

**RCW 90.54.050 Setting aside or withdrawing waters—Rules—  
Consultation with legislative committees—Public hearing, notice—  
Review.** In conjunction with the programs provided for in RCW  
90.54.040(1), whenever it appears necessary to the director in  
carrying out the policy of this chapter, the department may by rule  
adopted pursuant to chapter 34.05 RCW:

(1) Reserve and set aside waters for beneficial utilization in  
the future, and

(2) When sufficient information and data are lacking to allow for  
the making of sound decisions, withdraw various waters of the state  
from additional appropriations until such data and information are  
available. Before proposing the adoption of rules to withdraw waters  
of the state from additional appropriation, the department shall  
consult with the standing committees of the house of representatives  
and the senate having jurisdiction over water resource management  
issues.

Prior to the adoption of a rule under this section, the  
department shall conduct a public hearing in each county in which  
waters relating to the rule are located. The public hearing shall be  
preceded by a notice placed in a newspaper of general circulation  
published within each of said counties. Rules adopted hereunder shall  
be subject to review in accordance with the provisions of RCW  
34.05.240. [1997 c 439 § 2; 1997 c 32 § 3; 1988 c 47 § 7; 1971 ex.s.  
c 225 § 5.]

**Reviser's note:** This section was amended by 1997 c 32 § 3 and by  
1997 c 439 § 2, each without reference to the other. Both amendments  
are incorporated in the publication of this section under RCW  
1.12.025(2). For rule of construction, see RCW 1.12.025(1).

**WAC 173-563-015—Validity—1997 c 439:** "WAC 173-563-015 as it  
existed prior to July 27, 1997, is void." [1997 c 439 § 1.]

**Application—1988 c 47:** See note following RCW 90.54.030.