

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

North Santiam Watershed Council

June 20, 2023 (6 to 7:30pm)

DRAFT

Our Mission:

Providing opportunities for stakeholders to cooperate in promoting and sustaining the health of the watershed and its communities.

Directors Present:

- Suzette Boudreaux (Director - Little North Fork Subbasin Representative – President)
- Brent Stevenson – (Director - Water Control District Representative – Vice President)
- Jan Irene Miller – (Director – Lower North Santiam Subbasin - Secretary)
- Kathy Bridges – (Director – At Large - Treasurer)
- Rebecca McCoun – (Director – General Representative)

Directors Absent: None

NSWC Staff Present: Brandin Hilbrandt (Executive Director),

Santiam Shared Staff Present: Marie Heuberger (Wildfire Adapted Communities Specialist for North & South Santiam Watershed Councils)

Technical Partners: Elijah Welch (City of Salem - Watershed Coordinator), Debbie Paul (Linn SWCD).

General Members & Guests Present: Kevin Dial (Santiam Long-Term Recovery Group), Tim Ernster (US Army Corps of Engineers)

Special Note: Suzette noted Brandin Hilbrandt is no longer the “Acting” ED. She is now the NSWC Executive Director. Thank you to Brandin and congratulations.

6:05 PM Call to Order & Approval of May 2023 Minutes

Suzette called the meeting to order. We have a quorum.

Suzette brought the approval of the May NSWC meeting minutes to the board. Kathy made a motion to approve the May 2023 minutes. Brent made a second. All were in favor and the minutes adopted.

Note: Tim Ernster, Dam Operator with the USACE Detroit Reservoir will be providing a presentation. He is having technical difficulties so Brandin will present the next agenda item.

6:10 PM Old Business

QuickBooks (QB) Online -Brandin provided an update and asked the board if she could move forward and work with Ascension on adopting quick books online. QB would be housed at Ascension and the NSWC would pay a monthly fee for the service. Gloria and Ascension will provide training to both Brandin and Amy for a fee. Discussion followed.


6:15 pm: Board approved Brandin moving forward with adopting the use of QB online.

6:16 PM Presentation - USACE Detroit Reservoir Update – Tim Ernster

Tim noted the USACE has conducted several outreach efforts recently. Providing the public with an update on what is going on and why? Currently they have dam operation restrictions due to seismic issues. They have not been able to operate at full pool. Part of the delay is related to not having the contractors available to do the seismic upgrades, so it is taking longer than expected.



The USACE has been doing outreach related to the draft EIS. The EIS comment period has closed. Tim noted the EIS will most likely get signed later next year (2024).


The following are some key slides from the USACE presentation. To see Tim Ernster's full power point presentation visit the zoom presentation link.



LOTS OF STUFF GOING ON...

- 2023 Water-Year Operational Update
- Interim Risk Reduction Measures (IRRM) Due to Seismic Concerns
- 2021 Injunction impacts – Delayed Refill, Accelerated Drawdowns
- System Environmental Impact Statement – 2023 Draft Completed
- 2022 WRDA – Hydropower Disposition Study
- Forecast Informed Reservoir Operations (FIRO)







Modified Reservoir Fill Operations at:

- Foster / Green Peter
- Fall Creek
- Cougar
- Lookout Point / Hills Creek

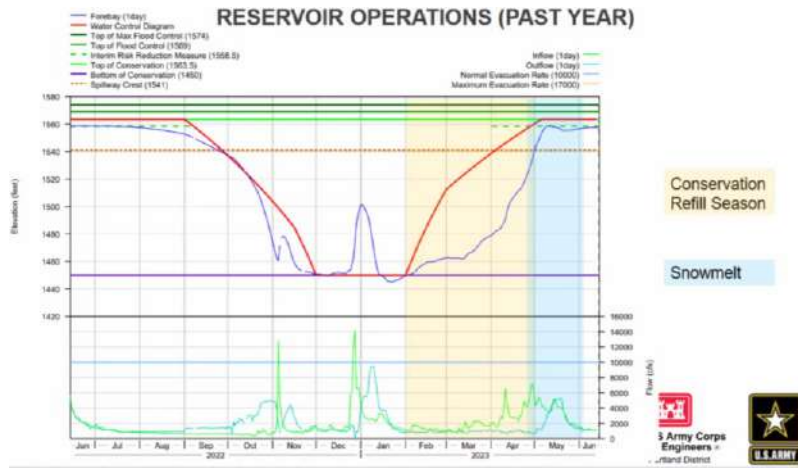
Tradeoffs

- Downstream Passage vs. Water Quality
- Water Supply
- Renewable Electricity Generation

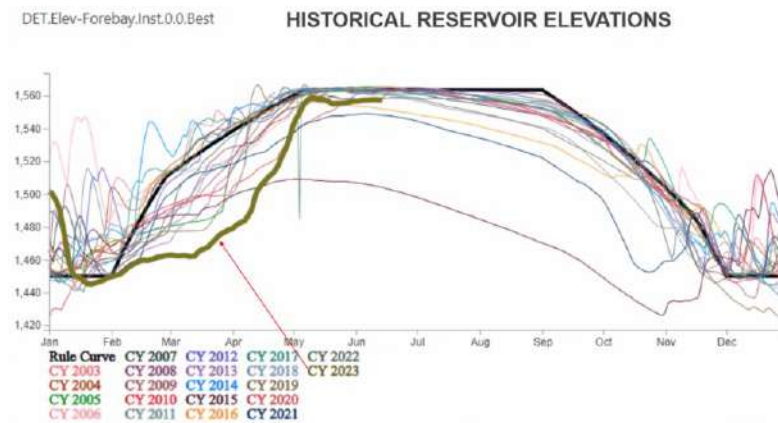
Abnormally high snow accumulation and late spring melt off benefitted refill conditions.



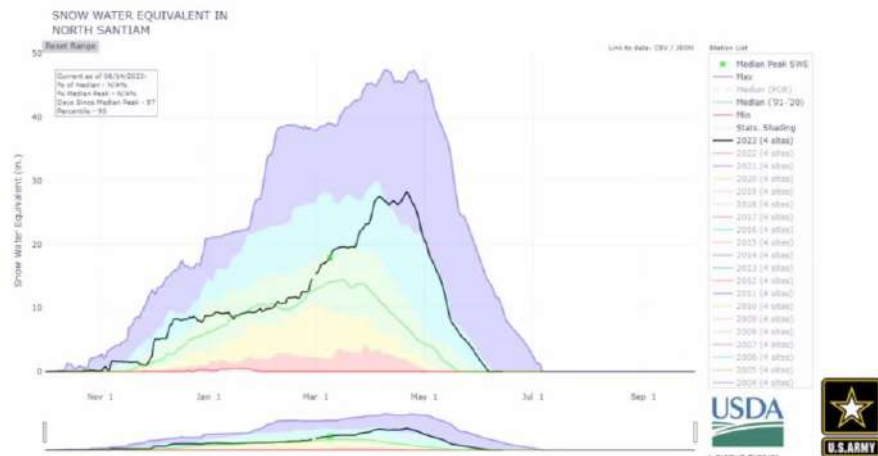
Tim noted they are operating the reservoirs at a lower level. They are storing less water for the fish. This allows the fish to not have to dive as deep and have easier access.

