

YBSA Monthly Report April 2024

Storage: Water held in all 5 reservoirs is at 54% of capacity. The greatest increase in the reservoirs usually occurs in May. The possibility of a large increase in stored water in the reservoirs is minimal. The snowpack in the Yakima and Naches Cascades normally provides the spring flow is also low. Snow water content in the Yakima Basin is at 62% and in the Naches Basin it is at 67%.

Drought in the Yakima Basin: Since the year 2000 we have had many short water years. Climate change is making droughts more often. This year a major drought is occurring. Warm winter temperatures have reduced the snowpack. Reservoirs are not as full as needed and with snow water equivalent at a minimum irrigator in the junior district will not have as much water as needed and the flow in the Yakima River is dangerously low. Spring floods are not commonplace, consequently the alluvial aquifer in the Yakima Basin is diminishing.

Water in the Yakima Basin: Water conservation in the Yakima Basin has made a positive effect on our agricultural industry. Our instream flow to maintain our salmonoid population survival is low which is causing declining salmonoid population. The snowpack in the Cascades gets smaller exacerbating the problem. A united effort needs to be made to create a greater amount of water in the Yakima River. The Columbia River could be one of the greatest solutions.

Go to www.ybsa.org for additional information.