

Roza Irrigation Districts comments on

YRBWEP Draft resource Management Plan

As was discussed at one of the meetings, the issue of power subordination at both Roza and Chandler power plants is misstated and needs to be completely rewritten for the final plan document.

It is correctly stated that YRBWEP 2 allocated the benefits of the Cle Elum lift for fisheries, but that was based on the benefits of the KK pipeline going to irrigation. We need to revisit this to see if that is still the proper allocation. If dead storage was to be removed from Cle Elum, this would definitely change the scenario.

On utilizing dead storage from any reservoir we need to learn from the lessons of the past so as not to make the same mistakes. The reason we did not rebuild the Pumping plant at Cle Elum was because we determined at that time that a pump was not an effective or efficient method for removing the dead storage. As a reservoir draws down to low levels, that amount that can be discharged is on a daily decline. This makes it very difficult to draw the reservoir all the way down in time to effectively use the dead storage early enough in the irrigation season to be of much value. Also, once you start pumping, you must subtract from the net pumping gain the amount of water that is inflow to the reservoir that you would have anyway. For example, if you have pumping capacity for 600 cfs, and reservoir inflow is 200 cfs, your net gain is 400 cfs, while your pumping cost is for 600. Pulling the reservoir down in time for the dead storage to be of value was nearly impossible without wasting water. With a lowered discharge, not only do you not have pumping costs, you can start using this facility early in the season and eliminate the problems of reduced reservoir discharge at lower levels. This problem would be especially critical if we attempt to take 200K out of one reservoir. The capital costs may be higher on the front end, but the long term costs and the additional benefits would well offset it. We are therefore not in favor in making the same mistake twice. We believe a lower outlet is the only option for utilization of dead storage. We also would like to see further operational analysis of the ability to effectively utilize 200 k of dead storage from one reservoir.

On Wymer reservoir we believe there are several potential benefits that could be achieved even on years of adequate water supplies that have not been identified. There are management strategies that could improve carryover storage and/or provide instream flows benefits on any given year, and we would like to see these benefits recognized. There are also potential flow control benefits that have not been evaluated.