

JAY INSLEE
Governor



STATE OF WASHINGTON
Office of the Governor

March 12, 2019

G. Thomas Tebb, L.Hg., L.E.G.
Washington State Department of Ecology
Director, Office of Columbia River
1250 W Alder Street
Union Gap, WA 98903-0009

Gwendolyn W. Christensen
U.S. Department of Interior
Bureau of Reclamation
YRBWEP Manager
Columbia-Cascades Area Office
1917 Marsh Road
Yakima, WA 98901-2058

Dear Mr. Tebb and Ms. Christensen:

It is with great appreciation that I write to congratulate you and the Yakima Basin Integrated Plan Work Group and Implementation Committee members on your success securing authorizations and funding to advance the objectives of the Yakima Basin Integrated Plan through the passage of the John D. Dingell, Jr. Conservation, Management, and Recreation Act.

As a former Yakima Valley resident and Member of Congress who once represented the Basin, I am proud to have made the Integrated Plan one of the first pieces of legislation passed by my administration upon taking office in 2013.

The Yakima Basin Integrated Plan responds to impacts Washingtonians are already feeling from climate change, and seeks to achieve water security in one of our state's most important agricultural and ecological watersheds. It builds on earlier conservation work we achieved through the Yakima River Basin Water Enhancement Program when I served the 4th Congressional District.

Especially important is how the plan looks at the watershed as a whole to restore salmon and steelhead populations, provide climate adaptation and resiliency, improve water quality and quantity, and support a healthy agricultural and recreational economy.

A hallmark of the plan, and why it is seen as a national model, is that the diverse interests in the Basin built the plan by consensus – including conservation groups, irrigators, farmers, sport and recreational groups, local, state and federal governments, and the Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation. This alone is a major achievement and watershed moment for collaboration in the region.

Again, I want to thank you for your tenacity and leadership as we move into this next phase of the project to protect, restore, and enhance the beautiful Yakima River Basin.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jay Inslee".

Jay Inslee
Governor

