

WILLAMETTE BASIN REVIEW REALLOCATION STUDY

North Santiam Basin Summit

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15 May 2019



WILLAMETTE BASIN REVIEW
"Planning Today for Tomorrow's Water"



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OUTLINE

- Background
- Project status
- Consumptive demands
- Proposed allocations
- What's next?



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SPONSORS & STAKEHOLDERS

Fish & Wildlife



Agricultural Irrigation



Oregon
Department
of Agriculture



Municipal & Industrial



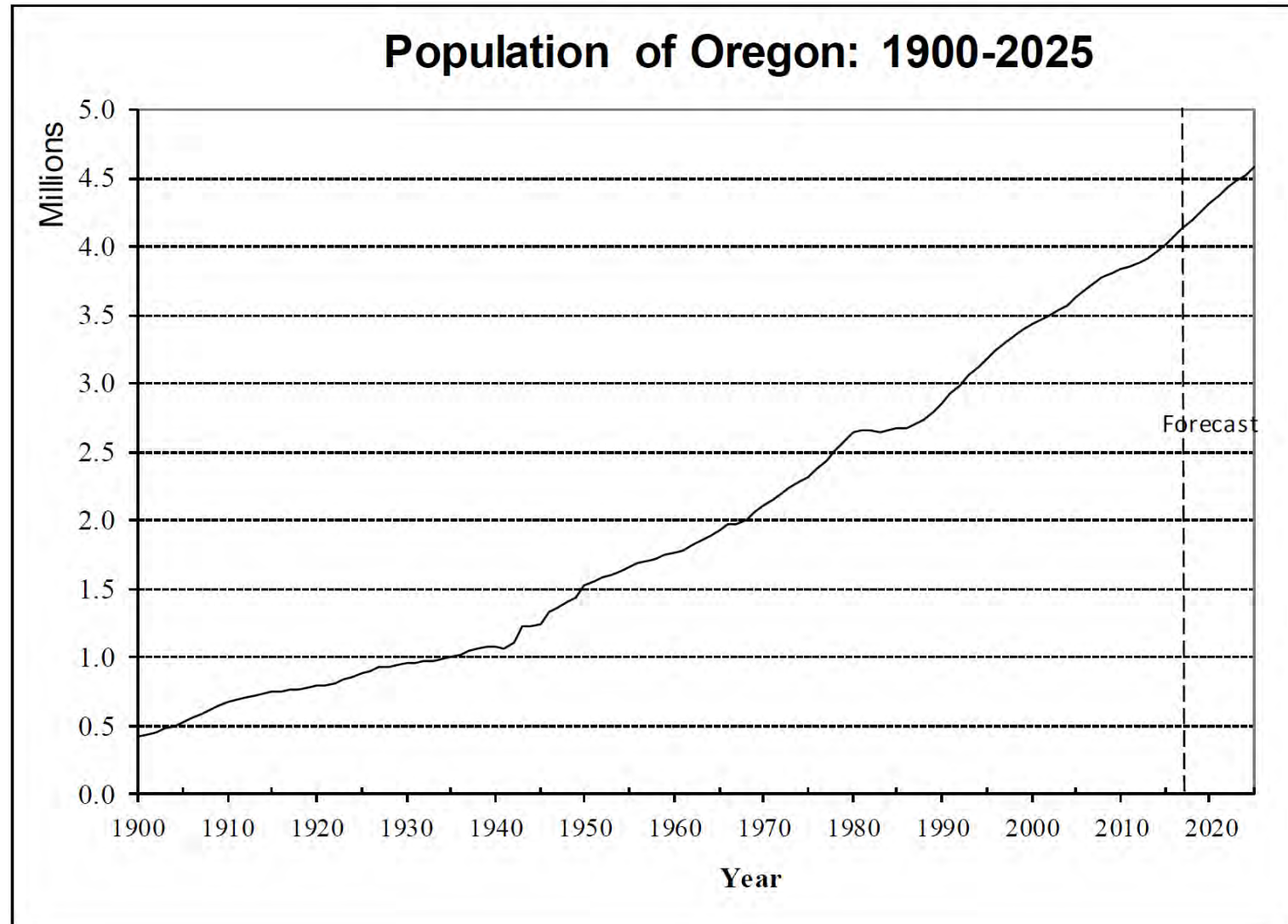
- Non-federal sponsor
- 50/50 cost share



