



## STATE ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT (SEPA) ADDENDUM

The following addendum has been prepared pursuant to provisions of WAC 197-11-625.

### **Environmental document added to or modified by this addendum:**

The document for which additional information is being provided is the Final Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (FPEIS) for the *Yakima River Basin Integrated Water Resource Management Plan* issued in March 2012. The FPEIS was a joint State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) and National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) document, for which the Department of Ecology (Ecology) and the U.S. Department of Interior, Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation), served as co-lead agencies in its preparation. The FPEIS can be viewed on-line at:

<http://www.usbr.gov/pn/programs/yrbwep/reports/FPEIS/fpeis.pdf>

This SEPA addendum was prepared by Ecology's Office of Columbia River, and released on April 25, 2013.

### **Proponent:**

Washington State Department of Ecology, Office of Columbia River, in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Interior, Bureau of Reclamation, and the Kittitas Reclamation District

### **Description of Proposal:**

Ecology, in conjunction with Yakima Basin stakeholders, released the Integrated Water Resource Management Plan (Integrated Plan) in April 2011. That plan identified seven elements or suites of actions intended to protect and improve habitat for anadromous and resident fish, to provide additional instream and out-of-stream water supply to address water shortages in the basin, and to improve the flexibility of system operations to facilitate response to short-term droughts and long-term-climate change. The seven elements include: (1) reservoir fish passage, (2) structural and operational changes to existing facilities, (3) surface water storage, (4) ground water storage, (5) habitat/watershed protection and enhancement, (6) enhanced water conservation, and (7) market reallocation.

Agricultural conservation is a component of the enhanced water conservation element. The plan recognized that a number of agricultural water conservation projects have been identified by basin irrigation districts in their conservation plans. Agricultural water conservation projects are discussed in Section 2.4.8.1 of the FPEIS and include lining or piping existing canals, automating canals, constructing re-regulating reservoirs on irrigation canals, improving water measurement and accounting systems, installing on-farm water conservation improvements, and other related measures. The plan also recognized that continued implementation of agricultural conservation projects, which has been the primary focus of Phase 2 of the existing federal Yakima River Basin Water Enhancement Project (YRBWEP) since 1994, will provide stream reach-specific flow improvements in the Yakima River and some of its tributaries.

The *Manastash Creek Water Conservation and Tributary Enhancement Project* (Manastash Project) is being initiated as the first agricultural conservation project of the Integrated Plan. The purpose of the project is to improve flow conditions in Manastash Creek. The Manastash Project is authorized under the existing the federal YRBWEP Phase 2.

**Addendum:**

This addendum provides additional information regarding the Manastash Project that is being undertaken as part of the enhanced water conservation element described in Section 2.4.8 of the FPEIS. Short-term impacts and mitigation associated with the Manastash Project are similar to those described in Chapter 4.0 of the FPEIS. Long-term impacts associated with the Manastash Project are similar to those described in Chapter 5.0 of the FPEIS. No probable adverse environmental impacts are anticipated as a result of the Manastash Project.

**Description of the Project:**

The Manastash Project is intended to improve the existing 13.8 Lateral of the Kittitas Reclamation District's (KRD) South Branch (SB) Canal. The currently unlined SB 13.8 Lateral will be replaced with 3.2 miles of buried, pressurized pipeline to reduce water lost through seepage and improve water delivery efficiency. It is estimated that 1,300 acre-feet (3 to 4 cubic feet second (cfs)) of water will be conserved and delivered to Manastash Creek. Once in the creek, that water will improve stream flow conditions in a 3.2 mile reach of Manastash Creek that is seasonally dry and help provide access to approximately 25 miles of crucial habitat for steelhead, coho, bull trout, and, to a lesser degree, spring Chinook. The *Yakima Steelhead Recovery Plan* (Recovery Plan) identifies Manastash Creek as a key tributary for restoring passage in order to achieve steelhead recovery.

A portion of a pipeline being constructed as part of the Kittitas County Conservation District's Manastash Creek Restoration Project will share the ditch excavated for the SB 13.8 Lateral pipeline for the first approximately 2,500 feet. The Manastash Creek Restoration Project is focused on consolidating irrigation diversions along Manastash Creek to provide better protection from entrainment of fish.

Reclamation and Ecology have committed to incorporating environmental enhancements as a component of the Manastash Project to provide additional benefits to Manastash Creek including the following measures:

- Construct and place large wood debris and boulders within Manastash Creek to improve habitat for anadromous and resident fish,
- Reshape and regrade fill and armor to match streambed contours upstream and downstream, and
- Reconstruct/restore stream and riparian areas once the pipeline has been installed.

Water conservation and habitat enhancement construction activities are scheduled to begin on August 15, 2013, and end by March 1, 2014. The replacement of the pipeline under Manastash Creek and the habitat enhancements are scheduled to begin on August 15, 2013 and will end by October 15, 2013, a period when Manastash Creek is dry.

**SEPA Lead Agency:**

Washington State Department of Ecology, Office of Columbia River

**Responsible Official:**

Derek I. Sandison

**Position Title:**

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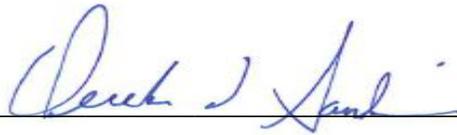
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**Date:**

April 25, 2013

**Signature of Responsible Official:** \_\_\_\_\_



**References:**

Yakima Basin Fish and Wildlife Recovery Board (YBFWRB). 2009. *2009 Yakima Steelhead Recovery Plan Extracted from the 2005 Yakima Subbasin Salmon Recovery Plan with Updates*. September 30, 2009.