

YAKIMA BASIN INTEGRATED PLAN

Protecting water for our farms, fish, and communities



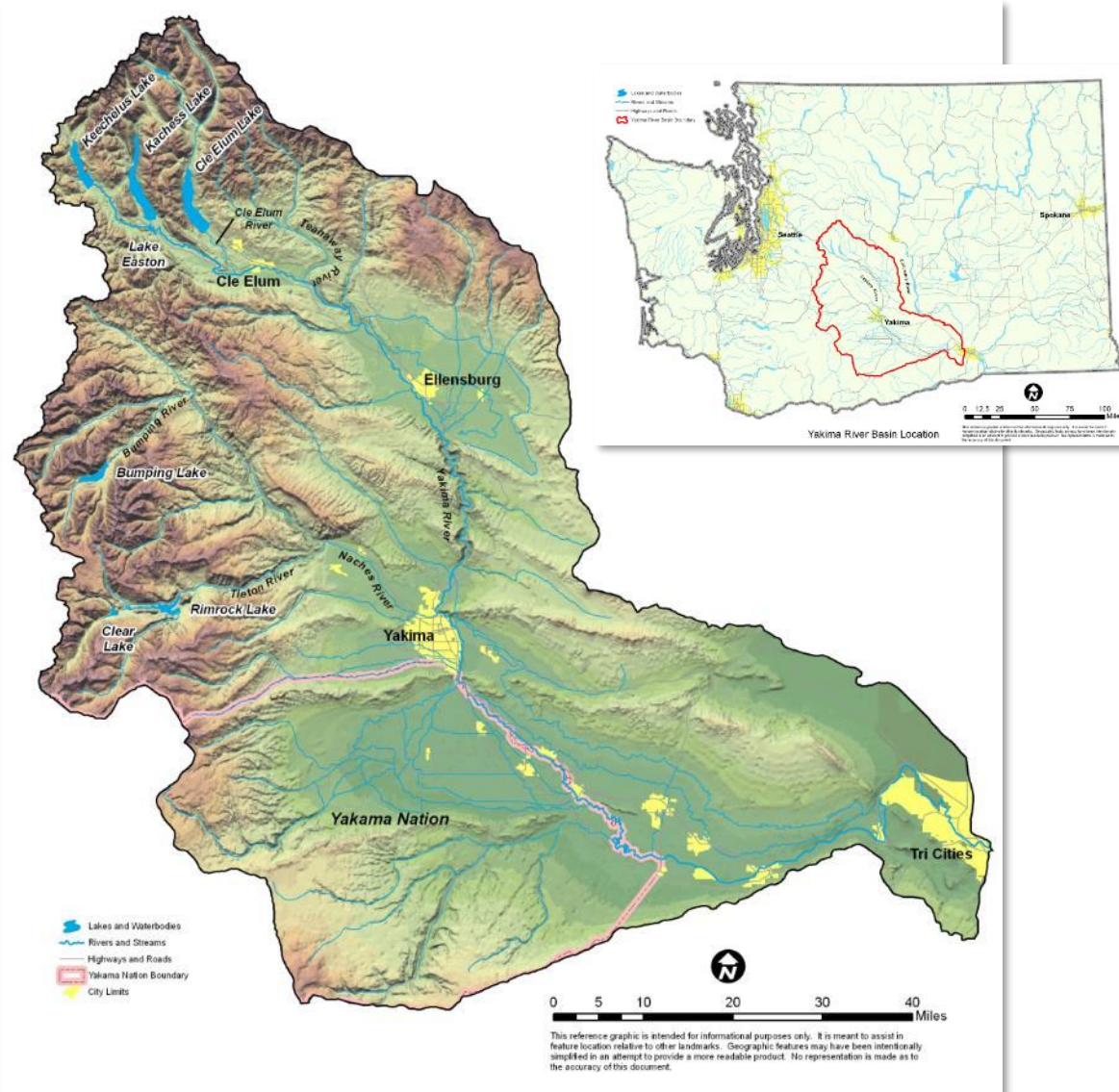
The Importance of Collaboration in the Yakima Basin and Other Regions

