

Palouse River Basin Adjudication



March 30, 2016

Idaho Department of Water Resources



Meeting Agenda

- Introductions
- Purpose of the Meeting
- Why Adjudicate?
- Background of the Northern Idaho Adjudications
- General Adjudication Process
- Where we are now in the Palouse River Basin Adjudication (PBRA) process
- How the PBRA Affects You
- Questions

Introduction of IDWR Staff

IDWR State Office:

- Gary Spackman – Director
- Carter Fritschle – Adjudication Section Manager
- Craig Saxton – Adjudication Technical Analyst

Northern Region Office:

- Chad Goodwin – Water Rights Supervisor

Attorney Generals Office:

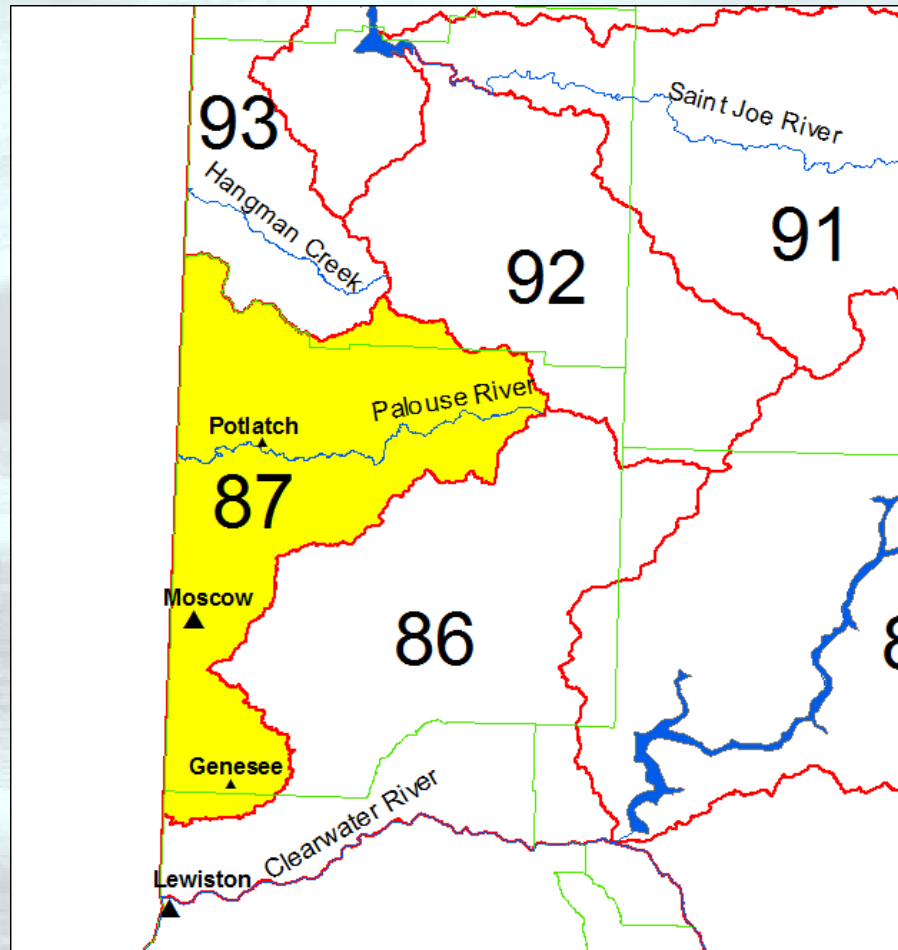
- Meghan Carter – Deputy Attorney General
- Suzy Cooley-Denny – Paralegal

Introduction of Court

Judge Eric Wildman

Purpose of Today's Meeting

Palouse River Basin Adjudication



Why Adjudicate Water Rights?

- Water is a valuable resource in Idaho.
- Supplies are not always sufficient to meet all of the demands.



