



Willamette Basin Review Study

**Oregon Water Resources Commission Meeting
September 7, 2018**

**Douglas Woodcock
Deputy Director**

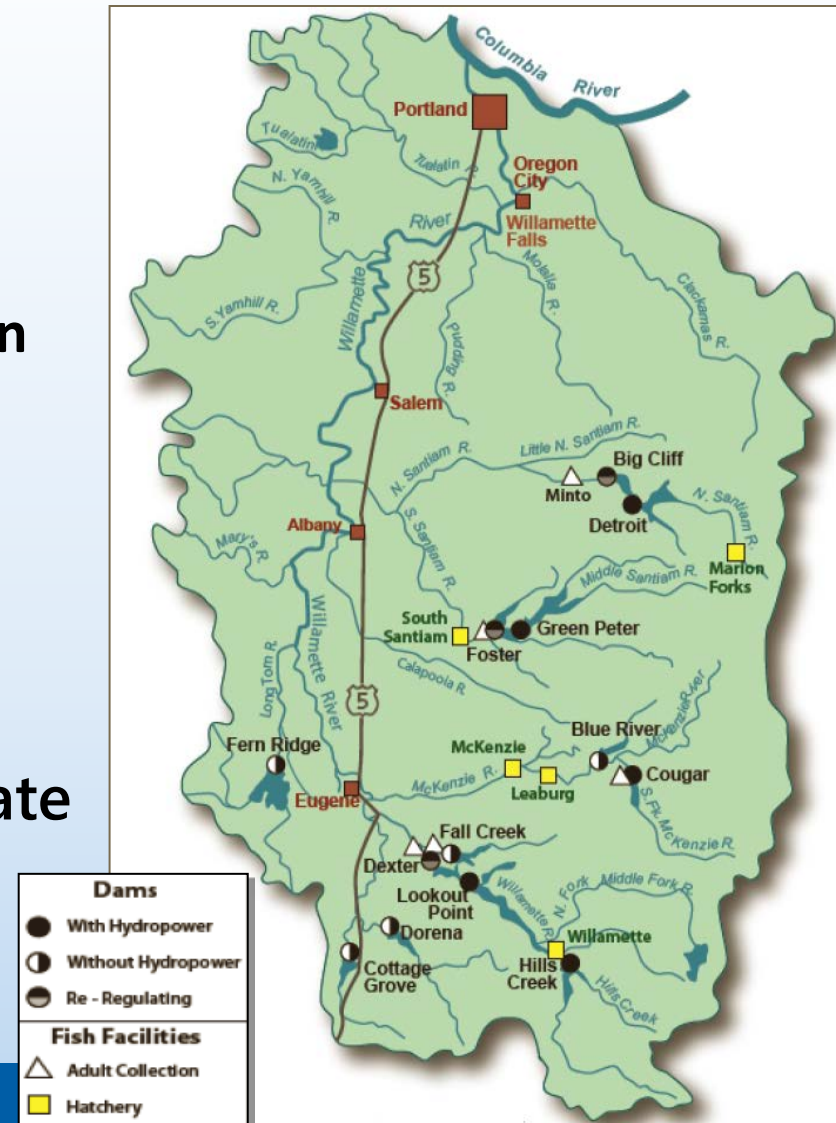
About the Willamette Basin

Willamette Valley Project

- 13 reservoirs
(1.64 M acre-feet legally stored)
- Flood control a primary purpose
- 5 percent is contracted to irrigation
- Stored water released for fish & wildlife benefits

Willamette Basin

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



The Drivers

- **Groundwater limited or restricted areas**
- **Surface water (live flow) not allowed for most new uses during summer months**
- **Water quality & listed species**
- **A need for supplemental or back-up water supplies**

The Drivers

- **Today, access to federal storage is restricted for irrigation, municipal and industrial, and instream uses**
- **Irrigation is limited to 95,000 acre-feet, per 2008 BiOp**
- **No contracting program exists for municipal or industrial uses**
- **Storage water rights only allow irrigation**
- **Stored water releases are not protected for instream uses today**

Feasibility Study Report

- **Three-year study**
- **Draft released November 2017**
- **A 50-year look: 2020 - 2070**
- **Projections for water needs for three sectors:**
 - **fish and wildlife**
 - **municipal and industrial**
 - **agricultural irrigation**
- **Developed four project alternatives**
 - **no action, project alternatives 1,2 and ③**

