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# RSB JC UPDATE

Fall 2004

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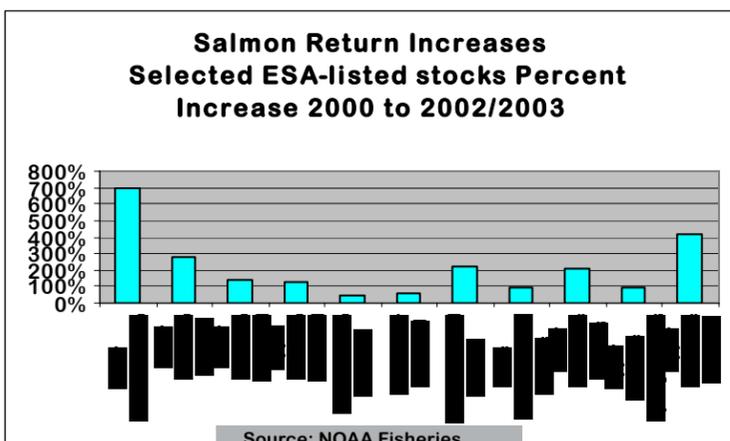
A PUBLICATION OF THE ROZA-SUNNYSIDE BOARD OF JOINT CONTROL  
P.O. Box 239 ♦ Sunnyside, WA 98944

## Columbia Basin Salmon Results Since 2000

Fact Sheet by: Federal Caucus; [www.salmonrecovery.gov](http://www.salmonrecovery.gov)

### Columbia Basin salmon runs are up dramatically

Salmon returns of nearly all stocks are up dramatically. Clearly, fresh-water conditions support the productivity of these stocks, especially when ocean conditions are good.



## Federal Actions for salmon since 2000

### Hydro system improved

- Removable Spillway Weir installed a lower Granite Dam on the Snake River to improve juvenile salmon and steelhead passage. Recent tests indicate that 98 percent of juvenile fish survive passage,
- New Bonneville Dam Second Powerhouse “Corner Collector”, coupled with the existing screened bypass systems, is expected to attract about 90 percent of juveniles at the powerhouse, and provide an estimated 98 percent survival for those fish.
- Tern predation on juvenile salmon down roughly 40 percent after 9,000 pairs of Caspian terns nesting in the Columbia River estuary were relocated. Terns were unharmed.
- Pike minnow predation on juvenile salmon cut an estimated 25 percent by sport-reward fishery.

### Habitat protected

- In 2002 alone, nearly 200 miles of streamside habitat were protected for long-term benefits.

### Hatcheries built

- Two major state-of-the-art salmon and steelhead production facilities built and operated.
  - From 2000 to 2003, over 27 percent of returning Yakima River spring Chinook were the result of hatchery production at the Yakama Tribal Cle Elum Supplementation and Research Facility. Hatchery production supported a reopening of the fishery for spring Chinook salmon in the Yakima River for the first time in many years.
  - In its first year of production, the Nez Perce Tribal Hatchery released over 1.1 million fall and spring Chinook.

### Harvests increased

- Spring Chinook opened in main stem Columbia River sport fishery in 2000 for first time since 1977. Fishery expanded in 2002, 2003 and 2004 for the first time since 1973.
- Fall Chinook harvested at steady 23 percent to treaty Indian fisheries and 8 percent to non-Indian fisheries.

Recovery depends on comprehensive actions and cooperation by ALL the players.

## In This Issue

- 2 SVID Water Master Retires
- 2 SVID Fall Construction
- 2 SCIP-Phase One
- 2 SVID Water Shut-Off
- 3 Roza Fall Construction
- 3 Roza Employee News
- 3 Roza Water Shut-Off
- 4 On-Farm Update
- 4 Reservoir Status
- 4 Water Quality Update

## WaterMaster Retires



*Delmas Church Retires after 33 years with S.V.I.D.*

Delmas Church has announced his retirement from Sunnyside Valley Irrigation District (SVID) ending over 33 years of service as a laborer, heavy equipment operator, assistant water master, and district water master. Mr. Church's effective retirement date will be January 31, 2005. His last day of employment will be October 15, 2004 and will use his accumulated leave until his effective retirement date early next year.