Property Values

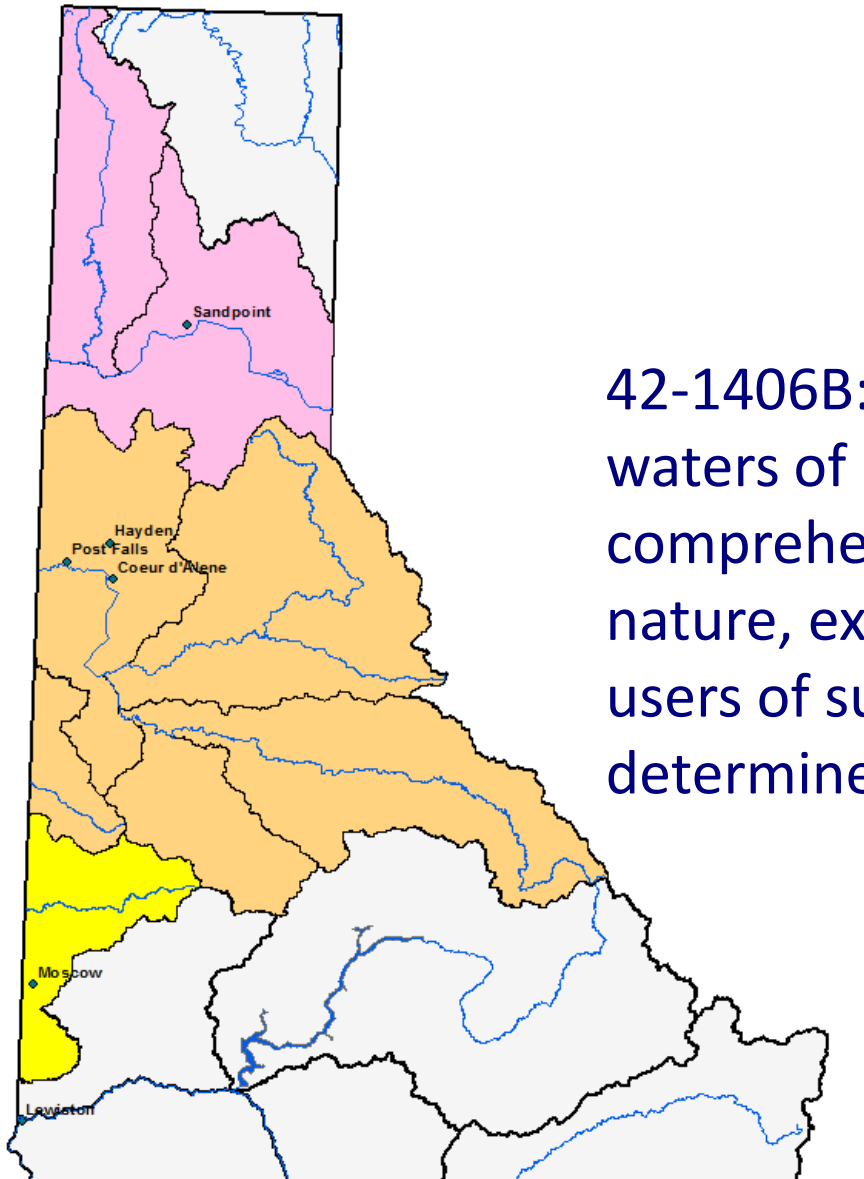
- Water rights can affect property values
- Quantification is needed for:
 - buyers and sellers
 - future planning
- The ownership of many water rights in the basin is not current.



Water Management

- Proper management requires resource quantification.
 - Sources used
 - Rates of flow
 - Volume diverted
 - Extent of uses (acres irrigated, municipal, recreation, etc.)
- Grandfather (beneficial use) rights must be determined
- Changed water rights must be clarified





