



**Spokane County**

Environmental Services  
Kevin R. Cooke, P.E., Director

## **ADDENDUM TO EXISTING ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENT**

### **PROPOSED ACTION:**

Adoption of an addendum to the Water Resource Inventory Areas 55 & 57 Watershed Management Plan.

### **DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSAL:**

The watershed plan for WRIs 55 & 57 was adopted in 2006. In 2018, the Washington State Legislature enacted Engrossed Substitute Senate Bill 6091, later codified in part in Chapter 90.94 RCW, requiring the governments that initiated watershed planning in WRIA 55 to update the watershed plan to address future permit-exempt domestic groundwater withdrawals established from 2018 to 2038 in WRIA 55.

In 2018 the WRIA 55 Initiating Governments (IGs), Spokane County, Stevens County, Pend Oreille County, City of Spokane, and Whitworth Water District, entered into a memorandum of agreement (MOA) to develop the WRIA 55 Watershed Plan Addendum to satisfy the requirements of RCW 90.94.020. The MOA specified that the IGs would convene the WRIA 55 Planning Unit to participate in a consensus-building process to ensure participant interests and concerns are considered in the development of a fact-based WRIA 55 Watershed Plan Update. The MOA also specified that Spokane County would serve as the lead agency to facilitate the planning process. Final approval of the plan was by the IGs.

The planning process included 4 components: 1) development of an estimate of the consumptive water use associated with new rural residential development using permit-exempt groundwater withdrawals as a water source in WRIA 55 over the period 2018 to 2038, 2) development of a list of projects that would offset the projected consumptive water use, 3) identification of non-water projects that are in addition to the water offset projects, and 4) a determination that when implemented the plan would result in a net ecological benefit to instream resources in WRIA 55. The consumptive water use estimate is 2,354 acre-ft per year (afy) and the list of projects is estimated to offset 4,262 afy resulting in a net benefit of 1,908 afy at the end of the 20 year planning horizon. Non-water instream resource projects are also included to further distribute the ecological benefits of the actions included in the Plan Addendum. The Plan Addendum concludes that implementation of the plan will result in net ecological benefit to instream resources in WRIA 55. The projects included in the Plan Addendum include:

- Water right acquisitions to provide instream flow benefits;
- Managed aquifer recharge to enhance baseflow to surface water during low flow months;
- Water storage and release to improve stream flows;
- Riparian habitat improvements;
- Floodplain restoration; and
- Water conservation.

**PROPONENT:**

WRIA 55 Initiating Governments (Spokane County, Stevens County, Pend Oreille County, City of Spokane, Whitworth Water District)

**LOCATION OF PROPOSAL:**

WRIA 55, the Little Spokane Watershed, located in within Spokane, Stevens, and Pend Oreille Counties.

**TITLE OF THE DOCUMENT BEING MODIFIED:**

Final Environmental Impact Statement of Watershed Planning under Chapter 90.82 RCW, as amended by other addendums.

**AGENCY THAT PREPARED THE DOCUMENT BEING MODIFIED:**

Washington State Department of Ecology

**DATE DOCUMENT BEING MODIFIED WAS PREPARED:**

July 18, 2003, as later amended by other addendums.

**DESCRIPTION OF DOCUMENT (OR PORTION) BEING MODIFIED:**

Chapter 1, 3, 4, 5, and 6 of Final Environmental Impact Statement (referred to herein as the "FEIS").

**THE FOLLOWING MODIFICATIONS HAVE BEEN MADE TO THE ORIGINAL FEIS:**

Chapters 1, 3, 4, 5, and 6 of the FEIS have been modified to address the requirements of ESSB 6091, which mandates the WRIA 55 plan be updated to address the impacts of future permit-exempt domestic water uses for new uses established from 2018 to 2038. The Plan Addendum proposes projects aligned with the types considered in the Final Environmental Impact Statement of Watershed Planning referred to above.

