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Supporting the Columbia Basin Project since 1964.



OUR MISSION

Serving as the voice of the Columbia Basin Project – advocating for completion and sustainable maintenance.



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IT'S ALMOST SPRING! RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES IN THE BREATHTAKING COLUMBIA BASIN

By: Julie McPherson | Recreation Planner, Bureau of Reclamation
Ephrata Field Office

With Daylight Savings Time here and the extended forecast boasting temperatures in the 50's, we are starting to feel like spring is finally on its way to the Columbia Basin. Recreation opportunities abound year-round throughout the approximately 350,000 acres of Columbia Basin Project (CBP) lands managed by the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) and its partners, and spring is an especially exciting time to get out and enjoy the outdoors.

It's hard to think about outdoor recreation in the Basin without considering our many lakes and reservoirs. Many of these lakes have developed due in part to the CBP. For example, prior to the Project, the Basin had 20 lakes and ponds. Today there are over 140! The Winchester

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Summer Falls Park

Ponds Regulated Access Area was developed through partnership and cooperation between Reclamation, Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife, Ducks Unlimited, and the Quincy-Columbia Basin Irrigation District. Blinds which are popular to hunt waterfowl from in the fall also provide an excellent spot for bird watching during the spring. Bring your camera and see which of the many migrating waterfowl species you can spot!

Ice fishing, which is popular across much of Eastern Washington, is winding down for the year with melt off rapidly occurring. March 1st was opening day for fishing on many of the bodies of water in the Basin, and people come from all over Washington to participate in the fun. Some of the lakes which recently opened include Burke Lake, Dry Falls Lake, Dusty Lake, Upper Caliche Lake, Cascade Lake, and Lenore Lake.

If you'd like to get the family out for a picnic, Washington State Parks operate some beautiful facilities on Reclamation lands through cooperative managing agreements. These include Potholes State Park and Steamboat Rock State Park. There are several free days throughout the spring when Discover Passes are

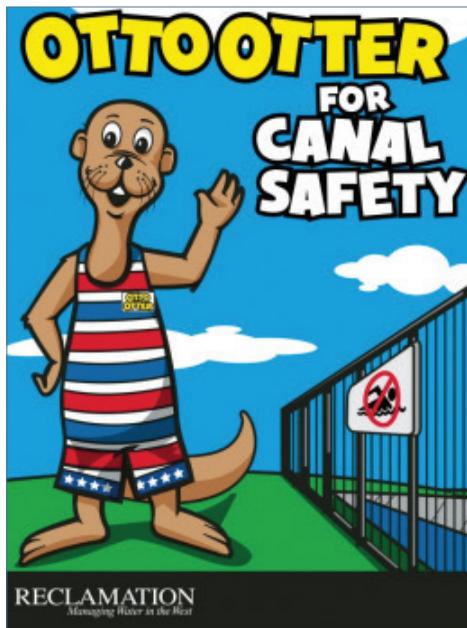
not required for Day Use, including March 19th, April 20th, April 22nd, June 1st, June 8th, and June 9th.

Summer Falls Day Use Area, a Reclamation owned and managed park on the northern end of Billy Clapp Lake, is expected to open on April 12th. People come to admire the scenic views of the waterfall in the background. You can contact the Reclamation Ephrata Field Office at (509) 754-0214 if you're interested in reserving the Summer Falls Day Use Area for a special event such as a wedding or birthday party. Scootene Park is open to Day Use year-round, but the campground is also expected to open on April 12th.

Sandhill Cranes can already be seen and heard making their spring migration through Scootene Park and all across the Columbia Basin. If you love birds, Othello's Sandhill Crane Festival is a fun family event to attend on March 22nd-24th. You also might enjoy a drive or hike in the Columbia National Wildlife Refuge to remind you just how magnificent our local landscape is. Don't delay; get out and take advantage of the many recreation opportunities available in the breathtaking Columbia Basin!

