

WRIA 14

Adaptive Management: Proposal for Discussion

Coordination on Recommendations to Legislature regarding Plan Implementation and Adaptive Management

The Streamflow Restoration Law (90.94.030 RCW) does not mention plan implementation or adaptive management. The Final NEB Guidance does not require adaptive management, but recommends inclusion in the plan to increase the reasonable assurance of plan implementation. Several Watershed Restoration and Enhancement Committees are discussing developing a common recommendation to the legislature to address these topics. The same recommendation included in multiple watershed restoration and enhancement plans may give the recommendation more weight.

An example of this could read as follows:

“The WRIA [#] Watershed Restoration and Enhancement Committee recommends that the legislature provide funding and a structure to monitor plan implementation (including annual tracking of new permit-exempt wells and project implementation by subbasin) and develop a process to adaptively manage implementation if Net Ecological Benefit is not being met as envisioned by the Watershed Restoration and Enhancement Plan”.

Discussion Questions:
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Is a high-level recommendation like the above, of interest to you? Does anyone have concerns with including a statement like this in the WRE Plan?

This is intended as starting language for feedback if a committee chooses to include an adaptive management component in the plan. Each committee could provide additional details in their plan that are specific to their WRIA and go beyond the high-level recommendation to the legislature. For example:

- “For WRIA #, we recommend that x data be tracked (how/by whom/etc.). If x does not occur, the Watershed Restoration and Enhancement Committee (or another existing Committee/organization/government) should be convened to modify the plan as needed.”
- “For WRIA #, we recommend an annual (or every 5 year) report generated by x summarizing project implementation status and effectiveness and new permit exempt wells. The report shall be shared with x.”

This specific adaptive management language would be crafted by each committee and can vary among WRIs, though consistency with the over-arching recommendation to the legislature may provide the recommendation more weight.

Discussion Questions:
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• What additional adaptive management components do you want to include in the WRE plan? Are there additional ideas that don’t fit into the two topics above? Is there anything that is missing?• What are the best next steps for moving these elements forward?