

Abstract:

The Yakima Basin Integrated Plan includes seven components designed to solve the major outstanding problems for instream and out of stream resources in the Yakima Basin. These seven components are Fish Passage at Reclamation Storage Reservoirs, Fish Habitat Enhancement, Modifying Existing Structures and Operations, Surface Storage, Market-Based Reallocation, Groundwater Storage, and Enhanced Water Conservation.

This plan has been developed cooperatively by Yakama Nation (YN) working with irrigation districts, city and county governments, state and federal fisheries and water managers, environmental interests and others. The plan has generated an unprecedented level of consensus among historic adversaries in the basin; support has culminated in the passage of federal authorization for the first ten years of the Integrated Plan. This plan has the greatest potential since the treaty was enacted to enhance YN Treaty Resources, most notably the long-neglected Bureau of Indian Affairs-operated Wapato Irrigation Project and restoration of fish passage at Reclamation facilities.



YAKIMA BASIN INTEGRATED PLAN
American Fisheries Society



Phil Rigdon
Superintendent
Yakama Nation Department of Natural Resources



The Treaty of 1855



Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation

- Treaty of 1855
- Reserved rights

14 Tribes and Bands:

Palouse, Piquouse, Yakama, Wenatchapam, Klinquit, Oche Chotes, Kow was say ee, Sk' in-pah, Kah-miltpah, Klickitat, Wish ham, See ap Cat, Li ay was, Shyiks



The Treaty of 1855

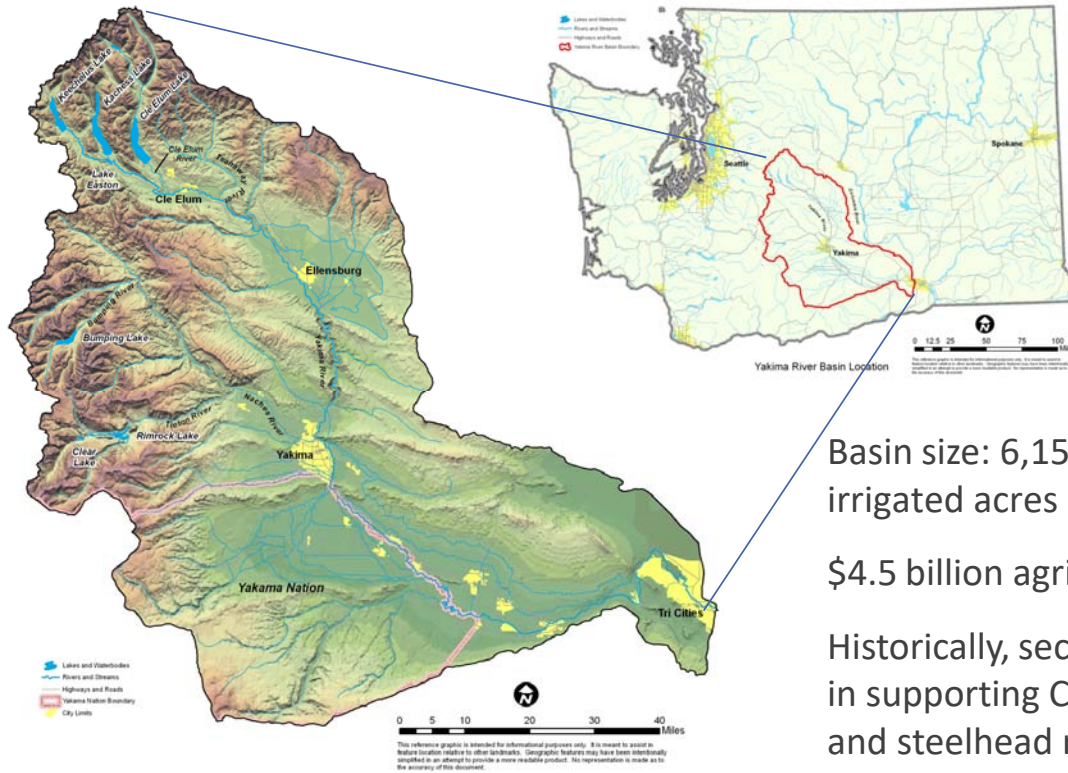


- 12 million acres ceded
- 1.4 million acres reserved
“...for the exclusive use and benefit of the Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation.”
- Right to hunt, fish, gather is protected throughout Ceded and Usual and Accustomed use areas
- Yakama Nation has fiercely defended its treaty rights and it will continue to do so.





