

The Chelan County Water Management Program



Chelan County is implementing a Water Management Program to protect senior surface water and groundwater water rights and to ensure water reliability for new domestic uses. This guidance is intended to offer step by step instructions on how to get a building permit and comply with this program. A separate document, Frequently Asked Questions, helps explain why this program is needed, which is available at the County's website at: <https://www.co.chelan.wa.us/natural-resources/pages/water-mitigation-program>

Step 1: Determine Availability

To get a building permit for a new dwelling necessitating potable water, Chelan County must determine that water is both physically and legally available.

Physically Available: The applicant must demonstrate access to an adequate potable water supply. This can be done with one of the following:

- Letter of availability from an approved public water system.
- Drilled well meeting state and Chelan-Douglas Health District (CDHD) standards and requirements producing 400 gallons/day/connection
- Surface water source meeting the CDHD standards
- Other means as approved by CDHD health officer

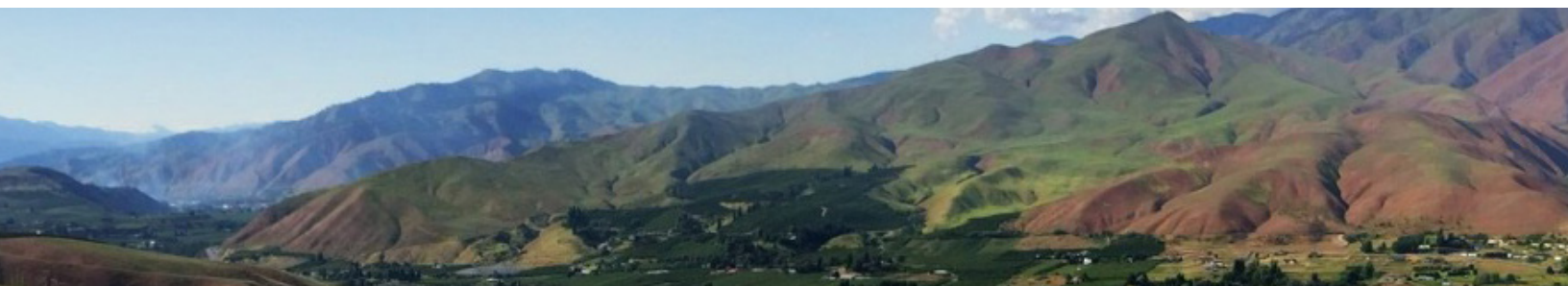
Legally Available: The applicant shall provide evidence that potable water is legally available. This is done with one of the following:

- Water right from the Washington State Department of Ecology that covers your new water use.
- Letter of availability from an approved public water system.
- Water Mitigation Certificate issued by Chelan County

Step 2: Review Water Mitigation Requirements

In this step, you will need to determine if your building permit application requires a Chelan County Water Mitigation Certificate for legal access to water. This is dependent on three factors:

1. **Permit Type:** New Residential Building Permit - any structure permitted as a dwelling, including but not limited to; a single family residence, accessory dwelling unit, manufactured home. New dwellings on the same parcel that replace an existing dwelling are exempt (ie. fire rebuild, demo rebuild).
2. **Location:** This program applies to the following areas: Entiat Basin (WRIA 46), Lake Chelan Basin (WRIA 47), and Wenatchee Basin (WRIA 45). A map of the mitigation basins can be found on the [Natural Resource website](#).
3. **Water Source:**
 - a. Water Mitigation is NOT necessary if you provide a letter of availability from an approved public water system.
 - b. Water Mitigation is necessary for a domestic well (single or shared).
 - c. Water Mitigation is necessary for a surface water connection from Lake Chelan unless you can provide evidence of a water right from the Department of Ecology.



Step 3: Complete Water Mitigation Application

Applicants applying for building permits requiring water mitigation will complete the Water Mitigation Application and apply directly to Chelan County Community Development prior to submitting a building permit application. Water mitigation and administration fees will be collected at this time. All applicants must disclose whether they have access to outdoor irrigation water (e.g., irrigation district shares or water right), building permit type, and whether they propose to use a well or surface water diversion.

***Existing homes using surface water:** Applicants with existing homes requiring mitigation will use the same application and process, indicating the mitigation is for an existing use rather than a new building. For example, if you have an existing home on Lake Chelan and withdraw water directly from the lake without a water right permit, this requires a water right on file with Ecology or a mitigation certificate issued by Chelan County.

Step 4: Pay Fees

There are two fees associated with this Water Management Program that must be paid when the water mitigation application is submitted: 1) Administration Fee, and 2) Water Mitigation Fee. Refer to the table below for the list of fees associated with the new program:

Type	Geographic Area	Fee
Water Mitigation Administration (required)	Wenatchee, Entiat and Lake Chelan Basins	\$1,000
Water Mitigation	Lake Chelan Basin	\$1,000
	Upper Wenatchee and Wenatchee Tributaries	\$1,000
	Lower Wenatchee River	\$0
	Entiat Basin	\$0

The Administration Fee covers County admin costs and recording fees. This fee must be paid on every new Water Mitigation Certificate in all areas in this program.

The Water Mitigation Fee covers the cost of developing mitigation by the County, and must be paid for new Water Mitigation Certificates. This fee does not apply in the lower Wenatchee River and Entiat River Basin at this time.

Step 5: Obtain Water Mitigation Approval & Certificate

Once the application and fees are submitted, Chelan County will review your Water Mitigation Application. During this time you may be contacted to provide additional information or answer clarifying questions.

Once approved you will receive a water mitigation approval document. This document should be submitted as part of your building permit application providing proof that you have legal access to a potable water supply. Once your new building is completed and you have received your certificate of occupancy, Chelan county will issue the Water Mitigation Certificate which will be recorded to your parcel with the Chelan County Auditors Office.

Step 6: Reporting

Chelan County tracks mitigation certificates it issues along with the status of the water mitigation supplies it holds to the Department of Ecology.

www.co.chelan.wa.us/natural-resources/pages/water-mitigation-program

MaryJo.Sanborn@co.chelan.wa.us | 509.860.2135
Abby.Hendrickson@co.chelan.wa.us | 509.630.6430