



Irrigation

Columbia River System Irrigation

Federal Irrigation

The Bureau of Reclamation delivers water to the three irrigation districts that make up the Columbia Basin Project (CBP), that includes up to 720,000 acres of land. The CBP diverts water from the Columbia River at Grand Coulee Dam through a series of pumps to Banks Lake. From there, a network of canals deliver water to farms that produce a variety of crops including potatoes, sweet corn, and onions, as well as specialty crops like grapes, hops, fruit trees and alfalfa. In addition to the CBP three other federal projects pump directly from the Columbia River to supply water for irrigation to the Bureau of Reclamation's Chief Joseph Dam Project, Umatilla Project Phase I and II, and The Dalles Project.

Authorization

The Columbia Basin Project Act of 1943, based on extensive studies known as the Columbia Basin Joint Investigations, authorized construction of the Columbia Basin Project, which consists of 330 miles of major distribution canals, lakes and reservoirs, and about 2,000 miles of laterals.

Chief Joseph Dam Project, not to be confused with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Chief Joseph Dam, was incrementally authorized by Congress in the following public laws: 89-557 (September 7, 1966); Public Law 83-540 (July 27, 1954); 85-393 (May 5, 1958); and 88-599 (September 18, 1964).

The pumping portion of the Umatilla water exchange facilities were authorized by the Act of October 28, 1988, for the purposes of mitigating losses to anadromous fishery resources and continuing water service to the irrigation districts.

Congress authorized The Dalles Project, not to be confused with the Corps' The Dalles Dam, in Public Law 86-745 dated September 13, 1960.

Private or Non-Federal Irrigation

In addition to these federal irrigation projects, private irrigation projects pump from several Corps reservoirs on the lower Snake and Columbia rivers. The Corps does not operate any of the 12 projects in the Columbia River System for irrigation. However, the projects are operated in such a way as to maintain a pool for other purposes that allow the opportunity for private irrigators and local municipalities to withdraw water from reservoirs or the rivers.

CRSO OPERATIONS FOR FEDERAL IRRIGATION PROJECT	
Columbia Basin Project	up to 720,000
CRSO IMPACTS FEDERAL IRRIGATION PROJECT OPERATIONS	
Chief Joseph Dam Project	13,700
Umatilla Project	24,300
The Dalles Project	5,500
Total Area Benefited by Federal Projects	763,500 Acres

