



Willamette Basin Review Feasibility Study

Status Update

Alyssa Mucken
Water Resources Commission Meeting
May 20, 2016

Outline

- Background
- Study process overview
- Update on demand estimation process
- Public and stakeholder engagement

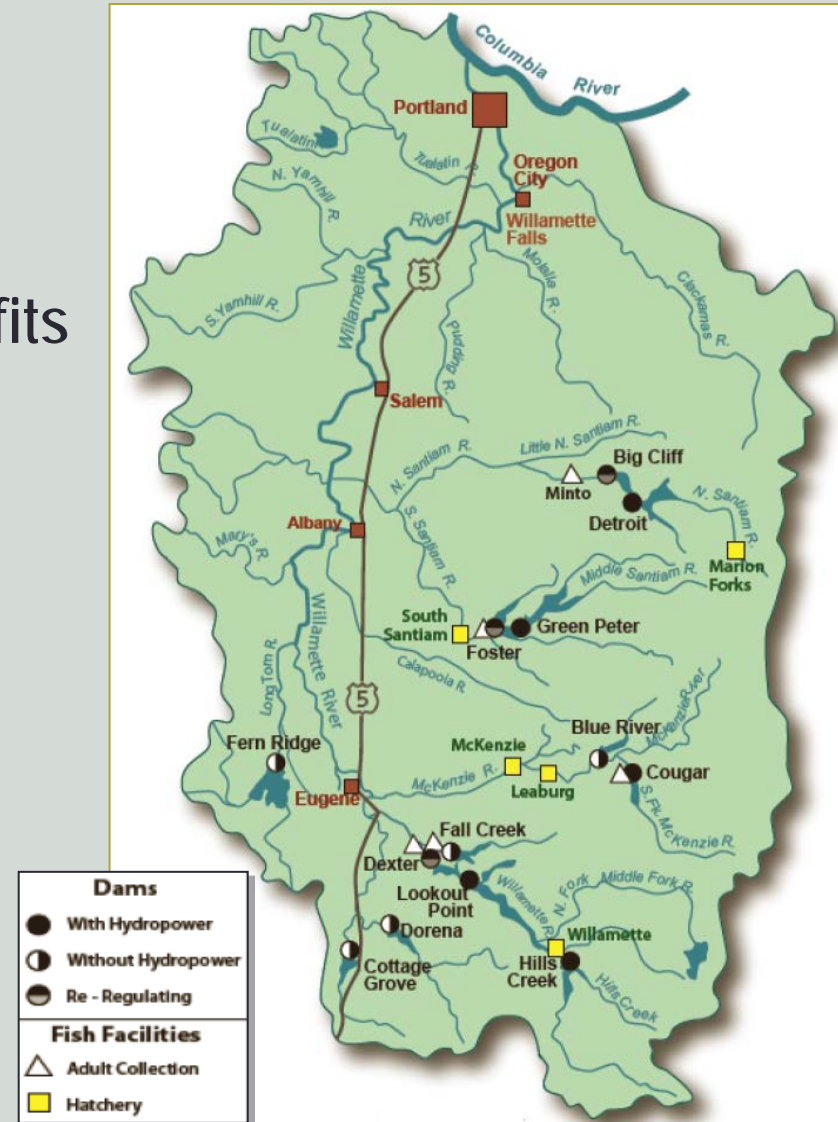
Background

Willamette Valley Project

- 13 reservoirs
(1.64 M acre-feet legally stored)
- 5 percent is contracted
- Water releases for fish & wildlife benefits

Willamette Basin

- Strong recreational demand
- Fastest growing area in the state
- Diverse agricultural setting
- Several ESA-listed species



Background

- Initiated in 1996
- Placed on hold (2000)
- Willamette Biological Opinion issued (2008)
- Small-scale discussions & white paper (2011)
- IWRS adoption (2012)
Action 10B: Improve Access to Built Storage
- Funds available for a small-scale pilot (Fall 2012)
- Approval to start feasibility study (February 2015)
- Cost Share Agreement signed (August 2015)

Feasibility Study Process Overview

SPRING 2016

Scoping

Collect information from public, agencies and others on issues to consider in meeting future municipal and industrial water supply, irrigation, and fish and wildlife water needs.



