

YBIP Highlights

2023

| | |
|--|-----------|
| <u>Overview</u> | <u>1</u> |
| <u>Yakima basin water operations close 2023 season</u> | <u>3</u> |
| <u>2023 water resiliency update</u> | <u>4</u> |
| <u>Cle Elum Fish Passage facilities and reintroduction project make headway</u> | <u>5</u> |
| <u>BIL funding helps advance Cle Elum Pool Raise Project</u> | <u>6</u> |
| <u>Wapato irrigation project improvements to Satus 3 pump canal</u> | <u>7</u> |
| <u>Passage improvement project addresses smolt migration mortality</u> | <u>8</u> |
| <u>Little Naches Levee Project aims to reverse past management actions</u> | <u>9</u> |
| <u>Upper Kachess river restoration project update</u> | <u>10</u> |
| <u>Nelson Dam removal enhances quality of life for aquatic ecosystems and local population</u> | <u>11</u> |
| <u>Bateman Island causeway removal</u> | <u>12</u> |
| <u>2023 water market update</u> | <u>13</u> |
| <u>Managed aquifer recharge pilot program at Taneum Creek</u> | <u>14</u> |
| <u>Teanaway community forest at 10 years</u> | <u>15</u> |
| <u>Land and Water Conservation Fund celebration event</u> | <u>17</u> |
| <u>Commissioner Touton's CPN road trip: Yakima Basin edition</u> | <u>18</u> |



Welcome to the Yakima Basin Integrated Plan 2023 Highlights



Laura

I'm Laura Watson, and I serve as Director of the Washington Department of Ecology.

The work emerging from the Yakima Basin is the culmination of many years of investment, collaboration, and hard work. I'm proud that Ecology has played a significant role in contributing to this legacy. The Integrated Plan stands as a model of success for the rest of the nation to see.

This holds especially true given the mix of challenges and wins we've seen this year.

We received increased federal funding from multiple sources, including the Bureau of Reclamation, Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, and Inflation Reduction Act. At the same time, the federal government is strengthening water resource infrastructure nationwide. YBIP has my wholehearted support in capitalizing on these new opportunities to achieve our goals.

We came face-to-face with climate change again this year. We had to declare a drought emergency in 12 watersheds because of dry conditions, early snowmelt, and low streamflows. The declaration allowed us to deliver support and take emergency action, including \$3 million in state drought funds. At the federal level, the declaration qualified the Yakama Nation and irrigation districts to apply for federal relief funds.

Ecology stands with our partners in the Yakima Basin during this time of hardship. We've re-prioritized our agency's work to meet the region's needs. Together, we must continue to prepare for a responsible, sustainable water future as drought conditions become more frequent. Thanks to YBIP's work over the years, our current situation is much better than it would have been without our investments.

While it's clear that more challenges like this lie ahead, the Integrated Plan has a big role to play in the solutions. I'm pleased with our historic progress and the resolve of our partnerships in building that future.

Tom

I'm Tom Tebb, Director of Ecology's Office of the Columbia River.

Thank you for joining us in a milestone year for the Integrated Plan. 2023 marks the 10-year anniversary of the state's initial investment in YBIP. A decade later, we're approaching the finish line on our first major undertaking, the Cle Elum juvenile fish passage project.

As a consistent YBIP partner for decades, Washington state has invested in the Basin for the long term and will continue to do so. I recently had the privilege of giving Ecology's leadership a tour to see how our support has made a difference. That visit reaffirmed our commitment to protecting water and serving growing communities in the Yakima Basin, for the next ten years and beyond.

As we look back at how far we've come, I'm eager for the milestones still ahead of us. YBIP's adaptability enables us to take on innovative projects like Springwood Ranch, while work continues with the Bateman Island causeway removal project and Phase Two of the Nelson Dam removal.