CANAL SAFETY

The Bureau of Reclamation has a canal safety program called: Otto Otter Canal Safety Program. Otto Otter, the safety mascot, educates the community about the dangers of canals and highlights the importance of staying out and away from canals. As water for the spring season will begin to turn back on, the League wants to be sure the public is reminded of the Reclamation safety points below:



Otto Otter teaches kids – and all – to be safe around canals by staying out!

1. Canal water is very cold and fast-moving.
2. Canal waters and roads adjacent to canals are not for public use. The canals in some cases are owned in fee (private property) or have a right of way held by irrigation districts, ditch companies or government entities. It is a trespass or encroachment to recreate within the width of the canal right of way.
3. Irrigation is the primary purpose of canals. The average depths of canals are between 1 to 10 feet deep and some have very steep vertical banks.
4. The best way to be safe from canals is to stay away. It's not only dangerous for children, it's hazardous for everyone, including your pets. Stay out.

To learn more, visit : www.usbr.gov/pn/about/otto

UPCOMING EVENTS

SAVE THE DATE!

COLUMBIA BASIN DEVELOPMENT LEAGUE 55TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Tuesday, October 29, 2019
*Big Bend Community College,
ATEC Building
Moses Lake, WA*

Registration opens in early fall.

LEARN MORE AT:
www.cbdl.org



QUOTE OF THE QUARTER

**DOING MORE OF WHAT DOESN'T WORK
WON'T MAKE IT WORK ANY BETTER.**

- Charles J. Givens, author



STRATEGIC INVESTMENT AT QUINCY-COLUMBIA BASIN IRRIGATION DISTRICT

By: Craig Gyselinck | Environmental Assistant Manager, QCBID

Each year at the Quincy-Columbia Basin Irrigation District (QCBID) we seek to improve the resiliency of our water delivery system while maintaining, modernizing, and extending the life of its ageing infrastructure. Irrigation water is the lifeblood of farms and families in our community and maintaining the arteries, consisting of over 2,000 miles of flowing waterways that makeup our water system is an awesome responsibility. In 2018, we invested \$3.4 million dollars piping and lining canals, sealing cracks in broken concrete, and replacing worn infrastructure. These investments will improve operational efficiencies, reduce operational costs, and conserve water on our Project. The work completed this year is estimated to conserve over 4,800 acre-feet of water each year. Since 2006, we have completed projects that have saved an estimated 42,000 acre-feet of water per year. One acre-foot of water is similarly equivalent to covering one football field with one foot of water. Utilizing Bonneville Power Administration, Bureau of Reclamation, Department of Ecology, and landowner cost-share programs, we secured over \$800 thousand dollars in competitive grant and incentive money for work done in 2018, reducing assessed costs for landowners.

Maintaining and replacing critical ageing infrastructure is one of our top priorities at the QCBID. A new 115,000-volt transformer costing nearly \$300 thousand dollars was installed at the Evergreen Pumping Plant. This will improve safety and reliability of the original 60-year-old equipment. Four major pumps, one at the Quincy Pumping Plant and three at the Babcock Pumping Plant were reconditioned, capable of pumping a combined 60,500 gallons of water per minute. We continue to embrace state

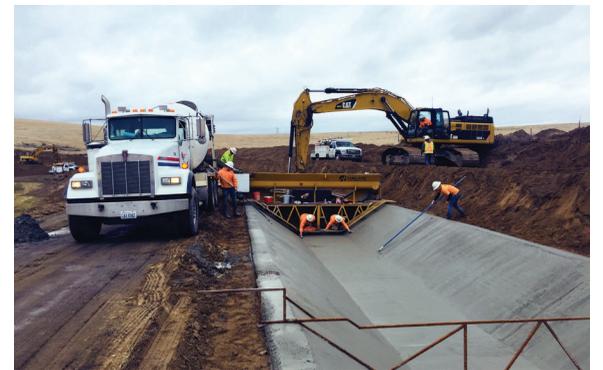
of the art technological improvements, such as installing automatic gates to ensure more reliable water deliveries. Inspections of our most critical infrastructure such as the massive 2.5-mile-long, 22-foot diameter Soap Lake Siphon also occurred which was found to be in good condition.

