

Yakima River Basin Water Storage Feasibility Study

Planning Report and Environmental Impact Statement

SCOPING SUMMARY REPORT

**Yakima Project, Washington
Pacific Northwest Region**

Mission Statements

The mission of the Department of the Interior is to protect and provide access to our Nation's natural and cultural heritage and to honor our trust responsibilities to Indian tribes and our commitments to island communities.

The mission of the Bureau of Reclamation is to manage, develop, and protect water and related resources in an environmentally and economically sound manner in the interest of the American public.

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**Yakima Project, Washington
Pacific Northwest Region**

**U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Reclamation
Pacific Northwest Region
Upper Columbia Area Office**

**Washington State
Department of Ecology**

March 2007

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Scoping Summary

This document is a summary of the scoping comments received for the Yakima River Basin Water Storage Feasibility Study (Storage Study), Planning Report and Environmental Impact Statement (PR/EIS). Scoping is an essential part of public involvement; public involvement is a process for including interested and affected individuals, Tribes, organizations, State and local agencies, and Federal governmental agencies in an agency's decisionmaking process. Scoping is a term used for the process of seeking comments and public information to identify the significant issues related to a proposal.

The scoping process for this study was initiated in December 2006. A Federal Notice of Intent to prepare an EIS and to conduct open houses and public scoping meetings was published in the Federal Register on December 29, 2006. A Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) Determination of Significance also was published on December 29, 2006. A meeting notice describing the project; requesting comments; and announcing the date, times, and location of the public scoping meetings was mailed to interested individuals, Tribes, groups, and government agencies. A total of 331 meeting notices were distributed. On December 29, 2006, Reclamation issued a news release to local media, and Ecology published the Determination of Significance as a public notice in area newspapers. The Notice of Intent, Determination of Significance, news release, and meeting notice are attached to this document, along with handouts from the meetings.

Reclamation and Ecology hosted two public scoping meetings, preceded by informal open houses, at the Yakima Convention Center on January 23, 2007. At the open houses and public meetings, alternatives under consideration were presented, and the public was provided opportunities to identify issues and concerns associated with the proposed alternatives and to identify other alternatives. About 100 people attended the two scoping meetings, with 70 percent attending the afternoon meeting.

The scoping period extended from December 29, 2006, to January 31, 2007. Including those from the scoping meetings, 130 written comment documents were received. The documents included one request to be added to the mailing list with no comments, 6 identical form letters received by e-mail, 74 identical postcards received by U.S. mail, and 49 unique documents received by one or more of the following methods: hand delivery, e-mail, U.S. mail, fax; some documents were received by multiple methods. The comments ranged from brief comments or questions to detailed statements.

The agencies will use the comments received to assist in the following:

- Identifying the significant issues relevant to the proposed action
- Identifying those elements of the environment that could be affected by the proposed action
- Formulating alternatives for the proposed action
- Determining the appropriate environmental documents to be prepared

Some comments concerned potential alternatives that might be considered. A few of those comments dealt with additional storage concepts, most of which have been considered in earlier phases of Reclamation's Storage Study. Most of the comments concerning alternatives dealt with nonstorage alternatives that Ecology might consider in fulfilling its obligations under the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA). Further evaluation is needed to determine whether some of these suggested alternatives will meet the standard of reasonable alternatives under SEPA and be carried forward into the EIS. The suggested alternatives that Ecology intends to further evaluate are as follows:

- Aquifer storage as a means of restoring floodplain function (infiltration of groundwater for purposes of passive augmentation of streamflows)
- Aquifer storage and recovery as a means of providing water for out-of-stream uses
- Voluntary demand management strategies to create additional water supplies for instream and out-of-stream uses (crop changes, dry year management, and entity and onfarm conservation measures)
- Reallocation of resources for instream and out-of-stream uses through voluntary mechanisms (water markets, banking, and transfers)

Sites identified through the Columbia River Mainstem Off-Channel Storage Study could conceivably be considered as potential alternatives; however, that determination cannot be made until the current Ecology appraisal-level evaluation of those sites is completed.

Additional comments received during the scoping process dealing with issues, concerns, and potential impacts follow; comments are categorized by topic. These comments will be considered by Reclamation and Ecology in the preparation of the draft EIS. Additional issues also will be considered as they arise.

The following outlines the major comments and issues provided to Reclamation and Ecology as part of the scoping process.

Purpose and Need

- Yakima River basin's water supply and water needs must be better defined
- The purpose, scope and objectives of the Storage Study EIS should be expanded to allow for a full range of water supply alternatives, including nonstorage and/or nonstructural alternatives.

- Demand management is key to managing water during short supply, and reducing demands, particularly in water short years, should be considered.
- Purpose and need should be defined so that both sides of the water balance equation – supply and demand – are considered when forming options.
- Need to quantify accurately the magnitude of the water problem based on need and not on demand.

Description of Alternatives

- Unclear what alternatives will be analyzed in the EIS.
- We would like to see a summary of the contingencies, costs, and the non-contract costs for each alternative.
- Should eliminate Black Rock and Wymer alternatives from the EIS because neither proposal is economically feasible.
- Will the water delivery systems (i.e., canals) function properly if no Columbia River water enters the Yakima River (i.e., no return flow)?
- Determine loss of water from reservoirs by seepage and evaporation.
- How much land around each reservoir will be purchased or condemned by Reclamation and at what cost?
- Identify how each alternative affects flooding and flood control.
- How will operations of the other reservoirs in the system be modified?
- To what extent will future changes in the Columbia River Treaty, which governs U.S.-Canada management of the Columbia River, affect availability of water and therefore viability of the storage proposals?
- The public needs to know the details of the No Action Alternative; they haven't been provided at the same level as the other alternatives.

Black Rock Reservoir

- EIS should examine the impacts on Columbia River flows if Black Rock Reservoir is maintained at maximum levels throughout the year, even in dry months.
- Will the reservoir hold water?
- Will the reservoir provide habitat for mosquitoes?
- Does Black Rock have the potential of meeting all the study goals?
- What will the impacts be from secondary development, like a resort?
- Will seepage from the reservoir accelerate the movement of the radioactive plume at Hanford toward the Columbia or increase its size?
- What are the impacts to the resources of the Hanford Reach or to Hanford lands?

Wymer Reservoir with Pump Back

- Analyze the components separately as well as a single project.
- Will the reservoir hold water?
- Would significant power be generated at Wymer site?

Suggested Storage Alternatives

- Re-evaluate the enlargement of Bumping Lake and the K to K pipeline.
- Will the alternative reservoirs being considered for off-stream storage as part of the State of Washington's Columbia River Water Management Program be considered as alternatives in this study?
- Look into the feasibility of several small off-channel reservoirs, which could equal one multi-billion dollar Black Rock. An example is the small reservoir in the Swauk Creek watershed being studied by the Kittitas Conservation Trust.

Suggested Nonstorage Alternatives

- Water conservation, both onfarm and large conveyance systems.
- Obtain water rights for instream flows for salmon.
- Water markets and transfers.
- Less water intensive crops.
- Crop rotation.
- Aquifer recharge.
- Water banking.
- Water pricing.
- Consider possible pump exchanges, such as a pump station at Priest Rapids and a pipeline to Roza irrigation canal, and changing the diversion point of Kennewick Irrigation District from the Yakima River to the Columbia River.
- Thoroughly study the potential benefits and impacts of the nonstorage alternatives.
- Align funding criteria for conservation projects and activities between the current Yakima River Basin Water Enhancement Program and the program emerging from the Columbia River Water Management Program.
- Explore how full funding and implementation for existing salmon restoration plans, along with changes in operations within Reclamation's Yakima Project, could achieve the goal of improving aquatic habitat.
- Consider sedimentation removal from our present water storage facilities; the capacity levels due to soil erosion restricts present-day estimates.

Air and Climate

- What is the effect of global climate change on the various alternatives and how would they affect climate change?
- The EIS must identify the impacts on the atmosphere, including those from power production.
- What solar impacts are associated with the reservoirs, including solar heating and evaporative loss?
- To what extent would energy demand of the projects displace hydropower use and directly or indirectly increase demand for energy from coal or gas-fired powerplants?

Water Resources

- What is the water supply for the various alternatives?
- Analyze the consequences to the aquifers and groundwater, including, but not limited to, potential changes in groundwater flow rates and the direction of flow across the Hanford Site.

