

The Storage Study Needs to Consider the Following Prior to Calculating the Cost/Benefit Ratio

Fish

The Storage Study does not include the value of Salmon Recovery benefits by the Black Rock Project even though hundreds of millions of dollars are spent in the northwest annually to restore salmon! With additional water and more habitat the Yakima River will become a “fish factory”. Only with additional water for instream flow can we restore the salmon runs.

Yakama Nation

With additional water, Treaty Rights can be met. Salmon, as a traditional part of the Yakama’s culture and subsistence, will be available. The Supplementary Hatchery can be expanded. The social effects of the Black Rock project are enormous.

Climate Change

The Storage Study does not include impacts related to climate change. Additional storage (Black Rock) will be needed to meet the water supply demands due to climate change. With an increased winter runoff due to winter precipitation as rain rather than snow and a decrease in snowpack, which historically provides more than 50% of our needed water supply, climate change will leave us with drought conditions every few years.

Agriculture

The Storage Study does not include all the benefits related to agriculture! The value is applied based upon the years when proratable irrigation districts would receive less than 70% of their water supply and only to net farm income. The losses based upon reduction of agriculture jobs, purchases of supplies and equipment, manufacturing of needed supplies for harvesting and shipping locally, nationally, and exports were not given a value to our region or State.

Recreation

The Storage Study did not include recreation construction impacts around a large body of water. The value of building-out around the lake, including resort development was omitted from the evaluation even though a recreation study by a consulting firm showed a large impact. A destination resort with all the amenities developed over the next 50 to 100 years will provide a huge benefit to the region and the State.

Energy

The Storage Study did not include all the hydropower benefits that can be developed. Power generation from return flow to the Columbia River could generate needed power to assist in the alternate power generation requirements and future needs for additional power that will occur due to climate change.

Jobs

The Storage Study did not include all the jobs lost that occur when there is a drop in farm production. Higher unemployment occurs. Purchases are reduced and construction jobs are lost. Tax revenues are reduced which affect out counties, cities, and schools ability to provide services and a ripple effect occurs in the Yakima Basin's economy.