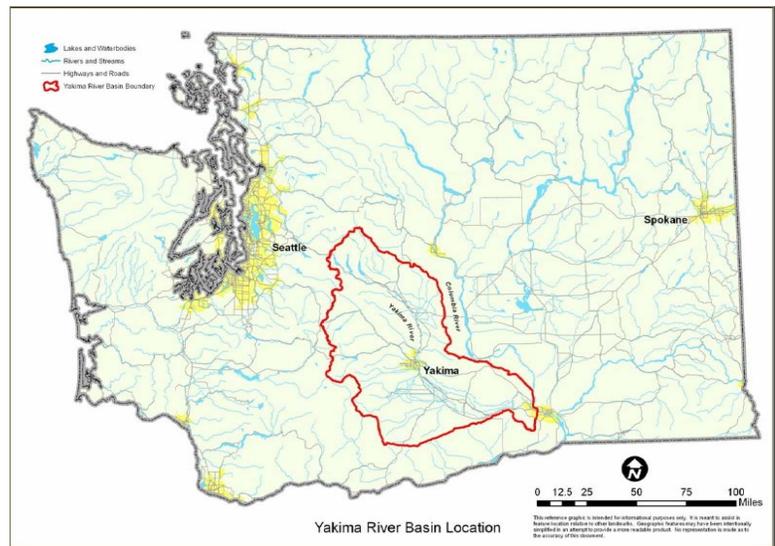


Yakima River Basin, Washington, Basin Study and Associated Basin Restoration Implementation Plan Basin Study Program

Contact: Wendy Christensen, P.E., 509.575.5848 ext. 203, gchristensen@usbr.gov

Reclamation and the Washington Department of Ecology will conduct a Basin Study to characterize and address the water resource imbalances in the Yakima River Basin and use that information to develop a Comprehensive Water Resource Management Implementation Plan (CWRMIP). The scope of the study and resulting CWRMIP will be to:

- determine current and future water needs for both in-stream and out-of-stream uses;
- evaluate the potential impacts of climate change on determined water needs;
- identify and evaluate the efficacy of various alternatives for meeting water supply needs including storage and nonstorage options; and
- integrate planning for meeting water supply needs with efforts to achieve other aquatic resources objectives, including habitat restoration and fish passage at major reservoirs.



The study will build on previous efforts performed as part of the Yakima River Basin Water Enhancement Project (YRBWEP) to enable a more refined analysis of water needs as well as provide a more robust analysis of climate change impacts. With the results of this additional analysis, the study team will develop a conceptual restoration plan which will be evaluated using a multidisciplinary decision support model. Plan components will be adjusted based on model outputs in response to the sensitivity of those components to environmental and socioeconomic concerns and uncertainties.

It is envisioned that the Basin Study and CWRMIP will accomplish the following objectives:

- achieve broad stakeholder consensus around a set of strategies for addressing water supply and streamflow imbalances as well as other aquatic resource issues;
- provide the basis for a request by the Washington Department of Ecology and stakeholders for congressional and State legislative authorization of the CWRMIP; and
- establish the framework for implementation of the CWRMIP that incorporates sufficient flexibility to adapt to climate change and other uncertainties.

The total cost of the study is \$2.6 million (50/50 cost share).



U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Reclamation