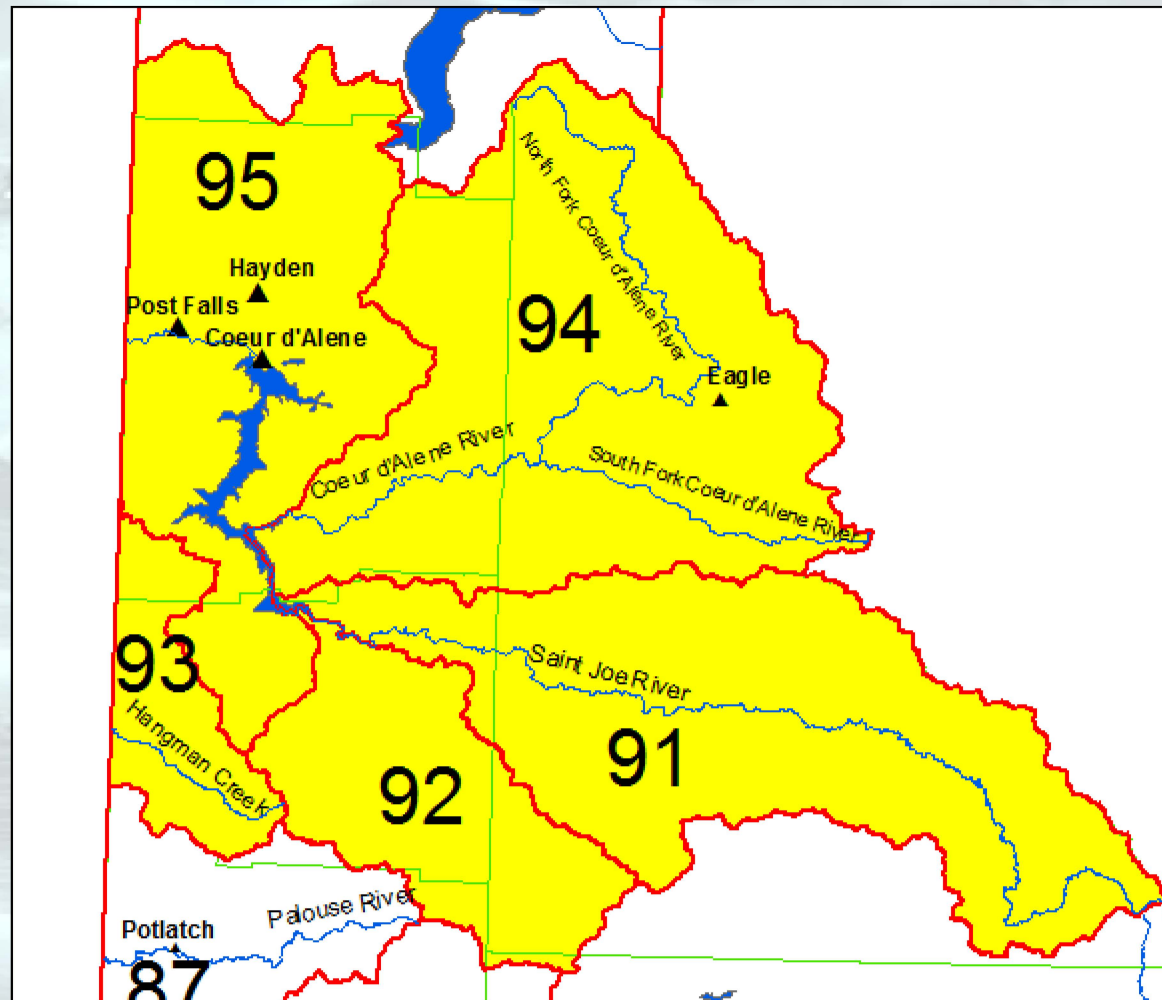
Idaho Water Rights Adjudications

42-1406B: “Effective management of the waters of northern Idaho requires that a comprehensive determination of the nature, extent and priority of the rights of users of surface and ground water be determined.”

