



A watershed connects people to one another and to the natural landscape. WRIA 16's purpose is to manage this shared resource to benefit both people and the environment. We will listen to every individual in our watershed community who voices their needs, concerns, and ideas. Our vision is to develop a plan that achieves a broad consensus within this unique community.

## Community Watershed Forums

Residents of WRIA 16 gathered in September to find out about the results of a Technical Assessment of the watershed. The community meetings in Hoodspout and Brinnon generated lively conversation, and identified important issues and questions about the watershed. This newsletter features the key questions that were asked in both meetings, and a brief response. If you wish to find out more about minimum instream flow, hydraulic continuity, and exempt wells, come to the Planning Unit meetings. Please see p. 4 for a schedule of upcoming agenda items.

***"What's the problem? We've got plenty of water, why do we need a plan?"***

Chris Pitre of Golder Associates, who prepared the Level 1 Technical Assessment, explained that although there appears to be a lot of water in WRIA 16, the amount of water in the rivers and streams varies greatly during the year. During the dry periods there is not enough water in the rivers to meet proposed *minimum instream flow* Mini-

imum instream flow can be thought of as a water right for the river. It is a water right that protects the important resources of the river. Often this resource is fish habitat, but it also can be aesthetics or recreation. The Department of Ecology (DOE) needs to consider impact on stream flow for all new water rights it issues. DOE's view is that citizens at the local level are in the best position to provide guidance on what the community's priorities are for future water rights. That is what this watershed planning process is about.

***"How can the little water use that's in the watershed have an impact on the minimum instream flow?"***

Water use tends to increase in the summer when stream flows are lowest, so the impact can be substantial. The Planning Unit meeting on December 12, 2002 will include a discussion of the role of minimum instream flow in the watershed plan.

*(Continued on page 2)*

Another question common to both meetings focused on the disparity in the quantity of water available to wells that are quite close to one another.

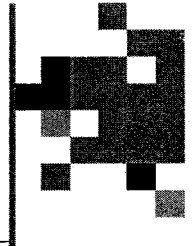
*“Why is it that close neighbors have artesian wells which run continuously, while others endure a scarcity of water? What is the geological cause for such disparity, when we all live in such close proximity?”*

The connections between different aquifers, and between aquifers and rivers, are complex. Chris Pitre explained that one well may be drawing from a confined aquifer, while another well close-by draws from an aquifer that is in *hydraulic continuity* with the river.

***What is hydraulic continuity? Why is it important?***

*Hydraulic continuity* is the interconnection between ground water (aquifers) and surface water sources. Ground water and surface water that are hydraulically connected cannot be considered as independent resources. A withdrawal from one will affect the other. The technical assessments conducted as part of the watershed planning process can provide information on hydraulic continuity

that is needed to assess whether a new water right will have an impact on minimum instream flow. On the other hand, when instream flow goes down, ground water may go down as well. So the impact of well use on stream flow and stream flow on ground water and wells, is reciprocal.



