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A photograph of a mountain landscape with a snow-capped peak, a forested slope, and a rocky path leading up the hillside under a cloudy sky.

Emergency
Watershed
Protection
Program

A photograph of rolling green hills under a clear blue sky, with a small town visible in the distance.

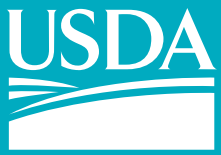
Washington State
Natural Resources
Conservation
Service



Larry Johnson, P.E.,
State Conservation Engineer

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What is EWPP?

EWPP is a “Post Disaster” Recovery Program.



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What can EWPP Do?

NRCS can provide technical and financial assistance for recovery activities.



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When is EWPP Available?

NRCS assistance is available after a qualifying, devastating natural disaster.



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What type of disasters are included?

- Wildfires
- Floods
- Earthquakes
- Landslides
- Hurricanes
- Tornados
- Drought
- Volcanic Eruptions



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Is a Presidential Disaster Declaration Required?

A Presidential Disaster Declaration is NOT required....

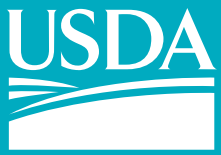
The STC has the authority to declare a local disaster.



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How is EWPP Assistance Requested?

A qualified “Project Sponsor” must request assistance.



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Who is a Qualified Project Sponsor?

A “Project Sponsor” is any legal subdivision:

- Cities
- Counties
- State Entities
- Tribal Nations
- Flood Control Districts
- Conservation Districts



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2023 Wildfires

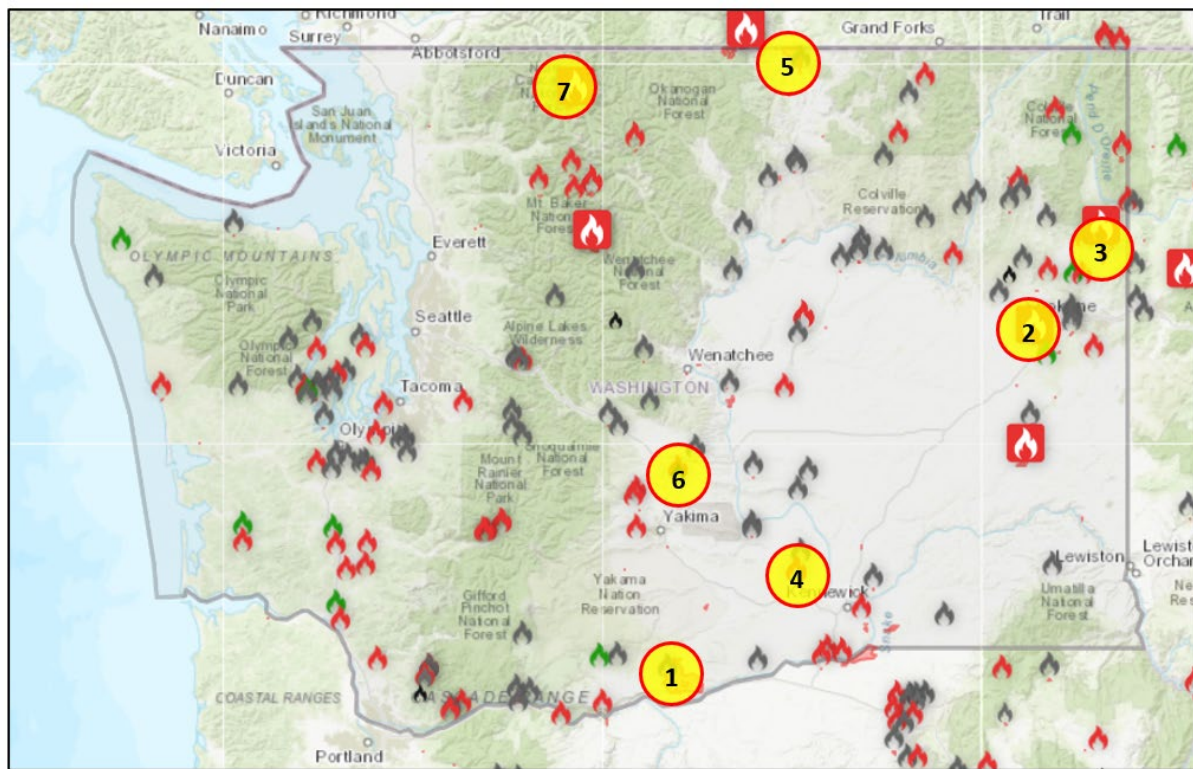


Overview

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2023 WA Wildfires



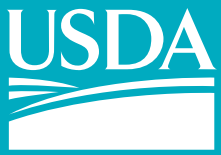
Wildfires Evaluated:

1. Newell Road Fire (Klickitat Co)
2. Gray Fire (Spokane Co.)
3. Oregon Fire (Pend Oreille Co)
4. Hanson Road Fire (Benton Co.)
5. Eagle Bluff Fire (Okanogan Co.)
6. Baird Springs Fire (Grant Co.)
7. Sourdough Wildfire (Skagit Co.)

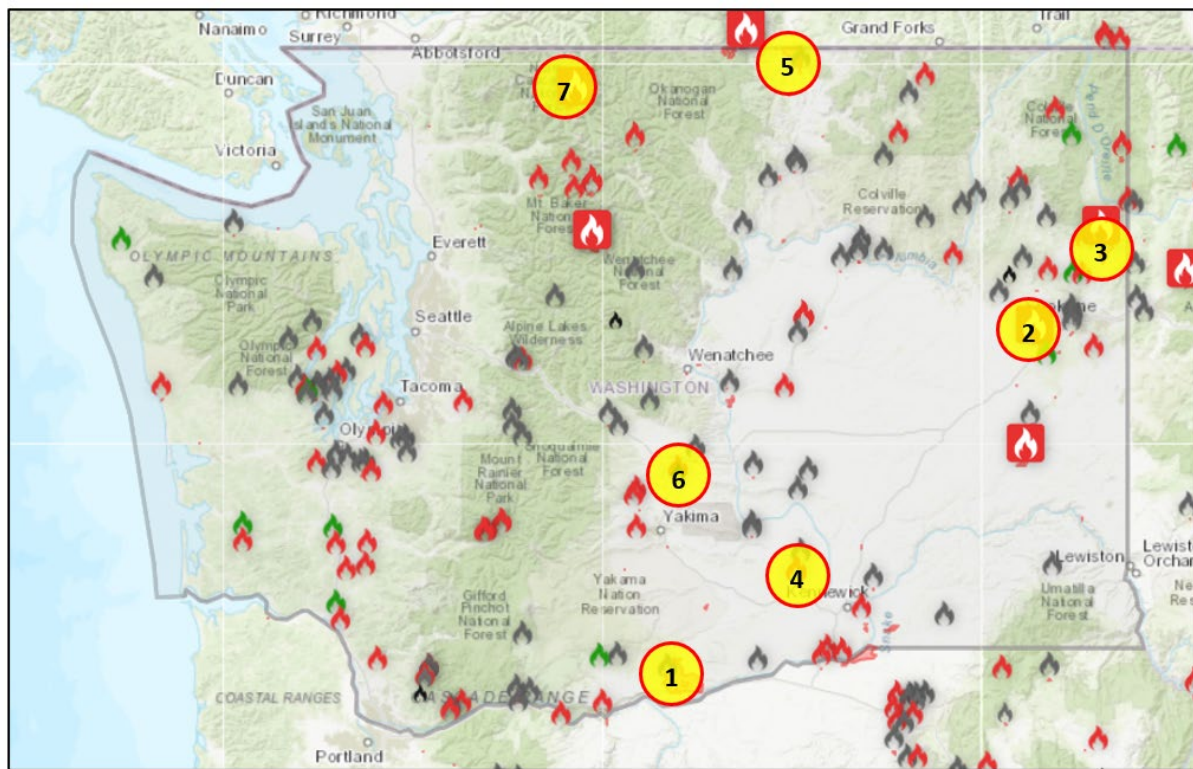


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2023 WA Wildfires



Eligible for EWPP Assistance:

1. **Newell Road Fire (Klickitat Co)**
2. Gray Fire (Spokane Co.)
3. Oregon Fire (Pend Oreille Co)
4. Hanson Road Fire (Benton Co.)
5. **Eagle Bluff Fire (Okanogan Co.)**
6. Baird Springs Fire (Grant Co.)
7. **Sourdough Wildfire (Skagit Co.)**



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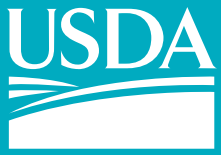
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Eligibility Screening Process

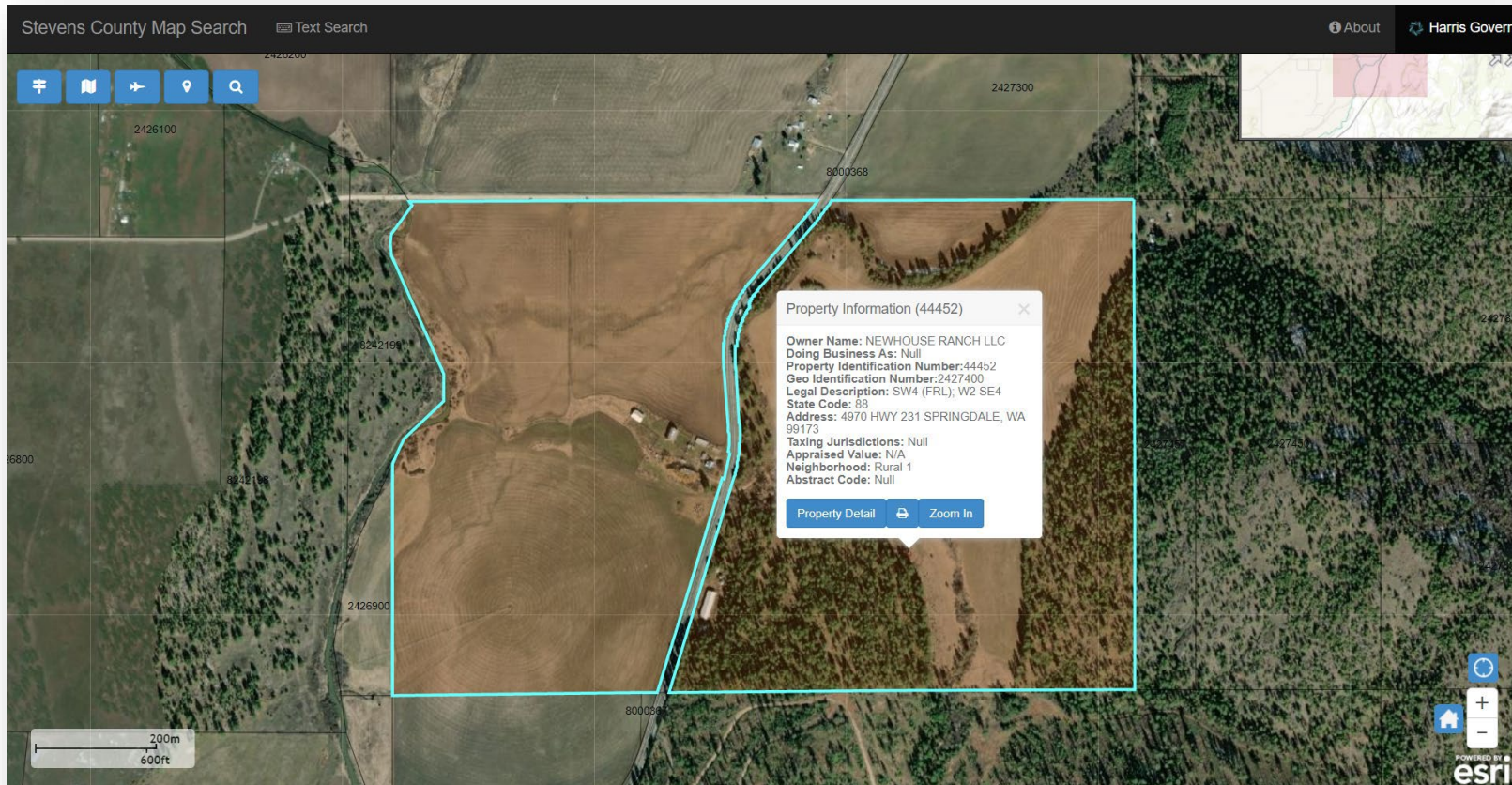


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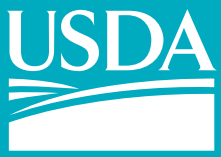
EWPP Screening Process Case Study



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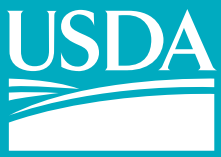
EWPP Screening Process Case Study



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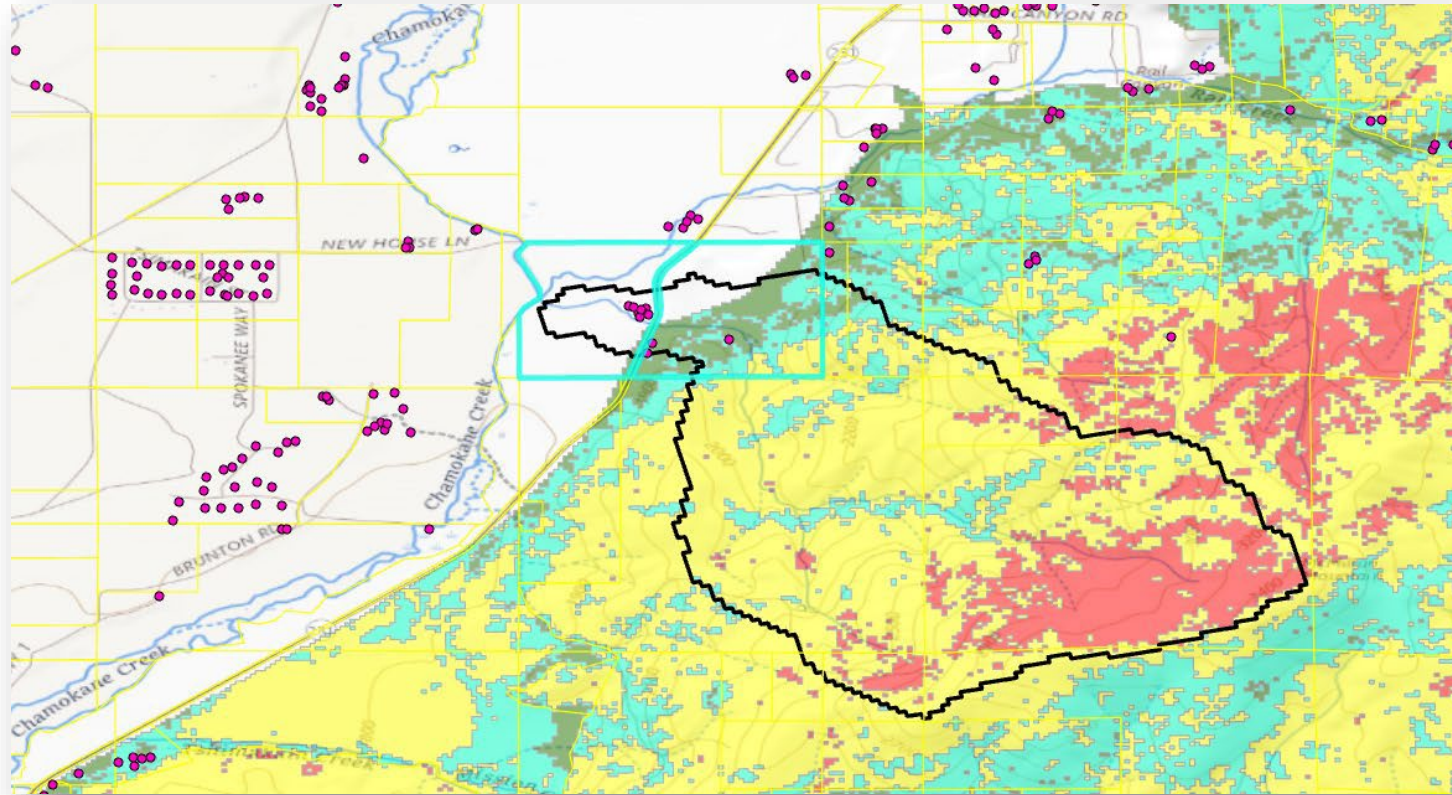
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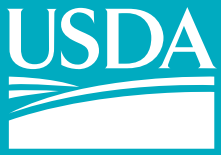
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EWPP Screening Process Case Study