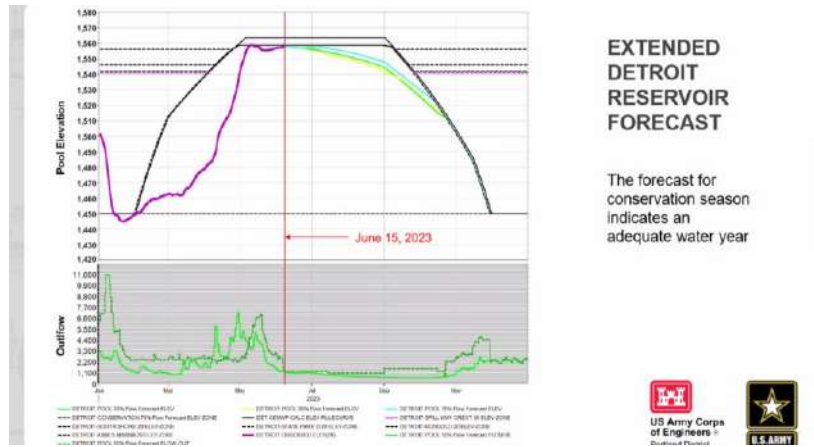


Tim went over the operations of the dams over the last year. He discussed some notable anomalies.



SNOWPACK TO-DATE





6:31 PM Executive Director Update – Brandin Hilbrandt
Attached Below

7:10 PM Wildfire Adaptive Communities Specialist (WACS) Update – Marie Heuberger
Attached Below

Events and Other Community Announcements:

Firewise Event w/ Lebanon Fire Dept – June 26 at the Lebanon Library

Marion County Soil & Water Conservation District Events:

- Conservation Club Webpage: [Conservation Club - Marion SWCD](#)
- July 22, 2023 (9-noon) – Wildfire Resiliency and Preparedness Workshop:
Home Defensible Spaces at the Oregon Gardens.

<https://www.marionswcd.net/event/conservation-club-wildfire-resiliency/>

Adjourn

Next Meeting: Tuesday, July 18, 2023

Restoration Project:

1. Post-Wildfire Riparian Restoration Project – Spring treatments have finished up, except for 12 acres of one landowners' property – will get this done in the next week or two
 - a. June 8th and 16th were EDRR treatments (knapweed and false brome sites) and Post-wildfire Riparian Restoration treatments (blackberry and scotchbroom).
2. MSWCD and Marion County collaboration event called "Weed Wrangle" – outreach and education on management of common post-wildfire invasive weeds; Marie led a walk-and-talk with attendees. ~7 attended, one landowner came into the office later in the week to borrow a weed wrench for scotchbroom removal
 - a. Marion County and Marion SWCD have weed wrench to borrow for landowners
3. Bear Branch Restoration Project – Mid-management practices have been discussed with Rosario; these activities need to occur by the end of Sept. USFW scheduled to mow EQIP site (~20 acres) of Scotchbroom in the Fall. Site visit with Jarod Jebousek on Thursday of this week.
4. Letter of Agreements signed for bulk of sites for Aquatic Invasives Project; looking to treat John Neal Park, Lyons Ponds, Knife Pond and ODOT ponds within the next couple of weeks – Mid-Santiam area of Ludwigia and YFI
5. Future Efforts - EDRR/Marion County Parks Partnership
 - a. Marion County Environmental has set aside \$25,000 to assist with weed treatment and outreach to residents near their parks
 - b. We need IGA to receive funds

Collaborative Partnerships:

1. May 30th Council of Water Leaders Meeting
2. June 12th Partners of the North Santiam Stakeholder Meeting– lots of new faces,
3. Mid-Willamette Beavers Partnership – massive mail out event on May 19th. A website and resources are in process as a hub for landowners in the Mid-Willamette region.

Landowner Restoration:

1. Site Visit - Knotweed found on Niagara Heights Road – will treat in the fall with partnership funds from Luckiamute WC and MVRC grant.
2. Met with Barnes relating to their MSWCD LAP grant -working on finalizing this Landowner Assistance Grant
3. Multiple landowners reach out about log debris in rivers. What is our stance/protocol for such inquiries?
4. Emerald Ash Borer tab on website?

Other:

1. Review of documentation for 990 is underway. 2022 files have been picked up from Ascension.
 - a. MSA signed by Ascension

NORTH SANTIAM WATERSHED COUNCIL: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR UPDATES

- b. Rebecca, Amy and I are meeting tomorrow in relation to NSWC operations and review of operating files from Ascension before sending off to CPA
- 2. Amy, Rebecca and I are meeting and working on internal operation protocols
 - a. Still working on acquiring access to bank account
 - b. Will have a Grants Status spreadsheet updated by next meeting
- 3. Funds request sent in for Post-wildfire Riparian Restoration Grant and EDRR Grant at end of May
- 4. Post-Wildfire Riparian Restoration Grant has been approved for carryforward to 2023-2025 biennium!
- 5. Brainstorming projects for grants in the fall and early winter timeframe. Ideas include:
 - a. OWEB Technical Assistance Grant – Watershed Assessment, with post-wildfire impacts
 - b. OWEB TA for continuing Partners of North Santiam efforts
 - c. OWEB TA or Monitoring on Surveying/Modeling Effective Shade – relates to ODEQ TMDLs
 - d. OWEB Monitoring Grant – Post Wildfire Inquiry on Pesticide Use with increased weeds and weed management across stakeholder boundaries
 - e. Restoration Grant
 - f. Invasive Weeds – EDRR surveys and treatments, possibly another Aquatic Invasives if possible?
- 6. Potential future meeting presentation: Dr. Emily Fairfax to do a presentation on beavers, and wildfire, drought and climate change research (<https://emilyfairfaxscience.com>) – next board meeting or August?
- 7. NSWC Apparel Discussion

Past Events:

- 1. Council of Water Leaders – May 30th
- 2. Wildfire and TMDL Tour with ODEQ Water Quality Commission at Packsaddle Park on May 19th
- 3. Marion County Environmental Services Parks Tour with Marion SWCD - coordination of future treatments and projects. Focused on Little North Fork Parks.

