

# Title III Yakima River Basin Restoration Act Funding Plan

This Act will benefit Kittitas, Yakima, and Benton Counties by increasing the total water storage available in the watershed by 1.6 million acre-feet. This water will be allocated by the Bureau of Reclamation following guidelines set by a governing committee to ensure adequate irrigation supplies and to enhance fishery habitat in the Columbia River Basin.

## **Objectives:**

1. Increase storage capacity in the Yakima Basin to ensure a more reliable supply of water for irrigation and normalization of stream flow.
2. Restore Basin watersheds to improve habitat for anadromous fish (salmon and steelhead).
3. Modernize and improve irrigation delivery systems to decrease energy use and water loss.

Cost of water transfer system from Columbia River to Black Rock Reservoir, including pumping plants, generating plants, pipelines, storage reservoir construction, and delivery system to Roza and Sunnyside Irrigation Districts.....\$2,253,409,200

Miscellaneous Expenses.....\$2,246,590,800

Including: Mobilization costs \$115,000,000, Unlisted Items \$231,590,800, Contingencies \$700,000,000,  
Non-contract Costs \$1,200,000,000.

Interest During Construction (Based on 10 Year construction period).....\$1,096,000,000

**Bureau of Reclamation Estimate of Total Cost to Complete the Project...\$5,515,800,000**

**Upgrade and improve Irrigation systems.** (The scope and cost of this project is to be determined and shall be utilized in conjunction with existing legislative programs).....**\$TBD**

**Restore and enhance fishery habitat in the Yakima River Basin.** The committee will outline the desired changes. They may include conversion of Bumping Reservoir to a permanent lake with fish ladder access, fish passage systems at all existing dams, restoration of reaches deemed critical to fish habitat, and normalization of stream flows to facilitate fish migration..**\$TBD**

## **Construction Funding Sources**

1. The primary objective of the Act is to restore the Yakima River Basin as the main salmon habitat of the Columbia River Basin. Restoring normal flows and removing obstacles to fish passage will allow biologists to successfully complete this objective. The **Federal Government** will pay 65%.
2. **Irrigators.** BOR estimates that the benefit of this Act to irrigators is \$4.16 million annually. They will be assessed this entire amount prorated among junior water rights holders on a per acre assessment. (\$4.16 million divided by 225,000 acres = \$18 per acre of irrigated land).
3. **State** Funds will provide 17.5% of costs based on Title XII.
4. **Counties** assess property taxes in each of the 3 counties to pay the local share of construction.
5. **Power generation** rights and the ability to adapt the system to store hydroelectric energy is an additional revenue production option. The top 12 inches of the reservoir based on a 1000 foot drop in elevation has the same potential power capacity as Priest Rapids Dam for a 6 hour period. Use of this capacity to increase peak demand power generation and also to replace wind energy when the wind is not blowing are saleable assets that will not hinder the main function of the reservoir. Further research is needed to set a firm value.

## **Operating Fund Sources**

1. The **Bonneville Power Administration** shall provide the power to operate the pumping plants as part of the salmon restoration activity (as in the Umatilla Project). The BOR shall coordinate the use of the pumping plants to maximize the efficiency of the system and normalize streamflows in the Columbia River. The secondary use of the pumping plant to store energy in additional reservoirs shall be permitted if deemed cost-effective.
2. **Power use fees.** The power storage system will pay usage fees to be applied to operations.
3. **Recreational Use Fees.** Recreational use fees may be assessed.
4. **Irrigators** may purchase additional water if available. (throughout the River Basin).
5. **Downstream Seepage.** Sale of seepage water rights downstream from the dam will offset operating costs.
6. **Efficiency Benefits.** 50% of net savings from improvements in irrigation systems may be assessed to pay operating costs.
7. **Department of Ecology.** DOE will pay operating costs from usage and discharge fees in the Basin
8. **Municipal Funding.** Water sales to municipalities will generate revenue.