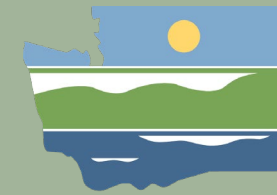


# Auvil Fruit Company

## Water Conservation and Water Banking Project



Photo Credit: Auvil Fruit Company, Inc.



DEPARTMENT OF  
**ECOLOGY**  
State of Washington

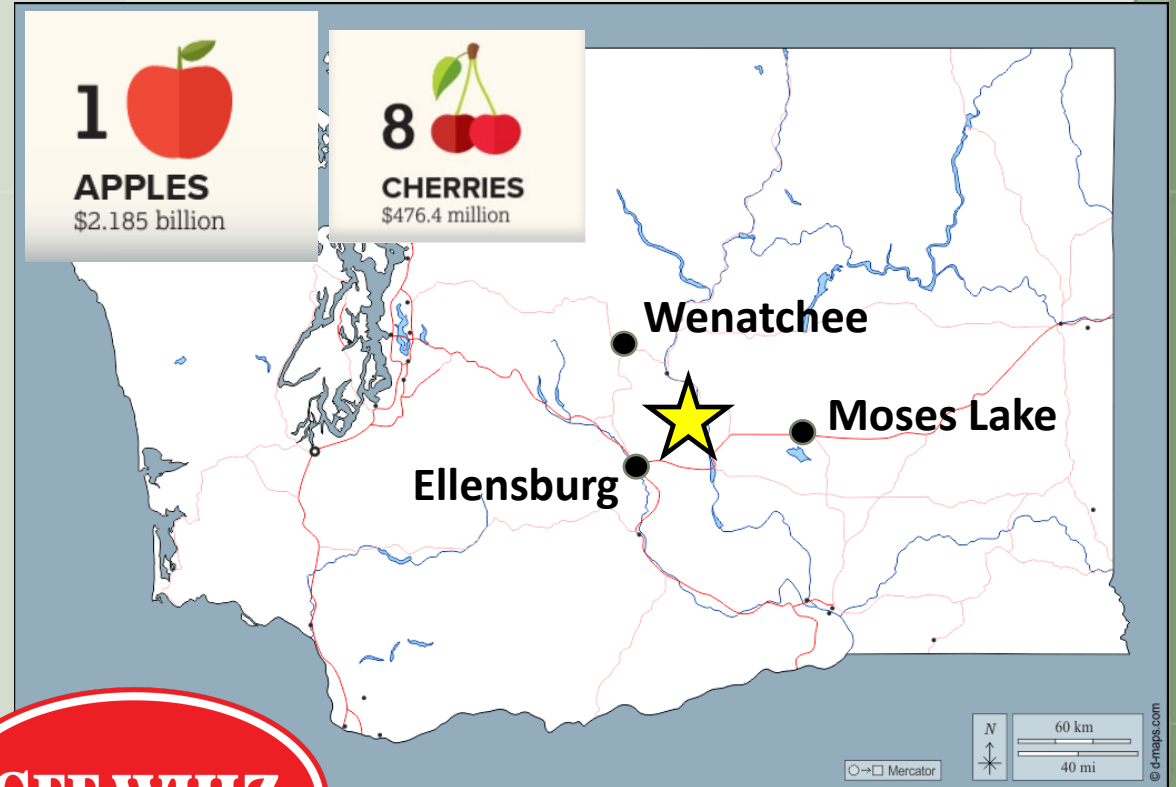
### Office of Columbia River

Presented by:

Heather Hazlett,  
Trust Water Coordinator

# Auvil Fruit Company

- Producing commercial tree fruit since 1928
- Premium **apples** and **cherries**
- Sold in U.S. and several other countries
- Major segment of economy





# Auvil's Proposal: Joint Study of Conserved Water

- 2006-2017 Irrigation efficiency improvements
- OCR and Aspect Consulting study how much water saved
- Conserved water to mitigate for new uses



Photo Credit: Auvil Fruit Company, Inc.



# 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.



# OCR's Mission



To "aggressively pursue"  
water solutions that meet:



**Out-of-Stream Needs:**  
Families, Industry, Farms

- AND -

**Instream Needs:**  
Fish, Ecosystems,  
Recreation

(RCW 90.90.005)

# Legislative Directives to OCR:

- ✓ Develop new supply for municipal domestic, industrial, and irrigation uses
- ✓ Put water instream when needed most
- ✓ Enhance supply for existing rights curtailed in droughts





# OCR's Site Visit



Photo Credits: Aspect Consulting and Auvil Fruit Co., Inc.