Del has agreed to return next March to help with one last irrigation season before turning over his responsibilities to others. His return will be under the retire/rehire program authorized by the state legislature to provide a smooth transition from experienced retirees to their replacements. District Manager Jim Trull says he regrets Mr. Church retiring but says he has "paid his dues." "It is rare to find an employee with the loyalty and dedication to an organization that Del has shown," states Trull. "He also has a strong commitment to serving the people who pay the bills – the landowners."

Ken Ott, Public Works Director for the City of Sunnyside, has been hired to fill Church's position. Mr. Ott has been employed by the City of Sunnyside in various capacities for 14 years and for 12 years for the City of Mabton. He will report to work October 1<sup>st</sup>.

An event recognizing Church's years of service will be scheduled for sometime at the conclusion of the 2005 irrigation season.

## Fall Construction for SVID

Sunnyside Valley Irrigation District (SVID) has a long list of construction projects planned for the winter season some of which are already underway.

SVID will continue to work on Lateral 59.28 main line, enclosed conduit system near the intersection of Pioneer Road and Old Inland Empire Highway near Whitstran, and approximately another 7,720 feet to be completed on 59.28B line along Old Inland Empire Highway. The affected landowners will notice improved water pressure and more flexible control of the deliveries after the enclosed conduit is installed. The projects serve slightly more than 309.25 acres and 46 land owners. The enclosed conduit project will include installing 8,120 feet of PVC pipe ranging in size from 4 inch to 27 inch diameter.

"Once enclosed the landowners will find it much easier to use and manage their water," adds Don Schramm, Assistant Manager/ Operations. The irrigation district plans to continue enclosing several miles of open laterals every construction season.

Sunnyside Valley Irrigation District crews will be working on several open channel lining projects. Three hundred feet of the Snipes Lateral on the south edge of Sunnyside will be lined with Shot-Crete, as will three hundred feet of Sunnyside Canal at 55.19 North of Prosser and two hundred feet on the Mabton Lateral at Mile Post 4.51 near Mabton. The lining projects are to increase the overall efficiency of SVID's delivery system by conserving water and reducing annual operations and maintenance costs. Piping projects include portions of Snipes Lateral 1.41, between deliveries #7 & #8, ongoing replacement of the Harrison Hill mainline in Sunnyside. Eight hundred feet on Lateral 23.10 near Granger, Lateral 51.18B between deliveries #8 to #10, #11, Lateral 44.38 and portions of Lateral 59.28B in Grandview area. Lateral piping conserves water and reduces annual operations and maintenance costs. Piped laterals also are generally more compatible with farming operations.

Discussions are underway with the Sunnyside School District, The City of Sunnyside and Yakima County regarding the piping of a portion of Joint Drain 35.4 along Washout Road north of Sunnyside. Similar discussions are underway with the City of Sunnyside on Joint Drain 33.4 (South Hill Road). Grant funding from South Yakima Conservation District (materials only), has been secured to fence a portion of Joint Drain 27.5 near Granger. The piping projects improve water quality through eliminating bank erosion and maintaining cooler water temperatures. Other drain projects will focus on improving access at various points in the system.

## Fall Construction Continued...

Various projects are planned to include replacement of water control and measurement structures, road crossing improvements for county road projects, walkways, screens, and shaping and silt removal from open channels.

## Sunnyside Canal Improvement Project-Phase One

The Sunnyside Canal Improvement Project (SCIP), which consists of rebuilding and automating about 30 check structures, constructing three re-regulation reservoirs with a total capacity of over 1,000 AF, all supported by a Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) system, will break ground on the first construction project this month. Last Fall Sunnyside Valley Irrigation District (SVID) began the process of choosing an engineering firm to begin work on the canal improvements. CH2M-Hill was selected as the engineering firm to provide design and construction management services for the Sunnyside Canal Improvement Project (SCIP). CH2M-Hill edged out the firms with a strong showing in local partnering for automation and Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) and automation experience as well as assuring extensive local support through local CH2M-HILL staff and the addition of Huibrefte, Louman Associates, Inc., and Conley Engineering.

The first of the re-regulation reservoirs will begin at mile 59.29 between Pioneer Rd and Spring Creek waste way, south of the Sunnyside Canal. It will hold 300 acre feet of water and will handle fluctuations in the canal allowing excesses and shortages in the canal to be managed by the reservoir which will provide more stable flows at the deliveries and less spills in the waste ways. This construction project was advertised for bid at the end of August with bid opening in September. As soon as the bid is awarded construction mobilization will begin in mid-October with completion expected by July 30, 2005.