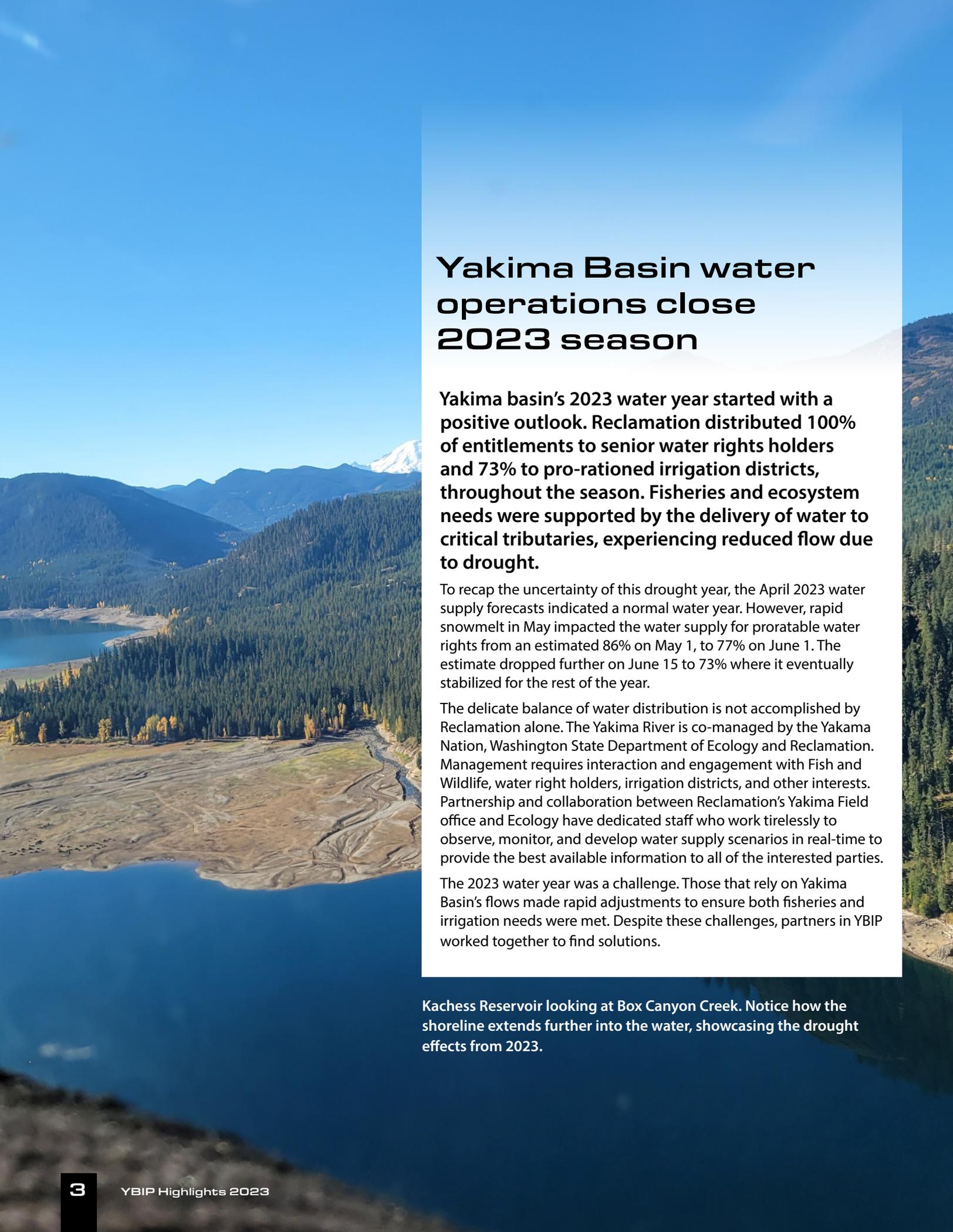
I'd also like to acknowledge the Yakama Nation's leadership in the Integrated Plan and on the Wapato Irrigation Project in particular. Their fish recovery efforts and environmental stewardship form a crucial pillar of our work in the Yakima Basin.

Once again, thank you for joining us for an important year in YBIP's trajectory. It's only with your support that we can develop practical water management solutions to meet current needs and future demands for generations to come.



“

This year's drought underscores the importance of continuing our mission to protect aquatic resources, meet irrigators' needs, and support the agricultural economy at the heart of the Yakima Basin.”

An aerial photograph of a reservoir, likely Kachess Reservoir, showing a significant recession of the shoreline. The water is a deep blue, and the exposed shoreline is a mix of brown, tan, and grey, indicating dry earth and exposed sediment. In the background, there are dense green forests on hillsides, and further back, snow-capped mountains under a clear blue sky. The foreground shows a rocky, dark shoreline.

Yakima Basin water operations close 2023 season

Yakima basin's 2023 water year started with a positive outlook. Reclamation distributed 100% of entitlements to senior water rights holders and 73% to pro-rationed irrigation districts, throughout the season. Fisheries and ecosystem needs were supported by the delivery of water to critical tributaries, experiencing reduced flow due to drought.

To recap the uncertainty of this drought year, the April 2023 water supply forecasts indicated a normal water year. However, rapid snowmelt in May impacted the water supply for proratable water rights from an estimated 86% on May 1, to 77% on June 1. The estimate dropped further on June 15 to 73% where it eventually stabilized for the rest of the year.

The delicate balance of water distribution is not accomplished by Reclamation alone. The Yakima River is co-managed by the Yakama Nation, Washington State Department of Ecology and Reclamation. Management requires interaction and engagement with Fish and Wildlife, water right holders, irrigation districts, and other interests. Partnership and collaboration between Reclamation's Yakima Field office and Ecology have dedicated staff who work tirelessly to observe, monitor, and develop water supply scenarios in real-time to provide the best available information to all of the interested parties.

The 2023 water year was a challenge. Those that rely on Yakima Basin's flows made rapid adjustments to ensure both fisheries and irrigation needs were met. Despite these challenges, partners in YBIP worked together to find solutions.

Kachess Reservoir looking at Box Canyon Creek. Notice how the shoreline extends further into the water, showcasing the drought effects from 2023.

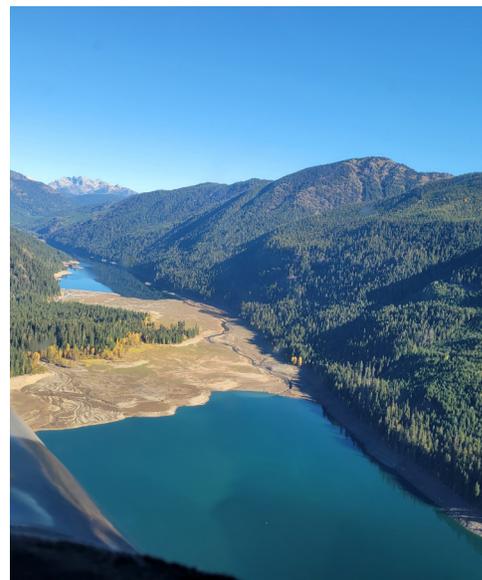
2023 water resiliency update

Water resiliency for the Yakima River Basin relies on four elements of the Yakima Basin Integrated Plan – Water Marketing, Groundwater Storage, Enhanced Water Conservation and Surface Water Storage.

