

## Yakima River Basin

### **Initiative/Project Title:**

Yakima River Basin Integrated Water Management Plan

### **Watershed Location:**

Washington

### **Watershed Size:**

3,936,000 Acres

### **Start-End Dates:**

- Planning: 2009-2013
- Implementation: 2013-2045

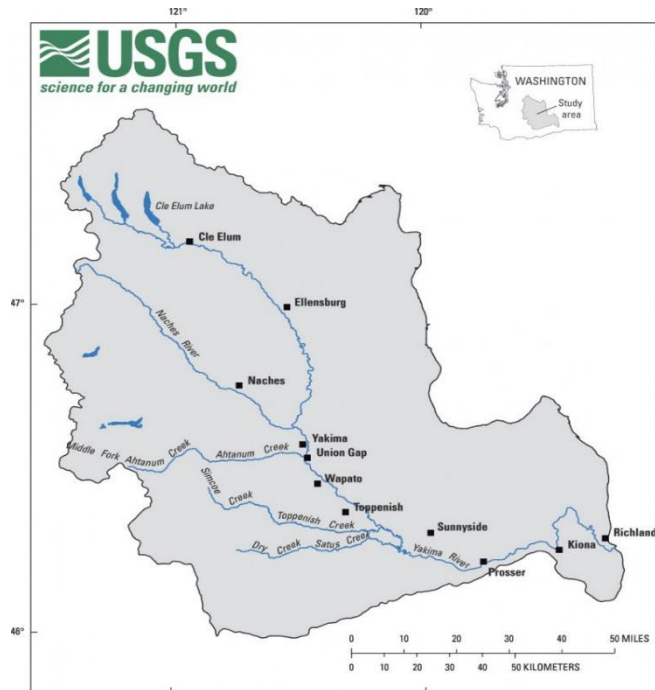
### **Project Highlights:**

Drought and a changing climate pose some of the biggest threats to the health of the Yakima River Basin. The Yakima River Basin Integrated Water Management Plan offers a 30-year vision for how to respond to drought, climatic change, water quality issues, and to ensure lands are protected and productive for both the natural and agricultural environments. Currently there are approximately 40 projects being implemented in the river basin, most of which are habitat restoration and water conservation projects. As one of the larger watershed initiatives in *Healthy Wetlands Healthy Watersheds*, the Yakima River Basin supports \$4.5 billion in the agriculture/processing industries, in addition to an estimated value of \$350 million-\$15 billion in ecosystem services, \$1.2 billion in outdoor recreational expenditures, as well as unquantifiable cultural and spiritual value of Salmon and Steelhead to the Yakima Nation.

**Techniques Used:** The Plan utilizes a combination of restoration, enhancement, and protection techniques including; improvement to fish passage and restoration of river and stream habitat, irrigation system updates, institution of a water market, protecting 70,000 acres of private land, and enhanced protection for over 160,000 acres of federal land.

### **Expected Benefits:**

- Improved fish passage and habitat
- Enhanced water conservation
- Increased surface water storage
- Groundwater storage
- Improved water allocation



Location of the Yakima River Basin