

YRBWEP Work Group

Guiding Principles and Goals

Guiding Principles

- Choose the most environmentally-friendly approach
- Choose the most cost-effective approach
- Choose measures that lead to economic stability
- Recognize institutional/legal constraints and obligations
- Don't make things worse/avoid harm to represented interests
- Provide for future flexibility and adaptability (e.g. climate change)
- Identify realistic projects to accomplish and fund in a specified timeframe
- Choose projects and actions that do not jeopardize the continued existence of listed species
- Maximize benefits (e.g. recreation, hydropower)

Water Supply Goal

Provide for adequate water supply to fulfill minimal in and out of stream needs during drought conditions:

How

- Maximize conservation and efficiency and water supply potential of water banks
- Identify potential legal and institutional changes
- Integrate surface and groundwater management to achieve total supply benefits

What

- Address future supply needs for M&I and rural domestic supply
- Determine instream demands and agriculture out of stream demands (defined as demands for Kittitas Reclamation District, Roza Irrigation District, Wapato Irrigation Project and Kennewick Irrigation District)

Fisheries/Habitat Goal

Restore fisheries resources and habitat within the Yakima Basin:

How

- Manage exotic, invasive species that affect water supply and fish restoration goals
- Open more habitat by providing passage into unregulated habitat includes passage at existing reservoirs)
- Recovery, maintenance, and enhancement of all salmonids
- Protect, maintain, and enhance fish habitat