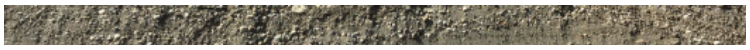
Aggregate Resource Mapping in Washington

WHAT IS CONSTRUCTION AGGREGATE?

Aggregate is sand, gravel, or crushed stone. It is impossible to construct a city or road without construction-quality aggregate.



In November 2021, the federal Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act was signed into law. The legislation will invest

$110 billion

in additional funding to repair roads and bridges. These projects will increase the need for construction aggregate.

From 2013 to 2023, aggregate production in the U.S. increased 25 percent.

Washington is the 6th highest producer of sand and gravel resources in the country.

AGGREGATE RESOURCE PLANNING

Planning for aggregate needs and use is required under **Revised Code of Washington (RCW) 36.70A.131** and **Washington Administrative Code (WAC) 365-190-070**. These RCWs and WACs were established as part of the **Growth Management Act (GMA)**. The GMA requires every county and city in the state periodically update its comprehensive plan and development regulations. The obligation varies depending on whether the jurisdiction is fully or partially planning or is exempt (**RCW 36.70A.130(1)**). The provisions require that counties and cities identify and designate aggregate of long-term commercial significance, and that they base their land-use decisions related to mineral resources and **Mineral Resource Lands (MRLs)** on information provided by the **Department of Natural Resources (DNR)**.

How can our aggregate resource mapping help your jurisdiction's land-use planning?

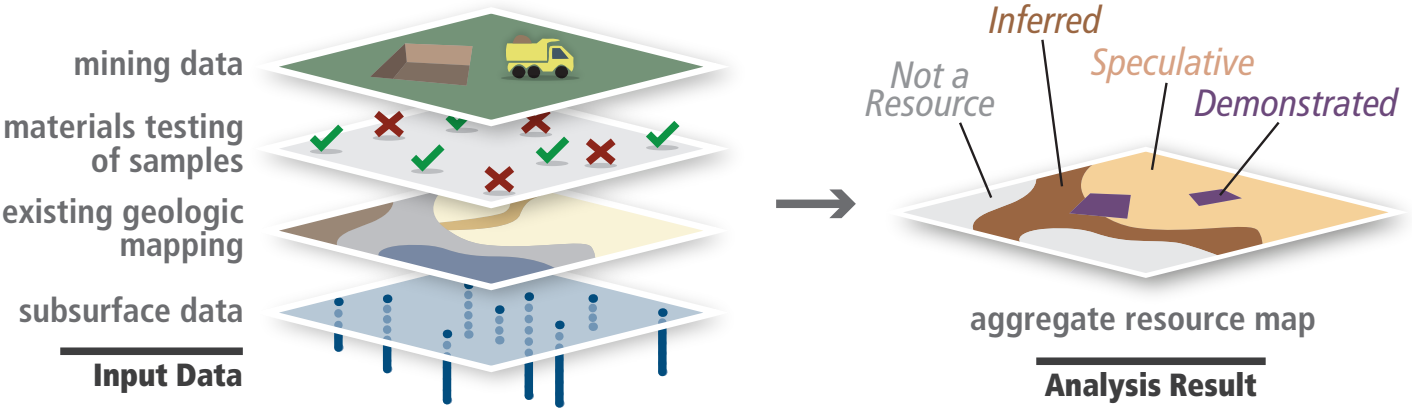
The Washington Geological Survey (WGS), part of DNR, is reaching out to staff in counties and cities in Washington to share information about our aggregate resource mapping work and prioritize future mapping areas. Your jurisdiction can leverage the aggregate resource data and maps that WGS produces, alongside your jurisdiction's specific data, to make more informed decisions on where MRLs should be designated. When jurisdictions know where their aggregate resources are, they can plan to protect them.

What does aggregate resource mapping NOT do?

The aggregate resource mapping effort, which falls within the science and research arm of WGS, is not a regulatory program and will not tell you where to designate MRLs. Our goal is to provide the aggregate resource maps and data that help you make more informed MRL designations.

