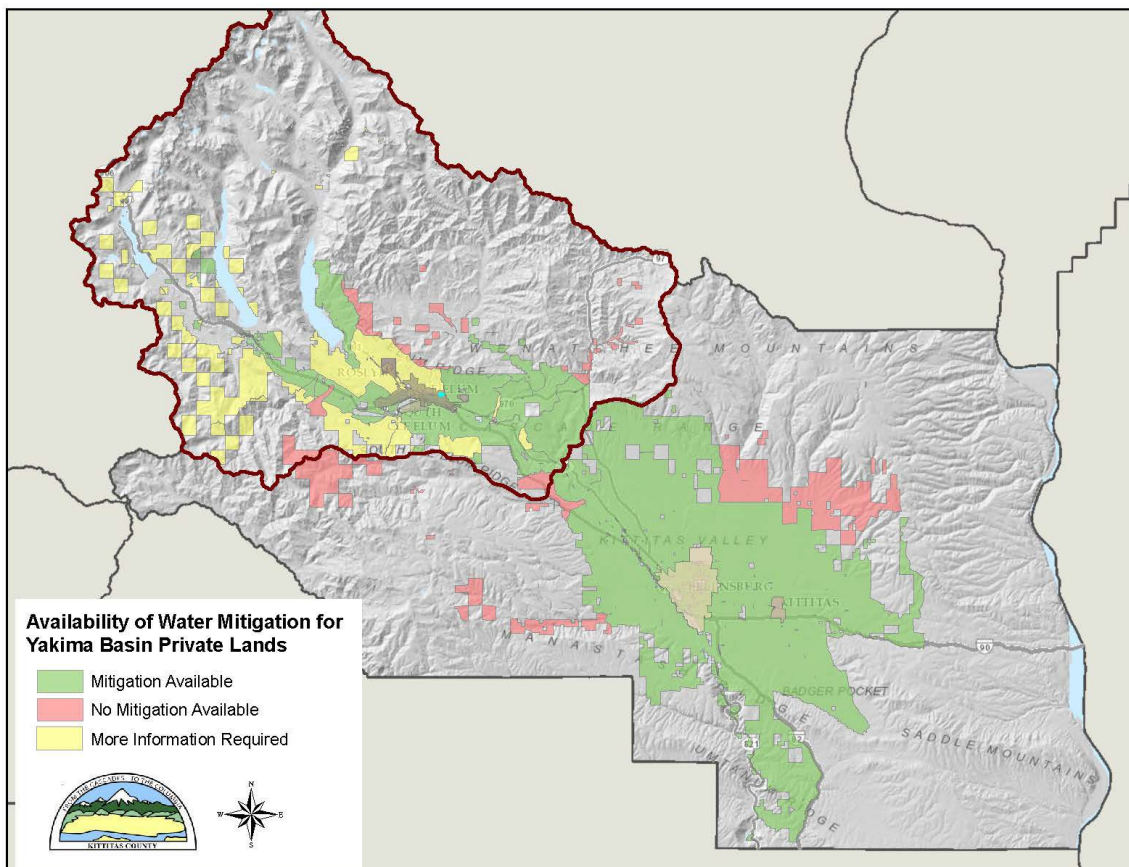


YBSA Monthly Report December 2025

Storage: The capacity of the five reservoirs is at 62%. The current storage is greater than the amount normally stored at this time of year. Precipitation for December was 86 inches in the Cascades. This has helped to fill the reservoirs. With all five reservoirs at full capacity in the Spring, those reservoirs only provide about 50% of the water needed for instream (fish) and out of stream (irrigation) flow during the summer. Snow pack in the Cascades provides the other 50% of the water for irrigation and fish. The next three months precipitation (snow) will determine the availability of the Yakima Valley's water for next summer and fall.

Water Banking: The only approach to provide enough water for 2026 is additional storage. The snow pack runoff in the Yakima River Basin will help, providing there is enough snow pack supply and reservoir water storage during the irrigation season. The greatest bank to provide water for the Yakima Valley every year is to obtain water from the Columbia River. Pump storage can be beneficial to the Yakima Basin as it has to other areas of the Northwest.

The following map shows extra water that is available for use during the irrigation season to be distributed to irrigators. The article, "Water banks allow development to occur in water-short Yakima basin" in the Yakima Herald Republic from December 29, 2025 by Questen Inghram explains water banking.



Go to www.ybsa.org for additional information.