# The Efficiency Improvements

Drip System and  
Soil Moisture Monitors



Shade Cloth Coverage



Photo Credit:  
Aspect  
Consulting

Removing Thirsty Poplar Trees

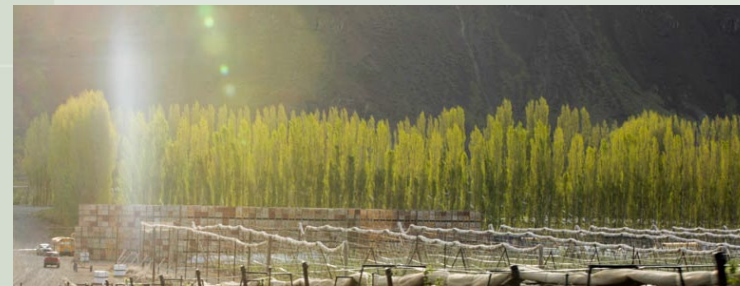


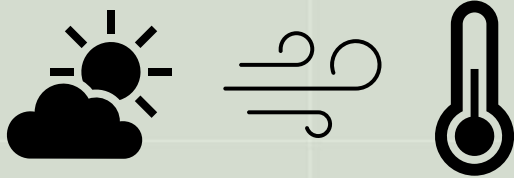
Photo Credit:  
Auvil Fruit Co.



# Co-Funded Study

## Two weather stations:

- 1 Under shade cloth
- 2 In the open orchard



# Effect of Shade Cloth Coverage

Decrease in Evapotranspiration (ET) due to:

