



# BUILDING A FUTURE FOR WATER, WILDLIFE AND WORKING LANDS

YAKIMA RIVER BASIN INTEGRATED WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN

## Manastash Creek Conservation and Tributary Enhancement Project

### An Important Resource

Manastash Creek, a tributary of the Yakima River in central Washington, provides irrigation water to approximately 4,500 acres of farmland. The Creek also once served as important habitat for steelhead and coho salmon. Before the completion of this project, a 3.25-mile reach of lower Manastash Creek was seasonally dewatered by irrigation water withdrawals.

### Helping Farmers and Fish

The Manastash Creek Project converted 3.2 miles of a Kittitas Reclamation District's (KRD) canal to a pressured pipeline, conserving over 1,200 acre-feet of water annually.

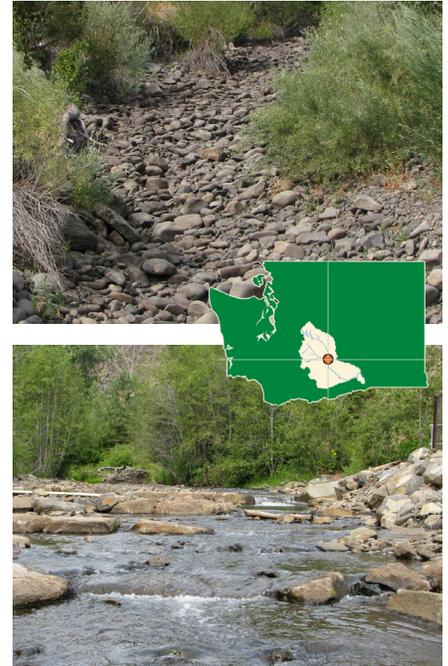
The project resulted in multiple instream and out-of-stream benefits. The conserved water increased instream flow in the lower Manastash Creek by around 3.5 cfs and significantly improved access to approximately 25 miles of important habitat for steelhead, coho, bull trout, and spring Chinook. Other benefits include reduced seepage, improved local irrigation system reliability, and on-farm efficiencies through the use of pressurized sprinkler systems.

The Project involved partnerships with the Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology), a significant cost-share partner, the U.S Bureau of Reclamation, KRD, Manastash Creek water users, and Kittitas County Conservation District. The project was completed in early 2014.

### First Step in the Yakima River Basin Integrated Water Resource Management Plan

The Manastash effort was the first construction project to break ground as part of the 30-year Yakima River Basin Integrated Water Resource Management Plan. The goals of the Integrated Plan are to improve the reliability of the water supply for irrigation, municipal and domestic uses; protect, mitigate, and enhance fish and wildlife habitat; provide increased operational flexibility to manage instream flows to meet ecological objectives.

Building on decades of studies, it is the most comprehensive planning effort to date in addressing current water resource and habitat challenges that can be met through collaborative local and regional solutions. The Integrated Plan also lays out an adaptive management framework to address future changes in the Yakima Basin's water needs including potential impacts of climate change.



**The Manastash Project helps farmer use water more efficiently and helps fish by providing over 1,200 ac-ft of water to a stretch of the creek that goes dry in the summer.**



The Integrated Plan approach was advanced in large part through the Yakima River Basin Study, which assessed the basin's water needs; evaluated various actions for meeting those needs; integrated analysis on how efforts to improve water supply can be coordinated with efforts to achieve aquatic habitat restoration and fish passage, and evaluated the potential impacts of climate change. The Yakima River Basin Study was conducted by Reclamation and the Ecology under the Department of the Interior's WaterSMART Program.

### About The Integrated Plan

After decades of fighting resulting in inaction, water users throughout the region put aside their differences to craft a water plan that meets everyone's needs.

The Integrated Plan provides water for agriculture, fish, and communities by:

- Modifying water system operation and infrastructure.
- Building fish passage at six existing dams.
- Implementing enhanced water conservation projects for agriculture and communities.
- Creating additional groundwater and surface storage capacity.
- Enhancing and protecting habitat .
- Employing water marketing and banking.



Construction at Manastash



#### Questions?

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