

## **YBSA Monthly Report July 2024**

Storage: Water in the 5 reservoirs is at 49% of capacity. Lake Cle Elum, the largest reservoir in the Yakima Basin system, is at 37% of capacity. The amount of water this year is far below the historical average and less than what was available last year. The Roz, Tieton, and Yakama Nation irrigation districts have reduced their flows. The Yakima River and its tributaries flows are very low which is a problem for the survival of fish.

Lake Cle Elum Fish Passage: The new Cle Elum Dam fish passage project is completed and is providing passage for juvenile fish to return to the Cle Elum River from the lake through the Helix. The catch and haul infrastructure for returning salmon to be hauled from the Cle Elum River to the lake has started. See the [article on Lake Cle Elum fish passage](#) in the Yakima Herald.

Yakima Basin Water Supply: Climate change has reduced the water supply. High temperatures and low volume of water in the Yakima River and its tributaries have reduced the Sockeye runs and the water available for our agricultural economy. Forrest fires in the Cascades have and will reduce the cover necessary to retain the winter snowpack. Less water will be available due to less precipitation and the fact that snowpack will melt earlier in the season. Planning for additional water for the Yakima Basin is needed to increase the water supply to what it was decades ago.

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