

Willamette Basin Review

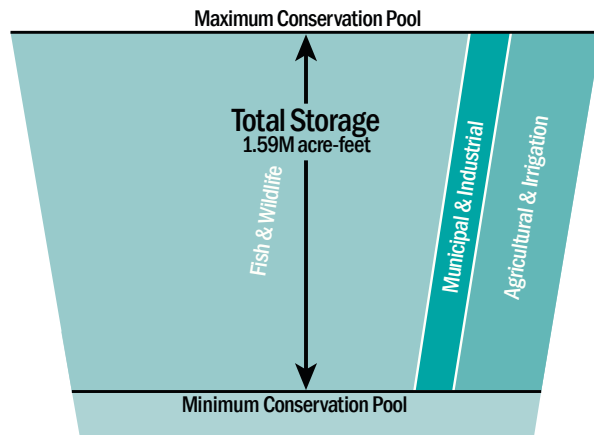


In the 2020 Water Resources Development Act (WRDA 2020), Congress provided authority for the reallocation of conservation storage in the Willamette Valley System in accordance with the Chief of Engineers Report for the Willamette Basin Review (WBR), prepared by the Corps.

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

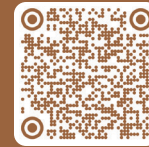
The roughly 1.6-million-acre-feet of conservation storage was reallocated for fish and wildlife, agricultural irrigation, and municipal and industrial water supply, the latter of which will allow for agreements with the municipal and industrial water users in the region.

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



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 six 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



US Army Corps of Engineers®
Portland District

P.O. Box 2946
Portland, OR 97208-2946

503 • 808 • 4510

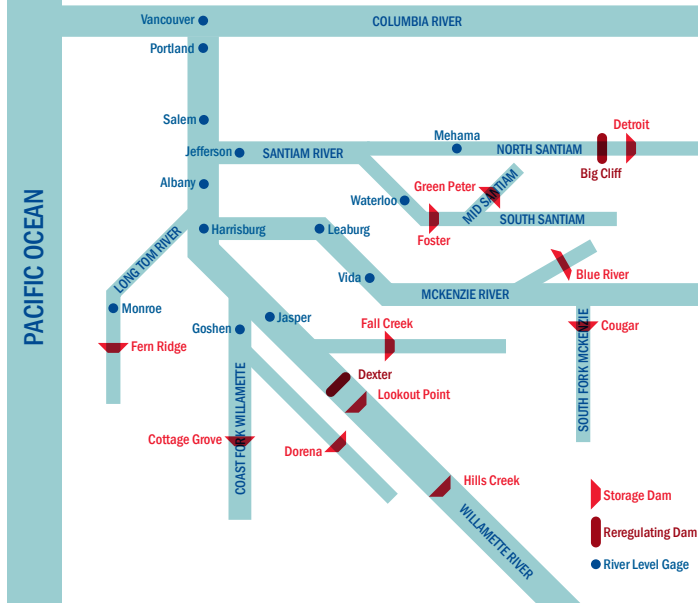
cenwp-pa@usace.army.mil

www.nwp.usace.army.mil

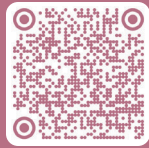


US Army Corps of Engineers®
Portland District

Willamette Valley Dams & Reservoirs Initiatives



Willamette Injunction



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

The U.S. District Court for the District of Oregon, finding violations of the Endangered Species Act, issued an interim injunction on September 1, 2021, imposing deadlines on structural improvements and requiring changes in operations across the basin.

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

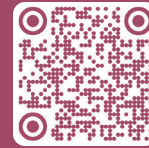
All injunction-related operations are being implemented, including the fall deep drawdowns at Lookout Point and Green Peter dams, which began in 2023.

Other changes include a new Adult Fish Facility downstream of Dexter Dam, improvements to Cougar Dam's regulating outlets for downstream fish passage survival and structures below Big Cliff Dam to reduce total dissolved gas.

The interim injunction will remain in effect until a new BiOp is finalized in December 2024.

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

Willamette Valley System Environmental Impact Statement



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 Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is a programmatic analysis of a range of operational and structural alternatives that would allow the Corps to continue to operate the WVS and avoid jeopardizing the existence of Endangered Species Act-listed fish.

Water storage reallocations, as authorized by Congress in the Willamette Basin Review, have been incorporated into the underlying assumptions of the EIS. Through the EIS, 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 EIS also evaluates a suite of interim 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 interim operations will continue until the structures are operational.

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

2022 Water Resource Development Act Interim Report to Congress on Willamette Hydropower



Congress, in section 8220 of the Water Resources Development Act of 2022 (WRDA22), 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. Section 8220 of WRDA22 requests an initial report is delivered to Congress within 18 months (June 2024).

The Corps' analysis shows that some elements of the dams that generate hydropower, specifically the penstock outlets and the turbines, are important for overall dam operations.

Penstock outlets are necessary for inspecting and maintaining the dam, handling emergency operations, and providing water flow for downstream fish facilities.

In addition, penstock outlets allow controlled water flows for water quality management of temperature, total dissolved gas, and minimum flow requirements for Endangered Species Act (ESA)-listed fish species.

Finally, turbines prevent damage to the dams by dissipating forces from the water flow. Deauthorizing hydropower would require expensive structural changes to each dam to mitigate these issues for continued safe operation. These changes would not replace the need to address existing ESA requirements. It would delay them and add cost.

Once Congress reviews the analysis they will determine any further actions they may want the Corps to take through legislative process.

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

