

To: Yakima River Basin Water Enhancement Program Work Group
Date: November 16th, 2010
Subject: Letter of Support, Integrated Water Resources Management Plan

I am the only member of the System Operations Advisory Committee (SOAC) that does not formally sit at the YRBWEP work group table, thus my interest in formally providing this statement, at this very important time.

I have been participating in both the 2009 YRBWEP Work Group Process and in the 2010 Yakima Basin Study, on several sub-committees and in independent research, with the intent to formalize an opinion on the Integrated Water Resources Management Plan. As the Yakima Basin Joint Board's biologist and the irrigation entities representative on SOAC I voice my support for the Integrated Water Resources Management Plan, as presented by the consultant team, of the Bureau of Reclamation and the Washington State Department of Ecology. As a researcher I believe that formalizing an opinion and support for something involves careful analysis of the data that will guide such an opinion. After careful review of the data provided on the need for reservoir fish passage, structural/operational changes to the Yakima Project, increased surface water storage opportunities, groundwater storage opportunities, the many fish habitat enhancements, enhanced water conservation, and market based reallocation of water resources projects, I provide my opinion that the YRBWEP work group should vote to move this plan forward.

I provide this opinion based on my experience working in the Yakima River Basin as a biologist, on my experience attending undergraduate and graduate school within the Yakima River Basin at Central Washington University, where my Master of Science thesis project involved research in the Selah Floodplain, and on my intent to work within the Yakima River Basin on fish, habitat and irrigation related projects for my remaining professional career. I look forward to working with the other members of SOAC on recommending ways to improve fish resources, while meeting irrigation demands, as the integrated plan is implemented; a process that may take 20 to 30 years. I'll be here.

In closing I have been to nearly every meeting of this group for the last 2 years and think my favorite quote came from an orchardist on the Roza Irrigation District, Ric Valicoff who said, "I think it's impressive that those who are directly involved in the integrated plan support it, while those that are not directly involved in the Yakima River Basin, seem not to". As someone who is and will be directly involved with the plan's implementation I voice my support.

Thanks for the opportunity to provide this statement.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "David Child", with a stylized flourish underneath.

David Child, Yakima Basin Joint Board, Biologist, SOAC Member