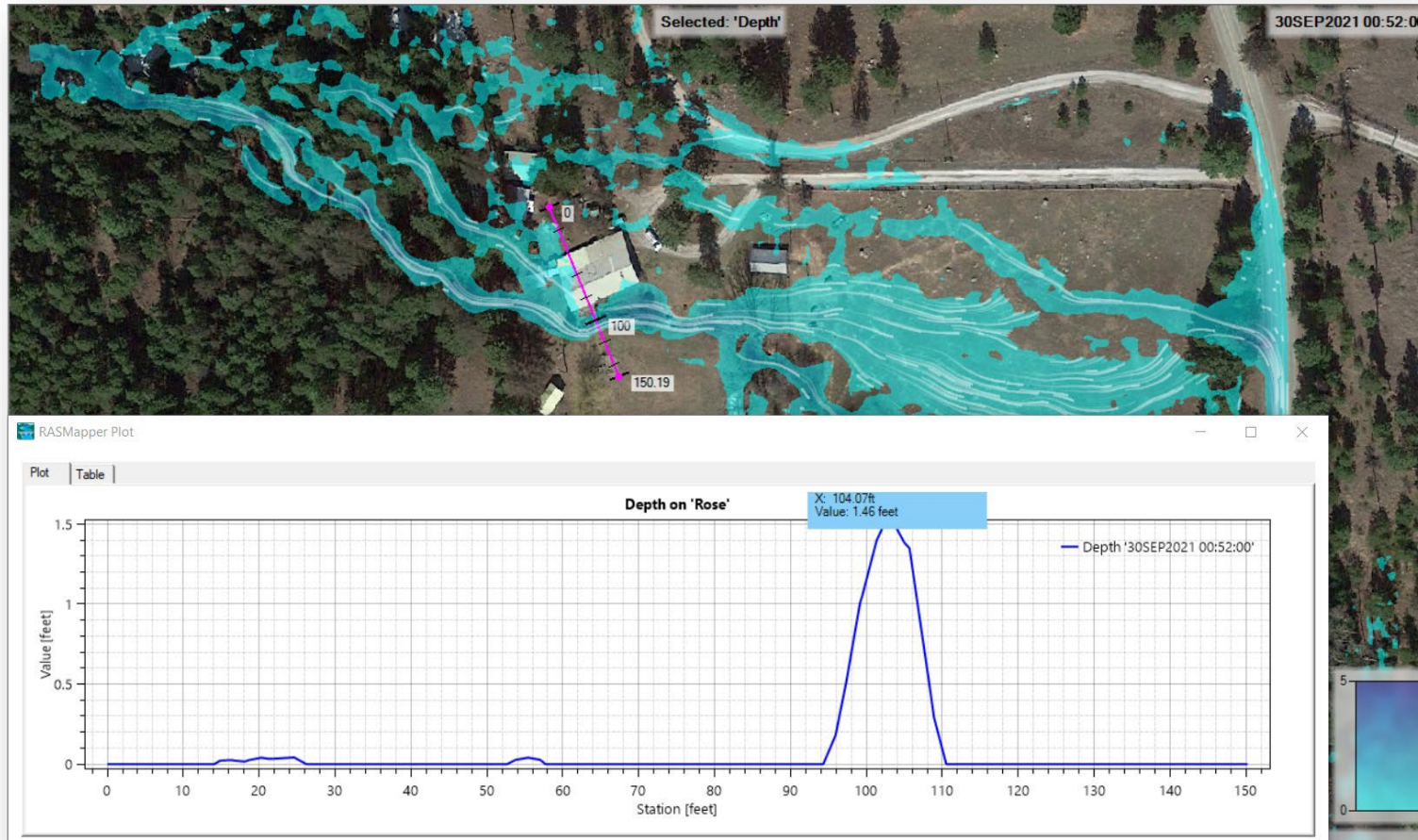
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EWPP Screening Process Case Study

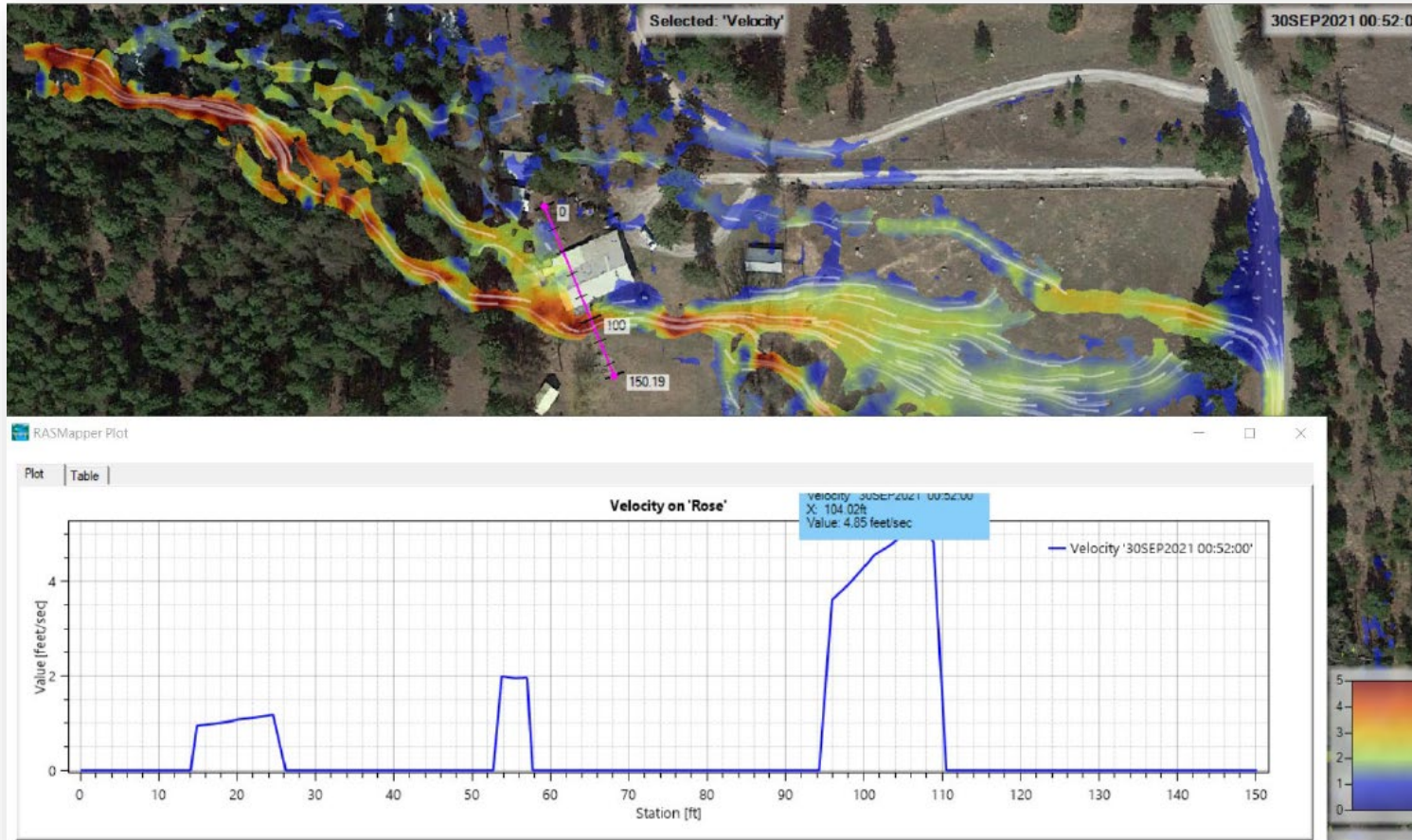
Pre-Wildfire
Depth



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EWPP Screening Process Case Study

