

Contact: Wendy Christensen, 509-575-5848, ext. 203

Derek Sandison, 509-457-7120

Agenda

Yakima River Basin Water Enhancement Project Workgroup

March 9, 2011, 9:30 AM to 11:30 AM Yakima Arboretum, 1401 Arboretum Dr., Yakima WA

- 9:30 – 9:35 Welcome/Introductions and Agenda Overview
- 9:35 – 9:55 Targeted Watershed Protections and Enhancements
 - *Dan Silver, Ecology Consultant*
- 9:55 – 10:25 Yakima River Basin Study Report Overview, Review Schedule/Workgroup Q&A
 (Volume 1 - Proposed Integrated Plan and Volume 2 - Technical Memoranda)
 - *Ben Floyd , Anchor QEA and Andrew Graham, HDR*
- Integrated Plan Summary Support Document and YRBS Vol. 1 – Proposed Integrated Plan
 Adjustments
 - *Ben Floyd , Anchor QEA*
- 10:25 – 10:50 Implementation Subcommittee Update
 - *Dan Silver, Ecology Consultant*
- Coordination Request from Ecology/Kittitas County on Developing Domestic Well Water
 Reserve or In-Lieu Mitigation Fund
 - *Paul Jewell, Kittitas County and Tom Tebb, Ecology*
- 10:50 – 11:20 Information Updates and Next Steps
- Recent communications with US Forest Service
 - Planning Report and Programmatic EIS
 - Workgroup Meeting Schedule for 2011/2012 – Targeting quarterly¹
 - *Wendy Christensen, Reclamation and Derek Sandison, Ecology*
- 11:20 – 11:30 Public Comment
- Adjourn

Yakima River Basin Study Report Review Schedule

Integrated Plan (Volume 1) - Comments due March 18

Technical Memoranda (Volume 2) – Technical corrections due March 31

¹ Quarterly YRBWEP Workgroup meetings planned for information updates (e.g., March, June, September and December of each year) but with flexibility built in based upon status of Planning Report/EIS work products and Implementation Subcommittee activities. Advance meeting notice will be provided.

*Work Group facilitation by Ben Floyd, Anchor QEA as a subconsultant to HDR, under contract to US Bureau of Reclamation



Yakima River Basin Study

Volume 1 – Proposed Integrated Plan

Volume 2 – Technical Memoranda

Overview
March 9, 2011

Integrated Plan Summary

Support Document

- Approved by all but two Workgroup members on 12/17/2010
 - Sets up Implementation Subcommittee
 - Summarizes Integrated Plan elements and actions
 - Includes brief characterization of needs, benefits (water supply, instream flows and fisheries), costs, and preliminary schedule
- Provides the **substance** for the Proposed Integrated Plan (Volume 1 of the Yakima River Basin Study)



Yakima River Basin Study

Volume 1 – Proposed Integrated Water Resource Management Plan

1.0 Introduction and Purpose

- Integrated Plan is a Proposal from the Workgroup
- Yakima River Basin Study
- YRBWEP history/previous studies and accomplishments
- YRBWEP Workgroup efforts

2.0 Water Needs

- Out of stream needs
 - Yakima Project = 70% supply to proratable districts
 - Future M&I, domestic = approx. 50,000 AF
- Instream needs – Priority flow objectives by reach (Table 2-2)
- Fisheries – restoration needs
- Climate change potential effects on needs (2040)
 - Changes in flow timing and magnitudes
 - Potential to increase consumptive use from longer growing season for crop and landscape vegetation

3.0 Proposed Integrated Plan

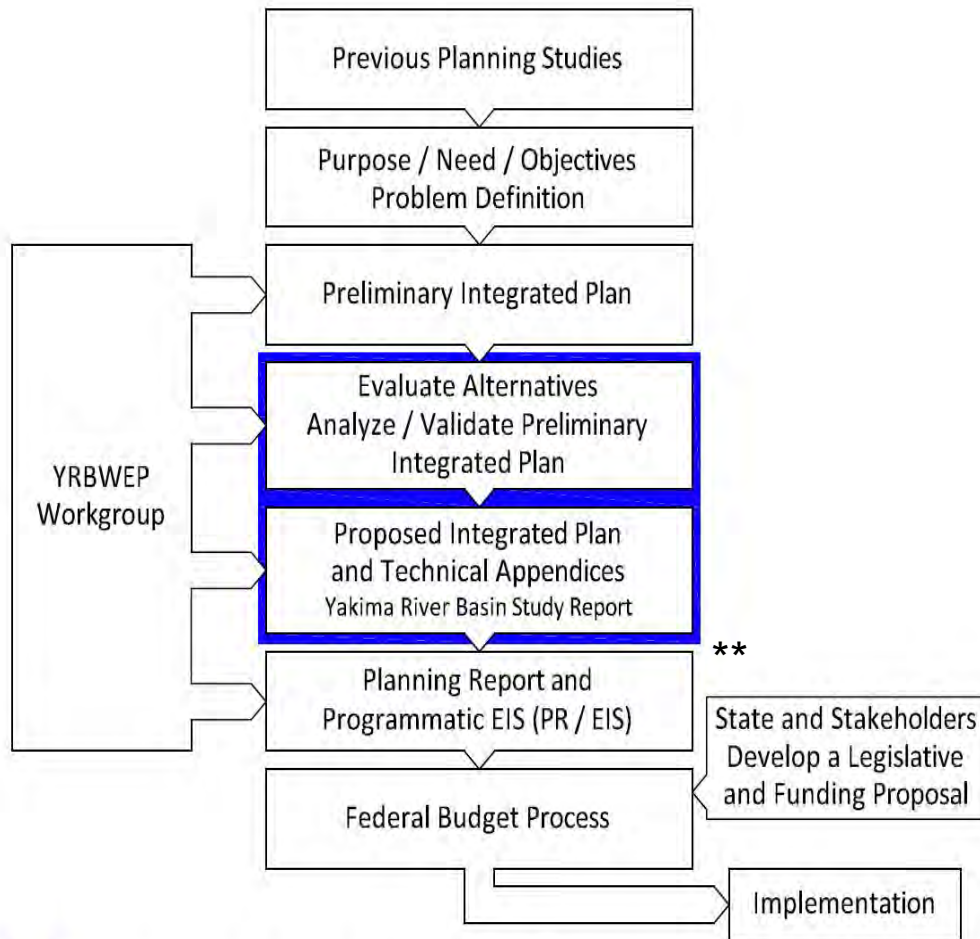
- 7 Elements and action descriptions
 - Proposed updated fish passage description
 - Targeted watershed protections and enhancements
- Cost estimate - \$3.3 to 5.9 billion (may change slightly)
- Preliminary schedule (20+ year implementation)
 - Watershed protections and enhancements not incorporated
 - Funding and other uncertainties will lead to schedule adjustments in implementation

4.0 Expected Outcomes

- Hydrologic Modeling Results Future with and without Integrated Plan
- Water supply
- Stream flow and mainstem habitat (*watershed enhancement benefits not yet characterized*)
- Potential climate change effects on supply (2040)
- Fish production (*#s slightly increased*)
 - Anadromous species
 - Bull trout
- Economic outcomes

5.0 Implementation Considerations

- For each of the 7 elements
 - Potential barriers
 - Mitigation strategies
- Instream flow management framework
 - Upper Yakima
 - Lower Yakima
 - Tributaries
- Periodic reviews and adjustments



■ Yakima River Basin Study (Current Step in Process)

** Workgroup Implementation Subcommittee activated for steps following Yakima River Basin Study

Comments on Integrated Plan
due 3/18.

Send to Ben Floyd
(bfloyd@anchoragea.com)

cc:

Wendy Christensen
(gchristensen@usbr.gov),

Derek Sandison
(dsan461@ecy.wa.gov)

Andrew Graham
(andrew.graham@hdrinc.com)



Yakima River Basin Study

Volume 2 – Technical Memoranda

Volume 2 – Technical Memoranda

- TM 1 Yakima River Basin Water Resources
- TM 2.1 Water Needs for Out-of-Stream Uses
- TM 2.2 Economic Effects of Yakima Basin Integrated Water Resources Management Plan
- TM 3 Instream Flow Needs
- TM 4.1 Fish Passage at Cle Elum, Bumping, and Clear Lake Dams
- TM 4.2 Wapatox Canal Conveyance Improvements
- TM 4.3 Roza/Chandler Power Subordination
- TM 4.4 KRD Modifications
- TM 4.5 Cle Elum Pool Raise
- TM 4.6 Keechelus to Kachess Pipeline
- TM 4.7a Wymer Dam and Reservoir
- TM 4.7b Preliminary Assessment of Wymer Reservoir & Downstream Conveyance and Energy Recovery
- TM 4.7c Thorp to Wymer Conveyance
- TM 4.8 Bumping Lake Enlargement Dam Planning Design Summary Update
- TM 4.9 Lake Kachess Inactive Storage
- TM 4.10 Agricultural Water Conservation
- TM 4.11 Municipal and Domestic Conservation Scenarios
- TM 4.12 Market-Based Reallocation of Water Resources
- TM 4.13 Groundwater Infiltration Appraisal-Level Study
- TM 4.14 Mainstem Floodplain Restoration
- TM 4.15 Columbia River Water Pump Exchange Feasibility Study Scope of Work
- TM 5.2 Environmental, Policy and Legal Barriers
- TM 5.3 Costs of the Integrated Water Resources Management Plan
- TM 6 Modeling of Reliability and Flows
- TM 7 Fish Benefits Analysis

No review period – any technical corrections due by 3/31.

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 Tanuem 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 Wapatus 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.

**Guiding principles for developing a
DOMESTIC WATER RESERVE PROGRAM**

**Cooperators' Agreement between
KITITITAS COUNTY and the Washington State DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY**

WHEREAS the Department of Ecology and Kittitas County desire to develop and implement a Domestic Water Reserve Program to allow for planning and use of future domestic water reserves in Kittitas County;

NOW THEREFORE, the parties to this Cooperators' Agreement establish the following goals for developing and implementing a Domestic Water Reserve Program in Upper Kittitas County:

- To prevent harm to tributaries and senior water rights from new development that may occur in upper Kittitas County.
- To provide developers the opportunity to participate in a "mitigation credit" program in areas where senior water rights are not available to offset new groundwater pumping.
- Provide a reliable and predictable process for landowners to obtain timely water availability decisions.
- To collaborate with the Yakima River Basin stakeholders and governments in developing and implementing a Domestic Water Reserve Program.

This Cooperators' Agreement may only be amended in writing signed by both parties. Either party may terminate this Cooperators' Agreement by giving the other party thirty (30) days written notice.

SIGNATURES

STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY



Ted Sturdevant, Director

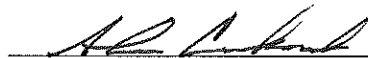
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KITTITAS COUNTY



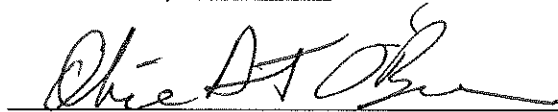
Commissioner Paul Jewell, Chairman

Date: 3/1/2011



Commissioner Alan Crankovich, Vice-Chairman

Date: 03/01/11



Commissioner Obie O'Brien

Date: 03/01/11

Water availability options in Upper Kittitas County subject to WAC 173-539A groundwater rule

1. Use or tie into existing water right or municipal hook-up
2. Use or be part of an existing Group B, or Group A water system that is not subject to the rule.
3. Obtain water through existing water banks (Suncadia, Sapphire Skies, Swauk, and First Creek)
4. Obtain TWSA neutrality through obtaining water through existing water banks plus [mitigation locally at tributary scale].
5. Use of a water cistern

+++++

Mitigation approach in cases where available mitigation is downstream of predicted impact:

1. Efforts made to secure in-place mitigation:
 - a. What opportunities are available?
 - i. What existing pre-1905 water rights are upstream?
 - ii. What effort made to purchase a pre-1905 water right?
 - iii. Opportunities to store and release water during low-flow periods?
 - b. What are the relative costs?
 - i. Cost to purchase upstream mitigation
 - ii. Cost to construct a system to provide low-flow in-place mitigation
 - c. Is it reasonable to conclude all reasonable efforts have been exhausted?
2. In Lieu payment for ecosystem impacts
 - a. What is the value of the ecosystem services impacted?
 - b. Can they be replaced at another location?
 - c. If the value can be determined and the answer to Question 2.b. is “yes,” a payment of equal or greater value to the value of the impacted aquatic resources could be made in lieu of in-place mitigation.
 - d. If a value cannot be determined or if the ecosystem service cannot be replaced at another location, then in lieu payment is not an option.

8 March, 2011

To the members of the Yakima River Basin Water Enhancement Program Working Group and associated parties.
Comments on the Water Reserve Program from Aqua Permanente;

We commend Kittitas County and Ecology for working together to find water solutions for the Upper Yakima Basin. However, we would like to remind people of some of the water issues we are facing:

* In Upper Kittitas County, before new wells can be put to use, a mitigating amount of Senior water must be obtained. The water offered by Suncadia covers many areas, but not all. There are strong reasons that these "red" areas cannot be mitigated with water behind the Cle Elum dam (via special agreement with the Bureau). Some of the reasons are because the locations in the red area have critical tributaries that are currently impaired. Other reasons are because Suncadia purchased water to leave instream (part of the complicated process of buying and transferring water) so that some of those tributaries can be restored. Swauk Creek is an important example of mitigation water remaining instream. Many local, state and federal entities have worked together to protect and enhance the salmon habitat of Swauk Creek. We are alarmed about "trading habitat" for water credit and would like to better understand how this will prevent stream impairment before irrevocable development occurs and new users are established in sensitive areas.

* There are currently draft plans to allow cistern use in Kittitas County where senior water rights are unavailable and streams are threatened. This, in theory, could be beneficial in water short areas. In reality, however, this would only be beneficial if the entire amount of water for the residence was delivered by truck. A minimal amount of rainfall catchment could also be utilized. For much of the upper portion of Kittitas County this is around 22" of precipitation - annual average. It also can mean as little as one half inch in the summer, so obviously not a dependable source for water. If any amount was to be withdrawn from the ground this would negate the benefits of cistern use.

* Many assumptions are being made regarding the Bureau storage of water. Flexibility is not the term to describe the agreement between Suncadia and the Bureau. Specifically, it has been mentioned that this was a "one time arrangement, not to be considered as precedent for future agreements".

* Some politicians have referred to an inherent "right to water". This has been popping up in the water dialog more and more frequently. We would like to point out that the human right to water, as determined by the UN, equates to about 25 gallons per person per day. We already know what happens when there is not enough water to go around. A human right to water does not translate to an amount of water necessary for speculative building practices. We would also like to point out that propping up unsustainable development practices resulted in the tremendous crash of the recent past. Is this really the highest and best use of a critical resource? Especially if existing users are not being considered in this equation?

* Finally, and most importantly, on what legal basis can the YRBWEP agree to create new users before solidifying the rights of the proratable users? Junior users are currently considered to be fulfilled if they get 70% of their allotment. What about making those water rights completely whole before future uses are allocated? Why would a potential, future water user skip to the head of the line over existing users? What about existing users with 100+ year old proratable water rights as in the case of the members of Aqua Permanente? What about all the rural domestic uses throughout the Yakima Basin that has been based on exempt wells and are unaccounted for? Will the oldest users be mitigated first? What will justify passing over these users and issue water rights in water short areas? If development occurs and the suggested mitigation schemes fail, what then? What about buffers to account for climate change? While it may be possible to leave some fields fallow in times of drought, the fish have specific needs (in both quantity and quality - including temperature) that have little flexibility. It is important to note that the current Suncadia water bank only offers mitigation water for uses after 2003, part of the induced growth concept. This water bank is unavailable to exempt wells prior to that date. Before committing to additional permanent uses, make sure the current water users, both instream and out of stream, are made whole.

Aqua Permanente has had at least one member at every single meeting of the YRBWEP since it was reconvened in June of 2009. We have monitored the progress very closely. We see the complexity and fragility of the process, but also see the importance of coming together to address the issues. Water banking is indeed a way forward for this basin, but we need to make sure that we are not compounding an existing problem instead. We agree to water banking as a solution for future growth, but only after all the existing users are made complete - including prudent buffers for times of instability. We also believe that the lenders should be reviewing the discussions so that this time they understand the water issues before we create another unsustainable growth pattern. Sincerely, Melissa Bates for Aqua Permanente.

Melissa Bates
120 Elk Haven Rd.
Cle Elum, WA 98922

Cascade Land Conservancy * Conservation Northwest * National Wildlife Federation
The Nature Conservancy * Trout Unlimited * The Trust for Public Land
Washington Environmental Council * The Wilderness Society

March 9, 2011

Derek Sandison
Washington State Department of Ecology
303 South Mission Street, Suite 200
Wenatchee, WA 98801

Wendy Christensen
U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
1917 Marsh Road
Yakima, WA 98901-2058

Dear Mr. Sandison and Ms. Christensen,

This letter is to offer support from the undersigned groups for the next steps of the effort known as the Yakima Basin Integrated Plan (Plan). At your invitation, we have been working for the last several months to develop an upper watershed enhancement component for inclusion in the Plan. We completed this task, and Michael Garrity of American Rivers, who is the lead for us on this effort, will communicate to the Plan Working Group the results of our effort. We strongly believe the upper watershed enhancement component is needed to fulfill the key principles and objectives of the Plan. We understand that the next phase of this effort is for the Plan to undergo an Environmental Impact Statement analysis and program analysis. We strongly support conducting this next phase provided that the upper watershed enhancement component is formally included in the Plan and is an integral part of this analytic phase.

Like other interests who have helped develop the Plan, we realize that there are many steps to take, and many details to work out, before this Plan might come to fruition and be implemented. Those steps and those details remain of critical concern to us and their resolution will determine our continued support for this effort. We look forward to assisting you and the Plan Working Group to ensure that the Plan continues to meet the principles and objectives that have been developed to date as it evolves over this next phase.

We appreciate the opportunity to join the effort in this manner and look forward to other opportunities to contribute.

Sincerely,

Michelle Connor
Executive Vice President/Chief Program Officer
Cascade Land Conservancy

Mitch Friedman
Executive Director
Conservation Northwest

James Schroeder
Director of Freshwater Programs
The Nature Conservancy

Lisa Pelly
Director, Washington Water Project
Trout Unlimited

Mo McBroom
Policy Director
Washington Environmental Council

Steve Malloch
Senior Water Program Manager
National Wildlife Federation

Mike Deller
Washington State Director
The Trust for Public Land

Peter Dykstra
Pacific Northwest Regional Director
The Wilderness Society

A water supply and funding investigation that can be blended synergistically with the work of the Integrated Water Resource Management Workgroup

March 9, 2011

Several years ago, the late, great, John Keyes told me that The Yakima River Basin had "done it all" except for storage. He was referring to the incremental improvements for fish and wildlife, conservation, water management, water quality, and environmental restoration as the decades have gone by under Title 12, with millions of dollars invested.

More recently, I heard the Secretary of the Interior, echoed by the Secretaries of Energy and Commerce, saying words like "No more federal mega-projects, but we are eager to be part of new partnerships, including public-private investments with new environmentally-sound ideas and shared costs."

How do these voices from far away impact the concept I want to share with the Workgroup today? They seem to fit the opportunity that is "blowing" our way, and we would be turning our backs on reality if we did not want to build on it. This is not to undermine the workgroup plan that we are advancing, but to potentially augment it, and bring us closer to actually getting something done when we need partners with money and ideas that save energy. In addition to my passion for finding water for the future of the Yakima Basin, I serve as Chair of the Executive Board of Energy Northwest, producing enough carbon-free energy from nuclear, solar, hydro and wind to keep the lights on and the factories running in all of Seattle. What I say here is the result of a lot of years and miles, and meetings.

What we are presenting today is a concept based on communication with a lot of people and actions that have recently been taken by BPA in dealing with efforts to balance the power generated by northwest sources with market opportunities. This balance has changed dramatically from when the BOR and BPA made a measurement of pumped storage about 4 years ago, and failing to act has a potential cost to regional utilities in the tens of millions of dollars.

What follows is a more scholarly description of the "Columbia Renewable Energy Storage Project" as envisioned in early March of 2011, with exploration and organization by Jim Waldo, an experienced water attorney known to many of us in the Yakima and Columbia Basins.

Sid Morrison

The Columbia Renewable Energy Storage Project ("CRESP") is an energy storage project, currently in the conceptual phase, designed to help reliably integrate the region's rapidly growing wind generation fleet into the region's power grid. Because recent changes in the energy markets have placed a premium on energy storage, we believe CRESP can be leveraged to help address water storage and fisheries issues in the Yakima Basin.

- * As an initial concept, the project would draw water during periods of high flows and low power market prices from the pool of the Priest Rapids Project into a pumped storage reservoir (or reservoirs) at higher elevations, with the stored water returned to the Priest Rapids Pool through generators when prices are high.
- * The primary function is to store electricity during periods when generation from intermittent renewable resources or from the Columbia River dams is surplus to system needs (including environmental) or market demands.
- * Secondary functions, if the primary function proves operationally and economically feasible, are to store water from the Columbia River to help meet agricultural, fisheries, and municipal objectives in the Yakima River Basin.
- * CRESP is different from the Black Rock project both conceptually and in terms of proposed project configuration. However, CRESP builds on certain analytical work already done for the Black Rock project which will help reduce the costs of the planning level analysis of CRESP that is now needed.

Initial high-level reconnaissance suggests the CRESP concept may be economically viable in view of recent rapid growth of the wind energy fleet in the Columbia Basin and the challenges facing system operators in integrating that growth while accommodating fisheries needs at the Columbia River dams.

- * For example, during the June 2010 "high wind/high flow" event, Bonneville was forced to give away power for free. As the BPA has recently observed, there is a reasonable chance of the events of June 2010 recurring over a six to eight week period this spring, and if it occurs, "the cost will be in the tens of millions of dollars," with costs continuing to grow in the future as the Pacific Northwest's wind generation capacity continues to expand.
- * In the future, it is likely that power will be available at very low prices during the spring high-flow periods, creating an opportunity for CRESP to economically remove water from the Columbia during the spring freshet and return it later in the year when power prices are high and river flows are low.
- * CRESP offers a number of additional potential benefits, including removing water from the Columbia during high spring flows and returning it later in the year when it is needed to meet fish conservation obligations under the Vernita Bar Agreement.
- * Offering a means to manage transmission congestion in the mid-Columbia region, thereby enhancing the value of existing transmission assets and possibly avoiding the need for difficult and expensive additions to transmission.
- * Offering a means to maximize the value of the region's wind generation fleet. During last June's high wind/high flow event, BPA required wind generators to curtail production, resulting in the loss of tax credits and renewable energy credits that are tied to the volume of wind production. BPA estimates that future events alone could cost wind producers alone more than \$50 million. CRESP offers a means of storing energy when it cannot otherwise be used and releasing it when it is needed, rather than forcing generators to stop producing at times when wind and water are abundant and demand is not, and thereby preserves the value of wind generation.
- * Potential "customers" of energy storage services include wind generation operators, public utility districts, investor owned utilities, BPA, and others in the utility industry.

These favorable initial results point to the need for a more authoritative engineering/economic analysis at the planning and scoping level, with multiple objectives:

- *Engineering/economic analysis of the costs and benefits of the energy storage concept, taking into account recent trends in the regional energy market and environmental needs, and examining alternative sites in the region.
- *For storage sites and designs that "pan out" technically and economically from an energy storage standpoint, evaluate the costs and benefits of adapting them to support regional fisheries and agricultural objectives while taking advantage of revenues from energy storage operations to help defray the costs of adapting and operating the system to serve these additional functions.

The CRESP investigation would complement the efforts of the Workgroup by potentially making additional water available in the lower Yakima Basin, and increasing the flexibility of flows in the entire Yakima River system. It is an independent effort, operating on its own timeline. It holds the potential to be self-funding, reducing the taxpayer burden by accessing private capital while working synergistically with the water and fisheries solutions currently being developed by the Workgroup.

We expect more details from Jim Waldo as the investigation continues.



Statement of the Sierra Club on the Yakima River Basin Water Enhancement Project 2011 Work Group – Draft Integrated Package, March 9, 2011

The Sierra Club resubmits the following statements to the Work Group.

*** The Sierra Club reasserts its support of water conservation measures and opposition to new storage projects as set out in our January 15, 2009, comments on the Yakima River Basin Integrated Water Resource Management Alternative Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement:**

“We oppose any new storage projects on the Yakima River and its tributaries, including the Bumping Dam Enlargement (Large or Small Option), Wymer Dam (on Lmuma Creek), and Black Rock Dam. DOE and Bureau of Reclamation (BuRec) identified numerous possible measures for improved water conservation, including measures in the No Action Alternative and the Enhanced Water Conservation Alternative of the January 2008 *Yakima River Basin Water Storage Feasibility Study Draft Planning Report/Environmental Impact* (Draft Report). The conservation measures of these alternatives should be implemented before there is any further study or action on new storage projects.”

“Sierra Club is committed to water supply solutions that involve common-sense water management. We believe that in the face of climate change, aggressive water conservation, adoption of water efficiency standards and metering, water markets, low-impact storage projects (e.g., aquifer storage and recovery), forest and flood-plain restoration, and other strategies to promote natural storage are much more cost-effective than new dams, and could vastly improve the efficiency of water use in Washington State. The historic, massive hydrologic re-engineering of Washington’s rivers using dams and irrigation projects has caused historic environmental damage. We strongly urge you to focus on future water projects that fix existing problems, not cause new ones.”

*** Statement of the Sierra Club on the Yakima River Basin Water Enhancement Project 2009 Work Group – July 15, 2009**, in which the Sierra Club raised concerns that the membership established by the BuRec and Ecology does not meet basic requirements for public participation and that nothing to date has demonstrated that additional dams in the Yakima River Basin are either-cost-effective or environmentally acceptable.

*** Statement of the Sierra Club on the Yakima River Basin Water Enhancement Project 2009 Work Group – Discussion Draft Integrated Package, November 9, 2009**, in which the Sierra Club reaffirms its opposition to an expanded Bumping Lake Dam and support of water conservation measures.

*** Statement of the Sierra Club to the Yakima River Basin Water Enhancement Project Work Group – July 28, 2010**, in which the Sierra Club supports conserving land in the Teanaway River watershed, but not as mitigation for an expanded Bumping Lake Dam or Wymer Dam.

*** Comments of the Sierra Club on the Work Group Agreement to Support Final Integrated Water Resource Management Plan, December 17, 2010**, in which the Sierra Club raised specific concerns about the “Integrated Plan” and the Work Group planning process.

Tristin Brown

Sierra Club, Washington State Chapter Conservation Chair

Although the Department of Ecology and the Bureau of Reclamation did not request public comment on its "Workgroup Agreement to Support Final Integrated Water Resource Management Plan", please distribute the following comments from the Water & Salmon Committee of the Sierra Club, Cascade Chapter, to the Workgroup prior to its next meeting on December 17, 2010.