Water Rights

- What is the nature of the water right from the Columbia River for the Black Rock Reservoir alternative?
- When can water be pumped the Columbia River?
- As a water rights matter, how would the inter-basin transfer of water rights (Columbia to Yakima) be done?
- Will landowners close to reservoirs be able to purchase water?

Water Quality

- Will the water quality in the Yakima River change?
- What will be the effect of the storage projects on water temperature in the Yakima and Columbia Rivers?

Geology, Earthquakes

- What is the risk for catastrophic failure of the Black Rock Dam and what would the impacts be?
- What affect would the additional weight of the dam and water, coupled with the saturation of the adjacent strata, have on surrounding slope stability?

Land and Shoreline Use

- The EIS should address potential additional impacts resulting from possible secondary uses like a golf courses, marinas, lodges, condominiums, and homes at or around Black Rock Reservoir.
- How will the Black Rock project contribute to sprawl and other development in the Yakima and Black Rock valleys?
- Who owns surface and subsurface (mineral) rights around these reservoirs and how would inundation affect those rights?
- Are recreational improvements and other proposed development consistent with county plans?

Hydropower Resources

- How much pumping power is required? Where will it come from and at what price? Is this much power available in the Northwest power grid today? Will it affect overall demand for energy in the region or the price of energy?
- Would pumping to fill Black Rock or Wymer affect the current operations, including fishery operations, at Federal and non-Federal dams on the Columbia River?

- The costs should include the loss of hydropower generation at downstream Columbia River dams from Columbia River withdrawals.
- What are the costs of pumping versus the benefits from hydropower generation?

Other Power Resources

- Need to look at wind power generation

Fish

- Will pumping Columbia River water into the Yakima create a “false attraction” issue for adult salmon returning to spawn?
- How will pumping to fill storage impact spring and summer flows in the Columbia, and will it decrease the probability of meeting flow targets for ESA-listed salmon and steelhead?

Vegetation and Wildlife

- What are the impacts to terrestrial wildlife?
- To what degree will these projects expand irrigated land and further reduce wildlife habitat?
- Is the Black Rock Valley in a movement corridor for Hanford elk?

Visual Resources / Aesthetics

- Will these reservoirs have extensive mudflats at the end of the summer like those around Rimrock?

Recreation Resources

- Will reservoir fluctuations affect the quality of recreation?
- Will recreation occurring at Black Rock be “new” recreation in the region, or will it merely attract people who are currently recreating at other places in the region? Analyze impacts on current recreational opportunities that exist on rivers in the Yakima River basin.
- How does Wymer affect recreation in the Yakima River basin?

Irrigation and Agriculture

- Irrigators should pay the costs associated with increased irrigation benefits.
- How much new land will be irrigated and where?
- The EIS should provide realistic projection and comparison of changes in agricultural outputs that would result from each of the alternatives

Social/Economic Issues

- How would these alternatives compare to other salmon restoration projects, both completed and contemplated, in terms of cost per fish?
- If we price the irrigation water too high, do we lose the irrigation economic benefits?

- If Black Rock delivers water in a common canal to both Roza and SVID, are there other benefits for those irrigation districts?
- The EIS should determine the cost irrigators will have to pay for their portion of improvements in dollars per acre-foot.
- Could condemnation be used to acquire land for the project?
- What is the future value of Black Rock 50 years from completion?
- Will Yakima County be compensated for lost property taxes when private land becomes publicly owned land?
- What are the costs & benefits of conservation and water markets versus new dams and reservoirs?
- Recreational growth and use of the reservoir would be secondary impacts of the project and should not be counted in a cost-benefit analysis.
- How will the Black Rock project affect the community that now lives near the proposed reservoir?
- To what extent would the addition of new water storage affect the regional agricultural economy?
- The ability and/or willingness of the irrigation community to pay additional costs associated with construction and increased O&M should be discussed in the EIS.

Transportation / Public Services and Utilities

- Who will pay for roads and other services/utilities that benefit the proposed development around the reservoirs?
- Consider impacts of rerouting SR 24, including increased travel time/gas costs for Hanford employees living in Yakima area.
- If Highway 24 is changed, it needs to be built on the north side of Black Rock so the sun can hit it in the winter to reduce ice danger.
- EIS needs to identify impacts to the state highway system for each alternative considered

Historic Properties/Cultural Resources

- Probable cultural impacts for excavation for Black Rock; known historic districts within project limits. What kind of mitigation is anticipated for affected sites?

Cumulative Impacts

- For cumulative impacts, the EIS needs to evaluate those related to
 - DOE Hanford site
 - Tank Closure and Waste Management EIS (ongoing)
 - groundwater at Hanford
 - water quality and quantity (both groundwater and surface water)
 - transportation impacts
 - State Route 24
 - State Highway 240
 - socioeconomics (construction and operation)

- The EIS must assess impacts in the larger context of the longstanding loss of fish, wildlife, habitat, and riverine (in-river, riparian, floodplain and wetland) values and resources, including water quality impacts, caused by extensive, historic water development in the Columbia basin.
- Several water resource projects are in the planning stages for the Yakima and Columbia River basin, including the Pine Hollow project, the Odessa Subarea Special Study projects, Walla Walla projects, and statewide watershed planning projects. The cumulative impacts of these various water project proposals should be discussed.

Other Issues and Concerns

- We need to get this study completed so we can proceed with actual construction. It is time to make a decision and move forward with our best-known solutions to our water needs.
- Could the reservoir be used for fire control?
- The EIS for the Yakima Basin Storage Studies should include consideration of impacts that storage proposals for the Yakima River basin will have on other alternative storage proposals in the Columbia River Basin.
- How will the funding required for Black Rock or Wymer affect the feasibility of funding other water conservation/supply projects and salmon recovery efforts in the rest of the Columbia River Basin?
- Consider building a storage reservoir that would provide benefits to a larger group of users east of the Cascades than those individuals in the Yakima River basin.
- Where would construction materials be obtained for the storage projects and pipelines and what are the environmental impacts associated with the development and transport of those materials?

Attachments

Notice of Intent

the obsidian blade was ever buried with any individual. However, based on the information from consultation, officials of the Horner Collection, Oregon State University reasonably believes that the cultural item is an unassociated funerary object.

In 1993, two obsidian spear points were found in museum collections with no accession numbers and are without provenience information. In 1999, one bag containing approximately 300 small projectile points made of obsidian and chert was found in museum collections with no accession number and no provenience information.

The two obsidian spear points and bag of projectile points are typical items that have been found at ancient burials and were commonly left as offerings in the belief that the projectile points could be used for hunting in the spirit world. The Horner Collection, Oregon State University has no documentation that the cultural items were ever buried with any individual. However, based on the museum records and information from consultation, officials of the Horner Collection, Oregon State University reasonably believes that the three cultural items are unassociated funerary objects.

Officials of the Horner Collection, Oregon State University have determined that, pursuant to 25 U.S.C. 3001 (3)(B), the 12 cultural items described above are reasonably believed to have been placed with or near individual human remains at the time of death or later as part of the death rite or ceremony and are believed, by a preponderance of the evidence, to have been removed from a specific burial site of an Native American individual. Officials of the Horner Collection, Oregon State University also have determined that, pursuant to 25 U.S.C. 3001 (2), there is a relationship of shared group identity that can be reasonably traced between the unassociated funerary objects and the Santa Rosa Indian Community of the Santa Rosa Rancheria, California.

Representatives of any other Indian tribe that believes itself to be culturally affiliated with the unassociated funerary objects should contact Sabah Randhawa, Executive Vice President and Provost, President's Office, Oregon State University, 600 Kerr Administration Building, Corvallis, OR 97331, telephone (541) 737-8260, before January 29, 2007. Repatriation of the unassociated funerary objects to the Santa Rosa Indian Community of the Santa Rosa Rancheria, California may proceed after that date if no additional claimants come forward.

The Horner Collection, Oregon State University is responsible for notifying the Duckwater Shoshone Tribe of the Duckwater Reservation, Nevada; Karuk Tribe of California; Pit River Tribe, California; Redding Rancheria, California; Santa Rosa Indian Community of the Santa Rosa Rancheria, California; Smith River Rancheria, California; Southern Ute Indian Tribe of the Southern Ute Reservation, Colorado; and Yurok Tribe of the Yurok Reservation, California that this notice has been published.

Dated: November 22, 2006.

Sherry Hutt,

Manager, National NAGPRA Program.

