



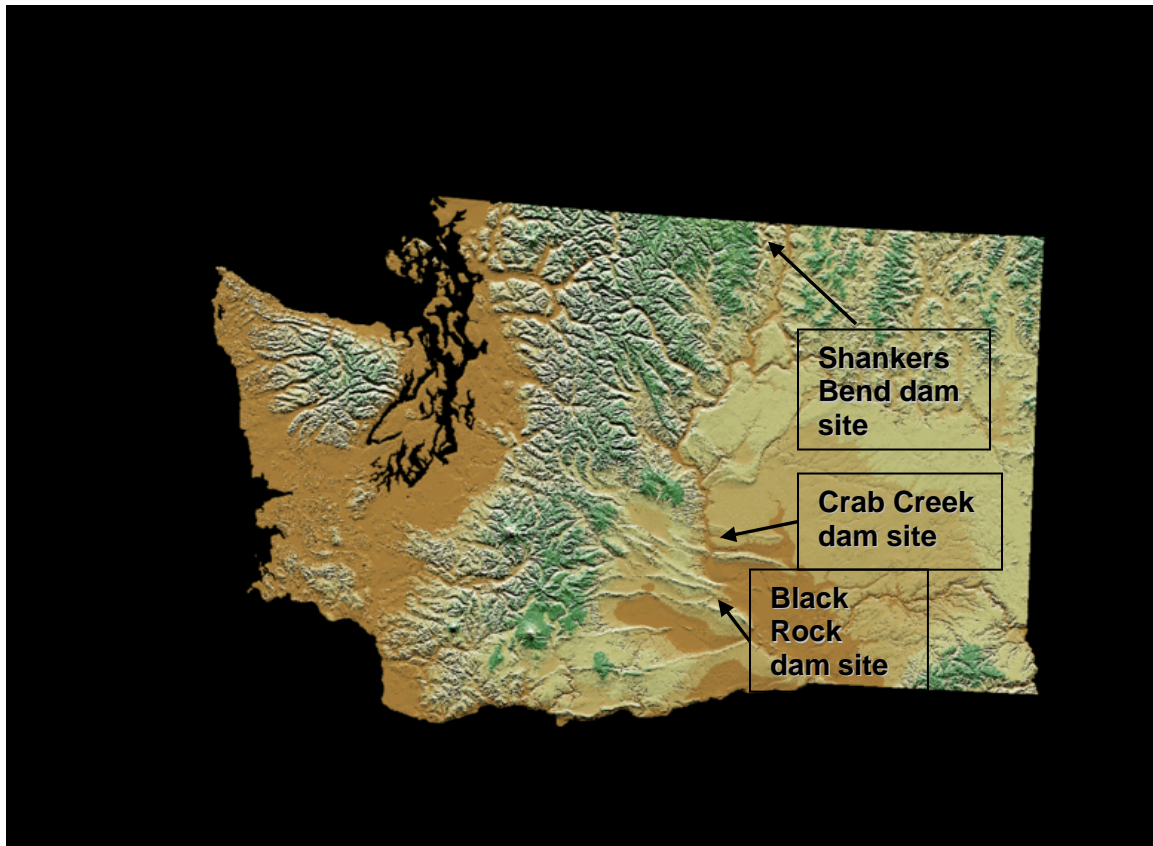
Meeting Eastern Washington's Water Needs for People and Fish:

Environmentally-Friendly Alternatives Exist to Costly New Dam Proposals

American Rivers is pushing the Washington State Department Ecology to assess demand and pursue conservation and other water management alternatives before deciding whether it makes sense to embark on further study of large new surface storage dams in eastern Washington. Based on existing information, meeting projected future water demand simply does not require building the **Black Rock**, **Crab Creek**, or **Shankers Bend** dams. The dams would store between 1 and 3 million acre-feet of water each.

As detailed in a [2006 report](#) by the Department of Ecology, actual additional water demand in the foreseeable future is likely to be only about 500,000 acre-feet. Future state analyses will likely verify that this demand can be met through the use of more economical and environmentally friendly alternatives.

American Rivers is pushing for these alternatives through our participation on the [Policy Advisory Group](#) to Washington state's [Columbia River Water Management Program](#).



