PFAS in the West Plains

PFAS "forever chemicals" are human-made substances found in many everyday products like some commercial waterproofing and non-stick products, packaging, waxes, paints, and historic industrial firefighting foams. They are very hard to break down, so once they get into soil or water, they stay there for a long time. Over time, PFAS can build up in the environment, in drinking water, and even in living things. High levels of PFAS have been linked to various health problems.

What You Can Do

Stay informed: Visit the WA Department of Health or Department of Ecology websites (lower right).

Limit exposure: Avoid known sources of PFAS. Boil with filtered water, boiling can concentrate toxics.

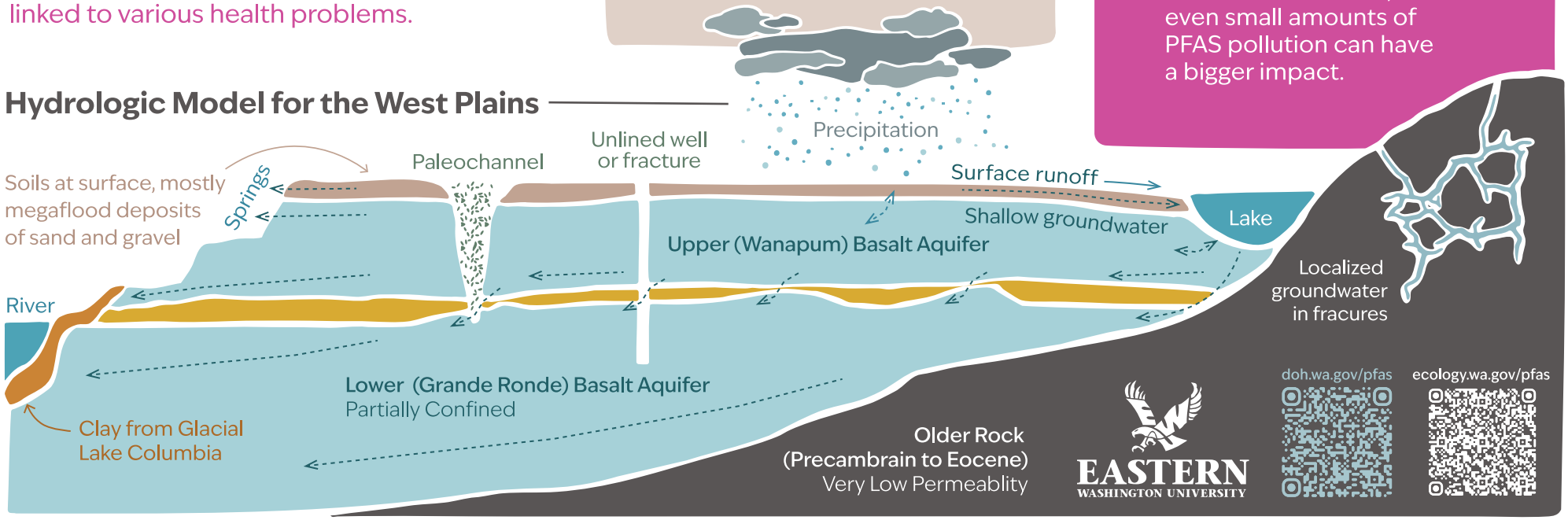
Speak up: Advocate for cleanup, testing, & more considerate land development. Work with government or non-profit agencies. Talk with neighbors.

Why This Matters

West Plains Aquifers are Declining

- In the West Plains, aquifers are losing water because people are using more than nature can replace.
- The aquifers now depend more on rain and snow to refill, but warm/dry years are making that difficult.
- Development adds roads, parking lots, and buildings, which block rain and snow from soaking into the ground and refilling the aquifer.
- With less water underground, there is less dilution, so even small amounts of PFAS pollution can have a bigger impact.

