



Quincy Basin Permitting Program

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History through a water rights lens

1930s: Washington issued USBR state water rights to divert/irrigate from Columbia River. Leaked water/return flows contained by O'Sullivan Dam

1960s : Who controls ground water within the Columbia Basin project?

- 5-year withdrawal study (Chapter 508-14 WAC)
- USGS Tanaka model

1970s: Chapters 173-124 and 173-134A WAC adopted defining subbasin and management structure

- USBR declaration claiming ownership of artificially stored groundwater, accepted by Ecology (RCW 90.44.130)

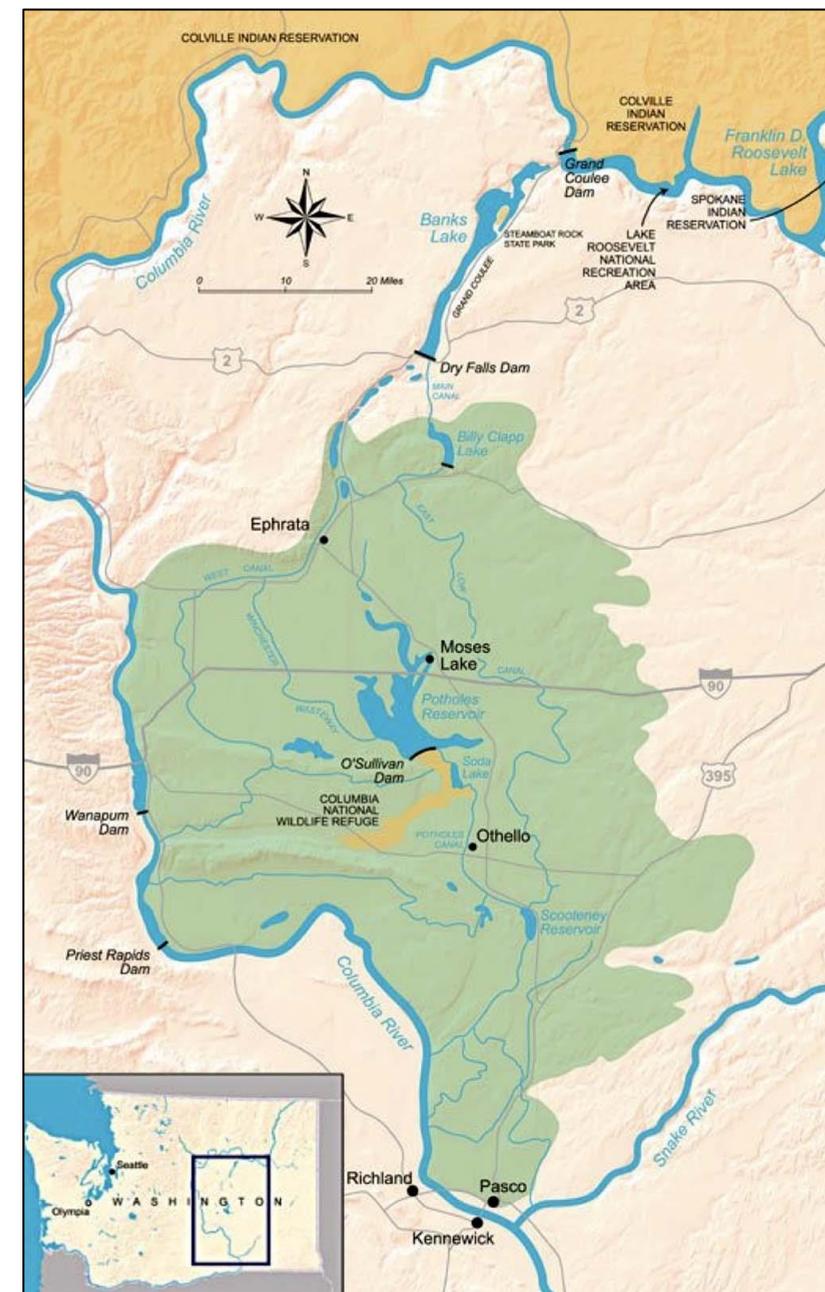
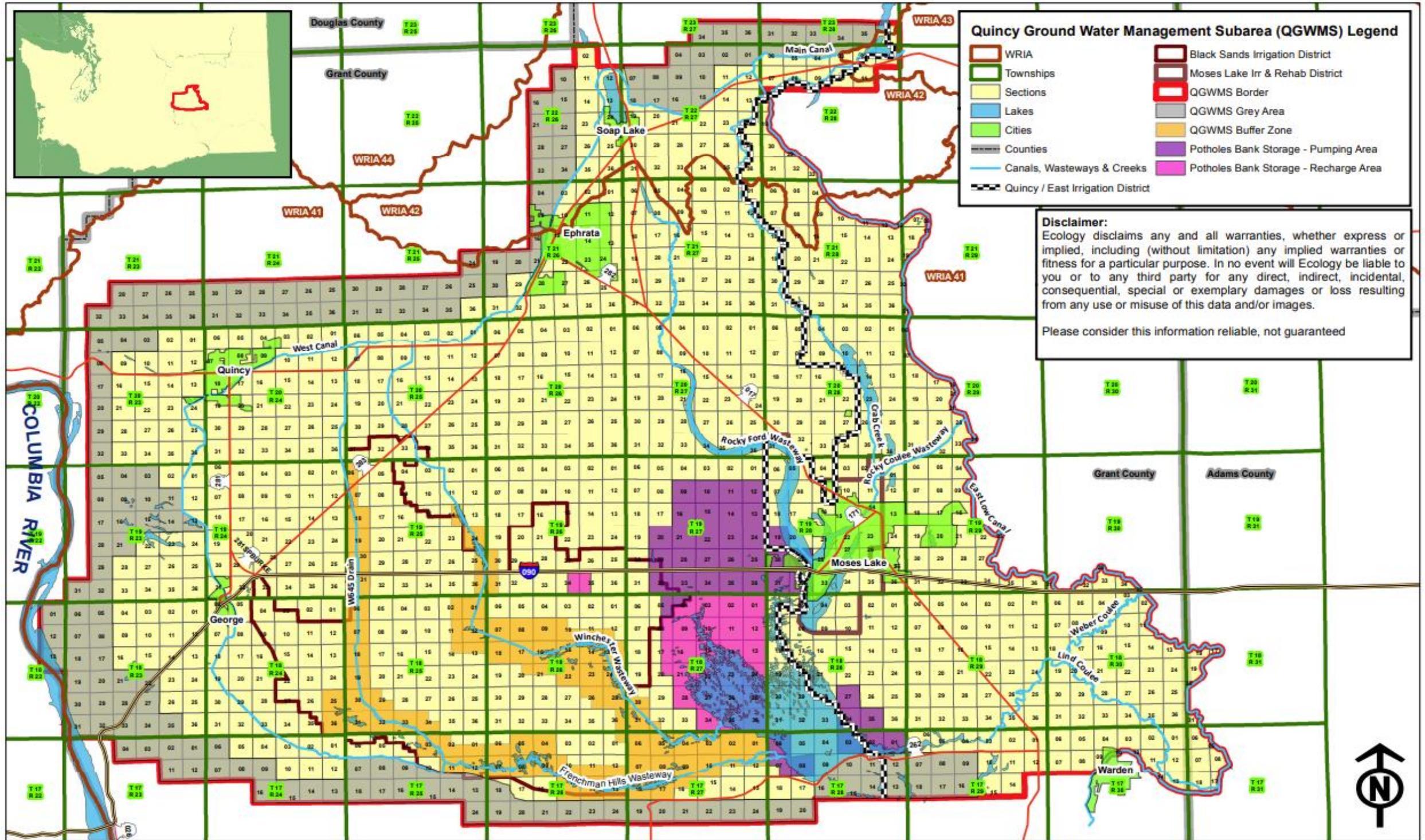


