Columbia-Snake River Irrigators Association
Water Resources Management for Irrigated Agriculture

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Columbia-Snake River Irrigators Association

To: Gov. Christine Gregoire, House Speaker Frank Chopp,
Sen. Majority Leader Lisa Brown, and Ag. Dir. Dan Newhouse,

"Our Water Conservation Proposal Can Serve New Ag. Lands,
Reduce Growing Water Demands, and Offer Environmental Benefits"

Already known as some of the West's most technologically advanced irrigators, the Columbia-Snake River Irrigators Association (CSRIA) has introduced a proposal to use annual "O&M" irrigation efficiencies to irrigate new lands, reduce the increasing pressure for new water rights, and contribute to river system environmental benefits.

For water right holders that pump directly from the Lower Snake and mainstem Columbia Rivers, the CSRIA is endorsing a Conservation Operations and Maintenance (O&M) package that:

Will ensure that the Conservation provisions of the 2006 Columbia River Water Management Program (RCW 90.90) work and are used to immediately development new irrigated acres, while contributing to instream flows and allowing Program funds to be used for other instream environmental benefits.

Will achieve annual O&M water savings acquired through irrigation scheduling and water management actions relying on soil moisture and weather monitoring, and real-time crop water usage.

Will be based on proven technical measures and analyses, where the State Conservation Districts and CSRIA water managers estimate that O&M Conservation savings can reduce real-time water withdrawals by about 17%.

Will take half (8.5%) of the water savings and be applied to new on-farm use; and will allocate half (8.5%) of the water savings to be left in the river.

Will not negatively affect other water rights, existing junior water right holders, or existing state in-stream flow rules.

Will generate about $50-100 million annually new statewide income, within the next three years, without requiring any new state expenditures.

What is needed to move forward with this much needed proposal is leadership-specifically state leadership from Olympia. For pragmatic and fair-minded people, it is difficult to find fault with the Irrigators' water proposal, and the proposal is being applauded by county commissioners, legislators, several water resources managers, business and labor leaders, and even some hard-to-please environmental groups. The state leadership should work with the CSRIA to make this proposal reality.

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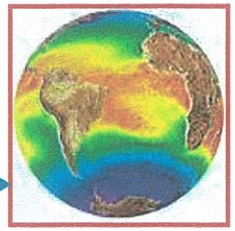
Washington Business Paid Advertisement by CSRIA

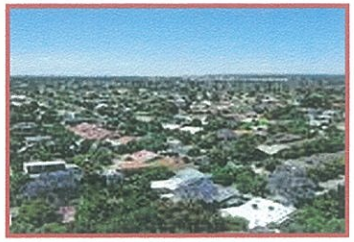
Economic Benefits of Water Management & Hydro Projects

Resource Economics-Planning Perspective



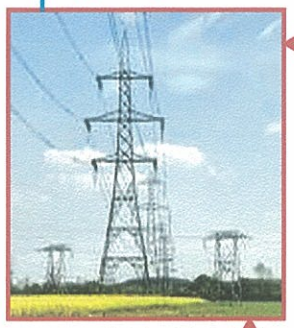
Climate Change Environment
$5-19/MWh
$0.5-8/m.t.

Municipal-Residential



$1,500-3,500 Acre-ft.

Hydropower



$30-130 MWh

Power Reserves
$10-70/MWh

New Resource Costs
70-120/MWh

Renewables Integration

$25-50 MWh

Recreation

Boating-Fishing
$50-120/Day/
Person

Navigation-Transport

$12/Ton

Industrial Cooling

$1,500-3,500 Acre-ft.

Irrigation

$1,500/Acre-ft.

Flow Regulation

Recreation
$80-120/Day/
Person

Pacific NW Project
Resource Economics

Northwest Region: Energy and Ancillary Benefits of Hydropower

Economic Sector	Direct Net Value	Annual Value	Approx. Annual Value/1,000 MW Installed Capacity	Direct Net Present Value $
Energy (LLH)	$37-52/MWh	$37-52/MWh	$265 Million (Energy-Demand)	$6.3 Billion (Energy-Demand)
Energy (Peak HLH)	$45-57/MWh	$45-57/MWh	$265 Million (Energy-Demand)	$6.3 Billion (Energy-Demand)
Demand	$1.50-2.40/kW/mo	$1.50-2.40/kW/mo	$265 Million (Energy-Demand)	$6.3 Billion (Energy-Demand)
Reserves (Spinning)	**$9-57/MWh**	**$9-57/MWh**	_____	_____
Reserves (Supplemental)	**$9-57/MWh**	**$9-57/MWh**	_____	_____
Back-Up Load Shaping	**$23-58/MWh (Energy)**	**$23-58/MWh (Energy)**	_____	_____
Back-Up Load Shaping	**$1.90-2.80/kW/mo (Demand-Cap.)**	**$1.90-2.80/kW/mo (Demand-Cap.)**	_____	_____
Market Hedging (Flat)	> $45-51/MWh	> $45-51	_____	_____
NR Energy (LLH)	$32-60/MWh	$32-60/MWh	_____	_____
NR Energy (LLH)	$44-84/MWh	$44-84/MWh	_____	_____
NR Demand	$1.50-2.75/kW/mo	$1.50-2.75/kW/mo	_____	_____
Voltage Control Stability	= > $0.50-3/MWh	= > $0.50-3/MWh	_____	_____

Primary Sources: BPA 2009; NPPC 2009; Energy News Data 2009; NRU 2009.