Yakima Pilot Water Exchange/Bank

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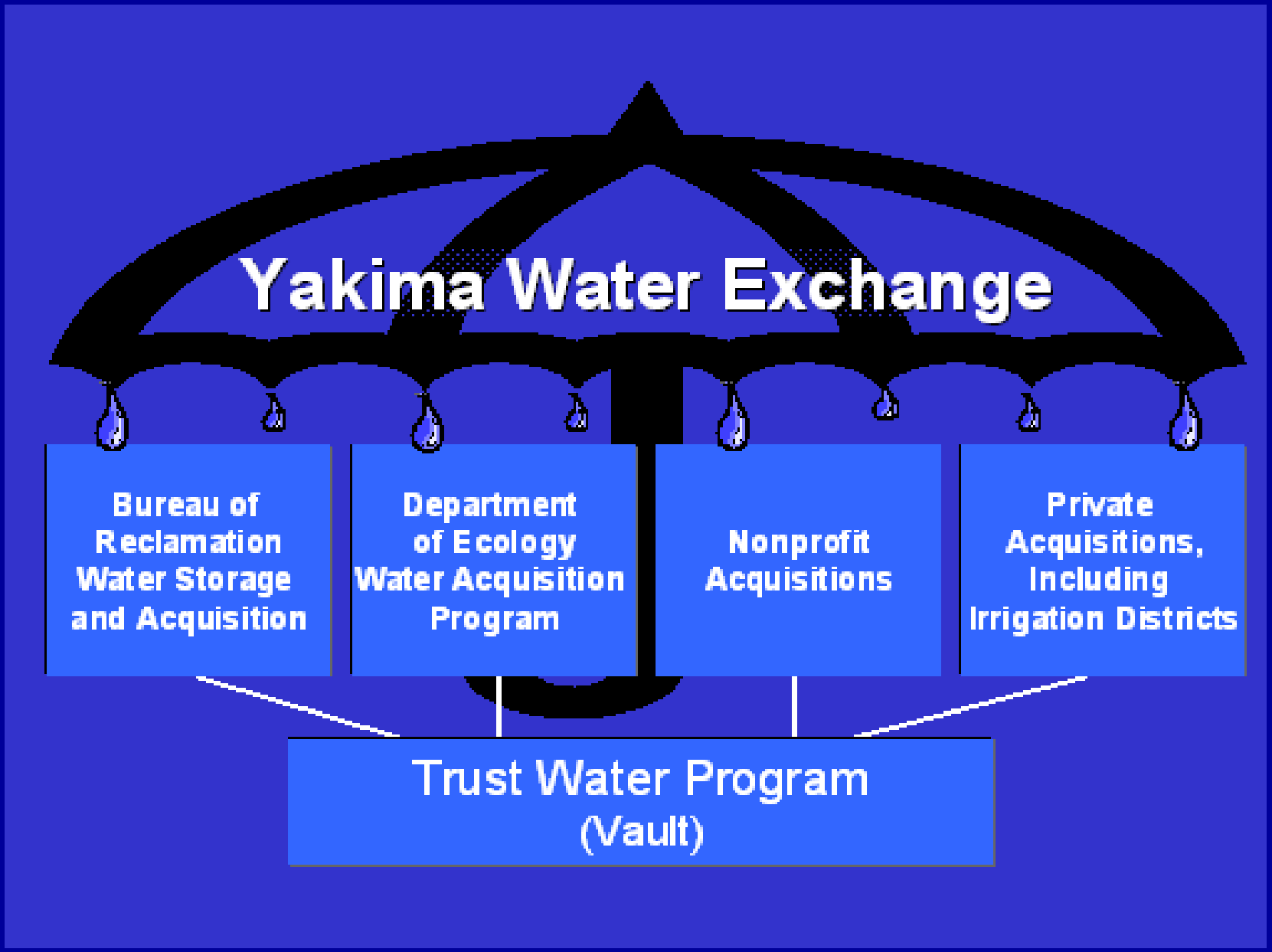
- *A water bank in its most generalized sense is "an institutionalized process specifically designed to facilitate the transfer of developed water to new uses. The primary objective of a water bank is to bring together those holding legally valid water use entitlements interested in making the water available to another with those needing to obtain additional supplies of water for their uses."*
- *"Broadly speaking, a water bank is an intermediary. Like a broker, it seeks to bring together buyers and sellers. Unlike a broker, however, it is an institutionalized process with known procedures and with some kind of public sanction for its activities."*
  - *Lawrence J. MacDonnell, "Water Banks: Untangling the Gordian Knot of Western Water", 1995*


Yakima Water Exchange
Bureau of Reclamation Water Storage and Acquisition
Department of Ecology Water Acquisition Program
Nonprofit Acquisitions
Private Acquisitions, Including Irrigation Districts
Trust Water Program
(Vault)

Yakima Water Exchange Services

Services provided by the YWE, to the extent they are not readily available in the marketplace, might include:

- ✓ Pre-application technical review for water transfer proposals
- ✓ Documentation of water transfer proposals
- ✓ Orderly and consistent technical review of proposals
- ↗ Provide information on water banking and service providers
- ↗ Publication of water transfer-related information
- ✗ Listing of buyers and sellers of water rights
- ↗ Market analysis and outreach to potential buyers and sellers
- ✗ Provide pricing and ownership information
- ↗ Provide water transfer research and analysis
- ↗ Measuring and monitoring

Water Bank Structure

- One institution offers and provides all services:
  - Water right transfers or water use approvals are managed with sales, marketing, closing, and water management functions
  - Government conducts commercial transactions or private sector or NGO is delegated authority to approve new water uses or mitigation credits
- Multiple institutions offer and provide coordinated services:
  - Private entities and governmental agencies work within typical authorities and roles
  - Governmental approvals are procedurally separate from execution of financial transactions
  - Marketing and research services could be bundled with either governmental approvals or financial transaction processing