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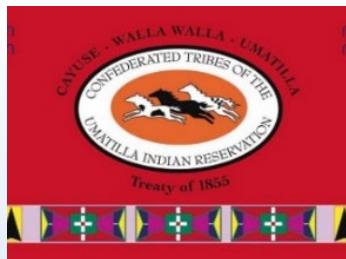
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Update on Integrated Water Resource
Planning in the Walla Walla Basin

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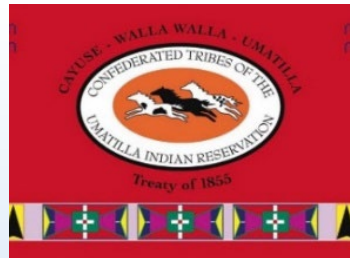


Anton Chiono

Habitat Conservation Project Leader (CTUIR)



Overview



- History of the Walla Walla Basin
- Brief Retrospective of Water Planning
- Developing a 30-year Water Vision
- Tri-Sovereign's Role
- Walla Walla Basin Advisory Committee
- Update on Implementation
- Looking Ahead

History of the Walla Walla Basin

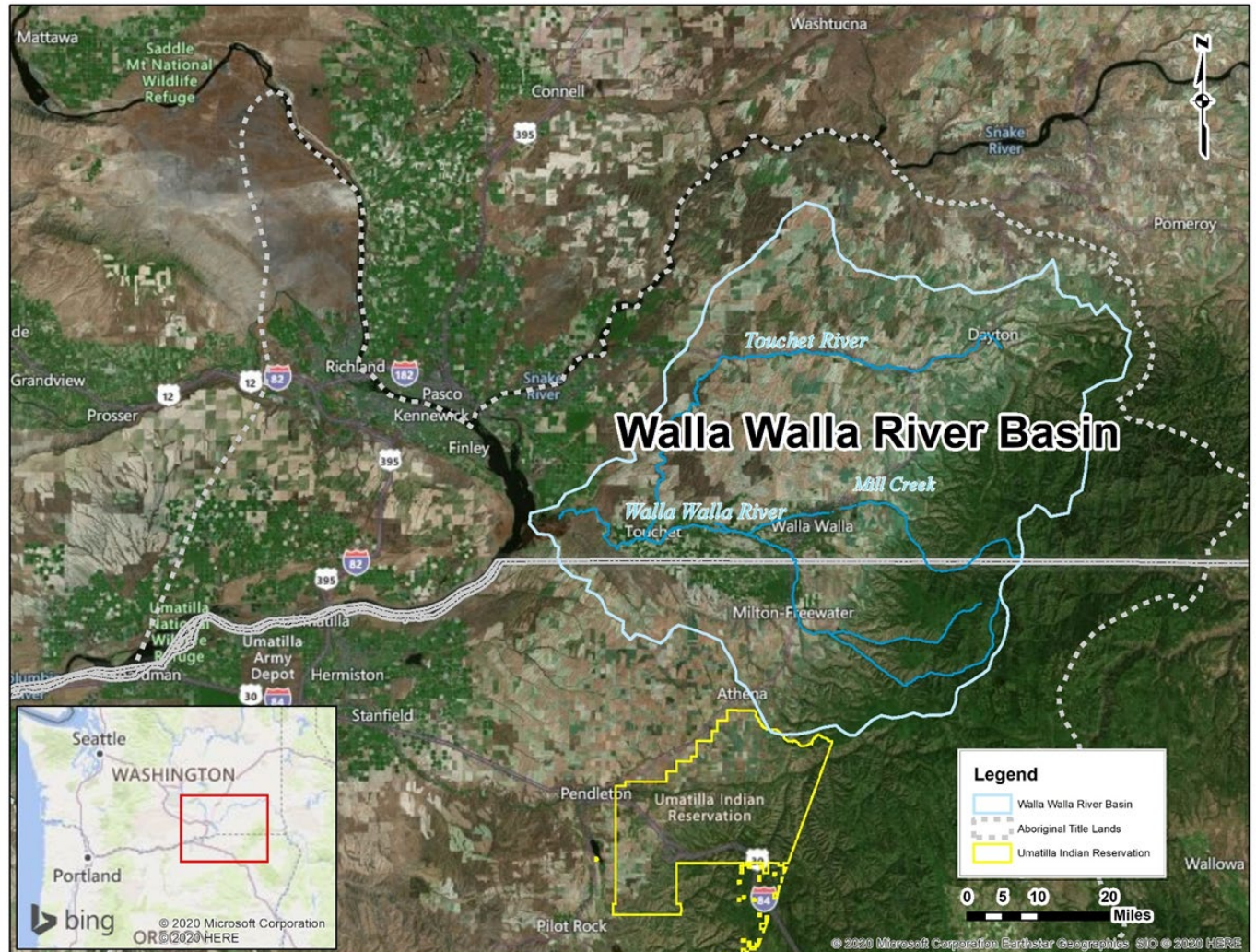
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State of Washington



History of the Walla Walla Basin



Walla Walla River mainstem in July.