This project went from design to bid and through the environmental review in 6 months due to the cooperative effort by all the parties and agencies. Funding for the reservoir is provided through the Yakima River Basin Enhancement Project which was authorized by Congress in 1994. The federal component contributes 65%, the state 17.5% and the Sunnyside Division Board of Control 17.5%. Total estimated cost for the reservoir is 7.5 million.

Even as reservoir work is proceeding, CH2M-Hill will be moving forward on design for replacement and construction of the first set of check structures to be built in the winter of 2005-2006.

Completion of the entire SCIP facilities is anticipated for 2012.

## Sunnyside Valley Irrigation Shut-Off Dates

Beginning the morning of October, 18<sup>th</sup> Sunnyside Valley Irrigation District will begin to shut off water delivery for the 2004 irrigation season. The shut off and dewatering process takes several days to complete. Service for water users at the west end of the canal system below the Sunnyside Dam will cease early on Monday, October 18. Because of the time it takes for the system to drain, water will be available in the eastern end of the system as late as Wednesday, October 20<sup>th</sup>.

Below is a list of the approximate timeframes of when you can expect water delivery to cease by area. Water users may continue to utilize the water in the system as long as it is available. **For deliveries using a pump, an automatic shutoff switch is highly recommended to avoid damage to the pump when water levels drops in the canal.**

Please note that those water users within city limits of Zillah, Granger, Grandview, Prosser or serviced by Grandview Irrigation District or Benton Irrigation District should contact them for their shutoff date.

### Dewatering schedule – approximate date of shut off by area:

Zillah area and above	October 18, 2004
Granger area	October 18, 2004
Snipes and Outlook	October 19, 2004
Grandview and Mabton	October 19, 2004
Prosser	October 19, 2004
Lower end	October 20, 2004
Shut down completes	October 22, 2004

## Roza Irrigation District 2004 Fall Construction

Roza Irrigation District (RID) has several enclosed conduit projects on laterals: Lateral 20.3 serving 103.7 acres, Lateral 77.3 serving 1344.3 acres, Lateral 82.8 serving 14.6 acres, and Lateral 88.9 serving 103.8 acres. These enclosed conduit projects involve the installation of approximately 10 miles of PVC pipe at an estimated cost of \$1,117,000.

RID crews will be retrofitting several of the check structures along the canal with Langemann Automated gates. The automated gates coordinate the flow along the main canal by allowing more accurate and timely adjustment. Utilizing this technology enables the gates to make adjustments as small as 1/100<sup>th</sup> of a foot. Structures scheduled for automation are Check structure 90.4, Check structure 89.2, and Check structure 91.1. Check structures 85.6 and 87.4 will be added to the automated control system known as Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA), which allows the water master to monitor, by computer.

The check structure improvements are funded through a cost share program with the Bureau of Reclamation.

## Water Master retires from Roza Irrigation District



### Mike Mathis retires after 30 years

Mike Mathis a long time Roza Irrigation District employee has retired on August 27, 2004. Mike has dedicated thirty years to Roza working his way up to Water master. He started his employment on June 10, 1974 as a ditch rider, in February 24, 1992, took the position of assistant water master, on January 8, 1997 became the Water master.

Mike will be spending his retirement working on his apple farm and taking annual trips to Arizona with family. He will also try farming some cherries this next year. We wish Mike the best on his new journey.

## Do You Need to Update Your Contact Information?

Have you sold or purchased property this year?

Please contact your irrigation district office to ensure we have the new property owner contact information.

Sunnyside Valley Irrigation District 509-837-6980  
Roza Irrigation District 509-837-5141

## Roza Irrigation District New Water Master



Clay Bohlke

Clay Bohlke is the new watermaster for the Roza Irrigation District. Clay began his employment with the District on June 10, 1985 as a laborer on the maintenance crew. In 1986 he was promoted to ditchrider and on March 17, 2004 he became the Chief Watermaster.

As luck would have it his first year as watermaster the district did not have a full supply of water, however, with his many years of experience as a ditchrider he was familiar with years of prorating. Clay has shown he is very dedicated to his new position and more than willing to go the extra mile to learn all of his new duties and responsibilities. Management is very confident that Clay will be an excellent watermaster.