General Comments on the Workgroup Process

- * The membership of the Workgroup raises the following concerns:
 - The City of Yakima is a member while the Cities of Ellensburg and Cle Elum are not.
 - The Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife is a Workgroup member but the Meeting Notes for October 21, 2010, list two voting members from that Department (John Easterbrooks; Jeff Tayer).
 - Federal Resources agencies with permitting authority (e.g., USF&WS, NOAA Fisheries Service) are members, while the U.S. Forest Service, which manages the public's land within the Wenatchee National Forest is not.
 - Only one environmental/conservation group is a member.
 - The two agencies (i.e., Ecology and Bureau of Reclamation) responsible for funding and hiring the Workgroup facilitator are also voting members.
- * The November 19, 2010, Workgroup meeting was held without posting of any material from the October 21, 2010, Workgroup meeting on the Bureau of Reclamation website.
- * At the November 19, 2010, Workgroup meeting, Workgroup members were asked to vote on their support of the "Draft Agreement to Support Final Integrated Water Resource Management Plan and Related Future Activities" before the public comment period scheduled on the agenda.
- * Ecology is holding meetings relevant to YRBWEP mitigation without public notice.

Specific Comments on the Workgroup Agreement

1.0 Action

This section states, "The Workgroup supports an Integrated Water Resource Management Plan for the Yakima basin."

Comment: This is not a management plan for the Yakima basin. It also proposes the construction of new or enlarged irrigation dams. The Workgroup should not mislead the public by portraying this as a "management" plan.

This section states that "By approving this decision document the Workgroup also supports Integrated Plan implementation." This includes support of the "National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) reviews, permitting and mitigation for actions in the Integrated Plan." In addition, Workgroup members commit to an Implementing Subcommittee "to seek authorization and funding."

Comment: We are opposed to Ecology and the BuRec requiring Workgroup members to commit to supporting permitting and lobbying for authorization and funding prior to the completion of any NEPA or SEPA EIS.¹

2.0 Background

This section states, “The Yakima River Basin Water Enhancement Project (YRBWEP) Workgroup has been working for nearly 18 months on a Yakima Basin Integrated Water Resource Management Plan (Integrated Plan) to restore fisheries and improve water supply in the Yakima basin.”

Comment: Again, this is not an accurate description. Ever since the BuRec concluded that a new Black Rock dam, and two variations of the Wymer dam would generate only 0.13 cents, 0.31 cents, and 0.07 cents for every dollar spent respectively, Ecology and the Workgroup have spent every Workgroup meeting reviewing multiple new or expanded dams in the Yakima basin. The Workgroup should not mislead the public by portraying this as merely an attempt to “improve” water supply.

This section states, “. . . seven elements were identified in the 2009 Ecology Final Environmental Impact Statement for the Yakima River Basin Integrated Water Resource Management Plan.”

Comment: This is incorrect. The “Integrated Plan” includes conducting a feasibility study for direct pumping from the Columbia River with Yakima Basin storage options (Sec. 3.3.4). The 2009 Ecology FEIS specifically states, “An alternative of pumping directly from the Columbia River to Roza canal without using a reservoir has not been fully considered, but seems infeasible at this time. Because of these considerations, Ecology has decided not to carry forward the direct pumping option at this time.” *Ecology, Final EIS, June 2009, page 2-70*. The Workgroup should not mislead the public by mischaracterizing elements as already a part of Ecology FEIS.

This section states, “More detailed information will be provided in the Integrated Plan.”

Comment: By this admission, the Workgroup is being asked to support a “Final Integrated Water Resource Management Plan” without adequate information. This is also confusing as it fails to specify whether more detailed information will be provided in a “draft” or a “final” Integrated Plan.

This section states, “Workgroup members will have the opportunity to review and comment on the draft Integrated Plan in early 2011.”

Comment: Again, the Workgroup has ignored any mention of public notice or opportunity to review and comment on the draft Integrated Plan.

This section includes key concepts for promoting the “Integrated Plan.”

¹ Prior to the establishment of the YRBWEP Workgroup, the Department of Ecology released a supplemental draft EIS in December 2008 on a “Yakima River Basin Integrated Water Resources Management Alternative,” and a final EIS in June 2009. As acknowledged by Ecology, this was a “programmatic” EIS. Because the BuRec’s April 2009, Yakima River Basin Water Storage Feasibility Study concluded that none of its action alternatives met federal criteria for an economically and environmentally sound water project, the BuRec did not participate in Ecology’s SEPA process.

Comment: P.L. 96-162 authorized the Department of Interior to conduct a feasibility study of the Yakima River Basin Enhancement Project, "which shall include an analysis by the United States Geological Survey of the water-supply data for the Yakima River Basin." The Workgroup has failed to incorporate such an analysis into its "Integrated Plan."

3.1 Fish Passage

This section states, "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."

Comment: This section fails to disclose that the proposed Bumping Lake Enlargement would wipe out bull trout spawning habitat.

This section states, "There would be no changes to current operations (i.e., quantity and timing of flow releases), . . ."

Comment: This appears to be an unrealistic constraint if restoration of fisheries is a goal.

This section states, "Providing for unimpeded fish migration past the existing storage dams in the Yakima basin. . ."

Comment: "Unimpeded" appears to be an unfortunately choice of words. By their very nature, dams impede rivers. The Workgroup should not mislead the public that it can provide "unimpeded" fish migration past the existing storage dams in the Yakima basin.

Section 3.2 Structural and Operational Changes

Comment: The description of the structural and operational changes misleads the public by failing to mention any adverse impacts.

Section 3.2.5 Wapatox improvements

Comment: Why isn't this project included under Sec. 3.6.1, which also includes lining or piping existing canals or laterals?

Section 3.3.1 Wymer Dam

This section states, "Option 2 would be a 400 cfs pump station on the Yakima River just upstream of Lmuma Creek with water conveyance through a new water transmission main that would deliver water to Wymer."

Comment: The Workgroup should explain how this option is different from the Wymer option already rejected by BuRec because the costs of pumping water from the Yakima River upstream to the reservoir were considered too high. This section should disclose the loss of sage grouse habitat due to a Wymer Dam.

Section 3.3.3 Enlarged Bumping Reservoir

Comment: This section should disclose the loss of bull trout and spotted owl habitat due to an enlarged Bumping Reservoir.

Section 3.3.4 Columbia River Pump Exchange with Yakima Storage

This section states, "If the need for the Columbia River project is demonstrated and the project is feasible, then request project funding and schedule implementation."

Comment: This section fails to describe or quantify the "triggers" to implement the Columbia River and Roza Alternate Supply projects. As with the entire "Integrated Plan," Workgroup members are being asked to commit to implementation of a Columbia River project prior to the preparation of any environmental impact statement. As set out in NEPA, an EIS is to be prepared prior to decisionmaking, not as a post-hoc rationale for decisions already made.

Section 3.5 Fish Habitat Enhancement

This section states, "Implement an approximate \$470 million habitat enhancement program addressing reach-level floodplain restoration priorities and restoring access to key tributaries through flow restoration, removing fish barriers, and screening diversions."

Comment: In 1979, Congress authorized and provided funds for the Yakima River Basin Water Enhancement Project, P.L. 96-162, which as part of Phase I included installation of fish ladders and screens. The Workgroup should explain why after 30 years removing fish barriers and screening diversion projects still need to be carried out.

Section 3.6 Enhanced Water Conservation

This section states, "Implement an approximate \$423 million agricultural water conservation program designed to conserve up to 170,000 acre-feet of water in good water years. The agricultural water conservation program includes measures beyond those likely to be implemented in the existing YRBEP Phase II conservation program."

Comment: Congress authorized Phase II of the YRBEP in 1994, which resulted in a voluntary water conservation program and the establishment of target flows on the Yakima River. The Workgroup should explain why after over 25 years, such a large amount of water conservation remains to be implemented.

Water conservation plans for the Wapato Irrigation Project (WIP) remain inadequate. The WIP should become a national model for water conservation.

This section states, "Projects to be implemented would be selected through detailed feasibility studies and evaluation by the existing Conservation Advisory Group (CAG)."

Comment: There is no description of the CAG or its membership. Once again, there is no mention of any public notice or comment on the selection of projects.

Section 3.7 Market Reallocation

Comment: Based on the presentation at the November 19, 2010 Workgroup meeting, market reallocation is a non-structural alternative that could eliminate the need for structural storage alternatives with their significant adverse environmental impacts.

Unfortunately, the Market Reallocation presentation occurred barely an hour before the Workgroup was pressured into taking votes on the Workgroup Agreement to Support Final integrated Water Resources Management Plan. Additional work should be carried out to more fully categorize the opportunity for market reallocation.

Attachments

Comment: Because Attachments 1-5 are not referenced in the Workgroup "Agreement," we do not consider them part as part of the document.



Statement of the Sierra Club to the Yakima River Basin Water Enhancement Project Work Group – July 28, 2010

The Sierra Club re-affirms its statement to the Work Group of July 15, 2009 that:

- * The Work Group process and limited public Task Force membership established by the BuRec and Ecology does not meet basic requirements for public participation.
- * New dam construction and irrigation water storage projects are national issues, because new dams have significant adverse economic and environmental impacts.

The Sierra Club re-affirms its statement to the Work Group of November 9, 2009 that:

- * The Sierra Club reasserts its support of fish passage measures and water supply solutions that involve common-sense water management. We believe that in the face of climate change, aggressive water conservation, adoption of water efficiency standards and metering, water markets, low-impact storage projects (e.g., aquifer storage and recovery), forest and flood-plain restoration, and other strategies to promote natural storage are much more cost-effective than new dams, and could vastly improve the efficiency of water use in Washington State.
- * The Sierra Club remains opposed to new storage projects on the Yakima River and its tributaries, including the Bumping Dam Enlargement, Wymer Dam (on Lemna Creek), and Black Rock Dam.
- * The Sierra Club remains opposed to the Bumping Lake Dam small option as set out in the Discussion Draft Integrated Package because it would still flood late-successional and old-growth forest land that includes threatened spotted owl and bull trout habitat; a National Forest inventoried roadless area that should be added to the William O. Douglas Wilderness Area.

The Sierra Club supports conserving land in the Teanaway River watershed. However, we find that such conservation should not serve as “mitigation” for the permanent loss of bull trout habitat and old growth national forest lands surrounding the existing Bumping Lake or shrub-steppe land flooded by a Wymer Dam because such mitigation would be off-site in another Yakima sub-basin and out-of-kind, not replacing the same threatened fish/wildlife habitat.

Elaine Packard, Chair, Water and Salmon Committee
Mark Lawyer, Chair, National Forests Committee
Cascade Chapter
Sierra Club



**Statement of the Sierra Club on the Yakima River Basin Water Enhancement Project 2009
Work Group – Discussion Draft Integrated Package, November 9, 2009**

The Sierra Club remains opposed to the Bumping Lake Dam small option as set out in the Discussion Draft Integrated Package because it has similar and unacceptable significant adverse impacts to endangered spotted owl and bull trout habitat as the large option. The smaller option would still flood old growth forests, a National Forest inventoried roadless area, trails and campgrounds. In addition, the Bureau of Reclamation did not include any Bumping Lake Dam project in its Yakima River Basin storage project benefit/cost analysis. It is time to put in place water conservation measures that have been identified over the past 30 years.

The Sierra Club also reasserts its support of water conservation measures and opposition to new storage projects as set out in our January 15, 2009, comments on the Yakima River Basin Integrated Water Resource Management Alternative Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement:

“We oppose any new storage projects on the Yakima River and its tributaries, including the Bumping Dam Enlargement (Large or Small Option), Wymer Dam (on Lmuma Creek), and Black Rock Dam. DOE and Bureau of Reclamation (BuRec) identified numerous possible measures for improved water conservation, including measures in the No Action Alternative and the Enhanced Water Conservation Alternative of the January 2008 *Yakima River Basin Water Storage Feasibility Study Draft Planning Report/Environmental Impact* (Draft Report). The conservation measures of these alternatives should be implemented before there is any further study or action on new storage projects.”

“Sierra Club is committed to water supply solutions that involve common-sense water management. We believe that in the face of climate change, aggressive water conservation, adoption of water efficiency standards and metering, water markets, low-impact storage projects (e.g., aquifer storage and recovery), forest and flood-plain restoration, and other strategies to promote natural storage are much more cost-effective than new dams, and could vastly improve the efficiency of water use in Washington State. The historic, massive hydrologic re-engineering of Washington’s rivers using dams and irrigation projects has caused historic environmental damage. We strongly urge you to focus on future water projects that fix existing problems, not cause new ones.”

Elaine Packard
Chair, Water and Salmon Committee
Cascade Chapter
Sierra Club



Statement of the Sierra Club on the Yakima River Basin Water Enhancement Project 2009 Work Group – July 15, 2009

The process and Task Force membership established by the BuRec and Ecology does not meet basic requirements for public participation.

New dam construction and irrigation water storage projects are national issues, because new dams have significant adverse economic and environmental impacts.

Economic

The final report and EIS issued by the BuRec in December 2008 confirmed the economic reality that Black Rock Dam would only return 13 cents for every taxpayer dollar spent, and that the Wymer Dam and Pump Storage options would only return between 31 cents and 7 cents for every taxpayer dollar spent.

In the BuRec report, the Bumping Lake Enlargement did not even make the first cut for an economic analysis.

In this time of economic hardship across the nation, there is increasing scrutiny by Congress, taxpayers, and the press on wasteful government spending.

Environmental

Efforts to construct Black Rock have raised national concerns regarding groundwater impacts to the Hanford Nuclear Reservation. Perennial efforts to construct a Bumping Lake Enlargement continue to raise national concerns about loss of old-growth forests, roadless areas, recreational opportunities, and impacts to the William O. Douglas Wilderness Area.

Water Conservation

Any of the other irrigation dam project proposals will also draw national attention to the Yakima Basin regarding:

- * Water and energy subsidies provided to irrigation districts that are not available to dry land farming
- * Repayment of the costs of the existing BuRec Yakima River Basin Project
- * Extent to which irrigation district water conservation plans have or have not been implemented
- * A review of crop selection and water spreading

In conclusion, nothing to date has demonstrated that additional dams in the Yakima River Basin are either cost-effective or environmentally acceptable.

Contact: Wendy Christensen, Columbia-Cascades Area Office, (509) 575-5848, ext. 203
Derek Sandison, Washington State Department of Ecology, (509) 457-7120

Meeting Notes

March 9, 2011

Yakima Arboretum, Yakima WA

Yakima River Basin Water Enhancement Project (YRBWEP) Workgroup

Opening Comments

Ben Floyd of Anchor QEA welcomed the Workgroup members and the public, led introductions, and provided an overview of the agenda.

Targeted Watershed Protections and Enhancements *by Dan Silver, Ecology Consultant*

Dan Silver, consultant to Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology), presented the watershed protection and enhancement package, developed to support key components of the proposed Integrated Plan. The package was developed by a group of individuals including representatives from the Yakama Nation, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, American Rivers and other conservation organizations. It includes watershed protections and also enhancements to minimize impacts to sensitive areas potentially affected by Integrated Plan actions.

The following items were discussed:

- Derek Sandison – The package is comprised of additional components to include in the Integrated Plan, expanding the ecosystem protection measures of the plan.
- Michael Garrity – There is an acquisition component. If the acreage targets for recommended locations cannot be met, the same acreage targets will be sought elsewhere. The components of this package would be negotiated for whatever works best for the basin. Ultimate support of the Integrated Plan by key conservation groups relies on the inclusion of these watershed protection and enhancement details.
- Paul Jewell – (Disclosed that his comments do not represent Kittitas Board of County Commissioners, nor do they indicate lack of support). A large portion of Kittitas County is already in public ownership, and acquiring more public land does not seem reasonable in light of tax redistribution concerns. Additionally, the vast majority of this watershed protection and enhancement package is in Kittitas County, when the Integrated Plan is for the whole basin; there is uncertainty that the people of Kittitas County need to bear this entire burden. The goals of the conservation piece are unclear. The cost of the proposal is a concern. Land ownership and land management is still unknown. Wilderness designations could negatively affect opportunities for commerce for Kittitas County.



U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Reclamation



- Jeff Tayer – Stakes go up significantly when dealing with endangered species. With the additional protections and habitat acquisition, this plan will improve the trend facing endangered species in the basin. It is better to include in the Integrated Plan these components that help endangered species move off the track to extinction and on to the track of recovery. A standard mitigation package is not going to be as good as one that includes these components.

Yakima River Basin Study Report Overview, Review Schedule/Workgroup Q&A *by Ben Floyd, Anchor QEA*

Ben Floyd of Anchor QEA presented an overview of the Yakima River Basin Study Report, including the key elements contained in the Proposed Integrated Plan (Volume 1 of the Yakima River Basin Study), and also the contents of Volume 2 Technical Memoranda.

****Comments to the Proposed Integrated Plan are due March 18, 2011.**

****Technical corrections to Volume 2 technical memorandums are due March 31, 2011.**

The following items were discussed:

- The theme of ‘watershed and ecosystem restoration’ needs to come through more clearly in the Integrated Plan.
- How will comments be responded to? *Comments on the proposed Integrated Plan will be summarized and shared with the Workgroup; however, there will not necessarily be an opportunity for an additional feedback. Comments will also be included in the upcoming scoping process for the Planning Report and EIS.*

Integrated Plan Summary Support Document and YRBS Volume 1 – Proposed Integrated Plan Adjustments *by Ben Floyd, Anchor QEA*

Ben Floyd presented three recommended updates to the existing language in the Integrated Plan Summary Support Document and the Proposed Integrated Plan (Volume 1) of the Yakima River Basin Study.

The three revisions and associated comments are as follows:

- Item 1 – Introduction to the Integrated Water Resource Management Plan Summary Support Document
 - The language in the introduction will be expanded to include a disclaimer clarifying how Federal, state, local or Tribal agency support of the proposed Integrated Plan should not be construed that these agencies view any statutory or other legal obligations are or can be met through the proposed Integrated Plan. It confirms the understanding that these agencies must still comply with all legal, regulatory and other requirements as the plan moves forward for additional consideration.
- Item 2 – Revised Fish Passage Action Descriptions
 - Revised language for fish passage action descriptions was shared (see meeting handout).

- The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) was concerned not all actions in the Integrated Plan were being treated on equal footing. The proposal should describe actions for providing passage at every dam, recognizing passage at all dams may not ultimately be found feasible.
- There is some concern that the revised language does not address any of the potential items that could be an issue where structures may not support passage, e.g., due to dam safety concerns on physical location. More discussion about technical details will need to be worked through as part of pursuing desired passage.
- Item 3 – Watershed Protections and Enhancements
 - The watershed protection and enhancement language provided in the meeting handout will be added to the habitat enhancements portion of the summary document (it is already included in the proposed Integrated Plan).
 - This language presents mitigation for action elements of the plan and enhancement provisions for the upper watersheds. The terms ‘mitigation’ and ‘enhancement’ will be further characterized in the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

The Workgroup accepted the three proposed revisions to the Integrated Plan Summary Support document and proposed Integrated Plan. With these changes, the entire Workgroup supported forwarding the proposed Integrated Plan to Reclamation and Ecology for further consideration.

Implementation Subcommittee Update *by Dan Silver, Ecology Consultant*

Dan Silver explained that in April 2011 he will convene the Implementation Subcommittee on behalf of the Workgroup. Subcommittee members include Phil Rigdon (Yakama Nation), Mike Leita (Yakima County), Michael Garrity (American Rivers), Ron VanGundy (Roza Irrigation District), and Derek Sandison (Washington State Department of Ecology). This subcommittee will be responsible for advocating Integrated Plan consideration in the Federal and state processes, and supporting plan implementation, recognizing there are review processes, adjustments, timing and sequence and other details yet to be worked out for the plan. Federal agencies will not be participating on the Implementation Subcommittee.

The following items were discussed:

- Concern about how the proposed Integrated Plan would move forward together as a package of actions.
- What are the ground rules if it [proposed Integrated Plan] begins to come apart during implementation, i.e., if some actions move forward but others stall out? How do we move it all forward at once? *The Implementation Subcommittee will keep the collective cooperation alive; we know we cannot secure all the money at once, so one charge of the subcommittee will be to figure out how to move forward in a phased approach.*

Coordination Request from Ecology/Kittitas County on Developing Domestic Well Water Reserve or In-lieu Mitigation Fund *by Paul Jewell, Kittitas County & Tom Tebb, Ecology*

Derek Sandison provided an introduction on this topic. The Workgroup’s knowledge and experience can offer important guidance and support for this effort. He advocated a need to find an interim

approach to some existing water supply problems before actions in the Proposed Integrated Plan would be implemented.

Tom Tebb of Ecology gave an overview of the water availability options being considered for Kittitas County in light of the moratorium on exempt wells, and the Domestic Water Reserve Program Cooperators' Agreement (included in the Workgroup packet) which was approved last week by Ecology and Kittitas County.

Paul Jewell explained that this program is trying to provide options for people who have been left without water due to the Ecology moratorium on permit-exempt wells in the county. Paul believes the Workgroup members all have an interest in this issue and welcomes input from Workgroup members. The county is considering several potential tools to support implementing existing land use plans. These include:

- Connecting to systems with existing water rights
- Obtain mitigation water through existing water banks (and local tributaries as applicable) to offset impacts
- Updating the county's development code to allow cisterns in areas where mitigation water is not available and exempt wells are not allowed. The code is under development and will be ready for public review in a few weeks.

The following items were discussed:

- The Kittitas County effort should be considered as an early action of the market reallocation element of the Integrated Plan.
- A committee is being proposed that would ideally meet regularly for the next six months or so.
- The committee shouldn't consist of the whole Workgroup. There should be a process for choosing members from the Workgroup for this committee. Committee representation should cover all the interests necessary for involvement, such as water managers and users, fisheries, Yakama Nation and others.
- Basic questions need to be answered. Negative impacts to a specific tributary should be addressed, including addressing the question of how water supply options would affect fish habitat.
- Conversations are ongoing and will continue. This conversation is important to the Yakama Nation. Several folks are involved (e.g., SOAC, Tribe, irrigation folk, etc.). Workgroup permission is not necessary for this effort to move forward. Other committees are in place through the existing YRBWEP program that could provide this coordination function.
- Consider referring the matter of committee membership to the implementation committee?
- Reclamation doesn't have a seat at the Implementation committee table so a different approach preferred.

Ecology wants to collaborate with Yakima Basin affected stakeholders, but also wants to be aggressive about moving this effort forward. Help and guidance from Workgroup members will be diligently

sought. Tom will develop a request for membership for the committee and provide this to the Workgroup by April 2011.

Information Updates and Next Steps

Wendy Christensen of Reclamation and Derek Sandison of Ecology shared updates on next steps and recent communications regarding the process for preparing the Planning Report and Programmatic EIS. The next planning process is initiated with the proposed Integrated Plan. Scoping will begin soon. During scoping, comments and reasonable alternatives will be evaluated. Items such as likely impacts, special considerations, and the content of the EIS will also be reviewed.

The following items were discussed:

- How will we know which alternatives to the Proposed Integrated Plan will be included in the EIS? *Alternatives will need to meet certain criteria such as accomplishing the objectives at a lower environmental cost. Toward the end of scoping, alternatives will be evaluated to determine if they are reasonable (i.e., meet the purpose and need).*

The Draft EIS is scheduled for review by November 2011, and the Final EIS is scheduled for completion in early 2012. Ecology and Reclamation recognize this is an aggressive schedule, but they are committed to moving the effort forward as quickly as possible. Quarterly Workgroup meetings are being proposed for the following dates:

- June 8, 2011
- September 14, 2011
- December 14, 2011

For 2012 and beyond, Workgroup meetings will be held quarterly (planning for the months of March, June, September and December). Meeting dates could be adjusted based upon progress in the planning effort and the status of interim work products.

Windpower Presentation by Sid Morrison, Yakima Basin Storage Alliance

Sid Morrison of Yakima Basin Storage Alliance presented the Columbia Renewable Energy Storage Project, or “CRESP” (see handout). Sid explained the Bonneville Power Administration has stated they cannot integrate wind energy into the Northwest power grid and is proposing to turn the wind turbines off, resulting in a loss of almost \$50 million in tax dollars.

Sid advocates that CRESP efforts could compliment the YRBWEP efforts. The cost to integrate could range from approximately one to two billion dollars, but these efforts could be integrated into the pump storage elements of the Integrated Plan.

Public Comment

- Rick Glenn, Banker – Habitat enhancements are not going to generate economic revenues. According to his calculations, the cost/benefit ratio for the proposed Integrated Plan is lower than Black Rock. The Integrated Plan could be a real hard sell when the plan does not provide enough water supply benefits.

- David Ortman, Sierra Club – Read letter to the Workgroup reaffirming support for aggressive conservation, metering, water efficiency and water markets, and low impact storage such as aquifer recharge; and opposition to new storage. Written comments were provided.
- Barb Lisk, Office of Representative Richard Hastings – There has been significant land acquisitions discussions since the last meeting that could affect much of the public, and this will to be reviewed. Need to provide opportunity for broad public comment and review as the EIS moves forward.

REMINDER

Comments to the Proposed Integrated Plan are due March 18, 2011, and technical corrections to Volume 2 technical memoranda are due March 31, 2011.

Next Workgroup Meeting

The next Workgroup meeting is scheduled for June 8, 2011 and this date and meeting details will be confirmed by email notification in May.

