

YBSA Monthly Report September 2024

Storage: The Yakima Basin storage system's 5 reservoirs are at 12% of capacity. With the growing season nearly over, the capacity is at the same level as last year. Two years in a row, the snowpack and precipitation in the Cascade Mountains has not provided the water necessary for irrigation and instream flow for salmonoid survival in the Yakima Basin.

Yakima River Flow: There is 475 cubic feet of water below Roza Dam and 475 cubic feet near Prosser which show that the water for the Sunnyside and Wapato Irrigation District is now coming from the Naches River.

Yakima Basin Drought Relief?: Climate change models predict that by 2050 snowpack drought will occur 40% of the time. The forecast for next year is promising if the La Niña climate pattern continues to develop. This pattern pushes warm Pacific waters toward Asia and brings cooler and wetter falls and winters to the Pacific Northwest. As of now the drought declaration is in place until April 2025 and will be revised as signs develop toward more precipitation in the region.

River Flow: The cubic feet per second flow is very low in the Yakima River. Water temperature is also warm along with algae growth flourishing and return water flow to the river is minimal. Instream flow is so low the returning salmonoids cannot move and survive in the Yakima River at this time.

Go to www.ybsa.org for additional information.