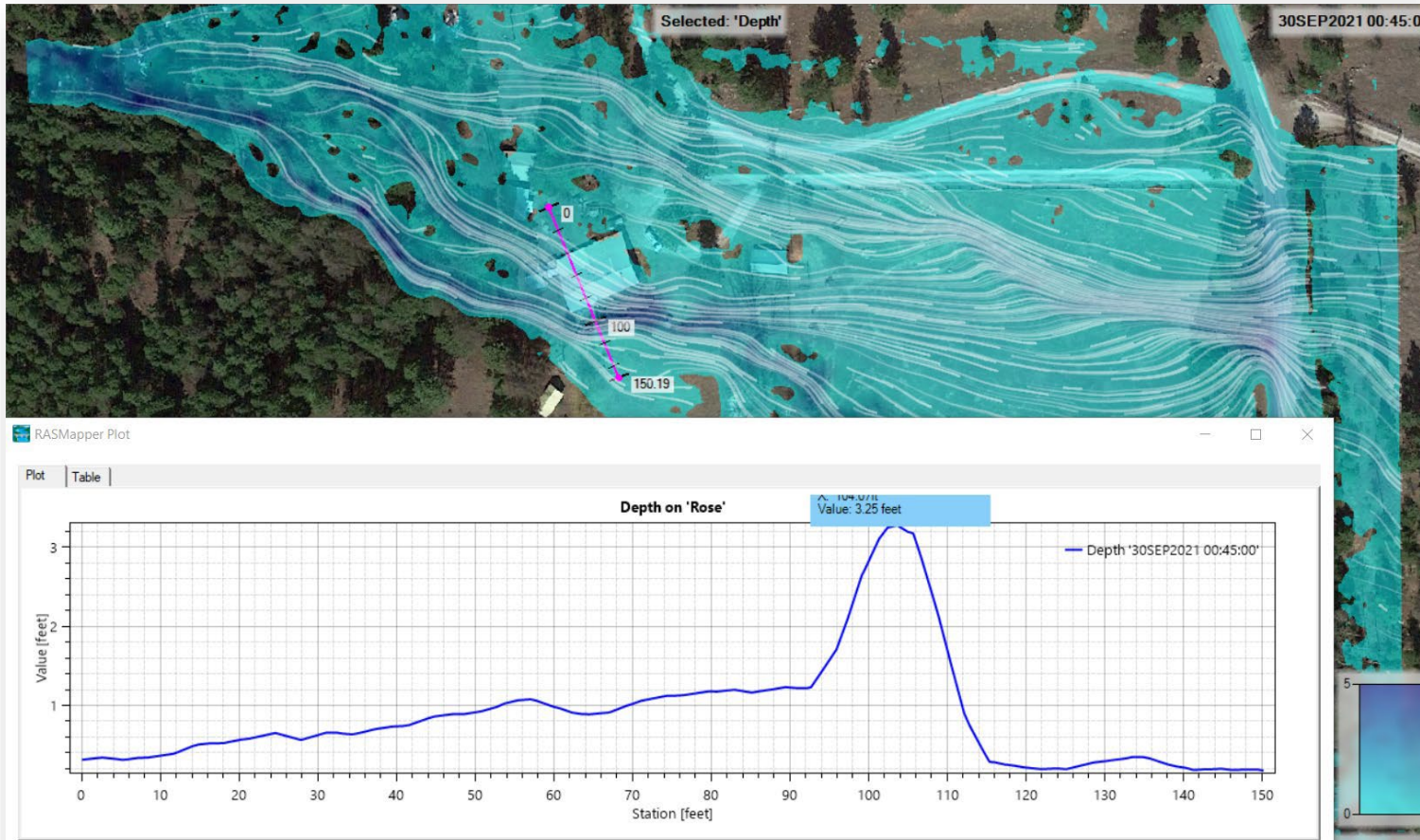
Pre-Wildfire
Velocity



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EWPP Screening Process Case Study

Post-Wildfire
Depth

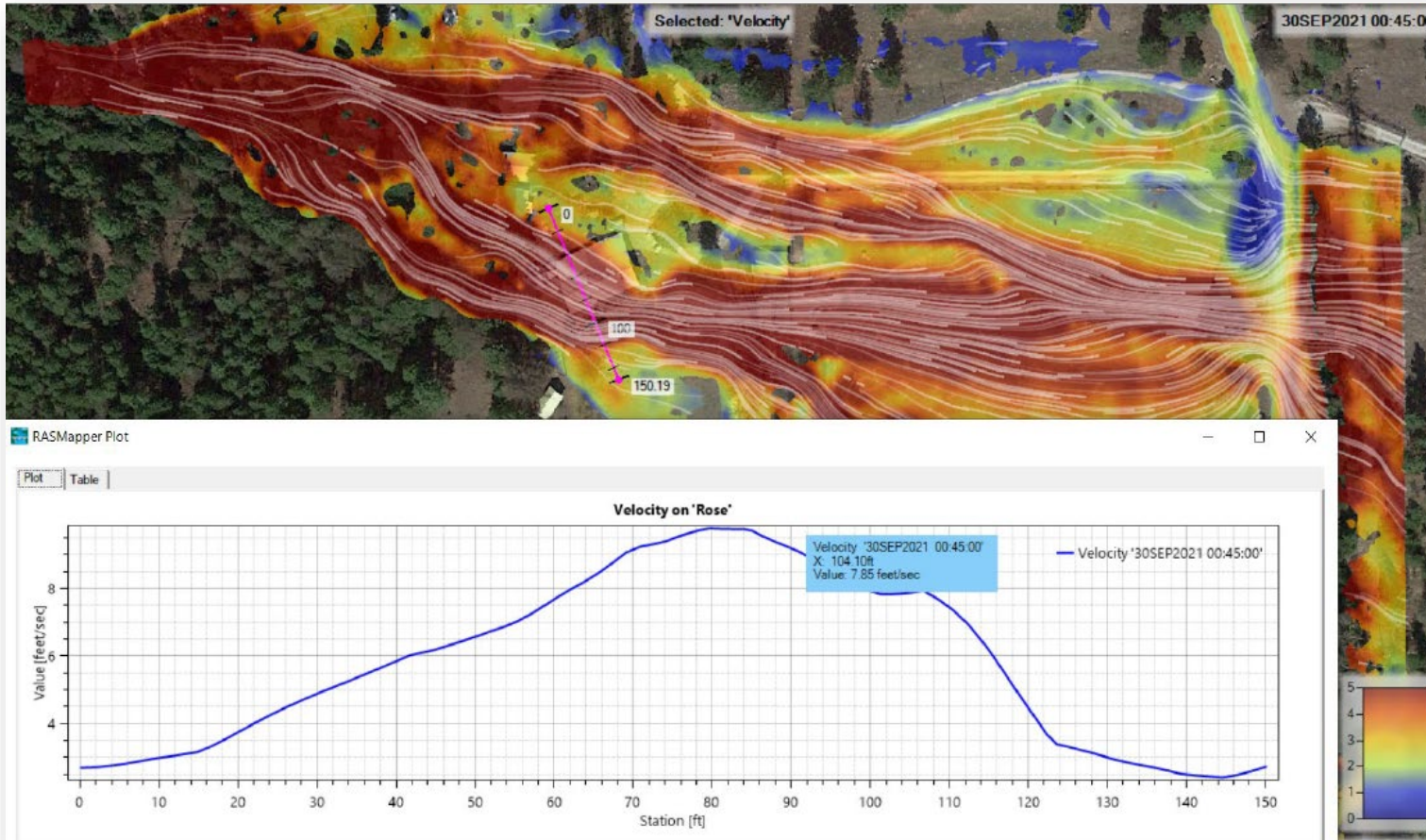


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EWPP Screening Process Case Study

