

Columbia Basin Development League (Jonathan Erickson)

The Columbia Basin Development League supports the proposed Columbia Basin Project Water Rights Policy and Interpretive Statement. The proposed policy clarifies how the Bureau of Reclamation uses its water right to serve landowners within the Federal Reclamation Project service area. The policy does this by recognizing that the Project was designed to recapture and reuse water to serve additional lands without diverting additional water from the Columbia River making the CBP one of the efficient irrigation projects in the U.S. The policy incorporates the 1992 Washington Supreme Court decision which affirms the right to recapture and reuse within the Project service area. This policy, along with amendments to RCW 90.03.380(1)(b) will provide for clarity in the administration of the Project water right in the future.