↑ 34% Relative humidity

↓ 55% Wind speed

↑ Soil moisture stability

↓ 3% Cooler air temp



Photo Credit: Aspect Consulting



# Water demand reduced ~ 50%!

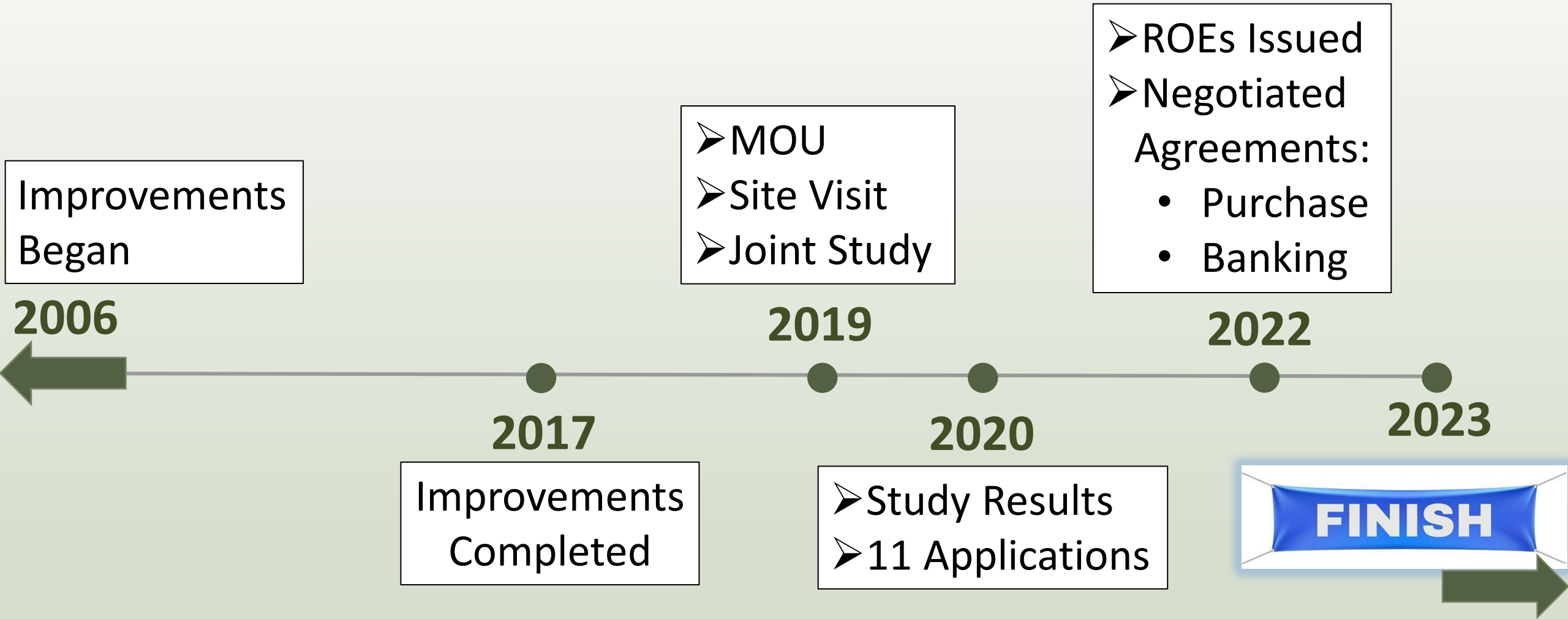


DEPARTMENT OF  
**ECOLOGY**  
State of Washington

Photo Credit: Aspect Consulting



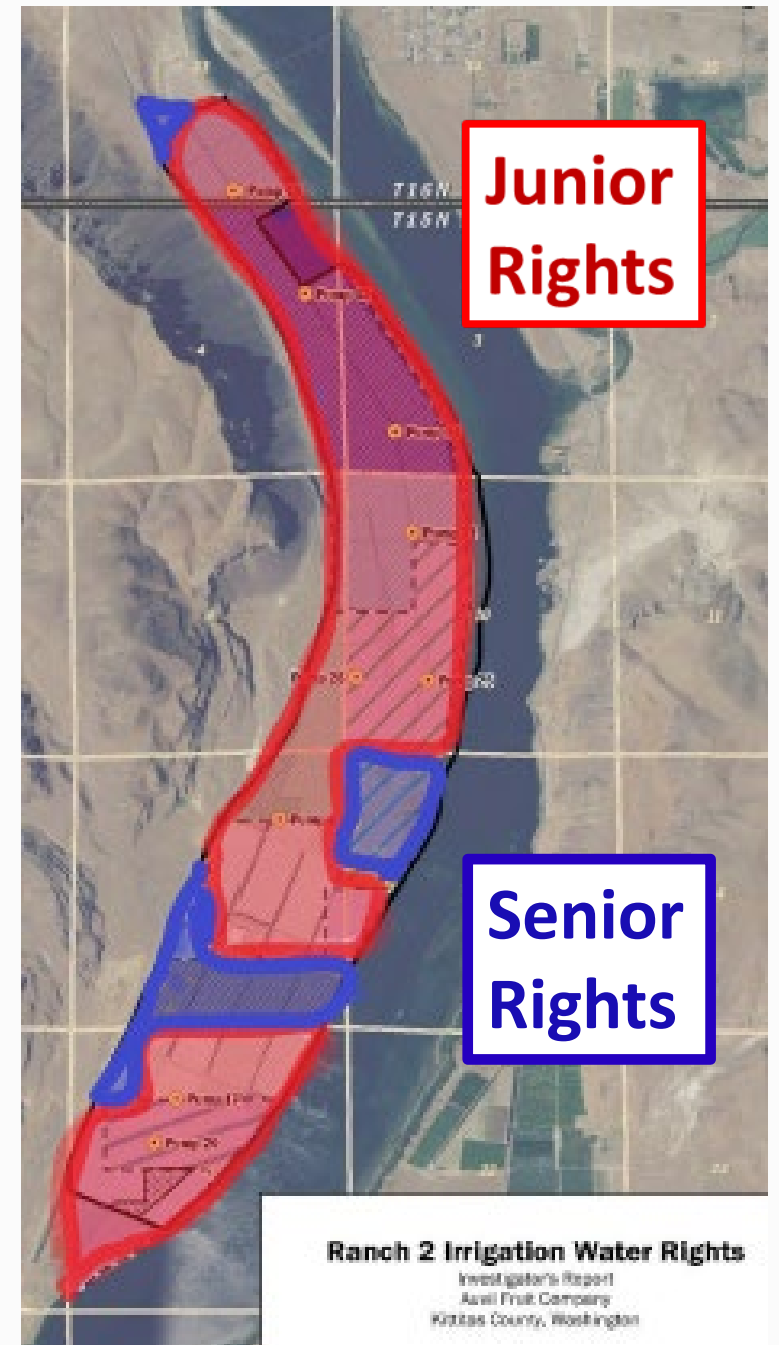
# Timeline





# Water Right Problems

The interruptible (junior) portion of the water rights puts certain areas of Auvil's orchards at high risk during drought



