



DEPARTMENT OF
ECOLOGY
State of Washington

The Spokane River Basin

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We ♥ Our River (and aquifer)!

Water Code

Monitoring Efforts

Drought Impacts

Moving Forward



The Water Code

Surface Water, 1917

Groundwater, 1945

Focus on municipal
groundwater

- Declarations filed 1940s, uses from early 1900s
- New applications filed/approved 1950s-1960s

STATE OF WASHINGTON, COUNTY OF Spokane

Certificate of Ground Water Right

Issued in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 263, Laws of Washington for 1945, and the rules and regulations of the State Supervisor of Hydraulics thereunder.

THIS IS TO CERTIFY That MODERN ELECTRIC WATER COMPANY
of Opportunity, Washington has filed
in the office of the State Supervisor of Hydraulics of Washington Declaration of Claim No. 699
to withdraw ground waters of the State from a Pump Well
located within Tract 77 of Opportunity Flat, Spokane County, Washington
(Sec. 15, Twp. 25 N., Rge. 44 E., W. 1/4)

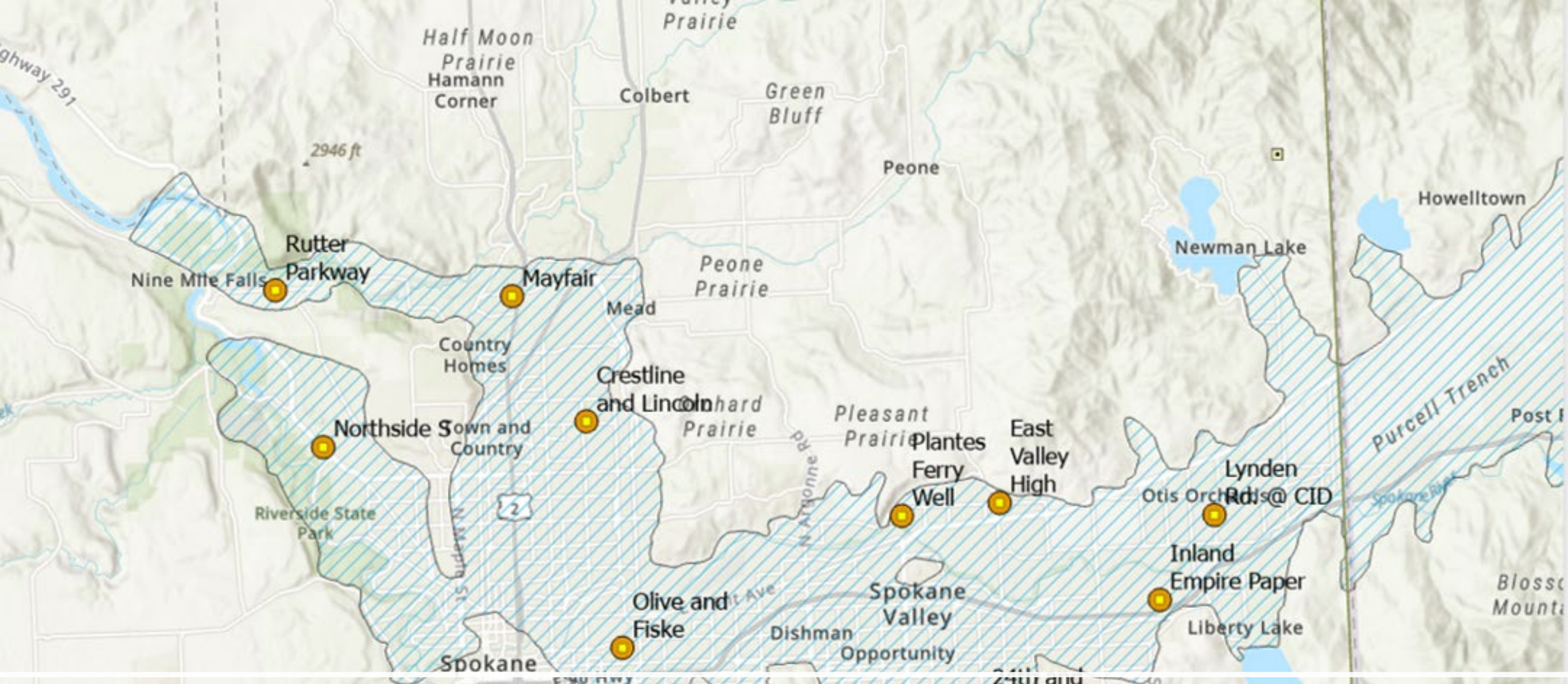
for the purpose of Domestic supply and irrigation

The right to the use of said ground waters has been sustained and approved by the Supervisor of Hydraulics in accordance with Chapter 263, Laws of Washington for 1945, and is hereby entered of record in Volume 2 of Ground Water Certificates at page 679-D; the right approved has a priority of the year 1905; the amount of water which the Declarant is entitled to withdraw for the aforesaid purpose is limited to the amount actually beneficially used and shall not exceed 4,000 gallons per minute; 10,786 acre-feet per year and is appurtenant to the

