

Willamette Basin Review

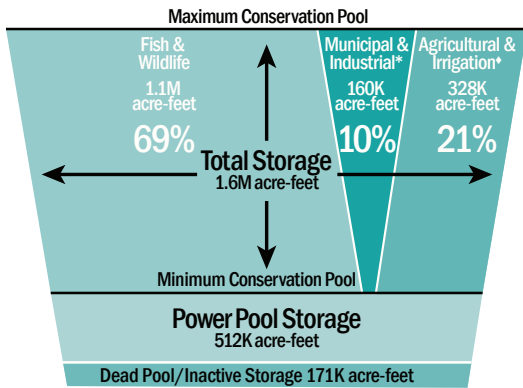


In the 2020 Water Resources Development Act (WRDA 2020), Congress provided authority for the reallocation of conservation storage in the Willamette Valley System in accordance with the Chief of Engineers Report for the Willamette Basin Review (WBR), prepared by the Corps.

The Oregon Water Resources Department (OWRD) was the non-federal sponsor on the feasibility study.

The roughly 1.6-million-acre-feet of conservation storage was reallocated for fish and wildlife, agricultural irrigation, and municipal and industrial water supply, the latter of which will allow for agreements with the municipal and industrial water users in the region.

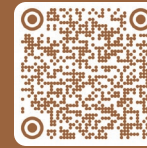
The Corps will continue to support OWRD in its processes and to implement the WBR.



* Municipal & Industrial capped at 11K acre-feet per WBR Biological Opinion.
 * Agricultural & Irrigation capped at 95K acre-feet per the 2008 Biological Opinion.

MORE INFO:
www.nwp.usace.army.mil/WBR

Willamette Master Planning



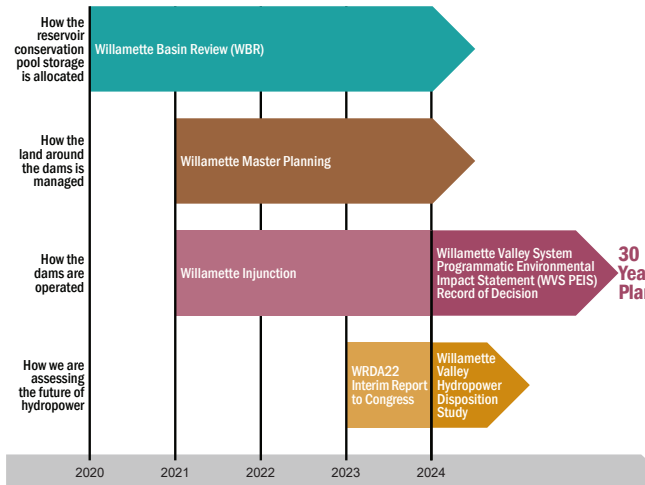
The Corps is evaluating land management around the Willamette reservoirs through the master planning process, revising six watershed-based master plans, which detail the management of recreation, natural and cultural resources.

This process establishes a vision for future natural resource management and guides the responsible stewardship and sustainable use of resources for the benefit of present and future generations.

It is a minimum two-year process for each watershed, with the first of five regional plans initiated in 2021. All remaining master planning efforts have been or will be initiated in the coming five years and are dependent on funding and other factors.

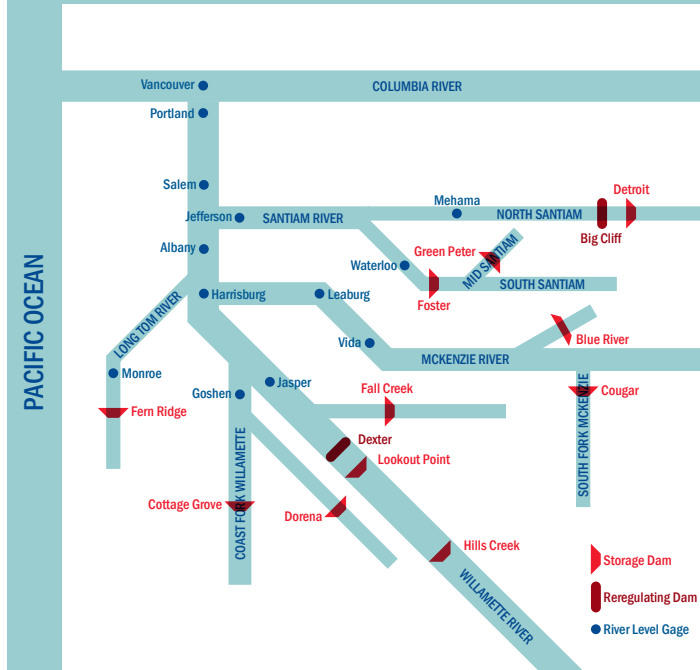
MORE INFO:
www.nwp.usace.army.mil/MasterPlans

