

**WAC 173-509-030 Establishment of instream flows.** (1) Instream flows are established for stream management units with monitoring to take place at certain control stations as follows:

STREAM MANAGEMENT UNIT INFORMATION

Control Station No. Stream Management Unit Name	Control Station by River Mile and Section, Township and Range	Affected Stream Reach Including Tributaries
12.1130.00 Green River near Auburn, WA	32.0 17-21-5	From influence of mean annual high tide at low instream flow levels (approximately River Mile 11.0) to USGS Gage #12.1067.000
12.1067.00 Green River near Palmer, WA	60.4 13-21-7	From USGS Gage #12.1067.000 to headwaters.

The Palmer gage will be used to condition future water rights upstream from that gage. The Auburn gage will be used to condition future water right appropriations downstream from the Palmer gage. If it becomes necessary to change a control station location to improve measurement accuracy or management capability, the department shall do so under provisions in WAC 173-500-060(6).

(2) Instream flows established for the stream management units in WAC 173-509-030(1) are as follows:

INSTREAM FLOWS FOR FUTURE WATER RIGHTS IN THE  
GREEN-DUWAMISH RIVER BASIN  
(in Cubic Feet per Second)

Month	Day	12,1130.00 Normal Year Green River Near Auburn	12,1067.00 Normal Year Green River Near Palmer	12,1067.00 Critical Year Green River Near Palmer
Jan.	1	650	300	300
	15	650	300	300
Feb.	1	650	300	300
	15	650	300	300
Mar.	1	650	300	300
	15	650	300	300
Apr.	1	650	300	300
	15	650	300	300
May	1	650	300	300
	15	650	300	300
June	1	650	300	300
	15	650	300	210
July	1	550	300	150
	15	300	150	150
Aug.	1	300	150	150
	15	300	150	150
Sept.	1	300	150	150
	15	300	150	150
Oct.	1	300	190	150
	15	350	240	150
Nov.	1	550	300	190
	15	550	300	240
Dec.	1	650	300	300
	15	650	300	300

(a) Future water right holders subject to regulation by the Palmer gage will not be allowed to continue diversions when flows fall below the normal year instream flows at the Palmer gage unless a critical condition is declared by the director. The director, or his designee, may authorize, in consultation with the state departments of fisheries and wildlife, a reduction in instream flows during a critical condition period. At no time will diversions subject to regulation by the Palmer gage be continued when flows fall below the critical year instream flows at Palmer. At no time will diversions subject to regulation by the Auburn gage be continued when flows fall below the normal year instream flows at Auburn. When a declaration of overriding considerations of public interest is made by the director, these requirements may be modified or waived. A declaration of overriding consideration because of drought conditions shall not be made when natural flows equal or exceed the one-in-fifty year low flow condition. The director shall consult with the directors of the state departments of wildlife and fisheries before making a declaration of overriding consideration. Any declaration of critical conditions or overriding considerations of public interest made by the director shall be communicated to all basin resource agencies, water purveyors, and local general purpose governments, and include the reason for such declaration and its expected duration.

(b) The director will consider declaring a critical period when:

(1) In the spring the basin runoff volume forecast of May 1 is not adequate to meet the sum of any rights which the city of Tacoma may have established through historical usage prior to the adoption of this regulation plus the normal year instream flows plus the volume required to replenish the conservation storage.

(2) In the summer and fall the sum of the reservoir inflows extrapolated from current observations plus the volume of water in storage at Howard A. Hanson Dam is not adequate to meet the sum of any rights which the city of Tacoma may have established through historical usage prior to the adoption of this regulation plus the normal year instream flows. Within five days the director will inform the major affected water right holders of the extent of the allowed deviation from the normal year instream flows. Once a deviation from normal year instream flows is allowed, the water resources shall be evaluated at least every seven days to see if additional deviation is warranted. Before allowing deviation from the normal year instream flows, water conservation practices and use of other sources shall be considered.