Workgroup Members in Attendance

Jim Beaver, Benton County Commissioner
 Dave Brown, City of Yakima
 Alex Conley, Yakima Basin Fish and Wildlife Recovery Board
 Kirk Cook, Washington Department of Agriculture
 Rick Dieker, Yakima-Tieton Irrigation District
 Urban Eberhart, Kittitas Reclamation District
 David Fast, Yakama Nation – Yakima/Klickitat Fisheries Project
 Michael Garrity, American Rivers
 Sean Gross, NOAA Fisheries Service (attending for Dale Bambrick)
 Paul Jewell, Kittitas County Commissioner
 Mike Leita, Yakima County Commissioner
 Sid Morrison, Yakima Basin Storage Alliance
 Scott Revell, Kennewick Irrigation District
 Phil Rigdon, Yakama Nation
 Derek Sandison, Washington Department of Ecology
 Jeff Tayer, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
 Jeff Thomas, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
 Ron VanGundy, Roza Irrigation District
 Dawn Wiedmeier, Reclamation

Other Attendees

Max Benitz
 Bill Blaylock, HDR
 David Bowen, American Forest Land Co.
 Tom Carpenter, Yakima Basin Storage Alliance
 David Child, Yakima Basin Joint Board

Wendy Christensen, Reclamation
Stuart Crane, Yakama Nation
Charlie De La Chappelle, Yakima Basin Storage Alliance
Warren Dickman, Yakima Basin Storage Alliance
Nona Diediker, HDR
Pat Dunn
John Easterbrooks, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
Beneitta Eaton
James Fitch
Ben Floyd, Anchor QEA
Joel Freudenthal, Yakima County
Adam Fyall, Benton County
Chuck Garner, Reclamation
Don Gatchalian, Yakima County
Kristi Geris, Anchor QEA
Andrew Graham, HDR
Bob Hall, Yakima Basin Storage Alliance/Yakima Auto Dealers
Ken Hasbrouck, Kittitas Reclamation District
Lynn Holt, Reclamation
Joel Hubble, Reclamation
Jerry Kelso, Consultant to Reclamation
Chuck Klarich, Yakima Basin Storage Alliance
Paul La Riviere, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
David Lester, Yakima Herald
Edwin Lewis, Wapato Irrigation Project
Barb Lisk, Office of Representative Richard Hastings
Bill Lover, City of Yakima
Joe Lukas, Grant County PUD
Chris Lynch, Reclamation
Steven Malloch, National Wildlife Federation
Larry Martin
Daniel Martinez, S. Martinez Livestock
Cheri Marusa, Speaker Frank Chopp's Office
Tina Mayo, U.S. Forest Service
Keith McGowan, Reclamation
Candy McKinley, Reclamation
Jim Milton, Yakima-Tieton Irrigation District
Tom Monroe, Roza Irrigation District
Bob Montgomery, Anchor QEA
Bryan Myre, Yakama Reservation Irrigation District
David Ortman, Sierra Club

David Reeploeg, Office of Senator Maria Cantwell
Tom Ring, Yakama Nation
Landon Schilperoort, South Yakima Conservation District
Teresa Scott, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
Jan Sharar, Aqua Permanente
Tom Tebb, Washington Department of Ecology
Christine Whittaker, HDR
William Woods, Jr.
Reid Yamamoto

Where to Find Workgroup Information

Meeting materials, notes, and presentations from the Workgroup meetings will be posted on the project website (<http://www.usbr.gov/pn/programs/yrbwep/2010workgroup/index.html>). A bibliography of information sources, many of which are available online, is also posted on the website. If anyone needs help finding an information source, contact those listed at the top of page 1 or Ben Floyd at Anchor QEA, Richland office, (509) 392-4548, or bfloyd@anchorqea.com.

Contact: Wendy Christensen, 509-575-5848, ext. 203

Derek Sandison, 509-457-7120

Agenda

Yakima River Basin Water Enhancement Project Workgroup

July 13, 2011, 9:30 AM to 11:30 AM Yakima Arboretum, 1401 Arboretum Dr., Yakima WA

- 9:30 – 9:35 Welcome/Introductions and Agenda Overview
- 9:35 – 9:50 Information Updates and Recent Communications
 - *Wendy Christensen, Reclamation and Derek Sandison, Ecology*
- 9:50 – 10:25 Planning Report/Programmatic EIS Update
 • Scoping Update
 • Schedule and Next Steps
 - *Wendy Christensen, Reclamation and Derek Sandison, Ecology*
- 10:25 – 10:50 Implementation Subcommittee Update
 - *Derek Sandison, Ecology*
- 10:50 – 11:10 Watershed Land Conservation Subcommittee Work Plan
 - *Jeff Tayer, WDFW*
- 11:10 – 11:20 Public Comment

Adjourn

Contact: Wendy Christensen, Columbia-Cascades Area Office, (509) 575-5848, ext. 203
Derek Sandison, Washington State Department of Ecology, (509) 457-7120

Meeting Notes

July 13, 2011

Yakima Arboretum, Yakima WA

Yakima River Basin Water Enhancement Project (YRBWEP) Workgroup

Opening Comments

Ben Floyd of Anchor QEA and meeting facilitator, welcomed the Workgroup members and public, led introductions, and provided an overview of the agenda.

Information Updates and Recent Communications *by Wendy Christensen, Reclamation and Derek Sandison, Ecology*

Wendy and Derek updated the Workgroup on recent communications held with several organizations regarding the Integrated Plan including the following presentations:

- Yakima Basin Science & Management Conference
- Northwest Environmental Business Council
- Columbia River County Commissioners Advisory Group

The Integrated Plan was also shared at a recent meeting with Governor Christine Gregoire, Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar and Congressman Doc Hastings.

Wendy discussed the positive exposure Workgroup members and the Integrated Plan has recently been receiving in the news media, highlighting a couple of recent articles in the Yakima Herald-Republic.

Integrated Plan Planning Report/Programmatic EIS Update *by Wendy Christensen, Reclamation and Derek Sandison, Ecology*

Wendy and Derek presented an update and briefing on the Yakima Basin Integrated Water Resource Management Planning Report and Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PR/PEIS) schedule and next steps. Materials provided to the public at scoping meetings are available at:

<http://www.usbr.gov/pn/programs/yrbwep/2011integratedplan/meetings/scoping/index.html>

The scoping comment period was initially scheduled for April 4 through April 19; however, in response to requests, this period was extended to June 15. Currently, approximately 85 public comments have been received on the Integrated Plan.

The Scoping Summary Report is expected to be available in August 2011. Ben Floyd will send a notice to the YRBWEP Workgroup email distribution list when the document has been posted on Reclamation's website. The Draft PR/PEIS is scheduled for release in the late fall of this year, and the final by spring 2012.



U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Reclamation



Derek explained the NEPA/SEPA processes would be combined, or “dovetailed,” up to the point where Reclamation issues a record of decision (ROD) on the PEIS. He explained that the NEPA/SEPA processes are essentially the same in content and process. Regarding the budget, there are some federal resources supporting the planning and environmental review but most of the funding will be provided by the state. The schedule is aggressive and in preparing the documents, the consultants will use previous studies and reports for much of the information, supplemented by additional analyses where appropriate.

Reclamation and Ecology developed an “Issues and Goals” handout (available on Reclamation’s website), that outlines water and fisheries management issues in the Yakima River Basin and how the Integrated Plan would address these issues.

Some very specific scoping questions were received on the PR/PEIS. Due to the programmatic nature of the Integrated Plan, answers to some of the more detailed questions posed in scoping will be deferred to the time when site-specific environmental review is conducted.

Workgroup Comment

- The Yakima Basin Fish and Wildlife Recovery Board (YBFWRB) has been working to refine some of the habitat components of the Integrated Plan. These refinements will be available soon and it is hoped that these can be incorporated into the PR/PEIS documents. *Reclamation and the consultant team will coordinate with Alex Conley, YBFWRB, on incorporating the latest habitat enhancement available information in the plan, consistent with schedule constraints.*

Implementation Subcommittee Update by Derek Sandison, Ecology

Derek Sandison updated the Workgroup on Implementation Subcommittee activities. The subcommittee is working to keep the momentum going, and has met twice since March 2011. There were requests made to Ecology and Reclamation to expand the number of individuals on the subcommittee, and broaden the diversity of backgrounds represented. Some ideas mentioned included adding a public utility district (PUD) commissioner and state legislator; however, in discussions with the subcommittee, it was eventually decided that the Implementation Subcommittee was sufficient in size and those participating should come solely from the Workgroup membership. The subcommittee will have opportunities to draw on special expertise as needed.

Currently, the subcommittee is focused on how to move the plan forward and pace the funding. Various implementation scenarios are being developed, where phases of the plan are implemented. Each phase would contain a blending of all 7 elements. Some elements may move forward quicker than others, due to funding. A hot topic is deciding which storage project should move forward first. The Integrated Plan schedule starts all projects at the same time; as feasibility and project-level analyses are conducted, this schedule can be reevaluated. The goal is to still keep this plan fully integrated. The Implementation Subcommittee recommendations should be available this fall.

Workgroup Comment

- A broader base of support beyond those interests represented on the Workgroup may be needed to advance the proposed Integrated Plan. Expanding the Implementation Subcommittee to include broader representation may help in advancing the plan. *We recognize the need to work with other interests, and advancing the plan may require bringing in special expertise, but for the near-term it was decided to stay at this size and consider expansion later. The Workgroup is the broader base for now.*
- Who makes the decisions? Is this all under the Implementation Subcommittee? *The Implementation Subcommittee discusses topic and works through to develop options for addressing issues, and recommendations, and then brings recommendations to the Workgroup for discussion and action.*
- The programmatic overview looks good, but at some point are some elements going to get ‘kicked out’? Will the balance stay? *It is hard to predict what the future will bring. If a project looks like it is faltering then the issue would be brought to the Workgroup to discuss. Elements would not necessarily get ‘kicked out.’ If there is increasing resistance or successful implementation is looking less likely, then the Implementation Subcommittee would make recommendations to the Workgroup. The Workgroup would decide on any changes to the Integrated Plan.*
- Is the Implementation Subcommittee looking at pulling pieces out or how to move forward with every element? *We’re not looking to pull pieces out; there has to be a sequencing and bundling of Integrated Plan actions in moving forward due to funding constraints and expectations.*
- It will be an endless fight in how much funding to get year to year. When funding is provided and how much isn’t up to us. We will fight these battles when they come. Getting authorization is the first hurdle.
- If Wymer is not early on in process, as an early action prior to Wymer, it may be a good idea to still construct the Thorp pump with partial pumping capacity to be able to withdraw water to help with tributary flows and provide water supply for groundwater storage.

Watershed Land Conservation Subcommittee Work Plan by Andrew Graham, HDR

Andrew introduced the newly formed Watershed Land Conservation Subcommittee (formed in June 2011) by reviewing the purpose and mission of the subcommittee. Membership includes representatives from The Wilderness Society, Kittitas Reclamation District, Kittitas County, National Wildlife Federation, Yakama Nation, Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife, US Forest Service, and Washington State Department of Natural Resources. This subcommittee is looking at different tools, techniques, and options for financing ways of conserving habitat and land in areas of the Yakima Basin. They are also addressing local government concerns such as Kittitas County’s concerns regarding shared benefits and burdens, and tax issues. More meetings are planned throughout the summer with recommendations on refinements for this part of the Integrated Plan coming to the Workgroup in the fall.

Workgroup Comment

- The US Forest Service (USFS) is updating the Wenatchee Forest Management Plan with some proposed land designation changes. Reclamation may want to review what USFS is

recommending for changes in wilderness areas to see if we can tie those elements into the PEIS for the Yakima Basin. *We have been coordinating with USFS and will look into those new designations. (Scoping comments for the USFS plan are due in August).*

- In the Integrated Plan, how are more fish produced with reduced flows in the lower Yakima River? *Derivation of the salmon and steelhead numbers are fully explained in the Fish Benefits Analysis Technical Memorandum (available at <http://www.usbr.gov/pn/programs/yrbwep/reports/tm/index.html>).*

The increase in overall fish production is largely a result of the introduction of sockeye into the five storage reservoirs. The methodology used to estimate sockeye production was based on reservoir surface area that resulted in an estimate in the number of smolts produced for each reservoir. Smolt production for each reservoir was multiplied by a range of 1- to 4-percent smolt-to-adult survival to estimate the number of sockeye adults produced prior to any harvest or adult migration losses. Flow effects on sockeye were taken into account as they were for the other salmonid species. The Ecosystem Diagnosis and Treatment (EDT) and the All H Analyzers (AHA) models were used to estimate fish production for Chinook, coho, and steelhead, providing a more direct to account for flow-survival effects. The EDT model is not currently programmed to model sockeye populations. Reintroduced sockeye are from stocks in Central Washington that experience temperature conditions similar to those found in the Lower Yakima River, which should help them adapt to Yakima River conditions.

Public Comment

No public comments were made.

Adjourn

Workgroup Members in Attendance

Bill Lover, City of Yakima

Alex Conley, Yakima Basin Fish and Wildlife Recovery Board

Kirk Cook, Washington Department of Agriculture

Rick Dieker, Yakima-Tieton Irrigation District

John Easterbrooks, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

Urban Eberhart, Kittitas Reclamation District

David Fast, Yakama Nation – Yakima/Klickitat Fisheries Project

Michael Garrity, American Rivers

Sean Gross, NOAA Fisheries Service

Mike Leita, Yakima County

Sid Morrison, Yakima Basin Storage Alliance

Scott Revell, Kennewick Irrigation District

Phil Rigdon, Yakama Nation – Natural Resources

Derek Sandison, Washington Department of Ecology

Jeff Thomas, US Fish and Wildlife Service

Ron VanGundy, Roza Irrigation District

Dawn Wiedmeier, Bureau of Reclamation

Other Attendees

David Bowen, American Forest Land Co.

Dave Brown, City of Yakima

David Child, Yakima Basin Joint Board

Wendy Christensen, Bureau of Reclamation

Stuart Crane, Yakama Nation

Warren Dickman, Yakima Basin Storage Alliance

Beneitta Eaton

Jack Eaton

Ben Floyd, Anchor QEA

Joel Freudenthal, Yakima County

Don Gatchalian, Yakima County

Kristi Geris, Anchor QEA

Andrew Graham, HDR Engineering, Inc.

Justin Harter, Naches-Selah Irrigation District

Ken Hasbrouck, Kittitas Reclamation District

Joel Hubble, Bureau of Reclamation

Eleanor Hungate

Terry Keenhan, Yakima County

Chuck Klarich, Yakima Basin Storage Alliance

Paul La Riviere, Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife

David Lester, Yakima Herald

Edwin Lewis, Wapato Irrigation Project

Barb Lisk, Office of Representative Richard Hastings

Dave Brown, City of Yakima

Chris Lynch, Bureau of Reclamation

Daniel Martinez, S. Martinez Livestock

Tom Monroe, Roza Irrigation District

Bob Montgomery, Anchor QEA

Brian Myre, Yakama Reservation Irrigation District

Tom Myrum, Washington State Water Resources Association

David Reeploeg, Office of Senator Maria Cantwell

Landon Schilperoort, South Yakima Conservation District

Mike Schwisow, Schwisow & Associates

Dan Silver, Independent Consultant

Elaine Smith, League of Women Voters

Rob Swedo, Bonneville Power Administration

Bob Tuck, Yakima Basin Storage Alliance

Tom Ring

Stuart Crane

Next Workgroup Meeting

The next meeting will be held Wednesday, October 12, 2011 at 9:30AM at the Arboretum. A meeting notice and agenda will be distributed in advance of the meeting.

Where to Find Workgroup Information

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Yakima River Basin Integrated Water Resource Management Plan

Yakima River Basin Water Enhancement Workgroup

**Yakima, WA
July 13, 2011**

WHAT IS A PROGRAMMATIC EIS?

A “programmatic” environmental impact statement (PEIS) is a broad analysis of a proposal and its alternatives. This document is then followed by a narrower analysis that covers site-specific actions. This approach is referred to as a “tiered environmental review” because it relies on different levels of analysis at different stages, moving from a broad initial focus to greater detail in subsequent documents. The two tiers are:

Tier I – Programmatic EIS

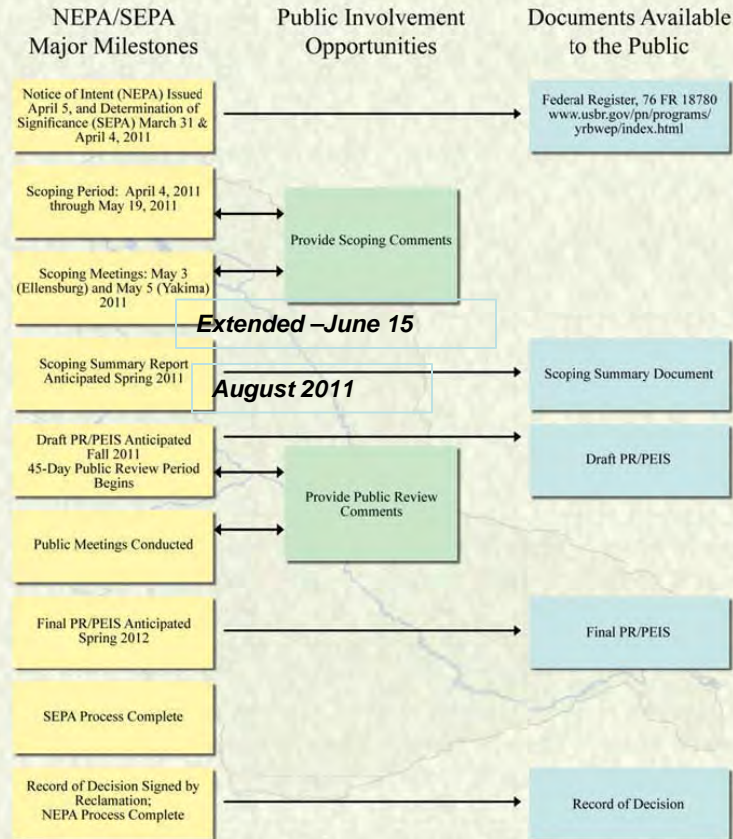
- ◆ Considers broad proposals containing a wide range of elements
- ◆ Considers proposals covering a long timeframe and/or large geographic area
- ◆ Effective in addressing cumulative effects of other past, present, and foreseeable actions
- ◆ Identifies mitigation strategies

Tier II – Site-Specific, EIS

- ◆ Analyzes site-specific effects of a proposed project or element arising from a Tier I review
- ◆ Identifies specific mitigation measures
- ◆ Enables detailed studies to be conducted closer in time to project implementation
- ◆ Expands opportunities for public and agency input



NEPA/SEPA PROCESS

Yakima River Basin Integrated Water Resource Management
Planning Report/Programmatic Environmental Impact
Statement (PR/PEIS)

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Integrated Water Resource Management Plan (IWRMP)

- **Categories:**
 - **Habitat**
 - **Water Supply**
 - **Structural and Operational Changes**

Integrated Water Resource Management Plan (IWRMP)

- **Seven elements:**
 - **Fish Passage at existing reservoirs**
 - **Habitat protection and enhancements**
 - **New or expanded storage reservoirs**
 - **Groundwater storage**
 - **Enhanced conservation**
 - **Market-based reallocation of water resources**
 - **Structural and operational changes to existing facilities**

YAKIMA RIVER BASIN INTEGRATED WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN

Structural & Operational Changes

1. Raise the Cle Elum Pool by three feet to add 14,600 ac-ft in storage capacity.
2. Modify Kittitas Reclamation District canals to provide efficiency savings.
3. Construct a pipeline from Lake Keechelus to Lake Kachess to reduce flows and improve habitat conditions during high flow releases below Keechelus and to provide more water storage in Lake Kachess for downstream needs.
4. Decrease power generation at Roza Dam and Chandler power plant to support outmigration of juvenile fish.
5. Make efficiency improvements to the Wapatox Canal.

Fish Passage

Provide fish passage at:

1. Clear Lake
2. Cle Elum
3. Bumping
4. Tieton (Rimrock)
5. Keechelus
6. Kachess

Enhanced Water Conservation

1. Implement an agricultural water conservation program designed to conserve up to 170,000 acre-feet of water in good water years.
2. Create a fund to promote water use efficiency basin-wide using voluntary, incentive-based programs. Focus on outdoor uses as top priority.

Habitat Protection & Enhancement

1. Protect ~70,000 acres of land by acquiring high elevation portions of the watershed and forest and shrub steppe habitat.
2. Evaluate potential Wilderness Area and Wild and Scenic River designations to protect critical habitat.
3. Create a fish habitat enhancement program to address reach-level floodplain restoration priorities and restore access to key tributaries.

Market Reallocation

Employ a water market and/or a water bank to improve water supply in the Yakima River basin. Market reallocation would be conducted in two phases:

The near-term phase would continue existing water marketing and banking programs in the basin, but take additional steps to reduce barriers to water transfers.

The long-term program would focus on facilitating water transfers between irrigation districts. This would allow an irrigation district to fallow land within the district and lease water rights for that land outside the district.

Surface Water Storage

1. Build a 162,500 ac-ft off-channel surface storage facility at Wymer on Lmuma Creek.
2. Access an additional 200,000 ac-ft of water by tapping into inactive storage at Lake Kachess.
3. Construct a new dam at Bumping Reservoir to increase capacity to 190,000 ac-ft.
4. Begin appraisal work on potential projects to transfer water from the Columbia River to the Yakima Basin.

Groundwater Storage

1. Construct pilot projects to evaluate recharging shallow aquifers via groundwater infiltration. Full scale implementation may follow.
2. Build an aquifer storage and recovery facility allowing Yakima City to withdraw water from the Naches River during high flow periods and store it underground for use during low flow periods.

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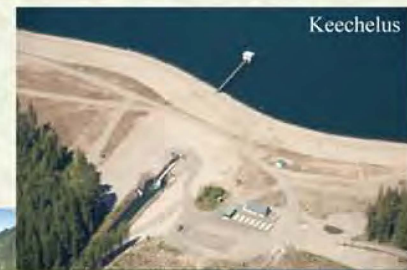


FISH PASSAGE ELEMENT

- ◆ Restore access to habitat above five existing reservoirs -- **Cle Elum, Bumping, Kachess, Keechelus, and Rimrock (Tieton Dam)** -- and provide upstream and downstream passage to salmon, bull trout, and other fish. This would have the benefits:

- Increase anadromous species abundance throughout the system
- Allow reintroduction of sockeye runs
- Provide greater genetic interchange for bull trout and other native fish
- Help fish cope with climate change impacts by providing access to high quality habitat at higher elevations

- ◆ Improve upstream and downstream passage for bull trout at **Clear Lake Dam** by modifying the existing fishway or building a new one



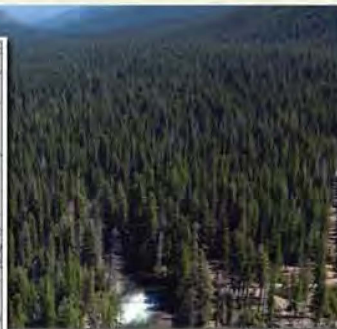
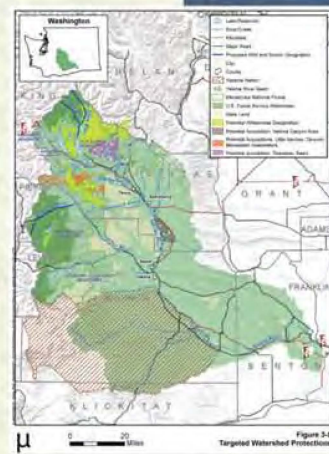
HABITAT PROTECTION AND ENHANCEMENT ELEMENT

Targeted Watershed Protections and Enhancements

- ◆ Three key areas targeted for land acquisition actions, if available (or equivalent habitat type/size)
 - 46,000 acres in middle and lower Teanaway River Basin
 - 15,000 acres in Yakima River Canyon from Yakima River to I-82
 - 10,000 acres at Little Naches River headwaters and lands surrounding Taneum and Manastash Creeks headwaters
- ◆ Consider potential Wilderness and Wild and Scenic River designations

Mainstem Floodplain and Tributaries Fish Habitat Enhancement Program

- ◆ Habitat enhancement – stable wood and other large organic debris
- ◆ Flow restoration through irrigation system improvements
- ◆ Fish barrier removal; restore fish passage in tributaries
- ◆ Screening of diversions
- ◆ Reconnect side channels and off-channel habitat to stream channels
- ◆ Create improved spawning, incubation, rearing, and migration conditions
- ◆ Mainstem floodplain improvements – channel and habitat restoration
- ◆ Toppenish Creek Corridor Restoration Project



SURFACE WATER STORAGE

Additional water storage would supply instream and out-of-stream flows to meet agricultural, municipal, and domestic needs. The three projects described below focus on in-basin solutions to address water supply and aquatic resource problems. Power generation is being considered for each facility.

