

YBSA Monthly Report December 2023

Storage: Current capacity of all reservoirs is at 38%. Additional moisture can still be available for the next two months. NRCS Snotel snowwater equivalent estimate is at 83% in the upper Yakima Basin and 75% in the Naches Basin. See the Yakima Herald article about this issue from February 6, 2024 by [Clicking Here](#).

Riverflow: Runoff is low. Additional flow has to occur in the next three months to ensure the returning salmonoids population in the Yakima River.

Paper Water: Agreements to acquire and exchange water uses in the Yakima Basin can only be beneficial if there is sufficient water available. Information about this topic can be found in the Thursday, February 1, 2024 Northern Kittitas County Tribune.

Salmon Recovery: The Biden administration, leaders of four Columbia River Basin tribes and the governors of Oregon and Washington celebrated on Friday as they signed papers formally launching a \$1 billion plan to help recover depleted salmon populations in the Pacific Northwest. Chairman Gerald Lewis signed the document for the Yakima Nation. Most of the recovery projects in the Yakima Basin have been helpful but increases in salmonoid population have been very low. Funding can be used to increase the water available for instream flow and fish habitat in the basin. As March winds bring April showers and April showers bring May flowers and spring flows in the river. See article in Fortune by [Clicking Here](#).



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