Image courtesy of Bureau of Reclamation, *The Story of the Columbia Basin Project*



Quincy Basin Artificially Stored Groundwater (ASGW)



Quincy Ground Water Management Subarea (QGWMS) Legend

WRIA	Black Sands Irrigation District
Townships	Moses Lake Irr & Rehab District
Sections	QGWMS Border
Lakes	QGWMS Grey Area
Cities	QGWMS Buffer Zone
Counties	Potholes Bank Storage - Pumping Area
Canals, Wasteways & Creeks	Potholes Bank Storage - Recharge Area
Quincy / East Irrigation District	

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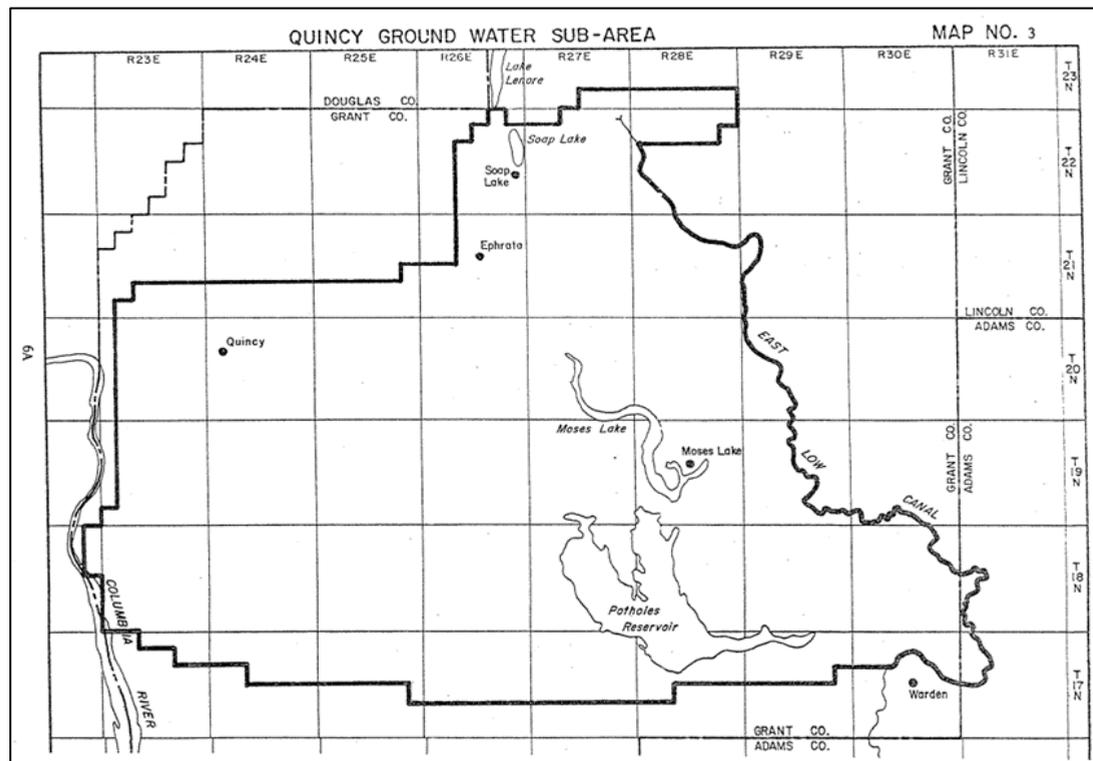
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What made Quincy ASGW possible?

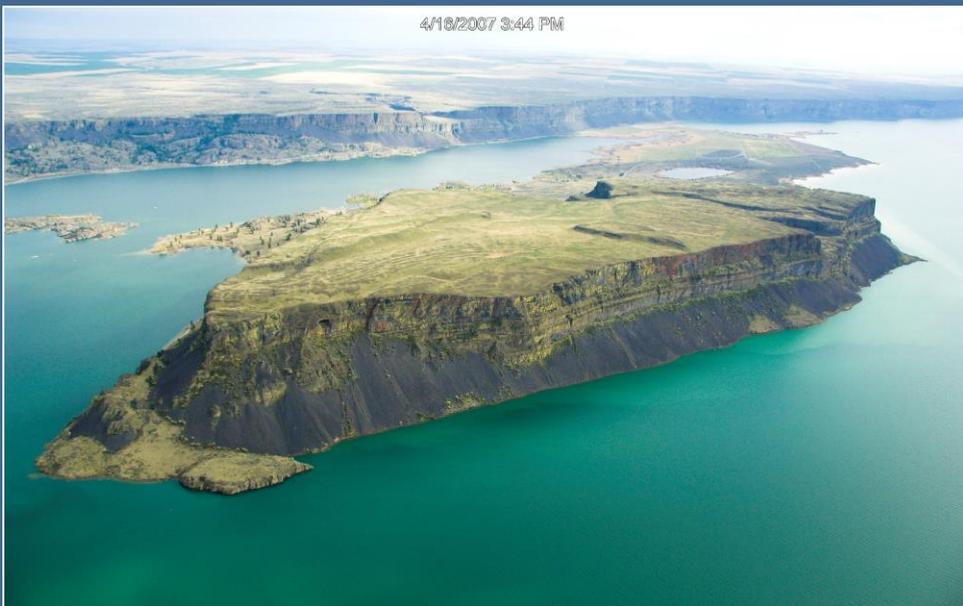
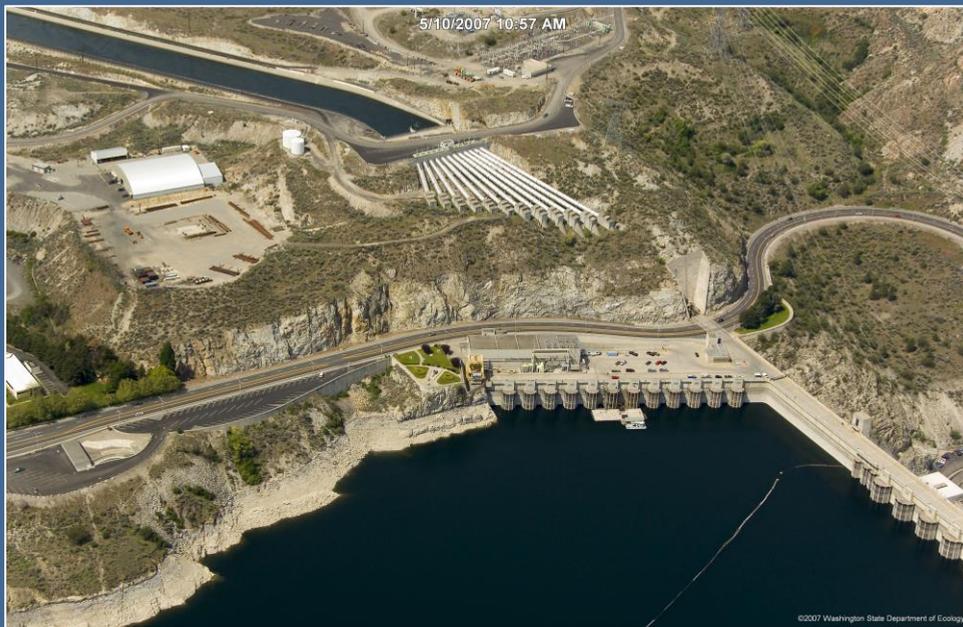