Wymer Dam and Pump Station

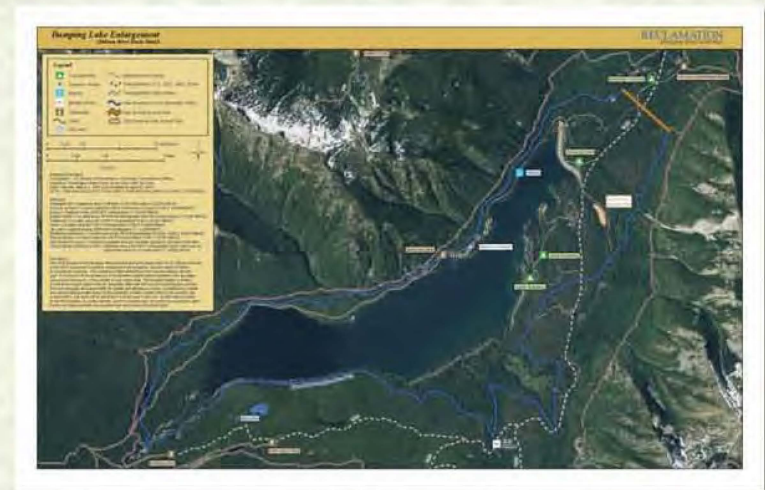
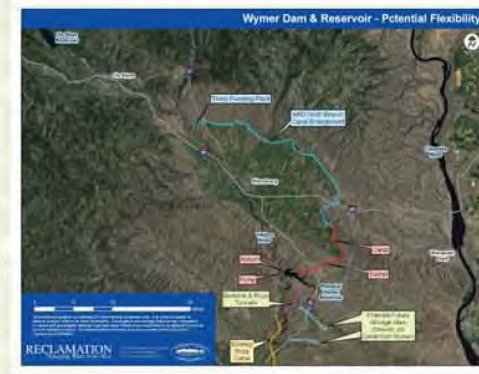
- ▶ Construct a new dam and 162,500-acre-foot-capacity reservoir
- ▶ Options for pump station at Thorp or upstream of Lmuma Creek
- ▶ Provides fish, drought relief benefits

Lake Kachess Inactive Storage

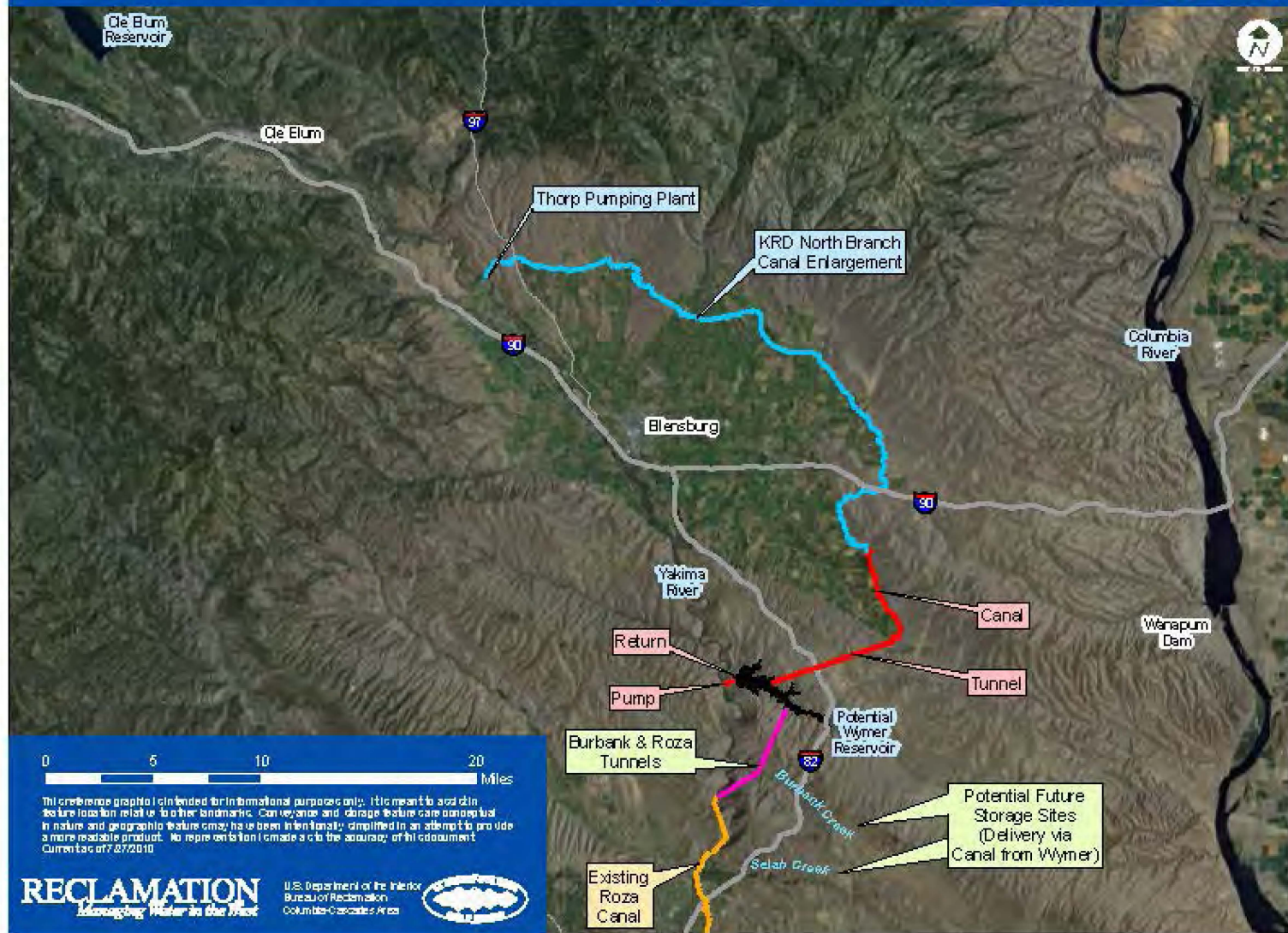
- ▶ Pump additional 200,000 acre-feet from inactive storage for drought years

Bumping Lake Enlargement

- ▶ Construct new dam downstream from existing dam for an additional 164,500 acre-feet storage
- ▶ Provide carryover storage for irrigation, instream flows, flood control, fish passage



Wymer Dam & Reservoir - Potential Flexibility



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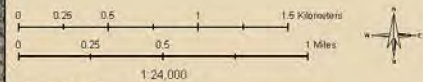


Bumping Lake Enlargement (Yakima River Basin Study)

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Legend

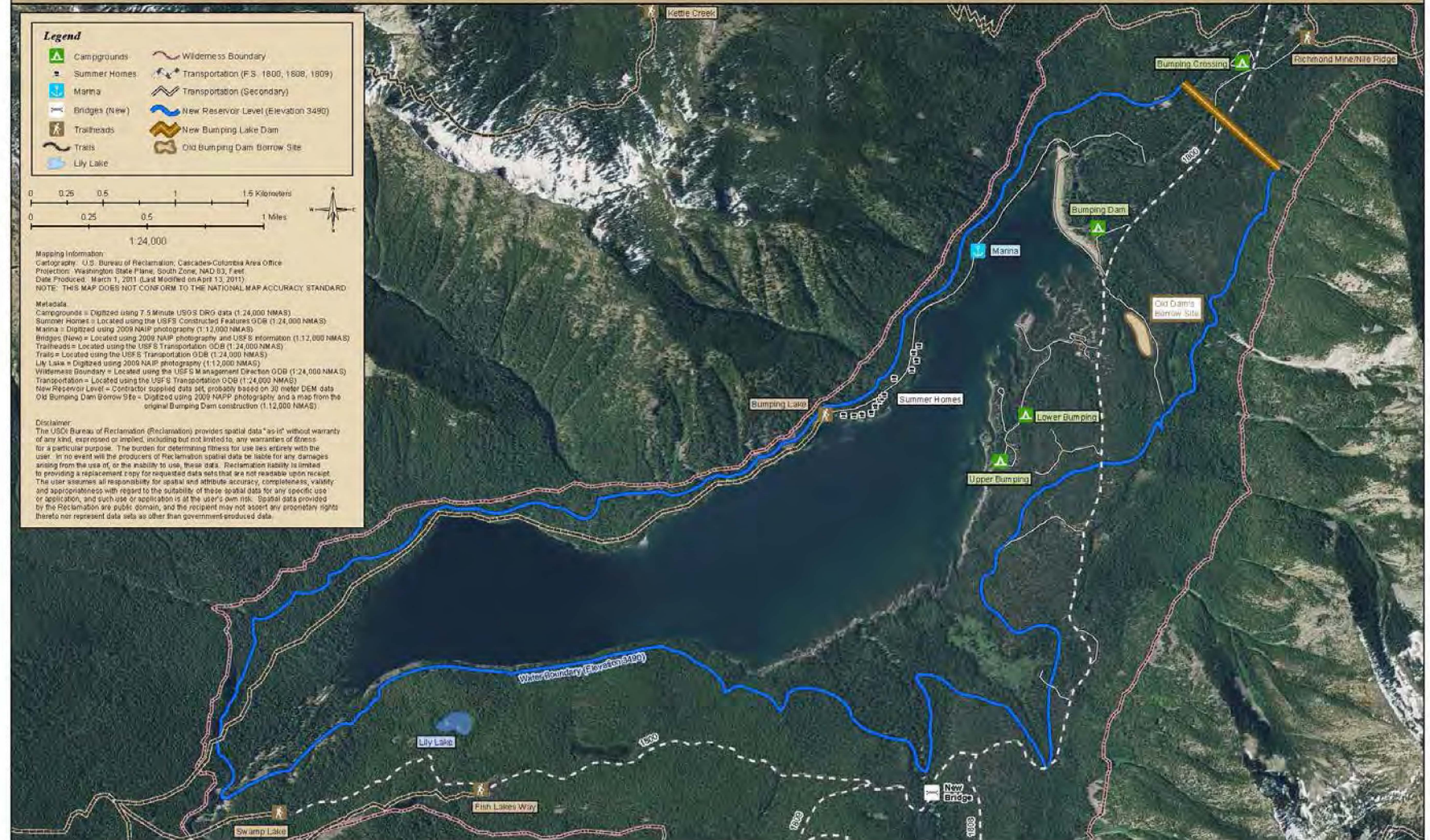
- Campgrounds
- Summer Homes
- Manna
- Bridges (new)
- Trailheads
- Trails
- Lily Lake
- Wilderness Boundary
- Transportation (F.S. 1800, 1808, 1809)
- Transportation (Secondary)
- New Reservoir Level (Elevation 3490)
- New Bumping Lake Dam
- Old Bumping Dam Borrow Site



Mapping Information:
Cartography: U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, Cascade/Columbia Area Office
Projection: Washington State Plane, South Zone, NAD 83, Feet
Date Produced: March 1, 2011, Last Modified on April 13, 2011
NOTE: THIS MAP DOES NOT CONFORM TO THE NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARD

Metadata:
Campgrounds = Digitized using 7.5 Minute USGS DRG data (1:24,000 NMAAS)
Summer Homes = Located using the USFS Constructed Features ODB (1:24,000 NMAAS)
Manna = Digitized using 2008 NAIP photography (1:12,000 NMAAS)
Bridges (new) = Located using 2008 NAIP photography and USFS information (1:12,000 NMAAS)
Trailheads = Located using the USFS Transportation ODB (1:24,000 NMAAS)
Trails = Located using the USFS Transportation ODB (1:24,000 NMAAS)
Lily Lake = Digitized using 2008 NAIP photography (1:12,000 NMAAS)
Wilderness Boundary = Located using the USFS Management Decision ODB (1:24,000 NMAAS)
Transportation = Located using the USFS Transportation ODB (1:24,000 NMAAS)
New Reservoir Level = Contractor supplied data set, probably based on 30 meter DEM data
Old Bumping Dam Borrow Site = Digitized using 2008 NAIP photography and a map from the original Bumping Dam construction (1:12,000 NMAAS)

Disclaimer:
The U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) provides spatial data "as is" without warranty of any kind, expressed or implied, including but not limited to, any warranties of fitness for a particular purpose. The burden for determining fitness for use lies entirely with the user. In no event will the producers of Reclamation spatial data be liable for any damages arising from the use of, or the inability to use, these data. Reclamation liability is limited to providing a replacement copy for requested data sets that are not available upon request. The user assumes all responsibility for spatial and attribute accuracy, completeness, validity and appropriateness with regard to the suitability of these spatial data for any specific use or application, and such use or application is at the user's own risk. Spatial data provided by the Reclamation are public domain, and the recipient may not assert any proprietary rights thereto nor represent data sets as other than government-produced data.

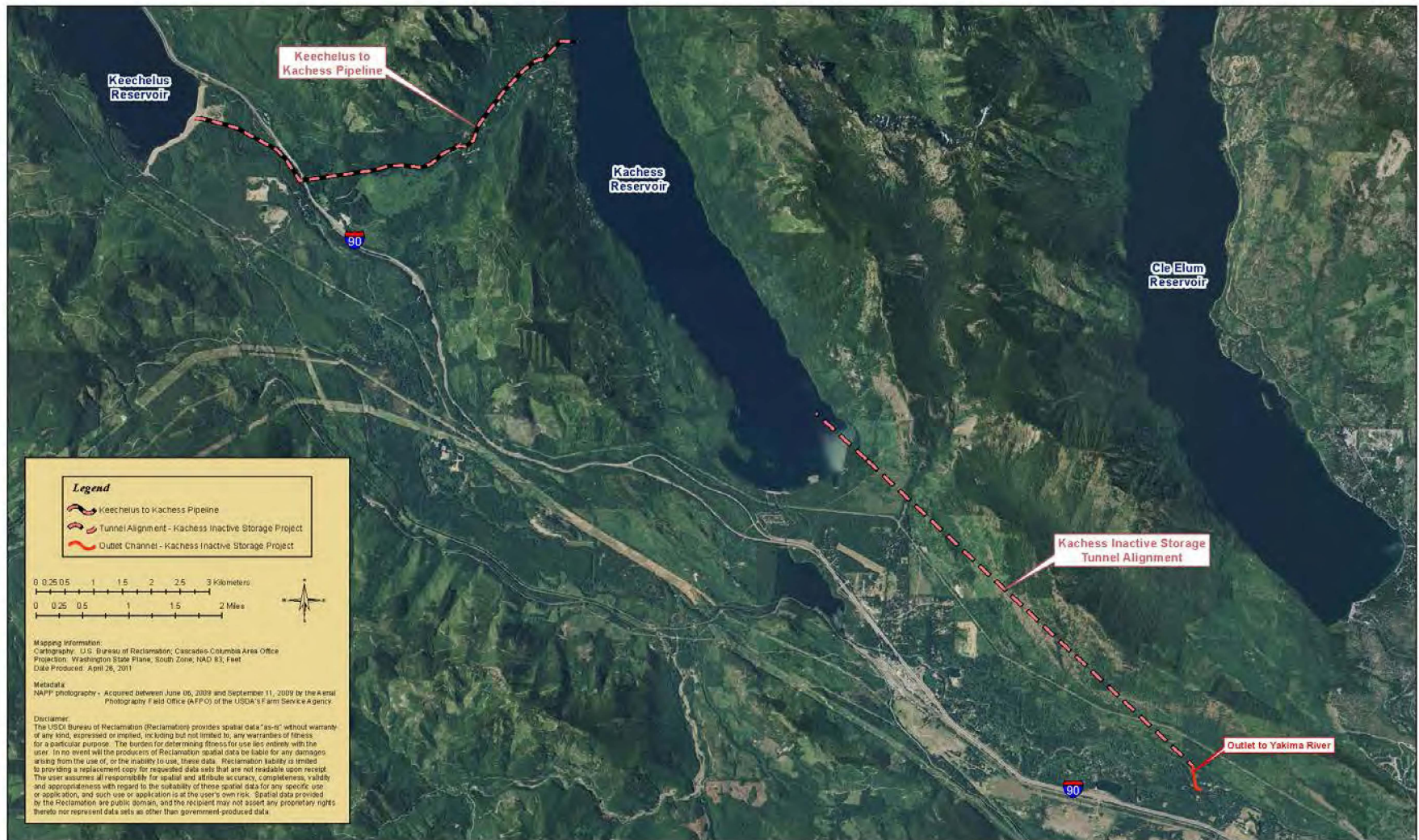


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Potential Keechelus to Kachess Pipeline and Kachess Inactive Storage Project
(Yakima River Basin Study)

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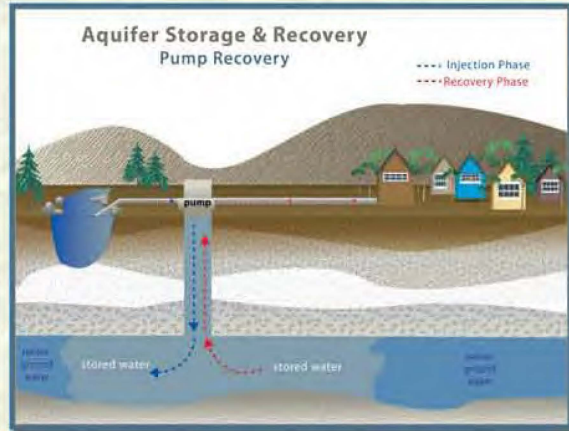


GROUNDWATER STORAGE ELEMENT

Groundwater storage actions would use surface water to recharge aquifers and store water for later withdrawal and use:

Aquifer Storage and Recovery

- ◆ New aquifer storage and recovery facility for City of Yakima



Groundwater Infiltration

- ◆ Diverts water into designed ground infiltration systems (ponds, canals) during periods of excess runoff
- ◆ Proposed pilot-testing in Kittitas Reclamation District and Wapato Irrigation Project (1-2 acres)

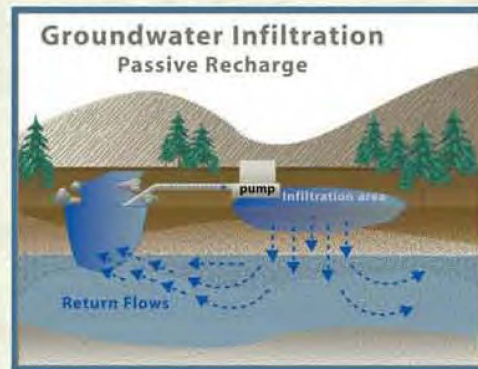


Figure 3-4
Groundwater Storage

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ENHANCED WATER CONSERVATION ELEMENT

Consists of additional agricultural conservation actions not included in the current Yakima River Basin Water Enhancement Project implementation plans, along with municipal and domestic water conservation programs.

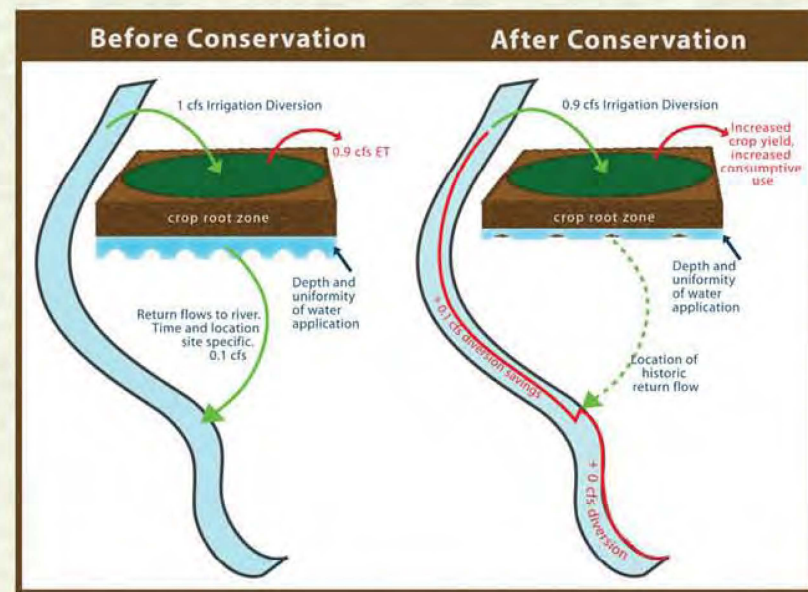
Agricultural Conservation - up to 170,000 acre-feet

- ◆ Line or pipe existing canals or laterals
- ◆ Construct re-regulation reservoirs
- ◆ Install higher efficiency sprinklers
- ◆ Reduce seepage, evaporation, and spills

Municipal and Domestic Conservation Program

- ◆ Assess opportunities to improve efficiency for residential, commercial, industrial, and urban recreational uses
- ◆ Promote efficient landscape irrigation practices
- ◆ Expand education, incentives, and other measures to encourage voluntary efficiency
- ◆ Establish best practice standards for accessing new water supplies

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MARKET REALLOCATION ELEMENT

Market Reallocation is a process by which water resources would be reallocated through a “water market” and/or “water bank.”

- ◆ Water rights could be bought, sold, or leased
- ◆ Would improve water supply and instream flow conditions
- ◆ Two phases:
 - Near-term effort
 - » Would build on existing water market programs
 - » Take steps to reduce barriers
 - Longer-term effort
 - » Focus on water transfers between districts
 - » Allow fallowing within district; leases to outside district
 - » Would require substantial changes to existing laws/policies.



STRUCTURAL AND OPERATIONAL CHANGES ELEMENT

Modify existing structures and operations to improve flows, fish bypass, and smolt outmigration. Activities include:

Lake Keechelus to Lake Kachess Pipeline and new power generation facility

Kittitas Reclamation District canal modifications

- ◆ Pipe irrigation laterals along KRD main canal and south branch canal
- ◆ Construct re-regulation reservoir to capture operational spills at Manastash Creek
- ◆ Construct pump station on Yakima River to deliver flows to Manastash Creek water users

Reduce diversions for power generation at Roza and Chandler Dams to provide instream flows for fish outmigration

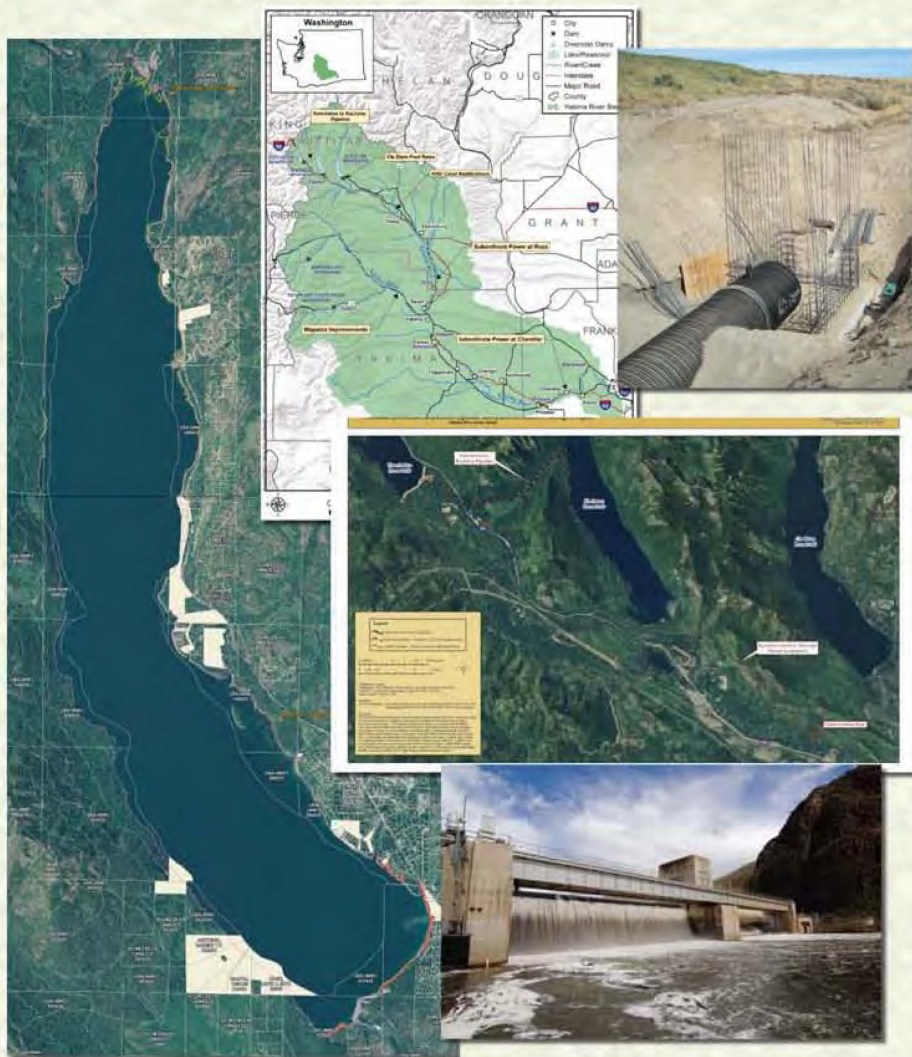
Wapatox Canal – pipe or replace lining; consolidate diversions

Raise maximum water level of Cle Elum Lake by 3 feet to add 14,600 acre-feet and improve instream flows

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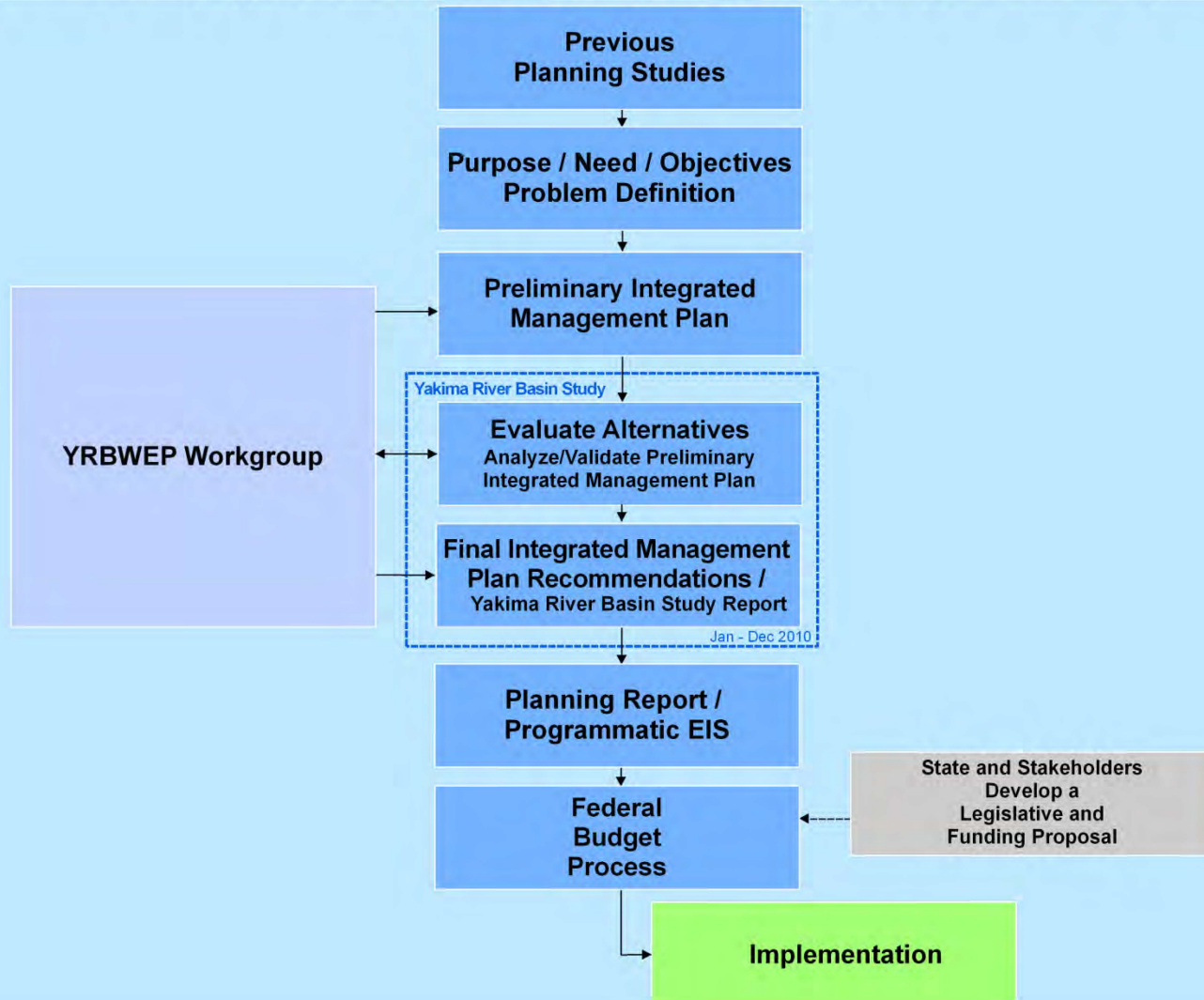


Yakima River Basin Integrated Plan

Schedule

- **Scoping - April 4 – June 15, 2011**
- **Draft Planning Report / Programmatic EIS - Fall 2011**
- **Final Planning Report / Programmatic EIS - Spring 2012**

YAKIMA BASIN INTEGRATED WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN



DEPARTMENT OF
ECOLOGY
State of Washington



Derek Sandison, 509-457-7120

October 12, 2011, 9:30 AM to 2:30 PM Yakima Arboretum, 1401 Arboretum Dr., Yakima WA

- Adjourn*

Contact: Wendy Christensen, Columbia-Cascades Area Office, (509) 575-5848, ext. 203
Derek Sandison, Washington State Department of Ecology, (509) 457-7120

Meeting Notes

October 12, 2011

Yakima Arboretum, Yakima WA

Yakima River Basin Water Enhancement Project (YRBWEP) Workgroup

Welcome/Introductions and Agenda Overview, Recent Communications *by Ben Floyd, Anchor QEA, Wendy Christensen, Reclamation and Derek Sandison, Ecology*

Ben Floyd welcomed the Workgroup members and public, led introductions, and provided an overview of the agenda.

Wendy Christensen provided a brief update on progress with the programmatic environmental impact statement (PEIS). Reclamation is working closely with the Yakama Nation, and state and federal agencies in preparing the draft PEIS and the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act Report.

There were no comments on the July 13, 2011 Workgroup meetings notes.

Report on Briefing with Secretary Salazar, Governor Gregoire, Representative Hastings and Senator Cantwell, Yakama Nation Tribal Chair Smiskin and other dignitaries *by Wendy Christensen, Reclamation and Derek Sandison, Ecology*

Wendy Christensen and Derek Sandison shared a recap of the September 18, 2011 briefing regarding the Integrated Plan held in Yakima, WA. The briefing was an opportunity to share with the attending dignitaries the objectives and proposed actions of the Integrated Plan, and also to highlight the collaboration among the Workgroup in addressing the Yakima Basin ecosystem and water management needs.

