



DEPARTMENT OF
ECOLOGY

Water Quality Program

- **UPDATE: PESTICIDE REDUCTION
ALTERNATIVE PROJECT**

Toxics Project Lead: Jane Creech, TMDL Lead
509-406-5824

- **COLUMBIA-SNAKE TEMPERATURE
TMDL (EPA)**

- Yakima River, Tributary to Mid-Columbia River

Lower Yakima Temp Lead: Laine Young, TMDL Lead
509-731-0911



Yakima River near SR 24 Crossing

Lower Yakima Pesticides Reduction Project: TMDL Alternative

- In the lower Yakima River watershed, levels of certain pesticides still exceed both State and federal human health criteria for water and fish tissue.
- Pesticides of concern include:
 - DDT and its metabolites
 - Chlordane
 - Chlorpyrifos
 - Dieldrin
 - Toxaphene
- Most of these pesticides bind tightly to soil particles at site of application.
- Major pollutant pathway continues to be erosion of soil from current and former agricultural areas where the pesticides were applied, into area waterways.
- Stormwater and permitted point source discharges contribute only minor amounts of pesticide pollution to the watershed.

Lower Yakima Pesticides Reduction Project: TMDL Alternative

- To further reduce these pesticides, additional implementation of best management practices should expand on successful methods already in use, including:
 - Continuing to upgrade irrigation methods.
 - Reshaping banks of irrigation waterways to prevent bank sloughing.
 - Ensuring that farm fields have untilled vegetated buffers.
- Future studies are needed to identify additional pollution transport mechanisms.
 - Collection and analysis of bottom sediments, for project pesticides, in the lower mainstem Yakima River and in selected drains. May include sediment cores to see changes over time.
 - Collection and analysis of biofilms for project pesticides.
 - Sediment transport study.

For more info, contact: Jane Creech, Dept. of Ecology
509-406-5824 (cell) and jton461@ecy.wa.gov

Columbia-Snake Rivers Temperature TMDL

- EPA was sued by three entities between 2018 to present for failure to complete the 2003 proposed temperature TMDL.

2020 TMDL REQUIRES:

- 20°C on Snake and Columbia Rivers
- >1°C Reduction on Yakima as Tributary
- Original focus on dam impacts
- Workplan in progress
- Applies to 13 watersheds in WA
- New TMDL Load Analysis: NPDES & NPt
 - Comment period ended in September
 - Implementation guidelines being clarified

*For more info, contact: Laine Young, Dept. of Ecology,
509-731-0911 (cell) and layo461@ecy.wa.gov*