Post-Wildfire
Velocity



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EWPP Screening Process Case Study

- HIGH DANGER ZONE** - Occupants of most houses are in danger from floodwater.
- JUDGEMENT ZONE** - Danger level is based upon engineering judgement.
- LOW DANGER ZONE** - Occupants of most houses are not seriously in danger from flood water.

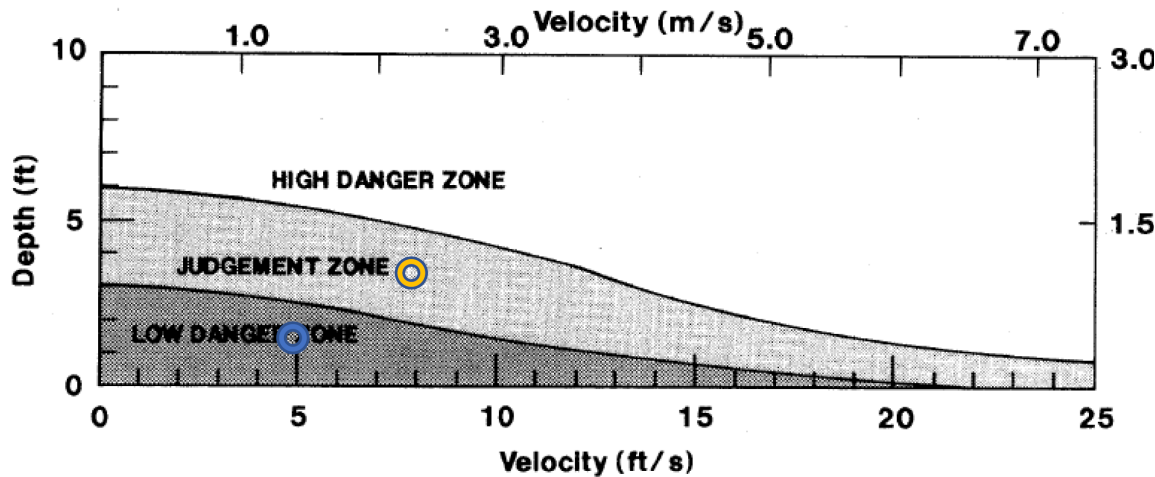


Figure 2. - Depth-velocity flood danger level relationship for houses built on foundations.



EWPP Screening Process Case Study

Flood Risk

- Pre-Wildfire flood risk level is “None”.
- Postfire flood risk level is “**Judgement Zone**”.

Assessment: A site visit needs to be conducted to gather additional information prior to finalizing a decision.

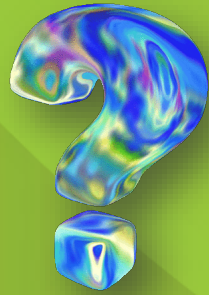


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PL-566 Small Watershed Program



Washington State Natural Resources Conservation Service



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State Conservation Engineer

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PL-566 Small Watershed Program “Overview”



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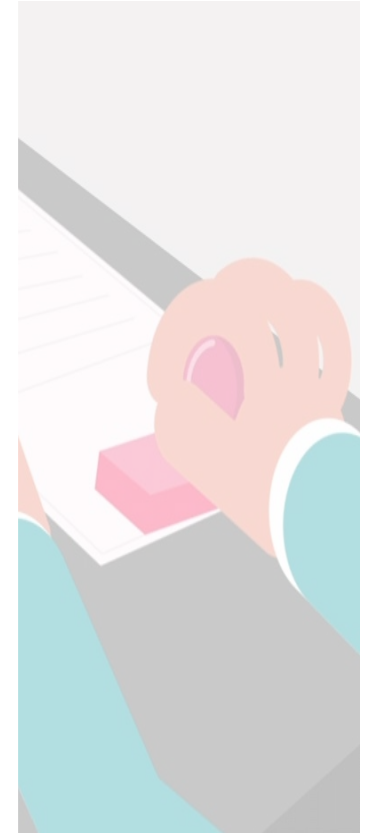


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Small Watershed Program - Overview

Eligible Purposes

- Flood Prevention (Flood Damage Reduction)
- Watershed Protection
- Public Recreation
- Public Fish and Wildlife
- Agricultural Water Management
- Municipal and Industrial Water Supply
- Water Quality Management
- Watershed Structure (Dam) Rehabilitation



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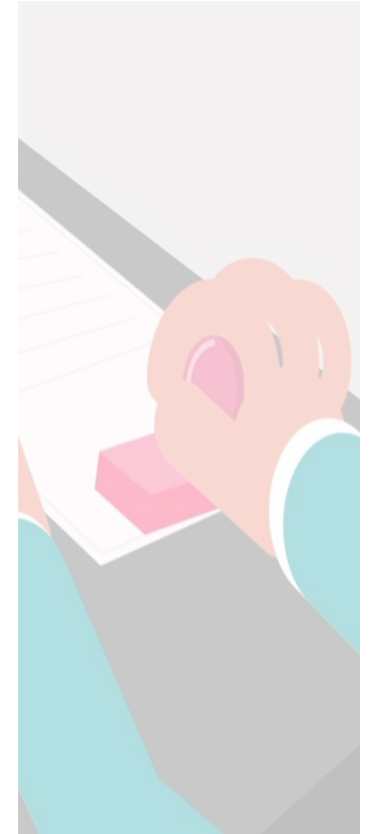
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Small Watershed Program - Overview

Private vs. Public Land

Financial and Technical Assistance can be provided on Public and Privately held land.

- Public Land: Structural Watershed Projects (Infrastructure)
- Private Land: Land Treatment Watershed Project



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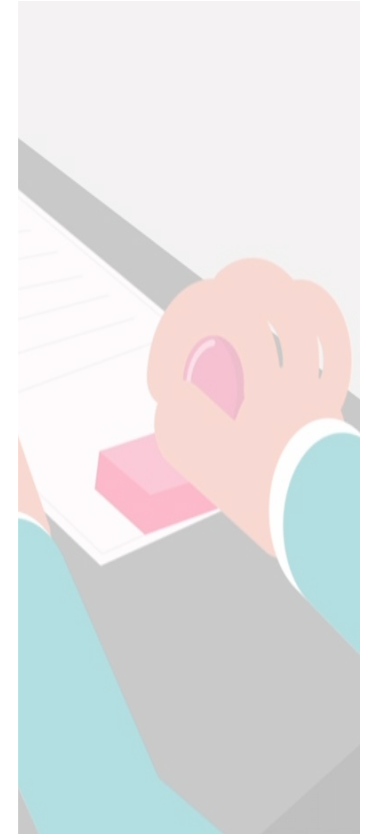


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Small Watershed Program - Overview

Project Sponsorship Required

- Apply federal assistance,
- Assist with the Watershed Plan development, and
- To implement the watershed plan after it is approved.



