

Sunnyside Division Board of Control - YRBWEP Sunnyside Conduit

The Sunnyside Division Board of Control, Bureau of Reclamation and Washington State Department of Ecology implemented a water conservation plan under the Yakima River Basin Water Enhancement Project. This project received \$21.5 million in American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funding. The partners brought a cost-share of \$11.5 million to this project.

The ARRA funding provided a large portion of the needed funding for Phase II of the project and was completed in February 2012. It included construction of the two largest laterals, Rocky Ford and Ryder, along with six smaller laterals that serve approximately 11,200 acres. About 6,250 acre-feet of water was conserved in this project.

ARRA funding was used for design, environmental compliance and construction by the local workforce. These laterals have been in operation for three irrigation seasons. The ARRA funds provided for Phase II reduced the overall implementation schedule. At present funding levels, the remaining work is scheduled to be completed by FY 2032.

Yakima River Basin Water Enhancement Project

Reclamation, Washington Department of Ecology, local irrigators, the Yakima Nation and other entities agreed to seek federal authority to implement a project centered on diversion reductions and improved fish habitat and passage. This authority, received in 1994, led to the Yakima River Basin Water Enhancement Project. Reclamation, Ecology and irrigation districts are cost-sharing partners, with Reclamation funding 65 percent of the cost and Ecology and the local irrigators each funding 17.5 percent. Two-thirds of the water savings remain in the river for instream flow needs for anadromous fish, and one-third is retained by the irrigation district.



Sunnyside Division Board of Control Conservation Plan

Phase I of the Sunnyside Division Board of Control Conservation Plan was completed in 2012 and consisted of the construction of three re-regulation reservoirs and automation of 30 check structures in Sunnyside's main canal.

Phase II converted open irrigation ditches/pipes and weir boxes to enclosed laterals with inline flow meters. Gravity pressure in most cases allow landowners to eliminate pumps or reduce pump horsepower requirements. Other benefits include improved on-farm control of irrigation water, no lateral/landowner end spills, reduced lateral losses from leakage and evaporation, improved irrigation drain water quality, improved public safety, reduced operation and maintenance costs, and in combination with other conservation projects, improved overall operational efficiency.

