

Title:

Reestablish Safe Access Into Tributaries of the Yakima Subbasin
BPA Project #98-034: A Summary of Projects and Issues

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Summary of Presentation:

The *Safe Access* project has concentrated on screening and passage issues in Kittitas Valley tributaries, including Wilson, Naneum, Manastash and Reecer Creeks, and on Tucker Creek near Easton, Washington. Construction projects in lower Wilson, Naneum and Tucker Creeks that were slated for FY '02 were delayed for numerous reasons. Those projects were re-scheduled to occur during FY '03; however, reprioritization of assumed carry-forward funding has precluded the possibility of construction during FY '03 and perhaps during FY '04.

In addition to proposed construction projects, pre-feasibility planning efforts in lower Manastash Creek and Reecer Creek have been initiated. A Manastash Creek Water Conservation Study was completed by Montgomery Watson Harza, resulting in six alternatives that address screening, passage and water conservation. Numerous meetings with irrigators, state agencies and interest groups have also occurred. The Reecer Creek Passage Improvement Feasibility Study is near completion.

This presentation will address several of the proposed construction projects and reasons for delays in implementation. It should be noted that all construction projects have permitting completed, contracts or Task Orders in place, contractors selected and landowner agreements completed or under legal review. The planning efforts undertaken in Manastash and Reecer Creeks will be discussed in general terms.

It is the author's understanding that future funding of construction projects will be implemented through accrual-based contracting. In other words, spend it or lose it on a fiscal year basis. How one might squeeze engineering, design, permitting, easements, landowner agreements, contracting and water rights issues into such a time frame is the challenge that lies ahead.