



BUILDING A FUTURE FOR WATER, WILDLIFE AND WORKING LANDS

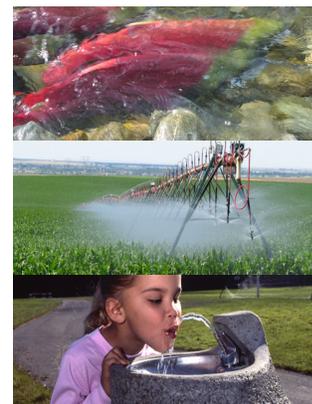
YAKIMA RIVER BASIN INTEGRATED WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN

The Future of Water in the Yakima Basin

The Yakima Basin Integrated Plan

The Yakima Basin Integrated Plan includes a variety of projects intended to increase water supply for agriculture, communities, and the environment. Without these projects, water supply shortfalls and challenging conditions for fish in the basin will continue and will likely worsen under changing climatic conditions. Water shortages are likely to increase competition for water and reignite old conflicts between irrigators and fisheries interests.

Stakeholders in the basin worked hard to put such conflicts behind them by developing the Integrated Plan to address everyone's needs. Each interest group made considerable concessions in order to address their shared challenge.



Failure to act will lead to decreased agricultural production, intermittent water shutoffs for communities, and stalled restoration of the basin's fish and wildlife resources.

The Future of Water for Agriculture

No Action	Yakima Basin Plan Implemented
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Low water years resulting in severely reduced supply to junior irrigators will increase from once every seven years to as much as one in every two years. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Plan defends farmers against changes in climatic conditions, and a predicted increase in drought frequency, by providing the water they need to sustain production during dry years.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The droughts of 2001 and 2005 caused economic losses of \$140 and \$195 million. Increased drought frequency will lead to even greater losses. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The plan adds 500,000 ac-ft to the Basin's water supply, thus increasing the basin's economic and environmental resiliency and effectively offsetting increased drought frequency.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More frequent droughts will increase the permanent loss of perennial crops like apples and cherries, decreasing agricultural production and the jobs it creates. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Plan enhances the ability to move water to where it's needed most, allowing for easy transfer of water rights, so that perennial crops, like apples, are not lost forever during drought.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The increased uncertainty of water supplies could cause Yakima Basin farmers to discontinue farming one of the most productive agricultural regions in the nation, which contributes over \$3.2 billion to the economy, annually. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Yakima Basin will continue to be an international trade dynamo, helping right our national trade imbalance by moving approximately \$1.8 billion worth of products through the ports of Seattle and Tacoma, annually.



The Future of Water for Fish and Wildlife

No Action	Yakima Basin Plan Implemented
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Impassible storage and diversions dams continue to block access for sockeye, steelhead bull trout, and other fish species. Failure to act will threaten restoration and recovery of the basin fishery and fish-based economy. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Plan restores access to historic fish habitat in the basin, allowing full restoration of sockeye runs and increasing the viability of listed bull trout and steelhead. Increased streamflows, enhanced habitat and improved dam operations, will allow restoration of summer chinook and increased production of coho, and spring, summer, and fall chinook.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Yakama Nation’s successful reintroduction of sockeye salmon will be threatened. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Plan restores access to nearly 100 miles pristine, publicly owned cold water habitat and lakes needed to restore what could become the largest sockeye run in the lower 48.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A failure to act will result in substantial reductions in the quantity and quality of protection of forest and shrub steppe land, harming the condition of the upper watershed and reducing the quality and quantity of fish and wildlife habitat and instream and out-of-stream water supplies. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Plan seeks protection for 200 miles of river and 200,000 acres of the watershed, protecting and enhancing prime salmon and trout habitat and lands that are home to recovering populations of wolverines, sage grouse and other key species.

The Future of Water for Homes

No Action	Yakima Basin Plan Implemented
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Most municipalities hold junior water rights. Increased drought frequency will likely lead to court orders periodically shutting down their water supplies. The Town of Roslyn experienced three such shut downs between 2001 and 2007. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The plan provides an additional 500,000 ac-ft to the Basin’s water supply, a portion of which is dedicated to providing a cushion for the 360,000 people who live throughout the Yakima Basin.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adequate water supplies are not available to support natural, responsible growth in the Yakima Basin. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conservation, storage, water marketing, and other tools the plan provides will allow communities to meet future demand, responsibly and intelligently.

Funding the Initial Projects

In 2013, the State of Washington allocated \$137 million for the Plan’s initial projects and committed to providing up to 50% the Integrated Plan’s total funding until completion in 2043. The \$137 million provided by the state will fund the costs of :

- The Plan’s initial conservation and habitat restoration, enhancement, and protection projects.
- The work needed to get the initial water supply and fish passage projects at Kachess and Cle Elum Reservoirs to the point at which construction may begin.

Between 2015 and 2020, approximately \$400 million in federal, state, and local funding will be required to construct the Kachess Inactive Storage Access Project and the Cle Elum Fish Passage and Pool Raise projects.