

YBSA Monthly Report

July 2026

Storage: The five reservoirs are currently at 51% of capacity. The amount in storage is less than average, but is greater than last year's storage at this time of year. The cubic-feet per second (cfs) release, 5060 cfs, of water from the five reservoirs is greater than the intake flow of 557 cfs. Precipitation in the Cascade Mountains is 37% of the average

Moisture: Precipitation for the month of July was at 80% of average. Hot, dry weather will not provide the moisture needed to provide the necessary water in the basin.

A summer with insufficient water available and the number of fires, both in the Yakima Basin and the Cascades, produce smoke that is harmful to the crops. There will be a negative effect on the agricultural production, not to mention the damage to structures, livestock, and vegetation.

Yakima River: The lower Yakima River is so low, aquatic life and fish will have a hard time surviving. Proratable irrigation districts are predicted to receive less than 50% of their normal water supply this summer. With very little water runoff from the Cascades, the instream flow (fish) and out of stream use (agriculture) will be insufficient.

Columbia River: Decades ago, a proposal to acquire water from the Columbia River to supply needed water for the Yakima Basin was considered. Since then, more storage and conservation projects have been proposed with some being implemented in the Yakima Basin to provide the water needed, but these efforts have been insufficient in providing the water currently needed and for that needed in the future. Drought conditions continue to effect the basin. The best solution is to utilize the excess water in the Columbia River, store it, and distribute it to the Yakima Basin for instream and out of stream use.

See more information at www.ybsa.org.