Yakima River Basin Integrated Water Resource Management Alternative Final EIS SUMMARY

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S.3 Description of the Integrated Water Resource Management Alternative

The Integrated Water Resource Management Alternative includes a package of elements to improve water supply and fish habitat. The proposed elements include:

- Fish passage at existing reservoirs as part of a phased program;
    - Cle Elum, Bumping, Kacheelus, Kachess and Tieton Dams.
- Structural and operational changes to existing facilities;
    - Changes to Roza and Chandler Power Plants,
    - Improvements to Wapato Irrigation Project and Chandler fish bypass,
    - Completion of the Kennewick Irrigation District Pump Exchange and similar projects in the lower basin,
    - Improvements to Kittitas Reclamation District facilities, and
    - Completing the Wapatox Project.
- New or expanded storage reservoirs;
    - Naches River basin storage options, including Bumping Lake expansion,
    - Wymer reservoir including new reservoir fill options, and
    - Modification to river operations in conjunction with storage and direct pump projects.
- Ground water storage;
    - Injection recharge with active recovery, and
    - Surface recharge with passive recovery.
- Fish habitat enhancements on the mainstem Yakima River and its tributaries;
    - Reconnecting and reestablishing floodplains and side channels,
    - Enhancing and restoring riparian habitat conditions,
    - Increasing channel complexity, and
    - Fish passage and stream flow improvements on tributaries.
- Enhanced water conservation;
    - Enhanced conservation for irrigation district infrastructure improvements; on-farm conservation and irrigation efficiency improvements; and municipal, commercial, and industrial conservation, and
    - Incentives for conservation including new proposals for the percentage of conserved water retained by the implementing entity and instream flows.

- Market-based reallocation of water resources;
    - O Short-term options that are a continuance of existing programs with additional steps taken to reduce impediments to transfer of water for water markets, and
    - O Long-term options designed to open the water market to a much larger group of water users and change the administration of water markets.

These elements would be implemented as an integrated package, not as separate projects, to maximize benefits to fisheries and water supply. The Integrated Water Resource Management Alternative would likely be implemented over a period of years. The timeline would depend on available funding.

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S.5.3 Criteria for Prioritizing Projects

This EIS presents a number of projects for each of the elements of the Integrated Water Resource Management Alternative. As part of the comprehensive implementation plan, Reclamation, Ecology, and the Work Group will refine criteria for evaluating and prioritizing projects that will be included in the legislative package. The following criteria represent a starting point for the implementation plan.

Table S-2 Criteria for Evaluating Projects

Viability Criteria	Implementation Criteria
Technical Viability. Are there technical obstacles that would prevent the project from being constructed?	**Ability to Meet Goals.** Does the project meet the goals of the Integrated Water Resource Management Alternative?
Cost and Funding Sources. How expensive is the project and are there parties that are likely to be willing to accept the costs? Will funding sources be available, both in the short-term and long-term?	**Cost-effectiveness.** Of those projects that meet the objectives, which deliver the highest benefit per dollar invested?
Acceptability. Is the project broadly acceptable to the stakeholders in the Yakima basin?	**Timeliness.** How long will it take to implement the project?
Sustainability/Adaptability. Does the project improve the ability to adapt to climate change and other future changes?	**Permitting Ease.** What approvals or permits will be required? Is it likely that such permits and approvals could be secured within the project schedule and timelines?
Environmental Benefits. Does the project provide environmental benefits? Would the project create significant adverse impacts that cannot be effectively mitigated?	