



NATIONAL WILDLIFE FEDERATION

1412 Sixteenth Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036-2266 (202) 797-6800

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Editor

Seattle Post-Intelligencer

101 Elliot Avenue West

Seattle, WA 98119

Dear Editor:

John de Yonge's recent column (27 November 1987) "State's . Apple Crop Hangs On"), concerning the over-production of apples in eastern Washington, was enlightening. However, while orchardists may believe that "apples are not subsidized by government handouts," the facts are quite the contrary.

Apples are high water consumptive crops grown on Federally authorized Bureau of Reclamation irrigation projects. These irrigation projects are notoriously inefficient. Particularly in the Yakima River Basin, over-appropriation of water and an archaic (and chaotic) system of supplying 100 percent of certain irrigation districts' water demands during drought years has dramatically reduced anadromous fish runs which are being rebuilt with the Federal Government picking up the tab.

The Bureau's venerable Yakima River Basin Project has cost the Federal Government over \$150 million. To date, only \$30 million has been repaid. So when you think of apples being squeezed for juice, think also of the taxpayer who is being squeezed for a crop too large for the current market to bear.

Sincerely,

David C. Campbell

Resources Economist

NWF Water Resources Program

DCC/cj