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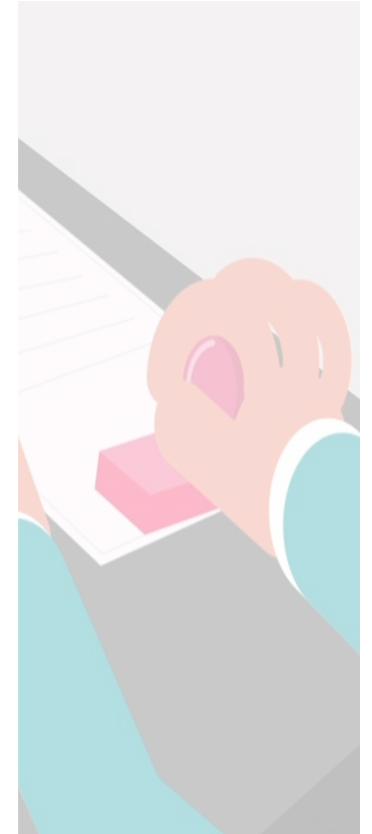
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Small Watershed Program - Overview

Sponsor Responsibilities

- Financial Commitment
- Power of Eminent Domain
- Acquisition of Permits and Licenses
- Authority to Levy Taxes
- Lead Public Participation
- Operation and Maintenance - Not to exceed 100 year



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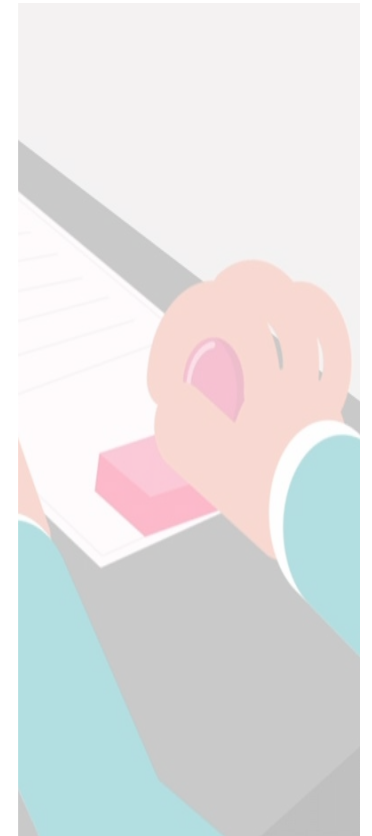
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Small Watershed Program - Overview

NRCS Responsibilities

- Financial and Technical Assistance
- Preparation of the Watershed Plan
- Prepare Land Rights Maps as needed for Project Construction
- Engineering Design
- Prepare the Operation and Maintenance Plan
- Operation and Maintenance Assistance



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PL-566 Small Watershed Program “Implementation”



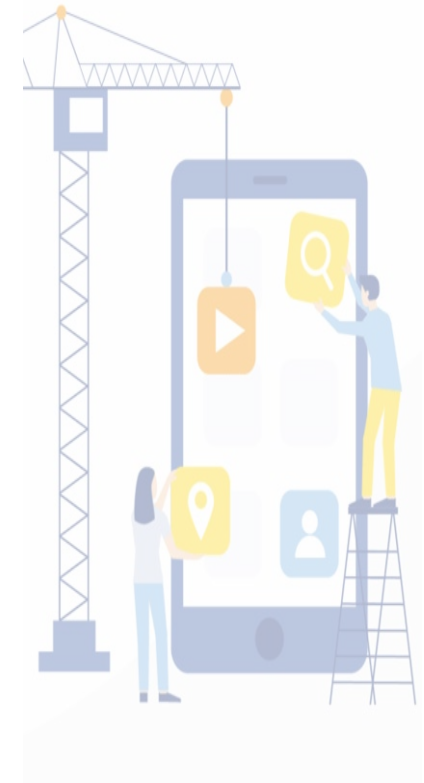
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Small Watershed Program “Implementation”

There are four primary steps:

1. Preliminary investigation feasibility study/report (PIFR).
2. Application for Watershed Planning Assistance.
3. Watershed Plan/EA or EIS Development.
4. Watershed Plan Implementation.



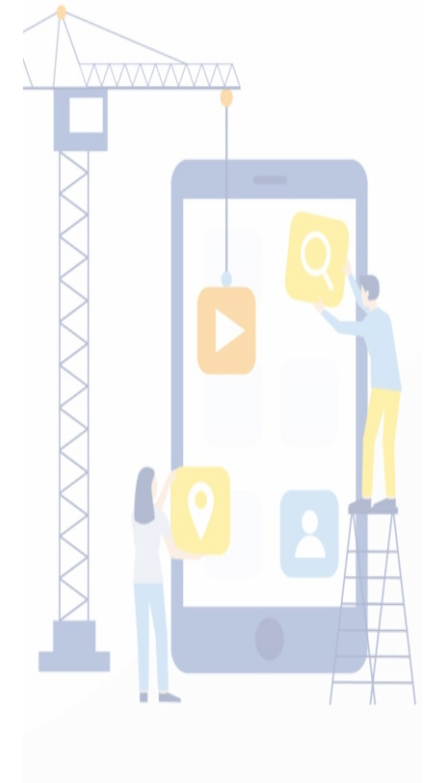
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Small Watershed Program “Implementation”

So..... How long does this process take?
6 or more years is required for full implementation.

1. Technical Feasibility Study – 6 to 9 months
2. Application for Federal Assistance – 6 months
3. Watershed Planning – 2 to 4 years
4. Watershed Plan Implementation – 3 to 8 Years



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PL-566 Small Watershed Program “Current Activities”



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Small Watershed Program “Current Activities”

Current Project Status:

1. Chelan County - PIFR funding requested
2. City of College Place, Wall Walla County - PIFR completed, watershed plan “On-Hold”
3. Gardina Farms Irrigation District (GFID), Walla Walla County - PIFR funding requested
4. East Columbia Basin Irrigation District - Watershed Plan funded and under development

Note: (PIFR) Preliminary Investigation Feasibility Report



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Small Watershed Program “Current Activities”

Current Project Status: (continued)

5. City of Brewster, Okanogan County, Flood Control –
PIFR Funded
6. Clallam County CDS – **Construction funding allocated through a Congressional Earmark.**



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Note: (PIFR) Preliminary Investigation Feasibility Report



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PL-566 Small Watershed Program “Fund Allocations”



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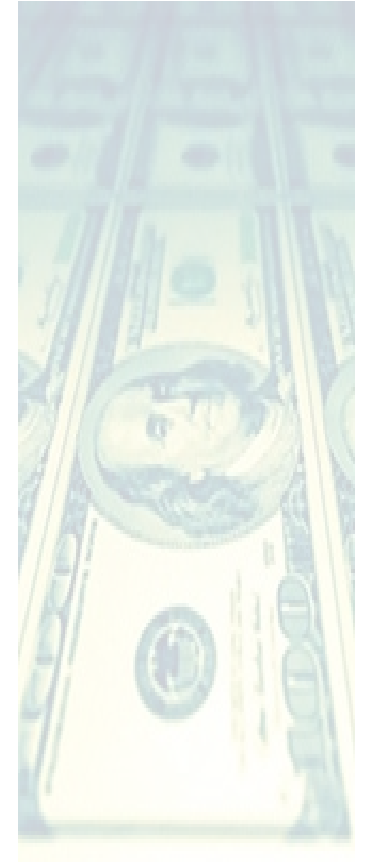
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Small Watershed Program “Fund Allocations”

2018 Farm Bill

Small Watershed Program Mandatory Funding:

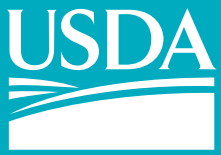
\$50 million Annually



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Small Watershed Program “Fund Allocations”