Upcoming Events:

- 1. Council Capacity – July 25-26 is the award date for applicants; we have until July 31st to spend the current Council Capacity grant
- 2. Site Tour with Confederated Tribe of Grand Ronde on Friday, June 23rd
- 3. False Brome and Knapweed treatment for John Neal Park, and Taylor Park on June 26th



Updates May 16th -
June 20th

North Santiam Watershed Council
Board Meeting



2020 Postfire Riparian Restoration Project and EDRR

- June 8th and 16th were EDRR Surveyed Site treatments (knapweed and false brome sites), and Post-wildfire Riparian Restoration treatments (blackberry and scotchbroom).
- Activities will continue for one more large site for Riparian Restoration Project, and EDRR sites that were supposed to be treated last summer
- Next Activity – Fall Plant Establishment for Riparian Restoration Project; Continue to treat false brome, knapweed at John Neal Park and Taylor Park next week




Aquatic Invasives Survey and Treatment

- Site visit last Thursday, June 15th

Next steps: looking to treat John Neal Park, Lyons Ponds, Knife Pond, Chahalpam, and ODOT ponds within the next couple of weeks – Mid-Santiam area of Ludwigia and YFI. Still needing a few LOAs from surrounding private landowners but majority of the permissions have been acquired. Coordination with Fur Sure Outfitters to survey NS River stretch for Ludwigia





Collaborative Partnerships

- MSWCD and Marion County collaboration event called “Weed Wrangle” – outreach and education on management of common post-wildfire invasive weeds
- Marion Co Environmental Services and Marion SWCD – Parks tour up the Little North Fork



DLH Printing - Salem

- Minimum order is 24 garments with the exact same prints. You can split it into different products in increments of 12.
- For a minimum order like this the garments would need to either be all dark colors or all light colors for example all white or all black due to the artwork colors.
 - I.e 12 shirts / 12 jackets
 - I.e 24 shirts / 12 jackets.

Pricing:

- 1 color front/ 1 color back:
- Shirts = \$16 (for 12 = \$192)
- Windbreakers = \$33 (for 12 = \$396)
- 1 color front/ 3 color back:
- Shirts = \$20 (12 = \$240)
- Windbreakers = \$37 (12 = \$444)

1 Color Print Front and Back, White Shirt



1 Color Print Front and Back, Black Windbreaker



1 Color Print Front, 3 color Back, White Camo Windbreaker



1 Color Print Front, 3 color Back, White Shirt



1 Color Print Front, 3 color Back, Black Shirt



1 Color Print Front, 3 color Back, Black Windbreaker



Element Graphics - Corvallis

- No minimum quantity per order
- Non-profit discount
- Suggested by SSWC
- Average of \$13-\$20 shirt

Garment Color:BLACK

Front



Front Ink Color(s): MEDIUM BLUE



Back



Back Ink Color(s): MEDIUM BLUE, RUST, TEAL



Garment Color:BLACK

Front



Front Ink Color(s): TEAL



Back



Back Ink Color(s): MEDIUM BLUE, RUST, TEAL



Stayton Sports - Stayton

- Minimum of 12 per order
- Can mix and match apparel types (50:50)
- Printing is a minimum of \$11 per item, for 4 colors; \$9 for 3 colors
- Apparel can be from \$15 and up; large variety of apparel and brands
- Marion SWCD orders from them.

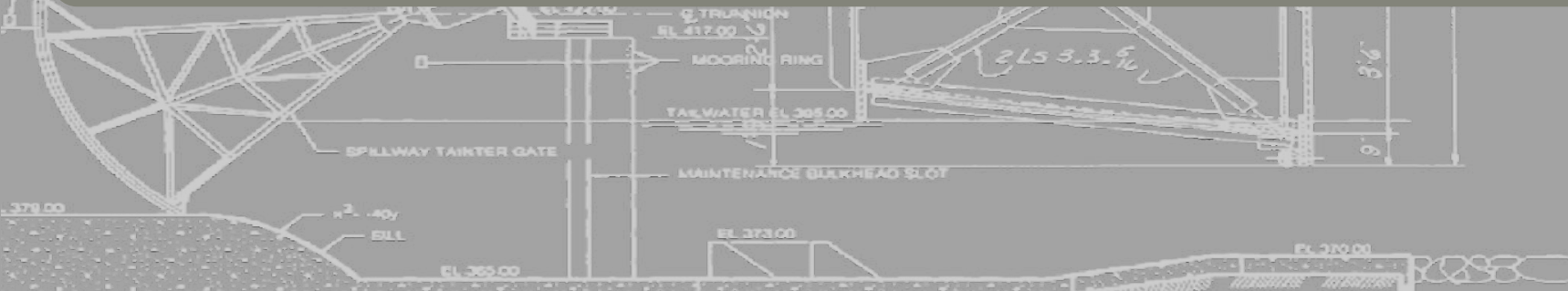


NORTH SANTIAM WATERSHED COUNCIL

DETROIT RESERVOIR UPDATE

Timothy Ernster

Operations & Maintenance Manager
North Willamette Valley Projects
Portland District
20 June 2023



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Portland District





LOTS OF STUFF GOING ON...

- **2023 Water-Year Operational Update**
- Interim Risk Reduction Measures (IRRM) Due to Seismic Concerns
- 2021 Injunction impacts – Delayed Refill, Accelerated Drawdowns
- System Environmental Impact Statement – 2023 Draft Completed
- 2022 WRDA – Hydropower Disposition Study
- Forecast Informed Reservoir Operations (FIRO)



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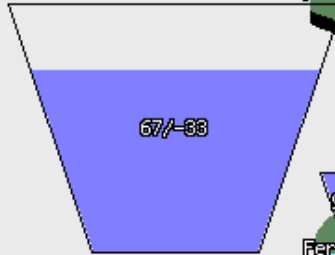
The Willamette Basin

