



BUILDING A FUTURE FOR WATER, WILDLIFE AND WORKING LANDS

YAKIMA RIVER BASIN INTEGRATED WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN

Yakima Basin Plan - Initial Development Phase

The Initial Development Phase of the Yakima Basin Integrated Water Resource Management Plan directs the work to be done during the plan's first ten years, ranging from passage of the state's Integrated Plan authorizing legislation in 2013 through the year 2023.

The Initial Development Phase will advance concurrently some portion of all seven elements of the Integrated Plan. The Initial Development Phase represents a set of projects and activities that will quickly achieve tangible improvements in stream flow, habitat, and fish passage as well as to provide increased security of existing out-of-stream water supplies.

The Initial Development Phase will involve for a number of specific capital projects including:

- The Kachess Drought Relief Pumping Plant.
- Fish passage at Cle Elum Reservoir.
- A three-foot pool raise at Cle Elum Reservoir.

A fourth project the Keechelus to Kachess Conveyance project, will likely be included as an adjunct to the Kachess Drought Relief Pumping Plant project, pending verification of its efficacy in improving the speed and reliability of Kachess Reservoir refill, or improving summer flow conditions in the Keechelus-to-Easton reach of the Yakima River, or both.

Other components of the Initial Development Phase include agricultural conservation projects that would make available about one-half of the 170,000 acre-feet of conserved water envisioned by the Integrated Plan, floodplain and tributary habitat restoration projects and acquisitions, additional fish passage, aquifer storage and recovery projects, and fostering water banking and exchange programs. Attaining Wild and Scenic River designations for vital headwater stream reaches will also be advanced during the Initial Development Phase beginning with portions of the upper Cle Elum River system.

Subject to the results of an ongoing fatal flaw analysis, funding will be sought in the latter half of the Initial Development Phase to conduct a feasibility study and prepare an environmental impact statement to ready one of the two large storage facilities identified in the Integrated Plan for possible inclusion in the plan's subsequent development phase. The subsequent or middle development phase would span the time frame from the year 2024 through 2034.

The total estimated cost of the Initial Development Phase is approximately \$900 million. The cost will be split evenly between the State of Washington and non-state funding sources.



Cle Elum Fish Downstream Passage Testing Model



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Upon completion, the Kachess Drought Relief Pumping Plant will provide as much as 200,000 acre-feet of water for drought relief.



Questions?

Please give us a call.

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