Gophers continue to be a concern at the QCBID and their management is key for canal safety. They burrow into the sides of canals causing damage to them. We pay landowners \$1 for every gopher trapped. Last year over 31,250 gophers were trapped by landowners, slightly down from nearly 36,000 in 2017.

Our annual elementary school Otto Otter Program was also a success. Each year we visit schools in our communities and talk to third and fourth graders about water and irrigation canal safety. Our river otter mascot named Otto educated the community about the dangers of canals and highlighted the importance of staying out and staying away from them.

Throughout the year we worked closely with the Bureau of Reclamation, Department of Ecology, Department of Agriculture, Fish and Wildlife and many other agencies to ensure that we manage our complex region in a collaborative way. We thank them for their efforts and look forward to doing more great work together in 2019.

We are continuing to invest in our employees. We've implemented new health awareness programs such as "Stretch & Flex". Each morning before receiving their assignments we stretch together. Not only has this program reduced worked place injuries, but it promotes teamwork and relationship



building across departments. The work we accomplish would not be possible without the skilled employees who work here. As we begin the new year, maintaining and modernizing ageing infrastructure, water conservation, and community outreach will continue to be top priorities.

We have partnered with the Bureau of Reclamation and have received over \$83,000 in federal money to research ways to reduce aquatic weeds and algae growth in irrigation canals. We spend over 1.3 million dollars annually controlling weeds, costing landowners nearly \$5 for every acre they farm. We have \$3.8 million dollars in system improvements planned for 2019 with over \$1 million being funded by grants and incentive programs to reduce costs for water users.

It has been an honor and privilege to work for our community through the Quincy-Columbia Basin Irrigation District. I couldn't be more thrilled to be a part of the team and work with such great people for great people. I am excited about all that we have accomplished in the past and all that we have happening in this new year and beyond. At the Quincy-Columbia Basin Irrigation District it truly feels like opportunities are unlimited.

FY20 BUDGET: FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE COLUMBIA BASIN PROJECT

By: Annick Miller Rivera | Senior Policy Advisor, Water Strategies, LLC

On March 11, President Trump released his fiscal year 2020 (FY20) budget request. The budget proposes \$1.1 billion for the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation), an increase from the \$1.05 billion requested last fiscal year.

In Reclamation's budget, there are several funding opportunities for the Columbia Basin Project (CBP). These are CBP's line item, the WaterSMART program, and the additional funds Congress appropriates to Reclamation.

In FY19, funding for the CBP was \$12.9 million – the level requested by the President. However, the overall funding for the CBP in FY19 was \$21.25 million. The increase in funding came from the third category listed above, the additional funds Congress appropriates to Reclamation. In FY19, Congress included funds totaling \$394.6 million for Reclamation that were not specified for any particular program, project or activity. From these funds, the CBP received an additional \$8.35 million. Some of the programs that benefited from these funds were the Pasco Pump Lateral, Odessa Ground Water Replacement Program, and the Potholes Supplemental Feed.

In FY20, the President is requesting \$20.6 million, a \$7.7 million increase. Details on where these additional funds will be spent are not available yet. Reclamation's budget justifications, the document which lists how the money within the CBP line item will be spent is not expected to be released until March 18.

The second funding opportunity is through the WaterSMART program. FY20 funding for the WaterSMART Program is \$19.9 million, of which \$10 million is for grants. This is the



The House Budget Committee displays copies of President Donald Trump's FY20 budget on March 11, 2019, on Capitol Hill. (Photo credit: Mandel Ngan/AFP via Getty Images)

same request level as FY19 and is significantly lower than requests made by previous budgets. As previously mentioned, Congress has the authority to fund programs at any level it deems appropriate. The WaterSMART program is an example where Congress has continually funded a program at higher levels than requested. In FY19 Congress provided \$113 million to the WaterSMART program, of which \$34 million were for grants.

