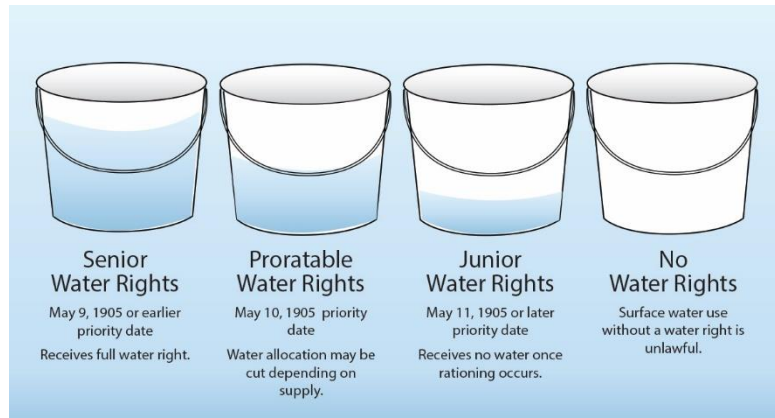


Roza Drought Year Water Supply FAQ

The Yakima Basin has a unique water rights system which is very different from most of the Western United States. Roza's water comes from the Yakima River under a May 10, 1905 water right for up to 375,000-acre feet held by the United States for the benefit of the Roza water users, which is a comparatively junior right, and is subject to pro-rationing in water short years. The Bureau of Reclamation reserved all unappropriated water in the Yakima Basin as of that date.



The District can irrigate up to 72,000 +/- acres from April 1st to Oct. 31st (Oct. 20th under the USBR contract). Roza also has an 18,000 AF senior floodwater right from March 15th to March 31st. The USBR contract has a season end date of Oct. 20th, while the water right has an Oct. 31st season end date.

The “proratable” irrigation districts include Roza, KRD, WIP and KID. The City of Yakima, SVID and YTID also have smaller amounts of proratable water. Just over half of the WIP water rights are senior.

- **Acquavella adjudication-** The Acquavella lawsuit resolved all 4,000+ surface water right claims in the Yakima Basin. Roza was the only major claimant to not lose water through the adjudication. The process began in 1978 following the 1977 drought and ended in 2019 after 6 trips to the Supreme Ct.
- **TWSA (Total Water Supply Available)-** The sum of the rain, snow and active reservoir storage in the basin. The concept was formalized in the 1945 consent decree. TWSA does not include the inactive storage in the storage reservoirs (Keechelus, Kachess, Cle Elum, and Bumping). The water year starts and resets on October 1st and water allocations cannot be carried over to the following year.
- **1945 Consent Decree-** The document which resolved a lawsuit by KRD against SVID in 1945 and established the concept of TWSA and the proratable water rights holders in water short years receiving reduced water supply. The lawsuit was a byproduct of the 1941 drought.
 - ✓ 35.7% Roza Irrigation District of the proratable allocation
 - ✓ 32.9% Wapato Irrigation Project of the proratable allocation
 - ✓ 31.8% Kittitas Reclamation District of the proratable allocation (totals more than 100%)
- **Why isn't Roza restricting deliveries or shutting the system down in April or early May when it is cooler in order to move that water to the peak season or to extend the irrigation season?** Water cannot be moved to later in the season until the supply is governed by prorationing as determined by the USBR's Yakima Field Office Manager. Prorationing occurs when sustained releases are required to meet the federal established flow targets at Parker, immediately downstream of Sunnyside Dam.



- **What is Storage Control?** Two conditions start the Storage Control period:
 - ✓ Condition 1: Minimum flow at the Yakima River near Parker is sustained by reservoir releases; &
 - ✓ Condition 2: Yakima reservoirs combined outflows are greater than combined inflows.
- **What is Prorating of Roza's Water Supply?** Occurs when the flow target at Parker is being met with releases of stored water. Prorating can occur when some of the reservoirs are still filling, but combined inflows exceed combined outflows. Prorating means that the water supply is reduced for the districts with May 10, 1905 rights.
- **Why didn't we carryover more water in the reservoirs from 2023 in anticipation of the Super El Nino and potential shortages?** The water year ends on September 30 each year and the water accounting starts over on October 1. Stored water that is unused is not carried over to the following water year. Roza is 35.7% of the proratable supply as measured in acre-feet pursuant to the 1945 Consent Decree. For each 1,000-acre feet of Roza's water that is unused at the end of the season, Roza will receive 35.7% of it the following year.
- **How much water does Roza typically divert in a full supply year?** Around 300,000-acre feet. Water usage has dropped steadily over the past 40 years due more efficient on farm irrigation systems, in-canal conservation measures and an ever-changing crop mix.
- **Does a 54% supply forecast mean that I will receive 54% of my water allotment?** No! The full monthly allocation is available from April 1 until the date of prorating. When the water supply is forecast at 54% that means that Roza is expected to receive 54% of its remaining 375,000-acre foot entitlement from the date of prorating to Sept. 30. The supply percentage is based on Roza's 375,000-acre foot entitlement rather than actual diversions.

Roza usually diverts around 300,000-acre feet each season (80% +/- of the full entitlement) which means that 54% of the full Roza entitlement equates to 67.5% of typical April 1 to October annual diversions.

Also, before the date of prorating/storage control, the full scheduled allotment is available based on natural flow in the Yakima River being able to meet all irrigation demands. This means that in a 54% year, and if storage control starts in mid-May, a Roza water user will be able to receive around 70% -75% +/- of their normal water allotment, depending on how the season unfolds. Leases/purchases by Roza add to this amount. An October allocation also adds to this amount.

- **Key differences between 2024 and 2015-** Prorating began on April 15, 2015 and will not occur in 2024 until at least latter May.
- **What are the target flows and how were they established?** Minimum flows for fish were established by Congress in the 1994. They are measured at Parker and at Prosser Dam. The amount varies on a sliding scale from 300 cfs in dry years to 600 cfs in full supply years.
- **Is there water still available to lease from other Roza water users?** Yes. Small amounts generally and the price is usually higher during a drought year. Roza is not involved in the price negotiations. Roza staff keeps a list of water users at the Roza office who are willing to to lease their water allotment for the season.