A basin wide approach to Water Marketing is being developed, providing opportunities for economically efficient use of water. Successful groundwater storage pilot projects are underway in the Upper (KRD Heart K project) and Lower (Toppenish Fan) basin, with more prospects in development. Enhanced water conservation has already achieved over 70% of the Initial Development Phase goal of 85,000 acre-feet and is well on its way to achieving that goal by 2029. Surface water storage is critically important to the Yakima Basin Integrated Plan and is supported by Reclamation, Ecology, Yakama Nation and partners.

Of the three original surface storage projects proposed for YBIP, Kachess Drought Relief Pumping Plan continues to be evaluated, Bumping Reservoir enlargement is in early-stage development, and Wymer Dam is on pause, with the site owners declining to sell needed property. Hydrologic modeling suggests that surface storage in the mid- and lower-basin provides flexibility for operations and may allow capture of runoff that would otherwise be uncontrolled. In 2023, Reclamation and Ecology sponsored two value planning studies to identify storage locations that could be used for both instream and outstream needs.

With completion of drafts for the two value planning studies, Reclamation, Ecology, Yakama Nation, irrigation districts and other partners are evaluating storage opportunities including Bumping Enlargement, Kachess Drought Relief Pumping Plant, Upper Yakima System Storage, Tieton River Fisheries Enhancement and Water Reliability Study (including the North Fork Cowlitz Canyon reservoir site), as well as other small surface and groundwater storage sites. Ultimately, YBIP policymakers, managers, and fishery biologists are working to assemble a suite of potential sites for the best value as we move forward to surface storage implementation.



Top: Aerial view of Kachess Reservoir looking at the narrows. Kachess is in the upper basin north of Cle Elum.

Below: The future proposed site of Springwood Creek Dam and Reservoir with representatives from Reclamation, Kittitas Reclamation District, U.S. Ecology, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, and Roza Irrigation District.

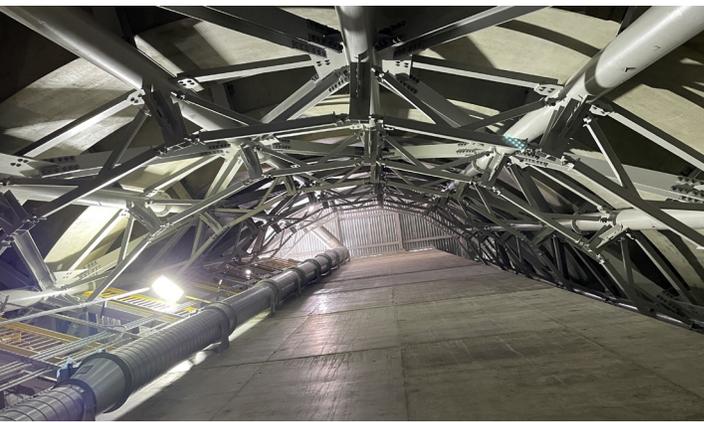




Cle Elum Fish Passage facilities and reintroduction project make headway



Construction and reintroduction efforts at Cle Elum Fish Passage Facilities are making great strides, with commissioning (running water through each intake level) of the downstream juvenile passage intakes, gate, and helix planned for completion in 2024.



In July 2023, Reclamation, along with the help of the Yakama Nation, were able to conduct a simulated fish passage test in utilizing two electronic fish sent through the intake, gate, and helix system through intake level #6—the lowest intake. Preliminary results of the testing indicated no change in acceleration, meaning the sensor fish did not encounter any obstacles. Travel time was reported as 110 seconds through the facility which is the same amount of time calculated by Reclamation engineers in 2015 at the start of construction.

Since construction began in 2015, the access road to the passage facility site, a spillway bridge, secant pile vault that houses the helix, and a tunnel bypass have been completed. The intake, gate and helix contract are in process and are anticipated to be completed in 2024. The Adult Collection Facility contract was awarded in August 2023.

Top: Sensor fish used by Michael Porter (Yakama Nation) during July 2023 Flow Test at Cle Elum Reservoir.

Middle: Photo of flow in the helix, July 2023 Flow Test.

Bottom: Inside the helix at Cle Elum Dam Fish Passage Facility looking up!

The Cle Elum Fish Passage facility has the potential to increase the amount of adult returning fish fivefold over time. Currently, there are approximately 20,000 adult salmon returning to the Yakima Basin. Estimates of adults returning with the permanent passage are projected to be up to 100,000 salmon, including reintroduced sockeye.



View of five intakes at Cle Elum Reservoir as part of the Cle Elum Dam Fish Passage facility.

Cle Elum Reservoir where the pool raise and shoreline protection is being implemented.

Bipartisan Infrastructure Law funding helps advance Cle Elum Pool Raise Project

Thanks to \$6 million in funding going to the Bureau of Reclamation from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law—along with \$3 million from the Department of Ecology—the pool raise project in Cle Elum can continue implementation. This project is an effort to increase the existing full pool elevation of Cle Elum Reservoir by three feet, raising the current storage an additional 14,600 acre-feet of storage.

