

WALLA WALLA 2050 PLAN



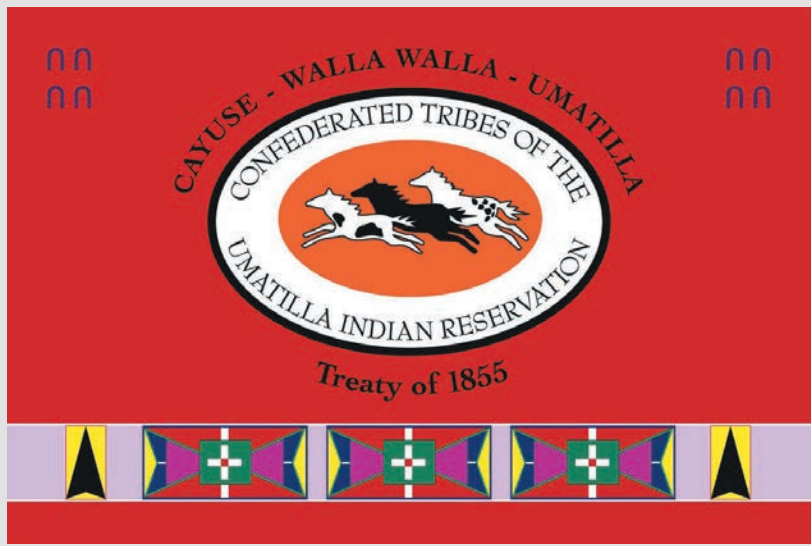
ABOUT THE BASIN

- The Walla Walla Basin is within the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation's homeland but is divided by the Oregon-Washington border.
- The Tribes have worked for decades and invested more than \$100 million to collaboratively resolve water issues facing the Walla Walla and restore its fisheries.
- However, restoration efforts have failed due to the inability of the two states to manage water cooperatively, including the inability to legally protect water instream across the state line.

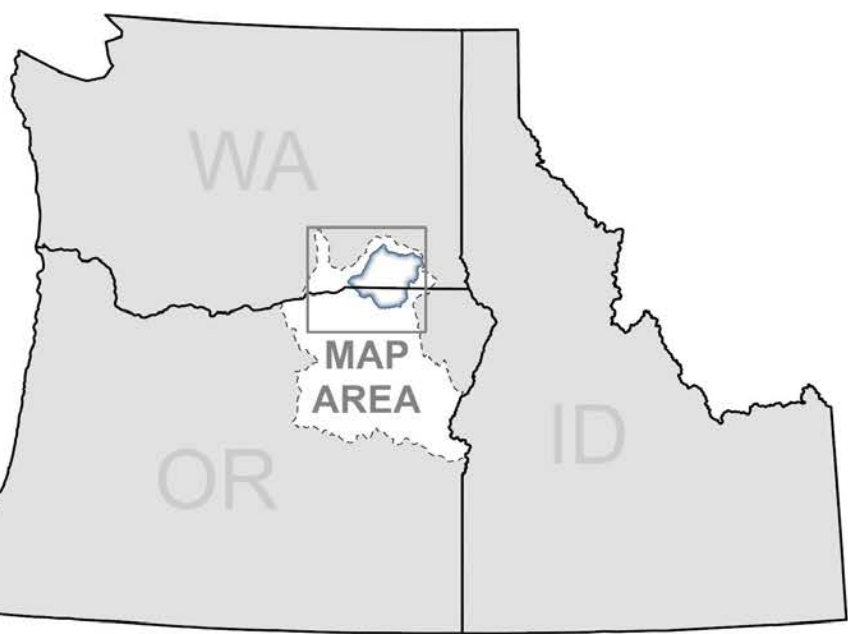
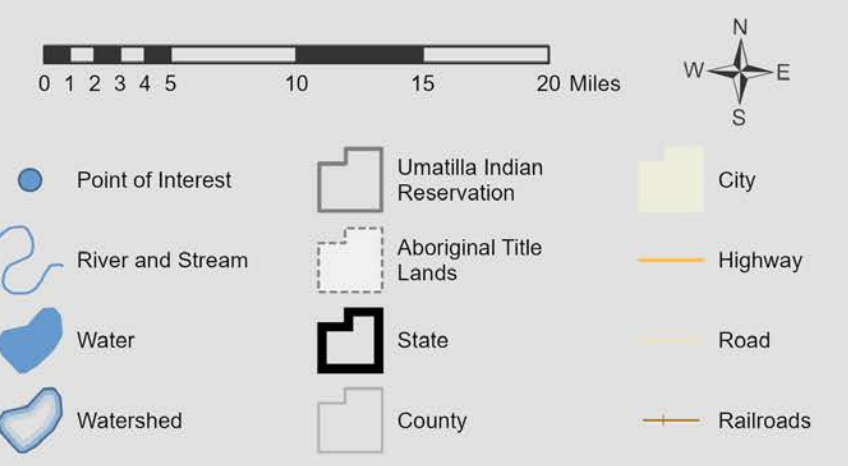
WHY SENATE BILL 1567 IS NEEDED