Spokane River & SVRP Rule

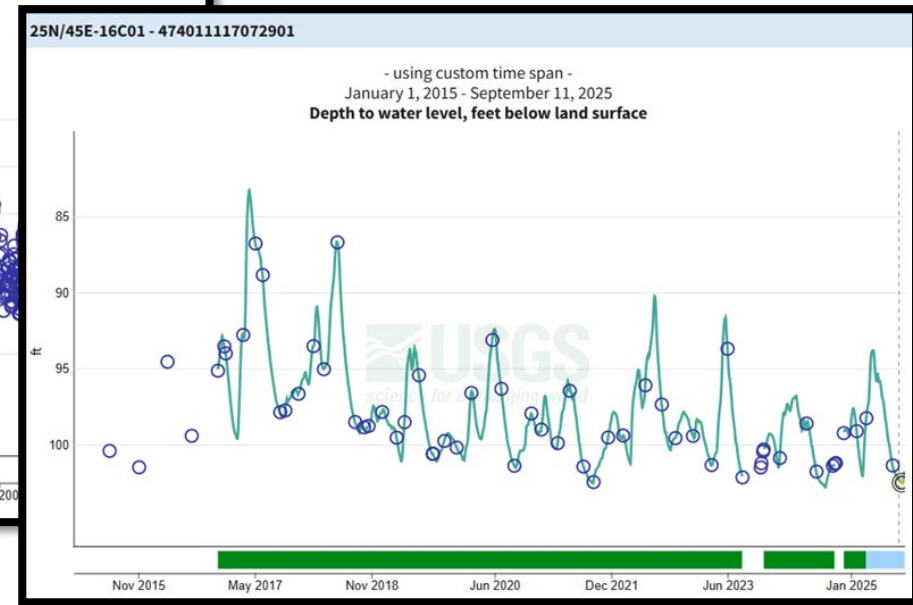
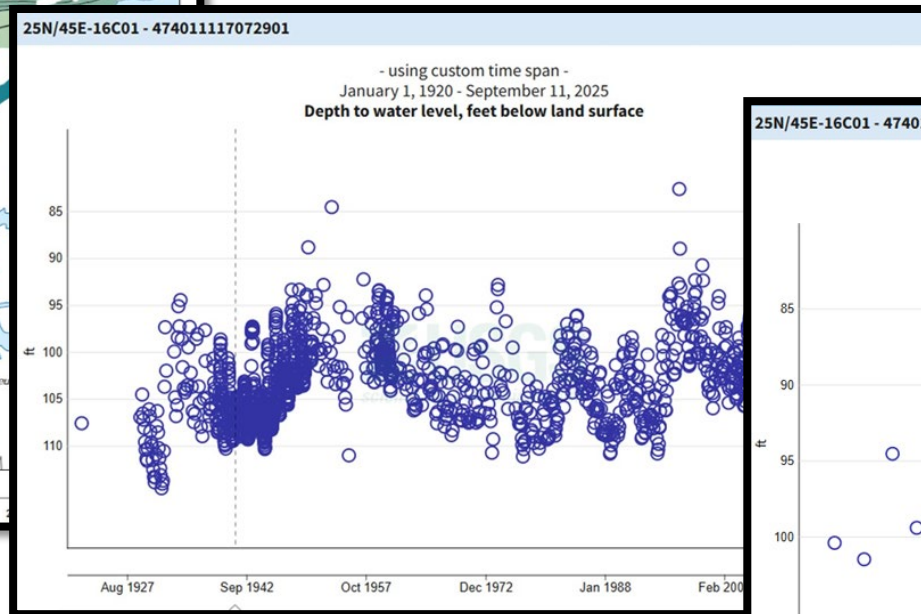
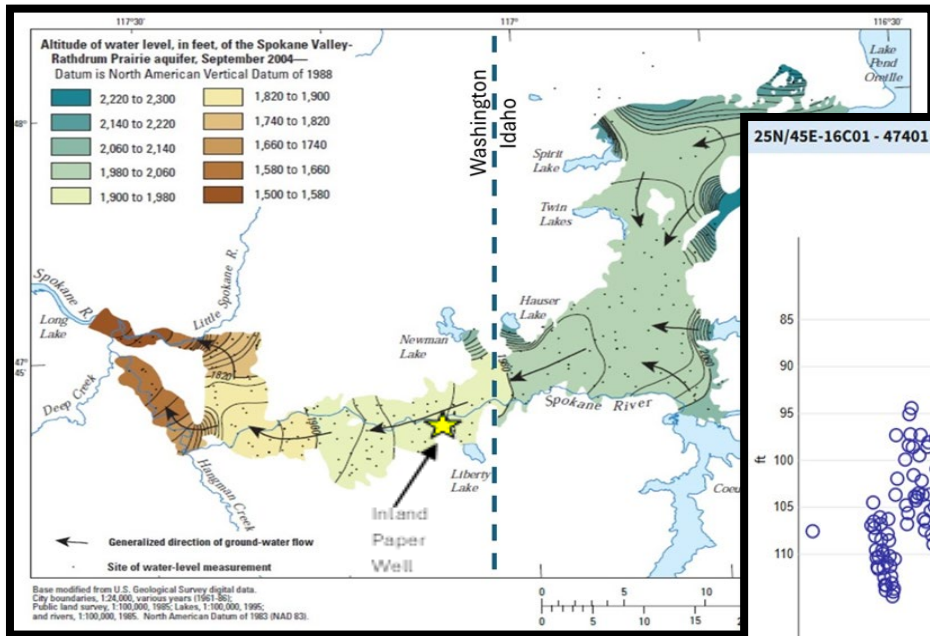