# Auvil's 10 Water Rights



Auvil's New  
Irrigation Permit  
46%

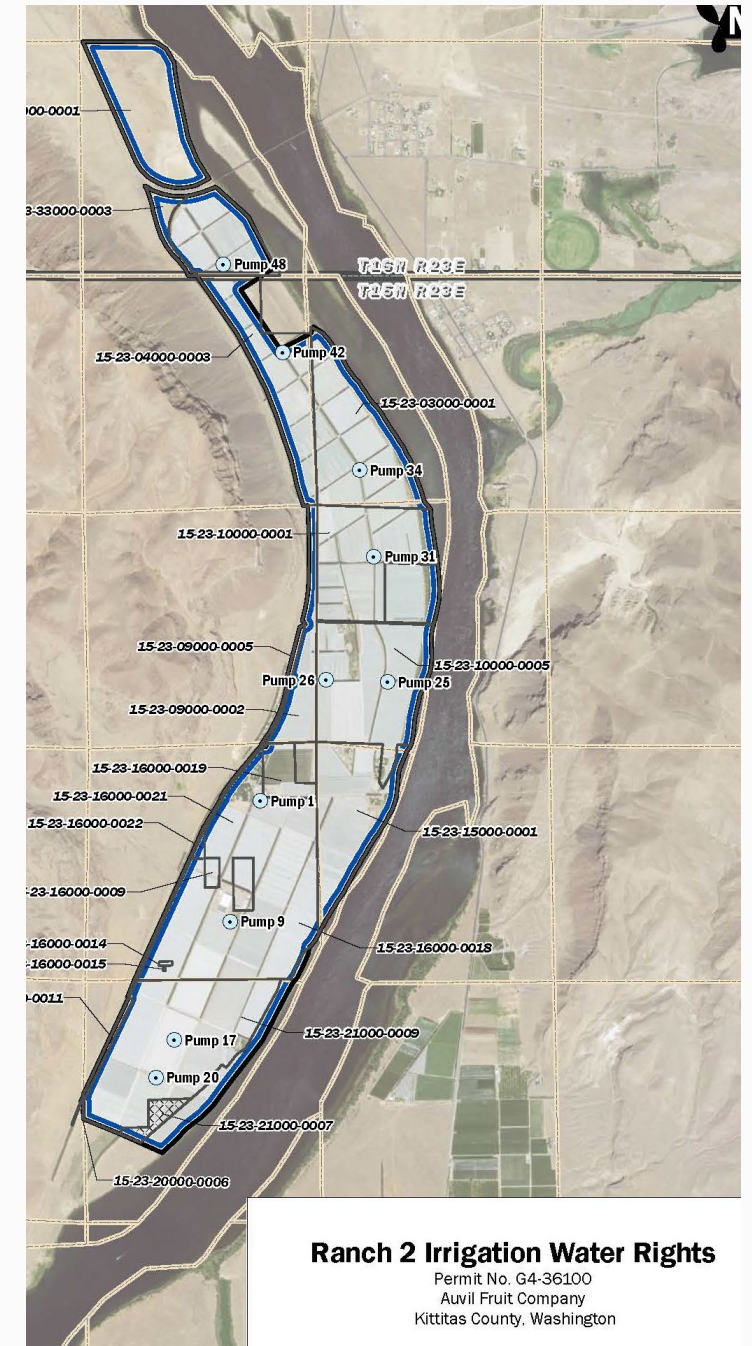
Auvil  
Water Bank  
36%

OCR  
Water Bank  
18%



# Improving Drought Resilience

- Blend senior and junior rights evenly over the entire place of use
- To reduce risk of tree damage and loss



# Negotiations

- ✓ **Purchase and Sale Agreement**
  - Quit Claim Deed to Trust
  - Permit for Orchard Irrigation
- ✓ **Water Banking Agreement**
  - Mitigation Allotment Form
  - Trust Water Certificates





# Tracking Future Compliance

- Compliance meetings with Ecology by April 1 of 2024 and 2025
- Report to Ecology annually:
  - Water use quantities;
  - Water bank accounting required by RCW 90.42.170; and
  - Proof of continuing compliance with Change ROE provisions



# Water Master Oversight

- Ecology is responsible for compliance and enforcement of Washington's water laws
- Particular emphasis in basins where Ecology has spent funds
- OCR's dedicated Water Master monitors areas where OCR has made investments



# Quantities in OCR's Water Bank



Highest  
Value

## Consumptive Water Rights:

1,164.6 ac-ft  
\$1,000 per acre-foot

81%

## Non-Consumptive Water Rights:

266.5 ac-ft  
\$100 per acre-foot

19%

# Closing the Deal

- Pay Purchase Price
- Sign Banking Agreement
- Deed Rights to Trust
- 21 Trust Certificates
- New Irrigation Permit and Certificate



**May 26, 2023**





# Thank you

Heather Hazlett

Trust Water Coordinator  
Office of Columbia River

Phone: 509-379-1986

[heather.hazlett@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:heather.hazlett@ecy.wa.gov)