The Yakima River Basin

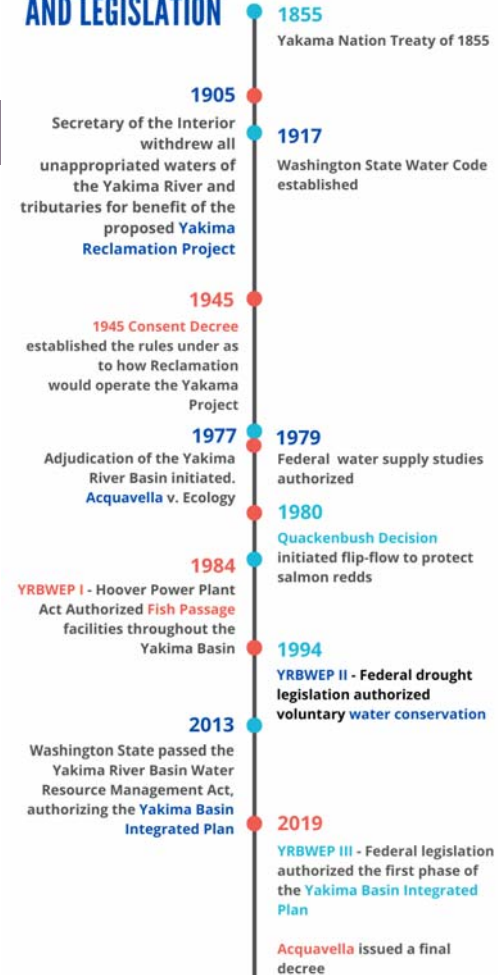


Water Management in the Yakima Basin

A Century of Conflict

- Yakima River Basin is over appropriated
- In time of shortage the junior irrigation districts are prorated
- Surface water adjudication (40 years)
- Project proponents effective at stopping each other's projects from moving forward
- Yakama Nation has both fisheries and irrigation interests

A BRIEF HISTORY OF YAKIMA BASIN WATER RIGHTS AND LEGISLATION



The First Economy



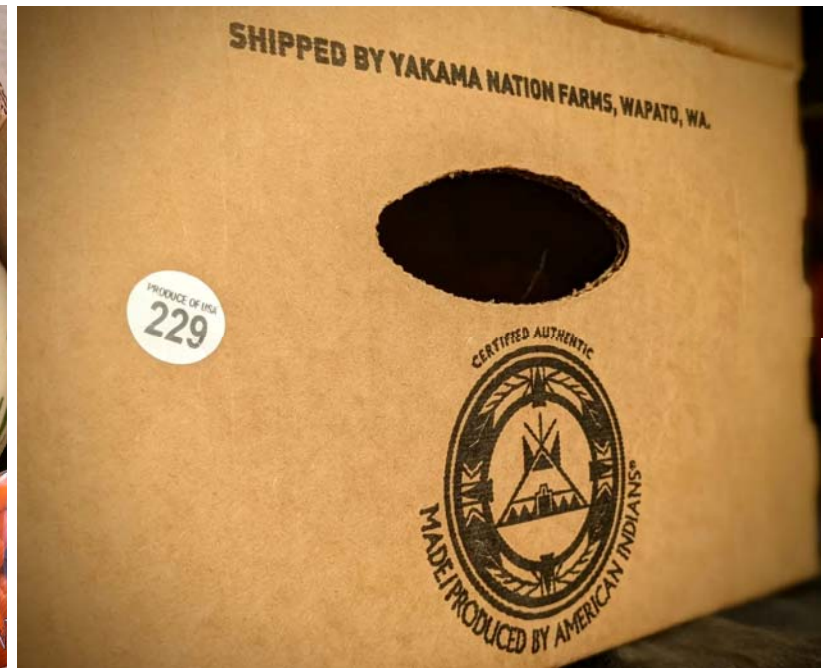
- Harvesting salmon and other native foods supported the Yakama People and the regional economy for thousands of years. It is still a mainstay of the Yakama culture
- YN is a leader in salmon recovery