Clay has lived in the valley most of his life, growing up in the Prosser area. Clay and his wife Liz have one daughter Andrea and one son Ryan. Daughter Andrea is married and expecting her first child. Clay and Liz are excited about their first grand child coming soon. Ryan is a senior in college. Clay enjoys snow skiing in the winter and water Skiing in the summer.

## Roza Irrigation Shut-Off Dates

Tentatively the morning of October 20, 2004 Roza Irrigation District will begin to shut off water delivery for the 2004 irrigation season. The shut off and dewatering process takes several days to complete, below is a list of the approximate timeframes of when you can expect water delivery to cease by area. It is recommended that water users continue to utilize the water in the system as long as it is available. For deliveries using a pump, an automatic shutoff switch is highly recommended to avoid damage to your pump when water levels drops in the canal.

Pumps 1-10 will be shut down on October 20, 2004.

Pumps 12-14 will be shut down on October 21, 2004.

Pump 15 will be shut down on October 22, 2004.

Pumps 16-17 will be shut down on October 23, 2004.

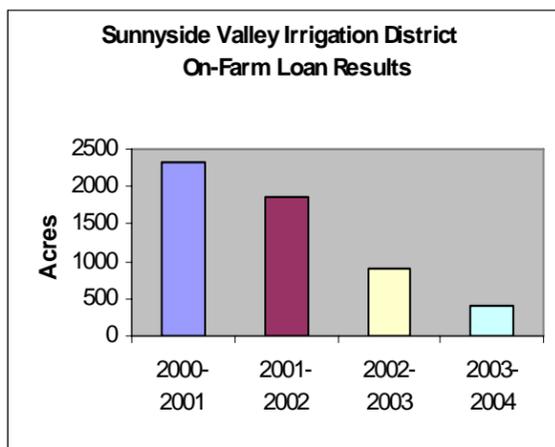
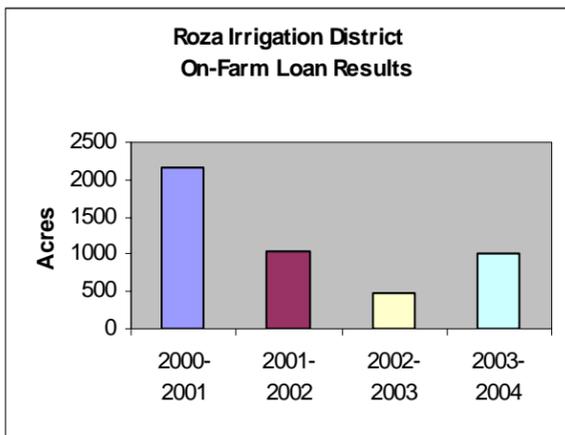
### Gravity fed system – approximate date of shut off by area:

Terrace Heights-Zillah area	October 20, 2004
North of Sunnyside	October 21, 2004
Prosser	October 23, 2004
Benton City	October 23, 2004

## On Farm Loan Update

The RSBOJC On-Farm Loan Program was developed to assist landowners in complying with the RSBOJC water quality policies by offering a funding source to help with finance on-farm irrigation projects. The irrigation improvements are focused on improving the quality of irrigation return flow by converting from rill irrigation to another approved application type.

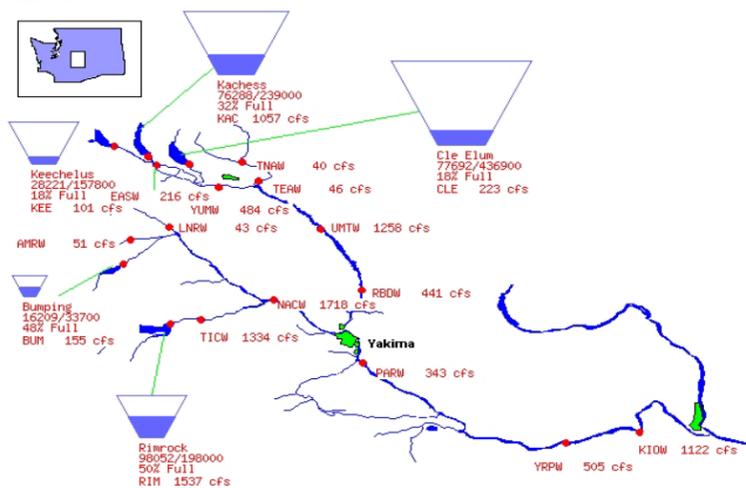
The On-Farm Loan Program has successfully assisted over one hundred farmers in the improvements of converting rill irrigation to another approved application type. Sunnyside Valley Irrigation District has improved approximately 5,509.27 acres and Roza Irrigation District has improved approximately 4678.01 acres.