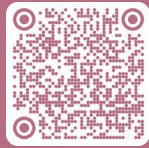
Timeline



US Army Corps of Engineers®
 Portland District

Willamette Valley Dams & Reservoirs Initiatives





The federal government was sued in March 2018 for delays in meeting the 2008 Biological Opinion's requirements including major structural modifications to several dams for downstream juvenile fish passage and temperature management.

The court, finding violations of the Endangered Species Act (ESA), issued an injunction on September 1, 2021, requiring the Corps to change operations across the basin.

These operations focused on improved fish passage and downstream water temperature management through alternative reservoir management (e.g., delayed refills, deep drawdowns, increased spill).

All injunction-related operations are being implemented, including the fall deep drawdowns at Lookout Point and Green Peter dams, which began in 2023.

The injunction required structural improvements as well. These include a new Adult Fish Facility downstream of Dexter Dam, improvements to Cougar Dam's regulating outlets for downstream fish passage survival and total dissolved gas (TDG) reduction structures below Big Cliff Dam.

The ongoing ESA consultation must also be completed by the end of December 2024, as ordered by the court.

MORE INFO:
www.nwp.usace.army.mil/Injunction



The Corps is analyzing the continued operation and maintenance of the 13 dams, reservoirs, riverbank protection projects, and hatchery programs within the Willamette Valley System (WVS) for flood risk management, hydropower, water quality, fish and wildlife, irrigation, water supply, navigation and recreation.

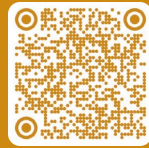
The Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS) analyzes a range of alternatives for operational versus structural changes that would allow the Corps to continue to operate the WVS and avoid jeopardizing the existence of Endangered Species Act-listed fish species.

Water storage reallocations, as authorized by Congress in the Willamette Basin Review, have been incorporated into the underlying assumptions of the PEIS. Through the PEIS, as informed by the accompanying Biological Opinion (BiOp), the Corps will decide on an operational plan for the next 30 years.

The BiOp will have new legal requirements for operating and maintaining the WVS and resolving the Willamette Injunction.

The PEIS also evaluates a suite of "near-term" operations similar to the 2021 court-ordered injunction measures to mitigate for delays if structural changes are selected as the long-term management option. The "near-term" operations will continue until the structures are operational.

MORE INFO:
www.nwp.usace.army.mil/WVS-PEIS



Congress, in section 8220 of the Water Resources Development Act of 2022 (WRDA 22), directed the Secretary of the Army to carry out a study on the future of hydropower production in the Willamette Valley System, which includes 13 dams, eight of which produce hydropower. An informational report of the results on an initial evaluation, now being conducted by the Portland District, will be submitted to Congress no later than June 2024.

The report's focus is to assess the Federal Interest for the hydropower purpose at each dam. Federal Interest considers hydropower production's economic values across multiple authorized purposes and includes non-monetary benefits such as the ability to provide operational flexibility to meet environmental requirements.

Another requirement is that the report must recommend whether further study should be conducted on discontinuing or cutting back hydropower power production at any or all of the eight dams.

Congress will decide what to do with the informational report and what further action, if any, it may want the Corps of Engineers to take.

MORE INFO:
www.nwp.usace.army.mil/WRDA22-Report