While Congress has provided additional funds to Reclamation over the past several years, these increases are not guaranteed. The Columbia Basin Development League continues to advocate to Congress and the Administration to ensure these programs and funding opportunities continue to receive the robust support in future years. Washington State is well represented in both chambers. Congressman Newhouse (WA-04) and Congresswoman Herrera Beutler (WA-03)

are members of the House Energy and Water Appropriations Subcommittee, and Senator Patty Murray (WA) serves on the Senate Energy and Water Appropriations Subcommittee these subcommittees provide funding for the Bureau of Reclamation and Army Corps of Engineers. Washington State's congressional delegation must be utilized when discussing the importance of a federal funding for programs that matter to the Columbia Basin Development League. During a tight fiscal climate, it is important to highlight the added value that water infrastructure programs can provide. To that effect, the Columbia Basin Development League will relay this message in person during a federal advocacy trip to Washington, D.C. in May.

The President's Fiscal Year 2020 Budget is available at: www.whitehouse.gov/omb/budget

IMPROVING WATER SUPPLY IN THE COLUMBIA RIVER BASIN

By: Kris Polly | Editor-in-Chief, Irrigation Leader | President, Water Strategies LLC

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Tom Tebb is the director of the Office of Columbia River at the Washington State Department of Ecology. His office is tasked with several major water management projects designed to increase water flows in central and eastern Washington, both for instream and out-of-stream uses.

In this interview with Irrigation Leader Editor-in-Chief Kris Polly, Mr. Tebb discusses flow augmentation, aquifer restoration, and other infrastructure improvements his office is responsible for.

Kris Polly: Would you tell us about your background and how you ended up in your current position?

Tom Tebb: I have a degree in engineering geology and a license in the same profession from the State of Washington. I have been working for the Washington State Department of Ecology for 27 years and worked my way up through the ranks in five different environmental programs. I started my career in 1992, working in the nuclear-waste program at the Hanford Site. Most recently, in 2015, I was promoted from Department of Ecology central regional director to director of the Office of Columbia River.

The Office of Columbia River is charged with running a relatively new program called the Columbia River Water Management Program, which was created in 2006 by bipartisan legislation. The program is designed to aggressively pursue water supplies to meet multiple water needs in eastern Washington, both instream and out of stream. A \$200 million bond authority allowed the Office of Columbia River to begin working on projects: Since 2006, we've worked on close to 100. In developing new water supply, one-third of any new water developed is dedicated to fish and other aquatic

ecological functions; the remaining two-thirds is for out-of-stream uses, including municipal, industrial, and agricultural uses.

One of the key priorities of that bipartisan legislation was to develop water supplies in the Odessa Subarea of the Columbia Basin. Farmers in that area had tapped into the groundwater with the permission of the State of Washington, essentially on the promise that the second half of the Columbia Basin Project would be built and allow them to turn off their groundwater wells. Thirty years later, approximately 100,000 acres are in jeopardy due to severely declining groundwater levels and the threatened failure of these wells. We are working on a project called the Odessa Groundwater Replacement Program to provide surface water from the Columbia River to replace the groundwater used by those farmers. In developing that water supply, we also created 27,000 acre-feet of additional instream flow for fish in the Columbia River main stem.

We accomplished that through the Lake Roosevelt Incremental Release Program, which allowed us to take an additional foot off Lake Roosevelt during normal years and a foot and a half during drought years. That provided water for the Odessa subarea and for instream flow

for fish, as well as an additional 25,000 acre-feet of water for municipal and industrial uses. Since 2006, the various projects of the Office of Columbia River have created about 413,000 acre-feet of additional supply for eastern-central Washington. We are very proud of this accomplishment, but believe we have much more to do.

