

RESOLUTION 2022-07

SHORT TITLE: 2022-07 Ecology Water Bank Program

SPONSOR CD: Okanogan

AREA: NW SW NC SC NE SE

RESOLUTION TYPE:

- Policy
- Position Statement
- Recognition
- Study

RESOLUTION ACTION AGENCY (check any option that applies):

- WACD
- WSCC
- OTHER STATE AGENCY      Legislature & Ecology
- NRCS
- NACD
- NON-STATE/FEDERAL PARTNER      \_\_\_\_\_

BACKGROUND/PROBLEM STATEMENT:

The Washington State Legislature authorized and funded the Washington Department of Ecology to fund the creation of locally controlled water banks beginning July 1, 2021. The funding for the program is currently set to expire on June 30, 2023. The necessary steps to acquire a water right, have its extent and validity confirmed, and process all of the legal paperwork to transfer the water right into the water bank and state water trust takes well over a year. Extending the life of this program beyond June 30, 2023 is imperative to giving enough time to those who wish to develop this water management tool the necessary time to do so correctly and

Furthermore, the program rules limit applicants to a maximum of \$2 million. Water acquisition is expensive and to develop a proper water bank it often takes multiple water rights from different points within a watershed and have varying authorize uses or timing of use.

PROPOSED RESOLUTION LANGUAGE:

**WACD resolves to work with the Washington Legislature and Department of Ecology to extend the Water Banking Program and lift the \$2 million cap per applicant rule.**

TYPE OF TEXT OF RESOLUTION (check all boxes that apply):

- Technical (changes address grammar, punctuation, sentence flow and makes **NO** substantive change(s) to the existing policy.
- Substantive change to existing policy. If in doubt, check the box.
- New policy.

IS THERE A BUDGET IMPLICATION TO IMPLEMENT THE POLICY?

- NO
- YES (briefly explain): staff time to work with Ecology and legislators.