

Draft

American Rivers' Suggested Edits to the Review Draft of the Recommendation to Advance a Preliminary Integrated Water Resource Management Plan (Dec. 7th)

Where possible, suggested changes are in *italics*. Comments are in CAPS.

Title:

Suggested title: “*Workgroup Endorsement of Further Study and Investigation of an Integrated Water Resource Management Plan for the Yakima River Basin*”

Recommendation:

Should read:

The YRBWEP 2009 Workgroup finds that the elements and actions outlined in the attached report [SUBJECT TO REVIEWING THE REPORT AND PROPOSING CHANGES WE THINK ARE NECESSARY] *merit further study and investigation as the Workgroup continues its work to identify a final package of actions to restore native fisheries and improve water supply in the Yakima Basin.*

Water Supply

1. *Programs and policies (e.g., mandatory adoption of conservation and efficiency BMPs) to reduce water demand through extensive Water Conservation and Efficiency measures for agricultural and municipal water users, as well for residential water users not connected to a municipal delivery system*
2. *Additional water supply through water storage through a suite of at least some of the following actions: Wymer Dam, Cle Elum Dam (Pool Raise), Kachess Reservoir (Inactive Storage), enlarged Bumping Lake, and direct pumping from the Columbia River with or without storage.*
3. *Groundwater storage and infiltration prior to storage control (or whenever feasible in light of fish and irrigation needs), municipal Aquifer Storage and Recovery including transfer of agricultural water to municipalities for ASR, and improved monitoring, management, and mitigation of permit exempt wells*
4. *Market-based reallocation of water rights through identification of existing resource or policy constraints to a more vigorous water market and modification of existing laws and regulations as necessary*

Modifications to Existing Operations

5. *Modification or removal of existing facilities and operations including completion of the Wapatox canal piping, subordination for fish flows and/or removal of the Roza diversion dam and power plant, subordination for fish flows of the Chandler*

power plant, *and improvement of the Kittitas Reclamation District canals to improve flow in tributaries*

Fish Passage

6. OK as is.

Habitat Enhancement

7. Should add: *Will include investigation and identification of a plan to provide key long-term protections for habitat and fish passage improvements, utilizing federal, state, and local legal or policy tools and funding sources to protect important river reaches, potentially in coordination with private land and water trusts.*

As part of this study/investigation process, we recommend:

- *Studying/testing assumptions regarding in and out of stream water needs to be met by an Integrated Package*
- *Improve cost estimates for actions receiving further study and investigation; and*
- *Improve understanding of the joint effects of various projects alone and in combination with potential packages of actions drawn from other elements receiving further study*

[THE REST LOOKS OK]