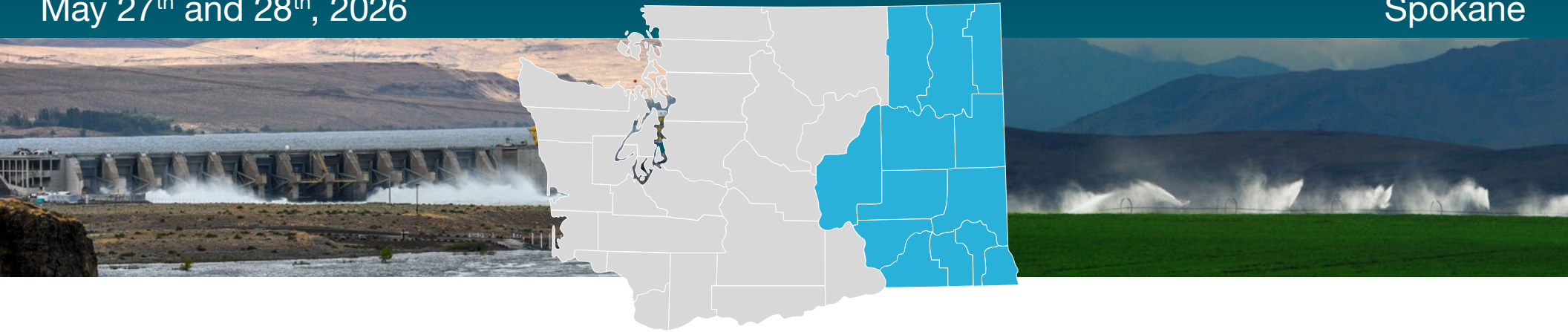


SAVE THE DATE!

3rd Annual Water Law in Eastern Washington Conference

May 27th and 28th, 2026

Spokane



Join us for the 3rd Annual Water Law in Eastern Washington Conference!

The conference will include a combination of technical, legal, and water resource management topics presented by some of the region's leading water experts. The legal and regulatory landscape around water management is changing – come learn about it!

Conference Theme: Understanding Washington Water Law and its Application to River Basins in Eastern Washington

The conference will provide state of the practice information regarding:

- Laws, rules, policies, and practicalities of managing water rights in Eastern Washington
- Major case law threads and ongoing implications
- Current status of water resource efforts to efficiently manage water in Eastern Washington

The conference will provide:

- Continuing Legal Education credit
- Certified Water Right Examiner credit (pending)
- Water Conservancy Board training credit

Conference Co-Chairs:

Jessica Kuchan, Confluence Law, PLLC
Ben Lee, PE, CWRE, Landau Associates, Inc.

Venue:

Gonzaga University School of Law

Registration Price:

Live: \$225 | Virtual: \$325 | Students: FREE

[REGISTER NOW](#)

Sponsored By:



Day 1: Wednesday, May 27th *All sessions hosted at Gonzaga University School of Law, Barbieri Courtroom, 721 North Cincinnati Street*

Session	Time	Description	Presented By
Welcome	8:30 - 8:45am	Conference road map	Jessica Kuchan, Confluence Law
Session 1 Water Rights Introduction	8:45 - 9:45	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What is a water right - legal 2. What is a water right - technical 	Jamie Morin, Confluence Law Kaila Anderson, Landau Associates
Break	9:45 - 10:00	Coffee and snacks provided	
Session 2 Water Rights Processing	10:00 - 11:05	Water Conservancy Board <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How it works 2. Ecology Role 3. Case study 	Eric Weber, Landau Associates - moderator Marc Marquis, Marquis Law Office Chris Kossik, Department of Ecology Water Resources Program Gene St. Godard, WNR Group
	11:05 - 11:45	Cost reimbursement <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. How it works 5. Case study 	Dave Christensen, Department of Ecology Water Resources Program Andy Dunn, RH2 Engineering
Lunch	11:45 - 1:00pm	On your own	
Keynote	1:00 - 1:45	Judge Megan K. Murphy, Washington Court of Appeals - Division III	
Session 3 The Permit Exemption	1:45 - 3:15	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Permit exemption (legal context) 2. Permit exemption (case study) 3. Grant County perspective 4. Spokane County case study 	Peter Scott, Scott Law Bill Sullivan, American Land and Water Consulting Michelle Mercer, Grant County Planning Manager Amy Sumner, Spokane County Water Resources Manager
Break	3:15 - 3:30	Coffee and snacks provided	
Session 4 Mid Columbia Basin	3:30 - 5:00	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Tour of the basin 2. Water supply initiatives 3. The ACQ initiative for federally-held water rights – ERO 4. Water rights for hydro power 	Katherine Taiclet, Grant County PUD Business Development Manager Kristina Ribellia, Columbia Basin Conservation District Executive Director Dave Christensen, Department of Ecology Water Resources Program Kait Schilling, Chelan PUD Staff Attorney

Day 2: Thursday, May 28th

All sessions hosted at Gonzaga University School of Law, Barbieri Courtroom, 721 North Cincinnati Street

Session	Time	Description	Presented By
Welcome	8:30 - 8:45am	Day 1 recap and Day 2 road map	Ben Lee, Landau Associates
Session 1 Upper Columbia Basin	8:45 - 10:00	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Tour of the basin 2. Colville Tribe 3. Columbia Basin Irrigation Districts 4. Lake Roosevelt beneficial uses 	Jessica Kuchan, Confluence Law Chuck Brushwood, Colville Confederated Tribes Fish and Wildlife Program Norm Semanko, Parsons Behle & Latimer Happy Avery, Lake Roosevelt Forum - Executive Director
Keynote	10:00 - 10:45	Margo Hill, Attorney and Faculty Eastern Washington University	
Break	10:45 - 11:00	Coffee and snacks provided	
Session 2 Spokane River	11:00 - 12:00pm	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Tour of the basin/reflections on a dry year 2. The SVRP aquifer - How does it work? 	Katelyn Scott, Spokane Riverkeeper Staff Attorney John Porcello, GSI Water Consultants
Lunch	12:00 - 1:00	Lunch Provided	
Session 3 Spokane River– Municipal Water Supplies	1:00 - 2:30	Introduction <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Spokane Valley water supply 2. City of Spokane water supply 3. Whitworth Well 3E - Case Study 4. Spokane County's role in municipal water supplies 	Rob Lindsay, Landau Associates - moderator Aaron Dunham, Wolf Hislop Crockett Guest speaker invited Gene St. Godard, WNR Group Amy Sumner, Spokane County Water Resources Manager
Break	2:30 - 2:45	Coffee and snacks provided	
Session 4 Spokane River– Managing the Basin	2:45 - 4:15	Introduction <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ecology perspective 2. Tribal perspective 3. Avista's license and management of flows from Idaho through to the Columbia River 4. Idaho Washington aquifer collaborative/ How do we work across the state line? 5. Panel discussion participation 	Rob Lindsay, Landau Associates - moderator Jaime Short, Department of Ecology Water Resources Program TBD Meghan Lunney, Avista, FERC Licensing Manager Suzanne Scheidt, Idaho Washington Aquifer Collaborative Katelyn Scott, Spokane Riverkeeper Staff Attorney