2nd Annual Water Law in Eastern Washington Conference

Addressing Governor Ferguson's Housing Initiatives and Water Availability

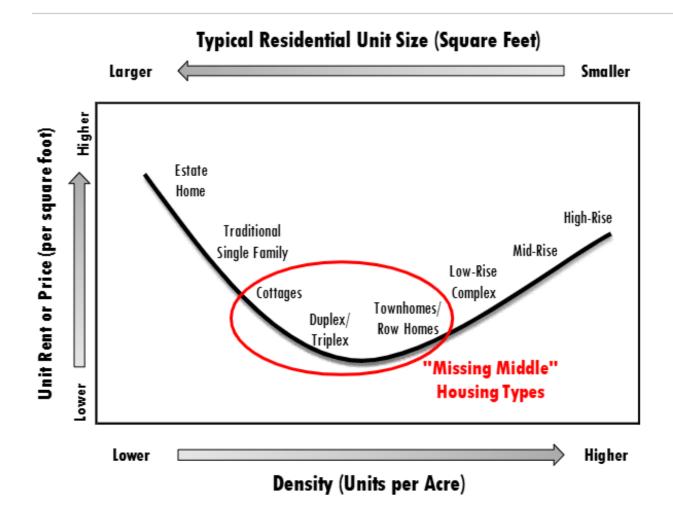
Dave Andersen

SENIOR MANAGING DIRECTOR, GROWTH MANAGEMENT PROGRAM WASHINGTON DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

05/22/2025

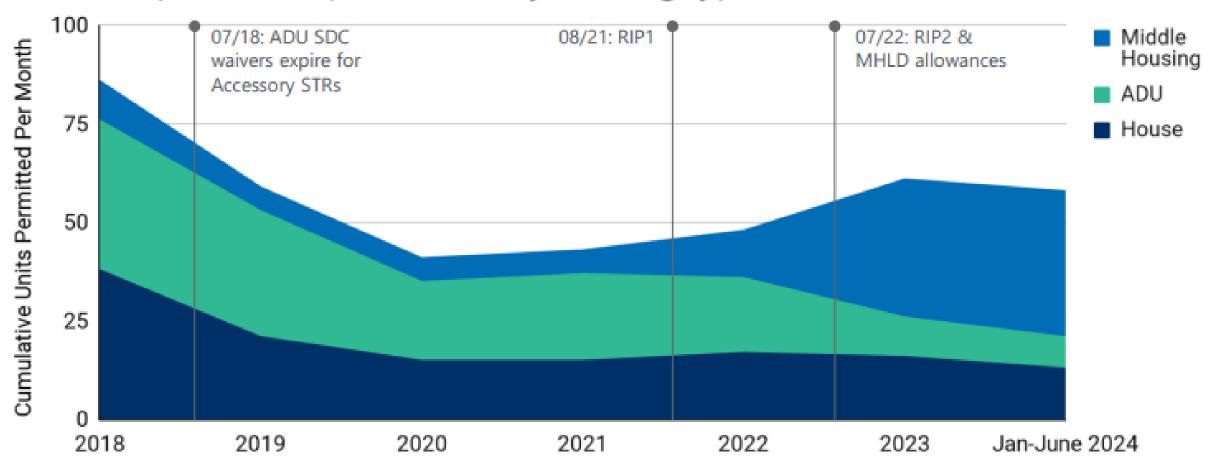


Overview



Will the Market Respond?

Units permitted (per month) by housing type in SD zones



What about the water?







Photo credit (right): Andrew Buchanan Subtle Light Photography

Panelists

Aaron Dunham

Partner

WHC Attorneys

Marlene Feist
Public Works Director
City of Spokane

Tim Trohimovich
Director of Planning & Law
Futurewise

Dave Andersen

Senior Managing Director,

Growth Management Program

Washington State Department of Commerce

Ria Berns

Water Resources Program Manager

Washington State Department of Ecology

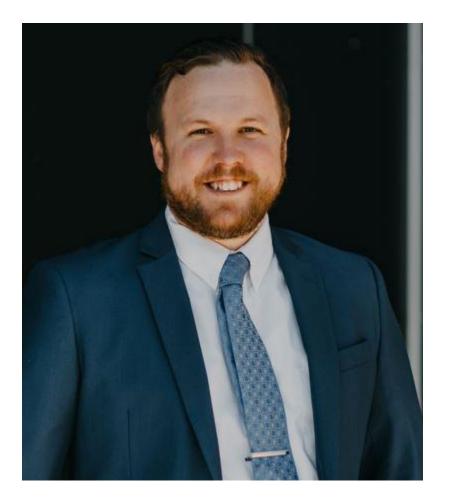
Ria Berns

Water Resources Program Manager Washington State Department of Ecology



Aaron Dunham

Partner WHC Attorneys



Marlene Feist

Public Works Director City of Spokane



Tim Trohimovich



• Question 1: Do we have sufficient water legally and physically available to meet the projected population growth and the Governor's housing goals? Can we conserve our way to a million housing units? Where will we see the greatest challenges in meeting this goal?

• Question 2: What are the top 1-2 water resources management-related policy tools needed to accommodate new growth and protect state state's water resources? At what level of government are these tools most needed (local/utility scale, state, other)?

• Question 3: What is a fair way to distribute the cost of water infrastructure between rate payers and new connections? How do you properly assess the cost for a new connection?

• Question 4: How should counties, cities, and water providers plan for reduced summer and fall stream flows and, in some areas, absolute reductions in available water in the face of growth?

Thank you!

Dave Andersen

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