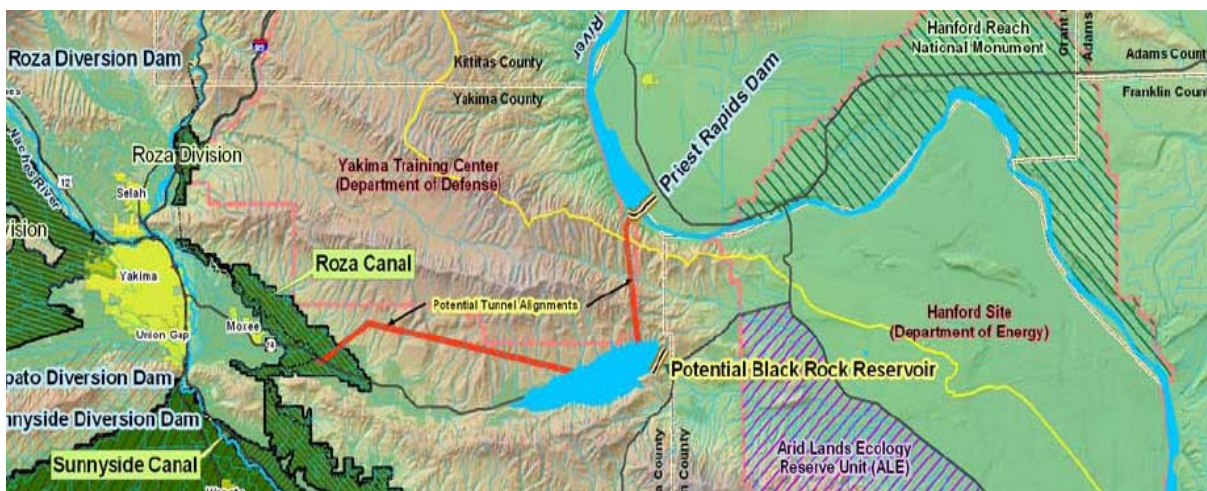
Proposed Dam sites in Washington. Map credit: United States Geological Survey

Black Rock:

The federal government has already spent over \$18 million [studying the Black Rock dam proposal](#) only to discover what became obvious in the earliest analyses of the project: it doesn't make sense economically or environmentally.

Facts:

- Dam size: 755 feet high, 6,695 feet wide
- Reservoir size: 10 miles long, inundating 3,850 acres of shrub-steppe habitat
- Price tag: \$6.7 billion
- Storage capacity: 1.3 million acre-feet
- Environmental effects: In addition to inundating shrub-steppe habitat and an intermittent stream, the Black Rock reservoir would be "leaky." Some of that seepage could speed the movement of radioactive groundwater toward the Columbia River from underneath the Hanford Nuclear Reservation. It would also require pumping more water from the Columbia River during the spring salmon and steelhead migration.
- Other relevant info: The dam would be built in a seismically active area, making it potentially vulnerable to earthquakes.
- Prospects/process: A draft [Environmental Impact Statement](#) (EIS) was recently released on Black Rock, and U.S. Bureau of Reclamation staff was quoted as saying it [doesn't meet the criteria](#) for a federally-funded water project, although the state and private interests can still consider it. The dam's boosters at the [Yakima Basin Storage Alliance](#) are still pushing for federal and state consideration. American Rivers is working to kill the proposal in favor of more cost-effective, less environmentally risky alternatives. The EIS is expected to be finalized by the end of 2008.



Map credit: U.S. Bureau of Reclamation



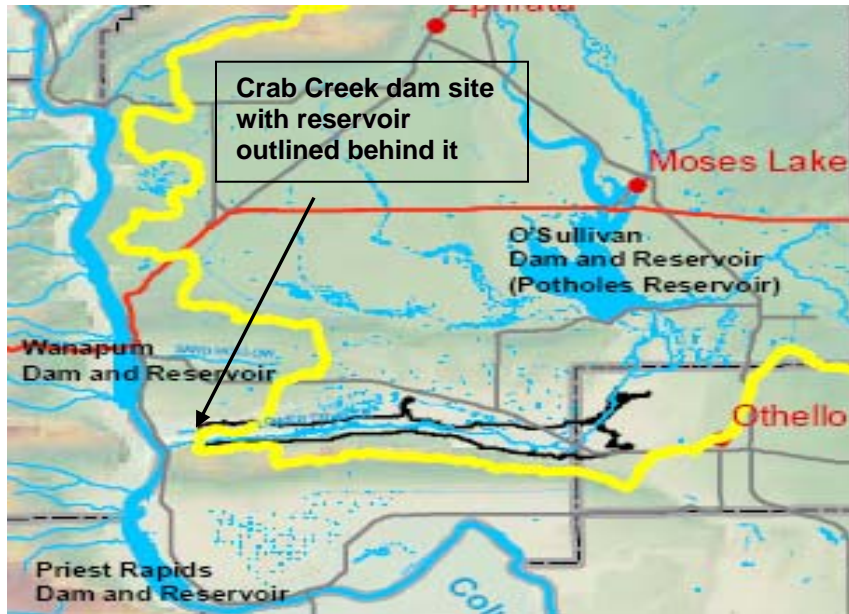
Black Rock valley (pictured) would be inundated by the proposed Black Rock dam