Those attending felt the briefing was extremely positive, with excellent participation and feedback. Secretary Salazar requested the basin interests provide him and Reclamation Commissioner Connor with an early action request. The Yakima Herald Republic also printed a positive report of the event in their September 19, 2011 issue. *(For the presentation slides on the briefing with Secretary Salazar, Governor Gregoire, Representative Hastings and Senator Cantwell, Yakama Nation Tribal Chair Smiskin and other dignitaries, and on all other topics discussed at the October meeting, please see <http://www.usbr.gov/pn/programs/yrbwep/2011integratedplan/meetings/index.html>).*

Workgroup Comments

- Urban Eberhart – He understood that Secretary Salazar was interested in projects that could be implemented immediately.
- Jeff Tayer – Before we start developing an implementation game plan, we need to make sure our planning assumptions and expectations are on the same page.



U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Reclamation



- Alex Conley – Would like to understand the process of finalizing the early action request by November 1.
- Mike Leita – Process for finalizing the request would be addressed by the Implementation Subcommittee.

Implementation Subcommittee Recommendations by *Derek Sandison, Ecology and Dan Silver, Ecology Consultant*

Dan Silver reviewed the Implementation Subcommittee membership. These members include Ron VanGundy (Roza Irrigation District), Phil Rigdon (Yakama Nation), Mike Leita (Yakima County), Michael Garrity (American Rivers) (note: Steve Malloch participates as an alternate for Michael Garrity), and Derek Sandison (Ecology). Dan commended the subcommittee and the Workgroup on their collaboration to date in advancing the Integrated Plan. With the recent meeting described above and other communications (e.g., Governor Gregoire's commitment to advance the Integrated Plan), there is considerable momentum building for both state and federal funding for early actions. Derek Sandison felt the request needs to reflect the comprehensive nature of the plan, recognizing some projects can move forward simultaneously while others cannot.

The Implementation Subcommittee has met several times to discuss how funding requests might be made, and how plan elements might be implemented. The subcommittee has discussed various scenarios. More recently the subcommittee members have discussed the early action request. It was decided the early action request could not address all elements and stay at a level felt to be realistic for a funding request. The request needed to be balanced among several elements however.

Before the recommendations were reviewed, Dan reviewed some expectations for the discussion. There should be no expectation that a full request will be obtained. Much work remains to persuade legislators on why the Basin needs this money. With that said, Dan reviewed with the Workgroup the Implementation Subcommittee's recommended early implementation request. Dan confirmed with each subcommittee member that he had adequately characterized the recommendations approved by the subcommittee before opening the floor for Workgroup discussion.

Workgroup Comment

The Workgroup discussed the recommendation extensively and several ideas were shared related to:

- Staying together as a group.
- Getting projects on the ground quickly.
- Seeking a higher federal funding amount for the request.
- Recognizing this initial request is only a first step of a much larger follow on funding request.
- Commitment remaining for the Integrated Plan even if all items are not funded initially.
- Starting several projects simultaneously without follow on funding commitments.
- Federal budget being cut 15 percent.
- More controversial nature of some projects.
- Moving forward with Cle Elum pool raise.
- Importance of developing momentum by some early successes.
- Moving multiple projects forward.

- Ecosystem-related projects and benefits of the plan, and ability to leverage other funding sources.
- Increasing budget for land acquisition.
- Storage has substantial environmental benefits by providing instream flows and flexibility in system, etc.
- Kittitas Reclamation District (KRD) Improvement Project that could provide immediate benefits.
- We need to better show tangible environmental benefits to keep the forward momentum.

Based on the discussion, Dan Silver summarized some possible options for Workgroup action and the Workgroup agree to change the land acquisition and Cle Elum pool raise actions to \$2 million each, resulting in a \$20.9 million early action funding request. Suggestions were offered on how to package the request. As follow up, Dale Bambrick agreed to provide Ben Floyd within 7 to 10 days the list of tributary projects where the \$2.6 million would be allocated.

Programmatic EIS Update by Andrew Graham, HDR, Inc.

Andrew Graham of HDR, Inc. provided a brief status report on the Integrated Plan PEIS including a brief summary of the schedule, a review of what a PEIS is, how it differs from a Project EIS, and recent updates to the Integrated Plan.

Notable updates include:

- Thorp feed from Wymer will not be carried forward for further analysis in the draft PEIS due to the fact that expected costs and O&M savings were not realized. By using the pump station off the Yakima River instead the total cost of the Wymer storage project and the Integrated Plan decreased by \$0.5 billion.
- In the Wymer downstream conveyance, both the discharge at Lmuma Creek and the pipeline to Roza Dam were still included as feasible. Further analysis will be needed to choose the preferred approach.
- Evaluation regarding new hydropower opportunities by Reclamation or the private sector is being deferred into the future. Additionally, projects would not be constructed in a manner that would preclude adding power generation in the future.
- Sockeye numbers have been revised by Reclamation and will be provided in the draft PEIS.

Workgroup Comment

- Jeff Tayer – Regarding downstream conveyance for Wymer Dam, does the pipeline to Roza Dam include a dam removal? *It is not included at this time but this is not precluded in the future if an alternate supply such as the Columbia River emerges.*
- Sid Morrison – Where are we with the study of the Columbia River Pump Exchange with Yakima storage? *We're not in a position to undertake that study at this time. The Integrated Plan identifies this study occurring in two-step process. The first step is to determine the legal and physical availability of water in the Columbia River. If water determined to be available then the second step is to determine pump and conveyance alternatives, costs and funding.*

- Steve Malloch – Will there be a planning report? *A companion document to the programmatic EIS will be A Framework for Implementation document, which is not the same as a planning report. In the programmatic EIS we are evaluating the effects from implementing the entire plan instead of individual site-specific projects; which is different from what typically occurs. A planning report would come in the future and so would any federal principles and guidelines analyses.*

Workgroup Comments on Watershed Land Conservation Subcommittee Recommendations

Paul Jewell and Jeff Tayer could not be present for the presentation and discussion on the Watershed Land Conservation Subcommittee Recommendations presented during the second half of the Workgroup meeting. The following comments were provided:

- Paul Jewell – We’ve made quite a bit of progress in terms of the land conservation and ecosystem component. Much of the information is solid with good progress in specificity. It is a proposal from the subcommittee at this time, and some items are still being evaluated. Finalizing the subcommittee work needs to occur relatively quickly so a separate Kittitas County advisory committee can complete its review and provide input back to the County.
- Jeff Tayer – The subcommittee has made good progress. We focused on protecting the headwaters, and building off existing efforts. Ahtanum and the Yakima Tree Farm are important headwater protection areas that have not yet been in the acquisition mix. Land protection is very important to the environmental community. The most controversial piece was the wilderness proposals, where there was a lot of back and forth discussions, although in a positive direction.

Public Comment

- Melissa Bates, Aqua-Permanente – Dale Bambrick’s comments adequately summarized commonly shared thoughts and feelings on the current Implementation Subcommittee recommendations.

Watershed Land Conservation Subcommittee Recommendations *by Andrew Graham, HDR*

Andrew presented the Targeted Watershed Protections and Enhancements Draft Subcommittee Proposal. Items reviewed included the purpose of this watershed land conservation piece in the Integrated Plan proposal, subcommittee activities, proposed land acquisitions, and proposed protective designations.

Workgroup Comment

- Ron VanGundy – What other economic uses other than cattle grazing is available on these lands? *Forestry industry.*
- Scott Revell – Regarding the two large tracts of shrub-steppe land, how large are these areas? *Unsure of exact numbers, but an enlarged map is provided in your packets.*
- Mike Leita – How informed are the land owners? *I can’t positively answer that, and will need to defer to Jeff Tayer. We are meeting with land owners as they are available. Different parcels are in different stages. (In follow up to the meeting, Jeff indicated that all landowners have been contacted)*

- Ron VanGundy – How restrictive is the wilderness designation? *No logging and no motorized use.* Does that also include grazing? *If grazing occurred prior to designation, generally the activity is grandfathered in.*
- Alex Conley – What would happen to the roads above Bumping? Two new bridges have just been completed and the raising of the reservoir would inundate the current access road, correct? *The road that is currently there would be inundated if Bumping is raised; however, there is a proposal to relocate the road outside the proposed new reservoir boundary to maintain access to the area. The bridges would not be inundated.*
- Steve Malloch – All designations have been proposed by USFS in their 1990 Forest Plan and Revisions, except the Teanaway. In the context of this project, the Teanaway presents key habitat.
- Mike Leita – This strikes me as being far-reaching, but there must be adequate consideration on all sides to make this plan happen.
- Alex Conley – I'm amazed at the progress and creative compromise. However, what about the less developed, shrub-steppe piece? *More detail on that is in the report. The shrub-steppe lands are more fragile and the management needs to keep that in consideration. Uses are restricted, and must be compatible with protecting the habitat. There is also a discussion on ownership.*
- Sid Morrison – There are other designations; if pieces of land don't fit these designations, there are others that can be considered.

Public Comment

- Beneitta Eaton, land owner – In addition to potential grazing and logging economic impacts, some have also expressed concerns about loss of recreation use (related to the watershed protection lands under discussion). *The subcommittee has been made aware of these concerns.*
- Irene Davidson, USFS – To clarify, the NRA (National Recreational Area) legislation does not “provide clear direction to Forest Service land managers;” rather it requires a management plan be developed for the NRA developed with public involvement.
- Irene Davidson, USFS – Her understanding is that the National Parks manages 20 NRAs, Forest Service manages 18, and BLM (Bureau of Land Management) manages five.
- Chuck Klarich, Yakima Basin Storage Alliance – Historically, not much has changed in the rivers proposed for Wild and Scenic Rivers so why we are interested now? Why the designation?
- Steve Malloch – The rivers that have been chosen for Wild and Scenic designation have significant salmonid populations. This leads to the question, what are the management tools to manage those rivers as best as we can to maintain those populations? The function of wild and scenic designations direct management's focus to that river's resources, and draws attention (both public and agency) to the resources. If attention is drawn, people will respect these resources.
- Chuck Klarich, Yakima Basin Storage Alliance – Why aren't Cooper, Waptus and Hyas lakes included in the designation?
- Steve Malloch - These designations do not include lakes, just free-flowing rivers.

- Julie Conley – What other primary economic uses besides grazing are for shrub steppe lands? *I believe the primary economic use is grazing only; however there is also oil leasing, but we haven't considered this for these lands.*
- Julie Conley – Have you looked at other options such as easement programs? *Yes, we looked at other potential options and protection easements were considered, but were taken off the table.*

The Draft Targeted Watershed Protections and Enhancements Report on findings and recommendations will be distributed to the Workgroup along with a due date for providing comments.

Adjourn

Workgroup Members in Attendance

Dale Bambrick, NOAA Fisheries Service
 Alex Conley, Yakima Basin Fish and Wildlife Recovery Board
 Kirk Cook, Washington State Department of Agriculture
 Rick Dieker, Yakima-Tieton Irrigation District
 John Easterbrooks, Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife
 Urban Eberhart, Kittitas Reclamation District
 David Fast, Yakama Nation – Yakima/Klickitat Fisheries Project
 Paul Jewell, Kittitas County
 Mike Leita, Yakima County
 Bill Lover, City of Yakima
 Steve Malloch, National Wildlife Federation
 Sid Morrison, Yakima Basin Storage Alliance
 Scott Revell, Kennewick Irrigation District
 Phil Rigdon, Yakama Nation – Natural Resources
 Derek Sandison, Washington State Department of Ecology
 Jeff Tayer, Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife
 Jeff Thomas, US Fish and Wildlife Service
 Jim Trull, Sunnyside Valley Irrigation District
 Ron VanGundy, Roza Irrigation District
 Dawn Wiedmeier, Bureau of Reclamation

Other Attendees

Melissa Bates, Aqua Permanente
 David Bowen, American Forest Land Co.
 Dave Brown, City of Yakima
 David Child, Yakima Basin Joint Board
 Wendy Christensen, Bureau of Reclamation
 Stuart Crane, Yakama Nation
 James Davenport, JH Davenport, LLC
 Charity Davidson, Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife
 Irene Davidson, US Forest Service, Naches Ranger District

Charlie de la Chapelle, Yakima Basin Storage Alliance
Warren Dickman, Yakima Basin Storage Alliance
Beneitta Eaton
Bill Eller, Washington State Conservation Commission
Ben Floyd, Anchor QEA
Joel Freudenthal, Yakima County
Kristi Geris, Anchor QEA
Andrew Graham, HDR Engineering, Inc.
Bill Gray, Bureau of Reclamation
Ken Hasbrouck, Kittitas Reclamation District
Joel Hubble, Bureau of Reclamation
Jerry Kelso, Consultant to Bureau of Reclamation
Chuck Klarich, Yakima Basin Storage Alliance
David Lester, Yakima Herald
Barb Lisk, Office of Representative Richard Hastings
Chris Lynch, Bureau of Reclamation
Tina Mayo
Jim Milton, Yakima-Tieton Irrigation District
Pat Monk, US Fish and Wildlife Service
Tom Monroe, Roza Irrigation District
Bob Montgomery, Anchor QEA
Brian Myre, Yakama Reservation Irrigation District
David Reeploeg, Office of Senator Maria Cantwell
Mike Schwisow, Schwisow & Associates
Teresa Scott, Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife
Jan Sharar, Aqua Permanente
Dan Silver, Independent Consultant
Rob Swedo, Bonneville Power Administration
Brett Swift, American Rivers
Tom Tebb, Washington State Department of Ecology
William P. Woods, Jr.

Next Workgroup Meeting

The next meeting will be held December 14, 2011. A meeting notice and agenda will be distributed in advance of the meeting.

Where to Find Workgroup Information

Meeting materials, notes, and presentations from the Workgroup meetings will be posted on the project website (<http://www.usbr.gov/pn/programs/yrbwep/index.html>). A bibliography of information sources, many of which are available online, is also posted on the website. If anyone needs help finding an information source, contact those listed at the top of page 1 or Ben Floyd at Anchor QEA, Richland office, (509) 392-4548, or bfloyd@anchorqea.com.

Yakima River Basin Integrated Water Resource Management Plan

**“NOW is the moment; NOW is the Time”
– Governor Gregoire**

**Yakima, WA
September 18, 2011**

Dignitaries in Attendance:

- **Harry Smiskin**, Chairman, Yakama Nation Tribal Council
- **Ken Salazar**, Secretary, U.S. Department of the Interior
- **Maria Cantwell**, U.S. Senator
- **Doc Hastings**, U.S. Representative
- **Christine Gregoire**, Governor, State of Washington
- **Mike Connor**, Commissioner, Bureau of Reclamation
- **Karl Wirkus**, Regional Director, Bureau of Reclamation
- **Ted Sturdevant**, Director, Washington Department of Ecology
- **Dan Newhouse**, Director, Washington Department of Agriculture



Objectives

- Brief the attending dignitaries about Yakima River Basin Integrated Plan;
- Show Workgroup Collaboration in Addressing the Basin's Needs:
 - Increasing the water supply
 - Improving habitat for fish and wildlife
 - Modifying systems to improve water availability for instream and out-of-stream use
 - Implementing an adaptive strategy to address drought, climate change, and growth.



DEPARTMENT OF
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State of Washington





“The time of conflict, like the time of studies, has come to an end.” – Chairman Smiskin



“Water is increasingly becoming the liquid gold of the world economy. Interior’s WaterSMART funding shows our commitment to this project . . .” – Secretary Salazar





“Absolute conviction to create a lasting framework.”

“We have the horsepower we need at this table. If we agree, we get ‘er done; if we don’t, we get nothing.”

– Governor Gregoire



**Yakima Basin Integrated Water Resource Management Plan
Early Implementation Request (October 2011)**

\$Millions (2011 dollars)

Integrated Plan Actions/Projects		Base Cost		2012
Programmatic Actions, Operational Actions and Small Infrastructure Projects				
Tributary Habitat Enhancement Program ¹		\$ 180.0	AUTHORIZATION & EARLY ACTIONS	\$ 2.6
Fish Passage at Clear Lake Dam		\$ 3.0		\$ 0.4
Subordinate Power Diversions, Roza & Chandler ²		\$ 0.5		\$ 0.5
Pool Level Increase at Cle Elum Dam		\$ 16.8		\$ 2.0
Land Acquisition		TBD		\$ 2.0
Subtotal				\$ 7.5
Large Infrastructure Projects				
Wymer Reservoir ³		\$ 1,077.0	AUTHORIZATION & EARLY ACTIONS	\$ 3.0
Fish Passage at Cle Elum Lake Dam		\$ 87.6		\$ 2.6
Bumping Lake Enlargement		\$ 402.5		\$ 1.2
Pipeline from Lake Keechelus to Lake Kachess		\$ 190.7		\$ 3.5
Lake Kachess Inactive Storage Alternative 1 – Tunnel		\$ 253.8		\$ 1.5
Subtotal				\$ 11.8
Projects Requiring Further Development				
Groundwater Infiltration (Pilot study)		\$ 4.7		\$ 1.6
Subtotal				\$ 1.6
TOTAL				\$ 20.8

¹Could also include project(s) with supply benefits

²Funding for developing long-term approach including analysis, potential power offsets, agreement modifications and pilot testing

³Cost is from Lmuma Creek Pump station option

	Authorization
	Studies/Confirm Intent
	Project Environmental Review & Feasibility Design
	Project Final Design, Permitting & Construction or Program Activation



Targeted Watershed Protections and Enhancements Draft Subcommittee Proposal

YRBWEP Work
Group Meeting

October 12, 2011



Purpose

- Ecosystem conservation and restoration linked to the Plan's water resource management actions
- This includes:
 - Protect and restore forest lands that support watershed and ecosystem functions
 - Protect and restore lowland shrub-steppe habitat

Integrated Plan Proposal

- Land Acquisitions
 - Teanaway Forest Lands
 - Little Naches, Manastash and Taneum Headwaters
 - Yakima River Canyon
 - (.....or other comparable lands.....)*
- Protective Designations
 - Wilderness or other protective designations on specific lands in headwaters and at Bumping Lake
 - Wild and Scenic River Designations

Subcommittee Activities

- Developed principles for carrying out the program
- Identified “backup” options for land acquisitions
- Refined proposals for land and river designations

1. PROPOSED LAND ACQUISITIONS



Photo from "PerilsofCaffeineintheEvening.com"

Principles

- Allow economic uses*
- Maintain and improve recreational access*
- Fund restoration and management actions
- Consult with local landowners

* *where consistent with protection of watershed and aquatic habitat*

Preferred Acquisitions

- Teanaway Forest Land tract (AFLC)
- Little Naches, Manastash and Taneum and Headwaters lands intermingled with Forest Service lands
- Yakima River Canyon (Eaton Ranch)

(Preferred acquisitions are the same as listed in the Integrated Plan)

Other Acquisition Options

- Plum Creek, AFLC and other private forest lands in Upper Yakima Basin
- Multiple tracts of private forest lands in Naches, Cowiche and Ahtanum Basins
- Two large tracts of shrub-steppe land
 - One in Cowiche Creek Basin
 - One in Lower Yakima River Basin

9

Potential Shrub Steppe Conservation Lands



2. PROPOSED PROTECTIVE DESIGNATIONS



Cooper River



Bull Trout, Deep Ck.
Photos by Jm Cummins

Principles

- Actively consult with local landowners
- Enhance watershed and habitat protection
- Maintain or improve recreational access
- Allow economic uses where consistent with watershed and aquatic habitat protection
- Complement other actions in the Integrated Plan

Proposed Designations on Public Lands

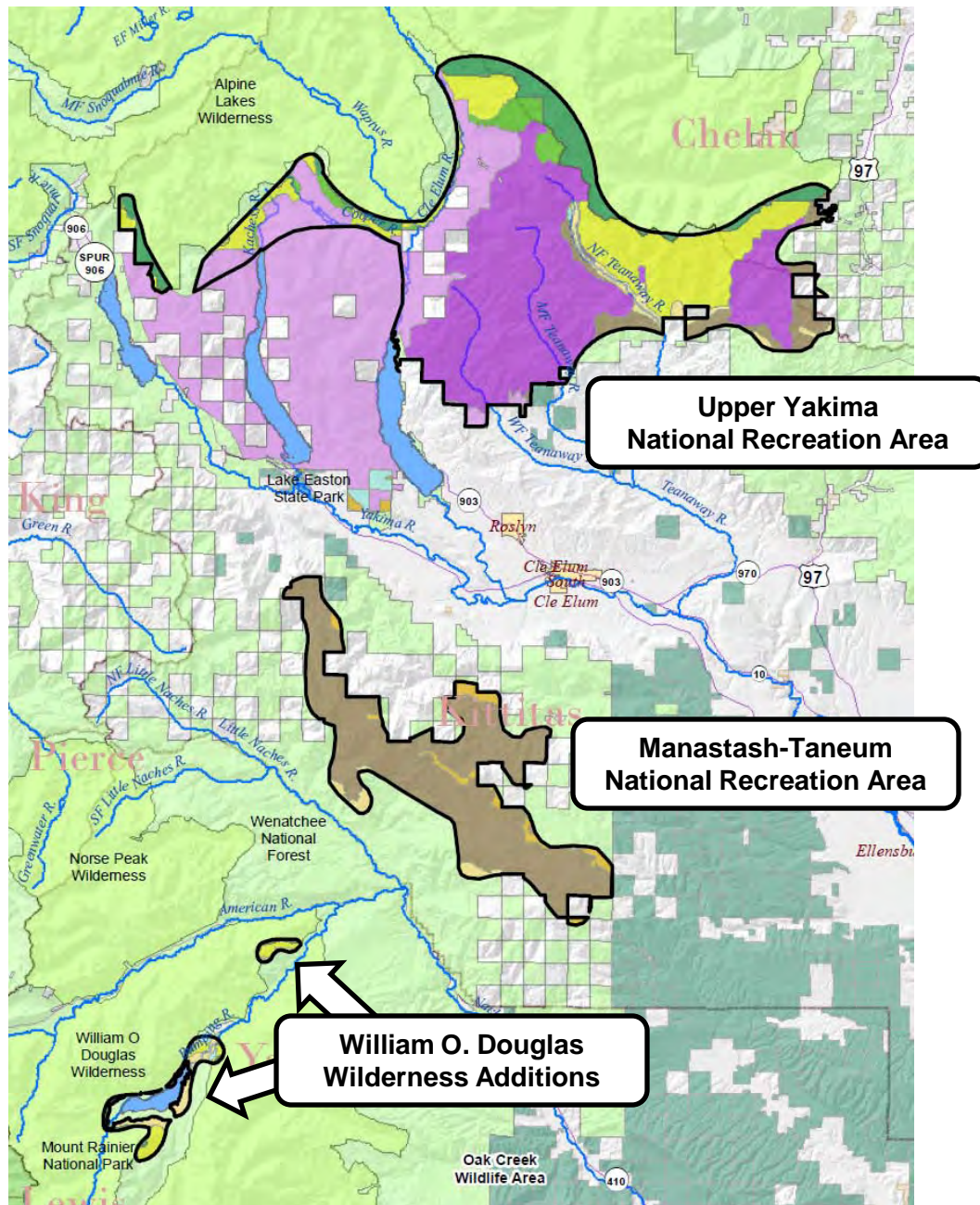
- National Recreation Area on federal lands in Teanaway
 - Out of roughly 100,000 acres, about 20,000 acres would be wilderness
- National Recreation Area on federal lands in Manastash-Taneum
 - Out of roughly 40,000 acres, 35,000 would be for backcountry motorized recreation
- Add about 1,500 acres to William O. Douglas Wilderness adjacent to Bumping Lake

Why Recreational Areas?

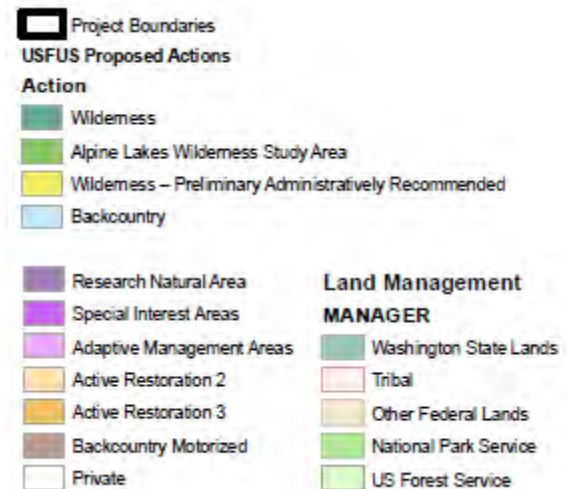
- Draws attention, visitation and funding while protecting core ecosystem values
- Supports local economy and generates public support
- Provides clear direction to Forest Service land managers
- Select, critical areas can receive special protection through wilderness designation in the Act establishing the NRA

“There are presently 18 NRAs in the National Park System. 12 are centered on large reservoirs and emphasize water-based recreation. 5 other NRAs are located near major population centers and combine open spaces, preservation of historic resources, and important natural areas.”

Proposed Public Lands Designations



LEGEND



Private lands are not intended to be included in National Recreation Area designation; any aberrations of mapping that appear to encompass private lands in NRAs are unintentional.

What are Wild and Scenic Rivers?

