

**WAC 173-539A-040 Withdrawal of unappropriated water in upper Kittitas County.**

(1) Beginning on the effective date of this rule, all public groundwaters within the upper Kittitas County are withdrawn from appropriation. No new appropriation or withdrawal of groundwater may occur, including those exempt from permitting, except:

(a) Uses of groundwater for a structure for which a building permit is granted and the building permit application vested prior to July 16, 2009; and

(b) Uses determined to be water budget neutral under WAC 173-539A-050.

(2) The exception for water used at structures provided in subsection (1)(a) of this section shall not apply or shall cease to apply if the structure is not completed and a water system that uses the new appropriation is not operable within the time allowed under the building permit. This shall not in any case exceed three years from the date the permit application vested. The exception is to avoid potential hardship and does not reflect ecology's view on when the priority date for a permit-exempt water right is established.

(3) Water to serve a parcel that is part of an existing group use is not a new appropriation or withdrawal if the water use to serve such parcel began within five years of the date water was first beneficially used on any parcel in the group, if the first use was prior to July 16, 2009, and the group use remains within the limit of the permit exemption.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 90.54.050 and chapter 43.27A RCW. WSR 11-01-163 (Order 08-12), § 173-539A-040, filed 12/22/10, effective 1/22/11.]