### *What's Next?*

**December 12, 3:00-5:00**

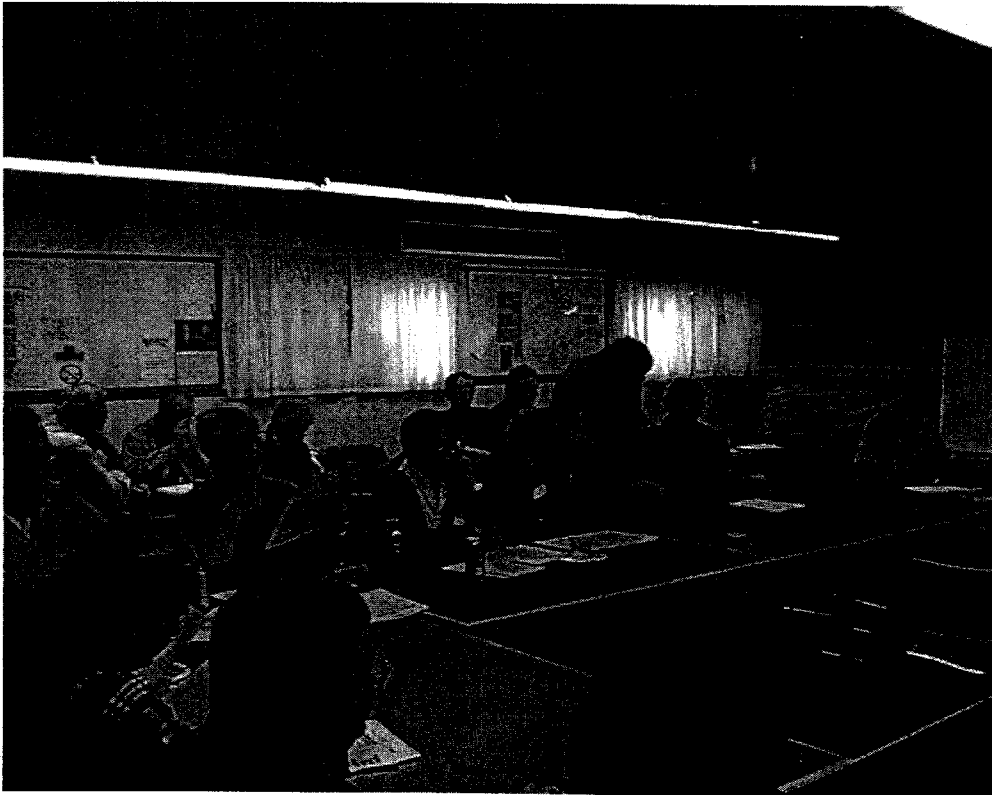
Planning Unit identifies preliminary list of issues where more data is needed, e.g.,

- impact of wells on stream flow, and
- water quality in major drainages and tributaries, especially in more developed areas of WRIA 16.

**January 9, 1:00-5:00**

Planning Unit sets priorities for water resources management plan.

All citizens are welcome to attend and share their comments with the Planning Unit.



Watershed residents gathered on September 5, at the Brinnon Booster Club to hear the results of the WRIA 16 Level 1 Technical Assessment.

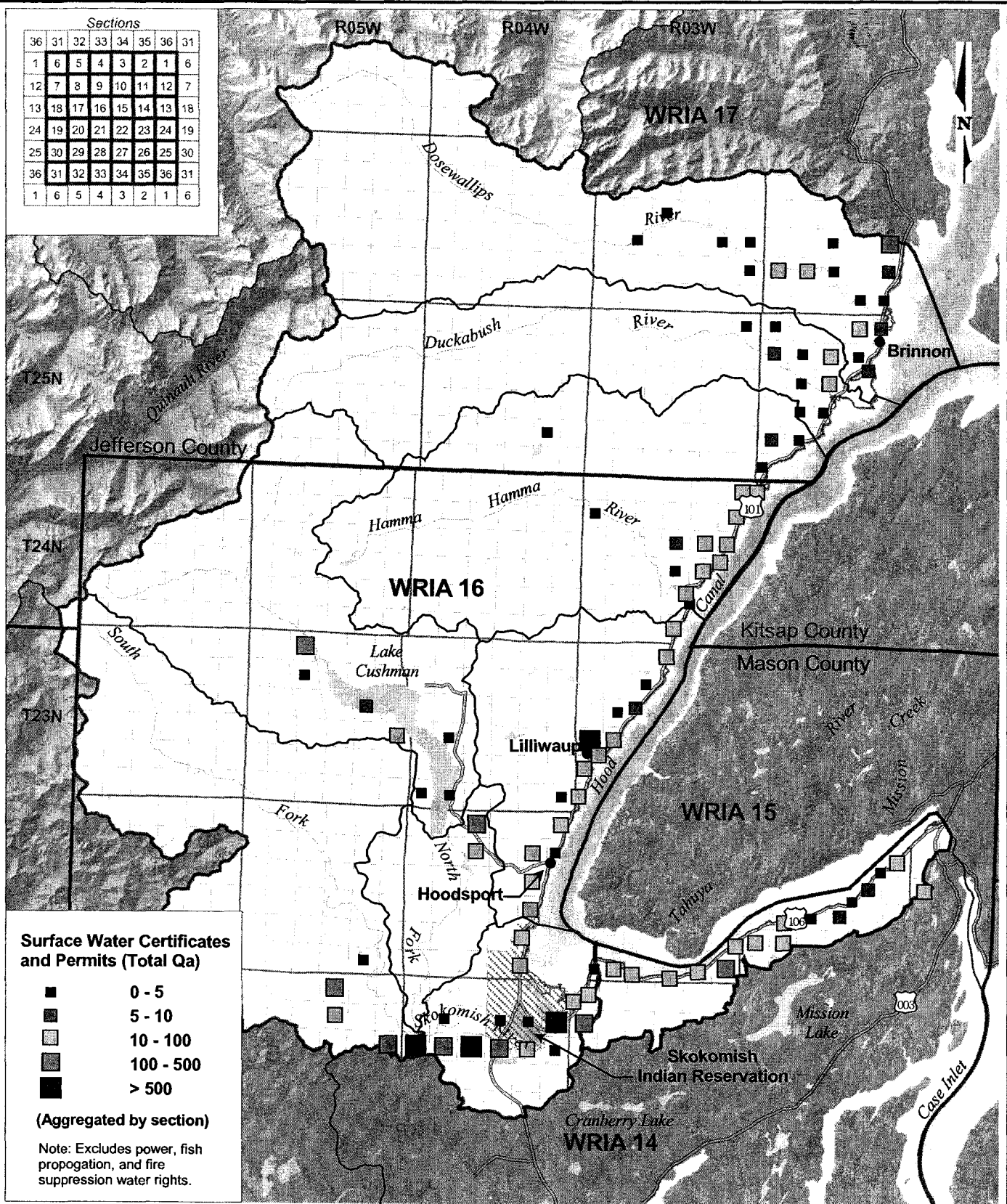
Some of the watershed planning issues identified by those who attended the meeting include:

- The possibility of a community water system for Olympic Canal Tracts, or downtown Brinnon.
- Fecal coliform impairment at the mouths of the Dosewallips & Duckabush Rivers.
- Hydraulic continuity, including differences in water availability for wells in the sub-basin.

*“All of this has been very useful in helping me to understand where the WRIAs fit into the overall scheme of things.”*

Tom McNerny, Brinnon resident & Chair, Jefferson Co. Planning Commission

Sections							
36	31	32	33	34	35	36	31
1	6	5	4	3	2	1	6
12	7	8	9	10	11	12	7
13	18	17	16	15	14	13	18
24	19	20	21	22	23	24	19
25	30	29	28	27	26	25	30
36	31	32	33	34	35	36	31
1	6	5	4	3	2	1	6



**Surface Water Certificates and Permits (Total Qa)**

- 0 - 5
- 5 - 10
- 10 - 100
- 100 - 500
- > 500

(Aggregated by section)

Note: Excludes power, fish propagation, and fire suppression water rights.

- ▭ WRIA 16
- ▭ Portion of WRIA 14 included in study
- ▭ WRIA Boundaries
- ▭ Sub-Basin Boundaries
- ▭ County Boundaries
- ▭ Reservations
- ▭ Rivers and Streams
- ▭ Water Bodies
- ▭ Townships
- ▭ Sections
- Cities
- ▭ Roads



Scale 1" = 5 Miles

Map Projection: Washington State Plane, NAD83, North, Feet

This figure was originally produced in color. Reproduction in black and white may result in loss of information.

