



# Rural growth, salmon, exempt wells, and you

The Chehalis Basin Partnership's response to the  
Streamflow Restoration Act

*City of Chehalis Council  
Presentation by Kirsten Harma  
August 24, 2020*

# Presentation Outline

- Who we are
- Why we are here today
- Details on the Streamflow Restoration Act and Watershed Plan Addendum
- How you can help



Chehalis River Watershed since 1990s...

-Water rights over-allocated

-Not enough water for fish in summer



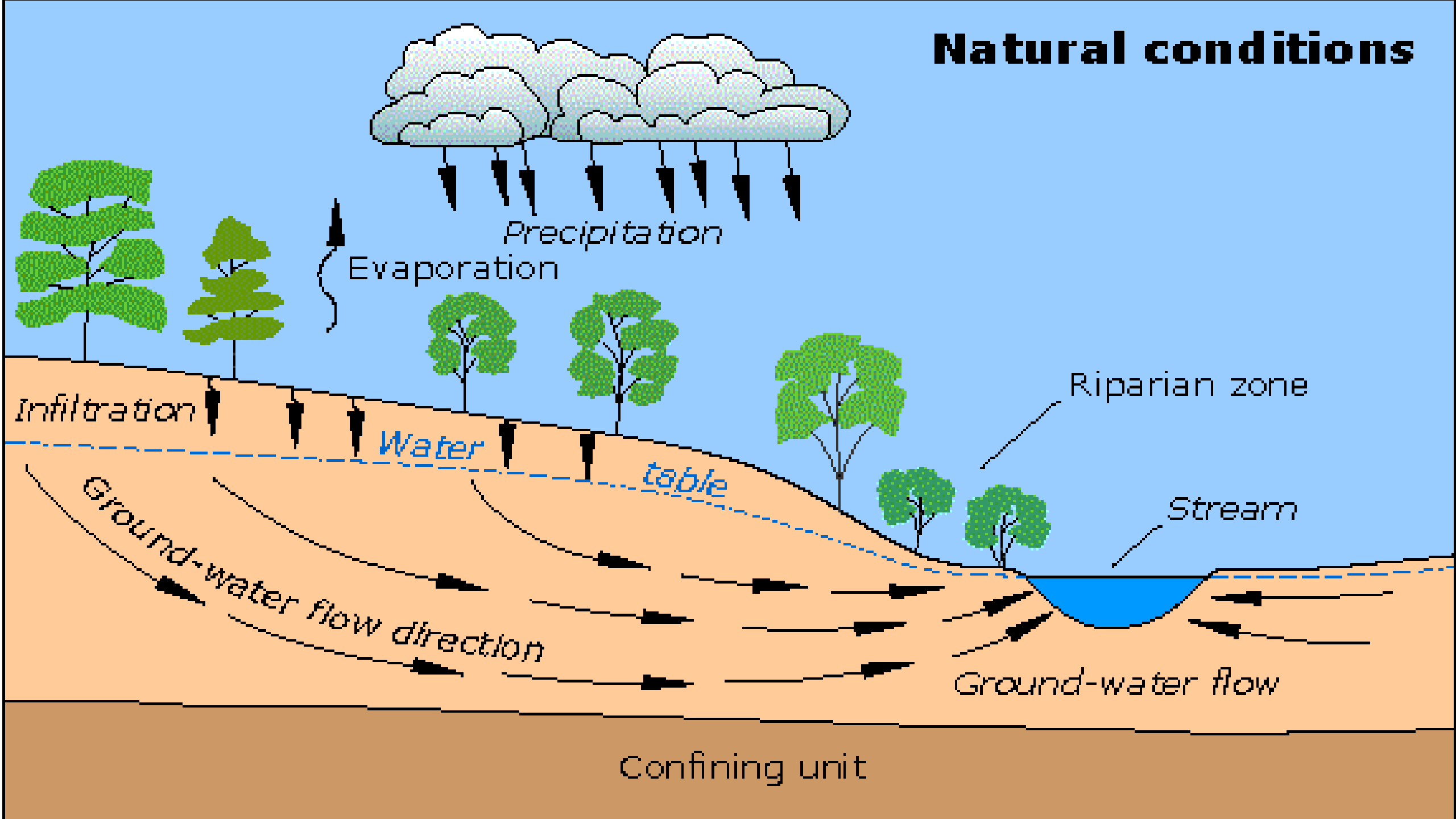


- Grays Harbor, Lewis, Thurston, Mason Counties
- Most cities and towns
- Chehalis Tribe & Quinault Indian Nation participates as non-signatory
- State agencies
- Environment & Business groups
- Citizens

