

Integrated Plan Summary Support Document and Yakima
River Basin Study Volume 1, Proposed Integrated Plan

Adjustments for Workgroup Consideration

March 9, 2011

Item 1 – Introduction to the Integrated Water Resource Management Plan Summary Support Document

The following would be added to Section 1.0 of the Integrated Plan Summary support document:

The Yakima River Basin Water Enhancement Project (YRBWEP) Workgroup was convened to identify solutions to address a variety of water resource problems that impact agriculture, fish, and municipal and domestic water supplies in the Yakima River Basin. The Integrated Water Resource Management Plan (Integrated Plan) Summary Support Document outlines the elements and actions proposed by the Workgroup.

The Workgroup's proposal is intended for further consideration by Reclamation and Ecology as they proceed with preparing a planning report and programmatic environmental impact statement which will comply with National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA).

It should be noted that by supporting this document, no Federal State, local or Tribal agency with representatives participating on the YRBWEP Workgroup believes their statutory and other legal obligations are, or can be, met through the proposed plan. Support of the proposed plan shall not be construed to limit any agency with jurisdiction related to one or more actions in the proposed Integrated Plan from complying with its obligations under applicable laws and regulation or from considering public comments received in any environmental review or regulatory process related the actions in the Integrated Plan. Support of this proposal should not be interpreted to predetermine the outcome of any NEPA or SEPA environmental review process or any permit process.

Item 2 – Fish Passage Action Descriptions

The following description of fish passage actions would be used to update both the Integrated Plan summary support document and the Proposed Integrated Plan (Volume 1) of the Yakima River Basin Study.

3.1 Fish Passage (Update to Integrated Plan Summary Support Document)

Restore anadromous salmonid access to habitat above the five existing large storage reservoirs and provide upstream and downstream passage for bull trout and other resident fish. ~~For At~~ Clear Lake dam, replace the existing upstream passage facilities. At spillway and Box Canyon Creek (Kachess Lake tributary), ensure effective provide improved upstream passage for pre-spawn adult bull trout based upon an evaluation study. For Cle Elum dam, install downstream juvenile passage facilities and fish ladder and collection facility for capture and upstream transport by tanker truck. For and Bumping dams, install upstream and downstream fish passage as part of the proposed Bumping Lake enlargement, or at the existing dam if the enlargement is not authorized. Install upstream and downstream fish passage at Tieton, Keechelus, and Kachess dams, subject to further evaluation of alternatives to determine the most feasible approach for providing passage at each dam, where passage is determined to be feasible based upon future evaluation studies as consistent with the 2006 Settlement Agreement between the Yakama Nation and Reclamation (or if not found feasible then pursue alternative fish restoration measures per 2002 HPA issued by WDFW)."

Proposed Updated Language for the Proposed Integrated Water Resource Management Plan (Volume 1 of the Yakima River Basin Study)

3.1.1 Fish Passage (Update to YRBS Volume 1, Proposed Integrated Plan)

Proposed fish passage actions are intended to restore anadromous salmonid access to habitat above the five existing large storage reservoirs and provide upstream and downstream passage for bull trout and other resident fish (see Figure 3-1 for project locations and for new accessible habitat).

Passage would be constrained by the following:

- Fish passage facilities would be designed and operated within existing operational considerations and constraints outlined in the Interim Comprehensive Basin Operating Plan (Reclamation 2002).
- Operations would continue to serve existing Reclamation contracts.
- Potential operational changes would be considered that might enhance passage without adversely impacting existing contracts or irrigation water supply.

Figure 3-1. Fish passage actions under Integrated Plan

Providing unimpeded fish migration past the existing storage dams in the Yakima Basin would increase species distribution; allow reintroduction of sockeye runs and expanded migrations, and provide for genetic interchange for listed bull trout and other native fish. This also provides a strategy for coping with potential future climate change impacts, should they occur, by allowing fish to access high-quality habitat at higher elevations if lower elevation habitat is no longer suitable for supporting fish life stages at certain times of year.