We're looking at new ways of doing water supply and watershed-improvement projects, which are epitomized in our Yakima Basin Integrated Plan. Our strategy there is to advance seven key elements: habitat conservation and fish passage, water supply, water conservation, groundwater use, structural modifications, new storage, and the development of water markets. Individually, those projects probably wouldn't move, but as an integrated resource strategy, they're having success. We have received national and international recognition for this integrated water-resource management approach. The U.S. Bureau of Reclamation presented the Yakima Basin Integrated Plan to an audience in Brazil during the recent World Water Forum held there. I've also presented it to the United Kingdom Irrigation Association in London. We're very proud of it and we continue to work hard at it.

In total, it's a 30-year, \$4.1 billion program. Right now, we are in the first of three 10-year phases. In 2013, the State of Washington adopted the Yakima Basin Integrated Plan and provided \$134 million to jump-start it. We have received generous state investments totaling about \$167 million since then. The governor's budget that was just released provides several million dollars of additional funding to the end of the 2019–2021 biennial budget. At the same time, we're working hard to get a federal

partner. There is proposed federal legislation that would achieve Maria Cantwell (D-WA) and House Resolution Bill 4419 out of the office of Representative Dan Newhouse (R-WA). We've been working with the members and staff of the U.S. Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources to streamline the House version for an amendment and to try to reduce the potential for earmarks. We've been very busy the last 3–4 weeks working to get something in the omnibus bill. We are hoping for a Christmas miracle!

In addition, we are still continuing to work on a federal partnership in the Columbia Basin Irrigation Project to support the \$90 million that Washington State has invested into the expansion of the East Low Canal and the construction of the Weber Canal, the Lind Coulee Siphon complex, and the Warden Siphon complex. We have also recently received funding to complete the last two siphons on the East Low Canal—the Kansas Prairie 1 and 2 siphons—and the associated radial gates. That will form the backbone of the groundwater replacement program.

The Yakima Basin Integrated Plan and the Odessa Groundwater Replacement Program within the Columbia Basin Irrigation Project are the key projects that take up the bulk of our state funding, and rightly so: They're federal infrastructure projects that the state is investing in because of their substantial economic, social and ecological benefits.

Kris Polly: For your office, are groundwater management and surface-water management completely integrated?

Tom Tebb: Not completely, but we have a legislative mandate to do a water supply-and-demand forecast every 5 years, and our most recent report, which was published in 2016, identified 10 or 11 geological areas within eastern-central Washington where we're having groundwater declines. We're trying to think through how to manage that, keeping in mind prior appropriation and the interruption of surface water and groundwater rights. In Washington State, surface water is regulated through laws developed in 1917, while groundwater laws were not developed



Tom Tebb, director of the DOE OCR

until 1945. As a result, groundwater rights are typically junior as compared to surface water rights, but they aren't always regulated as such. In the Yakima Basin, we're trying to manage surface water and groundwater conjunctively. Elsewhere in eastern and central Washington, we're working toward it. It takes time.

Kris Polly: You discussed developing new water supplies. Where does that water come from?

Tom Tebb: It's not really new water—there's no such thing as new water. We are trying to retime the water that exists. We invest in infrastructure where we can. For example, there was a reservoir on Lake Sullivan in Pend Oreille County, in the very northeast corner of Washington State. It was a small hydropower project associated with Seattle City Light. Seattle City Light was getting ready to relinquish its Federal Energy Regulatory Commission license and discussing the removal of the dam. We were able to get involved, and with some creative thinking and additional funding, we were able to renovate this structure so that it could continue to store 14,000 acre-feet of water. We've been able to use that water for towns and communities that are at their water-right limits in the five northeast counties of our state. As part of the project, we also did

environmental restoration for the creek below the structure.

Similarly, the Lake Roosevelt Incremental Release Project involves adjusting the lake level to provide additional supply. We are also considering the construction of new reservoirs. We are scoping for a potential project called the Switzler Reservoir in the Horse Heaven Hills area of eastern Benton County. The idea is to take water off the Columbia River when it's flooding or flowing high, store that water, and then release it later in the summer, potentially for new permits. We are also looking at aquifer storage as a mechanism to retime water with a smaller environmental footprint than traditional surface water storage.