- Sen. Bill Hansell has introduced legislation that will provide the authority to work and fund projects in both states - but it does not commit Oregon to any investments.
- The Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation supports this legislation. The basin is committed to working together to solve water challenges collaboratively, but that will only be possible if both states have the necessary legal tools to do so. This bill will provide those tools.
- The water problems faced by the Walla Walla are being exacerbated by climate change. Conditions will only worsen if bold and strategic action is not taken immediately.
- Washington recognized this need and now has these authorities with the passage of SSHB 1322, which is the counterpart to Oregon's bill.





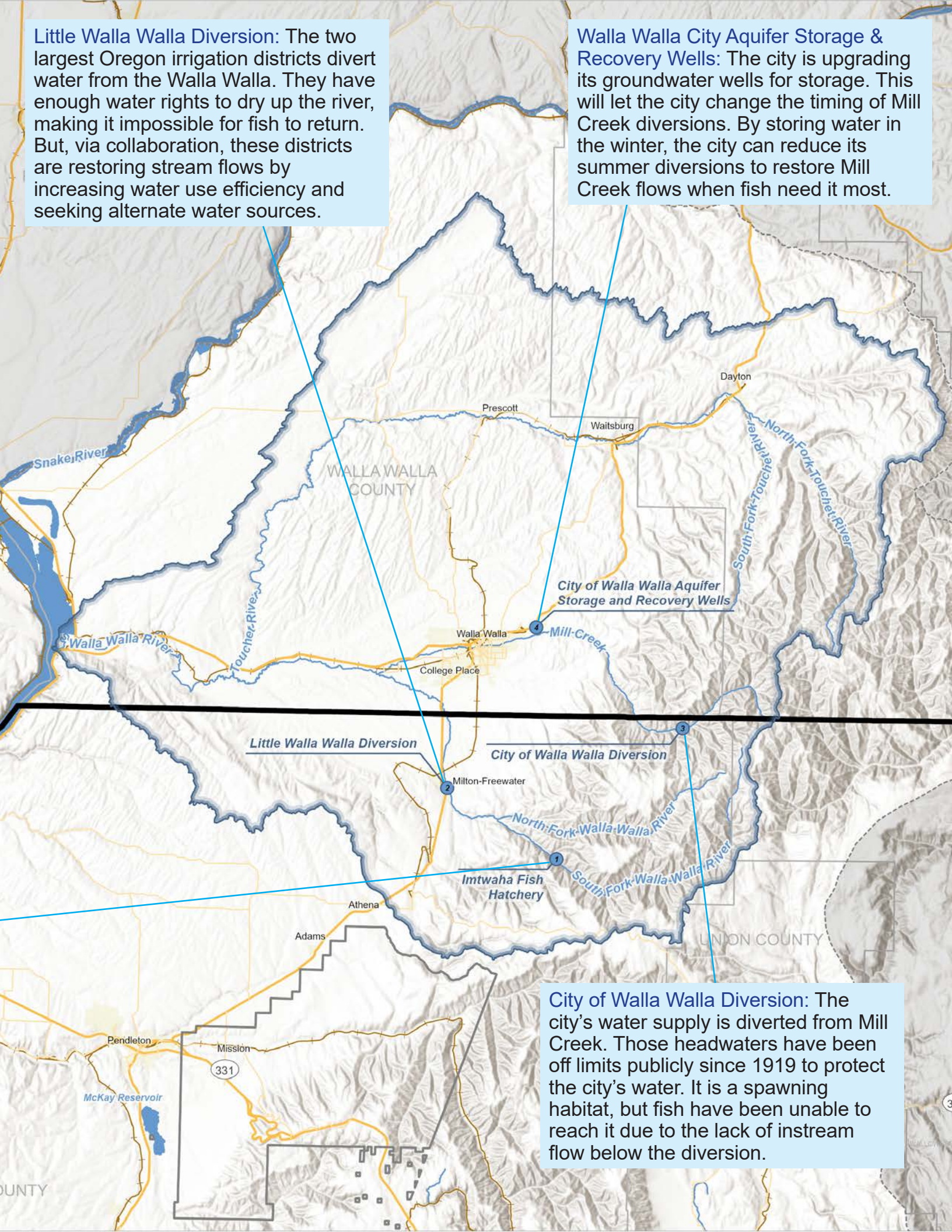
The Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation is comprised of the Cayuse, Umatilla, and Walla Walla Tribes, formed under the Treaty of 1855 at the Walla Walla Valley, 12 Stat. 945. In 1949, the Tribes adopted a constitutional form of government to protect, preserve, and enhance the reserved treaty rights guaranteed under federal law.



