

## **YBSA Monthly Report September 2023**

Storage: Water in the five reservoirs is at 14% of capacity which is less than ½ the normal at this time. Water that is retained in the reservoirs is important to the ability of the reservoirs to reach capacity prior to next year's irrigation season. Lake Cle Elum, the largest reservoir, is at 5%.

River Flow: The Bureau of Reclamation does not report on the flow of water in the Cle Elum River between the dam and the Yakima River. Volume of water is important to allow fish passage to make the Lake Cle Elum fish passage project more successful. Sockeye salmon spawning in the Cle Elum River above Lake Cle Elum Dam because of the catch and haul of Sockeye from the Columbia River.

Volume of water in the Yakima River is reduced by 50% when irrigation removes water.

Precipitation for winter 2023-2024 is predicted to be less snow and an earlier rainy season. Plans should be implemented to prevent droughts which would produce the water available for agriculture and fish survival. The water in the lower Yakima River is very low and hot for salmonoids to survive. The Columbia River has the capacity to provide water for the Yakima Basin to prevent drought.

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