[FR Doc. E6-22346 Filed 12-28-06; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4312-50-S

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Reclamation

Yakima River Basin Water Storage Feasibility Study; Benton, Yakima, and Kittitas Counties, Washington

AGENCY: Bureau of Reclamation, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of intent to prepare a combined Planning Report and Environmental Impact Statement.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to section 102(2)(C) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended, the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) proposes to prepare a combined Planning Report and Environmental Impact Statement (PR/EIS) on the Yakima River Basin Water Storage Feasibility Study. The Washington Department of Ecology (Ecology) is a joint lead with Reclamation in the preparation of this Environmental Impact Statement which will also be used to comply with requirements of the Washington State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA).

The purpose of Reclamation's Yakima River Basin Water Storage Feasibility Study is to evaluate alternatives that would create additional water storage for the Yakima River basin and assess their potential to supply the water needed for ecosystem aquatic habitat, basin-wide agriculture, and municipal demands. The need for the study is based on the existing finite water supply and limited storage capability of the Yakima River basin in low water years. This finite supply and limited storage capacity do not meet the water supply demands in all years and result in significant adverse impact to the Yakima River basin's economy, which is agriculture-based, and to the basin's aquatic habitat, specifically,

anadromous fisheries. The study seeks to identify means of increasing water storage available, including storage of Columbia River water, for purposes of improving anadromous fish habitat and meeting irrigation and municipal water supply needs.

DATES: Two scoping meetings, preceded by open houses, will be held on January 23, 2007, at the following times:

Open Houses: 1 to 2 p.m.; and 6 to 7 p.m.

Scoping Meetings: 2 to 4 p.m.; and 7 to 9 p.m.

Written comments will be accepted through January 31, 2007, for inclusion in the scoping summary document. Requests for sign language interpretation for the hearing impaired should be submitted to David Kaumheimer as indicated under the For Further Information section by January 8, 2007.

ADDRESSES: Meetings will be held at the Yakima Convention Center, 10 North 8th Street, Yakima, WA 98901-2058. The meeting facilities are physically accessible to people with disabilities.

Comments and requests to be added to the mailing list may be submitted to Bureau of Reclamation, Upper Columbia Area Office, Attention: David Kaumheimer, Environmental Programs Manager, 1917 Marsh Road, Yakima, Washington 98901-2058. Comments may also be submitted electronically to storagestudy@pn.usbr.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Contact David Kaumheimer, Environmental Programs Manager, Telephone: (509) 575-5848, extension 232. TTY users may dial 711 to obtain a toll free TTY relay. Information on this project can also be found at http://www.usbr.gov/pn/programs/storage_study/index.html.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Reclamation has undertaken this study as a potential means to augment water supplies in the Yakima River Basin for the benefit of anadromous fish, irrigated agriculture, and municipal water supply under the authority of Public Law 108-7, Section 214 which was passed by Congress on February 20, 2003. Public Law 108-7 states:

The Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Bureau of Reclamation, shall conduct a feasibility study of options for additional water storage in the Yakima River Basin, Washington, with emphasis on the feasibility of storage of Columbia River water in the potential Black Rock Reservoir and the benefit of additional storage to endangered and threatened fish, irrigated agriculture, and municipal water supply. There are authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be necessary to carry out this Act.

Ecology will be a joint lead with Reclamation in the preparation of this Environmental Impact Statement. Ecology has indicated that under SEPA they will evaluate a range of alternatives that include both storage, the subject of the Yakima River Basin Water Storage Feasibility Study, and non-storage components. As a result the jointly prepared EIS will provide NEPA coverage for storage alternatives that Reclamation may consider as part of the Yakima River Basin Water Storage Feasibility Study as well as SEPA coverage for a broader range of alternatives that Ecology may consider.

The alternatives being investigated by Reclamation include additional storage of Yakima River water, as well as water exchanges with the Columbia River. The in-basin alternatives would entail diverting excess water flows from the Yakima River after all water rights and fish target flows are met. Previous Yakima River Basin investigations, such as the Yakima River Basin Water Enhancement Program and the Watershed Management Plan for the Yakima River Basin, are being used to develop in-basin water storage alternatives.

The water exchange alternatives would involve new storage and the pumping of water from the Columbia River. The Black Rock Dam and Reservoir alternative would pump 3,500 or 6,000 cfs from above Priest Rapids to a reservoir east of the city of Yakima which would then be delivered to irrigation districts downstream of the city. Deliveries from Black Rock Reservoir would offset existing diversions from the Yakima River. Those foregone diversions would be used to improve flows for anadromous fish and provide additional supplies in drought years to existing irrigators beyond what would otherwise have been available. Water stored as part of the project would not be used to expand irrigation in the Yakima Basin. An alternative which would pump water from the mouth of the Yakima River would involve a storage reservoir in the Yakima Basin to re-regulate irrigation flow releases for the benefit of instream flows and a water exchange to reduce some Yakima River diversions.

Other combinations of storage and pumping of water from the Columbia River for delivery by exchange to the Yakima River Basin may be identified during the public scoping process.

Reclamation plans to conduct public scoping meetings to solicit input on the alternatives to augment water supplies in the Yakima River and impacts associated with those alternatives. Reclamation will summarize comments

received during the scoping meetings and letters received during the scoping period, identified under the Dates section, into a scoping summary document which will be provided to those who submitted comments. The scoping summary will also be available to others upon request.

If you wish to comment, you may mail us your comments as indicated under the Addresses section. Our practice is to make comments, including names, home addresses, home phone numbers, and e-mail addresses of respondents, available for public review. Individual respondents may request that we withhold their names and/or home addresses, etc., but if you wish us to consider withholding this information you must state this prominently at the beginning of your comments. In addition, you must present a rationale for withholding this information. This rationale must demonstrate that disclosure would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of privacy. Unsupported assertions will not meet this burden. In the absence of exceptional, documentable circumstances, this information will be released. We will always make submissions from organizations or businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses, available for public inspection in their entirety.

Kathryn A. Marshall,

Acting Regional Director, Pacific Northwest Region.

[FR Doc. E6-22386 Filed 12-28-06; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-MN-P

INTERNATIONAL TRADE COMMISSION

[Investigation Nos. 701-TA-444-446 (Preliminary) and 731-TA-1107-1109 (Preliminary)]

Coated Free Sheet Paper From China, Indonesia, and Korea

Determinations

On the basis of the record¹ developed in the subject investigations, the United States International Trade Commission (Commission) determines, pursuant to sections 703(a) and 733(a) of the Tariff Act of 1930 (19 U.S.C. 1671b(a) and 1673b(a)) (the Act), that there is a reasonable indication that an industry in the United States is materially injured by reason of imports from

¹ The record is defined in sec. 207.2(f) of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure (19 CFR 207.2(f)).

China, Indonesia, or Korea of coated free sheet paper,² provided for in subheadings 4810.13.19, 4810.13.20, 4810.13.50, 4810.13.70, 4810.14.19, 4810.14.20, 4810.14.50, 4810.14.70, 4810.19.19, and 4810.19.20 of the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States, that are alleged to be subsidized or sold in the United States at less than fair value (LTFV).

Pursuant to section 207.18 of the Commission's rules, the Commission also gives notice of the commencement of the final phase of its investigations. The Commission will issue a final phase notice of scheduling, which will be published in the **Federal Register** as provided in section 207.21 of the Commission's rules, upon notice from the Department of Commerce (Commerce) of affirmative preliminary determinations in the investigations under sections 703(b) and 733(b) of the Act, or, if the preliminary determinations are negative, upon notice of affirmative final determinations in those investigations under sections 705(a) and 735(a) of the Act. Parties that filed entries of appearance in the preliminary phase of the investigations need not enter a separate appearance for the final phase of the investigations. Industrial users, and, if the merchandise under investigation is sold at the retail level, representative consumer organizations have the right to appear as parties in Commission antidumping and countervailing duty investigations. The Secretary will prepare a public service list containing the names and addresses of all persons, or their representatives, who are parties to the investigations.

Background

On October 31, 2006, a petition was filed with the Commission and Commerce by New Page Corp., Dayton, OH, alleging that an industry in the United States is materially injured or threatened with material injury by reason of subsidized and LTFV imports of coated free sheet paper from China, Indonesia, and Korea. Accordingly, effective October 31, 2006, the Commission instituted countervailing duty investigations Nos. 701-TA-444-446 (Preliminary) and antidumping duty investigations Nos. 731-TA-1107-1109 (Preliminary).

