WRIA 14 Project Update

For December 10, 2020 WREC Meeting

The WRIA 14 project workgroup met on December 2, 2020. The topics covered include Mason County Rooftop Runoff revised analysis, MAR project package, water rights assessment, offset benefits for projects, habitat benefit projects, project descriptions, and project inventory clean up and organization. This update provides a summary of the workgroup discussions and recommendations coming from the workgroup to the committee. Information included in this update is based on notes taken by Angela Johnson during the December 2, 2020 meeting and are open to review/correction by workgroup members.

We will need Committee feedback by our December 10, 2020 Committee meeting in order to determine revisions to Chapter 5 and the project inventory in the Appendix. It will be important that we can reach agreement on these recommendations at this meeting so that we can stay on track for plan finalization.

Committee members should be reviewing all [project descriptions](https://app.box.com/s/022nbb51g2gsh45arxkydgqmmc0kjq4l) to be prepared to make decisions at the upcoming December 10 meeting.

1. [Mason County Rooftop Runoff](https://app.box.com/s/rxr81xe08xzlt3loq5tp6yomic80ykju)
   1. HDR provided a [revised technical memo](https://app.box.com/s/b2qzwbz358yuc49bvn7vr087tkjuz2zq) and [supplemental data](https://app.box.com/s/c2858d6mjdtoo41i4ahxqj55hz66mbzf)
   2. Current estimate of 249 af/year offset for WRIA 14, broken down further by soil type:
      1. Group A soils: 35 af/year
      2. Group B soils: 123 af/year
      3. Group C soils: 91 af/year
   3. **Potential Recommendation:** Some workgroup members would like to consider a discount to the offset total to account for additional concerns regarding feasibility based on soil type, excessive slope, and other site conditions that could be restrictive to implementation. One option discussed was to multiply the number of projected wells in each soil group by some factor to account for there being less than 100% of the sites where the estimated benefits would occur. For example, if a 5% reduction was agreed upon, the current number of wells in each of the three soil groups would be multiplied by 95%.
   4. **Action item:**
      1. Committee members need to come to the December 10, 2020 WRIA 14 Committee meeting prepared to make a decision on if this project will be included in the plan with an associated water offset that is used to meet our consumptive use offset target and whether there is agreement on a reduction like the one described above.
      2. Angela is also working with Dave Windom to bring forward potential language (as was discussed at the November Committee meeting) to provide justification for this project that may address some Committee members’ concerns on the legality of the project.  This language will be included if the Committee agrees to include the project in the final plan.
2. [MAR project package](https://app.box.com/s/p6gko96yligq8qok21smzns7nqjgprcw)
   1. PGG has provided a [technical memo on methodology](https://app.box.com/s/nenbuy3hep7nkaqn9o9edsv6d8dou2wy), and HDR has provided a [project description](https://app.box.com/s/ijol5yq71ped1s9v5tmfid28focfbbcd)
   2. Current estimate of ~900 af/year for seven potential project locations
   3. **Recommendation:** HDR will provide a slight revision to the analysis to account for uncertainty in the way that stream flows are measured. Instead of comparing minimum daily flow values to an amount that is 3% above the reported average daily flows, HDR will compare values to 5% above the reported average daily flows. Beyond this, there appears to be agreement that a reduction factor needs to be applied to all of the project benefit estimates to account for uncertainty in how many of these projects will actually occur. Additionally, there was some discussion about an additional factor to account for concerns such as timing of benefit, etc. One option would be to apply a single reduction factor to account for all these concerns – for example: on a subbasin by subbasin basis claim 30% of the total projected offset to count in the plan.

Additionally, HDR will include a project location in the Hood Canal subbasin, although due to limited flow data there will likely not be an offset benefit associated with that proposed location.

* 1. **Action item:**
     1. Committee members need to come to the December 10, 2020 WRIA 14 Committee meeting prepared to make a decision on the total offset to claim for this project package.  Please come prepared to contribute the following information:
        1. What is the appropriate reduction factor to discount the total offset?
        2. What are the most important assumptions or concerns that you feel the reduction factor would address, and help provide justification for?
           1. For example: implementation, timing/amount of infiltration, distance to stream, etc.

