

## **What Is the Integrated Plan?**

### **Yakima River Basin Integrated Water Resource Management Plan (Integrated Plan)**

**November 2013**

In 2009, Reclamation and the Washington State Department of Ecology's Office of Columbia River convened the Yakima River Basin Water Enhancement Project Workgroup (Workgroup) to provide a collaborative forum for evaluation of the usefulness of an integrated water resource management approach to addressing water and aquatic resource needs in the Yakima River basin in Washington. The Workgroup is comprised of representatives of the Yakama Nation, irrigation districts, environmental organizations, and federal, state, and local governments. In 2010, under the WaterSMART Basin Study Program, Reclamation and Ecology jointly conducted the Yakima River Basin Study with the Workgroup to better define options for future water management of the basin.

The Integrated Plan is a comprehensive approach to address a variety of water resource and ecosystem needs in the Yakima River Basin. The Integrated Plan includes seven elements: (1) reservoir fish passage; (2) structural and operational changes; (3) surface water storage; (4) groundwater storage; (5) habitat/watershed protection and enhancement; (6) enhanced water conservation, and (7) market reallocation.

In March 2012, Reclamation and Ecology released the Final Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS) for the Integrated Plan. The Integrated Plan was selected as the Preferred Alternative in the PEIS. Reclamation signed a Record of Decision in 2013, which selected the Integrated Plan for implementation. The total cost of all the elements of the Integrated Plan is approximately \$4.2 billion, with estimated annual operation and maintenance costs of \$10 million. Implementation is expected to take place over a 15- to 20-year period.

In the first legislative action of his administration, Governor Inslee focused on Washington's water resources and, specifically, the Integrated Plan to support food and agriculture industry jobs, salmon recovery, and a growing population in Central Washington. The 2013-2015 Washington State Budget includes \$132 million for Integrated Plan projects.