

YBSA Monthly Report November 2023

Storage: Total storage in the 5 reservoirs is at 13% of capacity which is 34% of historical average. The reservoirs are at 180,000 acre/feet which is one of the lowest ever carryover from previous years. Last year's carryover and the historical average carryover are 400,000 acre/feet.

Yakima River: Current inflow into the 5 reservoirs is 675 cubic feet per second (cfs) and release is at 575 cfs which reduces the flow in the Yakima River. The flow in the Yakima River near Prosser is 1788 cfs. This includes the additional water provided by all the tributaries below the reservoir dams such as the Naches River.

Water Supply: For many years one of the goals has been to save salmonoids. Decades have passed and hundreds of millions of dollars have been spent with very little improvement in the salmonoid population- both returning and residents in the Yakima River. An adequate supply of water in the Yakima Basin will combat that issue and prevent further droughts and increase the flow in the river.

This year is starting off wrong in terms of water supply available for next summer and fall. Groups planning to address this lack of water should be emphasizing the effort to acquire more water for the Yakima River. Precipitation predictions are for less snow therefore a shortage of water. Where is the water from the mighty Columbia River?

Go to www.ybsa.org for additional information.