The Agricultural Economy

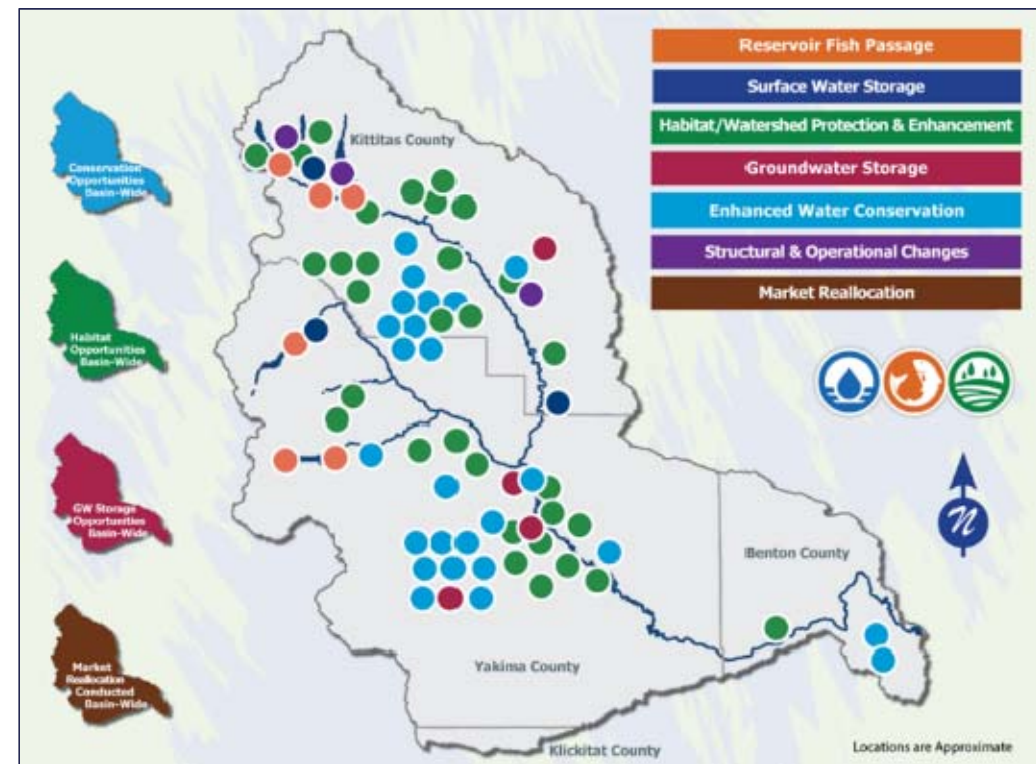
- The Agricultural Economy is new to the Yakima Basin (< 150 years)
- The Yakama People participate in farming through leasing and production
- In 2021, Yakama Nation acquired a 1200 acre farm





