

YBSA Monthly Report March 2023

Storage: The amount of stored water in the five reservoirs is at 50% of average. Currently the amount of water in storage is 370,000 acre/feet less than last year and 140,000 acre/feet less than average.

Water Supply Outlook:

Snowpack - Snow water equivalent in the upper Yakima Basin is at 99% and the Naches Basin is at 96%.

Precipitation - Winter precipitation is the lowest to date at 72% of average.

Temperature - Higher temperatures have and will continue to reduce water supply and increase water temperatures.

The complete story, *Washington's water supply outlook – Can we expect another drought?*, can be found in the March 23, 2023, Northern Kittitas County Tribune.

Salmon Still Struggling in Washington: A new report says that the loss of habitat, climate change, and the lack of enough water for instream flow in the Yakima River cannot increase Salmon runs.

The complete story, *New report says salmon still struggling in WA*, can be found in the February 23, 2023, Northern Kittitas County Tribune.

Also, see the *State of Salmon in Watersheds* report: <https://tinyurl.com/48knsh4d>

Cle Elum Fish Passage: The project started in 2019 and is still not complete. The catch haul project has not started and another year will continue without the structure complete and no increase in fish returning has been accomplished.

Sockeye: There were very few Sockeye and other salmonoids returning to the Yakima River in 2019 through 2022. The project will not continue in 2023 because of the small number of Sockeye returning.

Smelt Survival Study: The lower Yakima River conditions are very poor for smelt survival. Main factors are high water temperatures, low flows and the issue of diversion. Without additional water in the Yakima River many of the projects funded and completed for improvements will not provide more water to increase Steelhead, Bull Trout, and other salmonoid populations in the Basin.

Lake Kachess Pumping Plan: The Environmental Impact Statement on the drawdown is still being reviewed for the needs of the residential population and fish recovery. No one has stepped forward with financial needs to complete the project.

Go to www.ybsa.org for additional information.