



DEPARTMENT OF
ECOLOGY
State of Washington

Washington's CAFO Groundwater Monitoring Requirements

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Spring 2024 ACWA CAFO Roundtable

Topics

- Permit requirements
- Monitoring implementation
- Challenges
- Looking Ahead
- Lower Yakima Valley –
Groundwater Management
Area

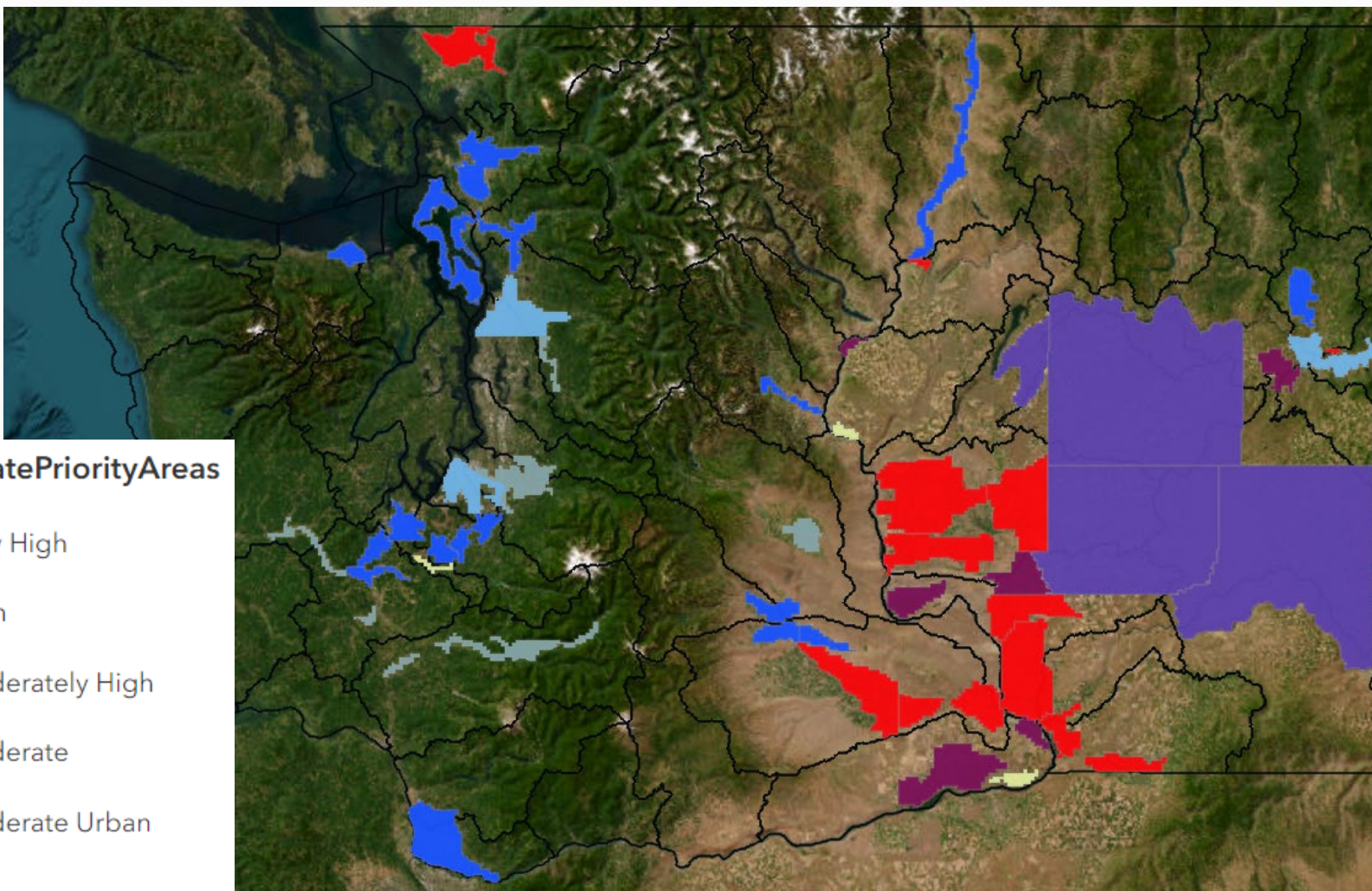


WA Combined & State CAFO Permits








- Ecology regulatory authority for 2 CAFO permits
 - State
 - Combined
- Court of Appeals 2021 Decision
 - S5.D Groundwater Monitoring
 - Nitrate Priority Areas
 - S4.L Soil monitoring assessment
 - S7.C Results of waste storage structure assessment