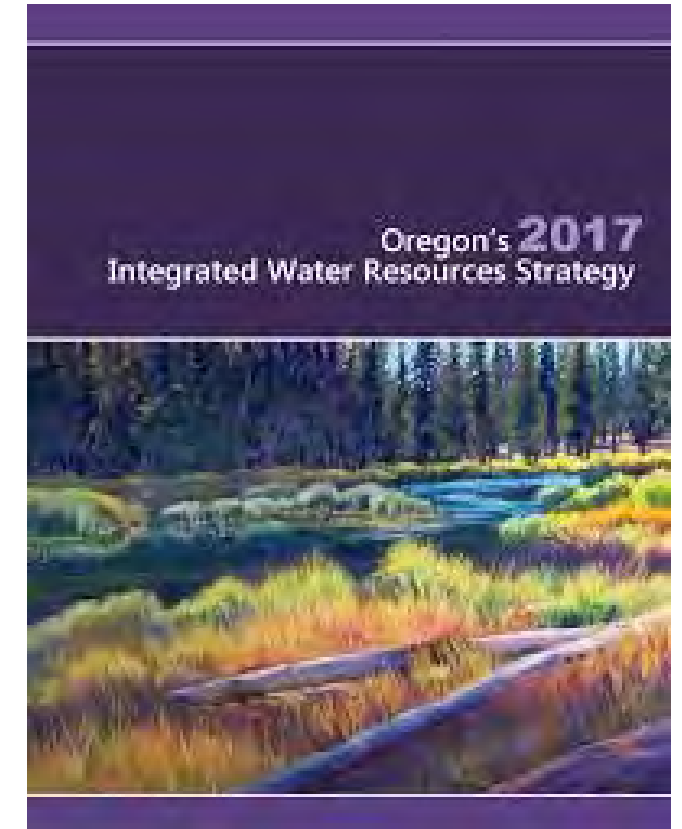
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STUDY DRIVERS – INCREASING DEMAND FOR FINITE RESOURCES



