

WATER CONSERVATION

170,000 Acre-Feet Of Water Conservation Possible but No Specific Projects Identified.

Yakima River Basin Study - Volume 1
Proposed Integrated Water Resource Management Plan

April 2011

3.1.6 Enhanced Water Conservation

This element consists of additional agricultural conservation actions not included in current YRBWEP Title XII implementation plans, along with municipal and domestic water conservation programs.

Agricultural Conservation

An agricultural water conservation program could conserve up to 170,000 acre-feet of water in good water years, based upon a compiled list of potential projects that could be implemented under this proposed program (see Volume 2 technical memorandum, Agricultural Water Conservation). The program would include measures beyond those likely to be implemented in the existing YRBWEP Phase2 conservation program.

Agricultural water conservation measures that could be implemented under this program include:

- Lining or piping existing canals or laterals
- Constructing re-regulating reservoirs on irrigation canals
- Installing gates and automation on irrigation canals
- Improving water measurement and accounting systems
- Installing higher efficiency sprinkler systems, drip, etc.
- Implementing irrigation water management practices and other measures to reduce seepage, evaporation, and operational spills

Although a list of specific projects was reviewed in developing the agricultural conservation program, this recommendation does not identify specific projects for implementation at this time. Projects that would be implemented under this program would be selected through detailed feasibility studies and evaluation by the existing YRBWEP Conservation Advisory Group. Irrigation districts eligible for project funding include federally and non-federally-served irrigation districts, private irrigation entities, and individual landowners. (page 57)