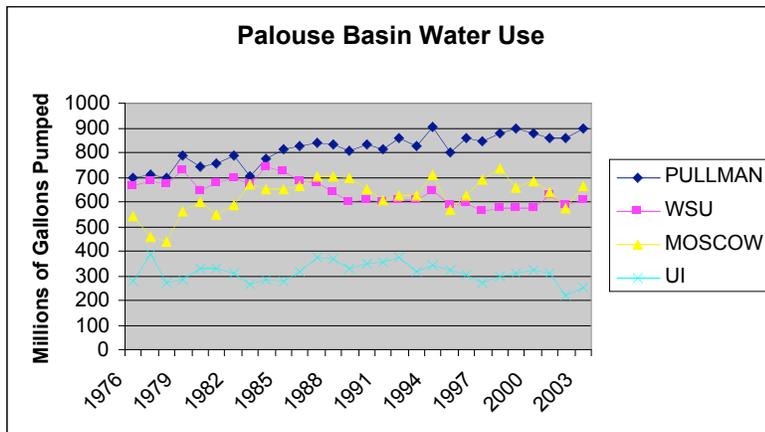




Palouse Water Use

There are four main entities that obtain their water from the Grande Ronde aquifer. These entities include the City of Moscow, City of Pullman, University of Idaho and Washington State University. The total amount of groundwater pumped during 2003 by the four major pumping entities was 2,419 million gallons – an increase of 179 million gallons from the 2002 total. Of the total 2003 pumpage, the City of Moscow pumped 28%, the City of Pullman pumped 37%, Washington State University pumped 25%, and the University of Idaho pumped 10%. When wells supplying Palouse and Colfax are included, total water pumped from the Grande Ronde is about 3 billion gallons per year.



Along with pumping groundwater, the University of Idaho also utilizes recycled water supplied by Moscow's wastewater treatment plant and the University of Idaho's aquaculture lab for outdoor irrigation. This recycled water accounts for approximately 18% of total University of Idaho water use.

In addition to water from the Grande Ronde, about 500 million gallons are pumped

from the Wanapum each year as well. The City of Moscow used the upper, Wanapum aquifer for the water needs of the community until the 1960's when it was discovered that the amount of available water was depleting. Upon this discovery, water pumpage switched to the lower, Grande Ronde aquifer. Because the Wanapum is much more shallow than the Grande Ronde, it is able to naturally recharge faster, collecting surface water as it leaches through the upper layer of sediment. The Grande Ronde takes a much longer period of time to naturally recharge as it waits for the water to travel through sediment, the Wanapum aquifer and more sediment until it reaches the lower aquifer. During the switch of water use to the Grande Ronde, the Wanapum has been able to collect enough water for the four main entities to justify its use as a water source once again.

The peak water use occurs on the Palouse during the summer months of June, July and August. Of the four main pumping entities, the highest monthly water use occurs during the month of August, and for all four entities, the amount is more than 2.5 times greater than the average monthly pumpage.