Nearly 70% of Oregon's Population Lives in the Willamette Basin

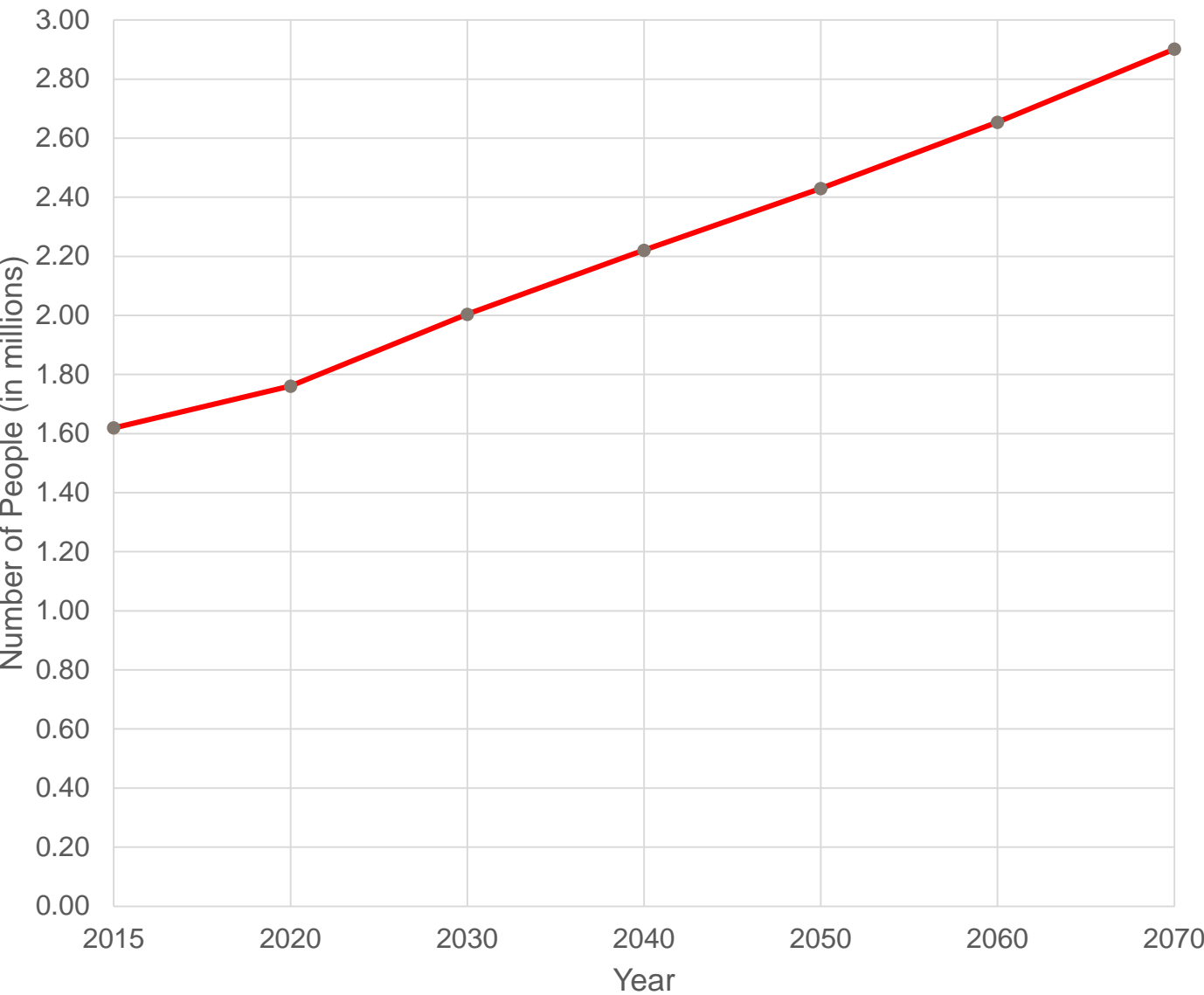


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STUDY DRIVERS – RISING M&I DEMAND

Study Area Population Forecast



STUDY PURPOSE AND AUTHORITY

Evaluate reallocation of joint-use storage behind Corps dams in the Willamette Valley to authorized purposes


- Flood Control Act of May 17, 1950, authorized plans contained in House Document 531; pertinent language from that document states
*The primary accomplishment of the proposed projects would be the provision of flood control and major drainage. Secondary accomplishments would be the generation of hydroelectric power; improvement of main stem Willamette for navigation; **increase of water supplies for irrigation and domestic use**; increase of low flows which would result in abatement of pollution and improved fish conditions for fish life; and improved recreational conditions at reservoirs and downstream (p. 1831)*
- House Committee on Public Works resolution for the Willamette Basin Review Study, adopted Sept. 8, 1988, authorized the Chief of Engineers to determine
*[...] whether modifications to the existing projects are warranted and determine the need for further improvements with the Willamette River Basin (the Basin) **in the interest of water resources improvements** (Exhibit 1)*



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BACKGROUND TIMELINE

- 1991** Appraisal-level study completed by Corps
- 1996** Study initiated; cost-share agreement signed
- 1999** Upp. Willamette steelhead, chinook listed in ESA
- 2000**  Study placed on hold by agency partners
- 2008** BiOps completed
- 2015** New cost-share agreement signed
- 2019** Chief's report finalized