Historical Funding Mandatory Plus Discretionary:

2017 - \$150 Million

2018 - \$150 Million

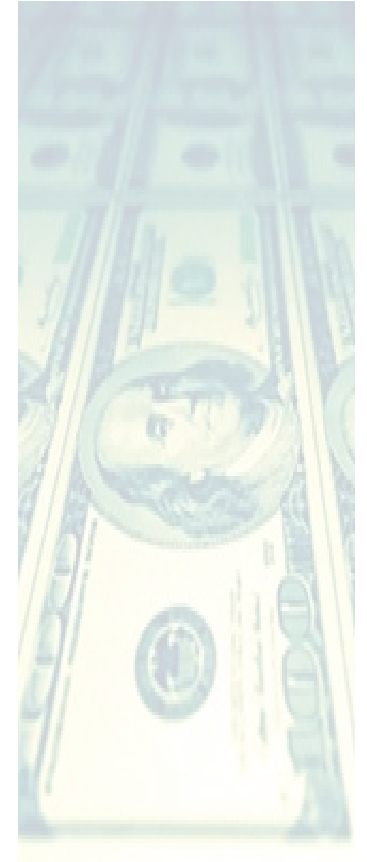
2019 - \$200 Million

2020 - \$225 Million

2021 - \$225 Million

2022 - \$150 Million + \$500 Million (IIJA)

2023 - \$125 Million



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Small Watershed Program “Fund Allocations”

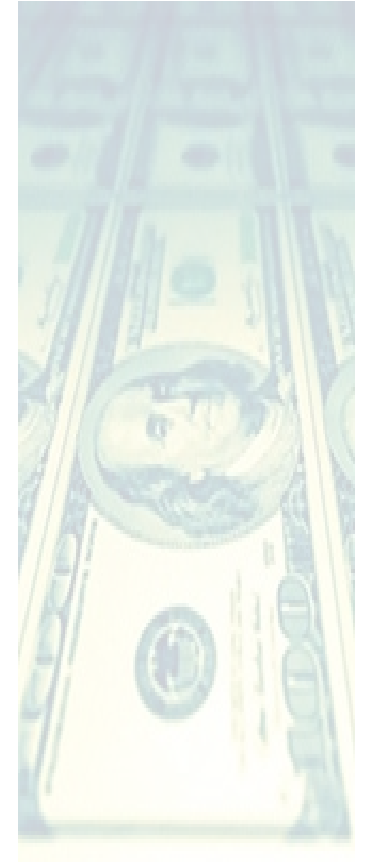
Future Funding:

FY 2024 and Beyond....

My prediction is status quo...

\$50 Million Mandatory

\$??? Discretionary



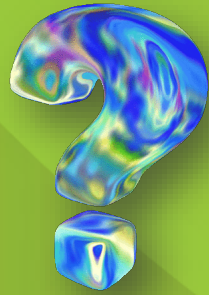
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**PL-566
Odessa Ground
Water
Replacement
Project (OGWRP)**



**Washington State
Natural Resources
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Larry Johnson, P.E.,
State Conservation Engineer

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PL-566 OGWRP

**“High Level Status
Report”**



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OGWRP - Status Report

Big Picture



Preliminary Feasibility Investigation Report (PIFR) Submitted to NRCS
PIFR funded by CBCD; submitted by ECBID - Oct. 2021



Application Submitted for Federal Assistance
Submitted by R. Comes At Night, NRCS State Conservationist - Dec. 2021



OGWRP Approved & Funded for PL-566 Watershed Planning
NRCS announces funding for OGWRP watershed planning - March 2022

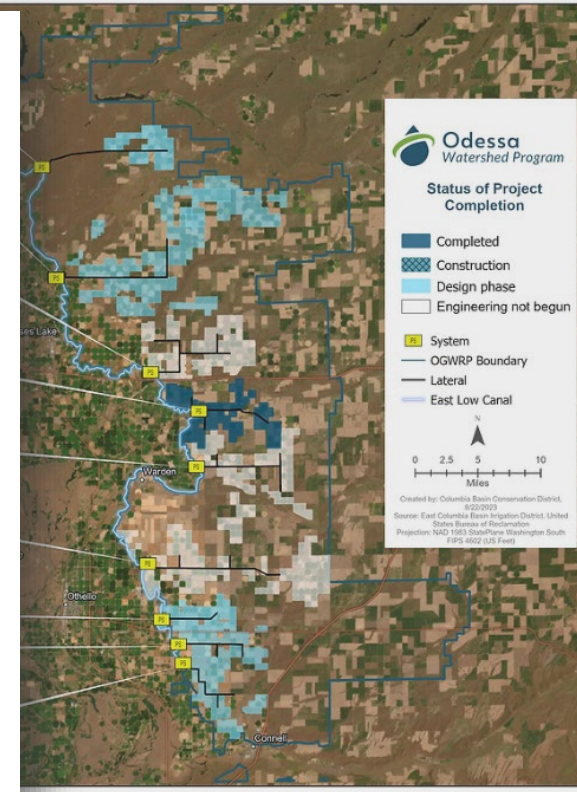


OGWRP Watershed Plan/NEPA Completed & Approved
Tentatively to be completed Fall 2025; Approval TBD



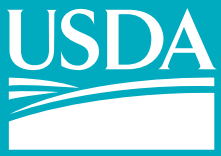
Request & Access PL-566 Funding for OGWRP Construction
Dates TBD

Odessa Groundwater Replacement Program (OGWRP)



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Watershed Planning



Preliminary Feasibility Investigation Report (PIFR) Submitted to EPA
PIFR funded by CBCD; submitted by ECBID - Oct. 2021



Application Submitted for Federal Assistance
Submitted by R. Comes At Night, NRCS State Conservationist - Dec. 2021



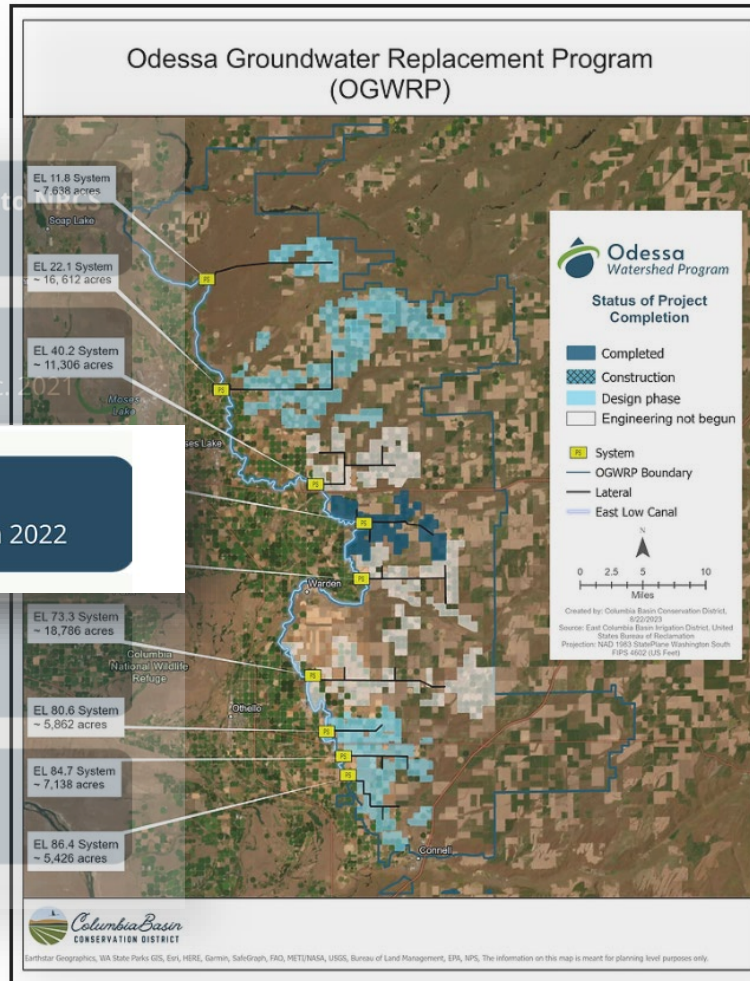
OGWRP Approved & Funded for PL-566 Watershed Planning
NRCS announces funding for OGWRP watershed planning - March 2022



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Tentatively to be completed Fall 2025; Approval TBD



Request & Access PL-566 Funding for OGWRP Construction
Dates TBD



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OGWRP – Status Report

USBR FEIS OSSS and ESA compliance

NRCS completed our review of the FEIS and have contacted USFWS, NMFS, and WDFW for new ESA listings.