Estimating Demands for Stored Water

Peak Season Demands for 2070

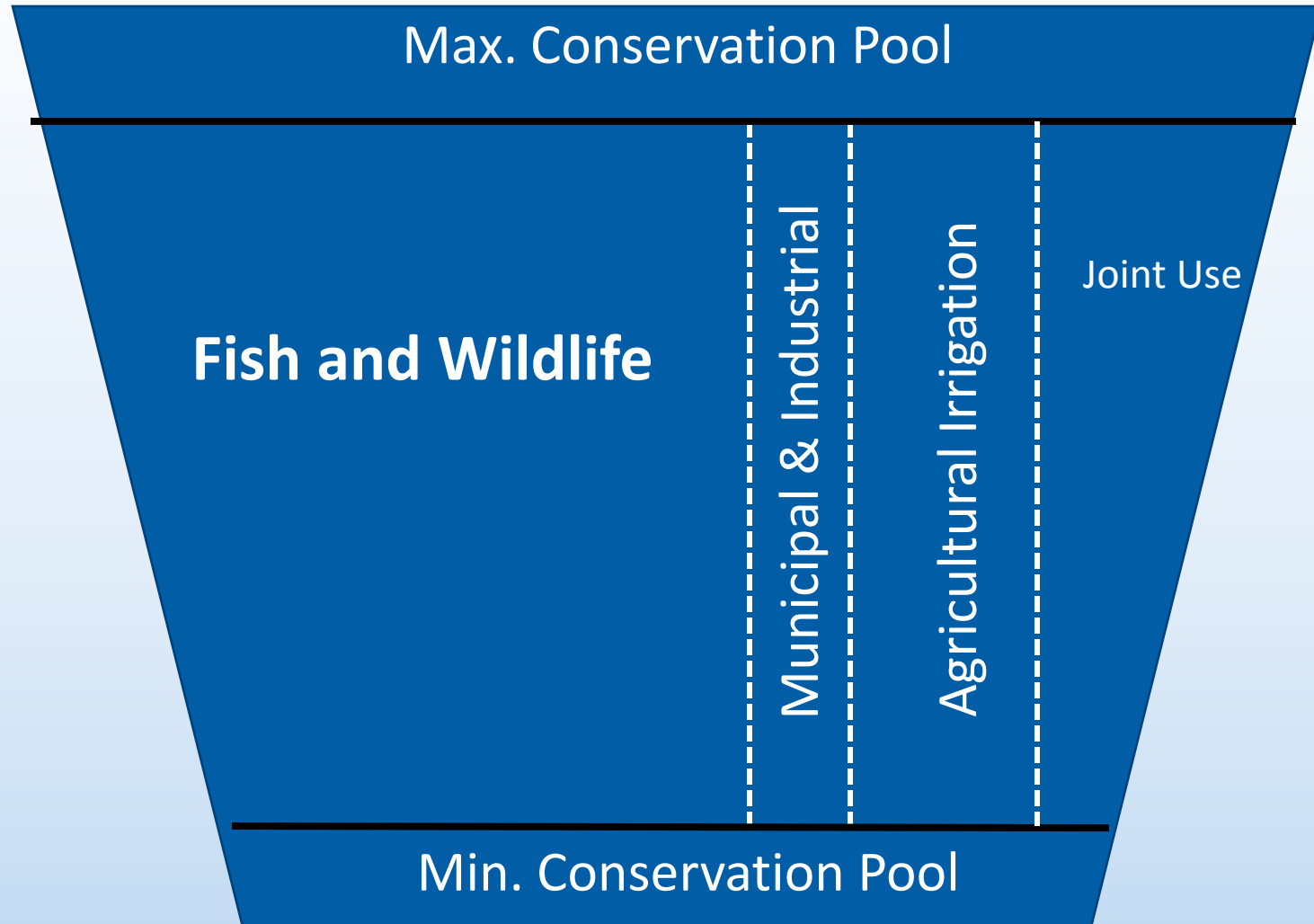
Allocation Use Category	Peak Demands (acre-feet)	Portion of Total (percent)
Fish & Wildlife	1,590,000	76.5
Municipal & Industrial	159,750	7.7
Agricultural Irrigation	327,650	15.8
Total	2,077,400	100.0

