

# Water Use and Supply Planning in Whatcom County



# There is Enough

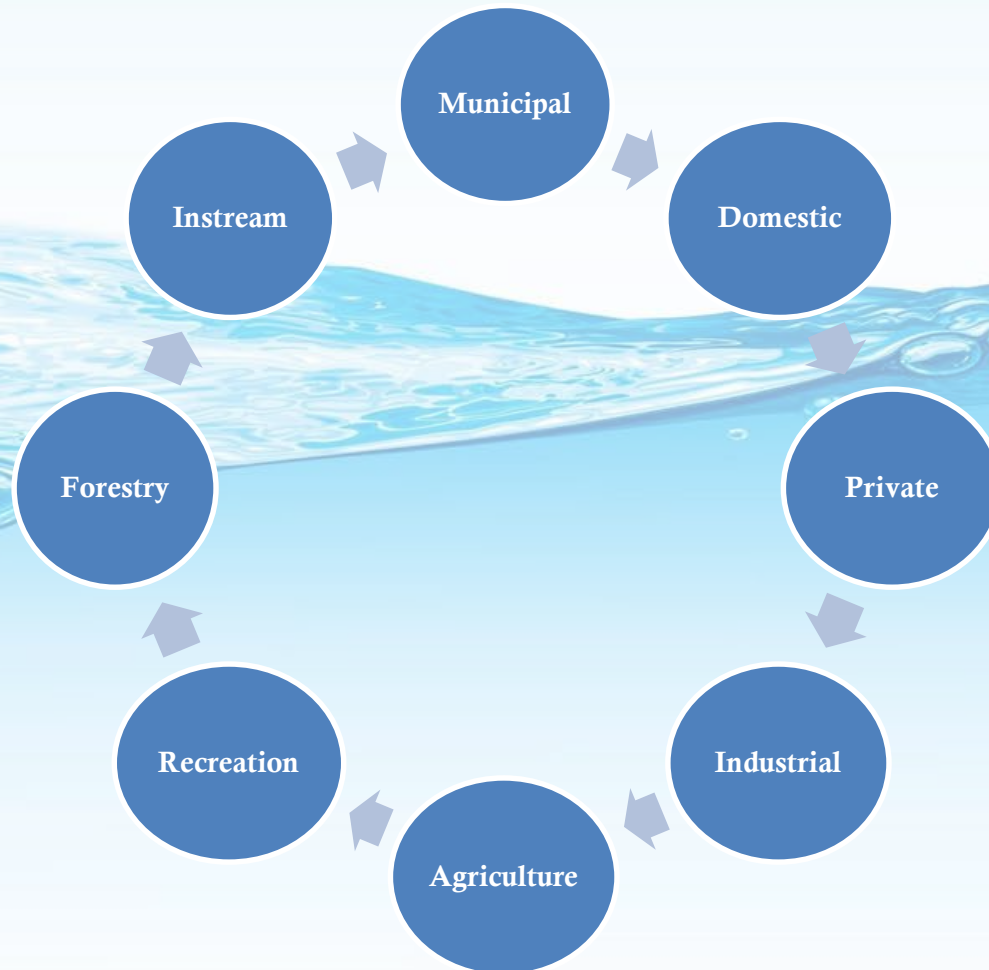
It's all about



**WHEN AND WHERE**

# Regional Water Supply Plan

## Instream and Out-of-Stream



# Working Together to Figure It Out



- To provide a comprehensive description of water supply sources in Whatcom County, both in terms of quantity and quality.
- To provide a comprehensive description of water supply needs in Whatcom County, both in terms of quantity and type.
- To provide a county-wide snapshot of the water supply sources ability to meet existing and future water supply needs.
- To identify areas where water supply sources may be insufficient now or in the future to meet the needs.
- To identify alternative water supply sources to meet existing and future needs.
- To bring together willing partners for regional water supply solutions.

# Goals: 2016 – 2018

1. Understand and identify out-of-stream water quantity deficiencies.
2. Provide water supply information for connecting water availability to land use in the *Whatcom Comprehensive Land Use Plan* and other long-term plans.
3. Develop, evaluate, consider and support projects or processes that serve two purposes: Provide incremental solutions to demonstrate progress, *and* address long-term water supply security.

# Goals: 2016 – 2018

4. Provide water use information to the public, advisory groups, elected officials/decision-makers, tribes, and other relevant groups.
5. Understand water quality deficiencies in the context of informing water supply solutions.
6. Identify where legislative action is necessary to implement water supply solutions and develop strategies to achieve those actions.



# Critical Works In Progress

## Coordinated Water Supply Plan

- Whatcom County
- WWUC

## Public Water Systems

- Existing Demand
- Existing Supply
- Future Demand
- Surplus or Deficit  
(water rights/system capacity)

# Ag Use (Irrigation) and Stream Flow Analysis

- Existing Use
- Existing Water Rights
- Supply Surplus/Deficit
- Stream Flow Analysis
- Tools to Consider
  - Water Exchange



# Water Systems Support Program



- Over 250 Water Systems
- Domestic and Agriculture Use
- Support Needed

*The PUD will develop a local program to help Whatcom County water systems increase their TMF capacity to successfully run as sustainable utilities into the future.*

*Capacity technical assistance efforts will focus on increasing small systems' ability to plan for and operate financially viable water systems.*

# Drought Contingency Plan

PUBLIC UTILITY  
DISTRICT No. 1  
— of Whatcom County

RECLAMATION  
*Managing Water in the West*

1. Drought Monitoring
2. Vulnerability Assessment
3. Mitigation Actions
4. Response Actions
5. Operational and Administrative Framework



# North County Regional Source (Deep Aquifer) Feasibility Study

## *Birch Bay Water & Sewer District/City of Blaine*

- Joint Investigation on Project to Enhance Flows.
- Deep Aquifer Source/Northwest County Area.
- New Source of Supply.
- Potential Regional Benefits
  - Support development of water banks and/or mitigation exchanges.
  - Augment existing flows in the lower Nooksack Basin and possibly reduce diversions from the lower Nooksack River around Ferndale.
  - Provide new supply to municipalities with water rights problems or public health risks.
  - Promote system consolidation.
  - Enhance drought protection through delivery from deep groundwater sources relatively unaffected by fluctuations in snowpack conditions.

# Infrastructure Analysis

## *Lummi Nation/Department of Interior*

- Identify water systems/projects that will supply water for out-of-stream and instream uses to improve salmon and shellfish habitat and resilience to climate change in portions of Water Resource Area 1 (WRIA 1).
- The goal of the project is to evaluate instream and out-of-stream water supply and needs for the Nooksack River watershed including Lake Whatcom and development of water supply systems/projects that utilize supply sources to meet the identified needs.
- The Lummi Nation intends to use the results of this project as it develops its settlement package for ongoing efforts to resolve a number of treaty-related issues in WRIA 1 and meet instream and out-of-stream needs for all uses: Municipal, agriculture and industrial.



# Water Supply – Land Use


- **Next Steps**

**Complete Water Supply Planning Work(s) and align Water Supply Plan – sources, uses, infrastructure improvements to:**

- **Cities and County Comprehensive Plans**
- **Tribal Settlement – Instream Needs**
- **Water Systems Development**

# Questions?

Thank You



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