Due to this pool raise, shoreline protection is being implemented at several shoreline areas adjacent to private landowners. Reclamation, Ecology, Yakama Nation and project partners are collaborating on several shoreline areas with construction anticipated to begin in 2024. Shorelines along Cle Elum Reservoir that are being protected are Sandelin Lane, Morgan Creek, Night Sky, Domerie Bay, and Timber Cove.

The overall project has several property actions that need to be completed prior to raising the pool. Reclamation and Ecology will continue to work with landowners and the public to keep them updated on projects via mail and website postings. The project is anticipated to be operational no later than 2027 and will be used to augment instream flows for fish and improve aquatic resources for the Cle Elum River and upper Yakima River.



Sign located at the Cle Elum pool raise site. It reads “project funded by President Joe Biden’s Bipartisan Infrastructure Law.”



Wapato Irrigation Project improvements to Satus 3 pump canal

The Wapato Irrigation Project, located on the Yakama Reservation, is the largest irrigation project in the Yakima River basin and one of the oldest and largest irrigation projects operated by the Bureau of Indian Affairs. In addition to irrigation development, WIP and Yakama Nation Engineering are also responsible for promoting economic opportunities and public safety.

Through Bureau of Reclamation PL93-638 agreement funding, Yakama Nation Engineering is enhancing the Satus 3 Pump Canal with 10 Long Crested Weirs. LCW's are a low-tec, minimal maintenance form of automation in that the daily variation in canal flows can pass over the weir with minimal impact to the canal's water surface level. Maintaining a constant water surface elevation is a critical component to on-farm water management.

LCW's enhance public and system operator safety by reducing the rate of change in water surface elevations; thus, reducing the risk of overtopping the canal. Also, the decreased rate of elevation change in the canal reduces the number of incidences of controlled spills to the drains. This results in water and energy savings by keeping irrigation water in the pump canal. Lastly, LCW's can significantly reduce labor costs in canal operations, further increasing water management efficiency.

Initial plans were to demolish and replace the traditional "flashboard" canal check (water level control) structures on the Satus 3 Pump Canal with LCW's. However, after review and analysis of existing structures, YNE devised a plan to retrofit suitable existing structures with LCW's, saving up to \$100,000 per structure in new construction costs. A pilot retrofit was completed in 2023 with the remaining structures scheduled to be completed in the 2024/2025 construction season.

Temporary wooden weir installed to verify appropriate water surface elevation. Steel fabrication components and gates will be installed in 2024.

Passage improvement project addresses smolt migration mortality

The Bureau of Reclamation, along with the Yakama Nation and Kennewick Irrigation District, began their value planning study last November as part of the Prosser/Chandler Fish Passage Improvement Project. The improvement project is a part of a larger study on smolt mortality in the Lower Yakima River.

This study produced findings from the Prosser/Chandler Diversion Dam that showed that as the ratio of water being diverted from the Yakima River increased the number of fish being diverted was also increasing. The increase showed significant smolt mortality as they move through the diversion, by the fish screens and through the bypass back to the river. Passage at the Prosser/Chandler diversion dam and canal needs to be significantly improved.

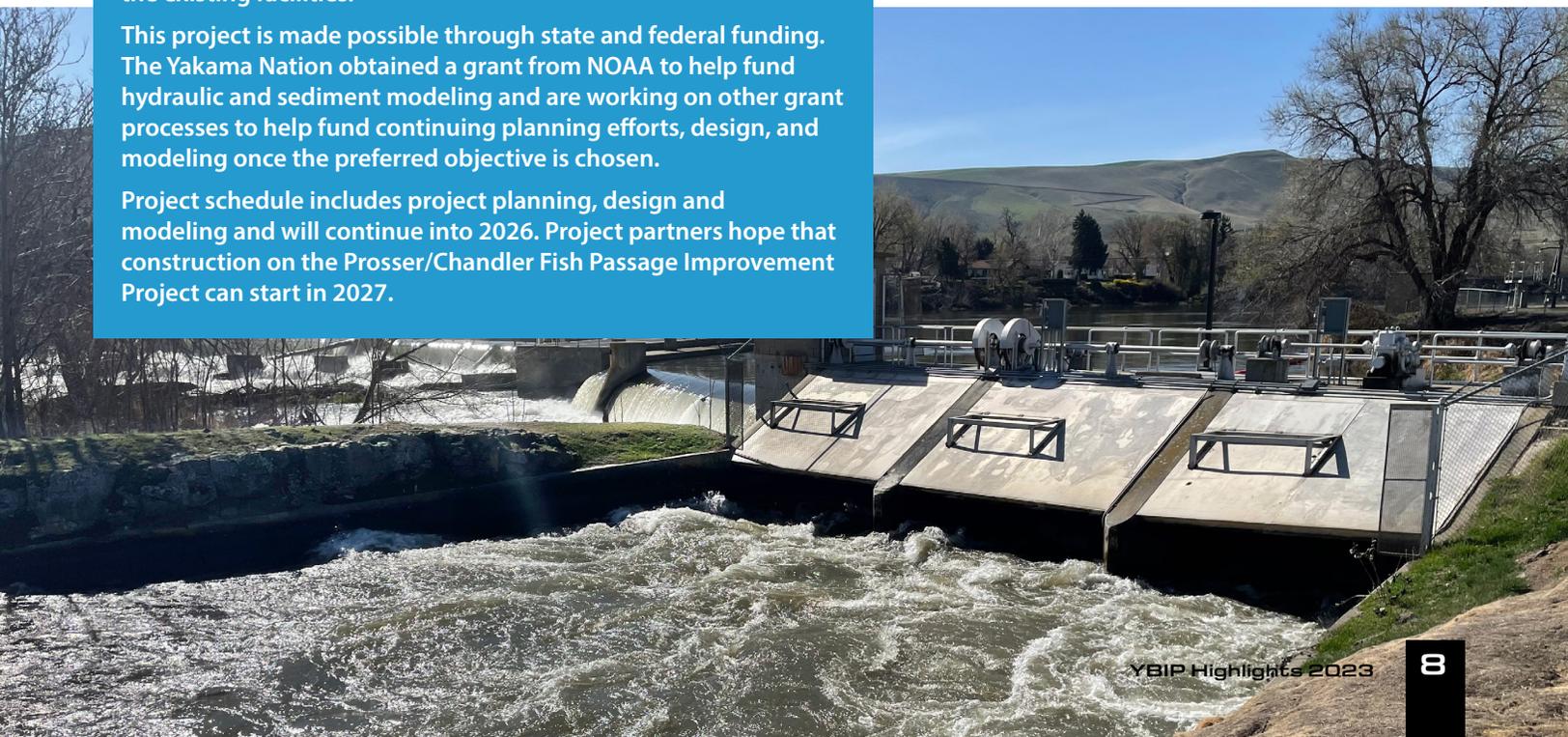
In an early planning phase, there were three general approaches found that could increase smolt survival: reduce the amount of water diverted as a percentage of the river flow (which means more flow remains in the river); reduce the number of fish being diverted into the canal system; and replace or retrofit current infrastructure to reduce fish harm and mortality being caused by the existing facilities.