- Designated by Congress based on “outstanding remarkable values” (e.g. fish habitat, scenic quality, recreation)
- Management plan determines what federal landowners can do on river corridor
- Agreements needed with local government and private landowners for non-federal lands

This designation attracts attention, funding and recreational visitors

Principles

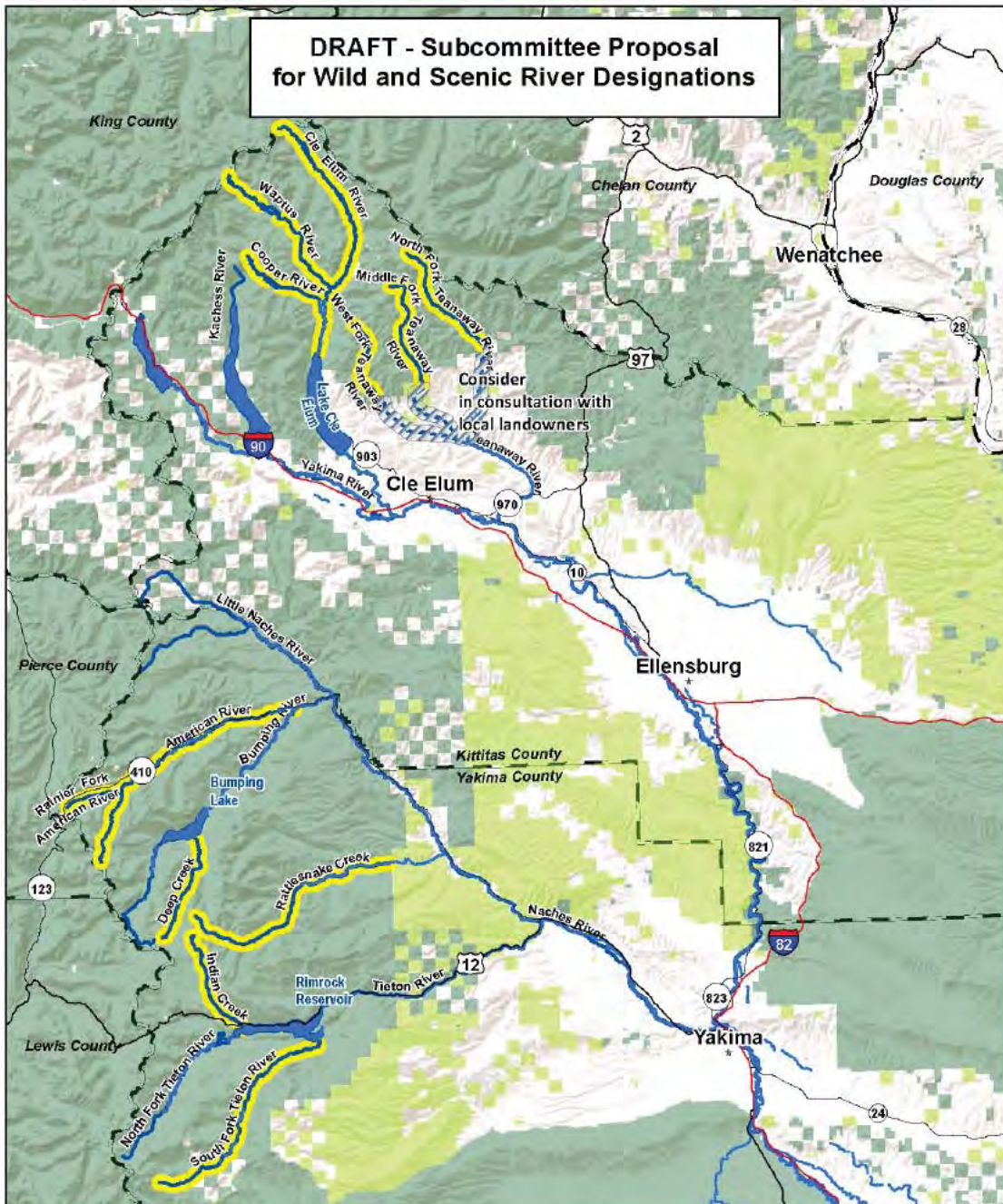
- Develop cooperatively with landowners and county government
- Complement other actions in the Integrated Plan

** where consistent with protection of watershed and aquatic habitat*

Proposed River Designations

- In Upper Yakima Basin
 - Upper Cle Elum, Waptus, Cooper Rivers
 - Portions of Teanaway River and its tributaries
 - (on public lands and possibly some private lands)
- In Naches Basin
 - South Fork Tieton and Indian Creek (flowing into Rimrock Reservoir)
 - Rattlesnake Creek (flowing into Little Naches River)
 - American River and its Rainier Fork

**DRAFT - Subcommittee Proposal
for Wild and Scenic River Designations**



Proposed Wild & Scenic Rivers Designations

Legend

- Proposed Wild and Scenic Rivers
- State Lands
- Federal Lands

SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBER COMMENTS

WORK GROUP QUESTIONS/DISCUSSION

Status Report: Programmatic EIS for Integrated Plan

YRBWEP Work Group Meeting

October 12, 2011

Programmatic EIS Schedule

- Scoping conducted May/June 2011
- Started work on EIS in July 2011
- Currently working on internal draft
- Will release Draft PEIS in early November 2011
- 45-day comment period
- Final EIS expected in January 2012

What is a Programmatic EIS?

- Evaluates effects of broad proposals or planning-level decisions for:
 - Wide range of individual projects
 - Implementation over a long timeframe
 - Implementation across a large geographic area
- Level of detail is sufficient to allow:
 - Informed choice among programmatic alternatives
 - Development of broad mitigation strategies

Different from a Project EIS

- Does not evaluate site-specific issues
- Will require additional project-level environmental review
- Example: 1999 YRBWEP Programmatic EIS
 - Subsequent conservation actions in various Districts received project-level analysis

Integrated Plan Programmatic EIS

- Two Alternatives:
 - No Action Alternative—Implementation of on-going, funded projects for conservation and habitat improvement
 - Integrated Plan – Joint Implementation of seven elements
- Overall effects of full plan
- Prior EIS's and studies used as input

Updates to the Integrated Plan

- Wymer Dam
 - Thorp Feed excluded (high cost compared with benefits)
 - Downstream conveyance includes both options:
 - Discharge at Lmuma Creek
 - Pipeline to Roza Dam
- New hydropower facilities at reservoirs are neither included nor excluded from future consideration
- Land acquisition: uses Integrated Plan description in Draft. Will update for Final EIS.
- Sockeye production is being updated

QUESTIONS/DISCUSSION



Yakima Basin Study

Proposed Integrated Water Resource Management Plan

Watershed Land Conservation Subcommittee Proposal

DRAFT – October 11, 2011

The proposed Integrated Water Resource Management Plan represents a comprehensive approach to water management and habitat enhancement in the Yakima River basin. It is intended to restore ecological functions in the Yakima River system and to provide more reliable and sustainable water resources for the health of the riverine environment, agriculture and municipal and domestic needs. The Integrated Plan offers a comprehensive package of projects to meet these needs while anticipating changing water demands and effects of climate change on water resources in the basin.

Section 3.1.5 of the Integrated Plan identifies **Targeted Watershed Protections and Enhancements** for the Yakima River Basin. Healthy watersheds protect water quality, contribute to instream flows and cooler water temperatures, reduce sedimentation, and maintain aquatic habitat complexity. These benefits are widely recognized by water users and land managers across the West. As climate change places new stresses on water resources and aquatic habitats in the future, the Yakima River Basin's upper watersheds will become even more vital to ecosystem health and water supply.

In addition to watershed protection, headwater lands targeted for protection under the Integrated Plan will protect unique riparian areas, travel corridors, transitional habitats, bull trout, steelhead and salmon spawning habitat, spotted owl habitat, and will expand a wide variety of motorized and non-motorized recreational opportunities for the Washington State residents and visitors. Further, it is desirable that some of these lands be maintained as working lands so they will continue to support the regional economy.

The Integrated Plan also calls for protection of shrub-steppe lands within the Yakima Basin. Shrub-steppe is an increasingly threatened and fragmented habitat type found in Central Washington that supports several declining species such as the greater sage grouse and ferruginous hawk that require large blocks of intact land. Protection of a large area of these lands will balance effects of inundation from proposed reservoir projects as well as land development resulting from more reliable water supplies for agriculture and municipal and domestic growth enabled by additional water supplies. The efforts supported by the Integrated Plan will complement ongoing actions by a range of public and private landowners to protect this vital landscape type.

A Watershed Lands Conservation Subcommittee was established to advise the YRBWEP Workgroup on options for carrying out a Targeted Watershed Protection and Enhancement program.

This report summarizes the options for Targeted Watershed Protections and Enhancements identified by the Watershed Land Conservation Subcommittee.

Land Conservation Actions:

Actions Under this Program Include:

- **Land acquisitions** from willing sellers to protect ecological, recreational and extractive resource uses and to provide structure for improved land management. Conservation groups working in parallel with the YRBWEP Workgroup identified and targeted three key areas in the Yakima and Naches River watersheds for land acquisition actions that would help improve watershed and ecosystem functions.
 - 45,000 acres as a Conservation Target for High Elevation Watershed Enhancement
 - 10,000 as a Conservation Target for Forest Habitat Enhancement.
 - 15,000 acres as a Conservation Target for Shrub-Steppe Habitat Enhancement
- **New designations on existing Forest Service lands** to improve watershed and habitat protection while retaining access for recreational uses. Designations could include national recreation, conservation, or wilderness areas or some combination of these. While these can be recommended, an Act of Congress would be required for this action.
- **New designations of select river corridors** within the Yakima Basin to promote conservation in cooperation with public and private landowners and County governments. Designations could include national recreational, scenic or wild river areas, or some combination of these. While these can be recommended, an Act of Congress would be required for this action.

Program Principles:

The Subcommittee established a set of principles for each of these actions to be used to guide the program. The principles express the expectations of the subcommittee that actions under this program will improve watershed and ecosystem functions while supporting local economic conditions and traditional uses by the local communities.

The agencies involved in carrying out the targeted watershed protections and enhancements must actively consult with local landowners in carrying out the program and developing land management strategies. Additional principles are listed as follows:

Principles for Forest Land Acquisitions:

- Maintain economic uses where lands have historically been used as working lands, where this is consistent with protection of key watershed functions and aquatic habitat. This will help to foster support from local communities as the watershed and ecosystem protection objectives are pursued. This will also assist in providing an ongoing funding source for managing the properties.
- Maintain and, where possible, improve access to lands and enhance opportunities for a variety of recreational uses, where this is consistent with protection of key watershed functions and aquatic habitat. This will also help to foster support from local communities as the watershed and ecosystem protection objectives are pursued.
- Restoration and management activities are essential and must be supported under the acquisition program, including long-term funding sources for these purposes.

Principles for Shrub-Steppe Land Acquisitions

- Land acquisitions will help to offset impacts of inundating shrub-steppe habitat from lowland reservoir projects such as Wymer Reservoir, and will complement ongoing efforts to protect shrub-steppe lands in Central Washington.
- Access and opportunities for recreation will be enhanced.
- A working lands outcome will be considered, where consistent with protection of habitat and sensitive wildlife species.

Principles for New Designations on Existing Public Lands

- New designations will enhance watershed and fish habitat protection and preserve or improve recreational opportunities.
- New designations will avoid negative effects on existing or reasonably foreseeable economic uses of the affected public lands that are consistent with protection of watershed functions and fish habitat.
- Public land designations will directly complement other actions in the Integrated Plan, including (but not limited to) fish passage and habitat restoration, land acquisitions, and public land designations.

Principles for River Corridor Designations

- New river corridor designations and associated management plans will be developed cooperatively with public and private landowners and the county having jurisdiction over local land use regulations.
- New river corridor designations will complement other actions in the Integrated Plan, particularly fish passage, habitat restoration, land acquisitions, and public land designations.

Options for the Upper Yakima River Basin

Land Acquisitions

The Subcommittee has identified the following options for the Upper Yakima River Basin. These include options listed in the Integrated Plan, as well as alternatives in case those lands prove to be unavailable or too costly for acquisition.

- **Preferred Option:** Acquisition of a 46,000 acre tract in the middle and lower Teanaway River basin comprised of mid to high elevation mixed conifer forest and lower elevation grand fir and Ponderosa pine forest. The Teanaway River flows into the Yakima River and provides fish passage and connectivity to high elevation colder water. Protecting this area would provide significant ecosystem, water quality and quantity, and species benefits that complement the habitats and species protected by the Plum Creek Central Cascades Habitat Conservation Program (HCP), directly adjacent to the western portion of the proposed area. The Ponderosa pine forests are particularly significant due to their limited range and vulnerability to climate change. The Department of Ecology has recognized that:

“[t]he Teanaway River system represents some of the highest quality streams and cold-water fish spawning and rearing areas in the Yakima River Basin.”¹

In addition, conservation of the Teanaway landscape fits well into the overall strategy of acquiring and protecting non-federal lands to ensure successful landscape-scale linkages envisioned by the Integrated Plan.

- **Preferred Option:** Acquisition of lands at the headwaters of Taneum and Manastash Creeks in connection with acquisition of adjacent lands in the Little Naches Basin (see options for Naches Basin, below). Private lands in these watersheds are intermingled with National Forest land, generally in a checkerboard pattern. The land is primarily mid to upper elevation conifer forest. Most of the area has been logged and replanted, but some areas of old-growth forest remain. The upper reaches of Taneum, and Manastash Creeks are important for water quality and maintaining cool temperatures for bull trout protection and restoration. They also protect water supply and provide current or potential salmon and steelhead spawning grounds.

¹ <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wq/tmdl/TeanawayTMDL.html>

- **Alternatives:** If the lands in the Upper Yakima Basin identified above are not available or cannot be acquired at a reasonable cost, other options are available as well. These include:
 - Acquisition of Plum Creek holdings in Big Creek, Taneum Creek, Cabin Creek and Cle Elum River watersheds. Kittitas County. *Acreage? (overlap with Taneum Creek lands discussed above??).*
 - Acquisition of American Forest Lands Resource holdings, Swauk and First Creek areas. Kittitas Co. *Acreage?.*
 - Acquisition of additional private land holdings. Kittitas County. Forest lands. *Acreage?.*

Public Lands Designations

*"Wilderness or other appropriate designation should ... be sought for roadless areas in the Teanaway, in the area between Kachess and Cle Elum Reservoirs, and in the upper reaches of Manastash and Tanuem Creeks in order to protect headwaters streams, snow pack, and forests. "*²

The subcommittee proposes applying the National Recreation Area designation to lands in the upper Yakima Basin. This designation is flexible enough to provide protection for key habitat functions while preserving the overall theme of recreational use for these lands. National Recreation Area designation also raises the profile of these recreational lands and is, in essence, a powerful marketing feature that will attract more users who contribute to local economic vitality. It is important to note that private lands are not included in National Recreation Areas and will not be not bound by NRA rules.

- **Creation in the Teanaway Area of a National Recreation Area** on approximately 100,000 acres (*need to verify size*) of existing US Forest Service lands in these areas. Within the proposed NRA, approximately 21,000 would be designated as Wilderness, approximately 6,000 acres would be designated for backcountry motorized recreational use, and approximately 1,000 acres would be designated for backcountry non-motorized recreational use. All of these proposed uses are consistent with the uses identified in the current Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest (OWNF) Plan Revision Proposed Action; however the forest plan does not propose NRA designation.
- **Creation in the Manastash-Taneum watershed of a National Recreation Area** on approximately 41,000 acres of existing US Forest Service lands in these areas. Within the proposed NRA, approximately 35,000 acres would be designated for backcountry motorized recreational use. These proposed uses are consistent with the uses identified in the current OWNF Proposed Action and with current uses of this area.

² Integrated Plan Statement on Public Lands Designations

River Corridor Designations

The Subcommittee proposes designations under the federal Wild and Scenic Rivers Act for rivers and reaches where designations will benefit directly the fisheries supported in the Yakima Integrated Plan. All of the reaches proposed are designated critical habitat for bull trout, most are also critical habitat for steelhead. With the exception of the Teanaway River, these rivers are primarily or exclusively in the Wenatchee National Forest and have been proposed for Wild and Scenic designation in the 1990 Wenatchee Forest Plan or in the 2011 Okanogan-Wenatchee Forest Plan Revision Proposed Action. Where there are significant private property interests affected, such as for the middle and lower reaches of the Teanaway River, designations will be proposed only with broad support by the affected landowners.

The Subcommittee identified the following as high priority designations:

- **Wild and Scenic River Designations for Upper Cle Elum River, Waptus and Cooper Rivers.** In addition to bull trout habitat, these rivers and reaches above Cle Elum Reservoir will all receive increasing numbers of salmon and steelhead as fish are reintroduced and fish passage provided above Cle Elum Dam.
- **Wild and Scenic River Designations for Teanaway River:** North, Middle and West Forks. The Teanaway River and its tributaries currently provide some of the best quality spawning habitat for salmonids in the basin, with steelhead, bull trout, and spring Chinook present. The protection and management proposed through acquisition of the Teanaway forest lands and Wild and Scenic designation are central to the salmonid restoration efforts under the Yakima Integrated Plan. Designation would be linked to acquisition of the 46,000 acre Teanaway property. The lower limit of Wild and Scenic designation affects private property and will be determined in consultation with those property owners.

Options for the Naches and Middle Yakima River Basins

Land Acquisitions

- **Preferred Option.** Acquisition of land at the headwaters of the Little Naches River in combination with adjacent lands in the Manastash and Taneum basins, totaling up to 10,000 acres. Private lands in these watersheds are intermingled with National Forest land, generally in a checkerboard pattern. The land is primarily mid- to upper-elevation conifer forest. Most of the area has been logged and replanted, but some areas of old-growth forest remain. The upper reaches of the Little Naches River are important for water quality and maintaining cool temperatures for bull trout protection and restoration. They also protect water supply and provide current or potential salmon and steelhead spawning grounds.
- **Alternatives:** If the lands in the Little Naches Basin identified above are not available or cannot be acquired at a reasonable cost, other options are available as well. These include:

- Acquisition of Conrad Meadows. Yakima Co. *Acreage?*. Tieton River watershed.
- Acquisition of Yakima County Tree Farms LLC (former Miller Shingle, near Yakama Nation Reservation boundary. Yakima Co. See “Priority Timberlands” handout from DFW. *Acreage?*. Ahtanum Creek and Klickitat River watersheds.
- Acquisition of 7,500 acres of Pine Forest lands in Cowiche Creek watershed. Yakima Co.
- Acquisition of Ahtanum Irrigation District forested lands. Eight to ten sections, or approximately 5,000 to 6,000 acres.

Public Lands and River Corridor Designations

The subcommittee proposes the following:

- **Wilderness Designation** of approximately 1,500 acres adjacent to and near the William O. Douglas Wilderness in the vicinity of Bumping Lake. In addition to the Preliminary Administratively Recommended Wilderness lands in the current OWN Proposed Action, the Subcommittee proposes that the Wilderness boundary be extended to the new high water mark of the enlarged Bumping Lake Reservoir when this project is constructed.
- **Wild and Scenic River Designation** on S. Fork of the Tieton, Indian Creek and Rattlesnake Creek. Bull trout populations in the South Fork of the Tieton and Indian Creek are the strongest remaining in the Yakima basin.³ Rattlesnake Creek is also a bull trout stronghold.
- **Wild and Scenic River Designation** on Deep Creek. The Deep Creek bull trout population is one of the strongest remaining in the basin. While spawning grounds would be partially inundated by expansion of Bumping Reservoir, addition of fish passage at the new dam would allow both upstream and downstream passage, reconnecting the Deep Creek population with other populations and habitat. These twinned positive and negative effects yield a net positive outcome that protects Deep Creek to the greatest extent possible. All of Deep Creek is identified for designation in the 2011 Okanogan-Wenatchee Forest Plan Revision Proposed Action; however, the Subcommittee proposes designation above the elevation of an expanded Bumping Reservoir, protecting the remaining bull trout habitat in the reach.
- **Wild and Scenic River Designation** on American River and Rainer Fork. These tributaries to the Bumping River provide steelhead, spring Chinook and bull trout habitat. The American River spring Chinook are a demographically and genetically distinct stock.⁴

³ From http://sotr.cbfgwa.org/DPS_generaldescriptionBull.cfm?CoreID=91&DPSID=3&PopID=490&RUID=18&mnu=ESU

⁴ From http://www.hatcheryreform.us/hrp_downloads/reports/columbia_river/system-wide/4_appendix_e_population_reports/plateau-american_river_spring_chinook_01-31-09.pdf

The forest lands discussed for potential acquisition are shown in Figure 1. Lands proposed for new designations are shown on Figure 2, and rivers proposed for Wild and Scenic designation are shown on Figure 3.

Yakima Basin Forest Conservation Lands

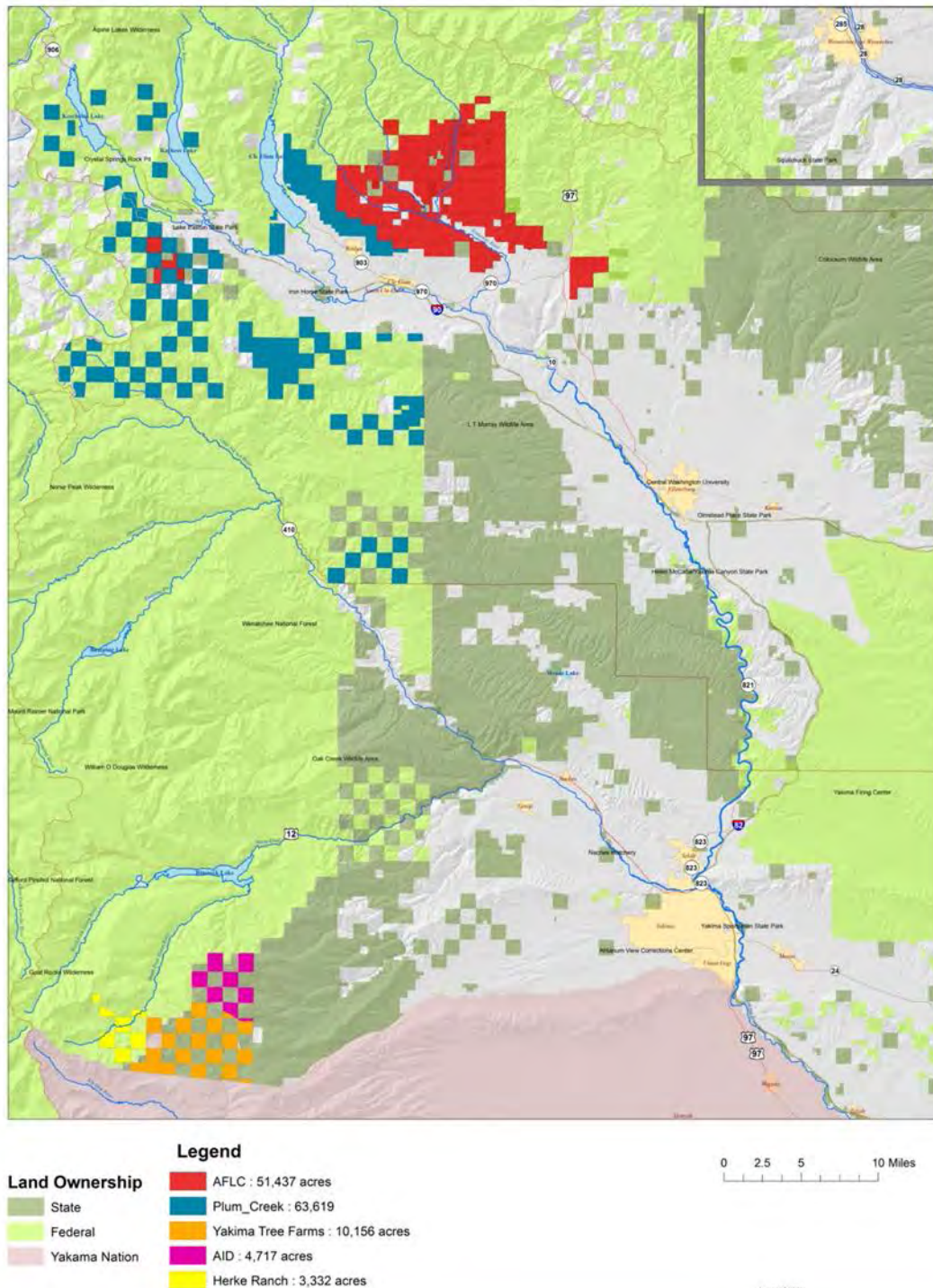


Figure 1. Options for Forest Land Acquisition.

Proposed Yakima Basin Public Lands Designations⁵

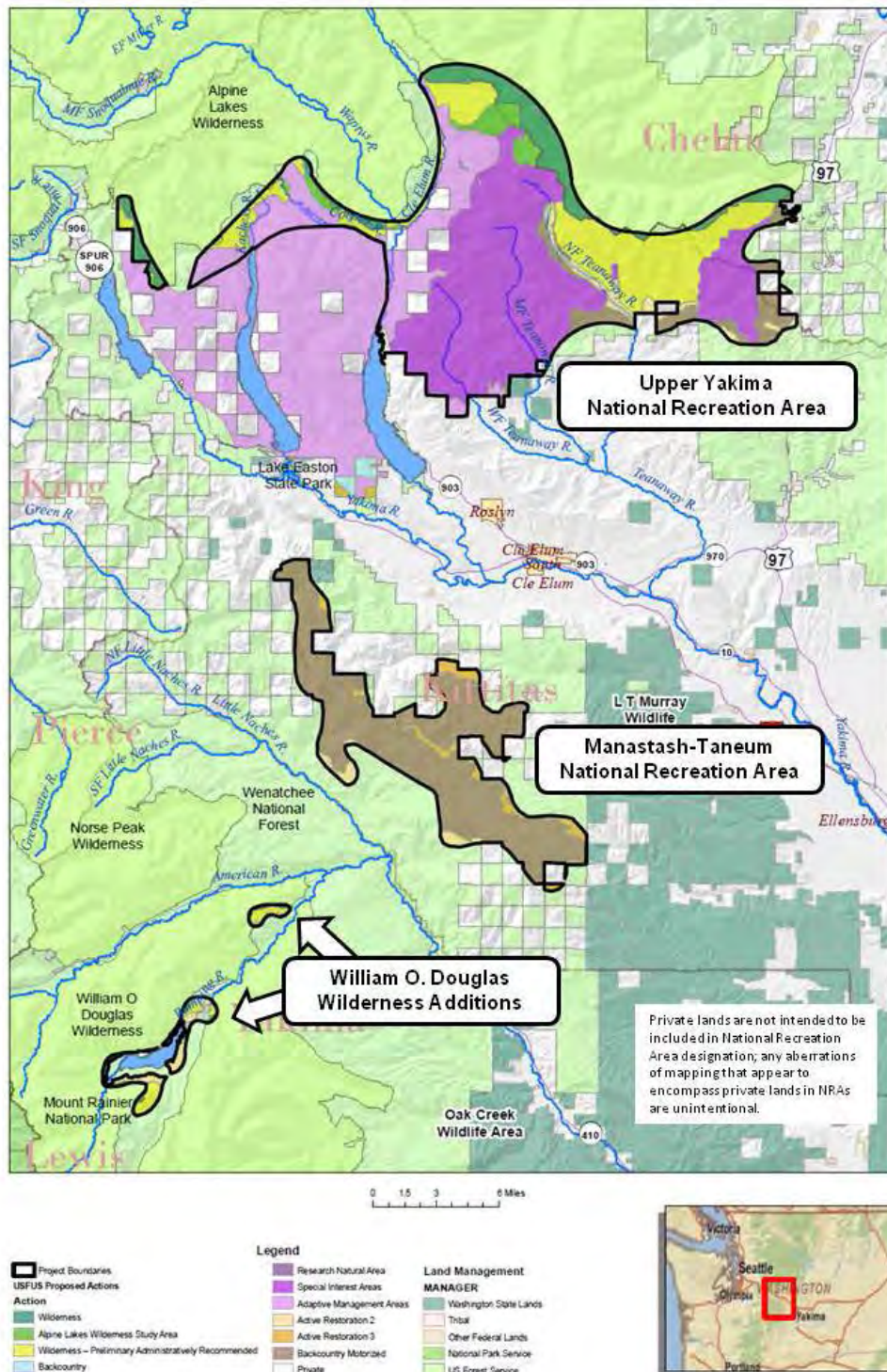


Figure 2 Options for National Recreation Area & Wilderness Designations

⁵ Please note that private lands are not intended to be included in National Recreation Area designation; any aberrations of mapping that appear to encompass private lands in NRAs are unintentional.

