



Facts and Figures: Sunnyside Division

SUNNYSIDE DIVISION:

The various entities receiving water from the Sunnyside Canal are collectively referred to as the Sunnyside Division of the Yakima Reclamation Project.

The Division is approximately 70 miles in length and from one to 12 miles in width.

The Sunnyside Division originally consisted of fourteen entities located in Yakima and Benton Counties in south central Washington. Currently there are nine separate entities within the Sunnyside Division.

ENTITY	ACRES
Sunnyside Valley Irrigation District.....	86,429
Grandview Irrigation District.....	3,941
Benton Irrigation District.....	4,630
City of Zillah.....	106
City of Sunnyside.....	578
City of Grandview.....	271
City of Prosser.....	425
Konewock Ditch Company.....	2,400
Piety Flat Ditch Company.....	464
Total Acres.....	99,244

ORGANIZATION:

The Sunnyside Division is one of six divisions of the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation's (USBR) Yakima Project, which includes Roza, Kittitas, Tieton, Kennewick and Wapato Divisions.

SERVICE AREA:

The Sunnyside Division is comprised by all the lands served by the Sunnyside Canal, which serves 99,244 acres.

Sunnyside Valley Irrigation District, the largest entity in the Sunnyside Division, comprises approximately 88 percent of the land in the Division.

HISTORY:

Diversion from the Yakima River for the Sunnyside Division lands began in the late 1880's when the Konewock Ditch Company diverted water to approximately 3,500 acres and Piety Flat Ditch Company diverted water to 610 acres.

In 1891, the Northern Pacific Railroad began constructing the Sunnyside Canal.

On October 23, 1905, the Sunnyside Canal was officially transferred to the U.S. Reclamation Service (today's USBR) which established Sunnyside as one of the two earliest developments in the Yakima River Basin.

The government purchased the project from the Washington Irrigation Company and its predecessors, which had been diverting water at the Sunnyside Dam since 1891. The Sunnyside Dam was completed in its present form in 1907.

The Bureau of Reclamation operated and maintained the conveyance and distribution facilities in the Sunnyside Division until a Board of Control was formed in 1945.

Responsibility for operation and maintenance of the Canal and other joint facilities was transferred to the Board of Control at that time with SVID as the operating agent.

The operation and maintenance of the Sunnyside Diversion Dam together with the newly constructed sluice gate was transferred to the Board of Control in 1959.

WATER SUPPLY:

Sunnyside Division water supply comes from the Yakima River Watershed. One third of the annual demand for water for irrigation and other purposes comes through reservoir storage. The remaining supply depends heavily on snowpack and precipitation to meet the remaining two thirds of annual water demand.

The Yakima River Watershed consists of five storage reservoirs, which store a total of 1 million acre feet: Keechelus, Kachess, Cle Elum, Bumping and Rimrock.