Hydrologic Model for the West Plains



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doh.wa.gov/pfas

ecology.wa.gov/pfas

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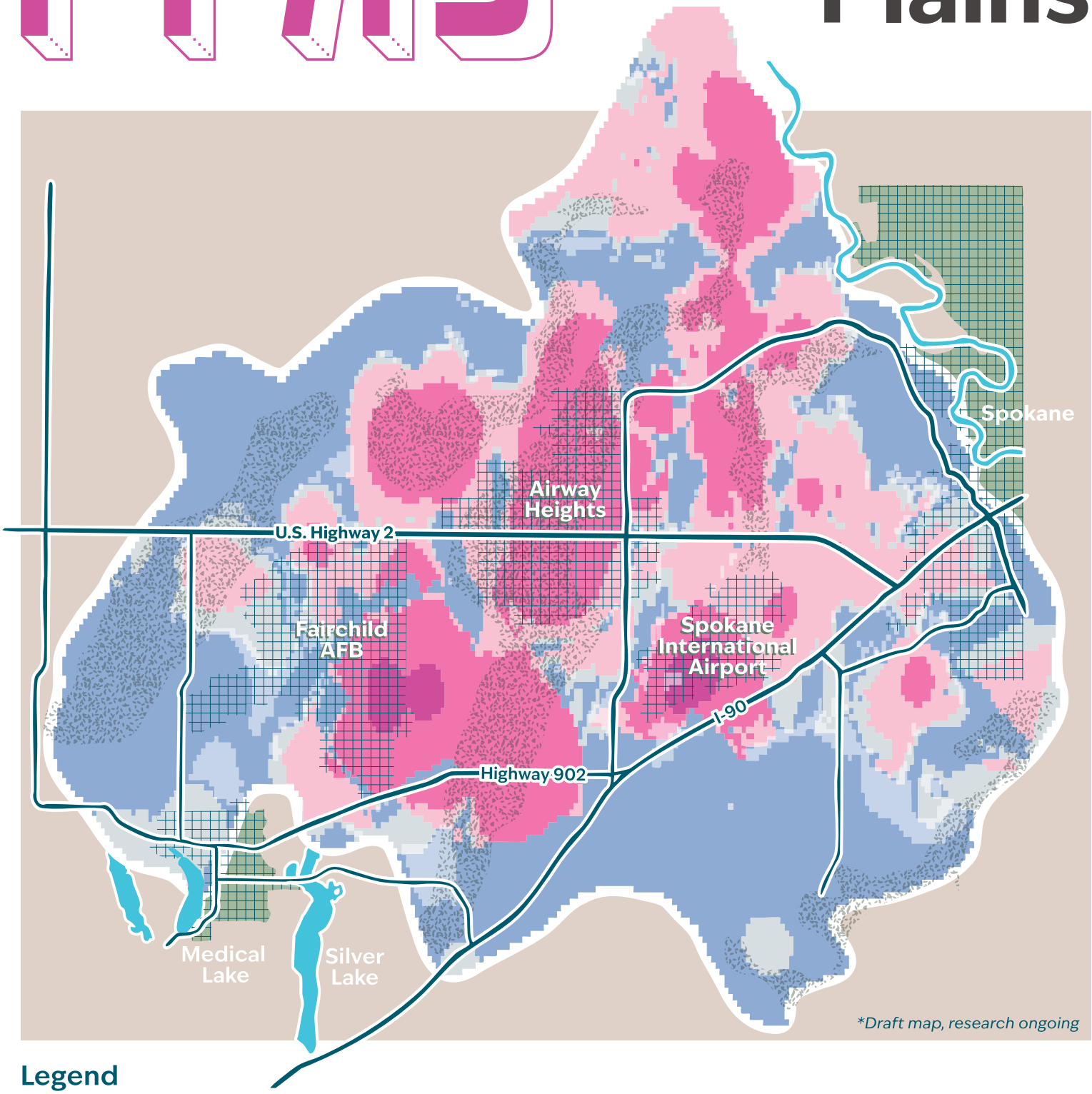

Legend

- Municipal Boundaries
- Bodies of Water
- Paleochannels
- Outside Testing Zone

General PFOS Detected at Regional Scale (parts per trillion)

- 2,000-20,051
- 70-1999.9
- 10-69.9
- 4-9.9
- 0-3.9

West Plains PFAS Fate + Transport Study
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