



# Eastern Region Water Quality Staffing

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SRRTTF Presentation 9/28/2022



# Ecology's vision and mission

## Our Mission

To protect, preserve, and enhance Washington's environment for current and future generations.

## Our Vision

Our innovative partnerships protect and sustain healthy land, air, and water in harmony with a strong economy.





# Ecology's strategic priorities



Support and engage our communities, customers, and employees



Reduce and prepare for climate impacts



Prevent and reduce toxic threats and pollution



Protect and manage our state's waters



Protect and restore Puget Sound

# Ecology Regions





## Columbia River Watershed

258,000 square miles

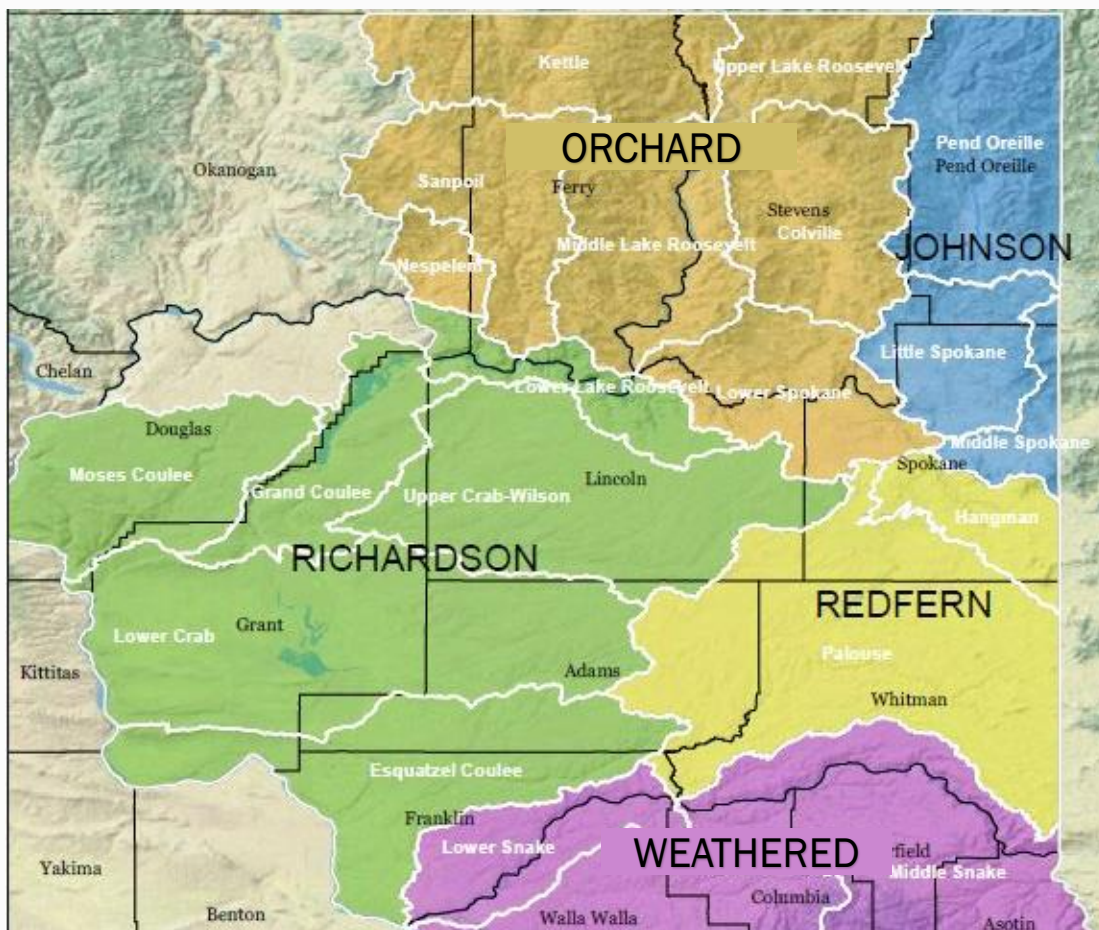
- 2 countries
- 5 states (MT, WY, ID, OR, WA)
- 2 provinces

### Major tributaries in ERO

- Kettle River (CA, WA, CA, WA)
- Pend Oreille River (MT, ID, WA, CA)
- Spokane River (ID, WA)
- Snake River (WY, NV, ID, OR, WA)



