

Water availability options in Upper Kittitas County subject to WAC 173-539A groundwater rule

1. Use or tie into existing water right or municipal hook-up
2. Use or be part of an existing Group B, or Group A water system that is not subject to the rule.
3. Obtain water through existing water banks (Suncadia, Sapphire Skies, Swauk, and First Creek)
4. Obtain TWSA neutrality through obtaining water through existing water banks plus [mitigation locally at tributary scale].
5. Use of a water cistern

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Mitigation approach in cases where available mitigation is downstream of predicted impact:

1. Efforts made to secure in-place mitigation:
 - a. What opportunities are available?
 - i. What existing pre-1905 water rights are upstream?
 - ii. What effort made to purchase a pre-1905 water right?
 - iii. Opportunities to store and release water during low-flow periods?
 - b. What are the relative costs?
 - i. Cost to purchase upstream mitigation
 - ii. Cost to construct a system to provide low-flow in-place mitigation
 - c. Is it reasonable to conclude all reasonable efforts have been exhausted?
2. In Lieu payment for ecosystem impacts
 - a. What is the value of the ecosystem services impacted?
 - b. Can they be replaced at another location?
 - c. If the value can be determined and the answer to Question 2.b. is “yes,” a payment of equal or greater value to the value of the impacted aquatic resources could be made in lieu of in-place mitigation.
 - d. If a value cannot be determined or if the ecosystem service cannot be replaced at another location, then in lieu payment is not an option.