Intwaha Fish Hatchery: The Umatilla Tribes' Intwaha Fish Hatchery was opened in 2021 to initiate the restoration of Walla Walla's Spring Chinook salmon, which were extirpated from the basin in the early 1900s. The Tribes continue to work with basin partners to restore access to pristine headwaters spawning habitats in Oregon and Washington.

Little Walla Walla Diversion: The two largest Oregon irrigation districts divert water from the Walla Walla. They have enough water rights to dry up the river, making it impossible for fish to return. But, via collaboration, these districts are restoring stream flows by increasing water use efficiency and seeking alternate water sources.

Walla Walla City Aquifer Storage & Recovery Wells: The city is upgrading its groundwater wells for storage. This will let the city change the timing of Mill Creek diversions. By storing water in the winter, the city can reduce its summer diversions to restore Mill Creek flows when fish need it most.



Little Walla Walla Diversion

City of Walla Walla Diversion

City of Walla Walla Diversion: The city's water supply is diverted from Mill Creek. Those headwaters have been off limits publicly since 1919 to protect the city's water. It is a spawning habitat, but fish have been unable to reach it due to the lack of instream flow below the diversion.

PLAN IN ACTION

- In 2021, Walla Walla Basin stakeholders created the Walla Walla Water 2050 Plan as a roadmap for sustainable water use and fisheries restoration.
- The Walla Walla Water 2050 Plan identifies strategies necessary for Oregon and Washington to manage the basin and its water resources holistically, collaboratively, and sustainably.
- This plan has broad, bi-partisan, and bi-state support. It has also been recognized by the Washington State Legislature and Oregon Water Resources Commission.

DID YOU KNOW...

- The Walla Walla River headwaters are in Oregon but its mouth is in Washington?
- The water source for the City of Walla Walla, Washington, is in Oregon?
- Many Walla Walla Valley farmers irrigate with water rights from both states?
- Many groundwater users in Oregon and Washington pump from the same aquifer?
- Salmon have been extinct in the Walla Walla for more than a century, and efforts to reintroduce them will not succeed without river restoration in Oregon and Washington?
- The Walla Walla Valley is renowned for its wines and has been designated as its own American Viticultural Area, which spans both Oregon and Washington?

“Based on my over 40 years of experience as a Umatilla County commissioner and state senator, I understand how intertwined the Walla Walla River Basin is with Oregon and Washington communities.”

- Sen. Bill Hansell, Dist. 29

“The Legislature must give clear direction to the Oregon Water Resources Department to work with the Walla Walla Basin stakeholders and the State of Washington to solve water challenges collaboratively.” - Rep. Bobby Levy, Dist. 58

“The Walla Walla 2050 Plan is an exemplary roadmap for cooperative interstate basin management, vital for a thriving future. The Umatilla Tribes’ cultural ties to the ‘land of many waters’ and the bleak outlook if we don’t take action now emphasize the urgency of this plan. With your support, we can ensure a sustainable legacy, blending heritage with progress.”

- Rep. Annessa Hartman, Dist. 40