This project is made possible through state and federal funding. The Yakama Nation obtained a grant from NOAA to help fund hydraulic and sediment modeling and are working on other grant processes to help fund continuing planning efforts, design, and modeling once the preferred objective is chosen.

Project schedule includes project planning, design and modeling and will continue into 2026. Project partners hope that construction on the Prosser/Chandler Fish Passage Improvement Project can start in 2027.



Prosser Dam in the background with the Chandler Diversion Intake gates in the foreground. Fish entering the diversion can experience significant mortality rates before they are bypassed back to the river.



Little Naches Levee Project aims to reverse past management actions



Historic land use practices and management in the Little Naches River severely impacted the landscape and fish populations, but a recent restoration project aims to reverse that legacy and benefit fish habitat, floodplain water storage, and riparian forest health.

Three miles upstream from the mouth of Little Naches River, past land managers built levees to protect the FS-1900 road from flooding. During a period of drought, fisheries managers excavated the stream channel to access the water table. These activities exacerbated earlier impacts from large wood removal and floodplain alteration and reduced this reach's capacity to support spawning and rearing of native fish, including steelhead, Chinook salmon, and bull trout.

In the summer of 2022, Mid-Columbia Fisheries worked with BCI Contracting, Inc. and Tetra Tech, Inc. to excavate the levees, return bed material to the main channel, and place logs to restore function in the stream reach. The project excavated 16,912 cubic yards of material from two levees, placed 14,637 cy in the stream to rebuild the bed elevation, and used the rest to provide ballast to 65 wood structures.

The restoration project is in the Naches Ranger District of the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest. MCF worked with the U.S. Forest Service, Tetra Tech, Inc., and a team of local technical experts to design the work. Project funding came from the Yakima Basin Integrated Plan, the WA Department of Ecology Streamflow Achievement grant program, and the U.S. Forest Service's Central Washington Initiative. The Yakama Nation completed cultural resources surveys and consultation, and the Naches Ranger District contributed all the trees needed for the project.

The Little Naches River experienced high flow conditions in the fall of 2022 and spring of 2023. The project performed better than expected: loose wood collected into larger wood jams, large extents of floodplain were active, and new side channels watered up. By late summer, the newly connected floodplain was covered with cottonwood seedlings.

Once completed, the Little Naches Levee Project will aid in habitat restoration and reinvigorate the ecosystem's natural processes.

Top: June 2022, before restoration work: looking upstream at the Little Naches RM 3.3 to 4.3 Project Reach.

Bottom: June 2023, after restoration work: streambed was rebuilt by placing large pieces of wood in the river and reconnecting side channels to improve steelhead and salmon habitat.

Upper Kachess River restoration project update

An on-going project in the Upper Kachess watershed is good news for bull trout. Sponsored by the Kittitas Conservation Trust, the Kachess River Restoration project aims to improve spawning, rearing, and migratory conditions for the threatened Bull Trout population.

Since the start of the project construction on May 30, 2023, 1,576 whole trees were placed in 64 engineered structures in over a 1-mile reach of the Kachess River; 13,782 trees and shrubs have been planted in 6.6 acres of restoration area; 69.5 pounds of native seed sowed in 8.5 acres of restoration area; and 948 feet of new High Flow Side Channel has been constructed. This large restoration project was completed in one work season (May 30 – October 20), minimizing the disturbance of this sensitive bull trout population. Post project completion update: 26 bull trout redds (spawning nests) have been observed this fall compared to 0 in 2022, 4 in 2021 and 2 in 2020! It is amazing how fast nature can heal by restoring habitat.