Notice of the institution of the Commission's investigations and of a public conference to be held in connection therewith was given by posting copies of the notice in the Office

² Chairman Daniel R. Pearson dissenting. Commissioner Jennifer A. Hillman did not participate in these investigations.

Determination of Significance

**DETERMINATION OF SIGNIFICANCE AND
REQUEST FOR COMMENT ON SCOPE OF
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT
YAKIMA BASIN WATER STORAGE FEASIBILITY STUDY**

The Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) and the U.S. Department of Interior, Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation), are requesting comments regarding the scope of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Yakima River Basin Water Storage Feasibility Study. The EIS will be a combined National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) document. The EIS will fulfill and be consistent with all applicable laws, rules, and regulations. A Notice of Intent to prepare a Combined Planning Report and Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) will be published in the Federal Register on December 29, 2006.

Description of Proposal: The purpose of the Storage Study is to evaluate alternatives that would create additional water storage for the Yakima River Basin and assess their potential to supply the water needed for aquatic ecosystem habitat, basin-wide agriculture, and municipal demands. For more information, visit the Storage Study website at: http://www.usbr.gov/pn/programs/storage_study/index.html.

Proponent: The project proponents are the Washington State Department of Ecology and the U.S. Department of Interior, Bureau of Reclamation.

Location of Proposal: The project area is the Yakima River Basin in Benton, Yakima, and Kittitas Counties, Washington and encompasses Water Resources Inventory Areas 37, 38 and 39. In addition, one of the alternatives under consideration would involve diversion of water from the Columbia River mainstem.

Lead and Cooperating Agencies: Ecology is a joint lead agency with Reclamation in the preparation of this Environmental Impact Statement.

EIS Required. The lead agencies have determined this proposal is likely to have a significant adverse impact on the environment. An environmental impact statement (EIS) is required under RCW 43.21C.030 (2)(c) and will be prepared.

Possible Alternatives: The alternatives being investigated by Reclamation include additional storage of Yakima River water in a proposed reservoir at Wymer, as well as water exchanges with the Columbia River as part of the Black Rock reservoir proposal. In addition, consistent with the provisions of SEPA, Ecology will evaluate a range of alternatives that include both storage, the subject of the Yakima River Basin Water Storage Feasibility Study, and non-storage components. As a result, the jointly prepared EIS will provide NEPA coverage for storage alternatives that Reclamation may consider as part of the Yakima River Basin Water Storage Feasibility Study as well as SEPA coverage for a broader range of alternatives that Ecology may consider.

Preliminary Issues: Among the major issues to be considered are effects on water quality and quantity, fish and wildlife habitat impacts, plant communities, air quality, transportation, cultural resources, and scenic resources aesthetics, as well as social/economic impacts.

Scoping: Agencies, affected tribes, organizations, and members of the public are invited to comment on the scope of the EIS. You may comment on alternatives, mitigation measures, probable significant adverse impacts, and licenses or other approvals that may be required. The comment period will open on December 29, 2006, and close on January 31, 2007.

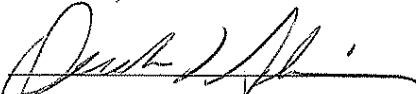
Reclamation and Ecology will host two open houses and public scoping meetings. The scoping meetings will be preceded by informal open houses and will be held at the Yakima Convention Center, 10 North 8th Street, in Yakima, Washington, on January 23, 2007. The schedule for the open houses and meetings is as follows:

Open Houses: 1:00 to 2:00 p.m. and 6:00 to 7:00 p.m.
Scoping Meetings: 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. and 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.

Reclamation and Ecology have identified a single point of contact for receiving written comments on the scope of the SEIS. Comments may be submitted in writing to:

Bureau of Reclamation, Upper Columbia Area Office, Attention: David Kaumheimer, Environmental Programs Manager, 1917 Marsh Road, Yakima, Washington 98901-2058. Comments may also be submitted electronically to storagestudy@pn.usbr.gov

SEPA Responsible Official: Derek I. Sandison
Position/title: Central Regional Director, Washington State Department of Ecology
Date: December 29, 2006

Signature: 

News Release

Pacific Northwest Region
Boise, Idaho

Media Contact: Diana Cross Gerald Kelso
208-378-5020 509-575-5848 ext. 202

Released On: December 29, 2006

Reclamation, Ecology Set Public Meetings on Storage Feasibility Study

The Bureau of Reclamation and the Washington Department of Ecology will host two open houses and public scoping meetings in Yakima, Wash. on the Yakima River Basin Water Storage Feasibility Study.

The two scoping meetings will be preceded by informal open houses and will be held at the Yakima Convention Center, 10 North 8th Street, on January 23, 2007.

Open Houses: 1:00 to 2:00 p.m.; and 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. Scoping Meetings: 2:00 to 4:00 p.m.; and 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.

The purpose of the Storage Study is to identify and evaluate alternatives that would create additional water storage for the Yakima River basin and assess their potential to supply the water needed for aquatic ecosystem habitat, dry-year irrigation by junior water rights holders, and future municipal needs.

A Notice of Intent to Prepare a Combined Planning Report and Environmental Impact Statement (PR/EIS) was published in the Federal Register on December 29, 2006.

The PR/EIS will be prepared jointly by Reclamation and Ecology and will satisfy the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the Washington State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA).

In addition to comments received at the scoping meeting, written comments will be accepted through January 31, 2007, and may be sent to: Bureau of Reclamation, attn: David Kaumheimer, 1917 Marsh Road, Yakima, WA 98901-2058, or fax: (509) 454-5650.

The meeting facilities are physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation for the hearing impaired should be submitted to David Kaumheimer at (509) 575-5848, extension 232, by January 8, 2007.

For more information, visit the Storage Study website,
http://www.usbr.gov/pn/programs/storage_study/index.html.

Questions and comments regarding the EIS process may be emailed to storagestudy@pn.usbr.gov.

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Reclamation is the largest wholesale water supplier and the second largest producer of hydroelectric power in the United States, with operations and facilities in the 17 Western States. Its facilities also provide substantial flood control, recreation, and fish and wildlife benefits. Visit our website at www.usbr.gov.

Relevant Links:

http://www.usbr.gov/pn/programs/storage_study/index.html

Meeting Notice

Contact: Kim McCartney, Upper Columbia Area Office, (509) 575-5848, ext. 370

Notice of Public Scoping for the Yakima River Basin Water Storage Feasibility Study

The Bureau of Reclamation is preparing a Planning Report and Environmental Impact Statement (PR/EIS) for the Yakima River Basin Water Storage Feasibility Study (Storage Study) in cooperation with the Washington Department of Ecology (Ecology). Reclamation and Ecology are hosting two public scoping meetings to obtain your input regarding the Storage Study. During these meetings, the current alternatives being considered will be described and staff will be available to answer questions about the study. You will also be given opportunities to identify issues and concerns associated with the current alternatives and to identify other alternatives for the project. The public scoping period runs through January 31, 2007.

When and Where:

January 23, 2007

Open House: 1-2 p.m. and 6-7 p.m.

Public Scoping Meeting: 2-4 p.m. and 7-9 p.m.

Yakima Convention Center
10 North 8th Street, Yakima, WA 98901

**Si desea atender la junta y necesita un interprete en espanol, por favor llame a
John Evans al (509) 575-5848, ext. 238**

Purpose and Need for the Project

The purpose of Reclamation's Yakima River Basin Water Storage Feasibility Study is to evaluate alternatives that would create additional water storage for the Yakima River basin and assess their potential to supply the water needed for ecosystem aquatic habitat, basinwide agriculture, and municipal demands. The need for the study is based on the existing finite water supply and limited storage capability of the Yakima River basin in low water years. This finite supply and limited storage capacity do not meet the water supply demands in all years and result in significant adverse impact to the Yakima River basin's economy, which is agriculture-based, and to the basin's aquatic habitat, specifically, anadromous fisheries. The study seeks to identify means of increasing water storage available, including storage of Columbia River water, for purposes of improving anadromous fish habitat and meeting irrigation and municipal water supply needs.



Overview of the Project

Reclamation's Feasibility Study authority for this Storage Study is limited to storage alternatives. However, Ecology has indicated that they will evaluate a range of alternatives that include both storage and nonstorage and inbasin and out-of-basin components. Therefore, the jointly prepared EIS will provide NEPA coverage for storage alternatives that Reclamation may consider as part of the Storage Study, as well as SEPA coverage for a broader range of alternatives that Ecology may consider.

