



BUILDING A FUTURE FOR WATER, WILDLIFE AND WORKING LANDS

YAKIMA RIVER BASIN INTEGRATED WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN

A Plan to Meet the Region's Water and Aquatic Resource Needs

The Problem

- The Yakima Basin's current water supply does not meet instream or out-of-stream demand, including the aquatic demands for fish and wildlife and the out-of-stream needs of irrigation and municipal supply.
- These circumstances have created a significant deficit in water supply, and it's getting worse. As communities grow and climate change reduces supply by shrinking the annual snow-pack, the current water deficit will only worsen.



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 Yakima River Basin Integrated Water Resource Management 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.
- Creating additional groundwater and surface storage capacity.
- Enhancing and protecting habitat and increasing in-stream flows.
- Employing water marketing and banking.

"The Yakima River Basin Integrated Water Resource Management Plan is a product of extraordinary work and compromise, and it offers long-term benefits for the environment and economy."

- Lance Dickie, Seattle Times

The Benefits

The Integrated Plan provides instream and out-of-stream benefits by:

- Providing more water for stream flows that fish need to survive.
- Building fish passage to allow salmon, steelhead, and bull trout to travel throughout the basin, and reestablishing what could be the largest sockeye run in the lower 48 after extirpation from the Yakima Basin over a century ago.
- Providing greater water supply reliability for farmers and communities.
- Securing the water that communities need to meet current and future demand.
- Protecting over 200,000 acres of forest, shrub steppe, and river habitat.
- Stretching the amount of water available by using it more efficiently.
- Enhancing habitat along the Yakima River and its tributaries.
- Implementing water marketing and banking so that water is more easily delivered when and where needed.

The Cost

The total cost of Integrated Plan projects is projected to be approximately \$3.8 billion. That cost will be spread out over 30 years and shared by local, state, and federal governments and private water users.





Support for the Integrated Plan

The Yakima Basin Integrated Plan has garnered a broad base of support from communities, businesses, recreation and conservation groups.

Tribal

- The Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation

Elected Representatives

- Governor Inslee
- Senator Cantwell
- Senator Honeyford
- Senator Murray
- Senator Warnick
- Representative Chandler
- Representative Dent
- Representative Newhouse
- Representative Manweller
- Representative Reichert

Conservation

- American Rivers
- Conservation Northwest
- Cowiche Canyon Conservancy
- Forterra
- Kittitas Conservation Trust
- National Wildlife Federation
- Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation
- The Nature Conservancy
- The Trust for Public Land
- The Wilderness Society
- Washington Environmental Council
- Trout Unlimited
- Yakima Fly Fishers
- Headwaters Chapter: TU
- Yakima Basin Fish & Wildlife Recovery Board

Businesses

- Charlton Farms
- Dispute Resolution Center of Yakima and Kittitas Cos.
- Ellensburg Canyon Winery
- Emerging Rivers Guide Service
- Fremont Brewing
- Greater Yakima Chamber of Commerce
- Kittitas County Chamber of Commerce
- Kittitas Valley Fire and Rescue
- Maria Hines Restaurants

- Port of Grandview
- Port of Sunnyside
- Port of Benton
- Red's Fly Shop
- Roy Farms
- Suncadia Resort
- Tamarack Guide Service
- Tri-City Regional Chamber of Commerce
- Valicoff Family Farms
- Washington Cattlemen's Association

Local Governments

- City of Cle Elum
- City of Ellensburg
- City of Grandview
- City of Granger
- City of Harrah
- City of Kittitas
- City of Mabton
- City of Moxee
- City of Roslyn
- City of Selah
- City of Sunnyside
- City of Tieton
- City of Toppenish
- City of Union Gap
- City of Wapato
- City of Yakima
- City of Zillah
- Benton County Board of Commissioners
- Kittitas County Board of Commissioners
- Yakima County Board of Commissioners

Irrigation Districts

- Kennewick Irrigation District
- Kittitas Reclamation District
- Roza Irrigation District
- Sunnyside Valley Irrigation District
- Yakima-Tieton Irrigation District
- Washington State Water Resources Association



Questions?

Please give us a call.

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