This informs the analysis of potential impacts under the National Environmental Policy Act and development of criteria to evaluate and compare alternatives that help meet project goals.

Public communication continues through the project.



US Army Corps of Engineers®
Portland District



Develop & Evaluate Alternatives

- Agree on criteria for evaluating alternatives.
- Develop array of alternatives that meet study purpose, using public input and technical information on current and future water needs.
- Verify that alternatives are consistent with Corps authorities and priorities.

INFORM

Corps will share this information including how public input was considered in development of final criteria and the array of alternatives.

The study process focuses on technically and economically feasible options that meet project objectives while protecting the environment.

www.nwp.usace.army.mil/About/Currentprojects/WillametteBasinReview.aspx

FALL 2017

Tentatively Selected Plan

- Identify leading alternative based on analysis and the draft NEPA review.
- TSP advances for more detailed evaluation and public, technical, legal and policy reviews.



The Tentatively Selected Plan and related documents available for public review. The Corps and OWRD will host discussions to share information and receive comments.

2018

Agency Decision

Rigorous senior-level Corps review of cost, engineering, environmental and economic benefits.

Civil Works Review Board

Decides if documentation and Report ready for next required reviews.

Chief's Report

- Signifies completion of Corps' feasibility process. Accompanies documentation for state and federal agency review.
- Sent to Assistant Secretary of the Army and U.S. Office of Management and Budget.

Congress

Provides authorization to implement the final recommendation.

No timeline for this final step.

Scoping

Collect information from public, agencies and others on issues to consider in meeting future municipal and industrial water supply, irrigation, and fish and wildlife water needs.



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Study Process Overview



Scoping

Collect information from agencies and others to consider in meeting municipal and industrial supply, irrigation, and wildlife water needs.



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Public comment continues through



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Process Overview

2017

2018

Final Selected Plan

Leading alternative analysis and the PA review.

Opportunities for more evaluation and technical, legal and reviews.



Final Selected Plan and documents available for review. The Corps and OWRD discussions to share and receive comments.

Publicly and get project approval.

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Portland District



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The study project economically objectives will

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Estimating Current and Future Demands

- Technical workgroups formed
 - Municipal & industrial workgroup
 - Fish and wildlife workgroup
 - Agricultural workgroup
- Future projections for 2035 and 2065
- Must be credible and reasonable
- Next phase of analysis – define and explore alternatives

Public and Stakeholder Engagement

- Stakeholder meeting held in March
- Open houses in mid-March to gather public input
- About dozen comments received:
 - Climate change
 - Prioritization of uses
 - Water rights
 - Fish and wildlife flows



