

## REVIEW DRAFT

### **Recommendation to Advance a Preliminary Yakima Basin Integrated Water Resource Management Plan**

#### **Yakima River Basin Water Enhancement Project 2009 Work Group**

*(For Consideration on December 7, 2009)*

#### **Recommendation:**

The YRBWEP 2009 Workgroup finds that the plan outlined in the attached report provides a balanced mix of projects and actions and offers substantial promise for improving water supply and fish habitat in the Yakima River Basin. We support the elements listed below as the preliminary foundation for restoration of fisheries and improving water supply in the Yakima Basin.

#### ***Water Supply***

1. A program to reduce water demand through extensive Water Conservation measures for agricultural and municipal water users
2. Additional water supply through water storage at Wymer Dam, Cle Elum Dam (Pool Raise), Kachess Reservoir (Inactive Storage), enlarged Bumping Lake and direct pumping from the Columbia River
3. Groundwater storage including infiltration prior to the irrigation season and municipal Aquifer Storage and Recovery
4. Market-based reallocation of water rights through modification of existing laws and regulations

#### ***Modifications to Existing Operations***

5. Modification of existing facilities and operations including completion of the Wapatox Project, subordination of the Roza and Chandler power plants and improvement of the Kittitas Reclamation District South Branch Canal to improve flow in tributaries

#### ***Fish Passage***

6. Fish passage at all six Yakima Project reservoirs

#### ***Habitat Enhancement***

7. Habitat enhancement program addressing reach-level floodplain restoration priorities (emphasis on Tier I and II reaches) and tributaries with emphasis on passage and screening, upper and middle Yakima tributaries restoration.

Further steps should be taken to confirm the content of a specific proposal for state and federal funding. These steps should include:

- update and validate in and out of stream water needs to be met by the Integrated Package;
- improve cost estimates for the major construction projects identified; and

## **REVIEW DRAFT**

- improve understanding of the joint effects of the various projects and actions combined(benefits and impacts).

Using this information, an updated draft of the Integrated Plan should be prepared, with a view to proposing it for Legislative and/or Congressional authorization.

The Workgroup recommends it continue to meet in 2010 at key milestones to provide input to Ecology and Reclamation as these further investigations are carried out, and prior to submittal of a final request for authorization of the Integrated Package to the State Legislature and the United States Congress.