42-1406B. Northern Idaho Water Rights Adjudications

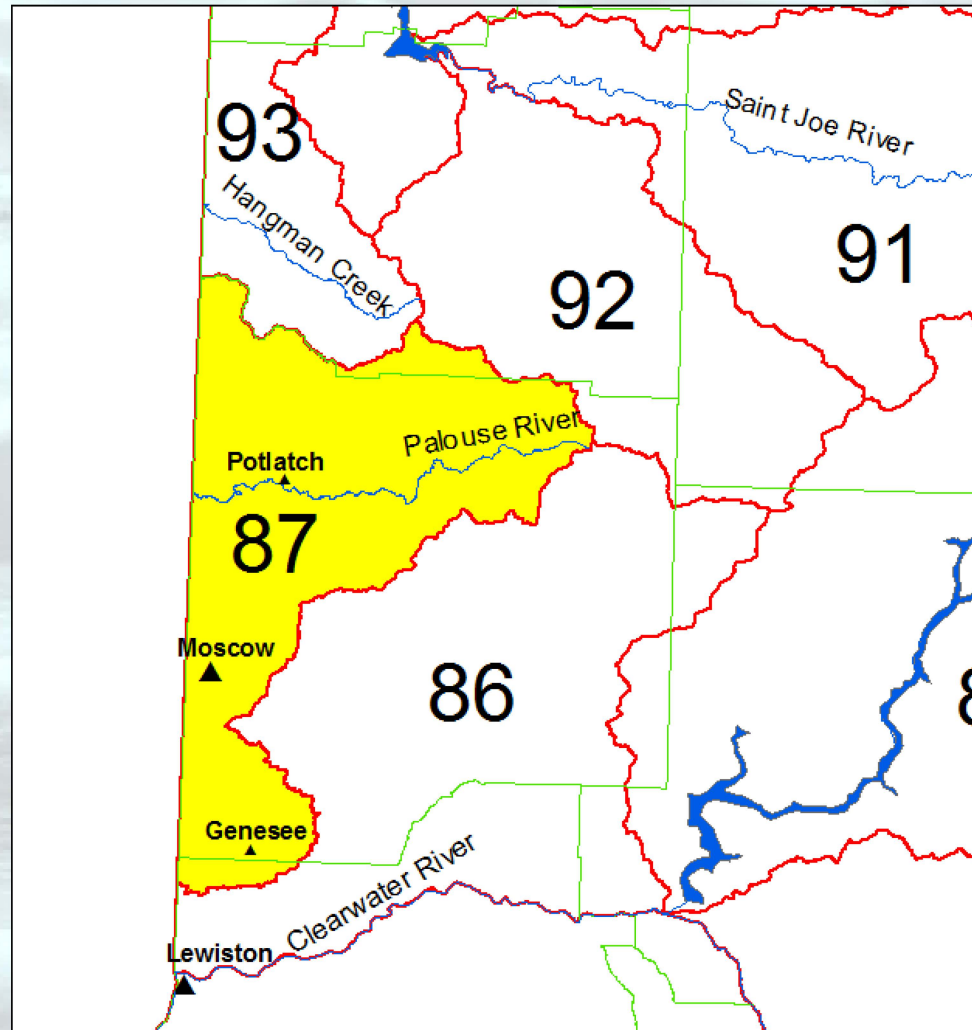
- IDWR shall petition the district court to initiate three (3) adjudications within the:
 - Coeur d'Alene-Spokane River Basin
 - **Palouse River Basin**
 - Clark Fork-Pend Oreille River Basins

