

**San Juan County (WRIA 2) Implementation Plan
Ecology Review Draft, December 2005**

- 1. Background and framework for implementation**
- 2. Annual tasks: 2006-2009**
- 3. Analysis of funding options**
- 4. Report on municipal water rights**
- 5. Map of municipal water system locations (being developed)**
- 6. Participation process for municipal water right holders**

A synopsis of implementation goals for the San Juan County Water Resource Management Plan

The San Juan Water Resource Management Plan contained seven specific recommendations to improve water management. This detailed implementation plan describes how these recommendations will be implemented by establishing timelines and interim milestones to measure implementation. Although each of these actions are important for water resources management, the most important activities are specific management strategies for sub-areas and a more programmatic monitoring and assessment approach for water resources management in the WRIA. The following section describes the activities needed to implement these important implementation goals.

A. Establish management strategies by sub-area that are based on an analysis of water availability and goals for meeting demand developed by the users in that area.

The priority for developing these strategies is:

- 1) Urban Growth Areas
- 2) Activity Centers
- 3) Sea Water Intrusion Risk Areas
- 4) High density, "rural" areas
- 5) Rural areas

Milestones:

- Plans and studies to identify sustainable capacity and community goals for meeting human and habitat needs;
- Cooperative management agreements for monitoring and operations in priority watersheds and aquifers;
- Agreements for water right allocation, changes, and emergency interties;
- Long-term funding mechanisms such as aquifer Protection Districts and other regional funding mechanisms.

B. Set up a long-term program to monitor, analyze, and adapt management strategies.

Establish a county water resource management program that includes:

- 1) A county hydrogeologist to conduct ongoing monitoring and data collection, and to review new applications for water use;
- 2) A Water Resource Review Board, consisting of citizens and water professionals, that will evaluate studies and analysis from the county hydrogeologist, recommendations from sub-area plans, and develop management policies to forward to the board of county commissioners and Ecology;

- 3) A memorandum of understanding or inter-local agreement with Ecology to develop policies and regulations that define the shared responsibilities for water resource management in the county;
- 4) Funding for water resource management program staff and costs.

Milestones:

- Hire a county hydrogeologist;
- Delineate Critical Aquifer Recharge Areas and Sea Water Intrusion Risk Areas;
- Revise county code regarding, 1) approval of new water sources in Sea Water Intrusion Risk Areas; 2) approval of new community water supplies; 3) fees for hydrogeologic review by the county for new community water supplies; 4) operating fees for community water systems to support resource management.
- Develop and execute a memorandum of understanding or inter-local agreement with Ecology;
- Establish a Water Resource Review Board as a part of county government;
- Set up long-term funding for the water resource management program.

San Juan County's municipal water systems (Group A)

As required by RCW 90.82.048, this implementation plan must address the planned future use of existing water rights from municipal water systems (15 or more connections; or, more serving more than 25 people). To meet these requirements, a preliminary report has been developed using databases maintained by Ecology and DOH. A mailing to each water system will be sent in 2006. The mailing will include the report for their water system, a draft map of the water system boundary based on county records, and a memo explaining what the data means and requesting revisions and comments from the purveyor. The water resource management committee will focus on contacting the municipal water systems and verifying water rights information and use projections in 2006. This information will be compiled in a report that describes the amount of inchoate municipal water rights and if and when those municipal water rights are planned to be used. This information will also be used in future water supply planning in specific areas where water rights will be evaluated based on actual use and a realistic assessment of capacity.

The majority of San Juan County's municipal water supplies consist of homeowners associations serving less than 100 connections. There is only one system in the county approved for over 1000 connections (the Town of Friday Harbor) and three approved for more than 300 connections (Rosario, Roche Harbor, and Eastsound). With a few exceptions, the rest are serving areas with existing parcels, generally plats, and have no intention to expand their service. Most of these smaller municipal systems are using groundwater and have greater concerns about whether their wells can produce an adequate supply than about water rights.

In order to evaluate "future use of existing water rights for municipal water supply purposes" a sequence will be followed based on A. 1 – 5. For areas where growth and demand are greatest, or the resource is at risk from sea water intrusion, an evaluation of water rights with participation by the water right holders will be developed. In cases where water rights applications are pending, and/or water rights need to be reallocated, the goal will be to develop a voluntary agreement between water right holders. With Ecology's current commitment to processing water right applications in the county, these agreements will give applicants, water right holders, and the county the opportunity to take an active role in allocating water.

Production agriculture, industry and commercial water use

San Juan County's agricultural community is evolving from large farms raising livestock and hay to small market-garden enterprises. The farming community will continue to be included in the studies and management planning for the county's rural areas. Local industry and commercial water users are mostly tourist based, and are also included in local resource planning efforts.

Instream flow

Instream flow is being addressed in the one basin in the county that has a stream identified in the Washington State Stream Catalog. Local planning efforts will continue to include protection of instream flow and nearshore habitat.

Timing and milestones

This implementation plan spells out the next several years of water resource management in WRIA 2, as required. However, this process is dynamic, and each sub-area planning effort opens up needs and opportunities that can not be anticipated. In addition, monitoring and data collection lead to greater knowledge of resource capacity, which changes expected outcomes. Finally, there are changes due to public involvement and political decisions, which open new doors. An example of this last situation is the fact that Ecology is taking action to process water right applications in WRIA 2. In the course of processing existing applications, new priorities will emerge.

Attached are the next four years of tasks for WRIA 2, based on funding provided by Ecology. The application for 2006 is due October 12, 2005. The tasks for 2006 are specific and tied to active projects. The following years are estimates, based on the goals from the Water Resource Management Plan, but priorities may change. It is hoped that there will be additional funding for a long-term water program in the county, which will involve additional refining of tasks and outcomes.

