
About Us

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The Columbia Basin Ground Water Management Area of Adams, Franklin, Lincoln and Grant Counties, Washington

The Columbia Basin Ground Water Management Area or GWMA of Adams, Franklin, Grant and Lincoln Counties is made up of local citizens, stakeholders, industries, and leaders and is a non-regulatory, pro-active, voluntary organization whose main goal is to protect groundwater and address issues relating to the aquifer system underlying the four-county area. The GWMA is intended to lessen the need for state and federally mandated control measures.

The GWMA designation offers a method for local citizens and government to work together in the development of a Ground Water Management Area Plan, which offers sound locally based, workable solutions to achieve groundwater protection and the development of data and information through which the GWMA and its constituents are able to have an understanding of how the aquifer system within the four-county area works.

The Columbia Basin GWMA was initially designated by the State of Washington in 1998 consisted of Adams, Franklin and Grant Counties. Lincoln County petitioned the GWMA and the State to become a member of the GWMA. In September 2005, Lincoln County became an official participant in the GWMA.

GROUNDWATER IS A CRITICAL RESOURCE FOR THE CITIZENS OF THE COLUMBIA BASIN AREA OF WASHINGTON STATE.

The GWMA Lead Agency (the Boards of County Commissioners of Adams, Franklin, Grant and Lincoln Counties) along with the GWMA Administrative Board recognize the importance of understanding and protecting this valuable and critical resource. Groundwater in the four-county area provides well over 90% of the drinking water for the area's local citizens and stakeholders. The susceptibility of the area's local aquifer system has been the cornerstone of the GWMA's efforts since its beginning in 1998.

A GRASSROOTS EFFORT - Developing the GWMA Plan

Hundreds of local citizens, stakeholders, technical advisors and consultants volunteered thousands of hours to examine and study potential water quality and water quantity issues. These concerned citizens participating through Ground Water Advisory Committees made up of representatives from urban and rural residents, land use planning, public health, irrigated and dryland agriculture, food processing, dairy, feedlot and cattlemen groups, municipal drinking water and wastewater systems, small rural water systems, private well owners, and environmental and recreational interest, developed specific best management practices and recommendations designed to meet the needs of the local area located within the Columbia Basin Aquifer System. The result of their efforts may be found in the Columbia Basin Ground Water Management Area Plan (GWMA Plan). The GWMA Plan is non-regulatory and relies on the voluntary implementation of its recommendations and is not regulatory.

The GWMA Plan was completed and certified in December 2001 and has been formally adopted by the Boards of County Commissioners of Adams, Franklin, Lincoln and Grant Counties and the State of Washington. The goal of the GWMA Plan has been to protect groundwater quality and to characterize and develop an understanding of groundwater quantity in the four-county area.

OUR ORGANIZATION / ADMINISTRATION

Lead Agency: The Lead Agency, consists of the Boards of County Commissioners of Adams, Franklin, Grant and Lincoln Counties, oversees the direction and activities of the GWMA. Please view our Organizational Chart [here](#) !

GWMA Administrative Board: The Administrative Board oversees the day to day operations of the GWMA and performs the administrative functions of implementing the GWMA Plan and on-going functions of the GWMA projects, studies and

programs. The Board is made up of eight members, one county commissioner from each of the four Boards of County Commissioners of Adams, Franklin and Grant Counties, and one citizen member from each of the four counties.

GWAC Executive Board: The GWAC Executive Board is made up of one county representative (representing each of the four counties) from each of the five stakeholder Ground Water Advisory Committees for a total of fifteen members. The Executive Board is the governing body of the GWACs and serves as the official body of the GWMA for the purpose of maintaining the goals of the GWMA Plan.

For more information regarding the GWMA, contact:

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