



— BUREAU OF —
RECLAMATION

Yakima Basin Drought Projects

Fan Shallow Aquifer Recharge Project

Reclamation Funding: \$6 million

The Aquifer Recharge Project will improve flows in Toppenish Creek for Mid-Columbia Steelhead and other aquatic species. Low flows and high temperatures within the creek caused by drought conditions have negatively impacted the aquatic ecosystem. Inflation Reduction Act funding to the Yakama Nation will allow for significant progress in constructing the recharge project. This is expected to result in

748 acre-feet of conserved water and 5,400 acre-feet of recharged water, which will be verified using monitoring wells.

Washington State System Conservation Agreements

Reclamation Funding \$5 million

Reclamation is working with the Washington State Department of Ecology to implement drought mitigation within the Yakima Basin. Temporary reductions in water use could be through a Department of Ecology water marketing program already in place allowing for short-term leasing of water. The Department of Ecology has an existing Water Banking Pilot Grants program, which allows for permanent exchange of water rights from the recipient to the state. Funding may expand these programs due to current drought conditions within the basin. This would allow greater programmatic flexibility during drought conditions, improving water flows in Yakama Basin and benefitting both aquatic species and local irrigation districts.

Emergency Drought Funding to Roza Irrigation District

Reclamation Funding \$3.4 million

In 2024, the Roza Irrigation District purchased 11,330 acre-feet of water leases from senior water rights holders to mitigate for drought within the basin. Inflation Reduction Act funding will help the district to partially mitigate impacts from this year's drought. In the 2015 drought, Roza Irrigation District irrigators had \$77 million in crop losses and an estimated total economic impact between \$700 million to \$1.2 billion across the state. Seventy percent of the district is currently planted in crops that require water late in the season, such as tree fruits, hops, grapes, blueberries, and triticale.

North Branch Water Conservation Project

Reclamation Funding \$1.6 million

The \$83 million North Canal Piping Project lines 13,862 feet of canal, saving a peak 7.1 cubic-feet-per second of water. This water will improve flows in Yakama River for Mid-Columbia Steelhead and other aquatic species. Inflation Reduction Act funding of \$1.6 million to the Kittitas Reclamation District will continue Reclamation's partnership on this project (\$15.8 million of Reclamation provided funding to date) and make significant progress towards the project's goal of conserving 6,658 acre-feet of water annually. Construction is anticipated to begin in Fall 2024.