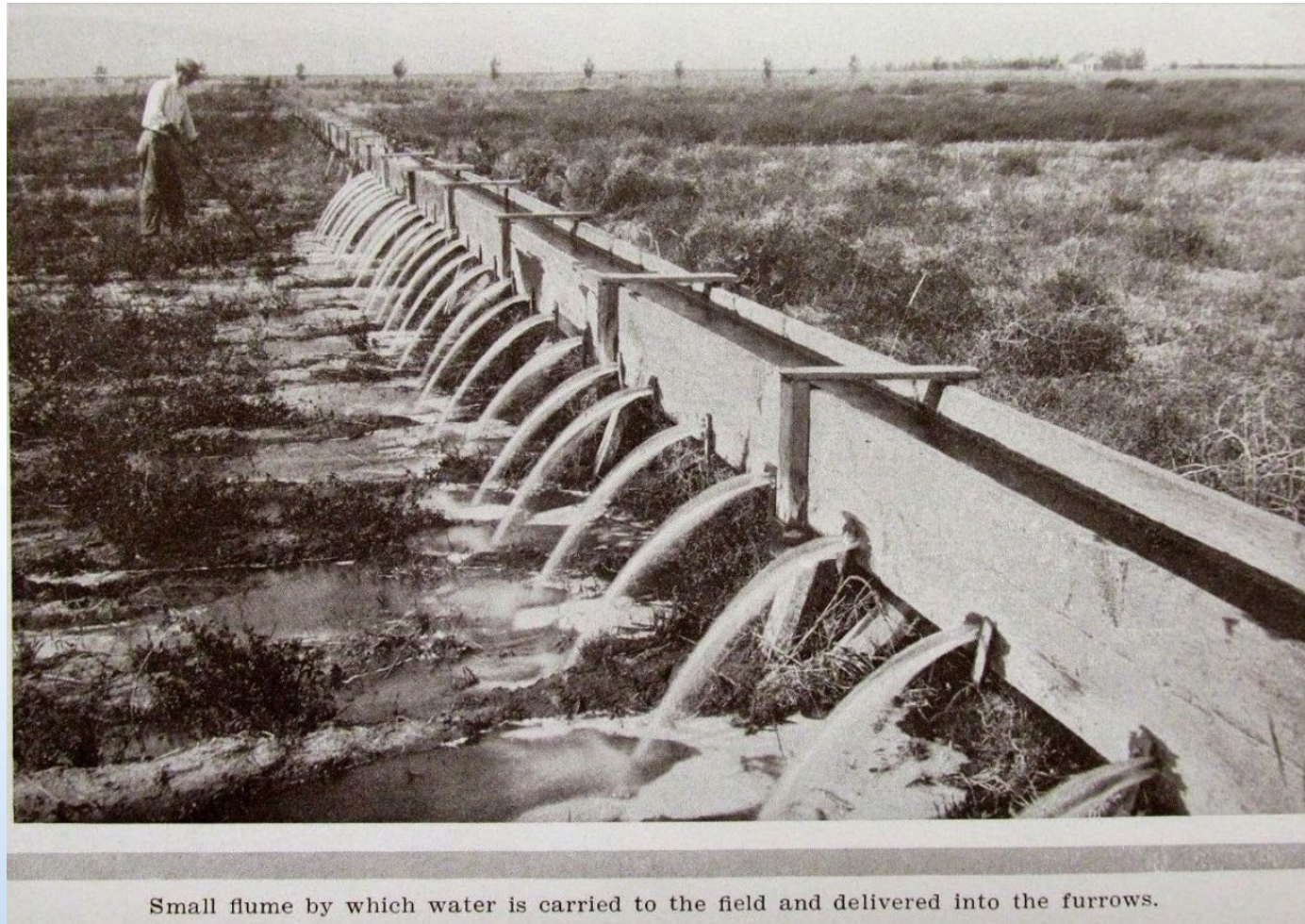
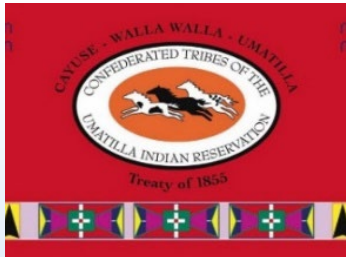
- Homeland of the Umatilla, Cayuse, and Walla Walla Tribes;
- Treaty signed on banks of Mill Creek in 1855;
- Treaty (Article I) reserved Tribes' right to take fish at all ***“usual and accustomed stations”***;
- Since time immemorial, salmon of critical importance to the culture and subsistence of the Tribes;
- By early 1900s, Chinook salmon driven to extinction in the Walla Walla as a result of irrigation diversions.