Crab Creek:

Facts:

Dam size:	137 to 236 feet high (three sizes were studied), about 1.5 miles wide
Reservoir size:	About 26 miles long, inundating between 17,000 and 29,000 acres
Price tag:	Between \$1 billion and \$2.7 billion
Storage capacity:	1-3 million acre-feet
Environmental effects:	Would block and inundate critical habitat for threatened upper-Columbia River steelhead. Would also submerge up to 5,400 acres of wetlands and 19,000 acres of federal and state wildlife refuge.
Other relevant info:	Would submerge 18 private residences, up to 8,650 acres of farmland, and miles of roads, transmission lines, and rail lines.
Prospects/process:	The federal government currently lacks the authority to conduct additional study of the larger versions of Crab Creek dam (appraisal-level study finding Crab Creek to be more feasible

than other sites, including sites at Hawk Creek and Sand Hollow can be found [here](#)).



Map credit: U.S. Bureau of Reclamation and Washington Dept. of Ecology



Crab Creek would be inundated by Lower Crab Creek Dam

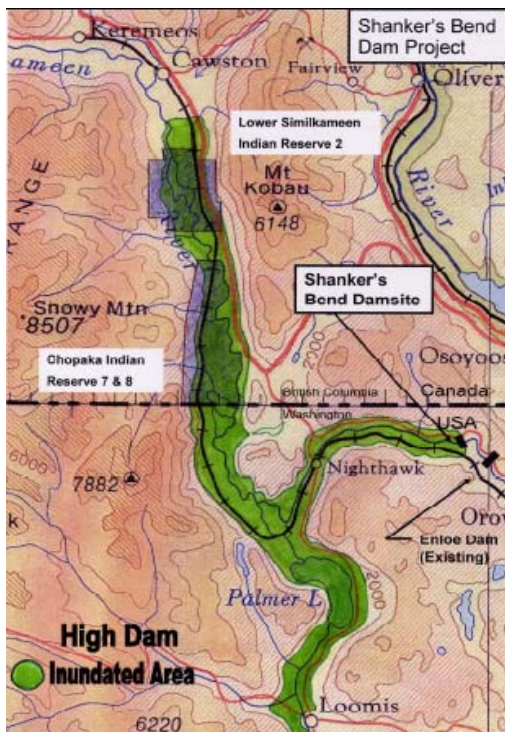


Lenice Lake, a popular place to fish for big rainbows, would be inundated by the dam on Lower Crab Creek

Shankers Bend:

Facts:

- Dam size: 120 to 260 feet high (three sizes were studied), about 1.5 miles wide
- Reservoir size: Up to 18,000 acres and up to about 30 miles long
- Price tag: Between \$50 million and \$260 million (*very preliminary estimate*)
- Storage capacity: 50,000 acre-feet (seasonally) to 1.7 million acre-feet
- Environmental effects: Would drown valuable riparian habitat and a beautiful free-flowing stretch of river; would drown shrub-steppe grasslands in U.S. and (with high version of dam) Canada; would inundate animal migration corridor; may impede fish migration if fish passage is required at downstream Enloe Dam; could submerge and trap toxic mine tailings.
- Other relevant info: High version of dam would extend over 10 miles into Canada, drowning land important to Canadian First Nations and land proposed for a Canadian Grasslands National Park.
- Prospects/process: We are likely years from a final decision on whether this proposal will go forward. An appraisal-level assessment on the Shankers Bend project, like that already released on Crab Creek, will likely be released in the summer of 2009. Okanogan Public Utility District has filed a [preliminary permit application](#) with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to build the dam.



Proposed site of Shankers Bend Dam