Original Data Source: Washington Dept. of Ecology, Washington Dept. of Transportation WRATS



**Skokomish Dosewallips Surface Water Certificates, Permits and Claims**

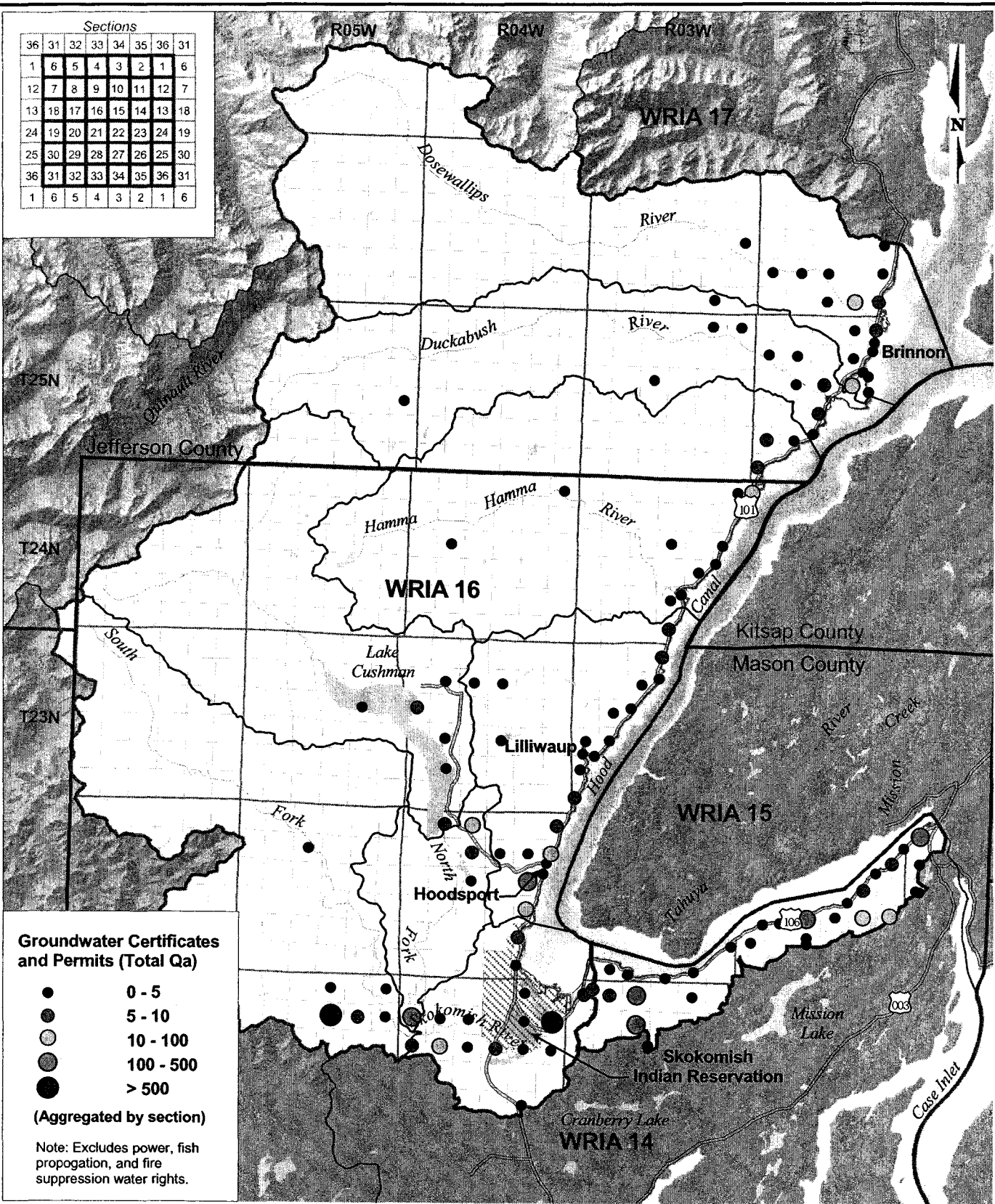
Drawn: GKL

Revision: 1

Date: Jul. 22, 2002

Figure: 7.2

Sections											
36	31	32	33	34	35	36	31				
1	6	5	4	3	2	1	6				
12	7	8	9	10	11	12	7				
13	18	17	16	15	14	13	18				
24	19	20	21	22	23	24	19				
25	30	29	28	27	26	25	30				
36	31	32	33	34	35	36	31				
1	6	5	4	3	2	1	6				



**Groundwater Certificates and Permits (Total Qa)**

- 0 - 5
- 5 - 10
- 10 - 100
- 100 - 500
- > 500

(Aggregated by section)

Note: Excludes power, fish propagation, and fire suppression water rights.

