

YBSA Monthly Report August 2023

Storage: Water in the 5 reservoirs is at 29% of capacity. Storage at present is ½ the capacity of the volume of last year (300,000 acre/feet less).

Flip/Flop: Reduced flow in the Easton Reach of the Yakima River and the Cle Elum River is offset by the increased flow in the Naches River to maintain the demand for water.

Lake Cle Elum: Passage over the Cle Elum Dam using the helix project will allow juvenile fish to go downstream but only between April and June due to the volume of water in the lake. The catch and haul for adult salmonoids at the bottom of the dam up into Lake Cle Elum is used to allow the fish to reach the tributaries. The number of fish returning to the Cle Elum river has been low with no improvement in the last few years. The concept of increasing the volume of water in Lake Cle Elum continues to be examined while trying to satisfy the landowners who would lose property.

Sockeye: The Sockeye study continues examining the hazards that need to be solved such as the low number of Sockeye returning in the Columbia and Yakima Rivers. The Yakima River continues to run with very low water and higher water temperatures.

Lake Kachess: Lake Kachess pumping plan to draw down the lake has not found a satisfactory method to accomplish the drought relief program.

Columbia River: The most beneficial drought relief program is to pump water from the Columbia River to the Yakima Basin to use for irrigation which would leave more water in the Yakima river for instream flow (fish)!

Go to www.ybsa.org for additional information.