

## Yakima Basin Integrated Plan: Keeping Our Stride Through Implementation

### Abstract:

A coalition of diverse interests came together in 2009 and created a nationally recognized resource management framework for water management and aquatic habitat restoration in the Yakima River Basin. The Yakima Basin Integrated Plan (YBIP) is designed to provide a resilient, healthy aquatic ecosystem and reliable agricultural/municipal water supply for the future of the basin. Our projects and strategies seek to moderate the effects of climate change in this snowpack-reliant basin. This presentation focuses on the meaning of native fish species from three perspectives: 1) historical value and loss (primarily endured by the Yakama Nation), 2) threats to agriculture and the economy (before YBIP), and 3), opportunities for the future under YBIP.

We apply innovative science and integrated thinking to provide water where it is most needed to support in-stream and out-of-stream uses, improve facilities to enhance fish survival, and employ collaborative strategies through proven partnerships to achieve the goals of the plan. YBIP partners are renovating irrigation diversions and infrastructure to improve fish passage, augmenting tributary streamflow during low flow periods, increasing irrigation efficiencies, and implementing a holistic fisheries restoration strategy for Pacific salmon, Bull Trout and other aquatic species.

A panel of YBIP partners will discuss these three perspectives, with an emphasis on how we are working together on actions and strategies, along with future actions planned, to achieve a sustainable and harvestable fisheries future.