluates whether projects are resilient to changing systems (wetter winters, drier summers, flashier systems).
    - Consider restrictions on summer watering when flows are lowest.
    - Identify or prioritize projects that take advantage of changing future conditions (e.g. storage of water during the wetter winters) and that focus on the timing of water availability.
    - Other ideas?
* Safety Factor
  + The overall plan could provide a safety factor on the amount of offset to ensure we overshoot consumptive use estimates.
  + See information provided by Paul Pickett in Attachment A (below)

## Questions for committee discussion

* What specific components of the plan do you feel would best address climate resilience? (See the list above for possible considerations for the committee).
* Are there members of the committee who have the required expertise and resources to address these considerations? If not, do you have suggestions on how to address this?