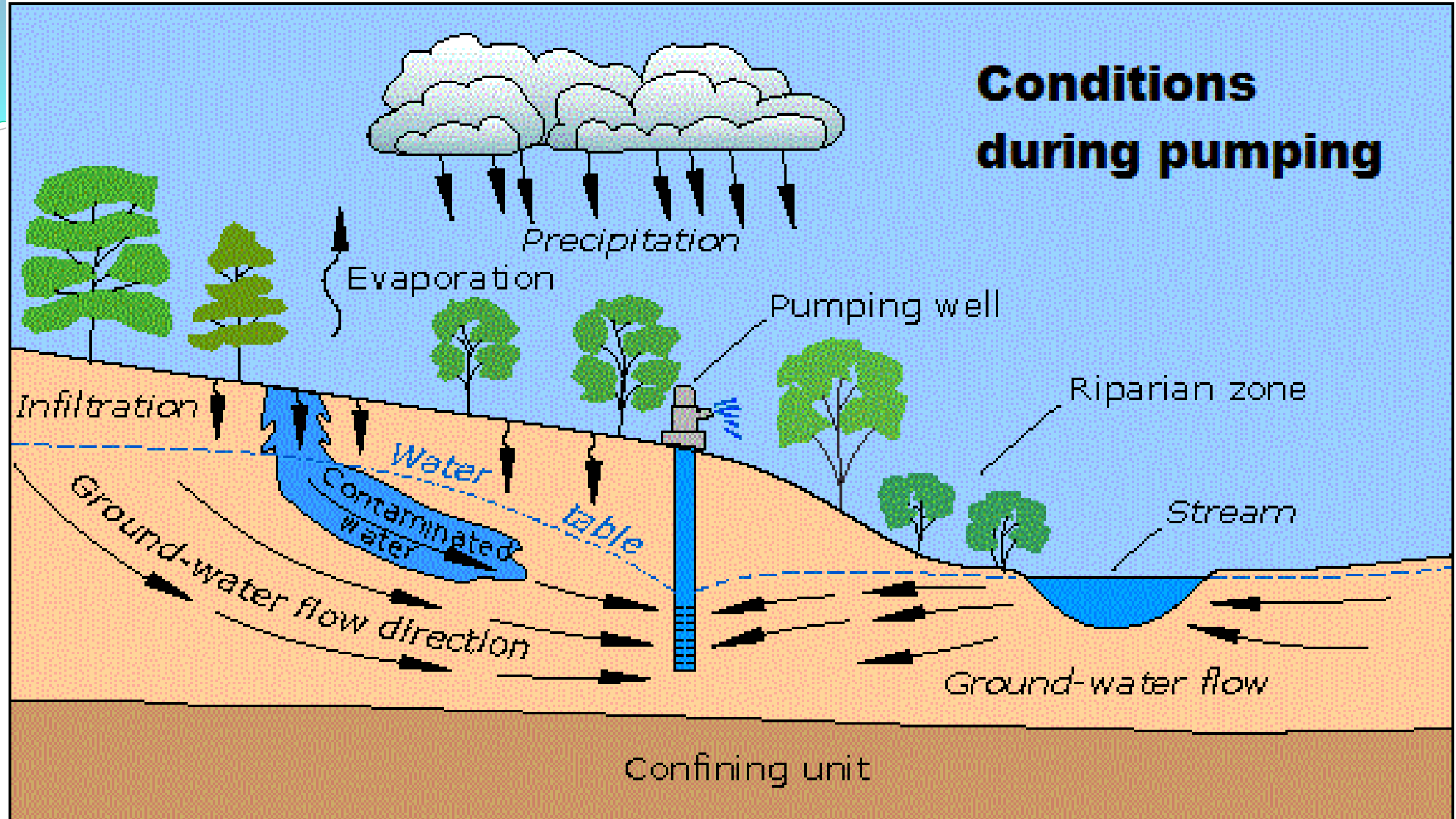




# Natural conditions



# Conditions during pumping



# Why are Permit-Exempt Wells a Concern?



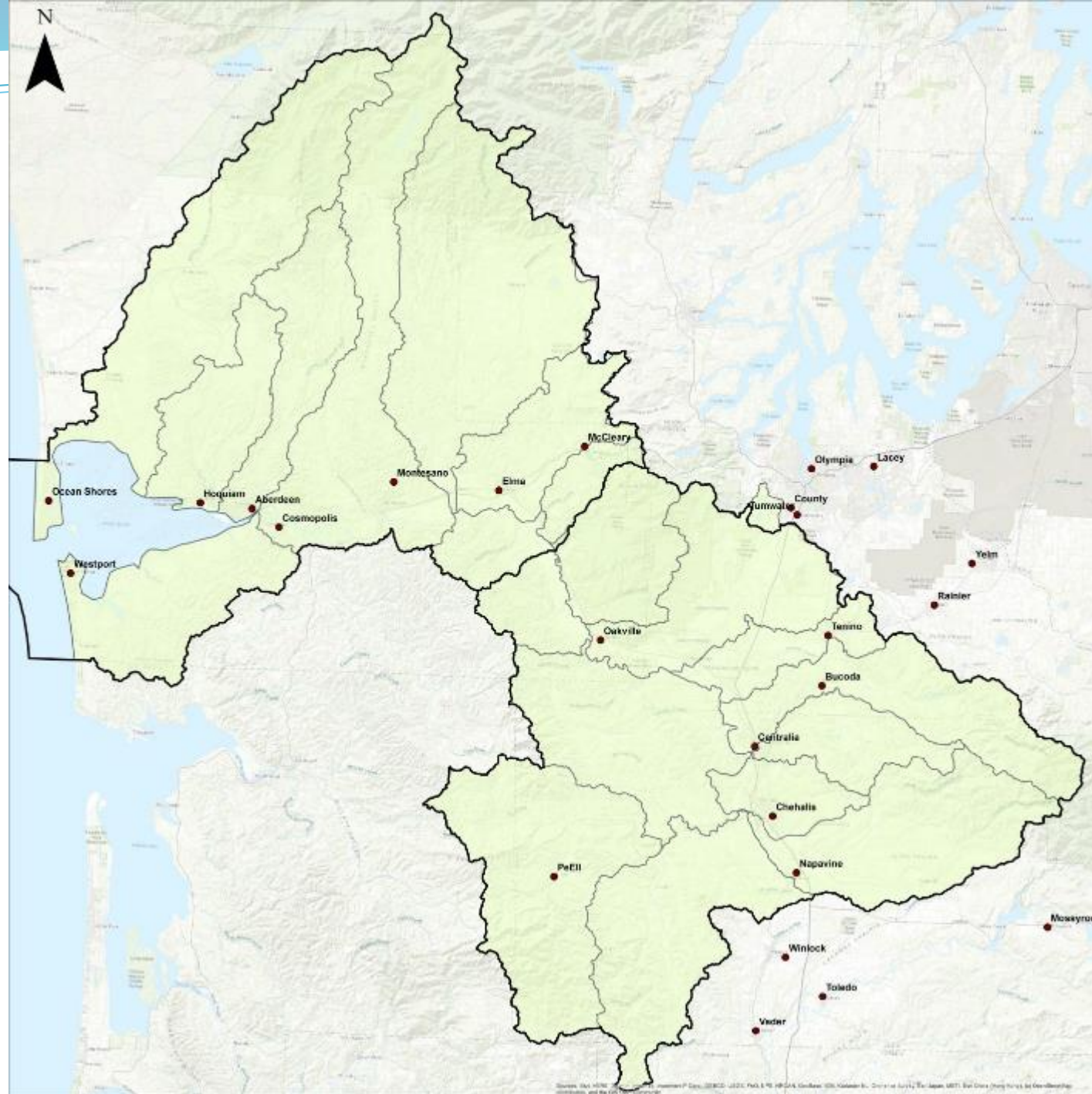


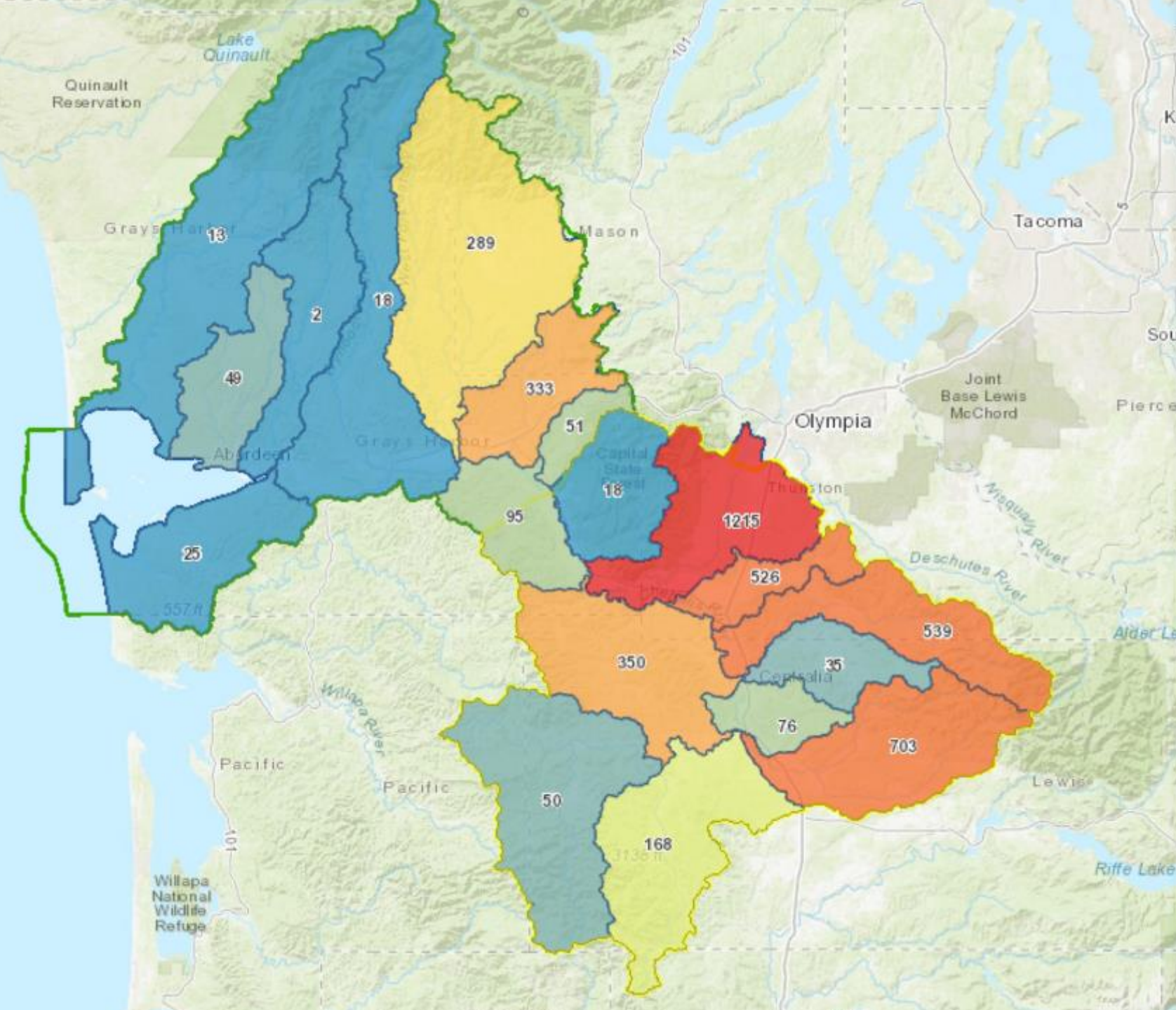
# Streamflow Restoration Act: Legal Requirements

- 20-year projection for *new* permit-exempt well connections
- 20-year *consumptive domestic water use estimate* from new permit-exempt well connections
- Impact assessment for streamflow
- Projects and actions to *offset estimated consumptive use* and meet Net Ecological Benefit
- Net Ecological Benefit evaluation

**Deadline: Plan must be approved by CBP and adopted by Ecology before Feb 1, 2021 or Ecology must begin formal rule-making.**

Where  
are you  
on this  
map?



