

Summary of Scenarios to be Analyzed for Hydrology, Economics, Habitat and Climate Change

Future without Integrated Plan (No Action)

This scenario represents a continuation of current programs and operational schemes, and includes assumptions for implementing select YRBWEP Phase II conservation projects over the next 10 years or so.

Conserved water would be managed according to current YRBWEP guidelines. No significant instream flow adjustments would be made.

Integrated Plan

The preliminary Integrated Plan approved by the Workgroup in December 2009, updated to reflect findings from the Yakima River Basin Study.

Other Integrated Plan Analyses

For illustrative purposes, a non-structural scenario will also be considered to highlight how effective the non-storage elements of the Integrated Plan would perform in meeting the in and out of stream needs.

Additionally, a range of climate change effects will also be applied to illustrate how well the Integrated Plan might perform in meeting needs under changed climatic conditions. For this analysis, a range of climatic change effects (least effect, most effect and median effect) will be characterized for a 30-year (2040) time horizon. The 30-year timeframe extends far enough out into the future to distinguish potential climate change effects but does not go out so far that climate change modeling uncertainty overshadows the predicted results. The climate change range of effects gives upper and lower bounds that can help illustrate how the Integrated Plan would perform in meeting the in and out of stream needs under different climatic conditions.