

# The watershed location of a wetland is one measure of its value to society

Two of the D3 questions on the 2014 Update Rating Form use watershed boundaries to answer the question: "Is the water quality improvement provided by the site valuable to society"?

D 3.1 asks if the wetland discharges directly to a water body that is on the 303d list. The answer to this question is "NO," it's a visible reality. But this does not mean it is hydrologically isolated because groundwater connections are as valuable, or more so, than surface water connections. NO- 0 Points

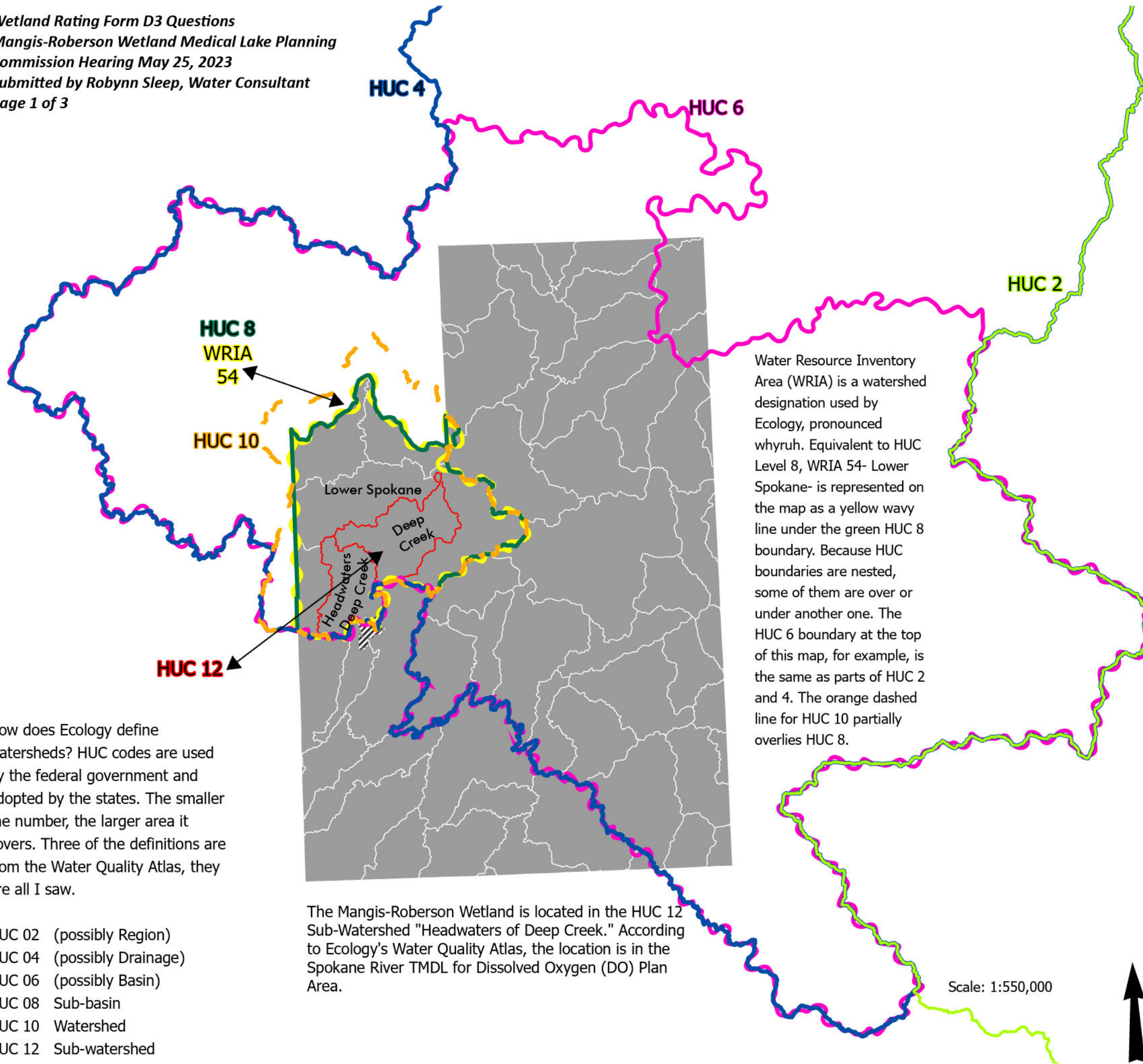
D 3.2 asks if the wetland is in a basin or sub-basin where water quality is an issue, i.e. 303d list. The answer to this question is "YES," as the map at left shows. The Spokane River is 303d listed for Dissolved Oxygen, a consequence of excessive nutrients. Ecology defines a sub-basin as HUC Level 8. YES- 1 Point

D 3.3 asks if the wetland has been identified as important for maintaining water quality ("answer YES if there is a TMDL for the drainage or basin in which the wetland is found"). The answer to this question is "YES," as shown on Ecology's Water Quality Atlas, and in the Atlas screen capture images on Page 2. YES- 2 Points

TOTAL possible points for D3: 3

## Twelve Hydrologic Unit Code (HUC) Watershed Levels in Spokane County

- HUC 2 Pacific Northwest Region (CA,CN,ID,NV,OR,UT,WA,WY)
- HUC 4 Kootenai-Pend Oreille-Spokane (CN, ID, MT, WA)
- HUC 6 Spokane (ID, MT, WA)
- HUC 12 Headwaters Deep Creek and Deep Creek
- HUC 10 Deep Creek-Spokane River
- HUC 8 Lower Spokane (same as WRIA 54)
- WRIA 54 Lower Spokane
- Medical Lake Municipal Boundary
- All HUC 12 in Spokane County



Water Resource Inventory Area (WRIA) is a watershed designation used by Ecology, pronounced whyruh. Equivalent to HUC Level 8, WRIA 54- Lower Spokane- is represented on the map as a yellow wavy line under the green HUC 8 boundary. Because HUC boundaries are nested, some of them are over or under another one. The HUC 6 boundary at the top of this map, for example, is the same as parts of HUC 2 and 4. The orange dashed line for HUC 10 partially overlies HUC 8.

How does Ecology define watersheds? HUC codes are used by the federal government and adopted by the states. The smaller the number, the larger area it covers. Three of the definitions are from the Water Quality Atlas, they are all I saw.

- HUC 02 (possibly Region)
- HUC 04 (possibly Drainage)
- HUC 06 (possibly Basin)
- HUC 08 Sub-basin
- HUC 10 Watershed
- HUC 12 Sub-watershed

The Mangis-Roberson Wetland is located in the HUC 12 Sub-Watershed "Headwaters of Deep Creek." According to Ecology's Water Quality Atlas, the location is in the Spokane River TMDL for Dissolved Oxygen (DO) Plan Area.