Image from Google Earth



Map from Final Ecology EIS

- Designed to store return flows within the aquifer
- Basin study determined that project water returns to commingle with natural ground water
- Remains within USBR's place of use (control)
- Consistent geology across the subbasin
- Rule permits up to 177,000 acre-feet
- Ecology, USBR, and Columbia Basin irrigation district partnership



Images from Ecology's Coastal Atlas

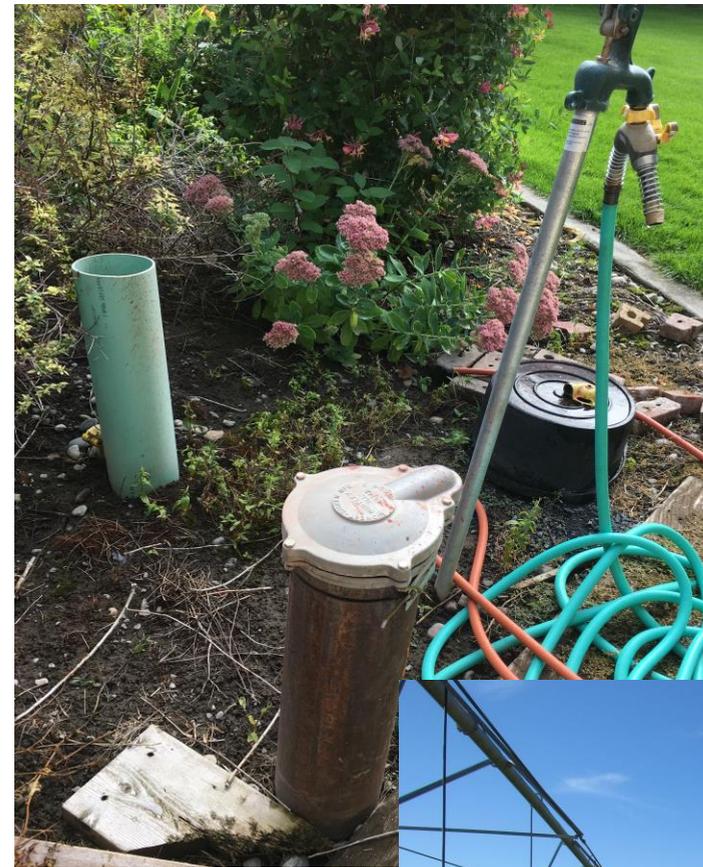
The Permitting Process

- Application submitted to Ecology
- Applications processed in the order received with input from USBR and the irrigation districts (Tanaka & CPRAS)
- Decision made; permit issued by Ecology
- Permit holder obtains license from USBR
- Project must be developed within 3 years of permit issuance
- Permit holder submits a Proof of Appropriation to Ecology, superseding permit is issued for quantity developed, excess goes back into the “bucket”



What makes Quincy Basin permits unique?

- Ecology permit/USBR contract
- Fee payable to USBR
- No extension to 3-year development schedule
- Source limited to the sediments and upper 200 feet of basalt*
- Private property, assigned when land is sold
- Strict application rate for irrigation
- No longer issued for new subdivision/municipal development



What have we learned?

- Managing these permits is a tremendous workload, staffing is critical
- Short rule provides clarity but not much flexibility
- Strict development schedule not compatible with certain uses
- The secondary market drives much of our work
- Engagement with realtors would help facilitate transition between landowners
- Partnerships are key

Questions?

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