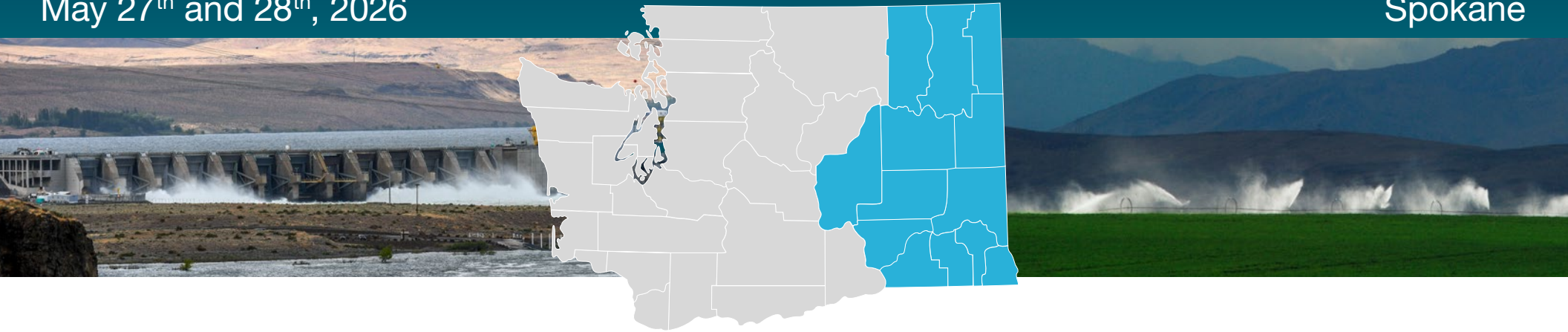


**SAVE THE DATE!**

# 3rd Annual Water Law in Eastern Washington Conference

May 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>, 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
<b>Session 1</b> Water Rights Introduction	8:45 - 9:45	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. What is a water right - legal</li> <li>2. What is a water right - technical</li> </ol>	Jamie Morin, Confluence Law Kaila Anderson, Landau Associates
Break	9:45 - 10:00	Coffee and snacks provided	
<b>Session 2</b> Water Rights Processing	10:00 - 11:05	Water Conservancy Board <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Program overview and consultant viewpoint</li> <li>2. Ecology role</li> </ol>	Eric Weber, Landau Associates - moderator Gene St. Godard, WNR Group  Chris Kossik, Department of Ecology Water Resources Program
	11:05 - 11:45	Cost reimbursement <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3. Program overview</li> <li>4. Consultant viewpoint</li> </ol>	Dave Christensen, Department of Ecology Water Resources Program Andy Dunn, RH2 Engineering
Lunch	11:45 - 1:00pm	On your own	
<b>Keynote</b>	1:00 - 1:45	Judge Megan K. Murphy, Washington Court of Appeals - Division III	
<b>Session 3</b> The Permit Exemption	1:45 - 3:15	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Permit exemption (legal context)</li> <li>2. Grant County perspective</li> <li>3. Permit exemption (case study)</li> <li>4. Spokane County case study</li> </ol>	Peter Scott, Scott Law Michelle Mercer, Grant County Planning Manager Bill Sullivan, American Land and Water Consulting Amy Sumner, Spokane County Water Resources Manager
Break	3:15 - 3:30	Coffee and snacks provided	
<b>Session 4</b> Mid Columbia Basin	3:30 - 5:00	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Tour of the basin</li> <li>2. Water supply initiatives</li> <li>3. The ACQ initiative for federally-held water rights – ERO</li> <li>4. Water rights for hydro power</li> </ol>	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
<b>Session 1</b> Upper Columbia Basin	8:45 - 10:00	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Tour of the basin</li> <li>2. Colville Tribe</li> <li>3. Columbia Basin Irrigation Districts</li> <li>4. Lake Roosevelt beneficial uses</li> </ol>	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
<b>Keynote</b>	10:00 - 10:45	Margo Hill, Attorney and Faculty Eastern Washington University	
Break	10:45 - 11:00	Coffee and snacks provided	
<b>Session 2</b> Spokane River	11:00 - 12:00pm	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Tour of the basin/reflections on a dry year</li> <li>2. The SVRP aquifer - How does it work?</li> </ol>	Katelyn Scott, Spokane Riverkeeper Staff Attorney John Porcello, GSI Water Solutions
Lunch	12:00 - 1:00	Lunch Provided	
<b>Session 3</b> Spokane River– Municipal Water Supplies	1:00 - 2:30	Introduction <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Spokane Valley water supply</li> <li>2. City of Spokane water supply</li> <li>3. Whitworth Well 3E - Case Study</li> <li>4. Spokane County's role in municipal water supplies</li> </ol>	Rob Lindsay, Landau Associates - moderator Aaron Dunham, Wolf Hislop Crockett Beryl Fredrickson, City of Spokane Gene St. Godard, WNR Group Amy Sumner, Spokane County Water Resources Manager
Break	2:30 - 2:45	Coffee and snacks provided	
<b>Session 4</b> Spokane River– Managing the Basin	2:45 - 4:15	Introduction <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Ecology perspective</li> <li>2. Tribal perspective</li> <li>3. Avista's license and management of flows from Idaho through to the Columbia River</li> <li>4. Idaho Washington aquifer collaborative/ How do we work across the state line?</li> <li>5. Panel discussion participation</li> </ol>	Rob Lindsay, Landau Associates - moderator Jaime Short, Department of Ecology Water Resources Program Brian Crossley, Spokane Tribe Meghan Lunney, Avista, FERC Licensing Manager Suzanne Scheidt, Idaho Washington Aquifer Collaborative Katelyn Scott, Spokane Riverkeeper Staff Attorney