# Toppenish Creek Corridor Enhancement Plan



June 25<sup>th</sup> 2019, EPA-ASWM Region 10 Tribal Webinars Tom Elliott, Yakama Nation Wildlife Program



- 1. Toppenish Creek-description and history
- 2. Toppenish Creek Corridor Plan overview
- 3. Toppenish Fan aquifer recharge
- 4. Re-route irrigation water out of creek
- 5. Shaker Church Road instream habitat
- 6. Mid-Toppenish wetland restoration
- 7. Conclusion

## **Toppenish Creek-description**



- Heads at 5,200 feet in Cascades Corridor plan focuses on Lower •
- 75 miles to Yakima River

Toppenish Creek, rm 44 to 0

#### Lower Toppenish Creek-fans and wetlands



#### Irrigation system dominates



#### Land ownership checker boarded



## **Tribal Resources Lost and Degraded**

Water supply
Water quality
Fish habitat
Wildlife Habitat
Traditional foods
Flood hazard







#### Intact floodplain=restoration potential



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# Goal: Restore cultural, fishery, wildlife and water resources of lower Toppenish Creek



## **Toppenish Creek Plan History**

- •First envisioned by Tribal leadership in the 1970s
- Authorized by Congress in 1994
- •Funding for planning from YRBWEP in 1997
- •Scoping, assessment, and early drafts carried out by YN DNR and Cultural Resources 1994 through 2011
- •Final draft prepared 2011-2013
- •Final version approved by Tribal Council April 2 2019

## Ten Year Action Plan with Budget

Action #	Action Title	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Yrs 1-10
1	Recharge the Toppenish Creek alluvial fan (this project is completed and in the monitoring phase)	\$60,000	\$60,000	\$60,000	\$60,000	\$60,000	\$60,000	\$60,000	\$60,000	\$60,000	\$60,000	\$600,000
2	Restore drained wetlands	\$152,000		\$500,000								\$652,000
3	Restore the diked reach between Olney Dam and the 3-Way diversion site ( <b>this</b> <b>project has been partially completed</b> )					\$300,000	\$80,000	1,858,000	\$636,000			2,874,000
4	Rebuild the Unit 2 diversion dam	\$143,000	1,970,000									2,113,000
5	Reroute canal spills away from Simcoe Creek		737,000		1,763,000							2,500,000
6	Reroute irrigation drainage away from Toppenish and Simcoe creeks, while improving Unit 2 water supply			\$614,500	1,162,000	\$733,500						2,510,000
7	Minimize waste, leakage and return flow on Unit 2				\$300,000							\$300,000
8	Divert lower Marion Drain directly to the Satus Area				\$350,000	2,650,000						3,000,000
9	Raise the water surface of upper Marion Drain to benefit Toppenish Creek flow			\$750,000	\$750,000	\$750,000						2,250,000
10	Restore channelized and entrenched sections of Toppenish Creek.	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000						5,000,000
*	Implementation Coordinator	105,000	105,000	105,000	105,000	105,000	105,000	105,000	105,000	105,000	105,000	1,050,000
	Actions 1-10 and Implementation Coordinator	1,460,000	3,872,000	3,029,500	5,490,000	5,598,500	245,000	2,023,000	801.000	165,000	165,000	22,849,000

\* Implementation Coordinator: The Toppenish Creek Corridor Plan will require dedicated project management. An implementation coordinator position will be necessary to oversee, coordinate, and track the various projects, hire and supervise contractors and produce progress reports. This position will be housed with the Yakama Nation Engineering Program. Costs (2019dollars) are based on an initial \$60,000 salary with 50% fringe and indirect costs. In addition, \$10,000 per year was budgeted for a leased vehicle and \$5000 per year for office equipment and supplies.



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## **Toppenish Alluvial Fan**



#### Alluvial Fan re-watered



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#### Irrigation system inflows



## Irrigation spills dominate hydrograph







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#### **Restore Incised Reaches**



#### **Instream Habitat Restoration**

3. Enhance side channel



2. Stabilize banks

- Stream incision and simplification
- Loss of floodplain connectivity
- Accelerated bank erosion

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## **Historical Context**



Drastic land use changes over last 200 years-

- Irrigated Agriculture
- Beaver trapping
- Cattle and sheep grazing
- Railroad and road development



#### **Pre-European**



#### 1950s





## South Lateral A 2017



#### The Return of the Waptú







https://youtu.be/LNnR3w3N0WI

# Thank You!

- Yakama Tribal Council
- Yakama Nation colleagues
- Bureau of Indian Affairs
- Bonneville Power Administration
- Yakima Basin Integrated Plan
- NRCS
- US Bureau of Reclamation
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- Yakima Basin restoration community