LEGEND

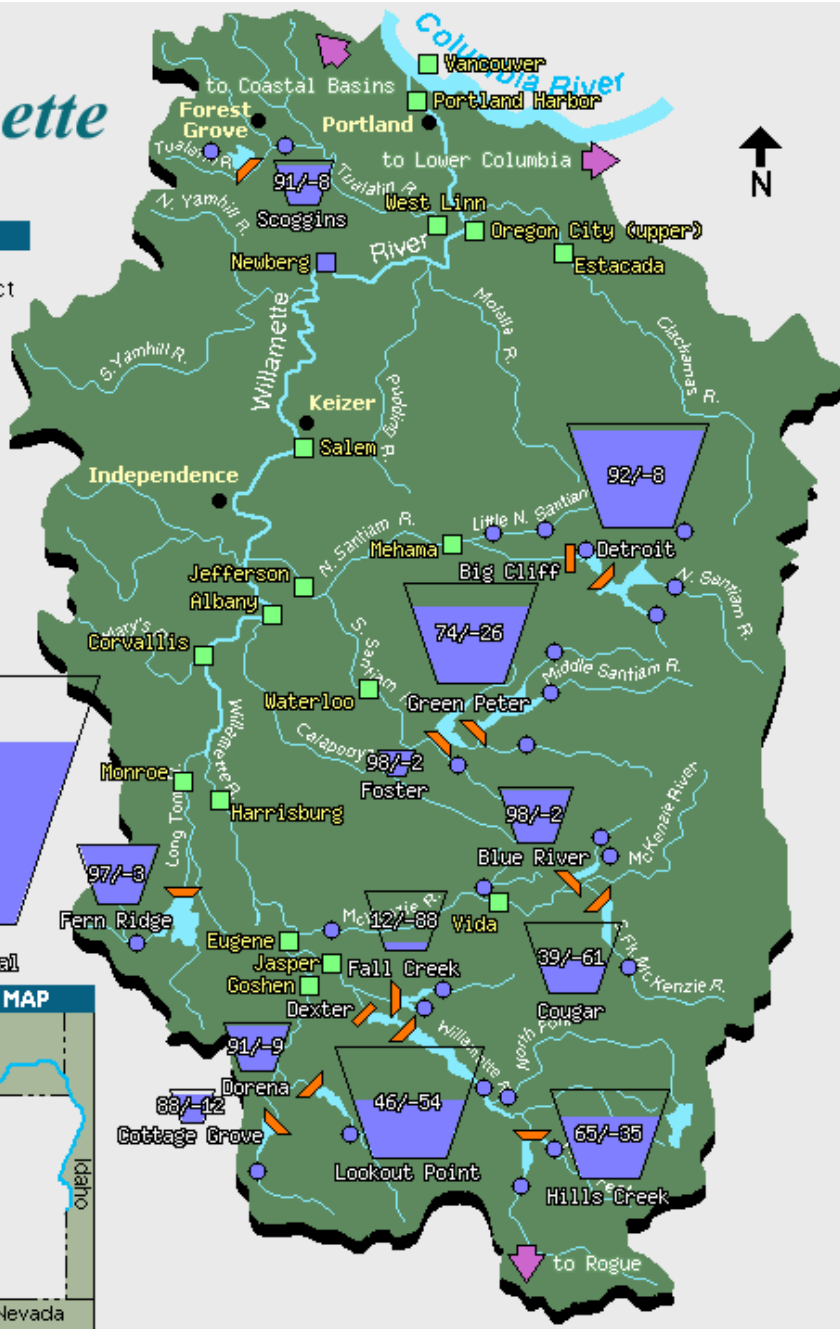
-  Storage Project
-  Run of River
-  Gage
-  No Alerts
-  Bank Full
-  Flood Stage

Overview

Annual



Willamette Total



Modified Reservoir Fill Operations at:

- Foster / Green Peter
- Fall Creek
- Cougar
- Lookout Point / Hills Creek

Tradeoffs

- Downstream Passage vs. Water Quality
- Water Supply
- Renewable Electricity Generation

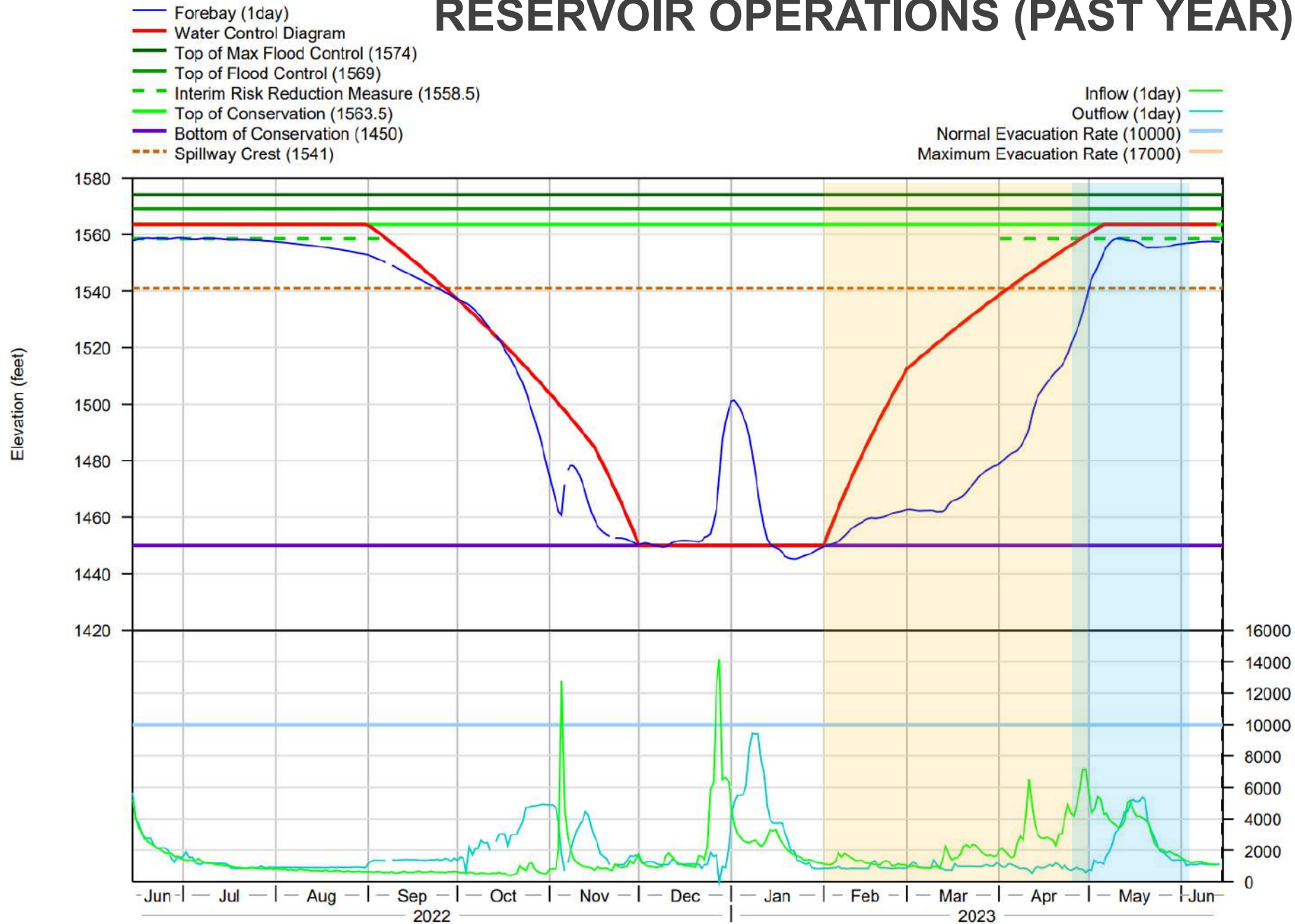
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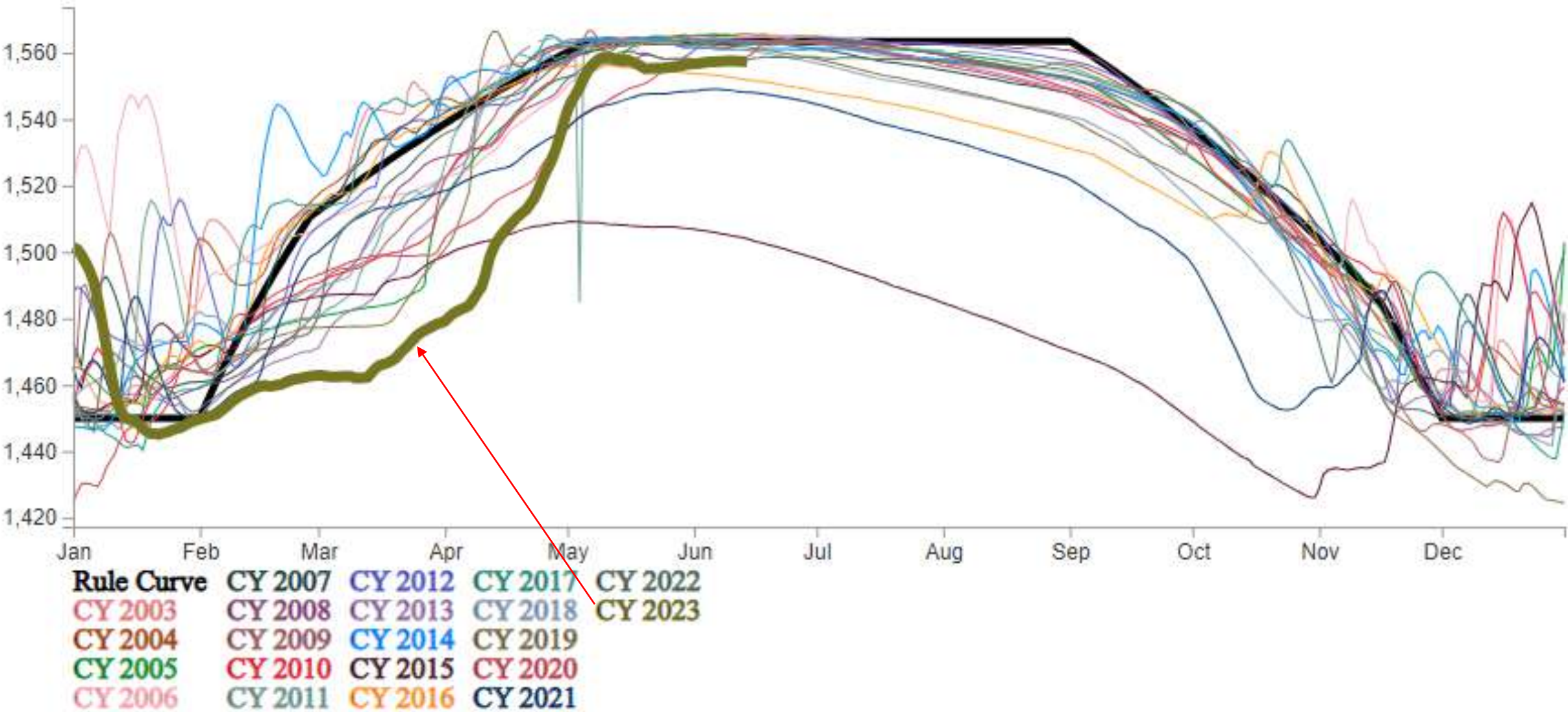