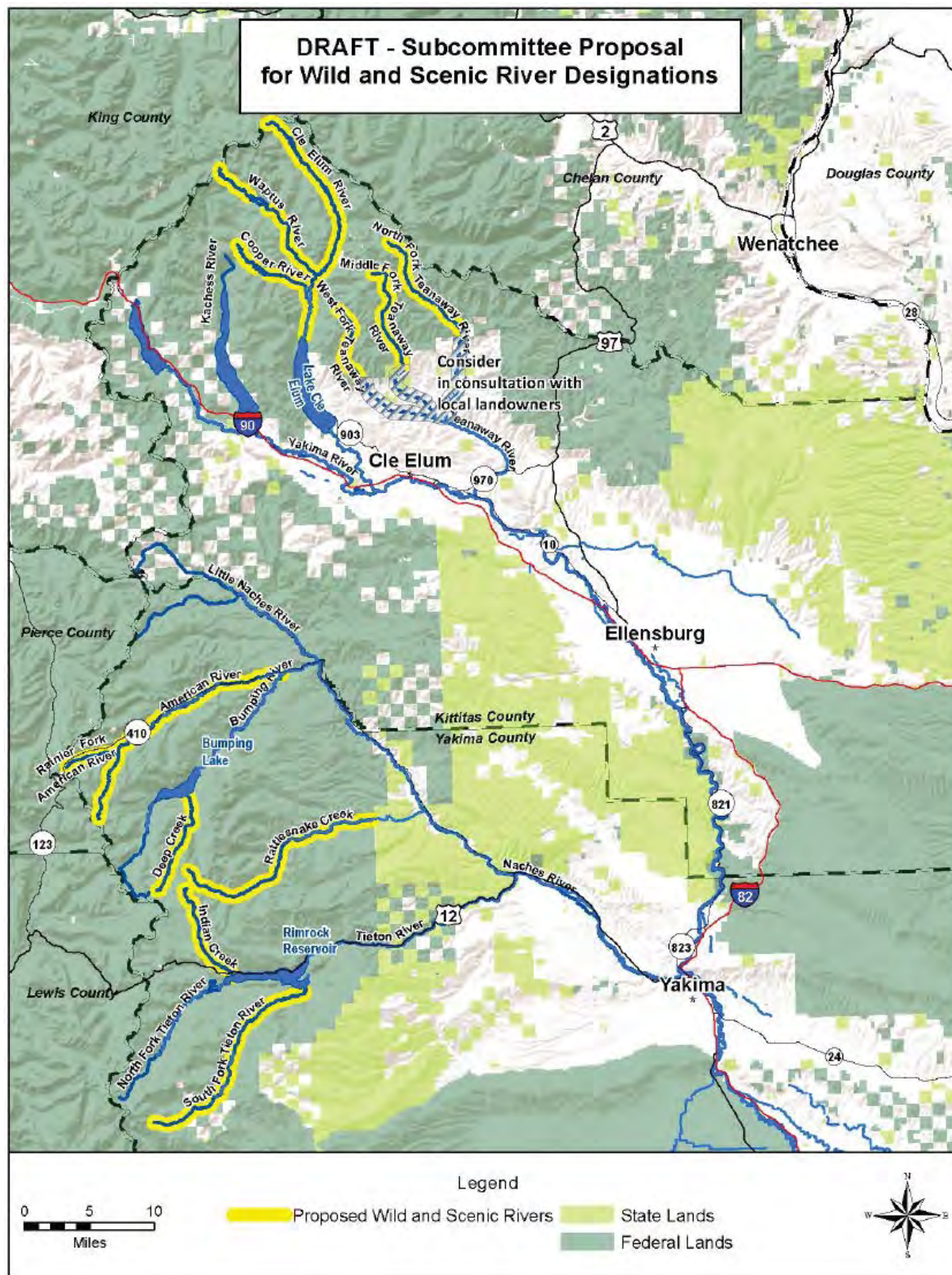


Figure 3 Options for Wild and Scenic River Designations

Options for Shrub-Steppe Protection

The shrub steppe ecosystem is extremely threatened in Washington and is a WDFW priority habitat for conservation⁶. Approximately 60% of this unique, fragile ecosystem has been lost.⁷ Habitat loss is more drastic when comparing potential range of sagebrush to its current range. Miller et al.⁸ estimated only 24% of the potential range of sagebrush currently has sagebrush present in Washington state. Agricultural development was historically the most important cause of habitat loss. Residential development, military training, hazardous waste cleanup activities at Hanford, large scale wildfire, inappropriate grazing by domestic, feral and wild grazers, renewable energy development, new agricultural water delivery projects and proposals for new water storage threaten remaining shrub steppe.

The South Central Washington Shrub Steppe and Rangeland Conservation Partnership (Partnership) formed under a Memorandum of Understanding in 2006. The Partnership is a non-regulatory, volunteer organization developed to facilitate collaboration among public and private entities interested in conserving working rangelands, open space, and wildlife habitat. The Partnership focal area includes shrub steppe in Benton, Yakima, Kittitas, and Grant Counties.

Greater sage grouse are a candidate for federal listing and rely on shrub-steppe habitat. Ferruginous hawks have been listed as a state threatened species since 1983.⁹ Their core nesting range has contracted to southeastern Washington with only 35 active territories documented in 2010.¹⁰ Numerous other shrub steppe obligate species have experienced population declines in response to habitat loss. Black-tailed and white-tailed jackrabbits, burrowing owls, golden eagles, sage sparrow and thrasher, and sagebrush lizard are all candidates for state listing as threatened or endangered¹¹.



⁶ From WDFW website at <http://wdfw.wa.gov/conservation/phs/>

⁷ Dobler 1996 [get citation]

⁸ (2011) [get citation]

⁹ (WDFW 1996) [get citation]

¹⁰ WDFW unpublished data

¹¹ From WDFW website at <http://wdfw.wa.gov/conservation/phs/>

- **Preferred option:** The Eaton Ranch, a 15,000 acre tract in the Yakima River canyon has been identified, including the valley bottom and eastern slopes, from the Yakima River to Interstate 82 (I-82). This is the number one priority for protection because of its immediate proximity to the proposed Wymer Reservoir, sage grouse breeding areas and golden eagle nest sites. The tract is composed primarily of basalt cliffs and shrub-steppe vegetation, a critical habitat type. In addition, the Yakima Canyon riparian area provides salmon, steelhead, and resident rainbow trout habitat.
- **Alternatives:** If the Eaton Ranch is not available or cannot be acquired at a reasonable cost, or if the Wymer Reservoir project is not developed, other options for shrub-steppe protection are available as well. This remains important because water supply under the Integrated Plan will be used, in part, for additional municipal development and rural residential uses in lowland areas that may affect shrub-steppe habitat. These alternate sites include:
 - Rattlesnake Mountain (McWhorter Ranch). Benton Co. 14,000 acres. High priority for South Central Washington Shrub Steppe and Rangeland partnership. The McWhorter Ranch acquisition is the top ranked shrub-steppe project partially funded by the 2011 Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program and has long been sought by WDFW and Benton County.
 - Cowiche Watershed lands. Yakima Co. 12,000 to 14,000 acres. Priority habitats present and in good to excellent condition include: stream, riparian, shrub-steppe, oak woodland, cliffs and talus.

Shrub Steppe Options and Alternatives are shown on Figure 4.

The greater sage-grouse, once common and abundant in eastern Washington, has declined to approximately 1100 birds statewide. Roughly 200 of these birds remain in the focal area and are entirely dependent on the Yakima Training Center for population persistence (WDFW, unpublished data). The imperiled condition of this federal candidate and state threatened species is a primary driving force for numerous shrub steppe conservation actions at the national and state levels.





Figure 4. Locations of the proposed Wymer Reservoir and high priority shrub steppe project sites in the South Central Washington Shrub Steppe and Rangeland Conservation Partnership focal area.

Who Will Own and Manage the Lands Acquired?

There are a range of alternatives regarding who should own and manage the lands acquired. The following list describes several alternatives for potential land management scenarios.

Private. Private ownerships could allow for long-term protection through the use of conservation easements or from the transfer of development rights.

Local. A consortium made up of several stakeholder groups, including Kittitas County, environmental groups, and community members could serve as land managers for several of the properties being explored for acquisition within Kittitas County. In addition the 2011 State Legislature provided for Community Forest Trusts.

State

- The Washington State Department of Natural Resources has special expertise in managing forest lands and has a long history of managing working forests.
- The Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife also has a long history of managing lands and has special expertise in managing lands for wildlife and recreation.

Recently, WDFW and WDNR have expressed a preference for WDNR to own/manage forest lands and for WDFW manage shrub-steppe lands.

Federal

- The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has proven to be a competent manager of shrub-steppe lands in the Yakima Canyon. The BLM balances recreational use with working lands, while continuing to protect shrub-steppe habitats. A federal BLM option is viable for shrub-steppe lands acquired through this program.
- A Forest Service option is viable for high elevation Plum Creek forest lands.

The Subcommittee recommends that ownership options in specific areas be prioritized as follows:

- **Forested lands in the Teanaway Basin:** The preferred ownership option is consortium/ community ownership such as a Community Forest Trust. If this is not feasible, then the next best option is State ownership with strong participation by a stakeholder advisory committee.
- **Forested areas in the headwaters of Taneum and Manastash Creeks.** These are “checkerboard” lands where private lands are intermingled with U.S. Forest Service Lands. The best option if these lands are acquired is Forest Service ownership.
- **Eaton Ranch shrub-steppe lands.** State or federal ownership is recommended.

- **Additional forested and shrub-steppe land options.** The subcommittee has not reviewed ownership options in detail for the alternative land options.

Draft

Appendix

Table 1. Priority habitat and special status wildlife species that exist within the timberlands, central Washington.

Community, or Habitat Type		Occurrence	Status ¹²	Source
PHS: Habitat				
Old Growth/Mature Forest		Primary, spotted owl habitat	PHS	WDFW
Instream		Approximately 4 miles of mainstem Teanaway River, several miles of type 3 streams that support ESA listed steelhead and bull trout.	PHS	WDFW
Aspen stands > 2 acres		Several stands	PHS	WDFW
Freshwater Wetlands		Multiple wetlands	PHS	WDFW
Riparian		Approximately 4 miles of mainstem Teanaway River	PHS	WDFW
Snags and Logs		Abundant in spotted owl habitat	PHS	WDFW
ESA & PHS: Wildlife				
Grizzly Bear		Individual occurrence ⁱ	FT; SE; P1	WDFW
Gray Wolf		Suspected ⁱⁱ Individual occurrence	FT; SE; P1	WDFW

¹² Federal Candidate (FC), Federal Threatened (FT), Federal Species of Concern (FCo), State Candidate (SC), State Endangered (SE), Protected (P) (1, 2, and 3 – priority levels).

Species, Community, or Habitat Type		Occurrence	Status ¹²	Source
Canada Lynx		Suspected Individual occurrence	FC; ST/ P2	WDFW
Bald Eagle	Breeding ⁱⁱⁱ		FCo; ST	WDFW, Yakama Nation
Northern Goshawk ^{iv}	Breeding		FCo; SC; P3	WDFW, USFS
Golden Eagle	Breeding		FCo; SC; P3	WDFW
Peregrine Falcon	Breeding		FCo; SC; P2	USFS
Wolverine	Suspected Individual occurrence		FCo; SC	Historic
Townsend's Big-Eared Bat	Breeding		FCo; SC; P3	USFS
Western Toad	Breeding		FCo; SC; P3	USFS/ CWU
Columbia Spotted Frog	Breeding		SC	CWU
Larch Mountain Salamander	Suspected – nearby populations		FCo; SC; p3	WDFW
Rocky Mountain Tailed Frog	Breeding, rearing, and migrating		SC; P2	WDFW
Sharp Tailed Snake	Breeding		FCo; SC; P3	WDFW
Pacific Fisher	Suspected habitat extirpated		FC; SE	Historic range estimates
Black-backed woodpecker	Breeding		SC	USFS

Species, Community, or Habitat Type		Occurrence	Status ¹²	Source
Pileated woodpecker	Breeding		SC; P3	WDFW, USFS
White-headed woodpecker	Suspected breeding		SC; P3	USFS
Flammulated Owl	Breeding		SC; P3	USFS
Vaux's Swift	Breeding		SC	USFS
Mid-Columbia Chinook	Spawning ^v		n/a	WDFW, Yakama Nation
Mid-Columbia Coho	Spawning, rearing, migration		n/a	WDFW, Yakama Nation
Cle Elum Sockeye	Spawning, rearing, migration		n/a	WDFW, Yakama Nation
Mid-Columbia Steelhead ^{vi}	Spawning, rearing, migration		FT; SC	WDFW, Yakama Nation
Bull Trout	Spawning, rearing, migration ^{vii}		FT; SE; P1	WDFW, Yakama Nation, Y. Reiss, USFWS

Table 2. Priority project sites and their relevance to implementing or supporting existing conservation studies or plans in the South Central Washington Shrub Steppe and Rangeland Partnership focal area.

Study or Plan	Rattlesnake Mountain (McWhorter Ranch)	Wymer Project Area	Cowiche Watershed
Ferruginous Hawk Recovery Plan (WDFW 1996)	Included w/in central recovery zone. Important foraging area and potential nesting. Several active territories overlap project.	Included w/in central recovery zone. Several historical territories present in project area.	Not in a recovery zone for the hawk
Identifying and Preserving Biodiversity on a Regional Scale (Soll 1999)	Not mentioned in recommendations	Identified as important habitat linkage between YTC & WDFW lands	Identified as important habitat linkage between YTC, WDFW lands & Yakama Reservation
Columbia Plateau Ecoregional Assessment (TNC 1999)	Important buffer to major portfolio site, i.e., Hanford	Included in the portfolio site along with YTC and WDFW lands to the west	
Yakima Subbasin Plan (NWPCC 2004)	Contributes to Strategy # 1 to protect landscape connectivity in the Rattlesnake Hills sage-grouse management unit	Contributes to Strategy # 1 to protect landscape connectivity in the Umtanum Ridge sage-grouse management unit	Contributes to Strategy # 1 to protect landscape connectivity in the Ahtanum Ridge sage-grouse management unit Identified as potential spawning habitat for federally threatened steelhead

Study or Plan	Rattlesnake Mountain (McWhorter Ranch)	Wymer Project Area	Cowiche Watershed
Greater Sage- Grouse Recovery Plan (Stinson et al 2004)	Included in the Rattlesnake Hills Management Unit	Included within the Umtanum Ridge Management Unit	Included within the Ahtanum Ridge Management Unit
Washington Connected Landscape Project: Statewide Analysis (WWHCWG 2010)	Identified as important to 4 of 5 species analyzed for landscape connectivity	Identified as important to 3 of 5 focal species analyzed for connectivity and landscape integrity	Identified as important to 2 of 5 focal species analyzed for connectivity and landscape integrity
Shrub Steppe Evaluation Tool (Livingston et al. 2009)	Meets all requirements related to landscape size, condition and context.	Meets all requirements related to landscape size and context.	Meets all requirements related to landscape condition and context.

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- i All grizzly bear sightings in the area have been directly observed or verified by WDFW grizzly bear biologists. Natural Heritage Database, updated 2006.
 - ii Gray wolves have been sighted in the vicinity of all sides of the Teanaway project area. All sightings referred to in this proposal have been verified by WDFW biologists.
 - iii Bald eagles have been documented using the lower Teanaway River for winter roosting and foraging. Ken Bevis, WDFW Biologist, personal communication.
 - iv Reproductive surveys for goshawks were conducted in the project area in 1994 and 1995 by S. Finn, WDFW Biologist. Biologists conducting spotted owl surveys have made incidental sightings of goshawk nests, and biologists working for American Forest Resources have conducted goshawk surveys to located active nests for timber harvest planning.

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- ^v Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife and the Washington Treaty Tribes, 2002. Salmon and Steelhead Stock Inventory Database, Olympia, WA. WDFW and the Yakama Nation conduct surveys for Chinook in the Teanaway River system on a yearly basis.
- ^{vi} Karp, C., W. Larrick, M. Johnston, and T. Dick. 2005. Steelhead movements in the upper Yakima basin, winter 2003/2004. U. S. Bureau of Reclamation Technical Memorandum 8290-05-01.
- ^{vii} Reiss, Karen Yuki. 2003. Genetic Variability within Bull Trout (*Salvelinus confluentus*) Populations in the Yakima River Basin. A Thesis. Central Washington University, Ellensburg, WA.

Contact: Wendy Christensen, 509-575-5848, ext. 203

Derek Sandison, 509-457-7120

Agenda

Yakima River Basin Water Enhancement Project Workgroup

December 14, 2011, 9:30 AM to 11:30 AM Yakima Arboretum, 1401 Arboretum Dr., Yakima WA

- | | |
|---------------|---|
| 9:30 – 9:40 | Welcome/Introductions and Agenda Overview
- <i>Ben Floyd, Anchor QEA</i> |
| 9:40 – 10:00 | Status on Early Action Items
- <i>Wendy Christensen, Reclamation and Derek Sandison, Ecology</i> |
| 10:00 – 10:40 | Watershed Lands Conservation Subcommittee Proposal for Workgroup Action
- <i>Jeff Tayer, WDFW and Andrew Graham, HDR</i> |
| 10:40 – 11:00 | Implementation Subcommittee Update
- <i>Derek Sandison, Ecology and Dan Silver, Consultant</i> |
| 11:00 – 11:20 | Draft Programmatic EIS Update
- <i>Wendy Christensen, Reclamation and Derek Sandison, Ecology</i> |
| 11:20 – 11:30 | Public Comment |

Adjourn

Contact: Wendy Christensen, Columbia-Cascades Area Office, (509) 575-5848, ext. 203
Derek Sandison, Washington State Department of Ecology, (509) 457-7120

Meeting Notes

December 14, 2011

Yakima Arboretum, Yakima WA

Yakima River Basin Water Enhancement Project (YRBWEP) Workgroup

Welcome/Introductions and Agenda Overview by Ben Floyd, Anchor QEA

Ben Floyd welcomed the Workgroup members and public, led introductions, and provided an overview of the agenda. Ben also reminded the group of the Draft Integrated Plan Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS) Public Open Houses taking place later in the day, at 1:30pm and 5:00pm.

Two revisions were made to the October 12, 2011 Workgroup meeting notes. A comment made by Beneitta Eaton was updated in the meeting notes. Scott Revell also identified a spelling error that will be corrected. (*For Workgroup meeting notes and information on all other topics discussed at the December meeting please see <http://www.usbr.gov/pn/programs/yrbwep/2011integratedplan/meetings/index.html>*).

Status on Early Action Items by Wendy Christensen, Reclamation and Derek Sandison, Ecology

Wendy Christensen and Derek Sandison updated the Workgroup on the status of the early actions request approved by the Workgroup at the October meeting. Secretary Salazar was provided the request on November 1. . . A federal budget for 2012 has yet to be passed by Congress, and significant reductions in the range of @ 15% are expected. . Since federal budgets are prepared 3 years in advance, 2014 will be the first chance to request funds specifically for the IWRMP. Reclamation will look for available funds in existing appropriations in the 2012 and 2013 budgets, but amounts will likely not be significant. However, the leadership in Reclamation and Department of the Interior are aware of the request and the broad-based support, and continue to look for potential funding to support early actions. This is a very high priority of both the Commissioner and Secretary and the IWRMP is a topic during budget discussions in D.C. Additional briefings and discussions are planned.

Derek provided a status on the state funding outlook. The expected State share to fund from the early action request is still rough, ranging from approximately \$3 to 6 million. State support for the Integrated Plan remains strong. In addition to the early actions, state funding will be needed for additional planning efforts such as preparing a framework document, which will include additional engineering and economic analysis.



U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Reclamation



Both Wendy and Derek noted that the Workgroup, the Integrated Plan and the associated draft PEIS are receiving a lot of positive attention. It is important to stick together as group and continue to move the plan forward at the local, state and federal levels.

Watershed Lands Conservation Subcommittee Proposal for Workgroup Action *by Jeff Tayer, WDFW and Andrew Graham, HDR*

Jeff Tayer and Andrew Graham reviewed the Watershed Lands Conservation Subcommittee's process to develop a refined Watershed Lands conservation proposal. This proposal will be used to update the interim description included in the Integrated Plan. Several components are included in the proposal including, protection, management, recreation and maintaining private ownership. A summary table listing proposed actions is included in today's handout materials.

The subcommittee received very few comments from the Workgroup on the draft proposal. Those received were clarifications rather than changes to the proposed actions. The subcommittee worked through these comments in November and made the following updates to the proposal, as reflected in the proposal sent to the Workgroup for the December meeting discussion:

- Land acquisitions would be from willing sellers (land owners).
- Land acquisitions include fee simple purchases and also conservation easements.
- Updated fisheries benefits discussion, particularly regarding bull trout.
- Improved the maps and factual information.

Ben asked each Workgroup member to indicate whether they were ready for the proposal to be included as an update to the Integrated Plan.

Workgroup members responded as follows:

- Mike Shuttleworth (on behalf of Commissioner Jim Beaver) – Benton County is generally in support.
- Paul Jewell – Kittitas County supports the document in its entirety. "Acquisitions from willing sellers" and "maintaining recreation" are key components in the County's support; the County does not support additional wilderness areas because they have already gone on record against that; but they recognize this is a piece of the overall package and they support the overall package.
- Jeff Tayer – WDFW supports the proposal. The Workgroup needs to figure out how to collectively speak in support of all Integrated Plan elements, including the Lands proposal.
- Michael Garrity – Supports, and believes the Lands proposal is key to reaching a balance with the plan (PEIS). The Workgroup will need to continue to work at maintaining balance in advancing the plan; it is the plan elements and the support by the varied interest that makes this plan unique.

- Jim Trull – Supports.
- Sid Morrison – If all counties support, then YBSA supports it.
- Scott Revell – Supports.
- Rick Dieker – There’s been no formal Yakima-Tieton Irrigation District action on this proposal, but the District generally supports.
- Jeff Thomas – Supports.
- Alex Conley – There’s been no formal action by the Yakima Basin Fish & Wildlife Recovery Board on this proposal, but it’s expected the agency supports it.
- Ron Van Gundy – Supports.
- Tom Ring – There’s been no formal action on this by the Yakama Tribal Council; supported at the staff level.
- Mike Leita – Yakima County has some edits to the proposal related to water storage, funding sources and a few other topics. Comments will be provided by noon on December 15 to the consultant team. Yakima County also has taken action through their authority under the Washington State Growth Management Act (GMA) to protect shrub steppe habitat. County code was cited and a handout provided to the consultant team.
- Bill Lover – The City Council has not taken formal action but he has consulted with City staff and he supports the proposal.
- David Fast – The Yakama Tribal Council hasn’t taken formal action; but we generally support the proposal as an amendment to the Integrated Plan.
- Dawn Wiedmeier – Supports.
- Derek Sandison – Supports.

Workgroup member Dale Bambrick (NMFS) provided comments on the proposal in advance of the meeting via email, and also expressed his support. Andrew Graham shared these comments. Dale has a few updates he would like to see made to the proposal related to factual information on spring and summer Chinook, statements on funding contingency and thinks that the photos on the title page should be deleted to be consistent with other Integrated Plan documents.

Ben summarized the discussion. It appears the overall Workgroup consensus is to update the Integrated Plan to include the Lands proposal. However this is contingent on the comments yet to be provided by Yakima County.

Paul Jewell then briefly updated the Workgroup on Kittitas County’s progress in their own evaluation and analyses of the Lands proposal by a separate Kittitas County advisory committee. In March of this year, Paul expressed Kittitas County’s concern that the proposed lands piece would have negative impacts on the county. In response, Kittitas County formed an advisory committee to further analyze potential impacts. The advisory committee has held three meetings, and identified key issues. Kittitas County is working with a consultant and expects to have initial results in approximately one week.

These results will include a detailed cost/benefit analysis and will hopefully give the County a broad overview and perspective in regard to the draft Lands proposal. The full analysis is projected to be complete by late February or early March 2012. Once available, Paul will share this information with the Workgroup.

Implementation Subcommittee Update *by Derek Sandison, Ecology and Dan Silver, Consultant*

Derek Sandison and Dan Silver updated the Workgroup on the progress being made by the Implementation Subcommittee. The subcommittee is meeting regularly to develop strategies to raise awareness of the Integrated Plan within and outside of the basin. Discussion includes:

- Effectively communicating information about the plan.
- Outreach opportunities in the community and education to raise support and help secure more funding.
- Establishing regional and national support.

The subcommittee is also working to develop a proposal for Congressional authorization language. The subcommittee plans to have a draft proposal for the Workgroup to review soon. A major challenge has been finding language that fits so the plan moves together as one piece (e.g., timing and sequence of projects). The subcommittee will continue these efforts with an increased level of effort expected in the first half of 2012. The subcommittee hopes to report significant progress by next March.

Draft Programmatic EIS Update *by Wendy Christensen, Reclamation and Derek Sandison, Ecology*
Wendy Christensen and Derek Sandison reviewed efforts conducted to prepare and issue the draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS) on the Integrated Plan. The draft PEIS was released November 16, 2011 with the review period that ends January 3, 2012. A handout was provided to the Workgroup outlining some suggestions on how to provide input during the review process. They reported that an extension of the comment period was requested; however, because the actual number of days for the comment period is 49 days due to holidays, it was determined that 49 days were adequate for a programmatic document.

Public meetings have been held, and two more meetings will be held in Yakima in the afternoon. The public meeting held in Cle Elum on December 5th had approximately 25 attendees. There were no specific questions about the potential Cle Elum 3-foot pool rise from the public; most discussion involved comments on exempt wells. The public meeting in Ellensburg on December 6th only had about 10 attendees. There was a request during one of the meetings for a presentation on the Keechelus-to-Kachess Pipeline in Kittitas County. This presentation will take place Tuesday, December 20th in Ellensburg at the Community Renewable Energy Roundtable. At the public meetings a court reporter will be present to capture oral comments for the record. Wendy made the Workgroup aware of the

several handouts used at these public meetings that might be useful in talking to their respective boards or others. Additional materials are available and can be obtained by contacting Wendy.

A Draft Coordination Act Report (CAR) was developed by United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and WDFW. This report ensures coordination with USFWS occurs in addressing potential effects to endangered species as part of the draft environmental review process. USFWS provided recommendations in the Coordination Act report and Reclamation will provide responses to those recommendations in the FEIS. The CAR is available on the Internet along with the draft PEIS.

Reclamation continues to work with cooperating agencies (US Forest Service and Bonneville Power Administration) on the draft PEIS.

In addition to the PEIS, Reclamation and the State are planning to develop a Framework for Implementation document that will include additional economic and supplemental engineering analyses of the Integrated Plan, including preliminary benefit/cost analyses and preliminary cost allocation. Several individuals on the Workgroup have expressed interest in seeing additional economic information on the plan. Early analyses results should be available by summer 2012.

Next steps in 2012 include responding to comments on the draft PEIS, preparing a final PEIS, developing the Framework for Implementation document, and Implementation Subcommittee activities related to funding and authorization updates. Workgroup meetings planned for 2012 are as follows:

- March 14
- June 13 (could possibly change)
- September 12
- December 12

Meetings will be held at the Yakima Arboretum.

Workgroup Comments

- Sid Morrison – The Yakima Basin Storage Alliance (YBSA) is constantly looking to bring down costs on water transfers. One week ago, the “hammer was brought down” on the Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) related to wind storage integration. There’s a chance BPA may be interested in buying into the Yakima Basin. This could maybe change the costs, and we should keep an eye on this.
- Michael Garrity - American Rivers has also been keeping track the BPA situation. BPA’s situation and the Yakima Basin plan are not intrinsically linked.
- David Fast – Would like to hear public comment at these meetings during the public comment time, instead of throughout the meeting as occurred at today’s meeting.

