

## YBSA Monthly Report July 2023

Storage: The 5 reservoirs are at 58% of capacity. Senior water rights holders in the Sunnyside Irrigation District will receive 100% of supply, and Roza Irrigation District water will be prorated at 72%. Another month of high temperatures and low water runoff above the reservoirs could create more problems. Instream flow is dangerously low.

Water for the Yakima Basin: The drought continues to affect the Yakima Basin. Water for irrigators in the agricultural industry is at a minimum. Proratable water is at 70% which is adequate. Water for instream flow is less than needed to maintain survival of fish in the Yakima River. The lower Yakima River water temperature is high, and very few salmonoids are able to return to the basin. The Columbia River is the only source of water for agriculture and fish in the Yakima Basin.

Columbia River Water: If Columbia River water was made available in the Yakima Basin using pumped storage the following opportunities are available:

- Additional water available for irrigation
- Water for instream flow
- Cooler water in the Yakima River for fish survival and returning migration of salmon
- Water in the 5 existing reservoirs available to assist the smelts returning to the Columbia River
- Additional water in the Yakima Basin to help recharge the groundwater in the aquifer
- Protection of flow of groundwater on the Hanford Reservation
- Additional recreational opportunities in rivers, reservoirs and new pump storage reservoir
- Pumping from the Columbia River for pump storage using solar, wind and nuclear energy to provide the electricity
- Create a safety net for agriculture and fish returns
- Use of a small amount of water from the Columbia River during its high flow season
- Columbia River water is a possible solution

Go to [www.ybsa.org](http://www.ybsa.org) for additional information.