

YBSA Monthly Report April 2025

Storage: Current storage in the five reservoirs (Keechelus, Kachess, Cle Elum, Bumping, and Rimrock) is at 52%. The amount of water that is stored is at the same level as last year. The amount is 200,000 acre/feet less than average which seems to be the new normal over the past few years. Due to low flow in the Yakima River and additional 8,000 acre/feet of water will be released daily from Lake Cle Elum, Bumping and Rimrock for out migrating fish. The out of stream use, agricultural, will again be at a greatly reduced rate for the irrigation season for junior water right owners.

Local Drought: Full state funding is necessary to address the low storage issue for increasing Yakima Basin surface and groundwater improvement projects. This is the third consecutive drought season. The Integrated Plan has attempted to increase the water supply for the Yakima Basin, but has not found a solution to address the continued droughts.

Since 1994 there has been lower average snowpack and low average reservoir storage. The use of Columbia River water may be the solution to the needs of the Yakima Basin.

See the Thursday, April 17, 2025 Northern Kittitas County Tribune article, “Yakima Basin Integrated Plan responds to local drought emergency”.

Go to www.ybsa.org for additional information.