Allocation Alternatives

- **Alternative A: Proportionate reduction for all uses**
- **Alternative B: Prioritize fish & wildlife storage at peak level**
- **Alternative C: Prioritize M&I and irrigation storage at peak demands**
- **Alternative D: Reduce peak season demand levels with joint use**



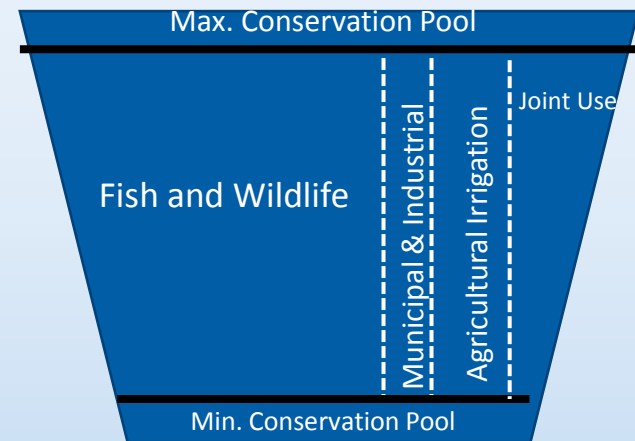
Allocation Alternative D



Allocation Alternative D

Allocation Alternative D (acre-feet)

F&W:	962,800
M&I:	73,300
AI:	253,950
Joint Use:	299,950



Dry Year Adaptive Management

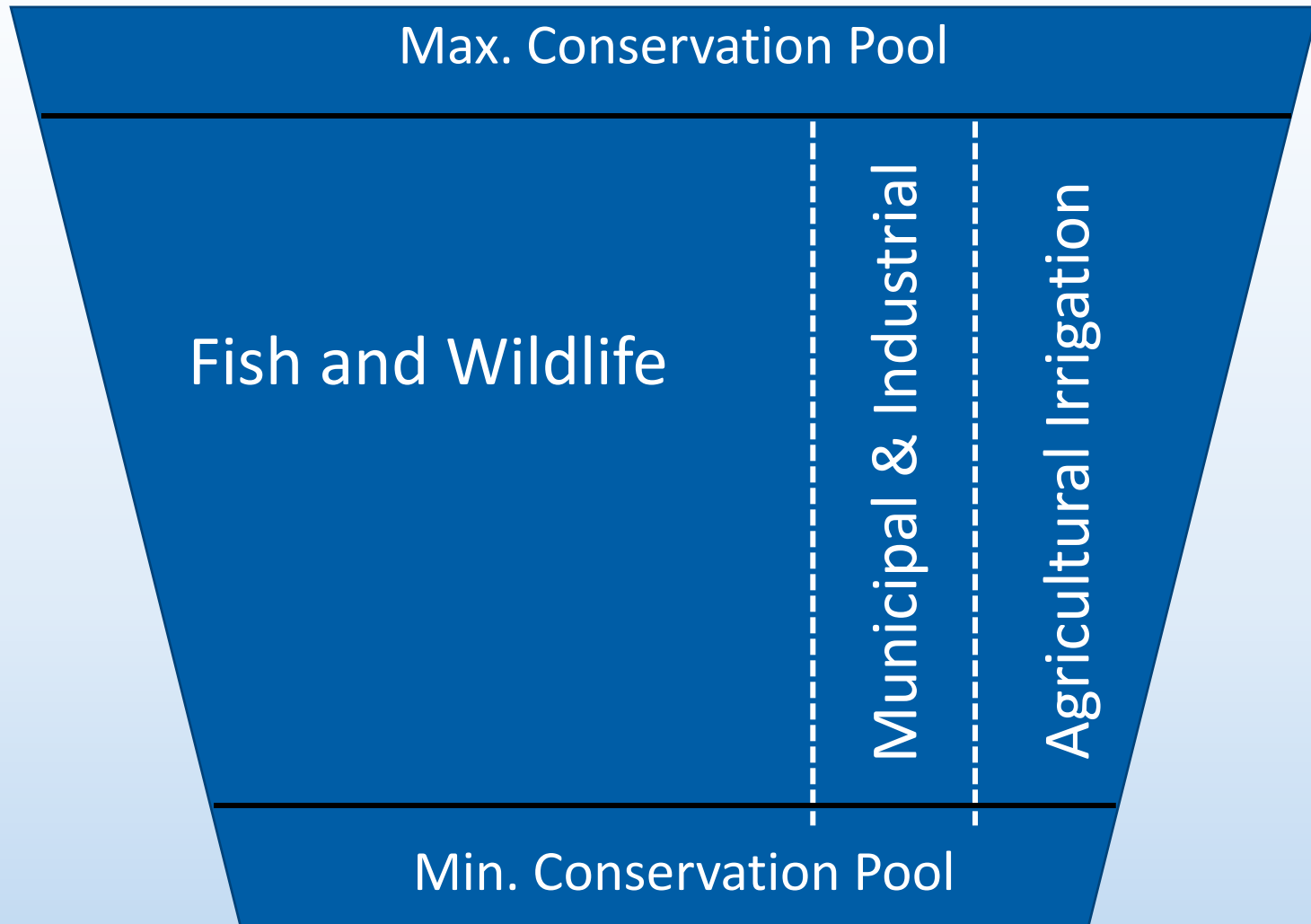
- 1. Proportionally reduce water use across all sectors in dry years**
- 2. Prioritize storage supply for fish & wildlife first, providing any remaining storage supply to other uses in dry years**
- 3. Prioritize the storage supply for consumptive uses first, providing any remaining storage supply to fish and wildlife purposes in dry years**

