

YBSA Monthly Report September 2026

Storage: The five reservoirs are at 20% of capacity which is a few acre-feet more than this time last year. Lake Cle Elum and Rimrock Reservoirs have the most water remaining. Inflow to the five reservoirs is minimal and the amount of release for instream flow and irrigation purposes are small. 520 cubic-feet per second (cfs) are returning to the reservoirs with 2358 cfs being released. The majority of the water flow for irrigation needs are provided by the 5 reservoirs.

River Flow: The lower Yakima River flow is at a very low rate which is harmful for marine life in the river. A minimum flow of water has to be maintained to supply our agricultural production this year. The drought has affected the Yakima Valley in the last four years, and needed precipitation is not predicted for the future. The water supply required in the Yakima Basin for instream flow (aquatic life) and out-of-stream use (agriculture) is not being supplied by the storage in the five reservoirs and the yearly precipitation (snowpack); the only option available for the needed water in the Yakima Basin is the Columbia River.

See more information at www.ybsa.org.