Cumulative Threats, Collaborative Solutions: Shaping Salmon and
Watershed Futures – Virtual Knowledge Exchange
June 16, 2026

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**Kittitas Reclamation
District**

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Fish & Wildlife**

Basin Overview



6,155 sq. miles
with 464,000
irrigated acres



Population
+370,000



\$4.5 billion
agricultural
economy



5 reservoirs with
1 million acre-
feet capacity



Columbia Basin
salmon and
steelhead



More frequent
and severe
droughts

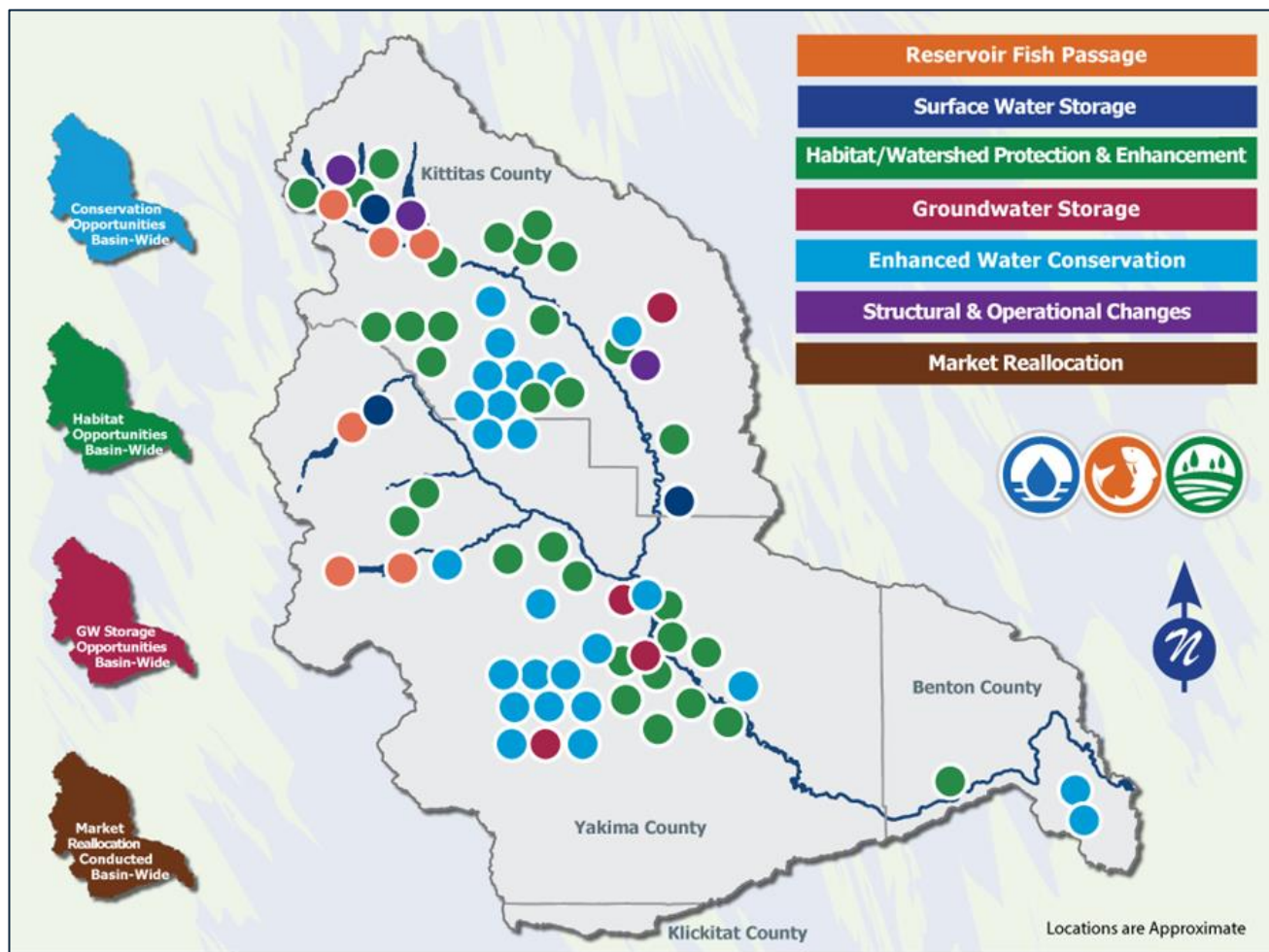
Conflict to Collaboration



Discussing water rights: a Western pastime.