RESERVOIR OPERATIONS (PAST YEAR)

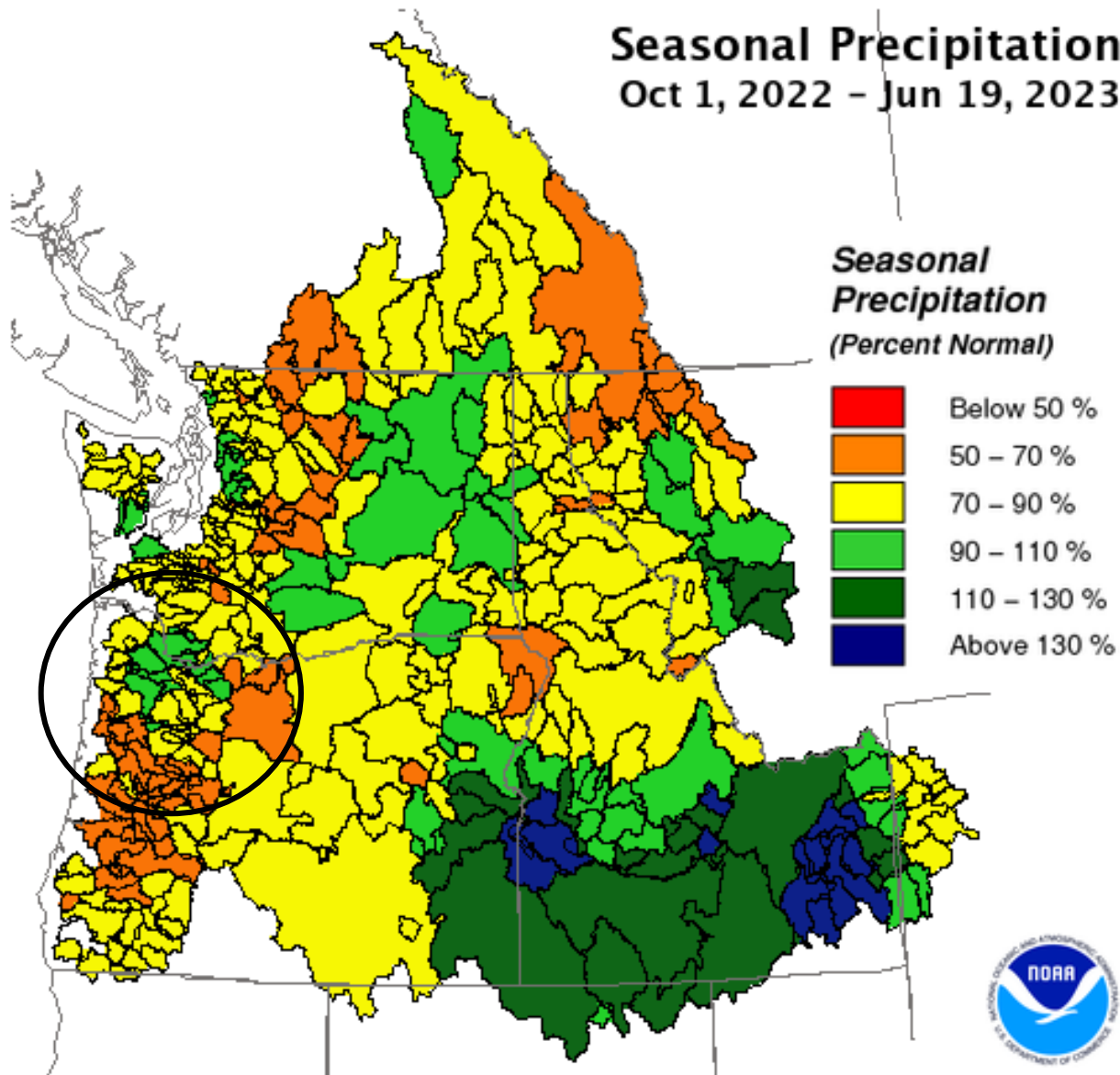


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HISTORICAL RESERVOIR ELEVATIONS



Seasonal Precipitation Oct 1, 2022 - Jun 19, 2023



OBSERVED SEASONAL WEATHER

Santiam River Basin

Water year	Oct 2023 – present
Precipitation	72% normal
Temperature	0.5°F cooler than normal