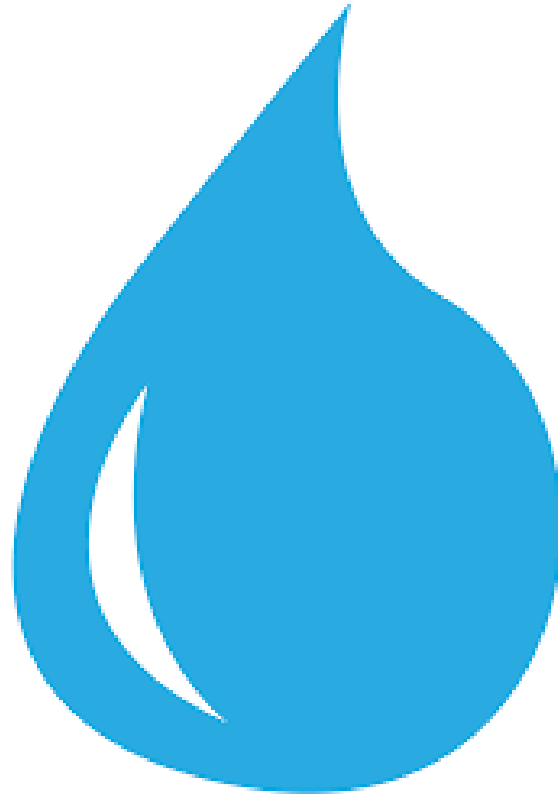


# New Exempt Well Distribution in the Chehalis Basin 2020-2040

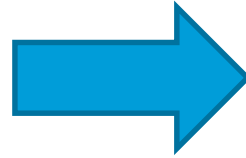


Our role is to “offset” new well drilling...  
Replace water with water... and help out fish