Public Comments

- Bob Hall – Would like the Workgroup to reconsider YBSA’s request to open the Implementation Subcommittee representation to a larger group including private sector representatives.
- Chuck Klarich – When will specific questions be answered? *The PEIS provides some detail but additional detail will be generated as individual projects are pursued as part of project-specific environmental review.*
- Chuck Klarich – In 2004, Congress passed legislation to address water shortage problems. Is this Integrated Plan addressing this water shortage, or is it addressing other interests? Why are we spending so much time trying to implement items already funded? The Integrated Plan is going beyond water, and not addressing water storage enough.
- David Ortman – Made several comments as provided in Attachment A of these notes.

Adjourn

Workgroup Members in Attendance

Alex Conley, Yakima Basin Fish and Wildlife Recovery Board

Rick Dieker, Yakima-Tieton Irrigation District

John Easterbrooks, Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife

Urban Eberhart, Kittitas Reclamation District

David Fast, Yakama Nation – Yakima/Klickitat Fisheries Project

Paul Jewell, Kittitas County

Mike Leita, Yakima County

Bill Lover, City of Yakima

Sid Morrison, Yakima Basin Storage Alliance

Scott Revell, Kennewick Irrigation District

Tom Ring, Yakama Nation

Derek Sandison, Washington State Department of Ecology

Mike Shuttleworth (on behalf of Commissioner Jim Beaver), Benton County

Jeff Tayer, Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife

Jeff Thomas, US Fish and Wildlife Service

Jim Trull, Sunnyside Valley Irrigation District

Ron VanGundy, Roza Irrigation District

Dawn Wiedmeier, Bureau of Reclamation

Other Attendees

Gregg Bafundo, Trout Unlimited

Melissa Bates, Aqua Permanente

David Bowen, American Forest Land Co.

Dave Brown, City of Yakima

David Child, Yakima Basin Joint Board
Wendy Christensen, Bureau of Reclamation
Stuart Crane, Yakama Nation
Irene Davidson, US Forest Service, Naches Ranger District
Charlie de la Chapelle, Yakima Basin Storage Alliance
Warren Dickman, Yakima Basin Storage Alliance
Spencer Easton, ESA Adolfson
Beneitta Eaton
Ben Floyd, Anchor QEA
Joel Freudenthal, Yakima County
Kristi Geris, Anchor QEA
Andrew Graham, HDR Engineering, Inc.
Bob Hall, Yakima Basin Storage Alliance/Yakima Auto Dealers
Justin Harter, Naches-Selah Irrigation District
Ken Hasbrouck, Kittitas Reclamation District
Lynn Holt, Bureau of Reclamation
Joel Hubble, Bureau of Reclamation
Eleanor Hungate
Jerry Kelso, Consultant to Bureau of Reclamation
Chuck Klarich, Yakima Basin Storage Alliance
David Lester, Yakima Herald
Barb Lisk, Office of Representative Richard Hastings
Chris Lynch, Bureau of Reclamation
Larry Martin, Velikanje Halvorson
Keith McGowan, Bureau of Reclamation
Candy McKinley, Bureau of Reclamation
Jim Milton, Yakima-Tieton Irrigation District
Scott Nicolai, Yakima-Klickitat Fisheries Project
David Ortman, Sierra Club
David Reeploeg, Office of Senator Maria Cantwell
Ann Root, ESA Adolfson
Mike Schwisow, Schwisow & Associates
Teresa Scott, Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife
Dan Silver, Independent Consultant
Bob Tuck, Yakima Basin Storage Alliance
Kate Woods, Office of Representative Doc Hastings

Next Workgroup Meeting

The next meeting will be held March 14, 2012. A meeting notice and agenda will be distributed in advance of the meeting.

Where to Find Workgroup Information

Meeting materials, notes, and presentations from the Workgroup meetings will be posted on the project website (<http://www.usbr.gov/pn/programs/yrbwep/index.html>). A bibliography of information sources, many of which are available online, is also posted on the website. If anyone needs help finding an information source, contact those listed at the top of page 1 or Ben Floyd at Anchor QEA, Richland office, (509) 392-4548, or bfloyd@anchorgea.com.

David E. Ortman
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Seattle, WA 98117
206-789-6136
Attorney-at-Law

Statement of David E. Ortman to the Yakima River Basin Water Enhancement Project Workgroup –
December 14, 2011

I have the following questions for the Bureau of Reclamation:

- Is it good policy for Reclamation to participate in an October 2011 ceremony in Port Angeles to remove the two Elwha Dams, proclaim a new mission of restoration, and then the next day come to Yakima to push for at least two new days?
- Is it good policy to participate in a 20 member Workgroup with only a single environmental organization at the table?
- Would Reclamation, as a Federal agency, agree to participate in a Workgroup as the only Federal Agency present?
- Could one Federal agency represent and make commitments for all Federal Agencies?
- Do you think that the four irrigation districts or the three Counties would have agreed to participate in a Workgroup with only a single representative per group?
- Is it good public policy to establish Workgroup Subcommittees without public notice of their meetings or to close their meetings to the public?
- Is it good public policy to present an Early Action list of \$20.9 million with not a single dollar listed for water conservation?

The Federal Agencies are the only Workgroup members that are required to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

- Is it good public policy for Reclamation to issue a Draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (DPEIS) that fails to include a range of alternatives, as required by NEPA?
- Is it good public policy under NEPA for Reclamation to have a longer comment period for scoping comments than for comments on the DPEIS and to refuse to extend the comment period as requested by: Endangered Species Coalition, Federation of Western Outdoor Clubs, Kittitas Audubon Society, Lower Columbia Basin Audubon Society, The Mazamas, The Mountaineers, Seattle Audubon Society, Sierra Club Washington State Chapter, Western Lands Project, Western Watersheds Project, Wild Fish Conservancy?

- Is it good policy under NEPA for Reclamation to announce that it intends to issue the Final PEIS, barely three weeks after the end of the comment period?
- Does this demonstrate to the public that Reclamation is unbiased and will respond to comments seriously on the DPEIS, as required by NEPA?
- Is it good policy under NEPA to hold “public meetings” on the DPEIS during the work day at 1:30-3:30 PM and 5:00-7:00 PM over the dinner hour?
- Is it good public policy to change the Workgroup plan at the last minute and call the Columbia River Pump Exchange with Yakima Storage a “Study” so that an “evaluation” can take place while avoiding being included in the DPEIS?
- Isn’t this what NEPA calls segmenting a proposal to avoid a comprehensive analysis?
- Is it good public policy to have the Workgroup Watershed Lands Conservation Subcommittee prepare a proposal dated December 5th, after the PDEIS is released and that is not mentioned in the PDEIS, which would require the establishment of two new National Recreation Areas on the Wenatchee National Forest dedicated to motorized recreation on public land that belongs to all citizens?
- Is it good public policy for the Workgroup to decide that it must lobby for motorized recreation on National Forests as an element to solve irrigation problems in the Yakima River Basin?

Is it good public policy to sit here meeting after meeting and take “Workgroup” actions and only allow Public Comment **after** your decision-making has taken place?

Yakima River Basin Integrated Water Resource Management Plan Summary of Potential Early Action Items – December 9, 2011

On September 18, 2011, at a briefing for Yakama Tribal Chairman Smiskin, Secretary Salazar, Governor Gregoire, Congressman Hastings, Senator Cantwell, and Commissioner Connor on the Yakima River Basin Integrated Water Resource Management Plan, Secretary Salazar requested that a list of early action items be submitted to him by November 1, 2011. Below is a synopsis of the list approved at the October 12, 2011, Workgroup meeting.

The early action items are consistent with the Draft Integrated Plan Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS) that is currently available for review and comment. Work on early action items would be subject to a favorable determination in the Final PEIS that is planned to be released in March 2012. Studies listed below are authorized under the 1979 Yakima River Basin Water Enhancement Project (YRBWEP) Act. In addition, construction is authorized for the Tributary Habitat Enhancement Program and Lake Cle Elum projects under the 1994 YRBWEP Title XII authority, with additional authority needed to implement and/or construct all other projects. Activities envisioned for the early action items listed in Table 1 involve:

- Tributary Habitat Enhancement Program – Funding would be used to construct Habitat Enhancement Projects identified as top priorities by the Habitat Subcommittee to address critical tributary habitat areas in the basin. Projects are being chosen in cooperation with National Marine Fisheries Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Yakima Basin Fish and Wildlife Recovery Board executive director.
- Fish Passage at Clear Lake Dam – Funding would be used to complete feasibility-level designs and site-specific environmental compliance to improve passage for bull trout at Clear Lake Dam.
- Subordinate Power Diversions – Funding would be used to quantify impacts to fisheries downstream from the Roza Dam diversion on the Yakima River and to identify the degree of subordination appropriate to meet fish and power needs at this location.
- Fish Passage at Cle Elum Lake Dam – Funding would be used to initiate hydraulic modeling, cultural surveys, and design data collection. NEPA compliance has been completed.
- Cle Elum Dam Pool Raise – A 3-foot raise of the Cle Elum pool is authorized as part of YRBWEP Title XII legislation. Funding would be used to complete site-specific environmental compliance and to initiate design data collection and final designs.

- Land Acquisition – Acquisition of critical habitat is a keystone to ecological restoration of the Yakima River Basin. Funding would be used to secure an agreement for purchase of a large tract of property in the Teanaway drainage and to purchase forest land in the Naches watershed.
- Wymer Dam and Reservoir – Funding would be used to initiate site-specific environmental compliance, design data collection, and feasibility-level designs.
- Bumping Lake Enlargement - Funding would be used to initiate site-specific environmental compliance, design data collection, and feasibility-level designs.
- Pipeline from Lake Keechelus to Lake Kachess – The State would fund installation and associated permitting and environmental compliance of a casing pipe under Interstate 90 as part of the current and ongoing reconstruction of the interstate. This is an important and timely step to ensure that this storage option remains viable.
- Accessing Lake Kachess Inactive Storage – Funding would be used to initiate site-specific environmental compliance, design data collection, and feasibility-level designs for a tunnel to tap 200,000 acre-feet of inactive storage in the reservoir.
- Groundwater Infiltration – Funding would be used to perform site-specific environmental compliance and feasibility-level designs for a pilot groundwater infiltration and storage project in the Yakima Basin. The pilot project is expected to be the basis for a future full-scale project.

Table 1: Yakima Basin Integrated Plan Estimated Costs (in millions) – Early Action Items, October 2011			
Integrated Plan Actions/Projects		Total Estimated Cost	Early Action* (1-2 years)
Tributary Habitat Enhancement Program		\$180.0	\$2.6
Fish Passage at Clear Lake Dam		\$3.0	\$0.4
Subordinate Power Diversions, Roza & Chandler		TBD	\$0.5
Fish Passage at Cle Elum Lake Dam		\$87.6	\$2.6
Cle Elum Dam Pool Raise		\$16.8	\$2.0
Watershed Land Conservation - Land Acquisition		TBD	\$2.0
Wymer Dam & Reservoir		\$1,077	\$3.0
Bumping Lake Enlargement		\$402.5	\$1.2
Pipeline from Lake Keechelus to Lake Kachess		\$190.7	\$3.5
Lake Kachess Inactive Storage – Tunnel		\$253.8	\$1.5
Groundwater Infiltration (Pilot project)		\$4.7	\$1.6
TOTAL			\$20.9

*Subject to completion of Integrated Plan PEIS

Summary

Watershed Land Conservation Subcommittee Proposal

AREA	PROPOSED LAND ACQUISITIONS ¹ FROM WILLING SELLERS	PROPOSED LAND DESIGNATIONS (ON EXISTING PUBLIC LANDS)	PROPOSED RIVER CORRIDOR DESIGNATIONS
Upper Yakima Basin Forest Lands	<p><u>Preferred Options</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> American Forest Lands Co. (AFLC) Teanaway Tract. Offer to purchase lands for a Community Forest Trust or State ownership. Taneum and Manastash Creek headwaters (with Little Naches lands, below). Offer to purchase lands inside National Forest boundary for Forest Service ownership. <p><u>Alternatives</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Plum Creek Co. lands in Big, Taneum, & Cabin Creek, and/or Cle Elum River basins. AFLC lands, Swauk and First Creek areas Additional private forest land holdings in Kittitas Co. Explore conservation easements and/or offer to purchase for public ownership. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Create Upper Yakima National Recreation Area (NRA). Approximately 20 percent proposed as wilderness. Create Manastash-Taneum National Recreation Area on Forest Service Lands. No wilderness designation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wild and Scenic (W&S) River designations for Upper Cle Elum, Waptus and Cooper Rivers. If AFLC Teanaway land tract is acquired, W&S River designation for portions of North, Middle and West Forks of Teanaway River.

For additional information, see Subcommittee report text and associated maps. Note that actions listed will be dependent on funding.

¹ In some circumstances, conservation easements may be used in place of fee-simple acquisition.

Summary (continued)

Watershed Land Conservation Subcommittee Proposal

AREA	PROPOSED LAND ACQUISITIONS FROM WILLING SELLERS ¹	PROPOSED LAND DESIGNATIONS (ON EXISTING PUBLIC LANDS)	PROPOSED RIVER CORRIDOR DESIGNATIONS
Middle Yakima and Naches Basin Forest Lands	<p><u>Preferred Option</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Little Naches River basin lands (with Taneum and Manastash lands, above). Offer to purchase lands inside National Forest boundary for Forest Service ownership. <p><u>Alternatives</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Various lands in Tieton, Cowiche, and/or Ahtanum Creek/Klickitat River basins. Explore conservation easements and/or offer to purchase for public ownership. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wilderness designation of lands in vicinity of Bumping Lake. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • W&S River designation of South Fork Tieton River, Indian Creek, and Rattlesnake Creek. • W&S River designation of Deep Creek (tributary to Bumping Lake). • W&S River designation of American River and Rainier Fork.
Shrub-Steppe Lands	<p><u>Preferred Option</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eaton Ranch, adjacent to proposed Wymer Reservoir site. Explore conservation easements; or offer to purchase for State or Federal ownership. <p><u>Alternatives</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rattlesnake Mountain site in Benton County • Cowiche Creek Basin lands in Yakima County. • For both properties, explore conservation easements and/or offer to purchase for public ownership. 	Not applicable.	Not applicable.

For additional information, see Subcommittee report text and associated maps. Note that actions listed will be dependent on funding.

¹ In some circumstances, conservation easements may be used in place of fee-simple acquisition.

How Can I Provide Input?

Yakima River Basin Integrated Water Resource Management Plan Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS)

December 2011

As part of the public and agency involvement process under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA), you are invited to provide comments on the Yakima River Basin Integrated Water Resource Management Plan Draft PEIS. **The comment period began on November 18, 2011, and continues through January 3, 2012.**

All comments received during the comment period will be considered and addressed in the Final PEIS. The most effective comments will address specific details of the proposed Integrated Water Resource Management Plan and Draft PEIS, including components of the alternatives, analyses and methodologies, sources of information, and conclusions. Comments that are solution-oriented and provide specific examples are more meaningful than those that simply state opposition to an alternative or proposed element. Being clear, concise, relevant to the analysis, and as specific as possible in your comments will help us to better understand your concerns, improve the EIS and decisionmaking process, and provide meaningful responses.

We are seeking comments on this document and we would like your help! There are a variety of ways for you to participate in this process:

- ✓ **Attend** one of six public meetings (court reporter will be present to transcribe your comments):
 - **Cle Elum – December 5, 2011, 1:30-3:30 p.m., and 5-7 p.m. at the U.S. Forest Service Cle Elum Ranger District Office**
 - **Ellensburg – December 6, 2011, 1:30-3:30 p.m., and 5-7 p.m. at Hal Holmes Center**
 - **Yakima – December 14, 2011, 1:30-3:30 p.m., and 5-7 p.m. at the Yakima Arboretum**
- ✓ **Mail** written scoping comments, requests to be added to the mailing list, and/or requests for a scoping document to:

Bureau of Reclamation, Columbia-Cascades Area Office
Attention: Candace McKinley, Environmental Program Manager
1917 Marsh Road
Yakima WA 98901
- ✓ **E-mail** comments to yrbwep@usbr.gov

- ✓ **Fax** comments to 509-454-5650
- ✓ **Telephone** comments to be recorded at (509) 575-5848, ext. 613.

Then What Happens?

- ✓ **A Final PEIS will be prepared.** Notice of the availability of the Final PEIS will be published in the Federal Register and local newspapers prior to release of the document, which is anticipated for March 2012. A Record of Decision may be prepared by the Bureau of Reclamation not sooner than 30 days after the Final PEIS is issued.

Chapter 16C.11 UPLAND WILDLIFE HABITAT CONSERVATION AREAS

Sections:

- [16C.11.010](#) Purpose and Intent.
- [16C.11.020](#) Protection Approach.
- [16C.11.030](#) Functional Properties.

ARTICLE I – DESIGNATION AND MAPPING

- [16C.11.040](#) Upland Wildlife Habitat Conservation Areas.
- [16C.11.050](#) Mapping.
- [16C.11.060](#) Permit and Critical Areas Report Requirement.
- [16C.11.070](#) Upland Wildlife Habitat Conservation Area Development Standards.

16C.11.010 Purpose and Intent.

(1) Wildlife habitat conservation means land management for maintaining species in suitable habitats within their natural geographic distribution so that isolated subpopulations are not created. This does not mean maintaining all individuals of all species at all times, but it does mean cooperative and coordinated land use planning is critically important (WAC 355-190-080(5)).

(2) It is the intent of these provisions to classify seasonal ranges and habitat elements with which federal and state listed endangered, threatened and sensitive species have a primary association and which, if altered, may reduce the likelihood that the species will maintain and reproduce over the long term.

(3) It is the purpose of these provisions to protect and conserve natural habitats of upland wildlife species.

(Ord. 2-2009 § 2 (Exh. A (17) (part)), 2009).

16C.11.020 Protection Approach.

(1) To maintain viable populations of upland wildlife species, there must be adequate environmental conditions for reproduction, foraging, resting, cover, and dispersal of animals at a variety of scales across the landscape. Key factors affecting habitat quality include fragmentation, the presence of essential resources such as food, water, and nest building materials, the complexity of the environment, and the presence or absence of predator species and diseases. As a method of linking large habitat areas, migration corridors offer a means by which to connect publicly protected lands and other intact habitat areas. Yakima County protects habitat for upland species using the Upland Wildlife Habitat Conservation Area and associated protection measures described below.

(2) Yakima County has a very high proportion of federal, state and other publicly and tribally owned land. These lands are generally managed for the conservation of wildlife habitat. Consequently, one of Yakima County's approaches to protecting all wildlife habitat types is to rely on the management of these lands by the responsible entity (i.e.,

U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Department of Defense, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, Washington Department of Natural Resources, Yakima Nation, etc.). The protection of Larch mountain salamander (*Plethodon larselli*) (State Sensitive, Federal Species of Concern) and spotted owl (*Strix occidentalis*) (State Endangered, Federal Threatened) habitat is accomplished through this approach, since their habitat of primary association is located within Federal ownership.

(3) To aid in upland wildlife protection on private lands, Yakima County followed a methodology utilizing Gap Analysis Program (GAP) data to map wildlife habitat. Comparison of the map to public lands shows that a small percentage of the mapped area is within private ownership. An analysis of the privately owned lands showed they are largely in remote areas that are undeveloped with no cultivated agriculture. The predominate land use on these private lands is forest and rangeland. Consequently, part of Yakima County's approach to protect upland wildlife on private land is to rely on the large lot/low density provisions of the Remote (40 acre minimum), Forest (80 acre minimum) and Agriculture (40 acre minimum) zoning districts.

(4) Through the wildlife habitat analysis, habitat for listed state and federal threatened, endangered and sensitive species was assessed and incorporated for upland species. Consequently, Yakima County's approach to protect habitat for listed state and federal threatened sensitive upland species is to require approval of a standard development permit, the submittal of a habitat assessment, and where necessary, development of a management plan as outlined in Sections [16C.11.060](#) and [16C.11.070](#). Protection measures for bull trout (*Salvelinus confluentus*) (State Candidate, Federal Threatened) and steelhead (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*) (State Candidate, Federal Threatened) are accomplished by the standards in Chapter [16C.06](#).

(Ord. 2-2009 § 2 (Exh. A (17) (part)), 2009).

16C.11.030 Functional Properties.

(1) Wildlife habitat consists of the arrangement of food, water, cover, and space required to meet the biological needs of an animal. Different wildlife species have different requirements, and these requirements vary over the course of a year. Wildlife habitat generally includes one or more of the following functional properties:

- (a) Reproduction and/or nesting;
- (b) Resting and refuge;
- (c) Foraging for food;
- (d) Dispersal and migration.

(Ord. 2-2009 § 2 (Exh. A (17) (part)), 2009).

ARTICLE I – DESIGNATION AND MAPPING

16C.11.040 Upland Wildlife Habitat Conservation Areas.

(1) Upland Wildlife Habitat Conservation Areas are those areas within which state or federally designated endangered, threatened, or sensitive species have a primary association. State listed species are those native fish and wildlife species legally designated as Endangered (WAC 232-12-014), Threatened (WAC 232-12-011) or Sensitive (WAC 232-12-011) by the Washington Fish and Wildlife Commission. Federal listed Threatened, Endangered or Sensitive species means all species of wildlife listed as such by the United States Secretary of the Interior or Commerce.

(2) Upland Wildlife Habitat Conservation Areas include State Natural Area Preserves and Natural Resource Conservation Areas.

(3) Upland Wildlife Habitat Conservation Areas include Species and Habitats of Local Importance. These are habitats or species that due to their declining population, sensitivity to habitat manipulation or other values make them important on a local level. Habitats of Local Importance may include a seasonal range or habitat element with which a given species has a primary association, and which, if altered, may reduce the likelihood that the species will maintain and reproduce over the long term.

(a) Species and Habitats of Local Importance may be identified for protection under this title. State or local agencies, individuals or organizations may identify and nominate for consideration specific species and habitats, or a general habitat type, including streams, ponds or other features;

(b) Review of a Species and/or Habitat of Local Importance application is a legislative action, and shall be processed during the Comprehensive Plan amendment cycle;

(c) Species and/or Habitat of Local Importance applications shall be docketed for official action with the Planning Commission in accordance with Section [16B.10.090](#) (Development Regulation Amendments) with no fee requirements;

(d) The Planning Commission may convene a best available science committee to ensure the Species and/or Habitat of Local Importance application conforms to RCW 36.70A.172 and WAC 365-195-900 through WAC 365-195-925;

(e) Species and/or Habitats of Local Importance shall be adopted as appendices to this title;

(f) Species and/or Habitats of Local Importance shall be reviewed for conformance with subsections (g) and (h) below;

(g) Applicants for Species and/or Habitat of Local Importance shall present evidence concerning the criteria set forth in subsection (h) below, including maps to illustrate the proposal and habitat management recommendations for use in the administration of this chapter; and/or

(h) The review of nominated habitats and habitats for species of local importance shall consider the following:

- (i) A seasonal range or habitat element which, if altered, may reduce the likelihood that the species will maintain or reproduce over the long term;
- (ii) Areas of high relative density or species richness, breeding habitat, winter range, and movement corridors;
- (iii) Habitat with limited availability or high vulnerability to alteration;
- (iv) Whether these habitats are already identified and protected under the provisions of this or other county ordinances or state or federal law.

(Ord. 2-2009 § 2 (Exh. A (17) (part)), 2009).

16C.11.050 Mapping.

(1) The approximate location and extent of upland wildlife habitat conservation areas for Endangered, Threatened and Sensitive species are shown on the County's critical area map titled, "Upland Wildlife Habitat Conservation Areas of Yakima County." This map is to be used as a guide for the county and may be updated as more detailed data become available. This map is a reference and does not provide a final critical area designation.

(2) The Upland Wildlife Habitat Conservation Area map utilized GAP (Gap Analysis Project) and Department of Fish and Wildlife data. GAP data is derived from satellite imagery and modeling of vegetation and species presence. The wildlife habitat analysis methodology was chosen to protect wildlife from a regional perspective rather than a species-specific perspective, to identify areas of high biodiversity for long-term species survival. The methodology:

- (a) Uses the richest habitat areas;
- (b) Includes some habitat for all species;
- (c) Focuses on large habitat areas that are most remote from human development;
- (d) Uses publicly owned lands;
- (e) Provides corridor links between blocks of habitat areas using streams, and steep ridge slopes;
- (f) Considers WDFW Priority Habitat and Species and Wildlife Heritage data to test accuracy; and
- (g) Covers threatened endangered and sensitive species on public lands.

(Ord. 2-2009 § 2 (Exh. A (17) (part)), 2009).

16C.11.060 Permit and Critical Areas Report Requirement.

(1) Developments proposed within an upland wildlife habitat conservation area with which state or federally endangered, threatened, or sensitive species or a species of local importance has a primary association may be required to submit Critical Areas

Identification Form and site plan as per 16C.03.02(1). The Administrative Official shall require a habitat assessment to be submitted if it is determined that the development proposal could impact the UWHCA. A habitat assessment is an investigation of the project area to evaluate the presence or absence of such species, and areas with which such species have a primary association.

(2) In addition to the critical area report requirements of Section [16C.03.17](#), habitat assessments and habitat management plans must be prepared by a qualified professional. Critical area reports for two or more types of critical areas must meet the report requirements for each relevant type of critical area.

(3) If the habitat assessment determines that such species or habitat area is present on site, and is likely to be impacted by the development proposal, then a standard development permit and management plan are required.

(4) If a standard development permit and management plan are required, as determined by the habitat assessment, it may follow published federal, state, or local management recommendations, as applicable, that have been developed for species or habitats located on or adjacent to the project area. Management plans developed by an independent third party shall be provided for review by the Department of Fish and Wildlife or the responsible federal agency. The Administrative Official may consult with the appropriate agency and consider their comments through the review process.

(Ord. 1-2011 § 2 (Exh. A (3)), 2011; Ord. 2-2009 § 2 (Exh. A (17) (part)), 2009).

16C.11.070 Upland Wildlife Habitat Conservation Area Development Standards.

Projects located within an Upland Wildlife Habitat Conservation Area as designated in Section [16C.11.040](#) shall meet the following standards listed below, rather than the development standards in Sections [16C.06.10](#) through [16C.06.23](#) for Hydrologically Related Critical Areas, unless review is also needed for Hydrologically Related Critical Areas.

Projects shall be designed using management recommendations established for the species or habitat by federal and state agencies, or those adopted for Species and Habitats of Local Importance by Yakima County. The department shall consider the extent such recommendations are used in its decision on the proposal, and may consider recommendations and advice from the agencies with expertise.

Upland Wildlife Habitat
Conservation Areas

Exhibit B
Ordinance 2-2009

- Upland Wildlife Habitat Areas
- City Limits
- UGAs

Map Produced: October, 2009



1 inch = 31,081 feet



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