



# BUILDING A FUTURE FOR WATER, WILDLIFE AND WORKING LANDS

YAKIMA RIVER BASIN INTEGRATED WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN

## The Facts About Bumping Reservoir Enlargement

### Enlarging Bumping Reservoir

The Bumping Lake Reservoir Enlargement element of the Yakima River Basin Integrated Water Resource Management Plan (Plan) envisions expanding Bumping reservoir and adding fish passage facilities. The existing dam and reservoir lack fish passage.

The additional storage created by this project is one of several options for meeting the instream habitat and water supply goals of the Plan. The operations of Bumping Lake and Rimrock Reservoirs would be coordinated with reservoirs in the upper Yakima River Basin to assist in meeting both instream flow and water supply needs.



### Footprint and Capacity

- Expansion of Bumping Reservoir involves building a new dam about 3/4ths of a mile downstream of the existing dam. It will increase Bumping reservoir's current active capacity of 33,700 acre-feet to approximately 190,000 acre-feet. This is a much smaller expansion than has been proposed in decades past.
- The enlarged reservoir will inundate up to 1,900 acres of land located within the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest, but outside William O. Douglas Wilderness and inventoried roadless areas.
- The watershed that feeds Bumping Reservoir provides enough water to fill this scaled-down reservoir in most normal and dry years.

### Environmental Impact

- Before the expansion is authorized or built, the environmental impacts of the project will be evaluated. Of concern are impacts to endangered species such as bull trout and northern spotted owls. For bull trout, while expansion will reduce spawning habitat, adding fish passage at the new dam will end the isolation of the Bumping Lake/Deep Creek bull trout population, allowing exchange of genetic resources with other Naches and Yakima basin bull trout populations. Also of concern is loss of nearly 1000 acres of old growth forest.
- The proposal allows sockeye, chinook, steelhead, and coho to access Bumping Reservoir and its tributaries for the first time in over a century, increasing salmon and steelhead populations and restoring needed nutrients, an important food source, to the upper reaches of the upper Bumping River Basin.
- Increased storage at Bumping Reservoir will also benefit fish by providing for more natural flows in the lower Naches and Tieton rivers.
- The final decision on Bumping Reservoir expansion will not be made until a more thorough environmental review is conducted. That review will include opportunities for public input and comment. The project will proceed only if its impact is judged to be acceptable.



### Recreational Impact

- Approximately 7,500 people take advantage of the many recreational opportunities available at Bumping Reservoir, annually. Many of the facilities near the reservoir, including campgrounds, boat launches, cabins and trails, will be inundated. New recreational facilities will be constructed where possible.
- The Plan’s proponents are committed to working with the U.S. Forest Service to ensure that future recreational access continues to be as available as current access.

### Climate Change

- According to the the University of Washington’s Climate Impacts Group, climate change will increase the frequency of “significantly short” water years ( years when prorated users receive 75% or less of the water allocated to them) from 14%, currently, to as high as 32% in the 2020s, 36% in the 2040s, and 77% in the 2080s
- Hydrologic modeling shows that additional storage, with the Bumping Reservoir enlargement project being one option, is needed to make water supply deliveries more reliable and meet instream flow targets as snowpack decreases.

### Cost/Benefit

Analysis of an expansion of Bumping Reservoir over twice the size of that currently proposed showed that expansion was not cost effective. This much smaller expansion will be evaluated for cost effectiveness before the project is authorized or constructed. A preliminary evaluation of the entire Yakima Basin Integrated Plan shows that the plan’s overall benefits are more than twice the costs – for a benefit cost ratio of 2.1 to 1.



#### Questions?

Please give us a call.

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