

Columbia Basin Ground Water Management Area Issues

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Hydro-Stratigraphy Mapping Project

GWMA is currently mapping geologic and hydrologic structures within the 6,000 miles contained in the three counties of Adams, Franklin, and Grant. The water source and recharge of groundwater can now be shown in three dimensional format with these data. Interested irrigators, cities, and others should contact GWMA for information regarding their aquifer concerns.

Irrigation Water Management Technologies

Irrigation Water Management Scheduling has the highest priority by the local stakeholders to address the issue of nitrates in our area. GWMA funds along with NRCS EQIP funds offers cost-share support for IWM practices. Significant increases in the cost-share program are attracting more interest by producers.

New technology has provided opportunity for IWM information to be transmitted more readily to producers using radio telemetry equipment. Many current software packages provide producers with detailed graphs and tables of moisture information within minutes from the field. Local IWM consultants can match producers' needs with the appropriate technology and available equipment. Conservation Districts can provide producers with an extensive list of available consultants and references to the most appropriate contacts.

Use of the broadband wireless internet for information transmission is now possible in some areas of the GWMA. Significant improvements in reliability, transmission speed, and two-way interaction have given the agricultural industry a more advanced tool. IWM circle-pivot controls and many other significant uses of the broadband wireless internet system are becoming reality every day in the Columbia Basin. Work has begun to place towers throughout the three county area. The first towers were placed in operation in January 2003 with more towers to follow. The opportunity to connect your resources to the internet and the ability to manage them wireless from laptop computers from any location is a most promising possibility for agriculture.

For more information, contact your local Conservation District office or the GWMA Project office at 509-488-2802, ext. 108.