The alternatives currently being investigated by Reclamation include inbasin water storage alternatives as well as water exchanges with the Columbia River. Previous Yakima River Basin investigations, such as the Yakima River Basin Water Enhancement Program and the Watershed Management Plan for the Yakima River Basin, are being used to develop the alternatives.

Appraisal-level studies indicate that the Black Rock and Wymer Dam Plus Yakima River Pump Exchange Alternatives, which use a combination of excess instream flows and reregulation of winter instream flow releases, may be able to meet the purpose and needs of the Yakima River Basin in varying degrees.

The Black Rock Alternative would pump 3,500 or 6,000 cfs (depending on the size of the reservoir) of Columbia River water to a reservoir east of the city of Yakima when flows are in excess of instream target flows. Water would then be delivered to irrigation districts in the lower half of the Yakima River. Deliveries from Black Rock would offset existing diversions from the Yakima River. Those foregone diversions would be used to improve flows for anadromous fish and provide additional supplies in drought years to existing irrigators beyond what would otherwise have been available. Water stored as part of the project would not be used to expand irrigation in the Yakima Basin.

Wymer dam and reservoir, located off the Yakima River about 15 miles north of the city of Yakima, would store the excess instream flows and reregulate winter flows for use later in the irrigation season and for drought situations. This alternative also includes a Yakima River Pump Exchange, which is accomplished by pumping up to 1,200 cfs from below the mouth of the Yakima River up to portions of the Roza and Sunnyside Irrigation Districts. The water that is currently being diverted to those districts would be left in the Yakima River to benefit the fishery.

Neither alternative would be used to expand irrigation in the Yakima basin.

What Can You Do?

Attend a Scoping Meeting

Please come to one of the public scoping meetings on January 23, 2007, and share your thoughts with us. If you are unable to attend, please send us your written comments on the attached sheet by January 31, 2007. Also, please feel free to share this invitation with your friends and neighbors.

An open house will be held immediately prior to the scoping meetings. The open house will give you an opportunity to view maps, displays, and descriptions of the alternatives identified to date, and to visit with Reclamation and Ecology staff about the project.

RECLAMATION

Managing Water in the West

The meeting facilities are physically accessible to people with disabilities. Please direct requests for sign language interpretation for the hearing impaired or other special needs to David Kaumheimer, Bureau of Reclamation, at 509-575-5848, extension 232 (TTY/TDD: 711), or by fax to 509-454-5650, by January 8, 2007.

Provide Your Comments

If you cannot attend one of our public scoping meetings, but wish to submit a comment, or if you wish to be added to the Storage Study mailing list, attached is a comment form for your use.

For further information regarding the Storage Study, please visit our website at http://www.usbr.gov/pn/programs/storage_study/index.html.



U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Reclamation

THE NEPA PROCESS

What is NEPA?

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) was passed by Congress and signed into law in 1969. NEPA directs all Federal agencies to consider the environmental factors of proposed actions and to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for any major Federal action that may have significant impacts

What is the NEPA Process for this project?

For this project, a planning report required under the Feasibility Study authority will be incorporated into the EIS. Requirements of SEPA, a State law similar to NEPA, will be included as well. A Notice of Intent to Prepare a Combined Planning Report and Environmental Impact Statement (PR/EIS) was published in the Federal Register on December 29, 2006. The PR/EIS will be prepared jointly by Reclamation and Ecology and will satisfy the requirements of both NEPA and SEPA.

A public scoping period, in which issues and concerns and other potential alternatives are identified, will run through January 31, 2007. Reclamation will develop a scoping summary of the comments received during this scoping period and it will be available to the public.

Following the scoping period, a draft EIS will be developed for public review and comment. It is anticipated that the Draft EIS will be available in 2008. An EIS is a comprehensive, full-disclosure document that assesses the social, economic, and environmental effects, both positive and negative, of a proposed action and alternatives to it. Impacts of those alternatives are compared to the No Action Alternative. Following a 90-day public review and comment period, a Final EIS will be prepared and made available to the public. The NEPA process is concluded with a Record of Decision (ROD) issued no sooner than 30 days after the Final EIS is completed. The ROD identifies Reclamation's decision and the basis for that decision.

For Additional Information, You May Contact:

David Kaumheimer
Environmental Programs Manager
Bureau of Reclamation
1917 Marsh Road
Yakima WA 98901-2058
Telephone: 509-575-5848, ext. 232 (TTY/TDD: 711)
Fax: 509-454-5650
Email: storagestudy@pn.usbr.gov

Or view our website at:

http://www.usbr.gov/pn/programs/storage_study/index.html

COMMENT FORM

Yakima River Basin Water Storage Feasibility Study

| | |
|-------------------------------------|----------------|
| Name (please print legibly): | |
| Organization: | |
| Mailing Address: | |
| City, State, and Zip Code: | |
| Telephone: | E-mail: |

Request to be placed on the mailing list:

- I want my name put on the mailing list to receive information on the Environmental Impact Statement.
 I want my name removed from this mailing list.

Please note: Our practice is to make comments, including names, home addresses, home phone numbers and email addresses of respondents, available for public review. Individual respondents may request that we withhold their names and/or home addresses, etc., but if you wish us to consider withholding this information you must state this prominently at the beginning of your comments. In addition, you must present a rationale for withholding this information. This rationale must demonstrate that disclosure would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of privacy. Unsupported assertions will not meet this burden. In the absence of exceptional, document-able circumstances, this information will be released. We will always make submissions from organizations or businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses, available for public disclosure in their entirety.

My comments on the Yakima River Basin Water Storage Feasibility Study are:

(Use back of sheet or additional sheets as necessary)

Please mail, fax, or email your comments before January 31, 2007, to: David Kaumheimer, Environmental Programs Manager, Bureau of Reclamation, 1917 Marsh Road, Yakima, WA 98901-2058; fax: (509) 454-5650; email: storagestudy@pn.usbr.gov.



U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Reclamation

Meeting Handouts

Contact: Dave Kaumheimer, Upper Columbia Area Office, (509) 575-5848, ext. 232

AGENDA - Scoping Meetings, Yakima Washington

Yakima River Basin Water Storage Feasibility Study

January 23, 2007

Afternoon Session

| | |
|------------------|---|
| 1:00 – 2:00 p.m. | Open House |
| 2:00 – 4:00 p.m. | Scoping Meeting |
| | Presentations by the Bureau of Reclamation and the Washington State Department of Ecology |
| | Identification of Issues |
| | Review and Wrap-Up |

Evening Session

| | |
|------------------|---|
| 6:00 – 7:00 p.m. | Open House |
| 7:00 – 9:00 p.m. | Scoping Meeting |
| | Presentations by the Bureau of Reclamation and the Washington State Department of Ecology |
| | Identification of Issues |
| | Review and Wrap-Up |



Contact: Kim McCartney, Upper Columbia Area Office, (509) 575-5848, ext. 370

WHERE WE ARE NOW

Yakima River Basin Water Storage Feasibility Study

January 23, 2007

Environmental Compliance Phase

The Yakima River Basin Water Storage Feasibility Study has entered its final phase—the Feasibility Analysis and Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Phase (Phase 4). In this Phase, the Bureau of Reclamation will evaluate the feasibility of proposed alternatives and develop an EIS in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Because the Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) is a full partner with Reclamation in the Storage Study, compliance with the Washington State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) will be done jointly with the NEPA compliance process. A jointly prepared EIS will be used to comply with requirements of both NEPA and SEPA. Both NEPA and SEPA require that a range of reasonable alternatives be considered to meet the purpose and need of the project. Congress directed Reclamation to focus on alternatives that would create additional water storage in the Yakima River Basin. Ecology has defined a broader purpose and need and will consider a broader range of alternatives including both storage and nonstorage alternatives. Therefore, the joint EIS will contain alternatives in common to both Ecology and Reclamation, as well as alternatives that only Ecology is considering. Because the EIS is being prepared for a feasibility study which requires a planning report, the planning report is being integrated with the EIS to produce a combined Planning Report/Environmental Impact Statement (PR/EIS).

During the scoping period (which closes January 31, 2007), input from the public, agencies, and organizations is being sought on the alternatives currently identified, impacts associated with those alternatives, and other alternatives which can reasonably address the purpose and need of the Storage Study. Following the scoping period, a range of alternatives to be evaluated in the draft PR/EIS will be identified. Alternatives will be included for evaluation based on their technical merit, public scoping issues, and expected environmental consequences of the proposed action and alternatives.

