



Yakima Basin Science & Management Conference

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Setting Up for Survival – A River Basin Endures

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Kittitas Reclamation District Water Conservation and Habitat Improvement Program

Conserving water through strategic capital improvements will offset anticipated water shortages, promote the regional economy, and enhance the environment



- KRD Boundary
- Existing Open Channel (Canal, Ditch, Lateral)
- Existing Piped Lateral
- Proposed Canal Lining
- Proposed Lateral to be Piped
- 5 Proposed Project (see back page)
- Potential Water Storage Location
- Canal Spill Location
- Road
- Stream

0 1 2 Miles

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Tributary Supplementation Program

During the severe drought of 2015, the KRD secured outside funding to help save endangered fish through tributary supplementation by transporting water through Kittitas Reclamation District (KRD) canals to downstream tributaries in the Yakima River. Throughout the summer the KRD spilled water into multiple tributaries that were going dry due to extraordinary drought conditions in the Yakima Basin.

Water delivered to creeks via the KRD canal system prevented the mortality of thousands of fish stranded in pools that were drying up in creek beds. Washington State Fish and Wildlife documented listed salmonids in multiple life stages that were "rescued" by the cold, clean water delivered to the creeks by the KRD.

The supplemental water also prevented riparian vegetation losses. Riparian habitats are important to foster and maintain healthy stream functions. Streambanks not supported by the root-structures found in functioning riparian areas are easily eroded, which can lead to flooding, higher stream temperatures, and loss of habitat.

The KRD continues to work with the Yakima Basin Integrated Plan partners to implement additional conservation measures, which will free up more capacity in the KRD canal system to continue and expand the supplementation program.