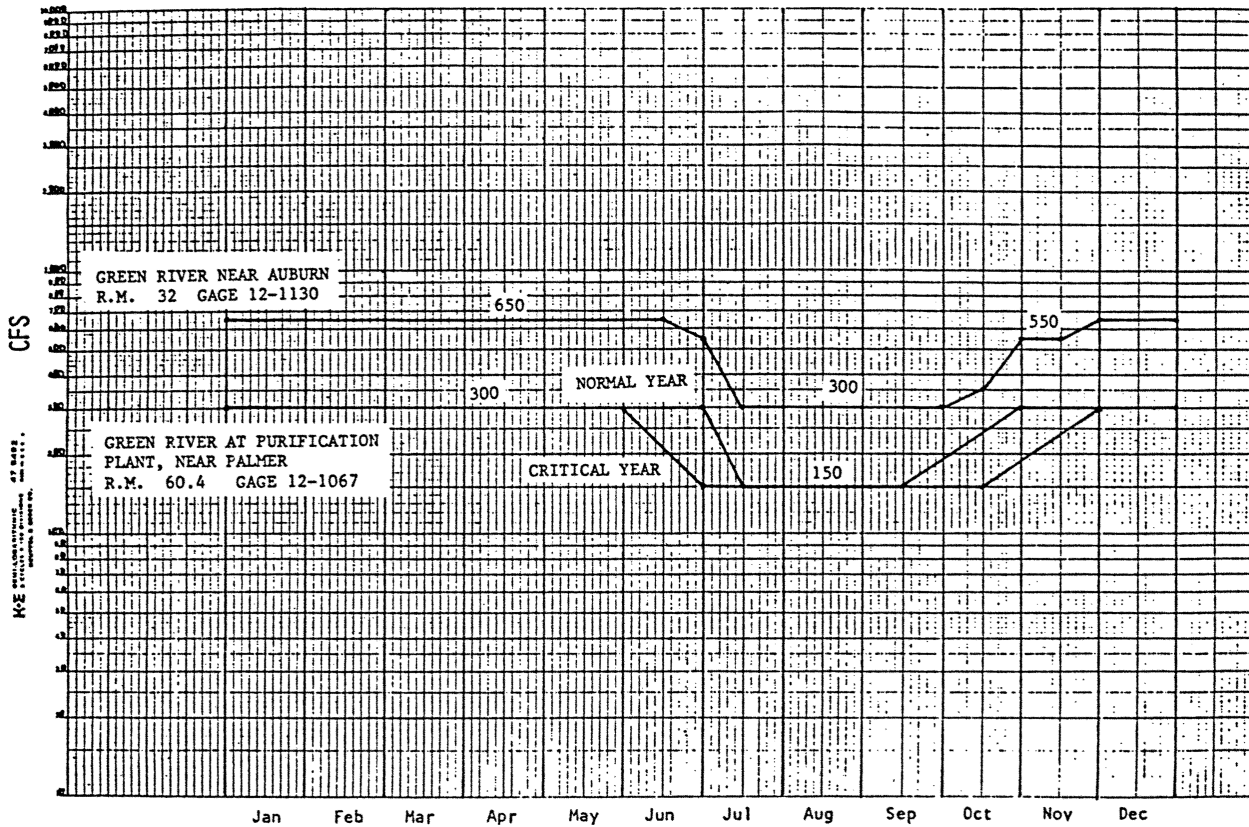
(c) In addition to other necessary provisions, any diversion of the natural flow, including diversion to storage under future water rights shall cease (or be regulated to the extent necessary) when the flow at the applicable control station falls below (or is less than) the instream flows established by this regulation and made a condition of said future water right. Said future water rights are subject to the rights and authority of the Corps of Engineers to utilize for storage and conservation flows, the natural inflow to the Howard A. Hanson reservoir and to all other prior water right holders' authorized use of natural flows, including any rights that the city of Tacoma may have established through historical usage. The use of stored waters is not to be impaired, limited, or diminished by this regulation.

The department recognizes that from time to time the Corps of Engineers may establish a minimum reservoir level which is necessary to provide conservation flows with a high measure of assurance. When the reservoir falls below this level it may be necessary for the Corps of

Engineers to replenish conservation storage. When this occurs, water rights subject to the provisions of this chapter may be temporarily regulated or diminished and the actual stream discharge diminished.

(3) Instream flows, as represented in Figure 1, shall be used for definition of instream flows on those days not specifically identified in WAC 173-509-030(2).

FIGURE 1 - PROPOSED INSTREAM FLOWS FOR FUTURE WATER RIGHTS IN THE GREEN-DUWAMISH RIVER BASIN



(4) All consumptive water rights hereafter established shall be expressly subject to the instream flows established in WAC 173-509-030 (1) through (3). However, nothing in this section shall prohibit the release or diversion of stored water or the use of any water course as a means for its conveyance in accordance with RCW 90.03.030.

[Statutory Authority: Chapters 43.21B, 43.27A, 90.22 and 90.54 RCW. WSR 88-13-037 (Order 88-11), § 173-509-030, filed 6/9/88. Statutory Authority: RCW 90.22.020, 90.54.020 and 90.54.040. WSR 80-07-005 (Order DE 79-32), § 173-509-030, filed 6/6/80.]