Plan Formulation Phase

The Plan Formulation Phase (Phase 3) of the Storage Study produced a *Technical Information and Hydrologic Analysis for Plan Formulation* (November 2006) document. Through two prior appraisal assessments (described below), Reclamation identified two alternatives—the Black Rock Alternative and the Wymer Dam and Reservoir Alternative—that warranted further analyses. Ecology asked that Reclamation add a pump exchange option to the Wymer Dam and Reservoir Alternative to increase the flexibility of the water supply from a Wymer dam and reservoir.



This alternative was called the Wymer Dam Plus Yakima River Pump Exchange Alternative. As required under NEPA, Reclamation also identified a “No Action” Alternative, which assumes continuation of water conservation and habitat enhancement measures authorized by separate legislation.

The two action alternatives meet the goals of the Storage Study in varying degrees. However, both alternatives have high construction and annual operating costs and benefit/cost ratios considerably below 1:1. The benefit/cost ratio is one of the main factors used to determine the best alternative in a Federal feasibility analysis.

Pre-Plan Formulation Phase

As part of Phase 2, the Pre-Plan Formulation Phase, the *Yakima River Basin Storage Alternatives Appraisal Assessment* was completed and released to the public in June 2006. This report included analyses of the Bumping Lake Enlargement, Keechelus-to-Kachess Pipeline, and Wymer Dam and Reservoir Alternatives. The conclusion of the report was that, after consultation with stakeholders, the Wymer Dam and Reservoir Alternative would be analyzed further due to its potential to provide fish benefits, but that the other two alternatives would be dropped from further study.

Also, an *Appraisal Assessment of the Black Rock Alternative* was completed and released to the public in February 2005. Reclamation, after consultation with stakeholders, concluded the Black Rock Alternative was technically viable and would be analyzed further.

Plan of Study Phase

The Plan of Study Phase was the startup activity (Phase 1) for the overall study. It contained two priority components. Simultaneous activities were undertaken to (1) identify priority activities that were fundamental to the Storage Study that could be immediately initiated in fiscal year 2003, and (2) define the scope of work, schedule, and budget for accomplishment of the Storage Study.

For more information regarding the Storage Study or alternatives, please contact:

- Kim McCartney, Storage Study Manager, 509-575-5848, ext. 370
- Or, visit our website at http://www.usbr.gov/pn/programs/storage_study/index.html.
- Or, sign up with the Washington State list serve at <http://listserv.wa.gov/archives/yakima-storage-study.html>.

For more information regarding the NEPA process or to submit a comment, contact:

- David Kaumheimer, Bureau of Reclamation, 1917 Marsh Road, Yakima WA 98901-2058, 509-575-5848, ext. 232 (TTY/TDD: 711)
- Fax: 509-454-5650
- Email: storagestudy@pn.usbr.gov.

Contact: Dave Kaumheimer, Upper Columbia Area Office, (509) 575-5848, ext. 232

ISSUE COMMENT BOARDS

Yakima River Basin Water Storage Feasibility Study

January 23, 2007

Air Quality

Alternatives

Climate

Operations, O&M, etc.

Cumulative Impacts

Fisheries

Other Related Actions

Wildlife



Historic Properties / Cultural Resources

Visual Resources / Aesthetics

Irrigation

Hydropower

Other Issues and Concerns

Social / Economic Issues

Recreation

Transportation / Public Services and Utilities

Construction

Water Rights

Water Quantity

Water Quality

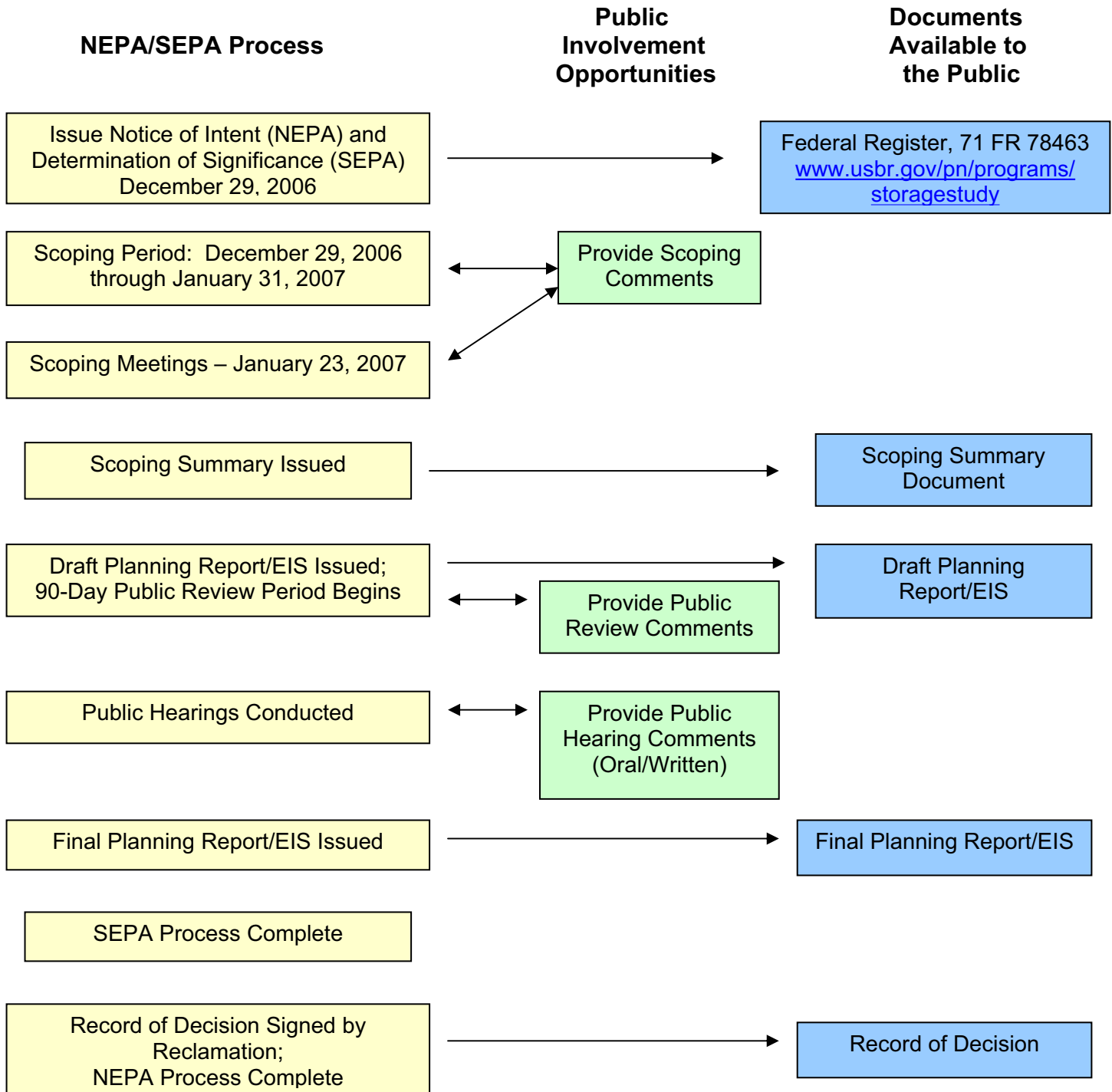
Other Water Resources

Contact: Dave Kaumheimer, Upper Columbia Area Office, (509) 575-5848, ext. 232

NEPA/SEPA PROCESS

Yakima River Basin Water Storage Feasibility Study

January 23, 2007



Contact: Dave Kaumheimer, Upper Columbia Area Office, (509) 575-5848, ext. 232

ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE

Yakima River Basin Water Storage Feasibility Study

January 23, 2007

The National Environmental Policy Act

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) was enacted into law on January 1, 1970. It requires Federal agencies to evaluate and consider environmental factors during decisionmaking and to seek input to these evaluations from state and local agencies, Tribal Governments, organizations, and the public. Agencies also must consider and evaluate a range of alternatives that meet the purpose and need of the proposed action.

When a Federal action is determined likely to significantly affect the quality of the human environment, an environmental impact statement (EIS) is prepared. The EIS provides decision-makers with important information on the types of issues and concerns identified by the public, the expected environmental consequences of all alternatives, and potential mitigation measures.

Washington State Environmental Policy Act

SEPA is the acronym for the State Environmental Policy Act. Enacted in 1971, it provides the framework for agencies to consider the environmental consequences of a proposal before taking action. It also gives agencies the ability to condition or deny a proposal due to identified likely significant adverse impacts. The Act is implemented through the SEPA Rules, Chapter 197-11, Washington Administrative Code.