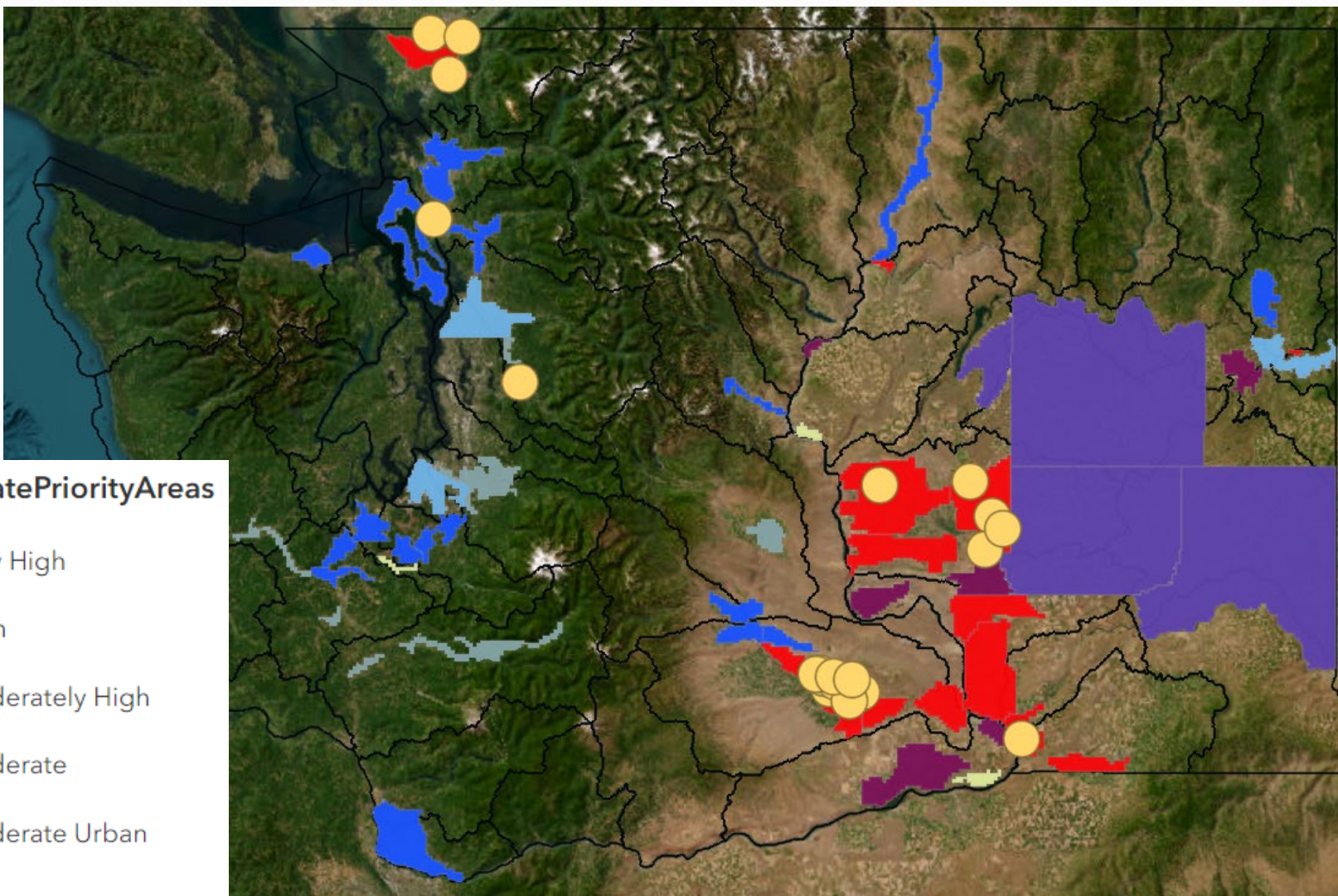
Nitrate Priority Areas



WQ - NitratePriorityAreas

-  Very High
-  High
-  Moderately High
-  Moderate
-  Moderate Urban
-  Low
-  Insufficient Data