1. [City of Shelton Reclaimed Water](https://app.box.com/s/yzk8c7ee7u5kgrfhpfifzdzn9u7yyzo5)
   1. Current estimate of ~486 af/year.  HDR revised analysis to account for expected water use of WCC.
   2. **Recommendation:** Include project in WRE plan with ~486 af/year total offset used to meet our consumptive use offset target.
   3. **Action item:**
      1. Committee members should review the project description if they have not already done so and come to the December 10, 2020 WRIA 14 Committee meeting prepared to make a decision on the total offset to claim for this project.
2. [Summit Lake Water Use](https://app.box.com/s/a64woip33a4ecn0vvnj81dcnzbd9ep28)
   1. Potential for water offset in the future if project comes to fruition.  Ecology provided feedback to Thurston County to consider including a pipeline option to hook up residents to City of Olympia water system, which would increase water offset for the project.
   2. **Recommendation:** Include project in WRE plan and indicate offset potential, but it will not be used to meet our consumptive use offset target.
   3. **Action item:**
      1. Thurston County to consider additional project elements.  Ecology to provide written feedback to support.
      2. Committee members should review the project description if they have not already done so and come to the December 10, 2020 WRIA 14 Committee meeting prepared to make a decision on including this project in the WRE plan based on the recommendation.
3. [Water Right Analysis](https://app.box.com/s/ehuij4l26d6axyq7mqddvw5zhysqmpsa)
   1. PGG has previously provided a [summary spreadsheet of focused water rights](https://app.box.com/s/teh8q5z8vj7szg3443gzpkeu3t3d99ir), based on workgroup and Committee feedback, as well as a [write-up on methodology.](https://app.box.com/s/eh24nr0cocmnmw6d2dxdp3teykf9ij9j)  While the Committee has not identified any specific water rights for acquisition, the Committee has agreed to language in the draft plan that would describe and support investigating future opportunities for water rights acquisition or efficiencies.  The Committee has agreed that no identifying information on water right holders will be included in the plan or appendix due to privacy concerns, but that a more detailed list can be kept by a member of the implementation group for future use.
   2. Erica Marbet (Squaxin Island Tribe) provided an update on an [aerial analysis](https://app.box.com/s/v4cttbavn8o7yw6488hc7n7cqa4bzr6r) she conducted based on the work done by PGG.  She has provided [additional information](https://app.box.com/s/28lfupbm8j9eif8qsgvq3a9d5kmyydga) on 14 specific water rights, and has indicated these appear to be “high value targets” for future acquisition opportunities.
   3. **Recommendation:** Consider including language in the plan that describes that a future action of an implementation group could prioritize outreach to water right holders on the “target” list provided by Erica as a starting place for future acquisition.  Additionally, consider a future action of an implementation group to conduct outreach to commercial/industrial water right holders as that was not a focus of the Committee’s investigation, however the magnitude of available water may warrant further investigation.  Lastly, the Committee may consider claiming partial offset for the “target” water rights list.  For example, the “target” list provided by Erica results in ~1,111 af/year.  The Committee could consider claiming a percentage of that total, such as 10% (Angela indicated this is an example from other WREC groups), which would result in a total of ~111 af/year water offset that could be claimed in the plan – distributed among each of the subbasins relative to the current distribution.
   4. **Action item:**
      1. Committee members should review all of the available water right information if they have not already done so and come to the December 10, 2020 WRIA 14 Committee meeting prepared to make a decision on the proposed recommendations above.  Namely, does the Committee support claiming a percentage of a “target” list of water rights as water offset?
4. Projects still under consideration
   1. Raingarden retrofits
      1. WRIA 15 has discussed a potential methodology to identify potential infiltration, and estimates 20 raingardens/year would contribute 3 afy for houses currently connected to a stormdrain system. The methodology for houses not currently connected to stormdrains
      2. **Potential recommendation:** Include in WRIA 14 plan as possible future action, but do not assign a water offset.
   2. City of Shelton stormwater projects
      1. Projects from City of Shelton’s stormwater plan may provide potential future offset if they are implemented to enhance infiltration. HDR has not currently performed any analysis, but has been provided information by City of Shelton that could be used to write up a general project description.
      2. **Potential recommendation:** Include in WRIA 14 plan as possible future action, but do not assign a water offset.
5. Other project descriptions
   1. Other offset projects
      1. [Evergreen Mobile Estates](https://app.box.com/s/8nb3c1l6tixaug390y88n5rkhbvfu9sj) – complete, 7.2 af/year offset will be claimed against offset target
      2. [Schneider Creek Source Switch](https://app.box.com/s/ybkz6gneywi8l6z0cam8qi84c1dnqung) - pending revisions, potential offset will be described but will not be claimed against offset target
   2. Habitat/non-water offset projects
      1. [Skookum Valley Railroad Blockages](https://app.box.com/s/b6ciso8jm3nw8u52cn2nai17qq8taw1e) - complete
      2. [North Steamboat](https://app.box.com/s/g8852g9los5mw11jshjmffyc8u2txrhg) - complete
      3. [Skookum Valley Ag](https://app.box.com/s/faehthg6ptr2jwq42536ijzktjhk376f) – complete
      4. [Goldsborough Creek/Hilburn](https://app.box.com/s/m7vlw0mptmxac1s36wopwx1h97e1ka7j) – complete
      5. Middle Steamboat – pending
      6. Thurston County Forest Management Sites - pending
   3. Categorical projects
      1. [Floodplain Restoration](https://app.box.com/s/ko2bti2i4qe2hdhz7cnc1m2koen1o05z) - complete
      2. Forest Stand Age - [Proposal](https://app.box.com/s/swu5ewnms5fpeek54lms39bbn5xf1auk) from Paul Pickett will be used to develop project description in plan.
   4. **Recommendation:** Project descriptions will be used to develop Chapter 5 in the WRE Plan. All other projects previously discussed by the Committee that are not included in Chapter 5 will be included in the [longer project inventory](https://app.box.com/s/nni814m5xi5ptwbwyzehojzwl0ktatp8) in the plan appendix.
   5. **Action item:** Committee members should review all available project descriptions and provide any red flags ahead of the December 10, 2020 WRIA 14 Committee meeting.