



Chelan County Water Code

**Presented by Bob Bugert, Chelan County
Commissioner**

Chelan County Tri-Commission

March 30, 2021

Water Code Basics

- **New requirements for rural domestic water supply in areas with supply limitations**
- **Includes fee schedule**
- **Tracking system for rural water supply**
- **Need for water acquisition and conservation**
- **Effective April 1, 2021**

Where it applies...

- **Lake Chelan: water supply limited due to historic and ongoing obligations**
- **Entiat and Wenatchee basins: instream flow rule limits rural domestic water supply to “reserves”**
- **Does not apply where municipal or group systems provide domestic supply (e.g. cities)**

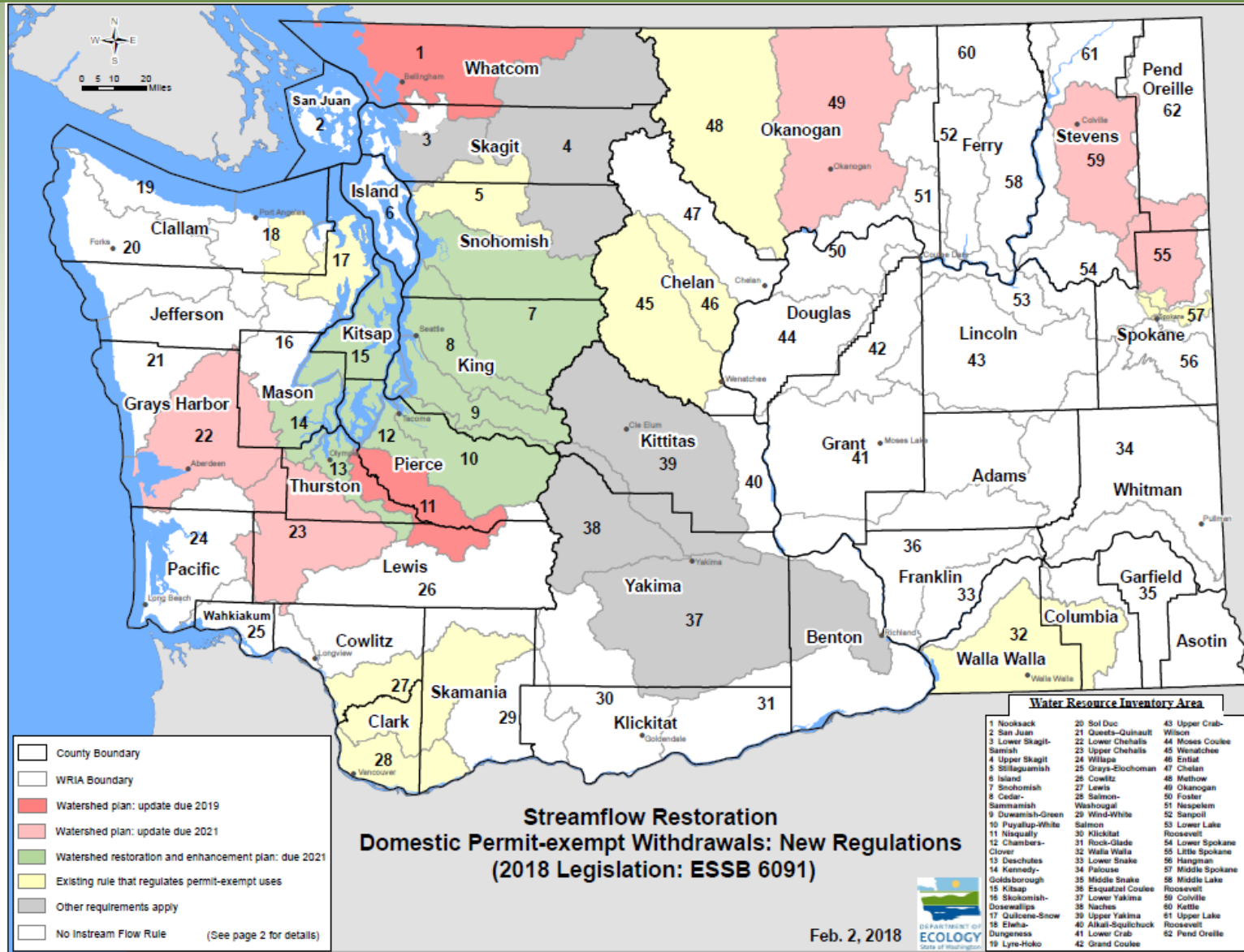
Why County Water Code?

- **Puts Chelan County in local control of meeting rural growth demands**
- **Responding to increased regulatory requirements (court cases, Ecology policies, litigation risk)**
- **Finance mechanism for future water acquisitions in areas limited by supply, e.g. County purchased water from Bear Mountain Water District**

Wave of Water and Growth Court Cases

- *Five Corners Family Farms v. Ecology* (2011)
- *Kittitas County v. Easter WA Growth Management Hearings Board* (2011)
- *J.Z. Knight v. Yelm* (2011)
- *Swinomish v. Ecology* (2013)
- *Foster v. Yelm* (2015)
- *Whatcom County v. Hirst, Futurewise, et. al.* (2016)
- Others

Watershed-based exempt well rules



What are other counties doing?

- **Kittitas County:** Water code using purchased water
- **Yakima County:** Water code using purchased water
- **Spokane County:** Water code using purchased water
- **Okanogan County:** Methow litigation; Okanogan basin planning
- **Benton County:** Purchased a mitigation right, evaluating water bank structure.

Chelan County Water Code Details

- **Applies at building permit stage for new rural domestic supply in applicable areas**
- **Fees:**
 - **\$1,000 administration**
 - **\$1,000 future mitigation**
- **Applicant receives water certificate with final occupancy**
- **Future metering requirements (2022)**

Water Conservation

- **Why does it matter?**
 - Replacement water cost is increasing
 - If less water is used, water supplies last longer

Questions?