Permitted CAFOs



WQ - NitratePriorityAreas

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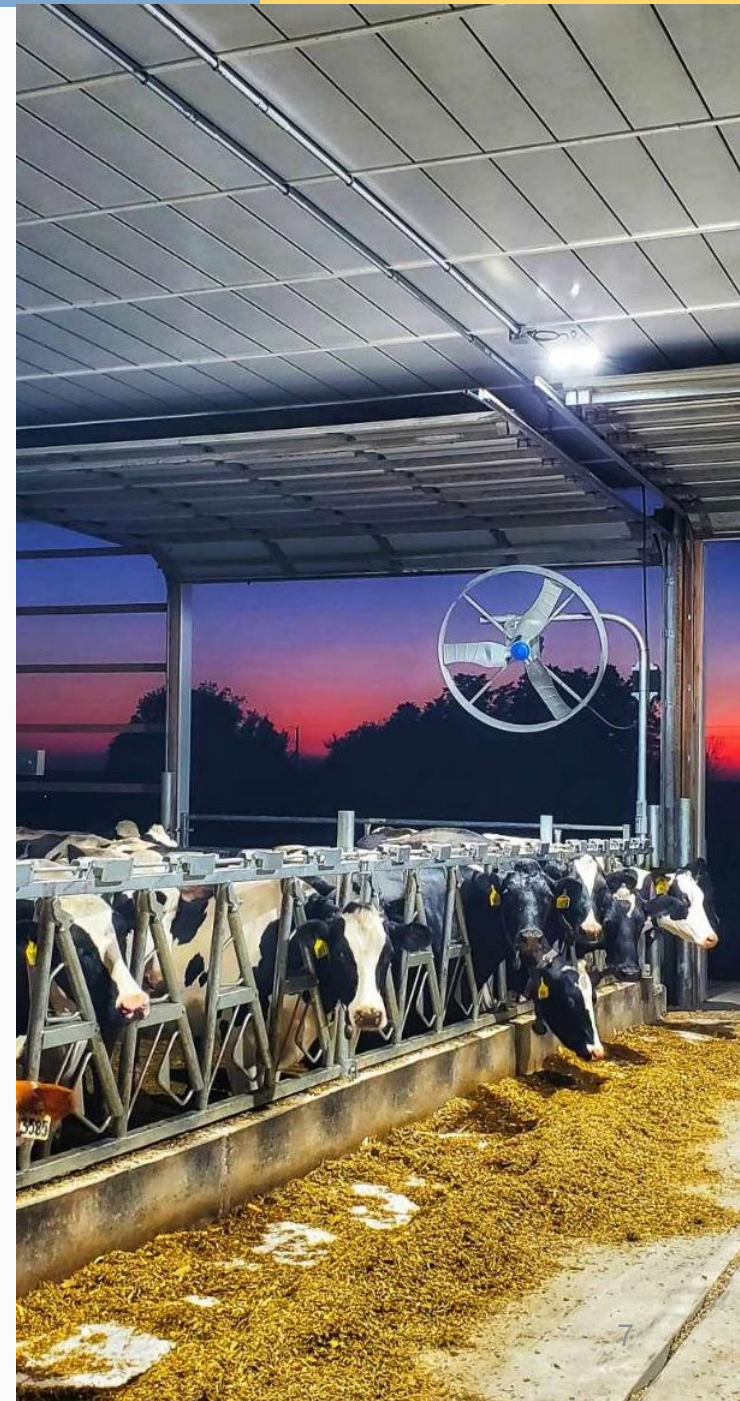
Groundwater Monitoring Plan Development

- 6 months from Permit Issuance
 - 6-month extension
 - Ecology approval
 - Results reported in annual report
- Data may inform corrective actions
- Refine next permit cycle



Challenges

- Professional hydrogeologists & well drilling equipment shortage
- Cost 5K-15K per well
- Locations
 - Up-gradient & down-gradient
- Not applicable to all animal operations
- Other agriculture operations not regulated



Looking Ahead

- Refine CAFOs monitoring exemptions in Nitrate Priority Areas
- Consider alternative methods to evaluate possible groundwater contributions
- Manure export applications



Lower Yakima Valley Groundwater Monitoring Area

- Multiagency collaboration effort to provide clean drinking water to people with contaminated wells. [Lower Yakima Valley Groundwater Management Area Safe Drinking Water Initiative](#)
- WA Dept of Ecology's efforts include groundwater sampling. [Eyes Underground: Lower Yakima Valley](#)





Thank You

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