**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
CORPS OF ENGINEERS, PORTLAND DISTRICT**

STATE OF OREGON WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT

SCOPING PUBLIC NOTICE

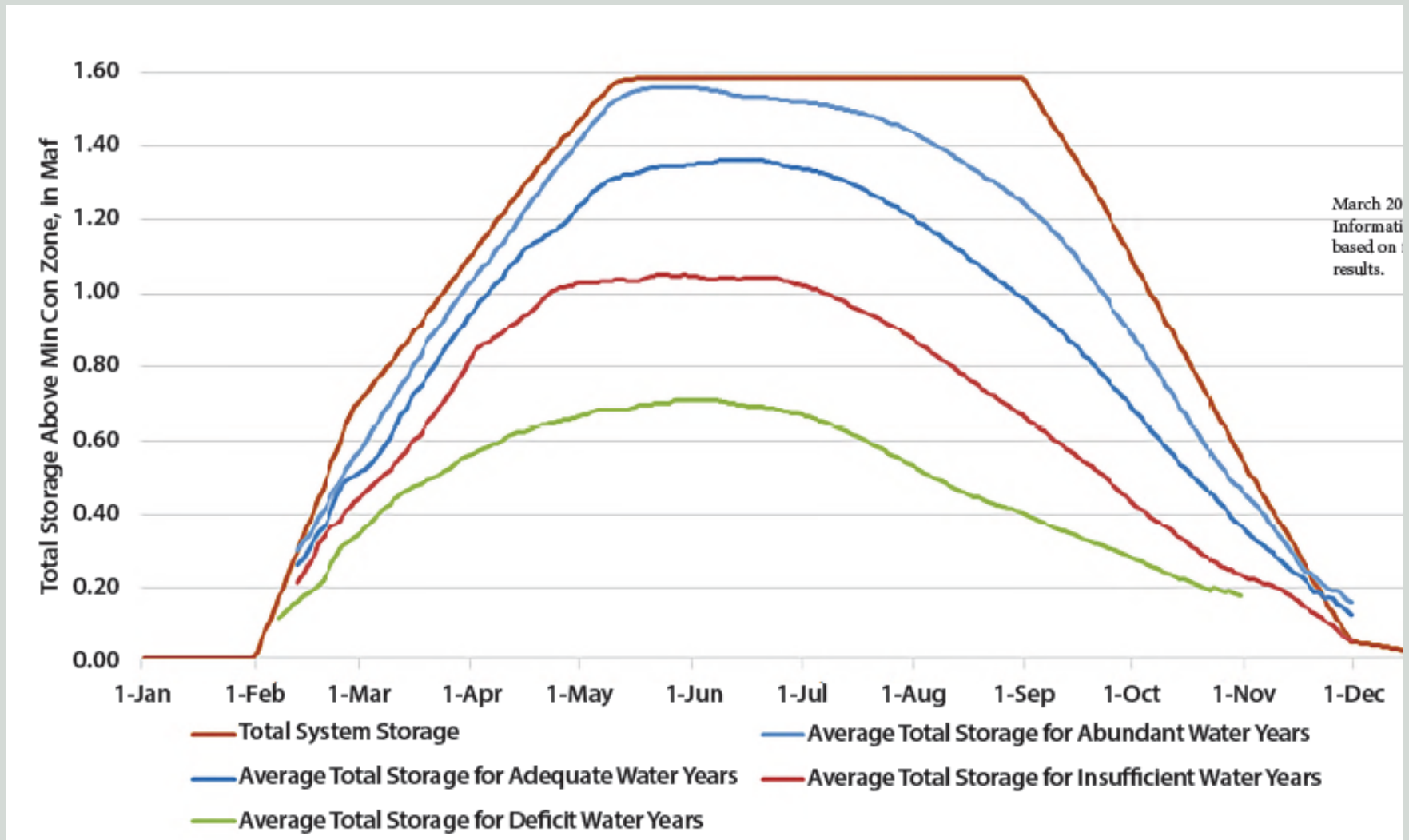
**Willamette River Basin Review Feasibility Study and
National Environmental Policy Act**

SUMMARY

The Portland District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps), with its non-federal sponsor the Oregon Water Resources Department (OWRD), is resuming a feasibility study to examine potential reallocation of storage space in the Corps' reservoirs on tributaries to the Willamette River and managed as the Willamette Valley Project (see below map). As the Corps resumes this feasibility study, we seek to inform you about the study and invite your input on the scope of issues to consider to meet the goals of the study.

Currently, the space in which water is stored in these reservoirs is allocated for joint uses: flood risk management, irrigation, navigation, hydropower production, water quality, recreation, supporting fish and wildlife, and municipal and industrial water supply.

Public comments: what about dry years?



What happens after the study?

- If approved by Congress,
 - Administer a new contracting program for municipal and industrial uses
 - State seeks contract for storage releases for instream protections
 - Change character of use on storage certificates
 - Water users file applications to use stored water



Thank You