

Quincy-Columbia Basin Irrigation District (Roger Sonnichsen)

The Columbia Basin Irrigation Project is a highly efficient irrigation project from the perspective of Columbia River water diverted relative to lands served due to the high level of recaptured and reused water, the primary exhibit of which is Potholes Reservoir. The recapture and reuse of diverted water is by design and has been occurring since the beginning of project operations.

The Quincy-Columbia Basin Irrigation District supports the proposed Columbia Basin Project (CBP) Water Rights Policy and Interpretive Statement. CBP water rights are unique within the state of Washington. The policy provides clarifications of which acres are served by project deliveries and delineates which acres are associated with the project water rights at the point of diversion from the Columbia River, and which acres are allowed to be served by recapture and reuse of project water. Deliveries from recapture and reuse of project water disposition were determined by the 1992 Washington Supreme Court ruling. Further, the policy articulates Ecology's stance regarding the amended RCW 90.03.380(1)(b) after the passage of HB 1752 in 2024. The policy will assist the three CBP Irrigation Districts with administration of the CBP's water supply as intended, clarifying the accounting of currently served acres and the evaluation of requests by landowners to serve additional land