REALLOCATION PROCESS

Complete

- ✓ Authority to study reallocation

In progress

- ✓ Preparation of reallocation feasibility study (final draft)
- ✓ Compliance with NEPA (draft environmental assessment)
- ☐ ESA consultation

Future

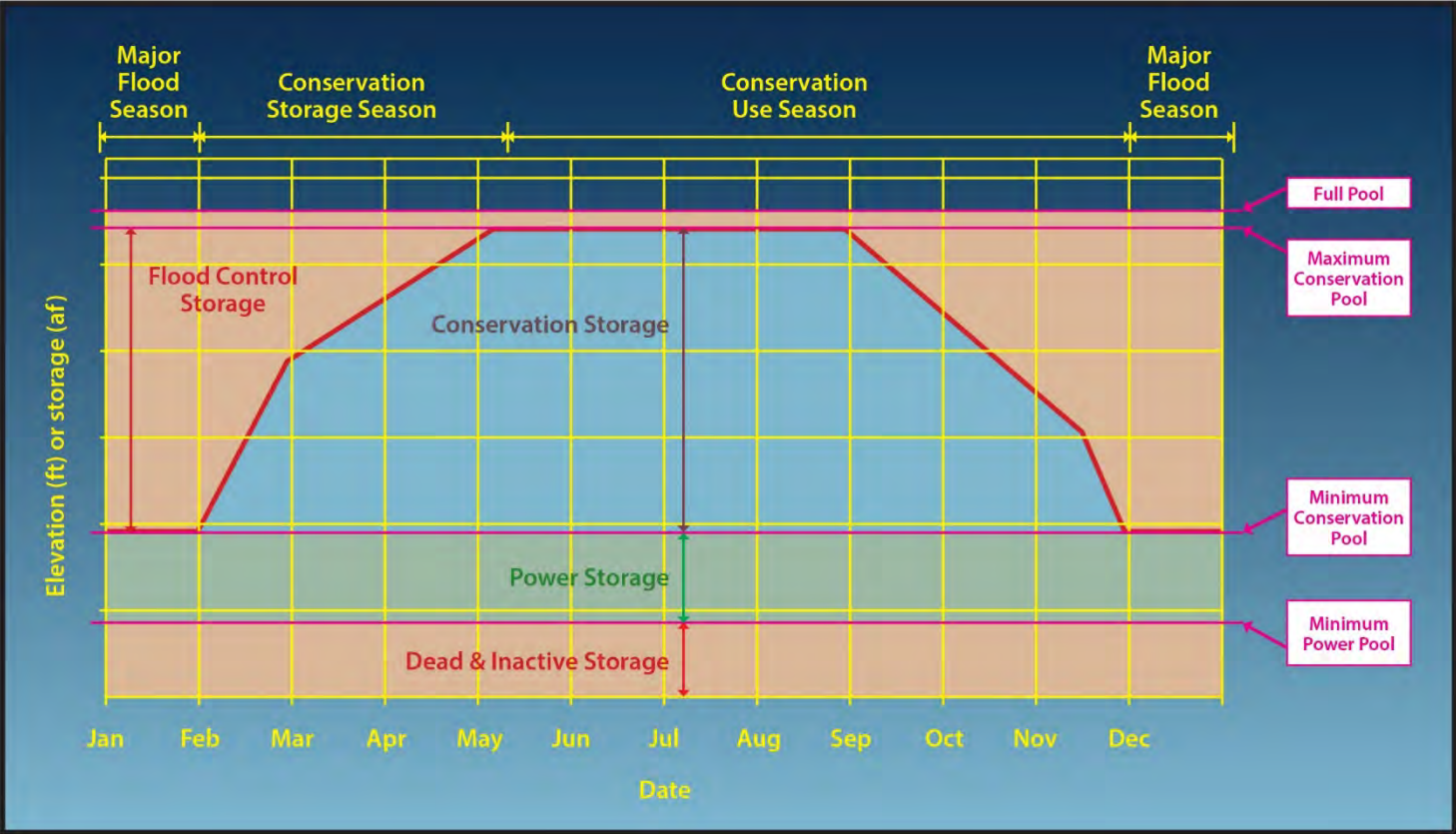
- ☐ Chief's report
- ☐ Congressional approval
- ☐ Agency implementation