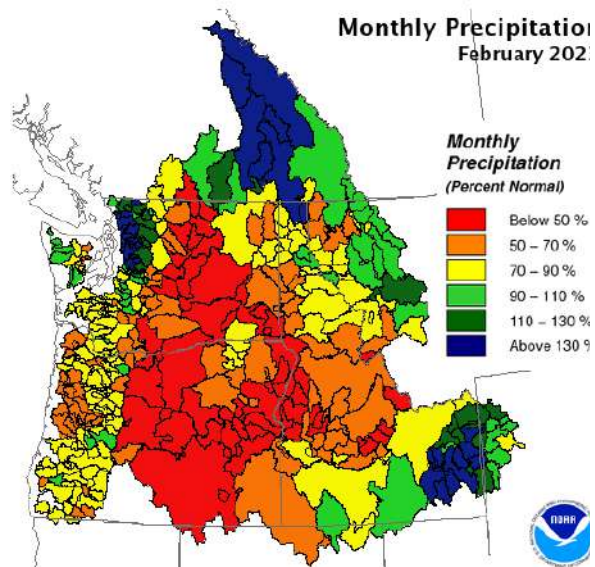
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Northwest River Forecast Center



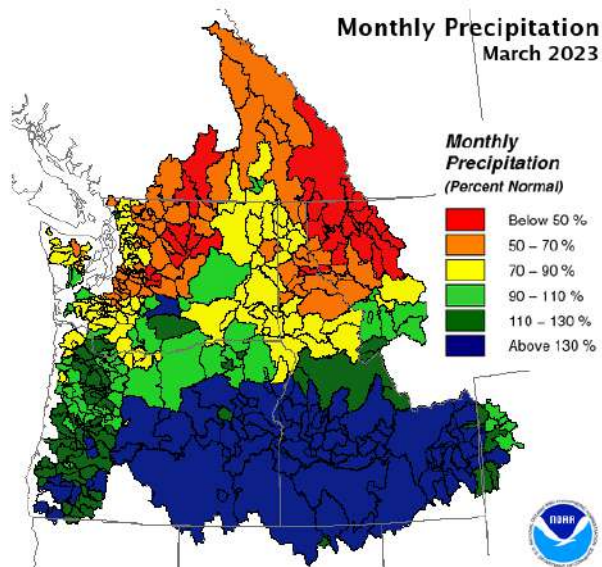
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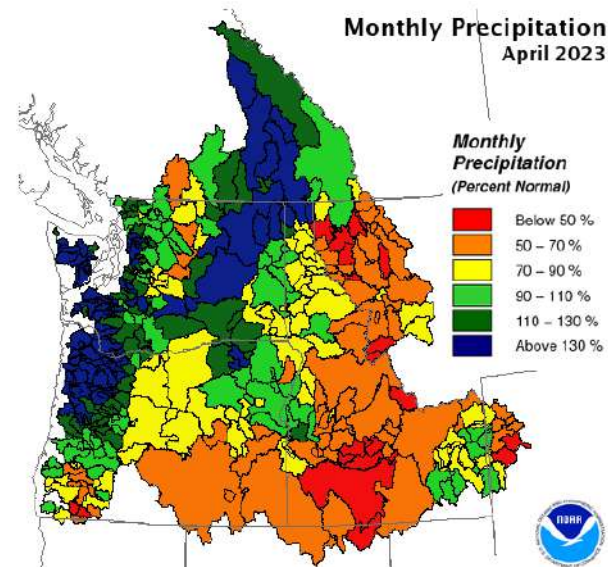
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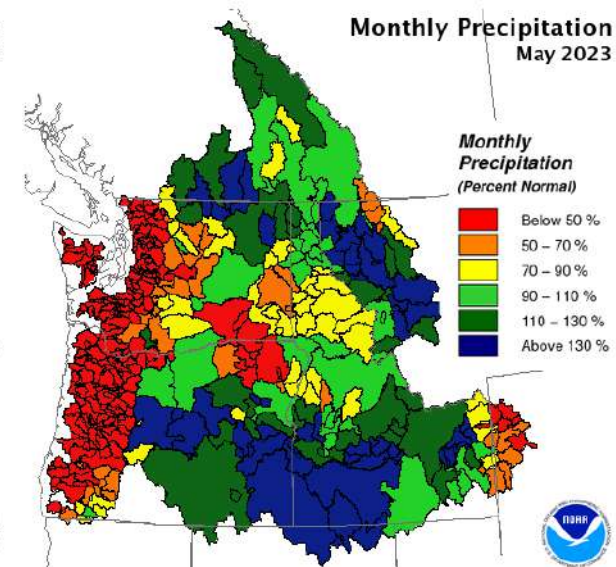
Creation Time: Saturday, Apr 1, 2023

Northwest River Forecast Center



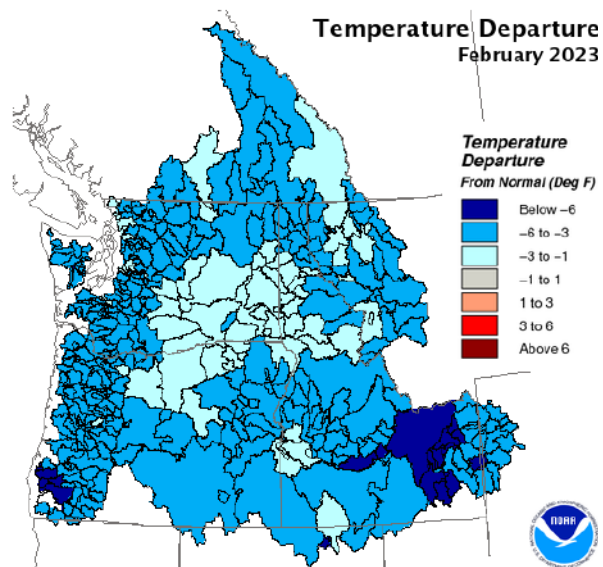
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Northwest River Forecast Center



