

Instream Flows in Washington

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The term "**instream flow**" is used to identify a specific stream flow (typically measured in cubic feet per second, or cfs) at a specific location for a defined time, and typically following seasonal variations. Instream flows are usually defined as the stream flows needed to protect and preserve instream resources and values, such as fish, wildlife and recreation. Instream flows are most often described and established in a formal legal document, typically an adopted state rule.

My presentation will discuss:

- What is an instream flow?
- Why do we need instream flows?
- What instream flow methods are used?
- What does each method tell you?
- An example of how the results of a fish habitat study was used to determine and set an instream flow by rule.

More information is available at the Washington State Department of Ecology website at:

<http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wr/instream-flows/isfhtm.html>