

## Addressing Climate Change in Reclamation

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In 2009 Congress passed the Secure Water Act directing Reclamation and other federal agencies to determine how climate change will affect water supply (groundwater, surface water, and snowpack) in the future and to assess how those changes will affect Reclamation's ability to meet its obligations for irrigation, hydropower, flood control, and ecosystems. In response to that Act, the West Wide Climate Risk Assessment Team was formed to address climate change related issues consistently across the west.

Prior to that law, the Pacific Northwest Regional Office had entered into a collaborative agreement with the Corps of Engineers and Bonneville Power Administration to develop future hydrology and climate datasets that all three agencies could use in on-going planning studies. This study, the River Management Joint Operating Committee Climate Change Study was completed in 2011 and the datasets, along with those developed through the WW CRA process are being used to better understand the impact of climate change on Reclamation activities.

Some additional studies completed using these data include the SECURE Water Act Report to Congress (March 2011), the Potential Climate Change Impacts on Icicle Creek Water Supply (July 2011), and the Yakima River Basin Study (2011). On-going studies using these data include Addressing Climate Change Impacts on Bull Trout in the Upper Snake Biological Assessment, Henry's Fork Basin Study, and Climate Change Impacts on Irrigation Depletions among others.

Reclamation is working towards determining what programmatic or policy questions may need to be addressed and how to incorporate this work into our future every day operations (e.g., Dam Safety, feasibility studies, etc.). A brief overview of the studies completed to date as well as a discussion about potential future actions will be presented.