State Position

- **Requested by USACE for a letter of support**
- **Stakeholders, sister agencies, Governor's Office**
- **Recommended Allocation Alternative C**
 - **and Adaptive Management Plan 1 (proportional reduction)**



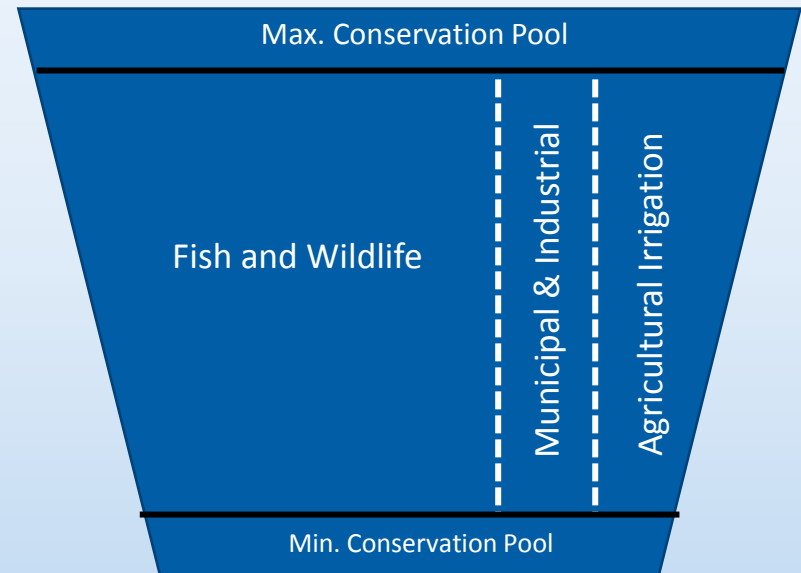
Allocation Alternative C



Allocation Alternative C

Allocation Alternative C (acre-feet)

F&W:	1,102,600
M&I:	159,750
AI:	327,650
Joint Use:	0



Consultation and schedule

Biological Assessment

- “Unlikely to adversely impact”

ESA consultation

- Consultation and Biological Opinion
- Reasonable and Prudent Alternatives
- Contract caps

Waiver of schedule

- Chief’s Report extended to 2019

A few issues of implementation

- Conversion of the Willamette minimum perennial streamflows
- Management of reservoir releases
- Protection of reservoir releases
- Contract management
 - Contract with federal reservoirs owner
 - Water contracts with users
 - Regulation of contracts

If approved by Congress...

- State law requires a contract with reservoir owner for storage releases for instream protections
- File a transfer application to change the character of use on storage certificates to include all three uses
- Water users seek storage agreements with Army Corps and Bureau of Reclamation for consumptive use and subsequently file applications to use stored water

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Thank you.