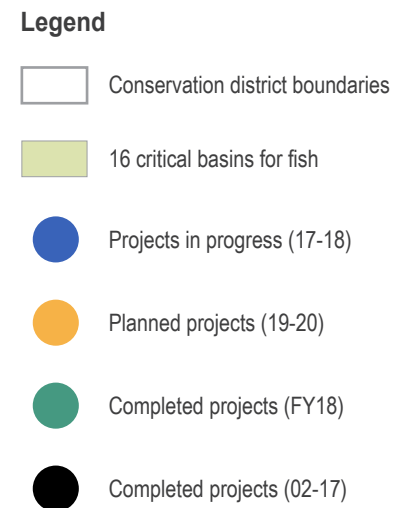
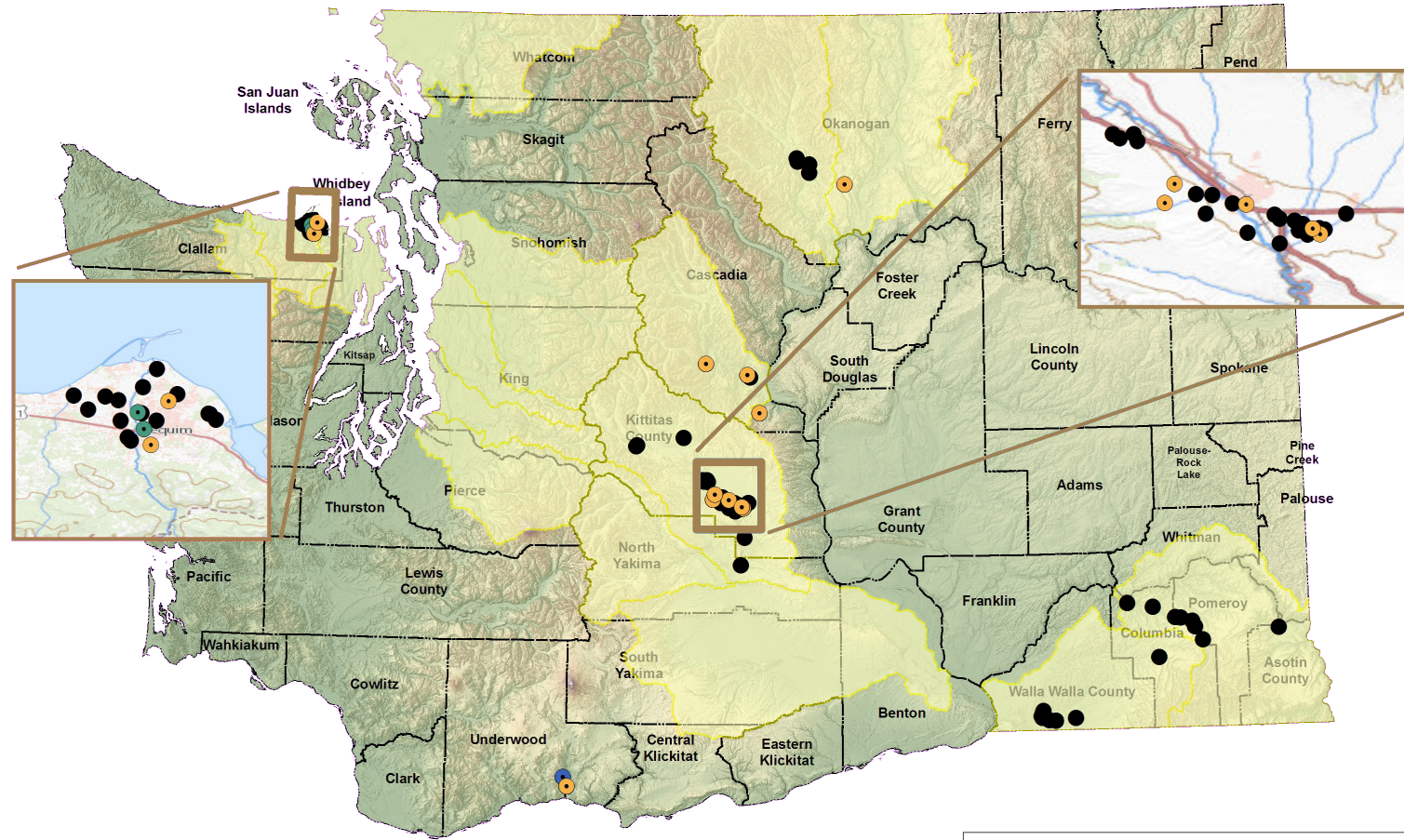


IEGP Projects are Located in Critical Basins for Salmonids



What has IEGP accomplished so far?