- 2008: Roza and Yakama Nation proposal to Dept. of Ecology
- 2009–2011: Ecology workgroup; Bureau of Reclamation basin study
- 2011–2012: Federal/state programmatic EIS
- 2013–2043: Yakima Basin Integrated Plan implementation

What is the Integrated Plan?



- A coalition of Tribal, federal, state, local, and non-profit partners and water managers
- A 30-year plan to ensure water for **farms, fish, and communities**
- \$4B to implement 7 elements in 3 phases
- In Initial Development Phase

Project locations to implement 7 elements of Yakima Basin Integrated Plan.

Challenges

Water scarcity

Climate variability

- Prolonged droughts
- Decreasing snowpacks
- Earlier runoffs

Fish declines

- Warm river water
- Floodplain and habitat loss
- Endangered bull trout and steelhead

Aging infrastructure



The Yakima River and irrigation channel flow through Central Washington, Sept. 2025. (Photo by David Moskowitz | American Rivers)

Goals

Reliable water supply

- 70% to proratables in dry years

Restored fisheries

- Self-sustaining, harvestable populations

Increased municipal water supply

- 50,000 acre-feet with authorized municipal and industrial use

Drought & Flood Resilience

- Best use of existing supplies
- More surface and groundwater storage

Robust regional economy



Accomplishments 2013-26



Conserved

- 74,000 acre-feet of water

Completed

- Nelson Dam removal
- Cle Elum downstream fish passage
- Kachess River restoration
- Bateman Is. Causeway removal

Acquired

- Springwood Ranch reservoir site
- 80,000 acres of river habitat
(includes Teanaway Community Forest)



Celebrating acquisition of Springwood Reservoir site, 2025. (Photo by Michael David Bushman | Yakama Nation)

2026 and Beyond

- Ongoing floodplain restoration
- Groundwater storage projects
- Pool Raise and Adult Fish Collection Facility at Cle Elum Dam
- Fish screens at Roza Diversion Dam
- Wapato Irrigation Modernization
- Clear Creek and Tieton Dam fish passage projects
- Springwood Reservoir



*Roza Diversion Dam and fish screen facility.
(Photo by Kirsten Strough | Reclamation)*

Yakima Basin Integrated Plan



Columbia Basin-Wide Collaborative Efforts

Columbia Basin Collaborative

Vision

- Commits to identify and support integrated strategies and actions that have potential to achieve the quantitative and qualitative salmon and steelhead recovery goals of the Columbia Basin Partnership Task Force;
- Acknowledges, respects, and protects tribal cultural values, consistent with treaty/non-treaty tribal rights, and promotes the trust responsibilities of the federal government to tribes;
- Appreciates and addresses the needs of the regional economies, including but not limited to fishing, agriculture, transportation, recreation, port operations, and state and tribal fisheries; and
- Recognizes the importance of a future regional power system, that includes conservation measures, hydropower, solar, wind and potentially other energy sources, and that is reliable, affordable, and furthers decarbonization without undue sacrifice of natural landscapes and the environment.

Columbia Basin Restoration Initiative

The Columbia Basin Restoration Initiative (“CBRI”) represents the collaborative effort of the Six Sovereigns to develop a comprehensive solution for shared and complex challenges. It is informed by the Six Sovereigns’ significant technical expertise as fisheries co-managers, and by their sovereign obligations to their constituents.

The CBRI is intended as a roadmap to help the Six Sovereigns and the USG work in partnership together and with others in the region to restore Columbia Basin fisheries to healthy and abundant levels, honor commitments to Tribal Nations, and deliver affordable and reliable clean power while meeting the many resilience needs of stakeholders in the Columbia River basin and the Pacific Northwest.