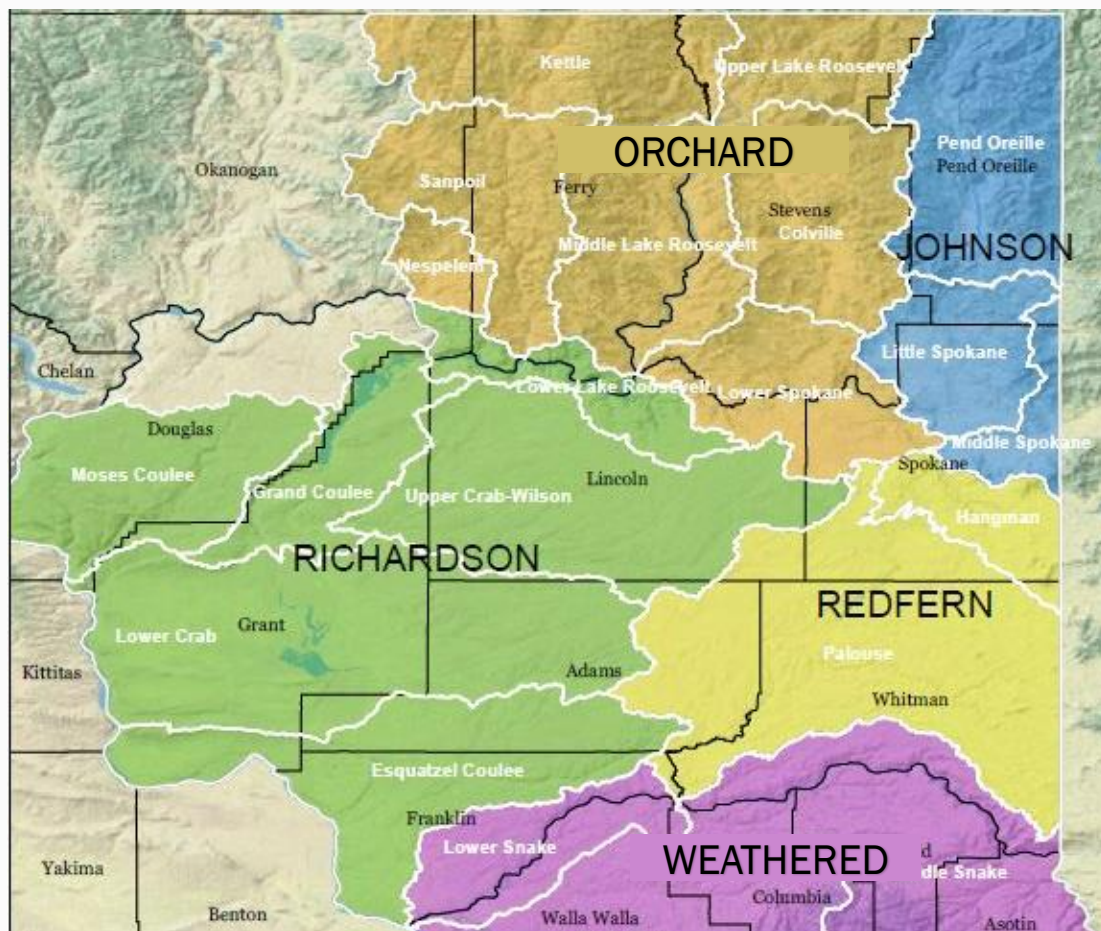
# Watershed Unit



## Watershed Unit Key Duties

- TMDL Development
- TMDL Implementation
- Straight to Implementation
- Effectiveness Monitoring
- Hydropower/FERC/401 certification
- Nonpoint project grants
- Technical Assistance
- Nonpoint and general permit enforcement
- Forestry
- General permit coverages (230+)
  - Construction SW
  - Municipal SW
  - Industrial SW
  - Winery
  - Sand and Gravel
  - Boatyard
  - Fin Fish Hatchery
  - Combined Animal Feeding Operations
  - Aquatic pesticide

# 5 Major Watershed Regions



Staffing (11 positions + 1 new)

5 Watershed Implementation Leads

1 Hydropower/fin fish specialist

3 General Permit managers

Suman Paudel – Industrial SW and Urban Waters

1 Forestry specialist

1 Stormwater grant manager  
(vacant)

1 Watershed Implementation Lead  
– Spokane River (new)

# Individual Permits

- National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permits (discharge to water)
  - Municipal
  - Industrial
- State Waste Discharge Permits (discharge to land)
  - Municipal
  - Industrial
- Various subsets
  - Pretreatment
  - Reclaimed water
  - Industrial reuse



# Permit Duties

Approximately 150 individual permits

- Write permit (6 months – 1.5 years: **Spokane Permits = 7 years**)
- Manage permit compliance (DMRs, submittals, etc.)
- Review engineering and facility planning documents
- Assist with financial aid
- Provide operator and technical assistance
- Conduct Inspections
- Issue permit modifications and Administrative Orders
- Enforcement

# Permit Writing Capacity

Approximately 150 individual permits: 8 FTE “permit writers”

5 Spokane River Permits: 1-2 FTE for past 7 years

Permit Unit Staffing: Team approach

- Average >18 permits/FTE
- Capacity: 10 permits/FTE
- Permit staff have specialty duties

# Permit Unit

- Staffing (12 + 1 new)
  - 5 engineers (**1 on family leave**)
  - 1 land treatment specialist
  - 1 hydrogeologist
  - 1 statewide enforcement specialist
  - 1 statewide technical assistance/roving operator
  - 1 financial, grants and loans specialist (**vacant**)
  - 1 permit specialist or engineer (**vacant**)
  - 1 permit specialist or engineer (**new-focus on municipal permits**)



# Manager's Reports

- 1 Section Administrative Support
- 1 Eastern Washington Watershed Planner (Annie Simpson)
  - Duties
    - Regional planner (focus on Spokane, Walla Walla, Pend Oreille)
    - Develops high level strategies, programs, and permitting tools
    - Coordinates and communicates with Tribes, governments, and stakeholder groups (**PCB and DO TMDLs in Spokane River**)
    - Section business planning (coordinates between watershed and permit units)
    - Public involvement and outreach (web page, E-Z view, meeting facilitation)

# Questions and Answers

- When will Ecology start working on the SRRTTF transition to an Ecology advisory group?
  - Training period – “meet and greets”
  - Report back in October with schedule and path forward
- What is happening with the DO TMDL?
  - Data collection for 10 year assessment wrapping up
  - Annual meeting in January
  - Write the “Biennial Report” in 2023



Thank you