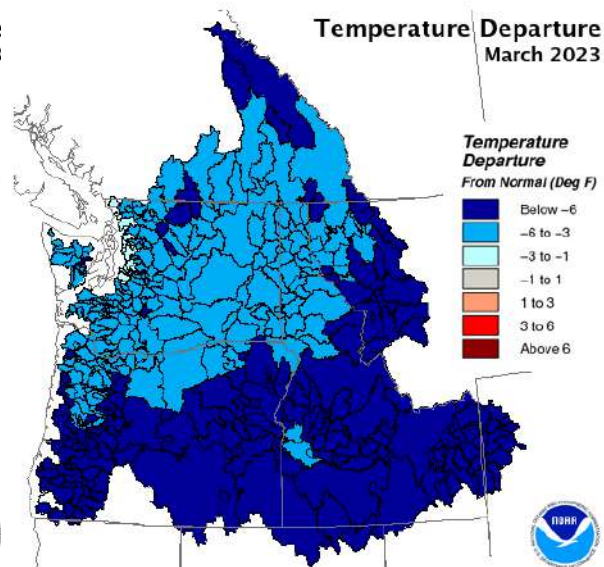
Creation Time: Thursday, Jun 1, 2023

Northwest River Forecast Center



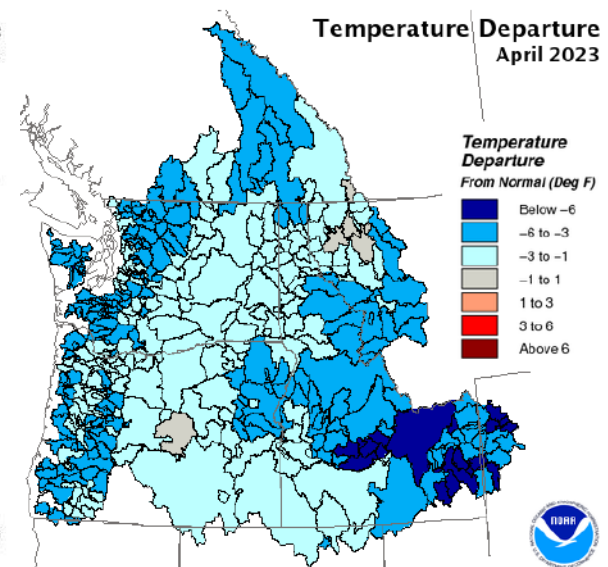
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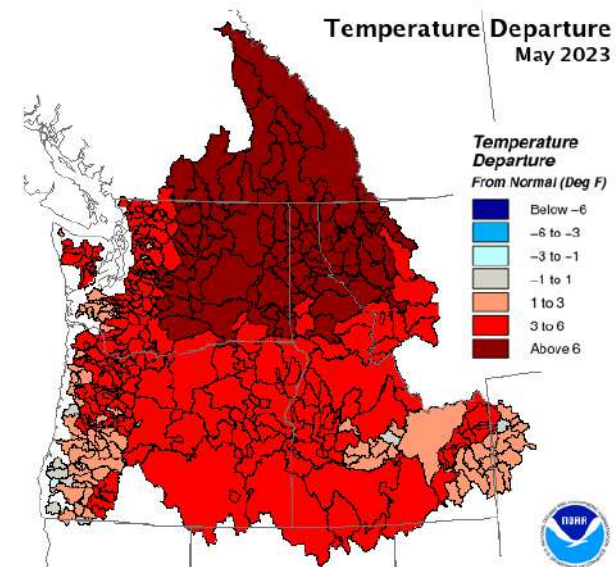
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Northwest River Forecast Center



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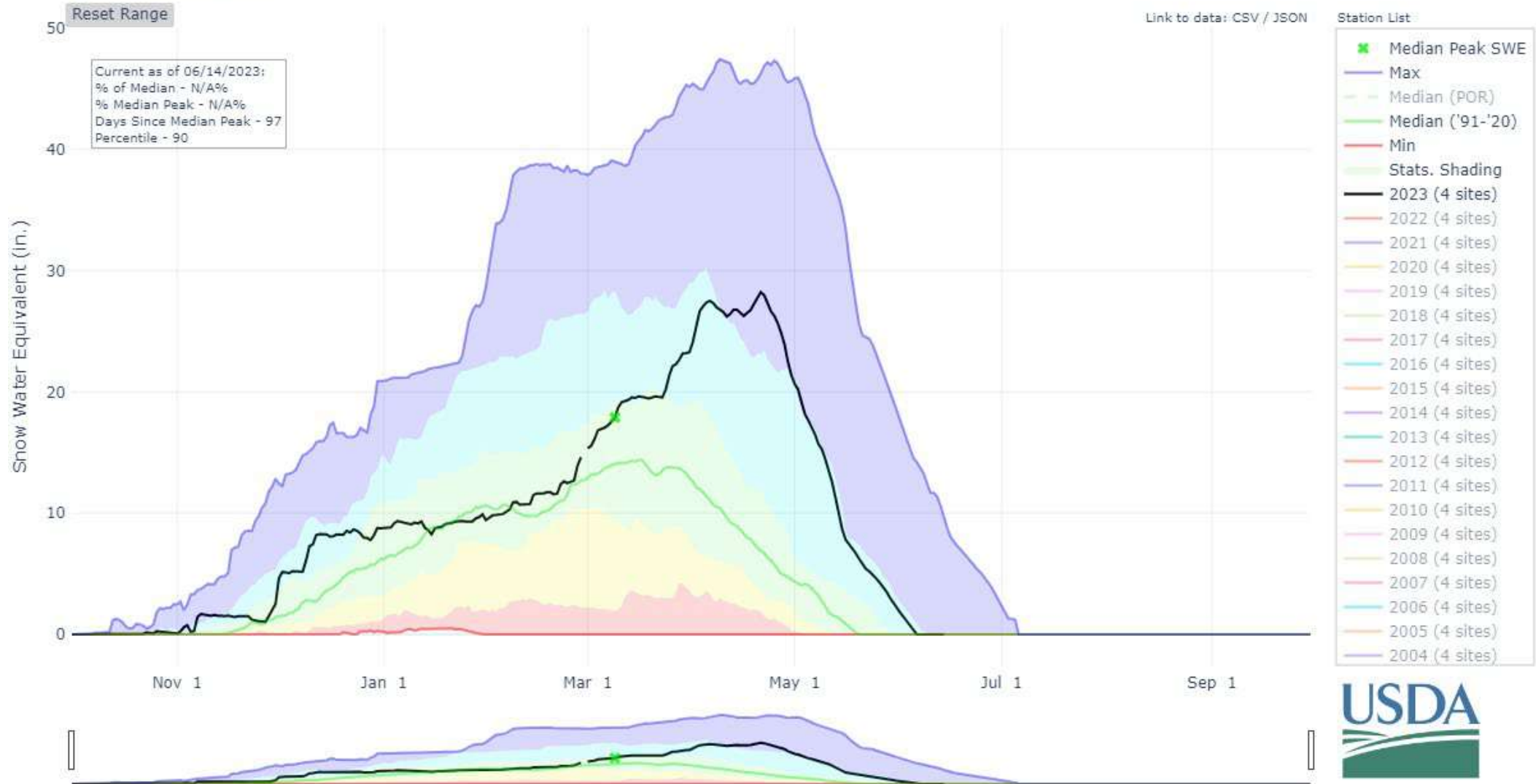