Environmental review is required for any proposal which involves a government “action,” as defined in the SEPA Rules and is not categorically exempt. Project actions involve an agency decision on a specific project, such as a construction project or timber harvest. Nonproject actions involve decisions on policies, plans, or programs, such as the adoption of a comprehensive plan or development regulations, or a 6-year road plan.

NEPA and SEPA Compliance for This Project

The requirements of NEPA and SEPA are very similar. Both require that a range of reasonable alternatives be considered to meet the purpose and need of the project. Congress directed Reclamation to focus on alternatives that would create additional water storage in the Yakima River Basin.



Ecology has defined a broader purpose and need and will consider a broader range of alternatives, including both storage and nonstorage alternatives. Therefore, the joint EIS will contain alternatives in common to both Ecology and Reclamation, as well as alternatives that only Ecology is considering.

Planning Report Requirement for Feasibility Studies

The feasibility study process requires preparation of a planning report which will be integrated with the EIS to produce a combined Planning Report/Environmental Impact Statement (PR/EIS).

Terms Commonly Associated with an EIS

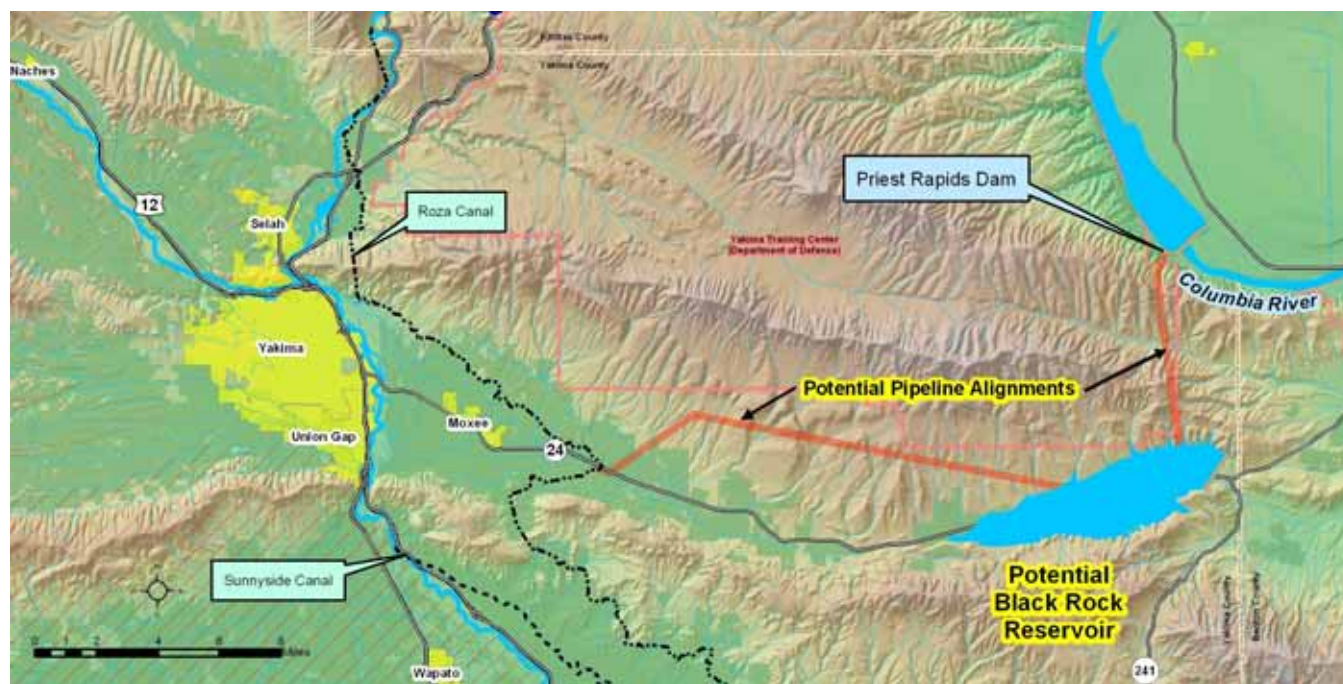
- ❖ **Federal Action** - This is what triggers the requirement for NEPA compliance. It can be an action that the Federal agency will take, or a decision that must be made, that may significantly impact the human environment.
- ❖ **Scoping** - The process by which input from the public, agencies, and organizations is sought to help define the alternatives, issues, and impacts that should be addressed in the EIS.
- ❖ **Purpose and Need** - The statement of purpose and need identifies the underlying reasons why an action is needed.
- ❖ **Proposed Action** - This is the action initially identified to meet the identified purpose and need for action.
- ❖ **Alternatives** - These are reasonable actions that meet the same identified purpose and need as the proposed action.
- ❖ **Federal Preferred Alternative** - This is the alternative that the Federal agency proposes to implement. If one has been identified, it will be described in the Draft EIS. A Preferred Alternative must be identified in the Final EIS.
- ❖ **No Action Alternative** - This is considered to be the most likely future without implementation of the proposed action or other alternative.
- ❖ **Record of Decision** - This document summarizes the alternatives considered in the EIS and identifies the agency's decision along with the basis for that decision. This is a requirement of NEPA, but not SEPA.

Contact: Kim McCartney, Upper Columbia Area Office, (509) 575-5848, ext. 370

BLACK ROCK ALTERNATIVE

Yakima River Basin Water Storage Feasibility Study

January 23, 2007



The Black Rock Alternative concept is to pump water from the Columbia River, when it is available in excess of current fishery instream flow targets, for storage in a new offstream reservoir to be constructed in the Black Rock Valley. Stored water would be released to an outflow conveyance system running to the west and to some lower Yakima Valley irrigation entities. The Yakima River water which is currently diverted would then be available to meet water supply needs in the Yakima basin. The alternative brought forward is a large reservoir pump-only option including a fish-screened intake from Priest Rapids Lake, a 3,500-cfs pumping plant to lift water to Black Rock Valley, a 760-foot-high dam to store 1,300,000 acre-feet of active storage in a Black Rock reservoir, a 2,500-cfs reservoir outflow conveyance system, and powerplants at the points of discharge to Roza and Sunnyside Canals.

The total appraisal-level project cost for the Black Rock Alternative was estimated at \$3.5 to \$4 billion (April 2004 prices).

