Spokane
ICCS

Washington State Estimated Irrigation Use

		Non-irrigated	Gravity Irrigated	Pressure Irrigated	Gravity and Pressure Irrigated	Total Acres Irrigated
1982	Estimated	7,235,000	582,300	1,145,700	132,200	1,860,200
1982	Error*	194,000	59,600	80,800	21,500	102,300
1987	Estimated	6,754,800	554,000	1,169,700	152,200	1,875,900
1987	Error*	193,000	58,800	79,800	28,200	100,500
1992	Estimated	6,125,500	509,400	1,156,400	256,700	1,922,500
1992	Error*	194,400	60,700	80,800	26,300	106,000
1997	Estimated	5,954,900	466,700	1,237,200	190,500	1,894,400
1997	Error*	190,600	56,000	82,200	25,300	104,300

Total estimates may be adjusted to account for 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**

Irrigation of both cropland and pastureland have been gradually increasing over the 1982 to 1997 period. The largest increases of irrigation have been in the Central Basin part of the state. The northeastern region of Washington also shows a slight increase in irrigated acres. Irrigation has declined in most of the other areas of the state. The outlook indicates that irrigated cropland and pastureland will increase even as competition for available water becomes more intensive. Irrigation systems will become more efficient as agricultural producers try to spread the same amount of water across more acres. It appears that irrigated cropland is becoming a larger and larger proportion of total cropland in Washington. This may only be a temporary phenomena as many dry cropland acres are enrolled in temporary cropland retirement programs.

Source: 1997 NRI (Revised December 2000)