Many state and federal organizations—Washington State Department of Ecology, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Bureau of Indian Affairs/Yakama Nation, U.S. Forest Service, Yakima Basin Integrated Plan partners—have made this project possible. In total, \$4.042 million has been contributed to the Upper Kachess River Restoration Project. During the assessment, design, and permitting phase of this project, the Yakima Basin Integrated Plan funded \$563,181 through Recreation and Conservation Office towards this project. Without the contribution of YBIP, the completion of this project would not have been possible.

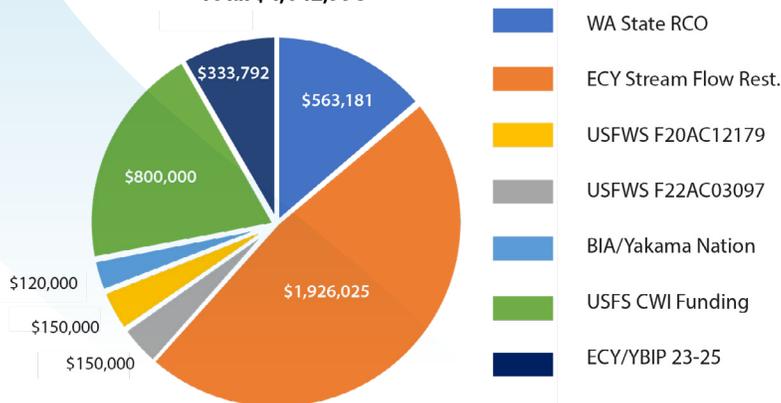


Top: Pollyanna Lind (InterFluve) and Drew Porter (BCI) determine locations of piles for the Inlet Apex Log Jam.

Middle: Mid-Columbia RFEG's Bull Trout Task Force removing fish from construction area.

Bottom: KCT and InterFluve staff on completed large wood structure. From left to right Mark Young (KCT), Melissa Speeg (former KCT), Mel Babik (KCT), & Pollyanna Lind (InterFluve).

Kachess River Restoration Total Funding By Source
Total \$4,042,998



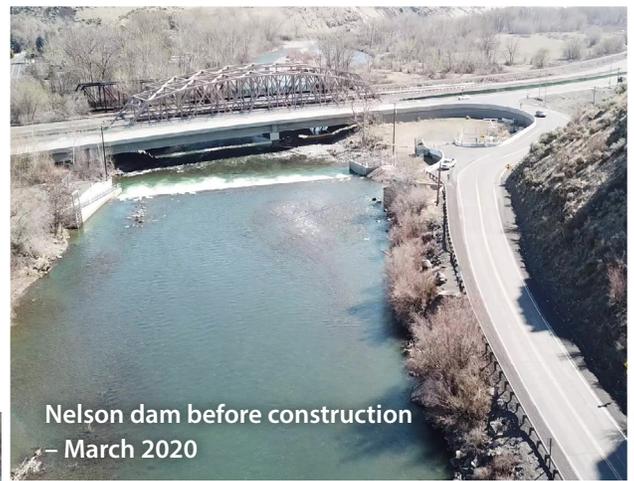
**** 23-25 YBIP Funding going towards trailhead relocation design and implementation**

Nelson Dam removal enhances quality of life for aquatic ecosystems and local population

Nelson Dam has been a cornerstone in Yakima County for more than 150 years and was the Yakima Basin's second earliest recorded diversion dam. After a decade of development, the City of Yakima, Yakima County, and other partners have removed Nelson Dam to make way for a natural (roughened) channel and state-of-the-art irrigation diversion facility.

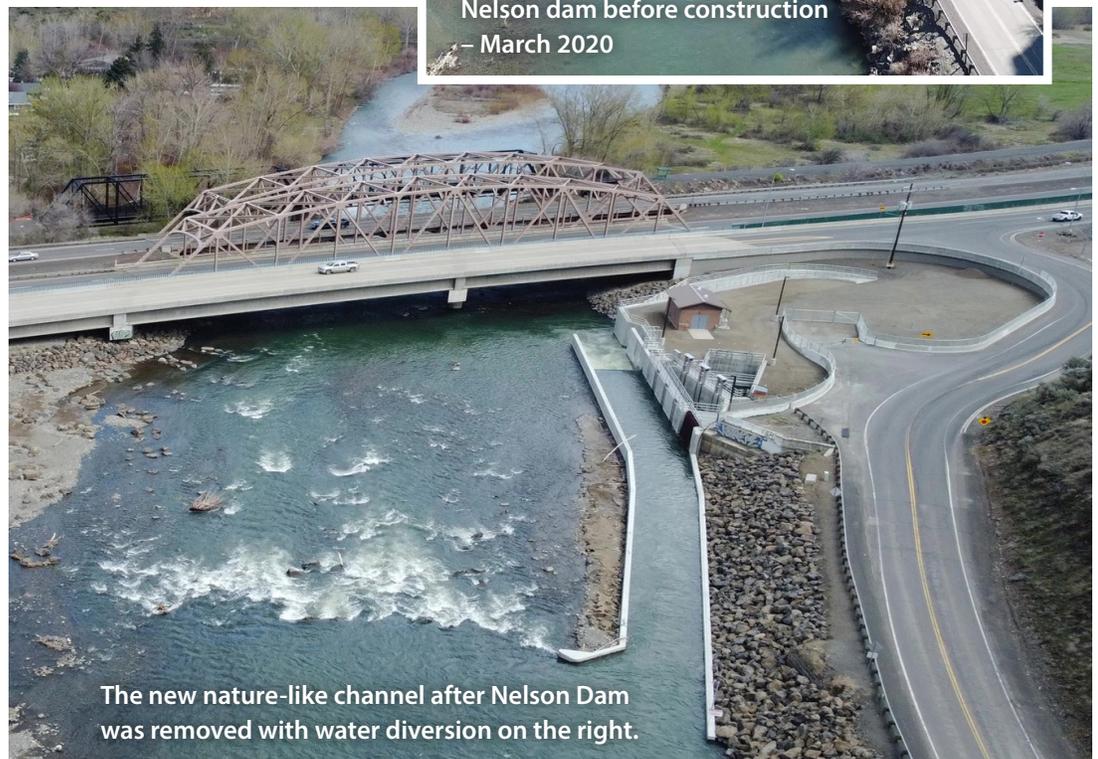
The natural channel has many benefits. It allows fish of various species and life stages—like Coho, Chinook, and Lamprey—to pass through freely. It also improves boating opportunities; natural sediment transport, which provides gravel for fish habitat; and floodwater conveyance. The channel is part of a decades-long, six-phase flood risk reduction program.

