

# Groundwater Use in Washington

## Overview<sup>1</sup>

### Total

Groundwater (mgd — fresh, not saline)..... 1,600  
Percentage of total freshwater\* supply for state..... 32.50%

### Public Supply

Groundwater (mgd) ..... 471  
Percentage of total groundwater..... 29.40%  
Percentage of total public supply ..... 51.80%

### Individual Household

Groundwater (mgd) ..... 113  
Percentage of total groundwater..... 7.06%  
Percentage of total individual household supply ..... 100%

### Irrigation

Groundwater (mgd) ..... 798  
Percentage of total groundwater..... 49.90%  
Percentage of total irrigation..... 25.30%

### Livestock/Aquaculture

Groundwater (mgd) ..... 106  
Percentage of total groundwater..... 6.60%  
Percentage of total livestock/aquaculture..... 43.90%

### Industrial, Self-Supplied

Groundwater (mgd) ..... 99.4  
Percentage of total groundwater..... 6.21%  
Percentage of total industrial, self-supplied ..... 21.70%

### Mining

Groundwater (mgd) ..... 13.4  
Percentage of total groundwater..... 0.84%  
Percentage of total mining..... 80.20%

### Thermoelectric

Groundwater (mgd) ..... 1.57  
Percentage of total groundwater..... 0.10%  
Percentage of total thermoelectric..... 4.14%

(mgd = million gallons per day)

\*All totals and ratios are measures of freshwater only.

<sup>1</sup> US Geological Survey, November 2014 report on 2010 water use.

<sup>2</sup> US Census Bureau 2013 American Housing Survey.

<sup>3</sup> US Census Bureau 2013 American Community Survey.

<sup>4</sup> US Geological Survey, November 2014 report on 2010 water use.

<sup>5</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>6</sup> US EPA Federal Safe Drinking Water Information System Data for 2014.

<sup>7</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>8</sup> Census of Agriculture 2013 Farm and Ranch Irrigation Survey.

## Groundwater's Role in Washington's Economic Vitality

- Few states can accurately or confidentially determine how many residential wells are in place. For each region, the American Housing Survey by the U.S. Census provides regional data. Washington is found in the West, along with these other states: Alaska, Hawaii, Washington, Oregon, California, Idaho, Utah, Nevada, Arizona, New Mexico, Colorado, Wyoming, and Montana. The last American Housing Survey Census indicates this region had 1,540,000<sup>2</sup> households served by residential wells, with an average of 2.58<sup>3</sup> persons per household. The U.S. Census stopped asking citizens their source of water supply following the 1990 Census. The USGS estimates the population of self-supplied water supply users in Washington to be 1,000,000<sup>4</sup>.
- 2,070 community water systems use groundwater for 2,840,000 people<sup>5</sup>
- 338 non-community, non-transient water systems use groundwater for 87,300 people<sup>6</sup>
- 1,690 non-community, transient water systems use groundwater for 334,000 people<sup>7</sup>
- 6,800 irrigation wells used serving 4,200 farms and 517,000 acres<sup>8</sup>



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# Washington's Groundwater Industry Employment

Men and women working to provide and protect Washington's groundwater resources for the benefit of people, business, and our environment.

## Washington's Contracting Employment

Drill and service water wells, install and service pumps, install and service point of use water treatment devices. This portion of the industry is characterized by small firms, many of which are multi-generation family-owned and operated.<sup>9</sup>

- 140 firms employ an estimated 689 people<sup>10</sup>
- Annual estimated sales of \$199 million

## Washington's Scientists and Engineers Employment

Geologists, hydrogeologists, engineers, geochemists, geophysicists, microbiologists, regulators.

### Environmental Consulting<sup>11</sup>

NAICS 54162: Establishments primarily engaged in providing advice and assistance on environmental issues, such as the control of environmental contamination from pollutants, toxic substances, and hazardous materials.

- 1,000 firms employ an estimated 3,320 people
- Annual estimated sales of \$486 million

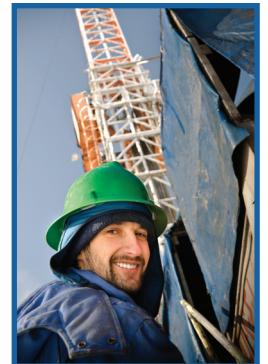
### Remediation<sup>12</sup>

NAICS 56291: Establishments include those engaged in remediation and cleanup of contaminated buildings, mine sites, soil, or groundwater.

- 273 firms employ an estimated 4,980 people
- Annual estimated sales of \$1,040 million

### Public Service and Universities, Colleges, and Research Centers

- Many more dedicated individuals



<sup>9</sup> InfoUSA, SIC 1781, March 2015.

<sup>10</sup> Barnes Reports: Remediation Services Industry (NAICS 56291); C. Barnes & Co., 2015.

<sup>11</sup> Barnes Reports: Environmental Consulting Services Industry (NAICS 54162); C. Barnes & Co., 2015.

<sup>12</sup> Barnes Reports: Remediation Services Industry (NAICS 56291); C. Barnes & Co., 2015.