Brief Retrospective of Water Planning in the Basin

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Small flume by which water is carried to the field and delivered into the furrows.

Retrospective of Water Planning



- **USACE Feasibility Study (2002 - 2014)**
 - Studied water alternatives to address supply needs;
 - Unsuccessful due to a lack of state engagement and the inability to protect flows across state line
- **Walla Walla Watershed Management Partnership (2008 - 2020)**
 - Studied water alternatives to address supply needs;
 - Unsuccessful due to a lack of state engagement and the inability to protect flows across state line
- **Walla Walla Water 2050 Plan (2020 -)**
 - Studied water alternatives to address supply needs;
 - Succeeds due to state engagement and the ability to protect flows across state line

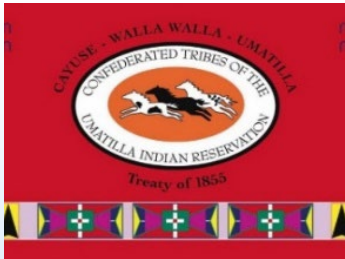


Developing a 30-year Water Vision: WWW 2050

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Developing a 30-year Water Vision: WWW 2050



- 30-year effort to improve streamflow and water supplies in the Walla Walla watershed
- Employs an integrated water resource management approach
- Integrates goals and solutions from the basin's diverse stakeholders in both Washington and Oregon



Developing a 30-year Water Vision: WWW 2050

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WALLA WALLA WATER 2050

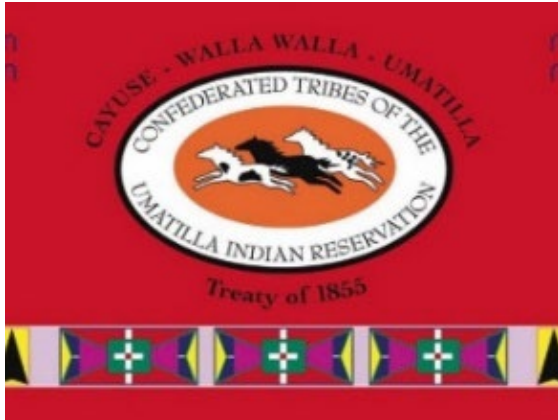
STRATEGIC PLAN

JUNE 30, 2021

Ecology Publication Number: 21-12-011



Goals for the Basin – Tri Sovereign Perspective



Eric Quaempts
Director, Natural Resources

Executive Leadership

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Doug Woodcock
Acting Director



Brook Beeler
Director, Eastern Region

Tom Tebb
Director, OCR

Goals for the Basin – Tri Sovereign Perspective

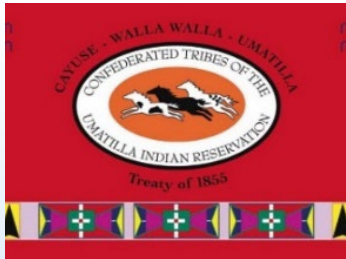


- Long-term commitment to Walla Walla Basin watershed health
- Retain quality of “The Land of Many Waters”
- Achieve meaningful fish recovery
- Balance public water resources and public funding for both instream and out-of-stream needs
- Manage surface water & groundwater conjunctively and consistently across the bi-state Walla Walla Basin
- Plan for climate change and water reliability now and for future basin inhabitants

Tri-Sovereigns Role



- Make decisions on issues/recommendations provided by advisory committee
- Coordinate with CTUIR Board of Trustees and/or Governors' Offices
- Develop Bi-state water management options
- Provide guidance to their technical staff

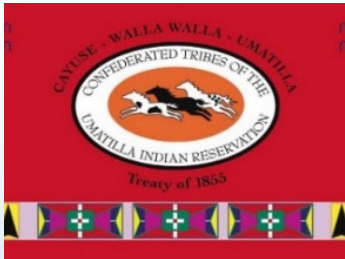


Walla Walla Basin Advisory Committee

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Walla Walla Basin Advisory Committee

