

YBSA Monthly Report October 2023

Storage: Water in the 5 reservoirs is at 10% of capacity. This is the lowest carryover of water storage in years. The amount retained now is 240,000 acre/feet less than last year and 170,000 acre/feet less than the historical average. The mountains are dry with very little inflow of water into the reservoirs. More water is being released from the reservoirs to maintain instream flow in the Yakima and Naches Rivers to help to maintain productability.

El Niño: Predictions are for warmer water in the Pacific Ocean and a southerly jetstream causing more precipitation in the form of rain in the Southern United States and a dryer climate with less precipitation in the Northern States. The Northern precipitation will fall as rain with much less snow.

Planning for the Future: It is time for future planning for the Yakima River Basin to prevent droughts which will affect our economy (agriculture) and the environment including groundwater availability and maintaining and increasing the flow in the rivers for fish and wildlife. The most viable solution is to bring water to the Yakima Basin from other sources such as the Columbia River.

Go to www.ybsa.org for additional information.