

Sept 23-10

Contrary to the out-of-stream water needs where we have water supply goals or targets, there is none for instream water needs. How can we make a "support" or "do not support" decision on the proposed flow objectives when we have no idea of the adequacy of such flows and what they will accomplish in terms of improved salmon and steelhead habitat conditions and increased and sustainable fishery production? It is difficult for us reconcile incurring significant investments in a water resource plan which appears to do little in the way of improving the current flow regime in the lower 100 miles of the river through which all Yakima basin salmon and steelhead stocks must migrate.

Mr. E. Benet

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Out-Of-Stream Water Needs

Federally Supplied Agriculture

Proratable Irrigation Needs of Districts Seeking Drought Relief

We concur with the drought-year criteria of 70% of the entity's proratable water entitlement.

Non-Federally Supplied Water

We have some concern that with the groundwater withdrawal issues and possible climate change impacts we may be ignoring a potential critical water issue in the Yakima basin. Is further dialogue in this area desirable?

Municipal/Domestic Water Use

The municipal/domestic water needs represent year 2060 estimates of additional needs adjusted for water conservation measures and irrigated land conversion and assuming no change in the current groundwater supply. Are we trying to refine the estimates too much possibly ending up with a supply deficiency?

	Low Estimate	Medium Estimate	High Estimate
	(acre-feet)		
Total additional (7/20.10)	46,000	72,000	102,000
Adjusted additional (9/16/10)	26,000	49,000	75,000
Difference (conservation and land conversion)	30,000	23,000	27,000

May E Benoit
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