We also invest in water conservation. Much of the infrastructure here is dated. Modernizing it would make it more efficient. We use public money to improve water conveyance infrastructure and delivery systems; in exchange, we use a portion of the water that is conserved to augment instream flow or to shore up water supply for irrigation districts.

Kris Polly: What are your methods for recharging the aquifer?

Tom Tebb: In the Odessa subarea, we're not really recharging the aquifer. Right now we have major agricultural groundwater users pulling over 900,000 acre-feet of water a year out of the aquifer. We want to slow the decline of the aquifer by getting these big groundwater pumpers to use replacement surface water instead. Because it is a regional aquifer that serves many towns and communities and homes, it's imperative that we look at this initiative as an aquifer rescue program. Once we get those big users off the groundwater, we can look for ways to protect that water and, hopefully, someday to recharge it. This groundwater dates back to the Ice Ages, so there is no easy way to replace it other than to pump it in, which is expensive.

However, we're looking to pair a project like that with a pump storage project, which would involve a multifunction, multiuse facility that could take advantage of fluctuating energy prices and cheap power. We would like to use the fluctuations in hourly energy prices to pump water up from the river and potentially into an aquifer when power rates are low and to release it when power rates are high.

Kris Polly: Would you tell us about the Bateman Island project?

Tom Tebb: That project is associated with our Yakima Basin Integrated Plan. Bateman Island is an island at the mouth of the Yakima River that was farmed in the late 1930s and early 1940s. A causeway was created to get equipment over there—essentially an earthen dike that connects the shoreline of the City of Richland to the island. There is no known permit for the causeway, and it blocks one of the passages of the Yakima River Delta as it empties into the Columbia, creating a temperature as well as a flow impediment. We've been working with Kennewick Irrigation District (KID), the Mid-Columbia Fisheries Enhancement Group, the City of Richland, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and local marina owners to begin developing a strategy and plan to try to reduce that barrier while still guaranteeing access to the island and protecting the marina. We're going to be embarking on the first level of feasibility analyses and then move on to the funding strategy and subsequent

implementation. The Army Corps owns this island and much of the shoreline around the McNary Pool as a result of the construction of the McNary Dam. The Army Corps has just adopted what is called a tier-one step, allowing them to begin work on this project, which is very exciting.

Kris Polly: Would you talk about urbanization in your area of service and its effects?

Tom Tebb: Many of the irrigation districts in our area were formed in the early to mid-1900s, primarily for agricultural purposes. The Yakima Irrigation Project and the Columbia Basin Project are both federal irrigation projects authorized by Congress through the Reclamation Act. The Yakima Irrigation Project, which was developed sooner, was essentially designed with snowpack in mind. Snowpack is a component of our water supply, but as the climate warms and we get more rain and less snow, that source is less and less reliable. An irrigation system whose rights are junior or proratable—meaning that the Bureau of Reclamation provides it a prorata of its normal water supplies during drought years—may receive half or less of the amount of water it would usually get. That really affects high-value crops like cherries and other fruits.

Urbanization has had several effects, particularly in the case of the Kennewick Irrigation District. Urbanization in KID's service area has placed more demands on its system in unpredictable ways. We definitely need more customers to be knowledgeable about their water supply and where it comes from. People in the Tri-Cities live right next to the Columbia River, but in many cases, their water comes from the Yakima River system, which is much more susceptible to drought. There is an incongruity between what residents see out their windows and the actual origin of their water.

Urbanization also creates opportunities. For example, KID was able to provide surface water irrigation to the Red Mountain wine-growing region because of the construction of the Columbia Center Mall in the 1960s. This area was once irrigated orchards but is now urbanized. The water that had been used there was moved to Red Mountain.

Kris Polly: What role does water conservation play in your work?