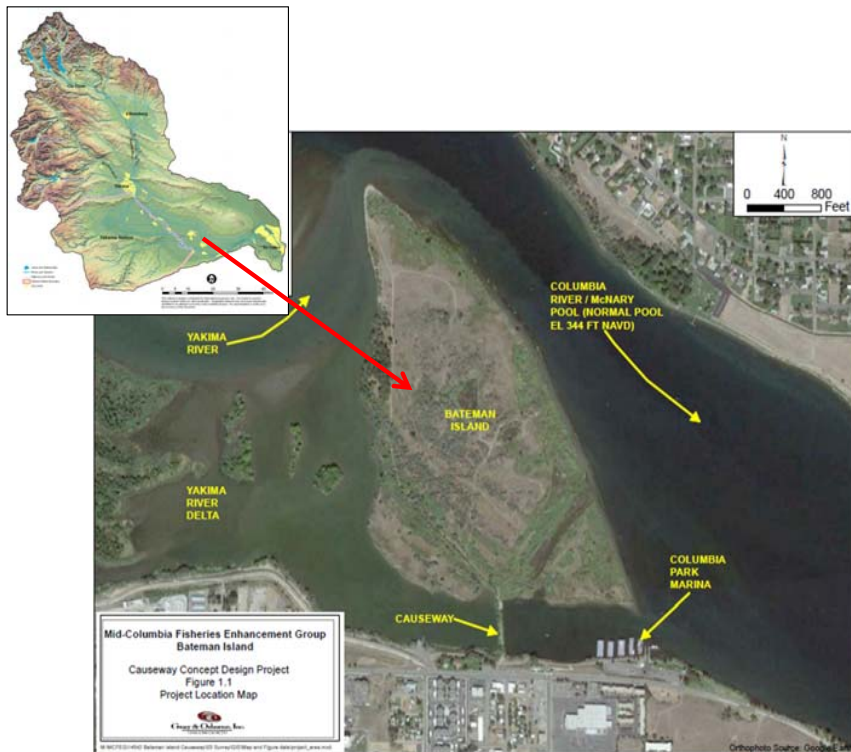
Yakima Basin Integrated Plan Goals

- Restore and enhance environment, fish and wildlife, including fish passage at federal dams
- Improve water supply during drought years (70% proratable supply)
- Provide for efficient and adaptable water supply management
- Contribute to sustainable economy and environment





Fish Passage



Goal

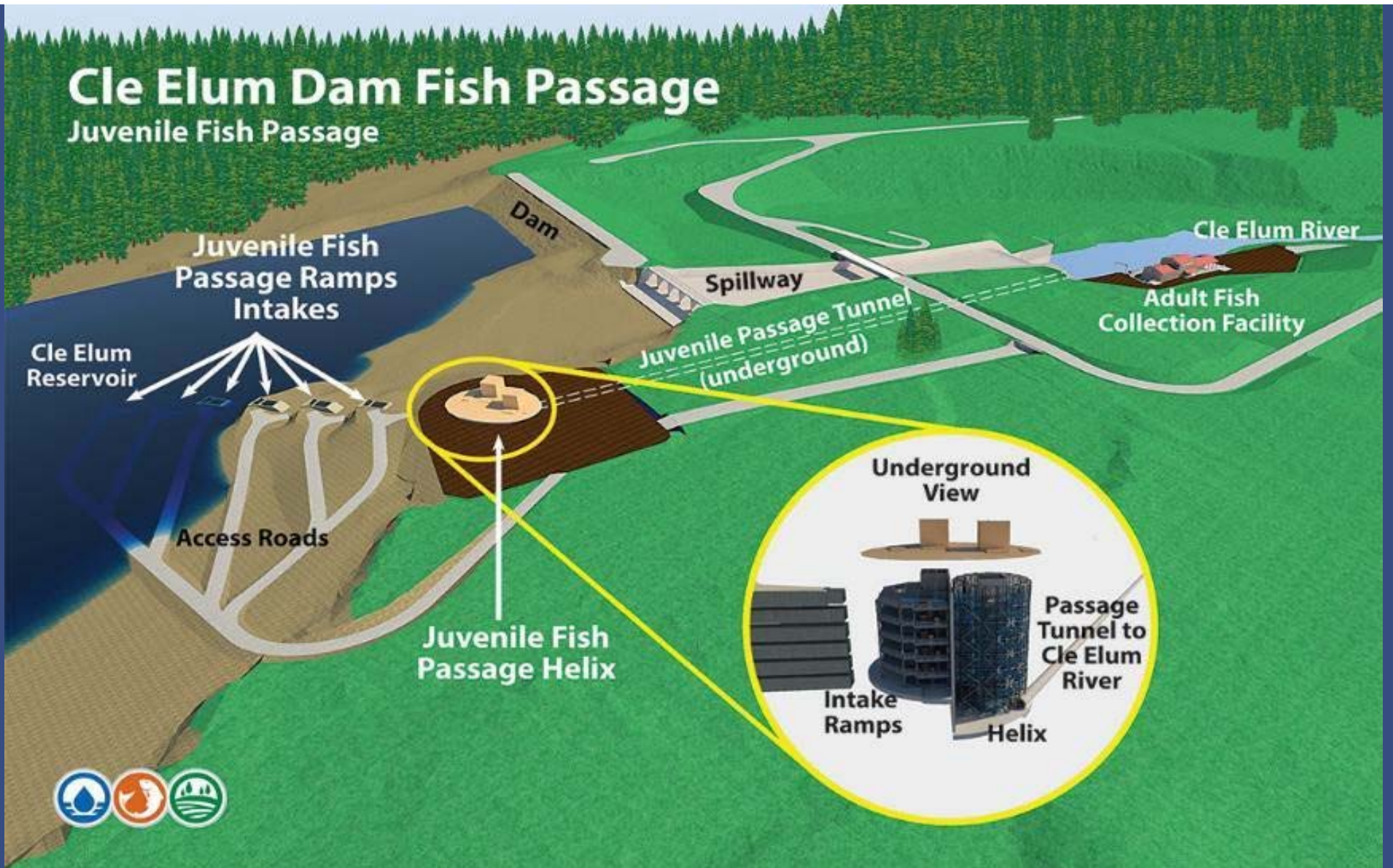
- Provide fish passage at all Yakima Basin reservoirs