- LEGEND**
- ▭ WRIA 16
  - ▭ Portion of WRIA 14 included in study
  - ▭ WRIA Boundaries
  - ▭ Sub-Basin Boundaries
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	<b>Skokomish Dosewallips Groundwater Certificates, Permits and Claims</b>		
	Drawn: GKL	Revision: 1	Date: Jul. 22, 2002

# Community Watershed Forums, con't.

Residents of the Skokomish and Hamma Hamma sub-basins gathered at the Hoodspout Fire Hall on September 12. Concerns and questions regarding a watershed plan that residents attending this community meeting identified include:

- How might unused water rights be addressed in a watershed plan? (See "Citizens Want to Know...")
- Can WRIA 16 take a look at the water quality issues connected to the growing seal population at the mouth of the Hamma Hamma River?
- What is an exempt well? (See "Citizens Want to Know...")
- What might the impact of the watershed plan be on Lake Cushman?



Chris Pitre of Golder Associates talks with a WRIA 16 resident about the technical assessment after the community meeting in Hoodspout.

## Seals, water quality and WRIA 16

Water quality in the rivers and streams is one of the areas that the WRIA 16 Planning Unit will address. Currently there is a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) planning initiative underway for the Skokomish River. The Level 1 Technical Assessment identified impairment due to fecal coliform at the mouths of the Dosewallips and Duckabush Rivers. The water quality work of WRIA 16 will be focused on the rivers, the watershed planning process does not address issues of water quality in Hood Canal.

## Lake Cushman and the WRIA 16 watershed plan:

Because of ongoing litigation, the hydroelectric dams in the North Fork of the Skokomish River are "off-the-table" in terms of assessment of the dams and their effect on the watershed. The Lake Cushman community is represented on the WRIA 16 Planning Unit, which is developing the watershed plan that may affect future administration of water rights. Lake Cushman is #1 in the State in terms of water-rights applications.

### Citizens Want to Know...

*"What about municipalities that have water rights and never use them? Seventy-five years ago, the City of Bremerton was granted a water right on the Hamma Hamma for a power generating station. They decided it was economically unfeasible, and never built the plant, but they still have the water right. Are PUDs and service districts subject to relinquishment?"*

The relinquishment of unused water rights by municipalities is a big issue statewide. The principle behind relinquishment is "use it or lose it." A watershed plan might address the issue of unused water rights.

### *"Why aren't wells included in your list of water rights?"*

A well that uses less than 5,000 gals./day and/or that is used to irrigate less than 1/2 acre, does not require a water right, i.e., it is *exempt*. The list of *water rights applications* in the Technical Assessment *does not include wells*. But exempt wells are assessed in terms of water use because of the need to estimate current and future water use in light of population growth.

**RIVERS FOR LIFE**  
**WRIA 16 WATERSHED PLANNING**  
 411 N. Fifth, PO Box 279  
 Shelton, WA 98584

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For more information, contact:  
 Jason Manassee, Sr. Planner  
 (360) 427-9670, ext.. 294



To get a copy of the  
**Level 1 Technical Assessment of WRIA 16**  
 on CD-ROM, send a request to  
 Jason Manassee at the address above.

November, 2002	
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RIVERS FOR LIFE is designed and edited by Barbara Bowen, Natural Resources, Jefferson Co. If you have ideas for future issues, you can contact Barbara at (360) 379-4498 or [bbowen@co.jefferson.wa.us](mailto:bbowen@co.jefferson.wa.us).

**FUTURE PLANNING UNIT MEETINGS**

Thursday, December 12, 2002 3:00-5:00  
 Thursday, January 9, 2003 1:00-5:00  
 Thursday, February 13, 2003 3:00-5:00

PUD # 1 Board Room  
 Podatch, WA 98584

Upcoming Agenda Items

- Dec. 12 Additional data needs
- Jan. 9 Priorities for the watershed management plan.
- Feb. 13 Minimum instream flow & hydraulic continuity