Phase 1 – Basins 91-95



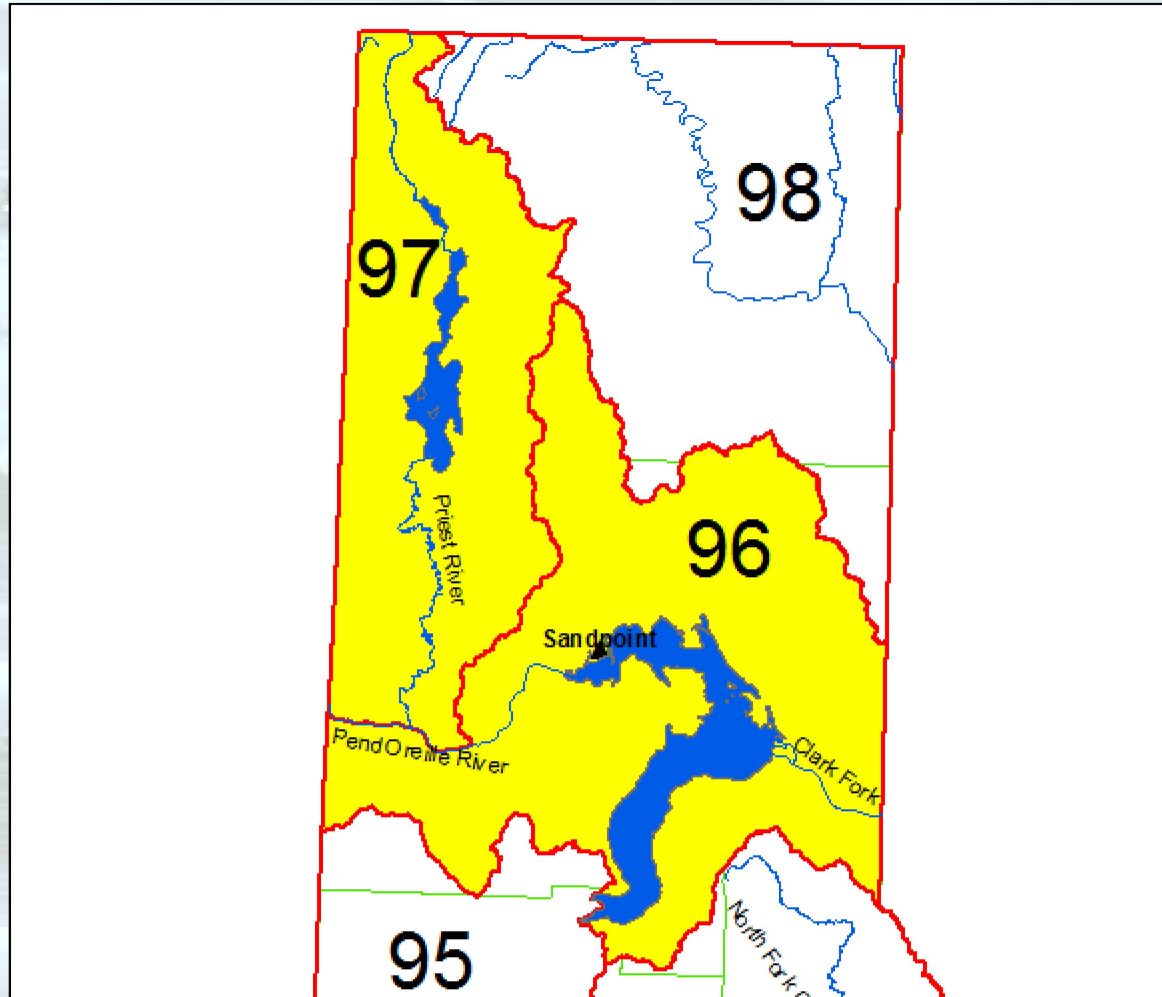
Coeur d'Alene-Spokane River Basin

Phase 2 – Basin 87



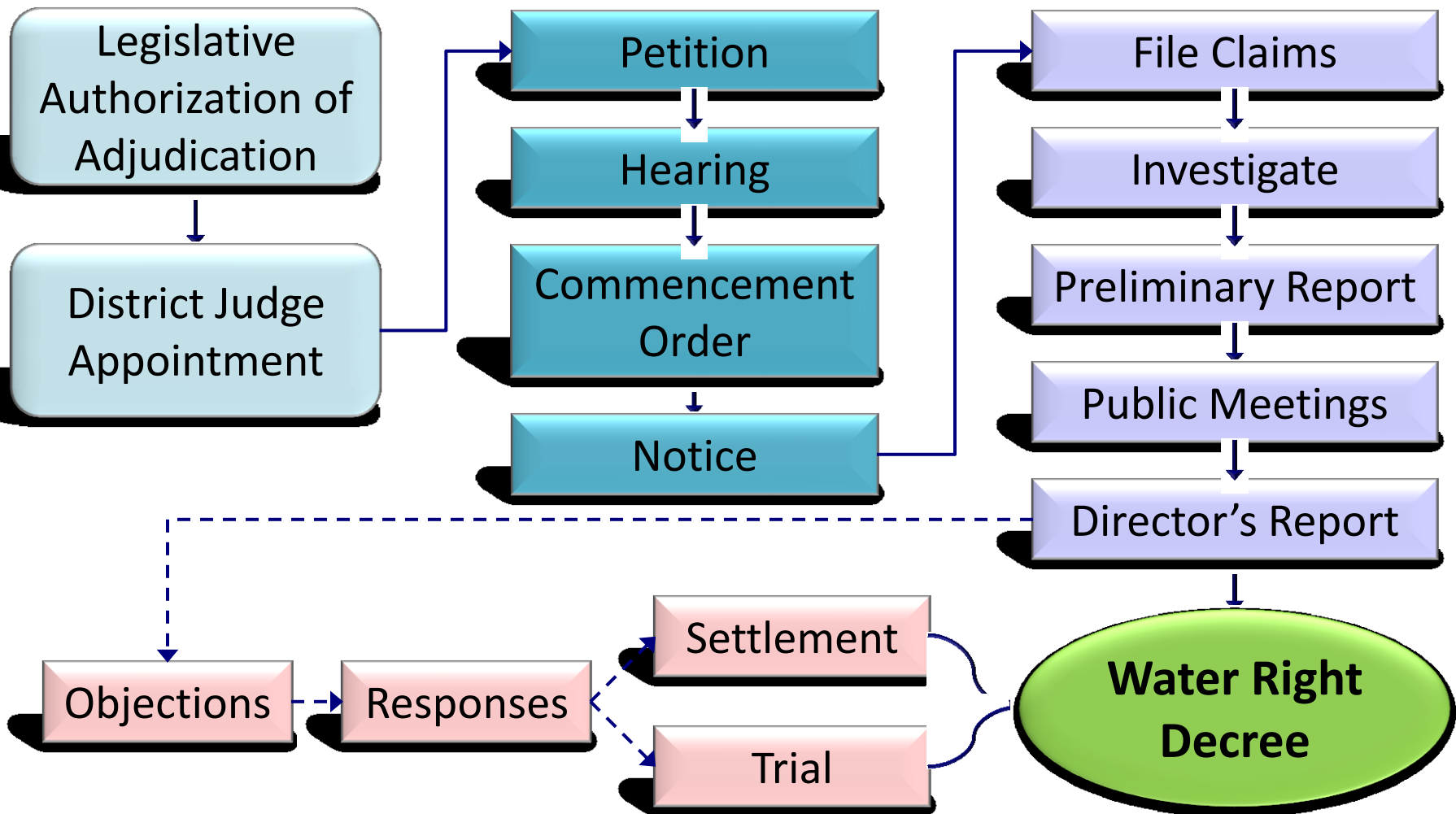
Palouse River Basin

Phase 3 – Basin 96 and 97



Clark Fork-Pend Oreille River Basin

Adjudication Process



Petition

IDWR intends to petition the district court to commence adjudication in the spring 2016.

- Includes all surface and ground water uses
- Water users can choose to defer (postpone) filing for small Domestic & Stockwater (42-111) rights
- Federal agencies are included

How the Palouse River Basin Adjudication (PRBA) Affects You

- All water uses in the Palouse River basin (B87), except for small domestic and/or stockwater, must be recorded.
 - Municipalities and municipal providers are responsible for filing their claims.
- The PRBA Court will issue a “partial decree” for each claim that appears in the Director’s Report.
- Delivery of water (if or when required) will be based on your partial decree.

Adjudication Court

<http://srba.state.id.us>

Questions?

IDWR Website:
www.idaho.idaho.gov