

**RCW 90.22.010 Establishment of minimum water flows or levels—Authorized—Purposes.** The department of ecology may establish minimum water flows or levels for streams, lakes or other public waters for the purposes of protecting fish, game, birds or other wildlife resources, or recreational or aesthetic values of said public waters whenever it appears to be in the public interest to establish the same. In addition, the department of ecology shall, when requested by the department of fish and wildlife to protect fish, game or other wildlife resources under the jurisdiction of the requesting state agency, or if the department of ecology finds it necessary to preserve water quality, establish such minimum flows or levels as are required to protect the resource or preserve the water quality described in the request or determination. Any request submitted by the department of fish and wildlife shall include a statement setting forth the need for establishing a minimum flow or level. When the department acts to preserve water quality, it shall include a similar statement with the proposed rule filed with the code reviser. This section shall not apply to waters artificially stored in reservoirs, provided that in the granting of storage permits by the department of ecology in the future, full recognition shall be given to downstream minimum flows, if any there may be, which have theretofore been established hereunder. [1997 c 32 s 4; 1994 c 264 s 86; 1988 c 47 s 6. Prior: 1987 c 506 s 96; 1987 c 109 s 103; 1969 ex.s. c 284 s 3.]

**Application—1988 c 47:** See note following RCW 90.54.030.

**Legislative findings and intent—1987 c 506:** See note following RCW 77.04.020.

**Purpose—Short title—Construction—Rules—Severability—Captions—1987 c 109:** See notes following RCW 43.21B.001.

**Severability—1969 ex.s. c 284:** See note following RCW 90.48.290.