Spokane
ICCS

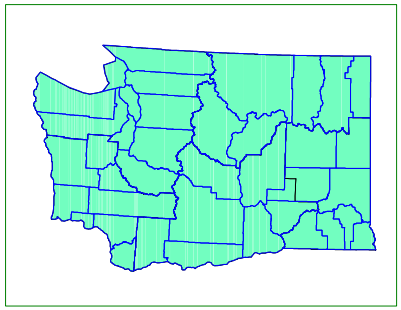
Washington State Estimated Irrigation Water Sources

	Well	Pond / Lake	Stream / Ditch	Lagoon / Other	Combination	Total Acres of All Water Sources
1982 Estimated	**346,400**	**608,700**	**793,500**	**6,100**	**105,500**	**1,860,200**
1982 Error *	51,600	54,400	66,200	4,100	27,000	102,300
1987 Estimated	**359,500**	**584,800**	**811,500**	**6,100**	**114,000**	**1,875,900**
1987 Error *	52,900	48,000	67,800	4,100	29,500	100,500
1992 Estimated	**448,200**	**490,500**	**843,700**	**13,800**	**126,300**	**1,922,500**
1992 Error *	57,700	44,900	68,600	7,400	29,200	106,000
1997 Estimated	**461,400**	**233,400**	**1,089,500**	**13,800**	**96,300**	**1,894,400**
1997 Error *	63,000	30,500	71,800	7,400	25,900	104,300

Estimates may not total because of rounding.

* The error referred to in the table is the standard error of the estimate.
(To obtain the margin of error at the 95% confidence limit multiply the error by 1.96.)

Geographic Area: **Washington State**



The acres of irrigated land used for the production of pasture, noncultivated crops, and cultivated crops has been very uniform over the past 15 years. There are changes occurring however. Water to irrigate crops that comes from wells has increased over 30%. Pumping of irrigation water from ponds and lakes has declined. This indicates that farm operators are becoming more dependant on ground water sources. It is generally more expensive to drill wells and pump ground water for irrigation than to use developed or natural surface water sources. One effect of this shift is the increase of farm operator costs. Another effect is that by developing ground water sources farm operators are not tied to large scale federal or private irrigation projects. Operators can then exercise more options concerning the use of the water source and can expand the production of irrigated crops into new areas.

Source: 1997 NRI (Revised December 2000)