Tom Tebb: It is important. We've been working with irrigation districts in the Yakima and Columbia Basin Projects and other Office of Columbia River projects to modernize their equipment and conveyance systems. In some cases, we provide public money in exchange for the saved water. These projects benefit both the irrigation district and the environment.

Kris Polly: What should irrigators know about your work?

Tom Tebb: They should know that we're working hard both for them and for the environment. It is natural for farmers to be somewhat suspicious of the Department of Ecology: We are a regulatory agency, and one of our missions is to manage the state's water resources. But the Office of Columbia River is also a place where irrigation districts can come in and talk about their ideas and dreams. If they are willing to consider environmental and other social benefits, we can partner with those districts to further our mission of developing new water supplies for instream and out-of-stream uses. I encourage districts to get a hold of us. We are easy to contact and to talk with. I participate in many irrigation district conferences. We also have quarterly public meetings. I invite anyone to come to those. Get involved and see if we can be helpful.

Kris Polly: Would you tell us about your problem-solving philosophy?

Tom Tebb: That is what makes us unique. It is easy to say, "No." It is harder to say, "Maybe, yes, but we have to do these things." What I try to do, and what I coach my staff to do, is to think of these problems as opportunities, and to ask how we can use our current infrastructure and water law to address them.

In this office, I have the opportunity to solve problems that in some cases have been tied up in litigation for years. A good example is what we're trying to do in the Icicle Creek area of the Wenatchee watershed. We are working with the Chelan County Natural Resources Department and a group of stakeholders to try to replicate

what we did with the Yakima Basin Integrated Plan. That little watershed is important because in it is the Leavenworth National Fish Hatchery, which is reparations for Grand Coulee Dam. It also is home to an important tribal fishery area as well as important degraded instream flow areas. Working with the Icicle Peshastin Irrigation District, we're trying to develop a strategy to invest in their infrastructure in exchange for water for instream-flow purposes. If people come to the table with open minds and some creativity, we can develop a strategy to put that basin or community in a sustainable posture for the next 20–30 years.

Kris Polly: What is your vision for the future?

Tom Tebb: My vision for the future is to grow our capacity here and to reach out to other basins. We've been asked to participate in the Walla Walla Basin and to try to provide an example of how government can provide creative solutions to water supply issues. My vision is also for Washington State to be a leader in this effort. I'm proud of the momentum we have built to date and what we're trying to do. I'd like to continue that.

I feel very privileged to do this work. I'm a native of eastern Washington, and I grew up on the ditch bank of a canal. I value agriculture and our natural environment. We are blessed to call Washington State home.

Tom Tebb is the director of the Office of Columbia River at the Washington State Department of Ecology. He can be contacted at (509) 574-3989 or at thomas.tebb@ecy.wa.gov.

Article reprint and photo permission given from Irrigation Leader. Kris Polly is editor-in-chief of Irrigation Leader magazine and president of Water Strategies LLC, a government relations firm he began in February 2009 for the purpose of representing and guiding water, power, and agricultural entities in their dealings with Congress, the Bureau of Reclamation, and other federal government agencies. The League works with Water Strategies LLC on behalf of the Columbia Basin Project. Kris can be contacted at Kris.Polly@waterstrategies.com. The original article can be found at: www.irrigationleadermagazine.com/vol-9-iss-10-wa

STATE BUDGET PROCESS MAY ADJUST FUNDING FOR COLUMBIA BASIN PROJECT

By: Mike Schwisow | Government Relations Director, CBDL

The middle of March marks the half way point for the 2019 legislative session with both the House and Senate spending long days on the Floor voting on bills originating in their respective bodies. The House of Origin cutoff significantly narrows the focus of legislative action with the House limited to considering Senate bills that have passed the Senate and the Senate doing the same with bills originating in the House. Just before the cutoff, Representatives had introduced 1427 bills with 319 of those being passed. Senators had introduced 1300, while passing 281.

