

Chehalis Basin Facts



Population: 140,000



Size of the Basin: 2700 square miles



Counties with significant land: Grays Harbor
Thurston
Lewis
Mason



Major Urban Centers:

Chehalis 7,055
Centralia 12,000
Aberdeen 16,000
Hoquiam 9,700



Major Rivers:

Chehalis
Black
Humptulips
Hoquiam
Wishkah
Satsop
Wynoochee



Land Uses:

Forestry: 87%
Agriculture: 8%
Urban: 3%

Tribal Nations:

Confederated Tribes of the Chehalis Reservation
Quinault Indian Nation



Major anadromous fish species:

Fall chinook
Coho
Steelhead Trout
Chum



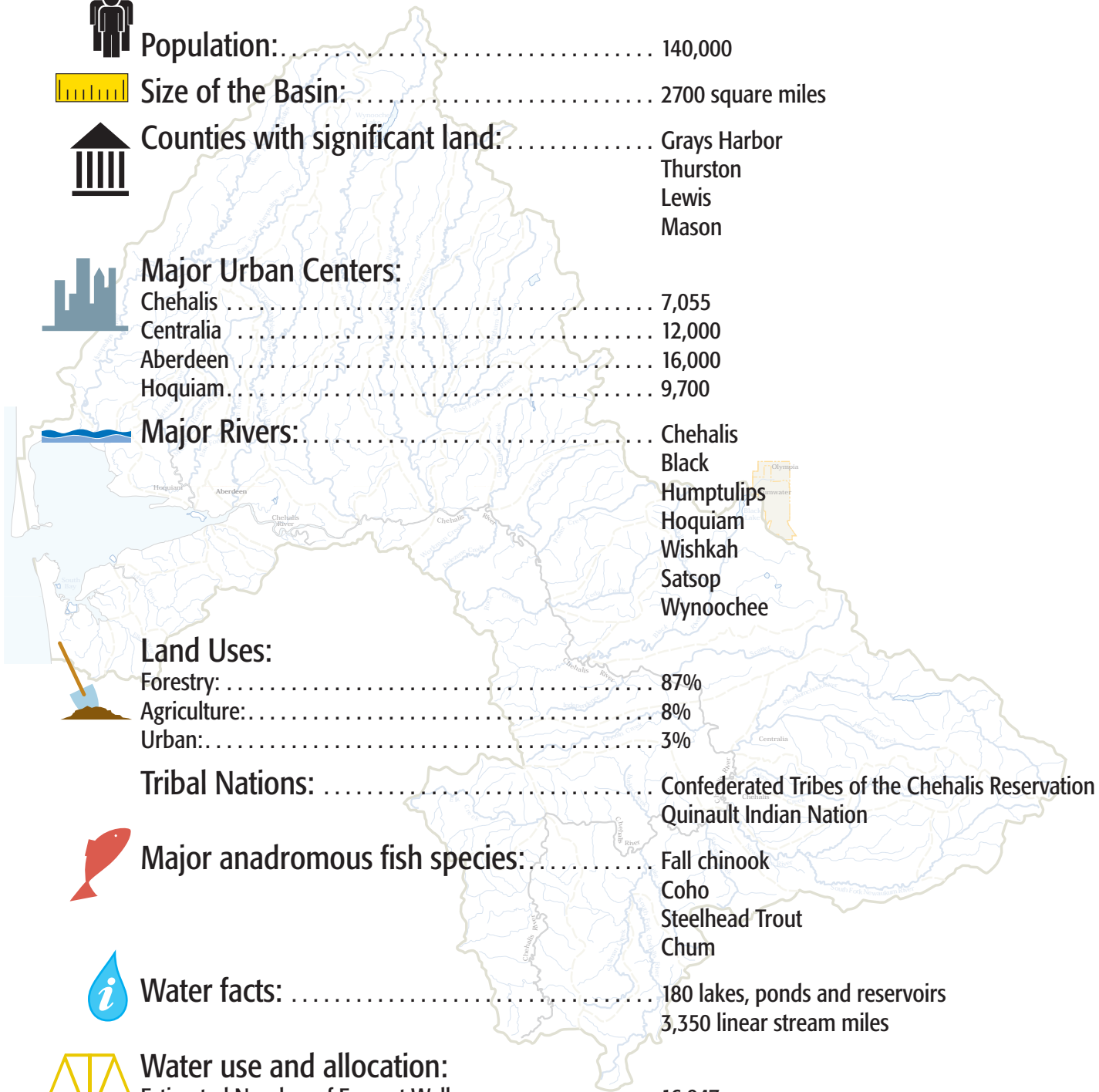
Water facts:

180 lakes, ponds and reservoirs
3,350 linear stream miles



Water use and allocation:

Estimated Number of Exempt Wells: 16,947
Number of water right permits and certificates: 2,524
Number of water right claims: 8,418



Vital Statistics about Chehalis Basin Water Resources

Population:

- Year 2000 census: 141,000
- Population estimated to be served by public water systems (2003): 75,000
- Population projected in 2025: 222,000

Tribal Nations in the Basin:

- The Confederated Tribes of the Chehalis
- The Quinault Indian Nation

Counties in the Basin:

- Four with significant land area: Grays Harbor (47%), Lewis (30%), Mason (8%), Thurston (12%)
- Additional four counties with some land in the Basin: Pacific, Cowlitz, Jefferson, Wahkiakum (in sum the portions of these four counties in the Chehalis Basin constitute less than 3% of the Basin area)

Water Resource Inventory Areas (WRIA): 22 & 23

- Number of subbasins within Chehalis Basin (WRIs 22 & 23): 31

Area : 2700 square miles

- Percentage of basin land in Forestry: 87%
- Percentage of basin land in Agriculture: 8%
- Percentage of basin land in Urban/Industrial: 3%

Number of Streams with minimum instream flows set by rule: 31

- Number with permanent (12 month) stream gauges: 7
- Date on which minimum instream flows were established (priority date): . . . 10 March 1976
- Number where flows were monitored in 2002: 21
- Number of minimum flows always met in 2002 (of 21 monitored streams): none
- Number of actions taken to enforce instream flow rights (1976 to present): . . none

Number of water rights (permits and certificates)*: 2524

- Number senior to minimum instream flows: 2100
- Number junior to minimum instream flows: 400
- Surface water rights: 1100
- Ground water rights: 1400
- Agricultural water rights: 1730

Total instantaneous withdrawals authorized (all rights, cubic feet per second)*: 3000/1800**

- Total surface water withdrawals authorized (cfs): 2450/1250**
- Total ground water withdrawals authorized (cfs): 550
- Total agricultural authorized (sw & gw, cfs): 620

Number of water right claims*: 8418

- Number of claims that state a quantity: less than 100
- Number of claims that do not state a quantity: over 8300
- CFS claimed by the (<100) claims with a quantity: 200

** First number includes the Wynoochee power right of 1200 cfs; second number does not.

* Rounded

Exempt Wells:

- Estimated number of exempt wells (domestic): Approximately 17,000
- Number of exempt wells (commercial, industrial, agricultural): unknown

Long term monthly average stream flows*/regulatory minimum instream flows (both in cfs)

- Chehalis River, Grand Mound, September: 230 / 165
- Chehalis River, Grand Mound, October: 917 / 200-250
- Chehalis River, Porter, September: 531 / 260
- Chehalis River, Porter, October: 1246 / 320-400
- Satsop River, September: 432/ 260
- Satsop River, October: 1147 / 280-300
- MF Satsop River, September: 37 / 38
- MF Satsop River, October: 149 / 41-45

Number of salmonid stocks in the basin: 31

- Number of stocks known to be depressed: 8
- Number of stocks with status unknown: 8

Flood Events: Flood of record; Feb. 9, 1996; 80,000* cfs

Known Threatened or Endangered Species under Federal ESA:

Bald Eagle, Brown Pelican, Bull Trout, Loggerhead Sea Turtle, Marbled Murrelet, Northern Spotted Owl, Western Snowy Plover, Golden Paintbrush

Selected Dates in Chehalis Basin History:

- Salish-speaking people live throughout the Basin: Time immemorial
- Europeans arrive in North America: 1492
- Captain Gray names Grays Harbor: 1792
- Chehalis County created: 1854
- Chehalis Reservation created by Executive Order: 1864
- Splash dams begin in Grays Harbor: 1884
- Aberdeen and Hoquiam Incorporated: 1890
- Chehalis County changed to Grays Harbor County: 1915
- Chehalis River Council formed: 1992
- Chehalis Basin Partnership formed: 1998
- WA Watershed Planning and Management Act: 1998