# Water Offset – Rights Acquisition

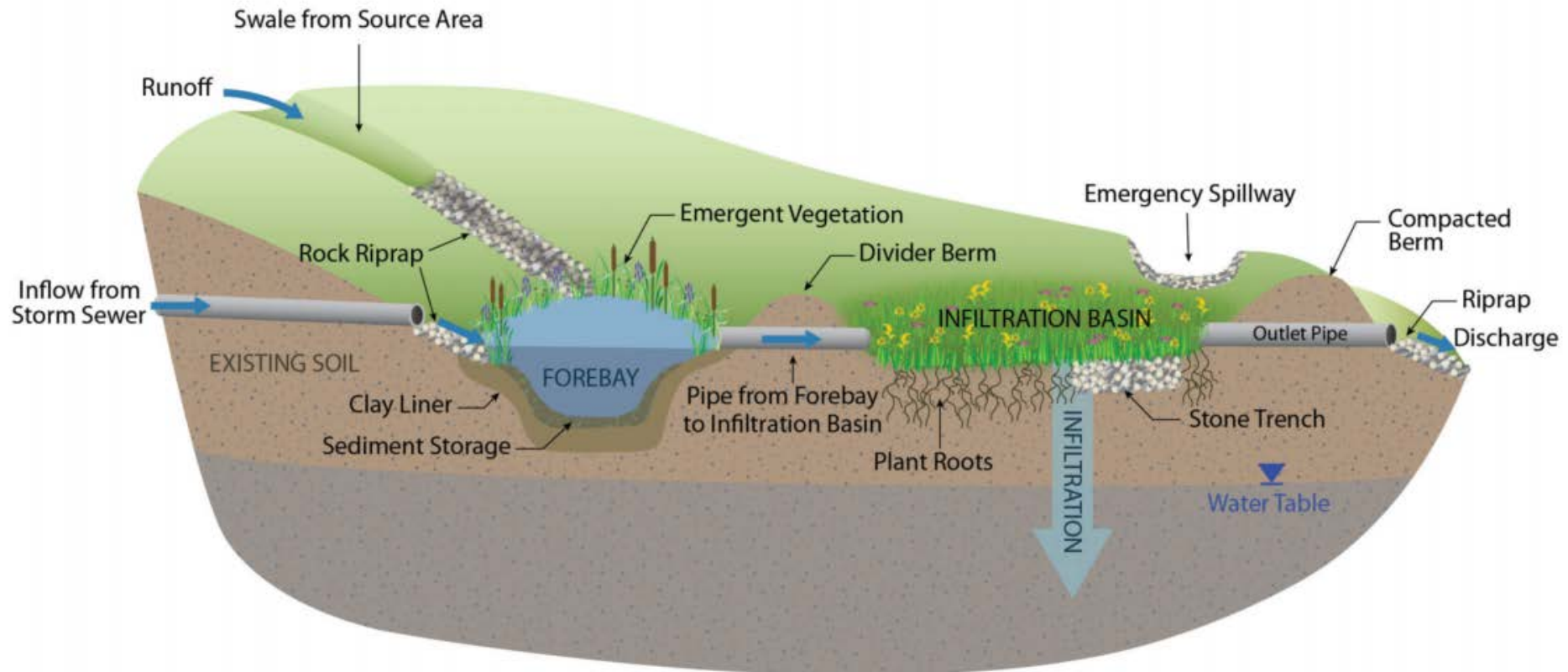


# Water Offset – Water Re-Use



# Water Offset – Managed Aquifer Recharge

## Infiltration Pond Example



# Water Offset – Floodplain Storage





# Habitat Enhancement



# End Goal

## Rural Growth



## Healthy Fish Populations



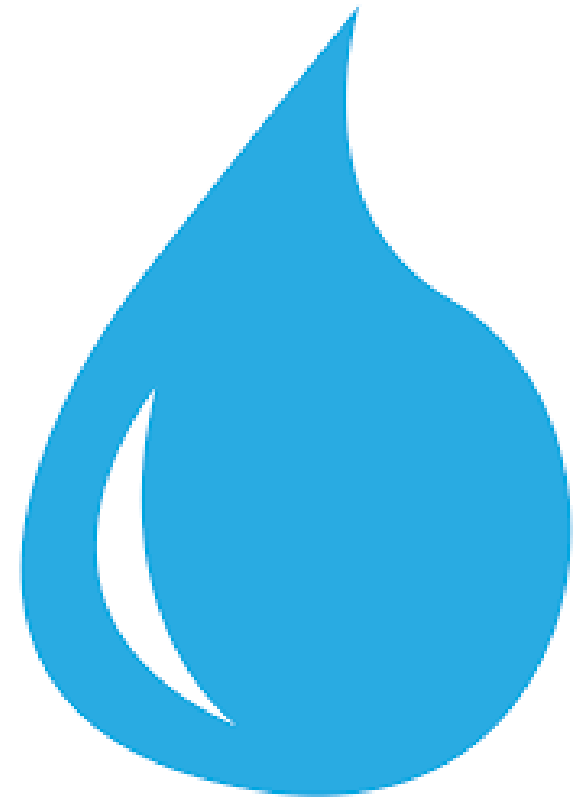
# Status of Plan and Results

- Permit-exempt well connection projections = **4,555** by 2040
- Consumptive domestic use from projected permit-exempt wells
  - **0.70** cubic-feet per second (**504.8** acre-feet per year)
- Offset projects under development
  - 26 Water Offsets projects; *8x more than projected use*
  - 58 Habitat projects = Net Ecological Benefit



# City of Chehalis Projects in Plan

- City of Chehalis Water Supply Diversion Relocation
  - Increase flow by 280 af/year in the Newaukum
- Flood Hazard Reduction Master Plan and Storage
  - Could offset >3 af/year, needs analysis
  - *Ecology funding for construction?*
- Coal Creek - City of Chehalis
  - Could offset of >3 af/year, needs analysis
  - *What would it take to move forward with this idea?*





- City of Chehalis owned parcel

# Schedule for CBP Plan Review/Approval

Full  
Review  
Draft  
Available  
**August  
2020**

CBP  
Approval  
**October  
2020**

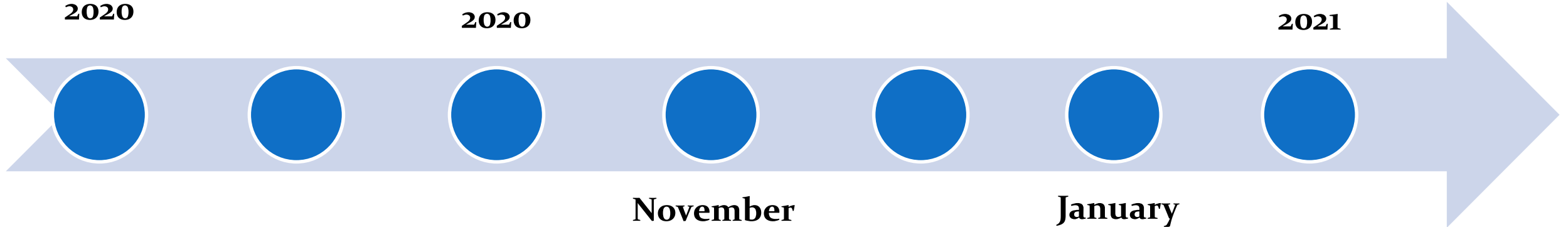
**December**


Plan  
Implemen-  
-tation  
**February  
2021**

**September**

**November  
2020**  
Ecology  
Review  
Starts

**January  
2021**  
Ecology  
Adoption





City of Chehalis will be invited to provide input and approve the plan by September



Questions?