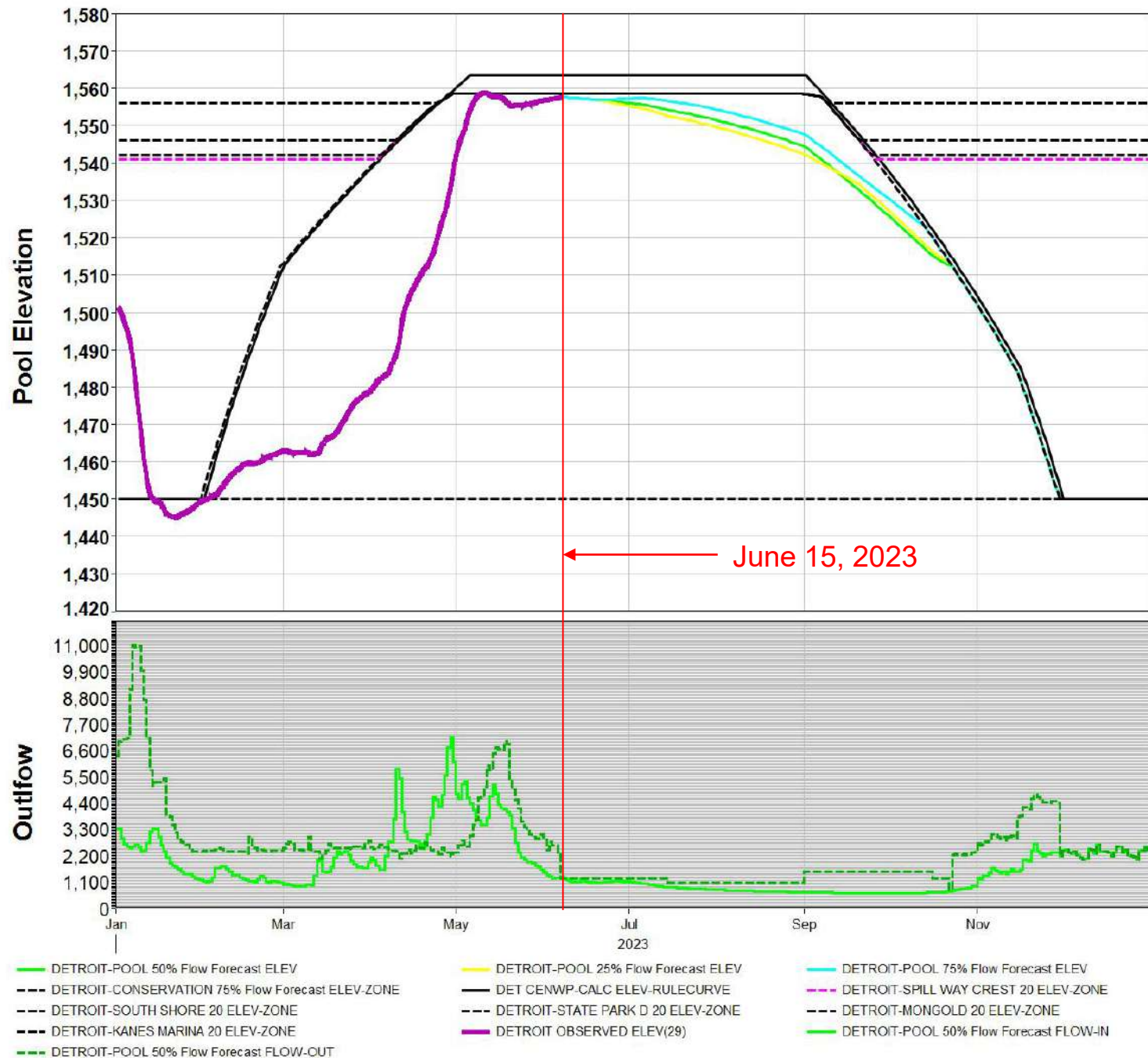
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Northwest River Forecast Center

SNOWPACK TO-DATE

SNOW WATER EQUIVALENT IN NORTH SANTIAM





EXTENDED DETROIT RESERVOIR FORECAST

The forecast for
conservation season
indicates an
adequate water year



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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Willamette Basin Teacup

<https://www.nwd-wc.usace.army.mil/nwp/teacup/willamette/>

Detroit Dam Interim Risk Reduction Measure

<https://www.nwp.usace.army.mil/Locations/Willamette-Valley/Detroit/Detroit-Interim-Risk-Reduction-Measures/>

Willamette Valley Project Injunction

<https://www.nwp.usace.army.mil/Locations/Willamette-Valley/Injunction/>

Willamette Valley System Environmental Impact Statement

<https://www.nwp.usace.army.mil/Locations/Willamette-Valley/System-Evaluation-EIS/>



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WACS Update:

Events, Outreach, etc:

- Weed Wrangle with Marion County- Led the invasive species walk and talk- had a great time using weed wrenches and engaging people about invasive species
 - Note: this is one event in a series they are doing. On July 30th, they are hoping to have a bat box building event!
- Upcoming: Fire Aware, Fire Prepared meeting at the Lebanon Public Library, in conjunction with the Lebanon Fire Department- Planned for June 26th. Will cover fire resiliency information for all types of landowners.
- Tabling: Stayton Farmer's Market! Tomorrow!- Really looking forward to this one. Compiled several different resources for landowners who are looking to be firewise, as well as those that need post-fire resources. Also created a firewise game for the table, and should have some native plants to give away.
- Collaborated with a local private forest manager we have worked with previously to identify potential fuels reduction sites, as well as areas where fuels reduction could be continued.
 - Note: one thing I noticed with the areas where we have previously done fuels reduction is how many invasives have popped back up in the last couple of years in light of the disturbance.
- Burned Parks Tour- toured the burned parks in the North Santiam with Marion SWCD and Marion Environmental Services. This tour was very productive, and allowed our agencies to brainstorm ways to collaborate further in the area
 - Notably- a bioblitz for the Little North Fork via iNaturalist (a plant identifying app). This would allow us to see where invasive species are in the canyon, as well as reward participants for finding natives.
- Seed Collection with Marion SWCD, Rosario's team, and IAE- I am interested in the possibility of starting a seed library in the South Santiam. The thought here is that we could save seeds from areas that have not yet experienced fire. That way, if there is a fire, some native seeds from the area will be available.

Meetings and Planning

- Linn Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) Meetings- have been helping connect Linn County Planners to relevant community partners.
 - Additionally, being a part of this process is really helpful for watershed councils as there are grants available based on what is written in these.
- Weed Wrangle Meetings- Attended a couple of these in preparation for the Weed Wrangle event- worked in conjunction with Marion Soil and Water Conservation District and Marion County Environmental Services.
- Meeting with the Fire Marshal of Lebanon- Had this meeting today (June 20) to help solidify our plans for the fire aware, fire prepared night next Monday evening at the Lebanon Library (June 26, 4:45-5:45pm)

- Long Term Recovery Group Meeting- This is the first month I have attended one, getting familiar with the way the group works and building a partnership.
- Partners of the North Santiam Meeting
- Collaboration meeting with Grand Ronde- looking at potential opportunities for fuels reduction. Will have a site visit this friday!

Other

- Working on a Story Map about the North and South Santiam Watershed councils and their relationship with fire.
- Created a “pocketbook of integrated pest management” for some common weeds seen in the Canyon. Handed this booklet out at the weed wrangle event, and will also hand it out at the farmers market.
- Creating a “baseline” fire presentation for future events, modified it to fit the fire aware, fire prepared goals.
- Created a Firewise diorama game for outreach events. Recorded how it was made and will be recording how successful it is with people.
- Continued to review most current science on wildfire. Learning a lot about potential grants.