

YBSA Monthly Report May 2026

Storage: The five reservoirs are at 94% capacity. The amount of water stored is at the same amount as is average for this time of year, and is more than was available at this time last year. Currently the releases from the reservoirs is greater than the intake. Inflow at Lake Cle Elum and Rimrock Lake is greater than their releases.

Yakima River: Flow in the Yakima River is extremely low. Snowpack in the Cascades has almost disappeared and the snow water equivalent is not enough to supplement the water needs for the river. With water being used for irrigation, the agricultural community use has decreased the returned flow to the river. Water temperatures in the lower Yakima River will destroy the river aquatic life.

Irrigation Control: With little water from the Cascades, most of the irrigation water will come from the reservoirs. Water from the reservoirs need to maintain instream flow. The Sunnyside Irrigation District, which has senior water rights, should receive its water. The proratable districts will have a possible reduction in the amount of water they receive. Roza Irrigation District users have been notified they will be facing water cutbacks this year. See the Yakima Herald May 21st, 2026 article “[Temporary Water Cutbacks to Begin Soon](#)”.

See more information at www.ybsa.org.