The new diversion facility supplies water to the City of Yakima and Naches Cowiche Canal Association. The project enhances fish passage by providing access to 300 miles above this location. With the funding and completion of Nelson Phase 2, the diversion will also supply the Fruitvale and Old Union Irrigation systems, allowing removal of the two existing downstream diversions which act as partial barriers to coho and steelhead entering Cowiche Creek, and flooding on Cowiche Creek will be reduced.



Nelson dam before construction
– March 2020

This \$28 million project improves water supply reliability and habitat restoration and floodplain connectivity on the Naches River.



The new nature-like channel after Nelson Dam was removed with water diversion on the right.

Bateman Island causeway removal

For the past several years, partners have worked collaboratively to improve habit and fish passage in the Yakima Basin. To date, there have been many success stories in Upper Yakima. Now attention has moved to addressing critical conditions at the mouth of the Yakima River impeding migrating smolts and returning salmonids.

In 2018, a group of stakeholders, led by the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, engaged the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in evaluating the role of a causeway connecting Bateman Island with the City of Richland at the confluence of the Yakima River and the Columbia River. The causeway on the south side of the island blocks Columbia River flows, creating backwater habitat that forms a thermal barrier hindering salmon and steelhead from migrating up the Yakima River. The warm backwater habitat is also an ideal habitat for non-native fish that prey on out-migrating juvenile salmonids.

High water temperatures also encourage algae blooms and invasive water stargrass growth and create ideal conditions for mosquitoes and disease pathogens. Overall, this causeway has led to severely degraded water quality and flows.

In 2019, the Corps formally accepted the Yakima River Delta Ecological Restoration project under its Section 1135 of Water Resources Development Act 1986 ecological restoration authority, with WDFW acting as the non-federal sponsor. The first phase includes an assessment, called the feasibility phase, a three-year study to understand the delta, ecologically, recreationally, and economically, and the needed remedies to restore and even improve ecological function.

The Corps released the results of the study in winter 2023, with extensive public engagement. The Corp's current completion date for the feasibility study phase is April 2024. Significant issues remain include recreational and public safety access to the island and protection of cultural resources.

To date, almost \$1 million has been committed to remove the causeway and support ecological improvements in the delta, with Corps led design and construction to begin following completion of the feasibility phase in 2024.

This project has been made possible through the full support of partners from many entities, including Benton Conservation District, Yakama Nation Fisheries, the Washington departments of Fish and Wildlife and Ecology, irrigation districts, Mid-Columbia Fisheries Enhancement Group, Reclamation, U.S. Geological Survey, and Corps. Funding comes from a wide variety of sources, including the Department of Ecology.



Causeway connecting Bateman Island, restricting river flow from the Yakima River into the Columbia River.



Aerial view of Bateman Island Causeway area.



2023 --- Water market update

2023 was an unexpectedly dry year for the Yakima Basin with little carryover for the 2024 irrigation season. A strong El Niño forecast for 2024 may reduce snowpack accumulation, which with little carryover from 2023, means less water supply available next year. During drought years, market reallocation helps minimize adverse effects on other water users and the environment.

Water markets in Yakima Basin exist for both permanent and temporary transfers, and major irrigation districts comprise a large percentage of the total water transferred in drought years. YBIP is working on a Smart Market that will help reduce transactions costs for water right transfers and facilitate the temporary transfer market.

Integrated Plan proponents are developing short and long-term strategies to increase market reallocation of water in times of drought. For these strategies to be successful, stakeholder confidence in the market administration and its administrators is paramount.

To ensure the strategic success of the market administration, coordination with basin stakeholders will take place, before and during smart market implementations. Other implementation includes pilot smart markets for drought and water short years.

Managed Aquifer Recharge pilot program at Taneum Creek

Taneum Creek runs through Kittitas Reclamation District and is the location of a Yakima Basin Integrated Plan groundwater storage project that was first conceived in 2022. The goal is to mimic historic flooding, to store groundwater and support late season flows in Taneum Creek and the Yakima River. This shallow aquifer recharge pilot study is part of an on-going effort to monitor groundwater monitoring wells, along with identifying constraints and opportunities at the site.