OUR AGGREGATE MAPPING PROCESS

Using several input datasets, we classify aggregate resource areas as either *Speculative*, *Inferred*, or *Demonstrated*. These classifications vary based on quantity, quality, and certainty of the resource. Areas mapped as *Not a Resource* were deemed unsuitable because they possibly contain poor quality material, cover too small of an area, are too thin, or are located within federally protected lands.



PRODUCTS WGS CAN OFFER YOUR COUNTY

Aggregate Map and Pamphlet

For every county in the state, WGS is publishing an aggregate resource map and corresponding written pamphlet that explains the project methods and results.

GIS Data

Data for completed areas can be viewed and downloaded on WGS's Geologic Information Portal. (geologyportal.dnr.wa.gov)

Training

Technical assistance is available for those who intend to use these products for land-use planning purposes.

GMA RESOURCES

Department of Commerce Growth Management Services Periodic Update

www.commerce.wa.gov/serving-communities/growth-management/periodic-update/

Department of Commerce Growth Management Resources

www.commerce.wa.gov/serving-communities/growth-management/

Department of Commerce Growth Management Natural Resource Lands

www.commerce.wa.gov/serving-communities/growth-management/growth-management-topics/natural-resource-lands/

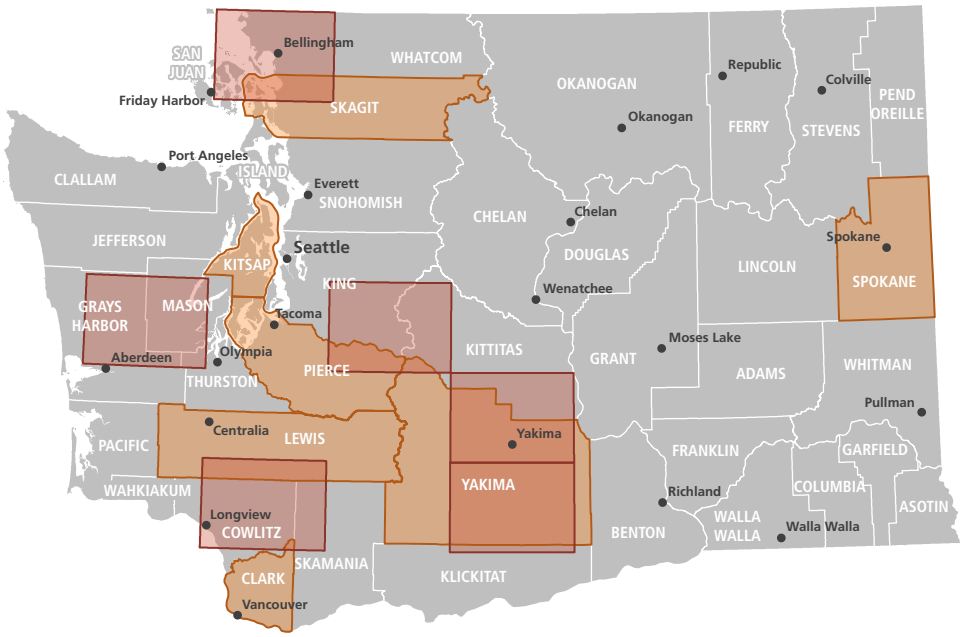
Growth Management Act Best Available Science WAC 365-195

apps.leg.wa.gov/wac/default.aspx?cite=365-195

WHAT AGGREGATE RESOURCE MAPS ARE ALREADY AVAILABLE?

6 1:100,000-scale quadrangle maps **7** county maps

WGS aims to produce county-scale aggregate resource maps for all 39 counties in Washington State.



TIMELINE FOR PRODUCING YOUR MAP

6–12 Months

1. WGS works with you before and during your GMA update process to answer your questions around MRL planning and our project's scope.
2. WGS begins work on the county-scale aggregate resource map and related materials.
3. WGS meets with your jurisdiction and other interested parties prior to publishing our aggregate resource map and related materials.
4. WGS delivers the final products to you for your planning needs. WGS provides training and outreach opportunities to support the use of the aggregate resource map and data.

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WASHINGTON STATE DEPT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
WASHINGTON GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

➤ LEARN MORE AT OUR WEBSITE

www.dnr.wa.gov/aggregate-resources