

RECLAMATION

Managing Water in the West

U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Reclamation

YRBWEP to YBIP:

Understanding the Yakima Basin Integrated Plan

NARRATOR: So what is the Yakima Basin Integrated Plan? It's the third phase of the Yakima River Basin Water Enhancement Project, or YRBWEP. After devastating drought in the 1970s, Congress authorized the YRBWEP Feasibility Study to find solutions to the basin's water supply problems. In 1984, Congress authorized YRBWEP Phase 1 to build Fish Screens and Ladders at diversion dams. YRBWEP Phase 2 was authorized in 1994 to conserve water for agriculture and instream flows. YRBWEP Phase 3 is known as the Yakima Basin Integrated Plan, which itself has 3 phases that will span 30 years. We are currently in the Initial Development Phase. This is a watershed-scale, balanced approach to sustainable water supply for fish, families, farms, and forests in a basin with shifting hydrologic conditions. The Yakima Basin Integrated Plan has 7 key elements that represent unique stakeholder interests, all of which are moving forward together for the overall health of the basin.