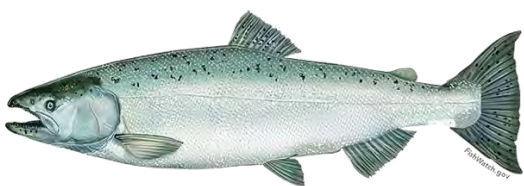
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CONSTRAINTS AND CONSIDERATIONS



Solution must fit within normal rule curve and BiOp constraints



Spatial Distribution of M&I and AI Demand for WVP Stored Water (2070)



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

Higher than 1.59 million acre-feet
conservation storage capacity.



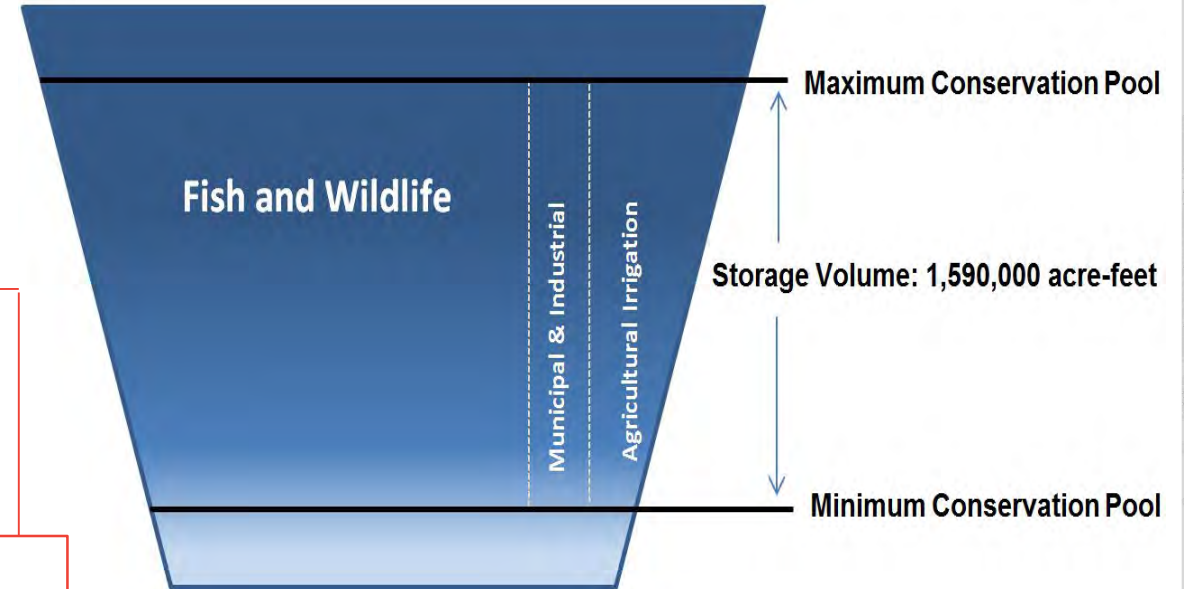
DETERMINING REALLOCATION ALTERNATIVES

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



Reallocation Alternative C:

M&I:	10%	159,750	acre-feet
AI:	21%	327,650	acre-feet
F&W:	69%	1,102,600	acre-feet