Spokane County Environmental Services (County) is the Lead Agency for SEPA. The County has evaluated Ecology's FEIS and determined that the actions proposed in the Watershed Plan Addendum are adequately addressed in the FEIS. The FEIS considers watershed planning actions, impacts and mitigation measures considered in this Addendum, specifically:

- Transfer of water rights from out of stream uses to instream uses (Sec. 6.8)
- Allocation of ground or surface water for mitigation measures (Sec. 6.10)
- Construct and operate new on-channel storage facilities (Sec. 6.19)
- Construct and operate artificial recharge storage projects (Sec. 6.25)
- Implement instream habitat improvement projects (Sec. 6.42)
- Replace roadway structures to improve fish passage (Sec. 6.45)
- Construct fish passage facilities (Sec. 6.46)
- Implement out-of-stream habitat improvement projects (Sec. 6.47)
- Control sources of sediment (Sec. 6.50)
- Acquire property or conservation easements to protect habitat (Sec. 6.53)

Spokane County has reviewed the Watershed Planning FEIS and determined that the actions identified in the WRIA 55 Watershed Plan Addendum are consistent with the actions and impacts identified and evaluated in the FEIS. This addendum to the FEIS is issued under WAC 197-11-600(4)(c), and WAC 197-11-625. This addendum and its attachments add analyses or information about the proposal, but do not substantially change the analysis of significant impacts and alternatives in the existing environmental document.

**PENDING APPEALS:**

The document being modified is not the subject of a pending appeal and has not been found inadequate on appeal.

**DOCUMENT AVAILABILITY:**

The document is available at <https://www.spokanecounty.org/3843/WRIA-55-Watershed-Plan-Update>.

**NAME OF AGENCY ADOPTING DOCUMENT:**

Spokane County Environmental Services

**STAFF CONTACT:**

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**RESPONSIBLE OFFICIAL:**

Kevin Cooke

**POSITION/TITLE:**

Environmental Services Director

**ADDRESS:**

1026 W. Broadway Avenue, Spokane, WA 99260

**DATE OF ISSUANCE:**

September 14, 2020

**SIGNATURE:**

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**DISTRIBUTION:**

In accordance with WAC 197-11-625 this addendum was circulated to the recipients of the WRIA 55 & 57 Watershed Plan SEPA Documentation.

U.S. Army Corp of Engineers	Orchard Avenue Irrigation Dist. 6
U.S. Dept of Agriculture, NRCS	Pasadena Irrigation District #17
WA State Dept of Ecology	P.U.D. No. 1 of Stevens County
WA State Dept of Fish & Wildlife	Spokane County Water Dist #3
Dept of Natural Resources	Trentwood Irrigation District No. 3
Washington State Dept of Health	Vera Irrigation District No. 15
WA State Dept of Transportation	Whitworth Water District No. 2
Spokane Regional Clean Air	Central Valley School District
Spokane County Health District	Deer Park Schools
Spokane County Building and Planning	East Valley School District
Spokane County Public Works	Mead School District No. 354
Avista	Orchard Prairie School District
Century Link Communications	Riverside School District
Spokane Transit Authority	Spokane Public School Dist #81
North Spokane County Library	West Valley School District
Valley Library	City of Spokane
Main City Library	City of Spokane Valley
Fire District No. 1	City of Libery Lake
Fire District No. 4	City of Deer Park
Fire District No. 9	Town of Millwood
Fire District No. 13	Spokane Conservation District
Spokane Fire Department	Deer Park Schools
Spokane Indian Tribe	East Valley School District
Carnhope Irrigation District No. 7	Mead School District No. 354
Consolidated Irrigation District 19	Orchard Prairie School District
East Spokane Water Dist. No. 1	Riverside School District
Hutchinson Irrigaiton Dist. No.16	Spokane Public School Dist #81
Irvin Water District No. 6	West Valley School District
Liberty Lake Sewer & Water No. 1	City of Spokane
Moab Irrigation Dist. No. 20	City of Spokane Valley
Model Irrigation District No. 18	City of Libery Lake
Modern Electric Water Company	City of Deer Park
North Spokane Irrigation Dist. No. 8	Town of Millwood
Orchard Avenue Irrigation Dist. 6	Spokane Conservation District
Pasadena Irrigation District #17	
P.U.D. No. 1 of Stevens County	
Spokane County Water Dist #3	
Trentwood Irrigation District No. 3	
Vera Irrigation District No. 15	
Whitworth Water District No. 2	
Central Valley School District	