Implementation has been part of the WRIA 2 process since the beginning of the 2514 process. The Water Resource Management Committee started early implementation projects during the phase 2 assessment, and expects to continue those projects and build on what is successful from each one. This committee will be the model for the proposed Water Resource Review Board.

**2006 Scope of Work for San Juan County,
WRIA 2 Implementation Plan**

Task 1: Administration

Deliverable(s): Develop and oversee professional services contracts, staff committee including taking minutes and developing agendas, provide fiscal accountability, complete and submit quarterly reports and billings. Fiscal year 2005 only

Due Date(s): Quarterly through June 30, 2007

Costs: \$10,000

Task 2: Develop cooperative management agreements for water systems in priority sub-areas

- 1.1 Continue to work with water purveyors in the Lopez Village aquifer area to develop a water system cooperative
- 1.2 Develop an abbreviated coordinated water system plan for the Eastsound Aquifer Critical Water Resource Area
- 1.3 Develop a cooperative management agreement for purveyors in the Cascade Lake/Mt. Lake watersheds, including an adaptive management plan for new water rights

Deliverable(s): 1) Establish a water system cooperative on Lopez, 2) ACWSP for Eastsound CWRA, 3) Draft a cooperative management agreement for Cascade/Mt. Lake watersheds

Due Date(s): Lopez Water Cooperative - October 12, 2006
ACWSP for Eastsound – June 30, 2007
Draft Cooperative Management Agreement – Cascade watershed – December 30, 2006

Costs: \$26,100

Task 3: Draft memorandum of understanding or inter-local agreement with Ecology to delineate responsibilities for water resource management in WRIA 2

- 3.1 Designate water resource sub-areas and set priorities for management
- 3.2 Where the resource is at risk, set performance measures for approval of new water sources
- 3.3 Set instream flow goals for Cascade Creek. Using adaptive management guidelines, tie seasonal and annual water allocations to availability based on the cooperative management agreement (Task 2.3)
- 3.4 Develop with Ecology, a general permit or other process to address water rights issues for rainwater harvesting for single-family domestic use

- 3.5 Define role of county Water Resource Review Board in decisions relating to new water rights, water right changes, and approval of exempt well development in high risk areas

Deliverable(s): Draft agreement; Draft Rule Development Plan or other process for addressing rainwater harvesting for single-family domestic use.
Due Date(s): December 30, 2006
Costs: \$15,000

Task 4: Develop water budgets (based on monitoring network data) for priority sub-areas to support water management activities

- 4.1 Design study and analysis of the Lopez Village and Eastsound aquifers
- 4.2 Set up data management and reporting system for monitoring data
- 4.3 Develop water budget for the Cascade Lake/Mt. Lake watersheds, including instream flow

Deliverable(s): Study protocol and preliminary monitoring data for Lopez Village and Eastsound aquifers. Water budget for Cascade Lake/Mt. Lake watersheds.
Due Date(s): December 30, 2006
Costs: \$25,000

Task 5: Revise policies and codes regarding management of Critical Aquifer Recharge Areas, Sea Water Intrusion Risk Areas, and Watershed Protection Areas (for public supply surface water systems).

- 5.1 Revise the appropriate San Juan County Codes to address management of CARA Sea Water Intrusion Risk Areas and Watershed Protection
- 5.2 Develop Guidelines for the Preparation of Geohydrological Reports in San Juan County to address water resource issues throughout the county.
- 5.3 Identify any agreements needed to implement these policies with the Department of Health and the Department of Ecology

Deliverable(s): Code revisions, guidelines and policies
Due Date(s): December 30, 2006
Costs: \$26,112

Task 6: Identify planned future use of existing municipal water rights in WRIA 2.

- 6.1 Contact municipal water systems on planned future use of existing municipal water rights and compile information in a report.

Deliverable(s): Report of Planned Future Use of Municipal Water Rights
Due Date(s): December 30, 2006
Costs: \$10,000

2007

- Task 1. Implement plans for Lopez Village and East Orcas.
 - 1.1 Provide support and technical assistance to cooperative associations
 - 1.2 Continue monitoring and analysis
 - 1.3 Develop groundwater models for Lopez Village Aquifer and Eastsound Aquifer

- Task 2. Identify additional priority areas for planning and study
 - 2.1 These areas include, but are not limited to, 1) South Lopez; 2) Deer Harbor; 3) Orcas Village

- Task 3. Develop support for local funding for the water resource management program
 - 3.1 Develop an annual report on the status of water resources in the county
 - 3.2 Promote the water resource program with workshops and local news articles
 - 3.3 Develop various funding options, such as operating fees, development fees, and aquifer protection districts

- Task 4. Execute memorandum of understanding or inter-local agreement between San Juan County and Department of Ecology

- Task 5. Establish a Water Resource Review Board
 - 5.1 Establish as a part of county government, similar to the county planning commission
 - 5.2 Define responsibilities through agreement with Ecology and in county code

2008

- Task 1. Continue monitoring, data collection and reporting
- Task 2. Finalize and implement plans for additional priority areas
- Task 3. Draft a Five Year Review Report for the Lopez Village Aquifer
- Task 4. Develop a rural build-out analysis, with guidelines and policies for resource management in low-density rural areas
- Task 5. Work with purveyors in priority areas to consolidate water systems or develop public utilities where needed
- Task 6. Support the Water Resource Review Board

2009

- Task 1. Update and streamline county-wide monitoring efforts
- Task 2. Implement sub-area plans and support local cooperative associations
- Task 3. Support the Water Resource Review Board
- Task 4. Prepare annual and five-year reports and recommendations for changes to county policies and code