

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.