

# Walla Walla Watershed Management Partnership

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## Local Water Plan Checklist

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*A local water plan is a voluntary water management plan developed by a local water right holder(s) to manage their water use in a manner that substantially enhances stream flows in exchange for greater flexibility in exercising their water rights.*

**Purpose:** This checklist represents a summarized list of major elements required for a Local Water Plan, and can be used by a water right holder(s) to evaluate if development of a Local Water Plan is appropriate for your situation. For a detailed description, see “Guidance and Criteria for Implementation of Chapter 90.92 RCW” and “Local Water Plan Application” available at <http://www.wallawallawatershed.org/participate>.

### Major Elements Required for a Local Water Plan

- Existing Water Rights** – The program can only allow changes to existing water rights, that the participant(s) owns/controls
- Baseline** – You can only get “credit” to use water under a Local Water Plan to the degree that you have used the rights in question in the last 15 years.
- Alternative Water Management** – Actions that will benefit the participant(s), and substantially enhance stream flow without impairing other water rights.
- Conveyance Infrastructure** – Have an irrigation system (pumps, mainline, sprinklers, pivots etc) in place and ready for use of water rights as currently permitted, and have a plan for how any necessary modifications or improvements to the infrastructure that will need to occur.
- Monitoring** – Ability to enhance in stream flow must be estimated, and means to measure, track and monitor surface water and groundwater conditions must exist.
- Support Identified** – Any needed technical and financial support must be in place or identified.
- Term** – A Local Water Plan is a contract between the Participant(s), the Partnership, and the Department of Ecology that will have a term of at least 1 year and preferably 5 or more years, but cannot continue beyond 2019.