- WAC 173-557
- Adopted 2015
- Challenged and upheld by the State Supreme Court in 2020
- One interruptible right issued
- Impairment considered on changes/transfers
- Can't curtail senior rights when flows drop



Monitoring





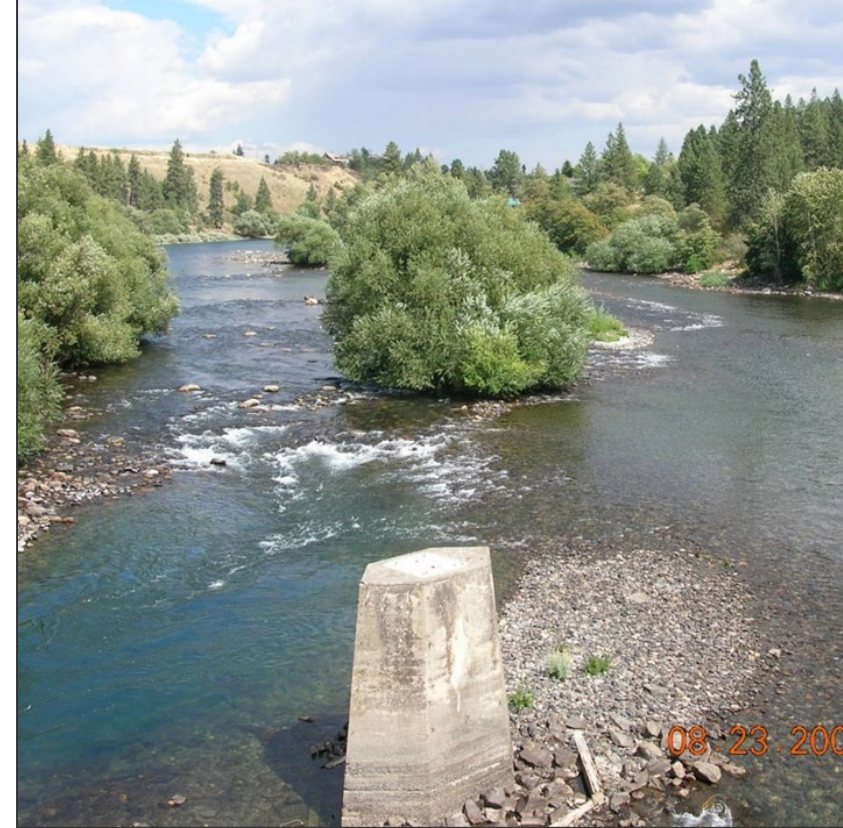
Groundwater Level Trends

- Remarkably stable over period of record
- Possible moderate declines over last decade



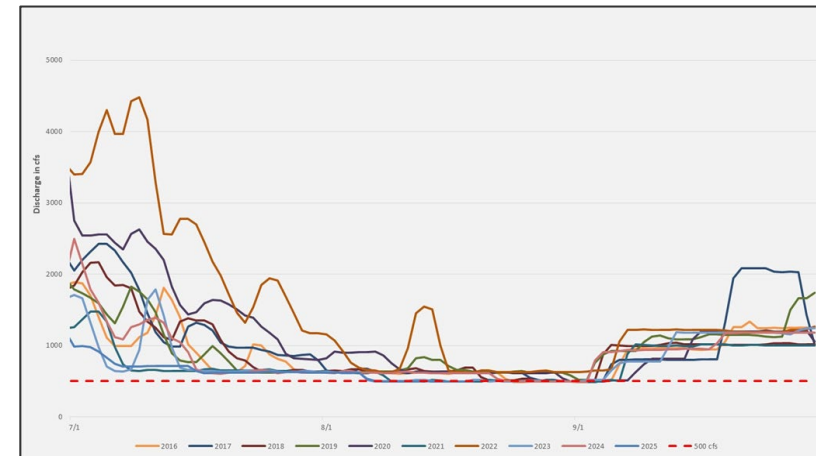
Metering & Reporting

- Older water rights don't tend to require metering/reporting
- Orders issued to largest users in 2025
- Many users already report to DOH
- Site visits starting next month
- New data gathering effort with partners



Drought Impacts

- Anticipate low stream flows
- Early curtailment in Little Spokane
- Funds available with match, must respond to current impacts
- Public outreach encouraging conservation





The Path Forward...



Collect data



Technical assistance



Connect!



Thank you!

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