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- Led by the states of WA and OR, and the CTUIR, with participation by local government, agriculture and environmental representatives.
- Advisory Committee & working groups comprised of diverse representation
- Consensus based governance
- Work to build partnerships & connections
- Provides policy and project development advice to implement the strategic plan

Walla Walla Basin Advisory Committee



Update on Plan Implementation and other Priorities

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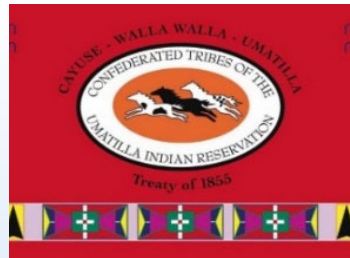


Update on Plan Implementation and other Priorities

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- Legislation in 2023
 - Washington 2nd Substitute HB 1322

SECOND SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1322

Passed Legislature - 2023 Regular Session

State of Washington 68th Legislature 2023 Regular Session

By House Capital Budget (originally sponsored by Representatives Rude, Chapman, Klicker, Lekanoff, and Reeves; by request of Department of Ecology)

READ FIRST TIME 02/22/23.

1 AN ACT Relating to the Walla Walla water 2050 plan; amending RCW
2 90.90.020; and adding a new section to chapter 90.90 RCW.

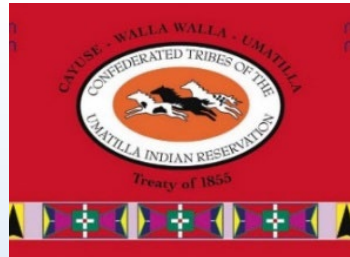
3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

Update on Plan Implementation and other Priorities

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- Legislation in 2024
 - Oregon SB 1567

82nd OREGON LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY--2024 Regular Session

Senate Bill 1567

Sponsored by Senators HANSELL, MANNING JR, Representatives LEVY B, HELM, SMITH G; Senators FINDLEY, WAGNER, Representatives ANDERSEN, CONRAD, GAMBA, HARTMAN, MCINTIRE, OWENS, WRIGHT (Presession filed.)

SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure **as introduced**. The statement includes a measure digest written in compliance with applicable readability standards.

Digest: The Act tells an agency to take actions on water in the Walla Walla River Basin. (Flesch Readability Score: 63.6).

Directs the Water Resources Department to take certain actions related to the Walla Walla Water 2050 Strategic Plan.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

1

2 Relating to the Walla Walla River Basin.

3 **Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:**

4 **SECTION 1. (1) Consistent with all other Oregon laws, the Water Resources Department**

5 **shall collaborate with the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation and the**

6 **State of Washington to implement and guide cooperative, bi-state water management in the**

Update on Plan Implementation and other Priorities

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- Bi-state water management framework – legal options analysis
 - Required to develop under HB 1322 (WA) and SB 1567 (OR)
 - WA Legislative report currently being drafted
- USGS Groundwater Basin Study
 - Data collection nearly complete
 - Final report scheduled to be published in late 2025/early 2026

Update on Plan Implementation and other Priorities

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- Bi-State Flow Study
 - Evaluating water supply projects
 - Primary focus on restoring flow in the Walla Walla River
 - Anchor project selection in 2024
- US Bureau of Reclamation Basin Study
 - Calculate basin surface water supply and demand
 - Development of a Riverware model
 - Evaluate water supply projects to ensure goals are met

Update on Plan Implementation and other Priorities

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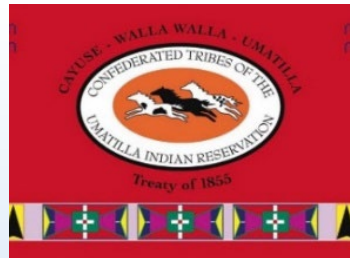


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- Public Engagement
 - USGS Groundwater Study Workshops
 - 2 held in 2023
 - 2 planned for 2024
 - Walla Walla Basin Strategy Open Houses
 - 2 held in 2023
 - 2 planned for 2024
 - Outreach and engagement with local implementors
 - Continued coordination with water user sectors

Future Action



- Continued focus on plan implementation
- Develop legislative reports
- Implementation of HB 1322
- Refine water needs for the Bi-State Flow Study selected alternative
- Continue outreach in partnership with basin partners
- Update the WRC on the Department's progress

Thank you!

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Questions or Feedback?

