

## **Section 5**

# **Basin Wide Management Objectives within WRIA 35**

### **5.1 Introduction**

This section contains a detailed discussion of the planning objectives summarized in Section 2. Building off their initial set of objectives developed in Phase I, management objectives have been developed by the Planning Unit for each planning element, including: general objectives for the overall watershed planning and management effort; water quantity (surface and ground water) management; instream flow; water quality (surface and ground water) management; and aquatic habitat enhancement. The objectives generally fall into three categories: (1) objectives that enhance the planning effort itself, such as seeking better data on water resources or identifying specific sources of water quality problems; (2) objectives that address existing issues identified during the planning process; and (3) objectives that address future needs and long range planning and implementation.

### **5.2 Basin-wide Management Objectives within WRIA 35**

Basin-wide management objectives were identified by Planning Unit members through public workshops, in response to various technical assessments and supporting studies, and as additional concepts and/or issues emerged during the planning process. In identifying objectives and actions for the Implementation Areas in WRIA 35, objectives and actions common to most, if not all, of the entire basin were identified. Many of these general objectives and actions have translated into more specific objectives and actions in the Implementation Area action plans, demonstrating how basin-wide objectives apply in a specific geographic region. For convenience, objectives are numbered sequentially with the prefix BW (Basin Wide). The numbers do not imply or assign any priority, ranking or implementation order to the objectives and are used strictly for identification purposes.

#### **General**

BW1: Protect existing water rights, private property rights and tribal treaty rights.

BW2: Emphasize voluntary and incentive-based management solutions, including Continuous Conservation Resource Program (CCRP), Conservation Security Program (CSP), CREP, WRP, and WWRP.

BW3: Maintain and enhance regional economy and provide future economic opportunities associated with the watershed hydrology, including but not limited to municipal, residential, commercial, industrial, agricultural, recreational, tourism, and instream water uses.

BW5: Establish a detailed funding plan for implementation, including: projects; programs; long-term monitoring and evaluation of watershed plan implementation.

BW6: Encourage fairness in distributing costs and burdens of water resource management actions.

BW7: Improve consistency in federal, state, and local water resources regulatory and management approaches, and obtain local, state, and federal and tribal buy-in and cooperation for recommended management strategies.

BW8: Review and update land use plans and regulations as necessary to be compatible with and support water resource management goals.

BW9: Support implementation of urban and rural land management BMPs.

BW10: Establish and maintain ongoing water resource management education and outreach, addressing topics including water use, conservation, reclamation, reuse, stormwater management and best management practices.

BW11: Restore and enhance natural floodplain, riparian and wetland capacities, where feasible, to increase aquifer recharge, improve water quality, provide aquatic and riparian habitat, and reduce the duration and severity of flood events.

BW12: Develop and implement noxious weed control programs, with a focus on public lands.

BW13: Improve scientific basis, including use of bio-assessment performance measures (e.g., indicator species) for understanding baseline conditions and measuring watershed enhancements

### **Water Quantity**

BW14: Provide long-term reliable and predictable water supplies for municipal, residential, commercial, industrial, agricultural, recreational, and instream water uses.

BW15: Continue instream flow monitoring to provide baseline data needed to manage flows and facilitate future water management decisions.

BW16: Characterize surface and ground water availability and recharge/discharge balance and connectivity within the sub-basins and surrounding region to ensure adequate long term ground water resources to meet existing needs, consistent with adopted city and county land use plans.

BW17: Encourage stormwater and/or wastewater reclamation and reuse to satisfy other water resource needs.

BW18: Identify and develop opportunities to enhance available water supply, emphasizing offstream storage, aquifer storage and recovery, source substitution, reclamation and reuse, and stormwater retention.

BW18: Promote conservation and efficiency of water use, including but not limited to municipal, residential, commercial, industrial, agricultural, recreational, and instream water uses.

BW19: Improve certainty, timeliness and efficiency in water rights decisions.

### **Water Quality**

BW20: Protect surface and ground water quality needed for public drinking water supplies and other uses (including but not limited to municipal, residential, commercial, industrial, agricultural, recreational, and instream water uses).

BW21: Improve water quality to the extent practicable given the natural conditions<sup>1</sup>.

BW22: Manage stormwater in both urban and rural areas to improve water quality, reduce flooding and enhance aquifer recharge where practicable.

BW23: Review state surface water quality standards and establish natural (system potential) temperature levels for streams and rivers that reflect conditions within the watershed.

BW 24: Stockwater

BW 25: Relinquishment Statue (changes)

BW 26: Water transfer not allowed outside the PU.

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<sup>1</sup> According to the Washington Department of Ecology (Ecology) and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), “natural conditions” is defined as the surface water quality that would exist in the absence of human-caused pollution or disturbances. In assessing what constitutes “natural conditions,” Ecology uses historic data and water quality monitoring data, as appropriate, to ascertain what the water quality conditions (e.g. temperature and dissolved oxygen) would be without human sources of degradation. This approach does not infer that Ecology’s position is that systems can or should be returned to natural conditions, but rather that some sources of human degradation cannot be remedied due to technical and/or social (legal) limitations (Ecology, 2005).