KRD has approached this project the multiple stages, prior to the pilot test, comprehensive monitoring of rock data, groundwater depths and gradients was determined to evaluate the potential for future aquifer testing.

Identifying constraints and opportunities include baseline site analysis of topography, wetlands and soils and existing conditions; evaluating existing irrigation infrastructure to support a managed aquifer recharge project; determine operational changes that would be required to route flows onto the floodplain; an evaluation of existing water rights and water users; estimating the quantity of water that could be used from Taneum Creek for aquifer recharge during natural flood or runoff events; use of soil test pits to verify soil profile, predict infiltration rates, and establish groundwater movement.

To support these on-going efforts, samples from the wells in the Taneum project area were collected in August of 2023. In September, KRD utilized existing irrigation infrastructure to conduct a pilot recharge project. Using existing wells in the project area, along with stream flow monitoring and hydro geochemistry, samples were taken both during and after test completion to determine the rate of infiltration and the outcome of recharged water to the system. Data from the pilot test is being analyzed and KRD is looking forward to sharing their findings in 2024.

This project is part of a commitment by YBIP partners to meet the goals of the Yakima Basin Integrated Plan.



Water being placed out on the ground as part of the Taneum shallow aquifer recharge pilot program conducted August 2023.

Teanaway Community Forest at 10 Years



In October, the Yakima Basin Integrated Plan held a celebration for one of its first major accomplishments, acquisition, and establishment of the 50,241-acre Teanaway Community Forest. Since then, the forest's 400 miles of free-flowing streams and important habitat have become a centerpiece of conservation, restoration, recreation, and collaboration—exactly what was intended and a fitting example of how the Integrated Plan works.



The Community Forest is jointly managed by the Department of Natural Resources and the Department of Fish and Wildlife, guided by community developed plans for recreation and continued grazing, both important to the economy of Kittitas County. Since acquisition, 15 fish barriers have been removed, opening 14.5 miles of habitat. Fences were added to contain grazing, totaling 10.7 miles. DNR removed and improved forest roads to reduce sediment input to the streams.

County investment included over 14 miles of road paving and guardrail work to facilitate recreational access and bridge and culvert remediation for fishery and habitat improvements. Habitat restoration projects include seven miles of stream restoration and 10 miles of riparian restoration.

A new major land acquisition transaction is now in process. The Washington Cascades/Yakima River Watershed Land and Water Conservation fund project will protect 8,300 acres of high-quality checkerboard lands in the upper Yakima system.

TCF was Washington's first state-owned community forest, and its greatest success may be in demonstrating the benefits of collaboration. Not only is TCF working as a multi-agency and public collaboration, but it has also become a preferred means of conservation. Community forests, run by the state and other entities are beginning to increase rapidly. In the Teanaway area, DNR and WDFW have learned to capitalize on their respective strengths and are working well together, leading the way.

Land and Water Conservation Fund celebration event



Left to right: Richard Evans (Senator Cantwell Staffer), Kristin Bail (USFS), Mike Stevens (TNC), Congresswoman Kim Schrier, Davis Washines “Yellowwash” (Yakama Nation), Urban Eberhart, Robert Sanchez (USFS).

The Nature Conservancy and the Yakima Basin Integrated Plan organized a Land and Water Conservation Fund Celebration event on Aug. 1 at Stonehouse 101 in Roslyn. Davis “Yellowwash” Washines (Yakama Nation), Congresswoman Kim Schrier, Kristin Bail (U.S. Forest Service), Urban Eberhart (Kittitas Reclamation District) and staff from Senator Patty Murray and Maria Cantwell’s office were in attendance and spoke at the event.

The event celebrated the effort to secure funding from the Land and Water Conservation Fund to protect nearly 20,000 acres of land within the boundaries of the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest, benefiting recreation, wildlife, and forest management. The land will be owned and managed by the U.S. Forest Service and was identified as a high priority in the YBIP Watershed Lands Conservation Plan.

Folks from the LWCF event were invited to hike to Cle Elum Ridge to take in the view of the Teanaway Community Forest.



Commissioner Touton's CPN road trip: Yakima Basin edition



Commissioner Touton visiting the Cle Elum Fish Passage Project along with representatives from the Bureau of Reclamation, Yakama Nation, U.S. Ecology, Washington State Department of Agriculture, Roza Irrigation District, Kittitas Reclamation District, and Yakima County.



Commissioner Touton, along with representatives from the Bureau of Reclamation, Kittitas Reclamation District, Yakama Nation, U.S. Ecology, American Rivers, Trust for Public Lands, Roza Irrigation District, Yakima and Kittitas County, standing at the proposed site of Springwood Ranch Dam in Ellensburg, Washington.

Reclamation celebrated its 120th anniversary this year, with celebrations taking place across all regions. Bureau of Reclamation's Commissioner Camille Calimlim-Touton visited the Columbia Pacific Northwest in June to tour sites within the Yakima Basin.

Commissioner Touton visited the proposed site of the Springwood Ranch Dam in Ellensburg, along with a tour of the Cle Elum Fish Passage facility.



YAKIMA BASIN

BUILDING A FUTURE FOR WATER,
WILDLIFE & WORKING LANDS