- Yellow Billed Cuckoo and White Bluffs Badderpod
- Finalizing our “No Effect” determination”



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OGWRP – Status Report

Tribal Outreach

NRCS has initiated communication with key Indian Tribes regarding NRCS's adoption of the USBR FEIS OSSS OGWRP.

- Ongoing Activity



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OGWRP – Status Report

USBR FEIS OSSS Adoption

On November 1st, 2023, NRCS announced our intent to adopt the USBR FEIS.

- Comment window closes December 8th, 2023



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OGWRP - Status Report

Public Notice Announcing Public Review Period for Adoption of the Odessa Subarea Special Study Final Environmental Impact Statement and Record of Decision



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Public comments may be submitted until 30 days after the Notice of Availability is published in the Federal Register, which is estimated to be on December 8, 2023. Comments may be emailed to comments@ogwrp-programs.org, submitted online at <https://www.ogwrp-programs.org/watershed-plan>, submitted via phone at (541) 716-6085, or mailed to Farmers Conservation Alliance, 102 State Street, Hood River, OR 97031.

Public comments may be submitted until 30 days after the Notice of Availability is published in the Federal Register, which is estimated to be on December 8, 2023. Comments may be emailed to comments@ogwrp-programs.org, submitted online at <https://www.ogwrp-programs.org/watershed-plan>, submitted via phone at (541) 716-6085, or mailed to Farmers Conservation Alliance, 102 State Street, Hood River, OR 97031.

Additional information is available online at <https://www.ogwrp-programs.org/watershed-plan> or the NRCS Washington <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/conservation-basics/conservation-by-state/washington/nrcs-washington-public-notice>.

Encontrará más información en la página web <https://www.ogwrp-programs.org/watershed-plan> o en la página web de avisos públicos del NRCS de Washington en <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/conservation-basics/conservation-by-state/washington/nrcs-washington-public-notice>.

AskUSDA

One central entry point for you to access information and help from USDA

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1-833-ONE-USA

askusda@usda.gov

ASK A QUESTION



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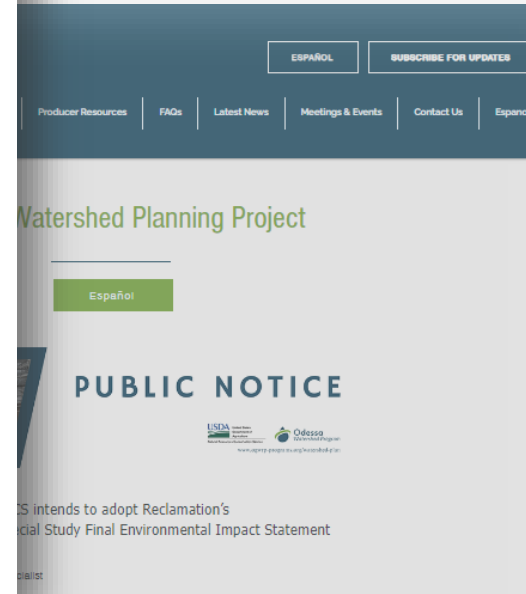
PUBLIC NOTICE



www.ogwrp-programs.org/watershed-plan

NRCS intends to adopt Reclamation's
Odessa Subarea Special Study Final Environmental Impact Statement

Contact: Jules Riley, NRCS
Water Resources Planning Specialist
Email: Jules.Riley@usda.gov
Phone: (509) 323-2941



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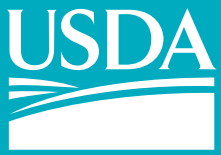
Phone: (509) 323-2941

SPOKANE VALLEY, Wash. – (November 1, 2023) – The Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is adopting the Bureau of Reclamation's (Reclamation) 2012 Odessa Subarea Special Study Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) produced in cooperation with the Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology).

With the NRCS adoption of the FEIS and issuance of a Record of Decision (ROD) that concurs with Reclamation's selected alternative, East Columbia Basin Irrigation District (ECBID) — in partnership with Reclamation, Ecology, and NRCS — will streamline the development of a Watershed Plan under the Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Program authorized by Public Law 93-588 by utilizing the FEIS environmental compliance document already produced. With an Authorized Watershed Plan, ECBID will be eligible to pursue NRCS federal funding to support the phased implementation of the Odessa Groundwater Replacement Program.

Located in Central Washington, ECBID is the largest irrigation district in the state, with authorization to irrigate 472,000 acres. Currently, 189,000 acres are developed and managed by 4,500 landowners within the federal Columbia Basin Project (CBP). The FEIS analyzed the potential to replace groundwater irrigation on up to 102,800 acres of land in the Odessa Subarea with surface water from the CBP.

The Odessa Subarea aquifer is experiencing significant declines in groundwater levels. Domestic, commercial, municipal, and industrial uses, as well as water quality, are also affected. Many of the



OGWRP - Status Report

Project Documents

[Click here for more information about the Odessa Subarea Special Study.](#)

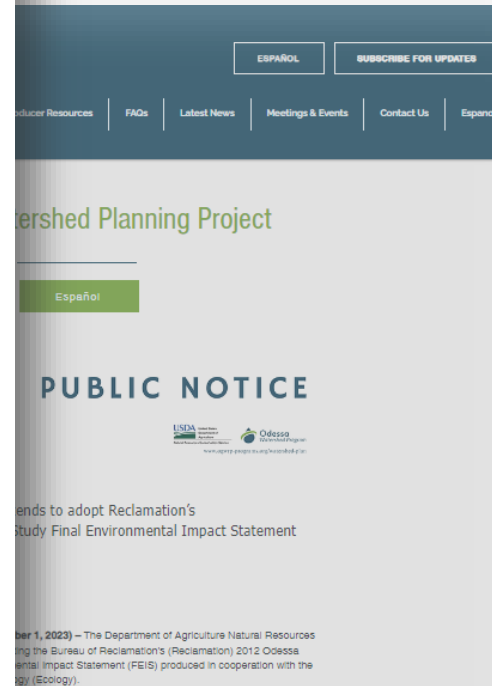
↓ Notice of Intent to Adopt Final EIS (Nov. 2023)

↓ Public Notice - FEIS Adoption (Nov. 2023)

↓ NOI - Map of Project Area

↓ Odessa Subarea - Final EIS

↓ Odessa Subarea - Amended ROD (2013)



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Next Steps

1. Finalize the adoption of the USBR OSSS FEIS
 - Issue the ROD
2. Initiate the Watershed Planning Process



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OGWRP – Status Report

Watershed Planning Schedule

- Tribal Collaboration – Ongoing
- Public Scoping Meeting – March 2023
- Preliminary Draft Watershed Plan – December 2024
- Draft Watershed Plan – March 2025
- Finalize Watershed Plan - April 2025

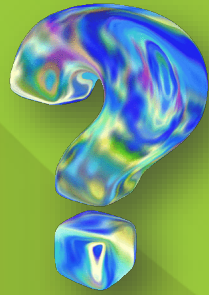


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