Clear Lake Dam

Upstream and downstream passage of adult bull trout would be improved by modifying the existing fishway or by constructing a new fishway at the spillway adjacent to the Clear Lake Dam. The proposed fishway would be designed to improve attraction flows, which are currently a problem for bull trout. Bull trout spawners migrate upstream during the summer months when warm lake surface water is spilling down the spillway channel and fishway; while cold lake bottom water is being released from the outlet works. Bull trout have a strong affinity for cold water and are attracted away from the fishway to the base of the dam where no fishway exists.

Cle Elum Dam

Proposed fish passage facilities at the Cle Elum Dam would consist of downstream juvenile facilities (i.e., bypass intake and pipe) that account for fluctuating reservoir levels during juvenile migration periods and upstream adult fish passage facilities. Upstream passage would consist of a fish ladder leading into an adult collection facility where fish would be captured and transported by tanker truck to areas upstream of the dam.

Bumping Dam

Upstream and downstream fish passage would be installed at Bumping Dam as part of the proposed Bumping Lake enlargement action described in Section 3.1.3, or at the existing dam if the enlargement is not authorized. Facilities proposed for the existing dam are similar to Cle Elum proposed fish passage facilities configuration.

Tieton, Keechelus and Kachess Dams

Upstream and downstream fish passage would be installed at Tieton, Keechelus, and Kachess dams, subject to further evaluation of alternatives to determine the most feasible approach for providing passage at each dam, where passage is determined to be feasible based on future evaluation studies, as described in the 2006 Settlement Agreement between the Yakama Nation and Reclamation. This Settlement Agreement resulted from mediation for a claim and lawsuit brought by the Yakama Nation against Reclamation regarding Endangered Species Act compliance for proposed Keechelus dam safety improvements. The agreement specifies that studies and plans be developed to determine the feasibility of implementing permanent passage at Keechelus, Kachess and Tieton dams. If passage is not found feasible, then Reclamation will pursue alternative fish restoration measures as prescribed in the 2002 Hydraulic Permit Approval issued by the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW 2002). The hydraulic permit specifies if passage is found infeasible, Reclamation will pursue alternative fish restoration measures.

Item 3 – Watershed Protections and Enhancements

The following Watershed Protections and Enhancements description would be included in the updated Integrated Plan summary support document.

Targeted Watershed Protections and Enhancements

The watershed, water supply, and ecological restoration goals of the Integrated Plan would be furthered through the protection and restoration of key landscapes. The primary lands that enhance other components of the Integrated Plan are large tracts in the Yakima/Naches watershed that provide high potential for ecosystem and species conservation and restoration both within and outside of the immediate riparian corridor.

The targeted acquisitions include:

- 46,000 acre tract in the middle and lower Teanaway River Basin comprised of mid to high elevation mixed conifer forest, lower elevation grand fir and ponderosa pine.
- 15,000 acre tract in the Yakima River canyon, including the valley bottom and eastern slopes, from the Yakima River to I-82.
- 10,000 acres at the headwaters of the Little Naches River and lands surrounding the headwaters of Taneum and Manastash Creeks.

If these preferred sites cannot be acquired, a combination of alternative sites of equivalent conservation value may be selected as long as alternatives collectively meet the following targets:

- Conservation Target for High Elevation Watershed Enhancement: 45,000 acres
- Conservation Target for Shrub-Steppe Habitat Enhancement: 15,000 acres
- Conservation Target for Forest Habitat Enhancement: 10,000 acres

Additional lands are eligible and/ or have already been recommended for federal Wilderness and Wild and Scenic River designation through other processes. In addition to the conservation targets provided above, protection of the following lands is consistent with values and objectives of the Integrated Plan:

- Wilderness designation should be pursued for the land around Bumping Lake that is not consumed by the reservoir expansion.
- Wilderness or other appropriate designation should also be sought for roadless areas in the Teanaway, in the area between Kachess and Cle Elum Lakes, and in the upper reaches of Manastash and Taneum Creeks in order to protect headwaters streams, snow pack, and forests.
- Wild and Scenic River designation should be sought for the American, upper Cle Elum, and Waptus rivers. Other rivers determined eligible and recommended for designation in future forest plans should also be considered.

All of these areas are eligible and have already been recommended for these designations through other processes.