

Water for Jobs and Fish Red Mountain AVA/Kiona Diversion Project

The Project

The Office of Columbia River (OCR) and the Kennewick Irrigation District (KID) are collaborating on a plan to free-up Yakima River water to benefit both the economy and the environment. The basic elements of the plan include:

- Moving KID's diversion point from Prosser to Kiona.
- Using water saved from delivery system improvements and past conversion of farmland into urban use to:
 - Irrigate an additional 1,785 acres of vineyards in the Red Mountain American Viticulture Area.
 - Provide 11,005 acre feet of water to increase streamflows in the Yakima River.
- Mitigate for additional vineyard acerage by protecting 1,200 acres of shrub steppe habitat.

Environmental Benefits

- 11,005 acre-feet of water will be released into a low-flowing stretch of the Yakima River, providing instream flow benefits for salmon and steelhead.
- 1,200 acres of shrub steppe habitat protected.





Economic Benefits

- Saved water will irrigate an additional 1,785 acres of vineyards., injecting \$9.2 million into the economy, annually.
- The added acreage will create an additional 103 jobs for Washington families.



Photo/Daniel Sheehan