The House of Origin cutoff also brings the Operating, Capital and Transportation budgets into sharper focus. The budget writing committees in each body held hearings on the Governor's budget proposals early in the session. They also have been hearing bills rereferred to the Fiscal committees by the Policy committees when those bills have provisions that direct expenditures. In the background, fiscal committee chairs and staff are working hard to develop the House and Senate responses to the Governor's initial proposals.

The budgeting process kicks into high gear when the House and Senate fiscal committees each release their respective versions of the Operating, Capital and Transportation budgets. This marks the start of the finish of the legislative session as budgets are always the last business that is done before adjournment. Hearings will be held on the proposed budgets and, this session, the House will be first to pass the bill across the Floor to begin the substantive behind the scenes negotiations that lead to a final product.

The League has been focused on the Department of Ecology (DOE) Office of Columbia River (OCR) Capital Budget proposal which provides funding for the Odessa Ground Water Replacement Program (OGWRP). Last fall the Department of Ecology sent a request for a \$40 million to the Governor's Office of Financial Management. The Governor sent his proposed budgets to the Legislature in mid-December reducing the agency request to \$34.4 million. This wasn't too surprising as the Capital Budget bottom line is a function of the bonded debt limitation and the Governor had previously identified priorities to fund Orca recovery and mental health facilities.

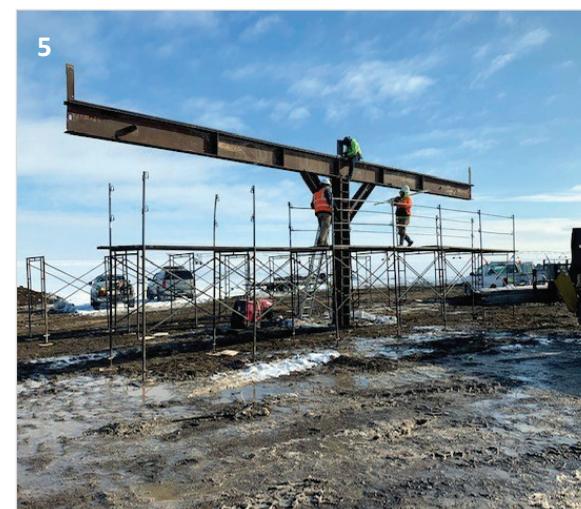
Although the bottom line for the DOE OCR Capital Budget proposal was reduced by the Governor, the agency support for OGWRP remained a priority. The revised agency allocation of funds remains at \$10 million even though other project allocations were adjusted. The work ahead is to see that the funding remains through the end of the negotiations.

CONSTRUCTION IS UNDERWAY ON KANSAS PRAIRIE SIPHONS & EAST LOW CANAL

By: Jed Crowther | Development Coordinator, ECBID

KANSAS PRAIRIE #1 AND #2 SIPHONS

Construction is underway of the last two siphons to be added in the East Low Canal, as part of the Odessa Groundwater Replacement Program (OGWRP). The bid was awarded to Rotschy Construction for \$7.3 million. Initial construction is proceeding, as shown by the photos. Canal expansion is an important milestone to provide flow capacity for the delivery systems to serve 87,700 acres. Current work corresponds with canal widening and construction of five siphons built from 2009 to 2017.



1. A great look at what re-bar tying looks like.
2. A snowy East Low Canal site overview awaiting continued construction.
3. Dewatering well casings installed in early March 2019.
4. Pile driving casings – part of the construction process of the siphons.
5. Construction crews install re-bar tree.
6. A site overview of the Kansas Prairie #1 and #2 Siphons in the East Low Canal.



EL 47.5 PIPELINE CONSTRUCTION

ECBID crews began installation of the EL 47.5 pipeline in early February 2019, as pictured. Good progress is being accomplished, despite the extended winter weather challenges. Installation is monitored to assure compliance with relevant standards. The pump station design is also being finalized, with construction this year. Delivery to Water Service Contract areas is planned for spring of 2020.



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