

## **Purpose of and Need for Action The Black Rock Project**

The purpose of the Storage Study funded by Congress and the State of Washington is to evaluate plans that would create additional water storage for the Yakima River Basin. The need for the Study is based on the finite existing water supply and limited storage capability of the Yakima River Basin.

The Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) stated when they started the Storage Study, “the Federal Government will not pay for the complete Black Rock project”. State, local, and private funds will have to help pay for the Black Rock project. With that policy in mind why did the Storage Study only look at the National Economic Development (NED) benefits and draw the conclusion the NED benefits amount to only 16 cents on the dollar. The true benefit package should include both State and Local benefits if the Federal Government requires local participation in the cost?

Was the process used to scare the public by saying the project was not cost effective? The Economic and Environmental Principles and Guidelines for Water and Related Land Resources Implementation Studies (P&G) present four accounts for the evaluation and display to compare storage alternatives. These accounts are National Economic Development (NED), Regional Economic Development (RED), Environmental Quality (EQ) and Other Social Effects (OSE).

The RED examines how the regional and local economies are affected by the alternatives. It measures employment, industry output, construction expenditures, farm income, and recreational spending and focuses on economic impacts to the local region.

The EQ evaluated water resources, fish, vegetation, water quality, threatened and endangered species, and land use.

The OSE examines social effects of environmental justice, recreation, and public health.

The RED, EQ, and OSE were buried in the Storage Study and were not mentioned or taken into consideration when the Bureau announced the benefits was only 16 cents on the dollar.

Why did the BOR announce the results of their evaluation only on the National Economic Development NED without mentioning the local and regional benefits? The local and regional (RED) benefits would exceed the ratio of \$1.00 benefit for each \$1.00 of cost without taking into account the EQ and OSE evaluations.

Why spend the money on a study and not recommend the only alternative that meets the criteria set by Congress???