## Reservoir Status September 29, 2004

Current reservoir levels as of midnight on September 29, 2004; Bumping Lake, 48% full; Lake Cle Elum, 18%; Lake Kachess, 32%; Lake Keechelus, 18%; Rimrock Lake 50%, remaining. [www.usbr.gov/](http://www.usbr.gov/)

09/29/2004



## Water Quality Update

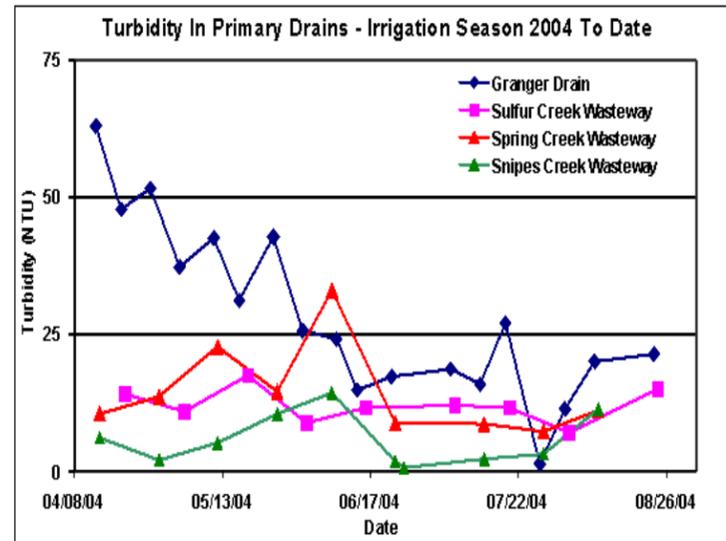
RSBOJC personnel continue to monitor the quality of water returning from Roza and Sunnyside irrigation district land to the Yakima River. Here is a brief update on findings so far this irrigation season. Please note that this data are preliminary and will not be finalized until after the conclusion of the irrigation season.

Water turbidity is a primary indicator of its quality, and relates directly to the amount of suspended solids in the water. For compliance with Washington State Department of Ecology's TMDL for the lower Yakima River, the turbidity of irrigation return flow should not exceed 25 nephelometric turbidity units (NTU). The graph below shows turbidity levels in each of the four main drains thus far this season.

Turbidity in both the Roza and Sunnyside canals has remained consistently low over the last several years. The turbidity of water coming into the two canals has generally remained near 5 NTU. Problems with irrigation systems are reduced when farmers are supplied with cleaner water.

The turbidity of water in Granger drain has remained slightly higher this year than last. Unfortunately the turbidity level of Granger drain had exceeded acceptable levels on a number of occasions. Turbidity in the other three primary drains has been fairly consistent with values from last year, and has remained below 25 NTU. The measured turbidity of Spring Creek waste way exceeded 25 NTU on one occasion, during the midst of a very heavy rainfall. This value is not representative of return flow for that site in general.

Considerable improvement in water quality has been made over the last few years. Observed turbidity values are far lower than those seen prior to the implementation of the RSBOJC water quality policy. These improvements have largely been due to the diligence of district farmers and landowners in minimizing water runoff. Preliminary results from this season show that there is still room for improvement.



The Roza-Sunnyside Board of Joint Control (RSBOJC) publishes the **RSBOJC UPDATE** biannually for landowners. All articles, letters and other items submitted to RSBOJC for use in its landowner newsletter become the property of RSBOJC which is authorized to use any item submitted, without payment or compensation to the person submitting the item, in any newsletter or other publication of RSBOJC. RSBOJC reserves the right to edit all items submitted. Doug Simpson, Chairman; Mike Miller, Vice-Chairman; Robert Golob, Ric Valicoff, Larry Haak, Dave Michels, David Minick, John Newhouse, Cus Arteaga, Mike Hogue, Dave Olsen, Jim Willard, Directors. Officers: Ron Van Gundy, Secretary; Patricia Bailey, Treasurer. Address comments to: Trish Nelson, Editor, P.O. Box 239, Sunnyside, WA 98944.