



IN REPLY REFER TO:

United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION

Upper Columbia Area Office
1917 Marsh Road
Yakima, Washington 98901-2058



JAN 29 2008

UCA-1107
PRJ-3.00

To: Interested Individuals, Organizations, and Agencies

Subject: Yakima River Basin Water Storage Feasibility Study, Kittitas, Yakima, and Benton Counties, Washington, Draft Planning Report and Environmental Impact Statement

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen:

Enclosed for your review and comment is the Draft Planning Report/Environmental Impact Statement (Draft PR/EIS) for the Yakima River Basin Water Storage Feasibility Study, prepared jointly by the Bureau of Reclamation and the State of Washington through the Department of Ecology. This Draft PR/EIS examines alternatives to create additional water for the Yakima River basin for the benefit of threatened and endangered fish, irrigated agriculture, and municipal water supply. A joint scoping process was held during January 2007.

Comments may be submitted orally, electronically, or by regular mail. Oral comments may be presented at one of four public hearings, each of which will be preceded by an open house. The open houses will be from 1 to 2 p.m. and 6 to 7 p.m. followed by hearings from 2 to 4 p.m. and 7 to 9 p.m. on the dates and locations listed below.

February 27, 2008
Yakima Convention Center
10 North 8th Street
Yakima, WA 98901

February 28, 2008
Three Rivers Convention Center
7016 West Grandridge Blvd.
Kennewick, WA 99336

Comments may also be submitted electronically to storagestudy@pn.usbr.gov or by mail to the Bureau of Reclamation, Attention: Mr. David Kaumheimer at the address below. Comments on this document must be postmarked by March 31, 2008. You should be aware that your entire comment, including your personal identifying information, will be made publicly available in the Final PR/EIS. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

For further information regarding this proposal or additional copies, please contact:

Bureau of Reclamation
Upper Columbia Area Office
Mr. David Kaumheimer, Environmental Program Manager
1917 Marsh Road
Yakima, Washington 98901-2058
Phone: 509-575-5848 ext. 612
Fax: 509-454-5650
Email: storagestudy@pn.usbr.gov

The public hearing facilities are physically accessible. Persons who need accessibility accommodations, including sign language interpreters or other auxiliary aids, may contact Mr. Kaumheimer. Requests should be made as early as possible to allow sufficient time to arrange for accommodation.

Requests to make oral comments at the public hearings may be made at each hearing. Comments will be recorded by a court reporter. Speakers will be called in the order of their requests. In the interest of available time, each speaker will be asked to limit oral comments to five minutes. Longer comments should be summarized at the public hearing and submitted in writing either at the public hearing or identified as hearing comments and sent to be received by Mr. Kaumheimer no later than March 31, 2008.

Those wishing to obtain a copy of the Draft EIS in the form of a printed document, or on compact disk (CD-ROM), or an Executive Summary of the Draft EIS may contact Mr. Kaumheimer at the address or phone number given above.

The Draft PR/EIS is available for viewing on the Internet at http://www.usbr.gov/pn/programs/storage_study.

Sincerely,



Gerald Kelso
Area Manager



Derek I. Sandison
Central Region Director
Washington Department of Ecology

Enclosure