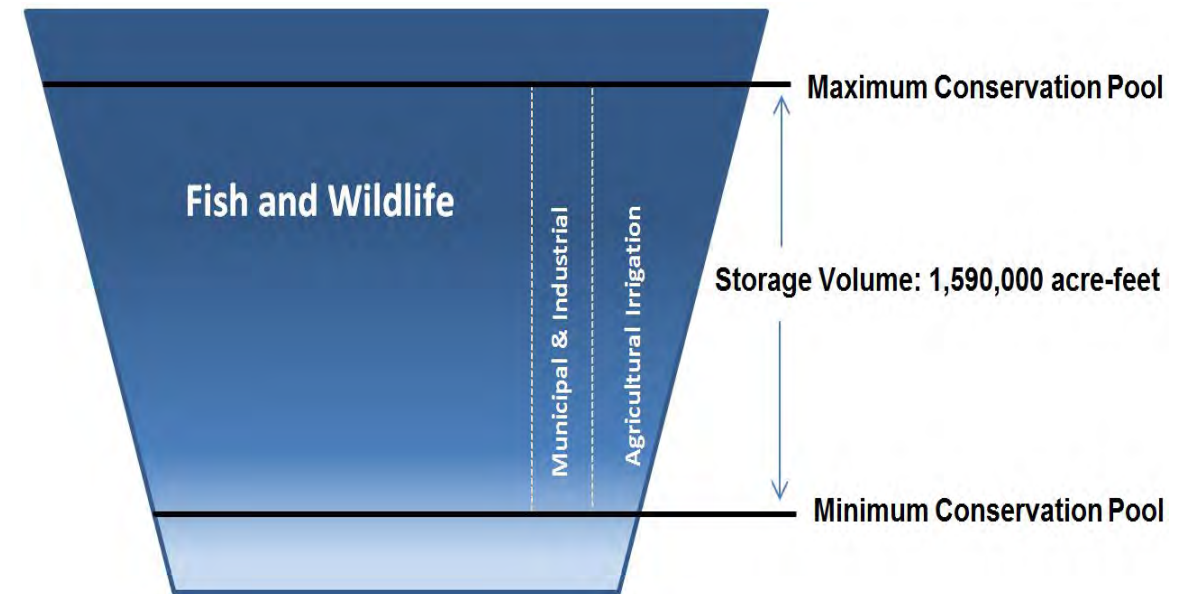


ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT PLAN ALTERNATIVES

Alternative A: “Share the shortfall” -- proportionally reduce water use across all sectors in dry years

Alternative B: Prioritize storage supply for fish & wildlife first, providing any remaining storage supply to other uses in dry years

Alternative C: Prioritize storage supply for consumptive uses first, providing any remaining storage supply to fish & wildlife purposes in dry years



KEY PROJECT DATES

March 2016: Public scoping meetings

January 2017: Demand estimates for irrigation, municipal, industrial uses completed

March 2017: Stakeholder meeting to share results

April 2017: Analysis completed to quantify use of storage to meet the 2008 BiOp flow objectives

Late July 2017: First version of full draft report completed

August - September 2017: Additional technical analyses

November 7, 2017: Release of draft integrated Feasibility Report-EA for concurrent review

January 5, 2018: Public comment period for draft integrated Feasibility Report-EA ends

March 19, 2018: Agency Decision Milestone completed

May 14, 2018: State Agency Position letter received

October 15, 2018: Formal ESA Consultation with NMFS Begins

July 2019: NMFS to Prepare Final BiOp

August 2019: State and Agency Review

November 2019: Signed Chief's Report (end of feasibility study)



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WHAT HAPPENS AFTER THE STUDY?

If approved by Congress,

- Bureau of Reclamation to file transfer application to State of Oregon for **change of use** on storage certificates to include all three uses
- State of Oregon to issue secondary **instream water rights** for protection of flows for fish & wildlife
- Water users seek **storage agreements** with Corps and Bureau of Reclamation for consumptive use and subsequently file water right applications with State of Oregon to use stored water
- Corps to update water control manuals and drought contingency plan
- State of Oregon and Corps to develop the framework of “share the shortfall” implementation plan

