



**Press Release
2/01/08**

The following is YBSA's response to the January 2008 Draft Planning Report/Environmental Impact Statement of the Yakima River Basin Water Storage Feasibility Study by the Bureau of Reclamation and Washington State Department of Ecology.

We have been experiencing increasing problems in water supply for fifty years. Looking at the next 10 to 100 years we are faced with a crisis which will cripple our economy, destroy salmon recovery efforts, reduce our irrigated agricultural base, and cause communities to suffer from water shortages. Climate change is multiplying the threat.

Trying to solve this increasing problem has been stopped with continuous debates focusing on different sector viewpoints and demands.

The January 2008 Bureau of Reclamation and Washington State Department of Ecology Report reveals that you can't build the future by looking at the past.

Without a SOLUTION we will soon be destroying the growth and maintenance of a former desert area. "No Action" is not a solution!

The potential of this PROPER SOLUTION is to meet human needs, and lay the framework for a comprehensive salmon recovery effort in the Yakima River basin.

The old adage is: "Don't believe everything you read in the paper!" Unfortunately that is very true today as we read the headlines about the January 2008 Report. As we warned last year, the BOR's method of measurement greatly underestimates the benefits, and the message being conveyed to Yakima is that: "There is no cost effective solution to your problem". This would condemn us to the past. We must do better.

We can have a brighter future, one with secure water supplies for a healthier environment, a healthy economy and protection of the cultural interests of the Yakama Nation. The opportunity is fleeting; we cannot let it slip away.

The public must come together (40,000 committed to YBSA) to force a SOLUTION instead of allowing blockage from those working together to stop the best solution by criticizing the need to do anything which requires an investment.

We must refuse yet another rejection as we have experienced them for fifty years.

Step into the discussion and demand a SOLUTION.

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