Approach

- Cle Elum
- Clear Creek
- Main Stem Yakima Diversions
- Nelson Dam
- Bateman Island

Cle Elum Dam Fish Passage

Juvenile Fish Passage





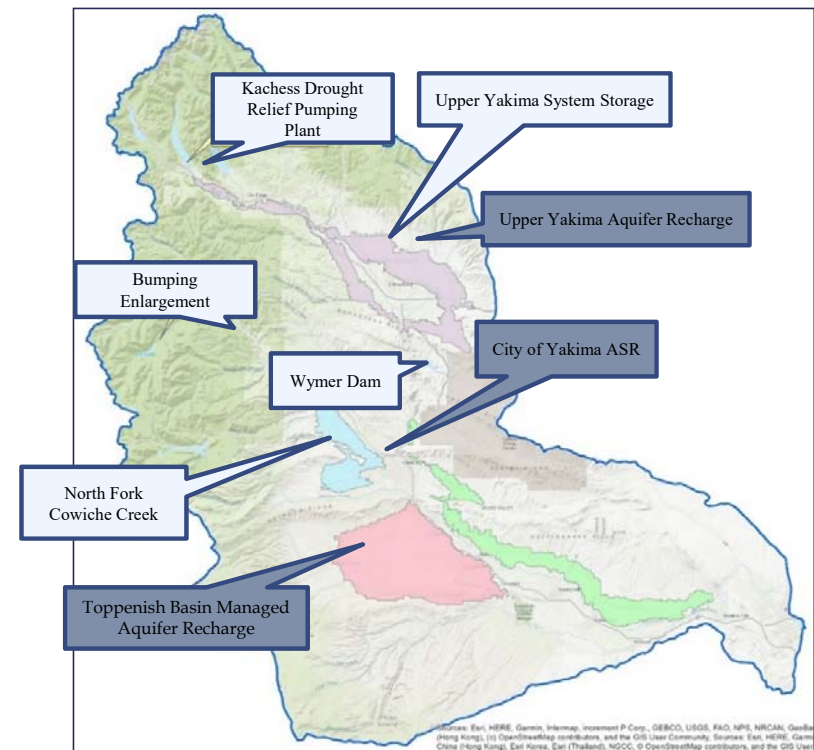
Water Storage

Goal

- 450,000 acre-feet of new storage to improve reliability, increase instream flows and prepare for climate change

Approach

- Water Supply Framing process underway
- Range of projects – small, large, surface, groundwater





Water Supply Reliability

Goal

- Instream flows for fish
- 70% proratable irrigation supply in drought years
- M&I supply

Approach

- Modernization and Conservation
- Drought supply
- Increased surface storage
- Managed aquifer recharge



Habitat



Goal

- Protect watershed and shrub steppe lands
- Restore floodplain, river, tributary habitat
- Forest health – fire and water supply
- Economic support – water, fish, recreation

Approach

- Strategic land acquisition
- Designations
- Restoration projects





Return of the Sockeye



2009: Sockeye reintroduced to Cle Elum by the Yakama Nation

2013: First Sockeye to be born and raised in the Yakima River Basin in over 100 years to return, released into Cle Elum Reservoir

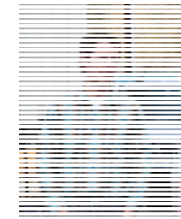




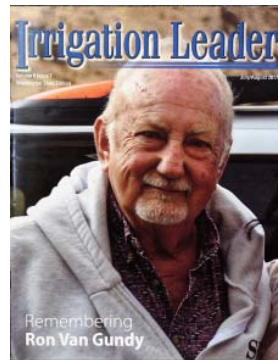
Why this Plan is Working

“I can live with what you want if you can live with what we want”

- Not the usual “compromise”
- Adversaries become advocates
(even Huskies and Cougars)
- Many dedicated participants →



“We can’t do it without each other”





Honor. Protect. Restore.