Since its inception in 2001, IEGP has:

- ▶ Completed **69 projects**
- ▶ Saved **17,847 acre feet of water** per year
- ▶ Saved **71.2 cubic feet of water per second** per year
- ▶ Enhanced streamflow in **24 tributaries** critical for salmonids

Contact:

Jon Culp, Water Resources Manager | jculp@scc.wa.gov | 509-385-7509
scc.wa.gov | facebook.com/WashingtonStateConservationCommission



Thanks to NOAA Fisheries West Coast for use of salmon photo.
 Please contact our office (360-407-6200) or TTY Relay (800-833-6384) to request content in an alternate format.

SCC-IE-11-18
 Updated: November 2018

Taking action to address our state's critical resource issues



IRRIGATION EFFICIENCIES

The Irrigation Efficiencies Grant Program (IEGP) provides incentive-based solutions to reduce the water resource conflict between irrigated agriculture and salmon.

- ▶ Since 2001, the Washington State Conservation Commission (SCC) has received funding through the Department of Ecology to work with conservation districts to administer IEGP.
- ▶ Today, over 17,000 acre feet of water per year is saved and returned to drought-prone streams as a result of IEGP projects.
- ▶ The Department of Ecology is working with the SCC to transfer funding for IEGP directly to the SCC to streamline program administration.



The Washington State Conservation Commission 2019-21 budget request includes funding to continue this successful program.

Irrigation Efficiencies Request (19-21) - \$8,906,000

What it Does:

- ▶ Provides grant funding to assist water right holders with increasing the efficiency of their on-farm irrigation and water delivery systems. Saved water is returned to drought-prone streams that are home to ESA-listed fish species, without risk of relinquishing water rights.
- ▶ Transfers administration of this successful program from the Department of Ecology to the SCC.

If unfunded, what are the impacts?

- ▶ Washington’s farming community will lose access to this successful and long-standing resource for improving irrigation efficiency and agricultural viability.
- ▶ Ongoing development of new, eligible water conservation projects with willing landowners will be cancelled.
- ▶ Opportunities to restore stream flow and reduce sedimentation in critical salmon-bearing streams will be lost.

What type of activities are funded through IEGP?



Left: Fish screens are cost-eligible and required on IEGP projects. Fish screens protect juvenile fish from water diversions, such as irrigation pump intakes.
 Middle: Converting open ditch irrigation systems to pipeline systems not only saves water, it also helps prevent polluted runoff from impairing water quality.
 Right: Many IEGP projects fund center pivot systems, which are one of the most efficient and effective irrigation system types. They help save water, energy, and time.

Washington’s Water Supply Programs – What’s the Difference?

There are other water supply programs in our state, but **Irrigation Efficiencies is the only program that focuses on the critical issue of reducing conflict between irrigated agriculture and salmon recovery.** The table below shows how each of Washington’s water supply programs serves a unique audience and purpose.

	Audience		Purpose			Administration
	FOR	WHO	WHAT	HOW	WHY	DELIVERED BY
Irrigation Efficiencies Grant Program	Agricultural irrigators / Agricultural water purveyors	Irrigate out of one of the 16 critical basins or other basins home to endangered native salmonids	Provides voluntary solutions for farmers to irrigate crops more efficiently and leave saved water in stream for fish.	Water right holders receive financial assistance for upgrading to more efficient irrigation systems. Saved water is returned to drought-prone streams that are home to ESA-listed fish species without risk of relinquishing their water rights.	Reduces water resource conflicts between irrigated agriculture and salmon	State Conservation Commission Conservation Districts (non-regulatory entities)
Streamflow Restoration Program	Rural residential property owners	Need to drill a permit exempt well in order to develop their private property in one of the 15 Hirst-affected basins	Provides a pathway to build homes and address impacts from future water withdrawals for permit exempt wells	Property owners apply for grant funding to assist with water mitigation projects	Offsets potential impacts to stream flows associated with permit exempt domestic water use	Department of Ecology
Columbia River Water Management Program	Developing communities, industry, agriculture	Have pending water rights applications in the Columbia River Basin	Provides opportunities to retime and repurpose existing water supplies to satisfy new users and uses	Provides funding for storage and water conservation feasibility and implementation of projects	Meets the needs of economic development and instream resources	Department of Ecology: Office of the Columbia River