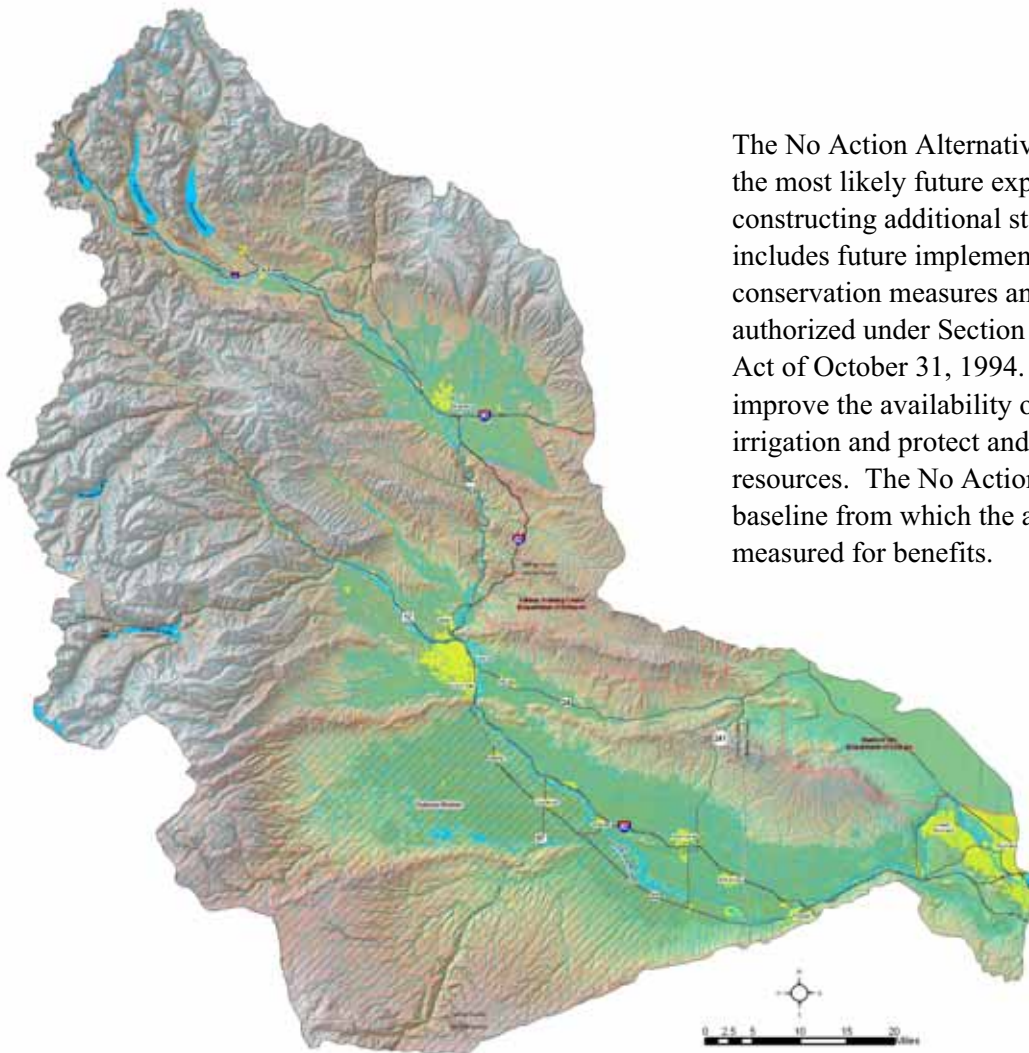


Contact: Kim McCartney, Upper Columbia Area Office, (509) 575-5848, ext. 370

NO ACTION ALTERNATIVE

Yakima River Basin Water Storage Feasibility Study

January 23, 2007



The No Action Alternative is intended to represent the most likely future expected in the absence of constructing additional storage. This Alternative includes future implementation of water conservation measures and water acquisitions authorized under Section 1203 of Title XII of the Act of October 31, 1994. These actions would improve the availability of water supplies for irrigation and protect and enhance fish and wildlife resources. The No Action Alternative is the baseline from which the action alternatives are measured for benefits.

- Two-thirds of the conserved water resulting from a conservation measure is assigned to instream flows and is assumed to remain in the river from the implementing entity's point of diversion to the last point of operational discharge from its water system.
- One-third of the conserved water is retained by the implementing entity for irrigation use.
- Two-thirds of the implementation cost of the conservation measure(s) will be federally funded by Reclamation and one-third will be nonfederally funded equally by Washington State Department of Ecology and the implementing entity.

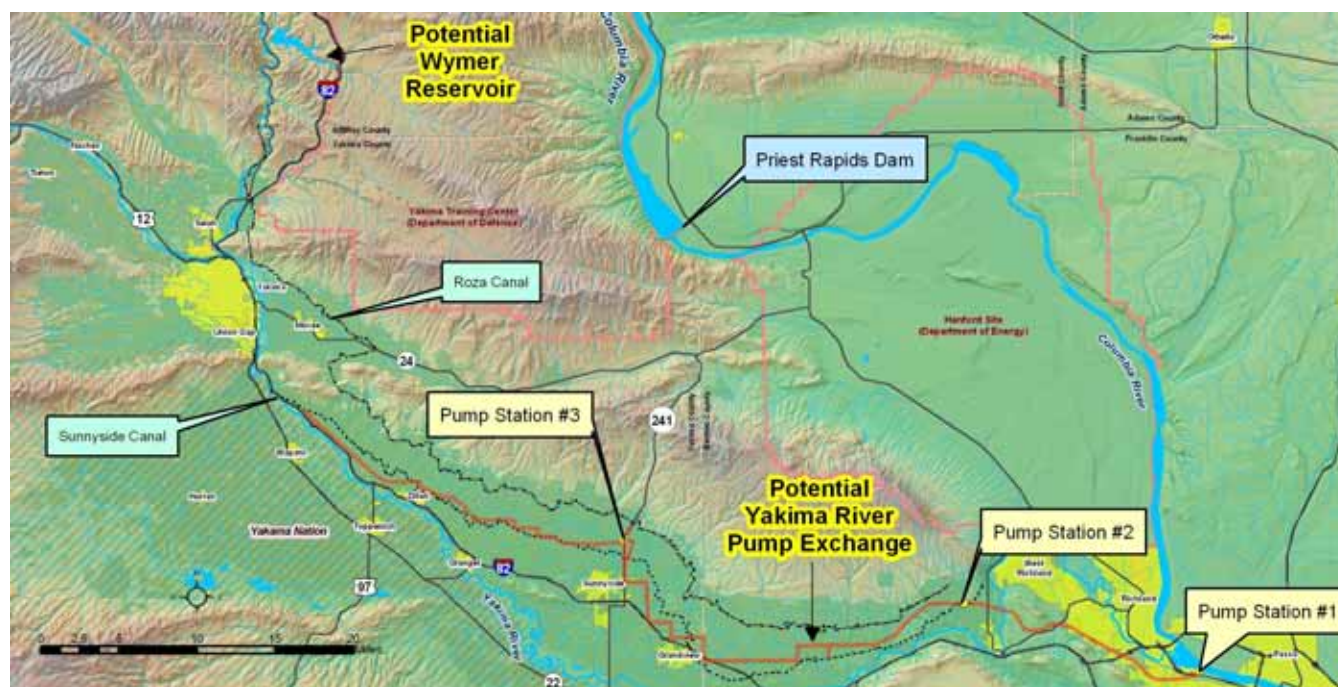


Contact: Kim McCartney, Upper Columbia Area Office, (509) 575-5848, ext. 370

WYMER DAM PLUS YAKIMA RIVER PUMP EXCHANGE ALTERNATIVE

Yakima River Basin Water Storage Feasibility Study

January 23, 2007



The potential Wymer dam would be located on Lmuma Creek between Ellensburg and Yakima, Washington. The reservoir would be filled by pumping from the Yakima River, with reservoir releases being supplied back to the Yakima River by gravity.

- A Wymer dam would be a concrete rockfill structure approximately 415 feet high, with a 130-foot-high concrete rockfill dike constructed in a saddle on the north side of the reservoir.
- A Wymer reservoir would have a 174,000-acre-foot-capacity reservoir extending from about $\frac{3}{4}$ mile east of the Yakima River to Interstate 82.



- A pump and pipeline system would deliver irrigation water from near the mouth of the Yakima River to various points in the Sunnyside Valley and Roza Irrigation Divisions southeast of Yakima, Washington. The irrigation water that would be delivered by this system would be exchanged for the water that would normally be diverted from the Yakima River. That water would remain in the Yakima River to improve fishery habitat and provide irrigation water to proratable irrigators during dry years.
- Previous appraisal-level cost estimates for the Wymer dam and reservoir portion of this alternative were at \$380 million (July 2004 price levels), based on a 400-cfs pumping plant intake and a 400-cfs outflow. Currently, however, a 1,000-cfs pumping plant and 1,400-cfs outflow is being considered to optimize benefits. These additional costs have not yet been computed.
- The appraisal-level cost estimate for the pump exchange portion is \$2.58 billion (April 2004 prices).

COMMENT FORM

Yakima River Basin Water Storage Feasibility Study

| | |
|-------------------------------------|----------------|
| Name (please print legibly): | |
| Organization: | |
| Mailing Address: | |
| City, State, and Zip Code: | |
| Telephone: | E-mail: |

Request to be placed on the mailing list and/or receive a copy of the scoping summary document:

- I want my name put on the mailing list to receive information on the Environmental Impact Statement.
- I want my name removed from this mailing list.
- I want to receive a copy of the scoping summary document

Please note: Our practice is to make comments, including names, home addresses, home phone numbers and email addresses of respondents, available for public review. Individual respondents may request that we withhold their names and/or home addresses, etc., but if you wish us to consider withholding this information you must state this prominently at the beginning of your comments. In addition, you must present a rationale for withholding this information. This rationale must demonstrate that disclosure would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of privacy. Unsupported assertions will not meet this burden. In the absence of exceptional, documentable circumstances, this information will be released. We will always make submissions from organizations or businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses, available for public disclosure in their entirety.

My comments on the Yakima River Basin Water Storage Feasibility Study are:

(Use back of sheet or additional sheets as necessary)

Please mail, fax, or email your comments before January 31, 2007, to: David Kaumheimer, Environmental Programs Manager, Bureau of Reclamation, 1917 Marsh Road, Yakima, WA 98901-2058; fax: (509) 454-5650; email: storagestudy@pn.usbr.gov.



U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Reclamation

