



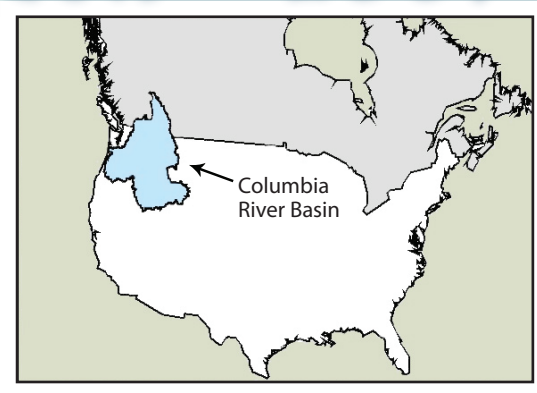
# Office of Columbia River Cooperative Projects - 2009

## Mission

Aggressively pursue development of water supplies to benefit both instream and out-of-stream water uses.

## Vision

Preserve and enhance the standard of living for the people of Washington by strengthening economic conditions and restoring and protecting the Columbia Basin's unique natural environment.



In 2005, the Legislature acted on Governor Gregoire's request to create a new approach to managing water in the Columbia Basin. The new approach directs the Department of Ecology to aggressively develop new supplies of water that would be used for irrigation, municipal and other out-of-stream uses, and to enhance streamflows in low flow periods. Ecology has been working with the Bureau of Reclamation (Bureau) and other federal partners on a wide variety of water projects – ranging from conservation to water storage – that will benefit Washington's economy and environment.

Following are some of the projects:

**Lake Roosevelt Incremental Storage Releases:** The releases will provide 82,500 acre-feet of water for municipal and industrial uses, the Odessa Subarea, and to enhance instream flows for endangered fish. In drought years, an additional 50,000 acre-feet will be released to benefit interruptible water right holders and fish habitat. Earlier this year, Office of Columbia River (OCR) issued secondary use permits to the Bureau for the released water. In August, the Bureau executed two Temporary Water Service Contracts with the State and released water into the Columbia River. This was a procedural step to perfect the permits so that water could be placed in the State's Trust Water Rights Program. Once there, the State can begin issuing permits to end users.

**Weber Siphon Complex:** The Weber Siphon Complex is needed to bring water from the Lake Roosevelt Incremental Storage Releases to the southern part of the Odessa Subarea. The State provided \$800,000 for the Bureau to complete the design. Congress authorized \$50 million to complete the project.

**Odessa Subarea Special Study:** The Odessa Subarea's annual \$630 million contribution to the region's economy is in danger because of a declining aquifer. Ecology and the Bureau, via a joint federal/state EIS, are exploring ways to provide the Subarea with a surface water source. The State is providing over 50 percent of the funding for the \$12 million study.

**Potholes Reservoir Supplemental Feed Route:** The Feed Route project will increase water delivery efficiency in the southern portion of the Columbia Basin Project. The route will cost \$20-25 million. The State has committed \$10 million. The Bureau received \$5 million from Congress to make improvements along the Feed Route. The Bureau also received a FY-08 write-in for \$983,000 and \$1,750,000 for FY-09.

**Yakima River Basin Water Enhancement Project (YRBWEP) Workgroup:** Ecology and the Bureau initiated the YRBWEP Workgroup after completing the final EIS for the Yakima River Basin Integrated Water Management Alternative. The workgroup is composed of representatives from tribal, local, state and federal governments and environmental organizations and irrigation districts. This group will develop an integrated water management plan for the Yakima basin by early 2010.

**Kennewick Irrigation District Project:** Water will be pumped from the Columbia River to increase stream flows and water availability in the Yakima River, doubling stream flows in the lowest 45 miles of the Yakima River and bringing new irrigation water to the Red Mountain wine grape area.

**Walla Walla Pump Exchange:** Water will be pumped from the Columbia River to increase stream flows and water availability in the Walla Walla River. This project will further the recovery of salmon runs, improve the aquatic ecosystem and improve the reliability of water supplies in an incredibly water-short basin.

**Campbell Creek Reservoir:** This project for off-stream storage is currently being studied. The stored water would replace diversions from Peshastin Creek during critical months to benefit instream flows for fish.

**Wanapum Dam:** The water level behind the dam would be raised to store more water that could be used for instream and out-of-stream uses.

# Department of Ecology - Office of Columbia River (OCR)

- Lake Roosevelt Incremental Storage Release
- Odessa Subarea Special Study
- Weber Siphon Complex
- Potholes Reservoir Supplemental Feed Route
- Yakima River Basin Water Enhancement Project (YRBWEP) Workgroup
- Cle Elum Fish Passage and Fish Reintroduction Project (FP/FR Project)
- Kennewick Irrigation District Project
- Walla Walla Pump Exchange
- Campbell Creek Reservoir
- Wanapum Dam



**Adaptation to Reduced Water Supply:** The University of Washington's Climate Impact Group predicts that Washington's snowpack will decrease by 60 percent by 2060. This will have dramatic effects on stream flows and water availability. The OCR recognizes this and via these cooperative projects will put Washington on a path to minimize the impact of climate change. Whether you are concerned about salmon survival or irrigated agriculture, the OCR and the projects it has generated, plus those still under study, will provide long-term solutions.

*If you need this publication in an alternate format, please call the Office of Columbia River at 509-575-2490. Persons with hearing loss can call 711 for Washington Relay Service. Persons with a speech disability can call 877-833-6341.*

