

YBSA Monthly Report November 2024

Storage: Current Storage at the 5 reservoirs is at 11% of capacity. The amount at this time of year is 260,000 acre/feet less than average and 20,000 a/f lower than last year. Current predictions for precipitation during the winter months is more rain and less snow. Snowpack in the Cascade Mountains along with reservoir storage is crucial for sufficient instream flow for fish and out of stream use for the agricultural industry (farming). Last year's snowpack did not provide enough water to maintain the runoff necessary to provide the needed water for the irrigation season.

Snowpack Water: If the 2025 water year is less than 2024 which was the amount needed to maintain a full agricultural products production the Yakima Basin Integrated Plan organization should focus on locating more water (Columbia River water) for the Yakima Basin. The bomb cyclone during the past month created precipitation in the Cascades in Oregon, Washington and British Columbia which provided water flows to the Columbia River which is not utilized in storage for the Yakima Basin. This water could be captured now and stored in a reservoir to provide the added water necessary for our use in out of stream (agriculture) and instream flow (fish).

Returning Salmon: This fall's run of salmon species in the Pudget Sound was greater than the last 2 years. Lake Sammash has increased its fish count and the increase in returning salmon in the Columbia River provides our chance of them returning to the Yakima River. This cannot happen without an increase in water flow in the Yakima River to provide enough cool water for the salmon to return to the river.

Monthly Report: The Yakima Basin Storage Alliance's Monthly Report is developed to inform everyone as much as possible of what happens in the Yakima River Basin. This will be the last report for 2024. We wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Go to www.ybsa.org for additional information.