Willamette Basin Review Study

House Committee on Natural Resources
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Douglas Woodcock

Deputy Director

Oregon Water Resources Department

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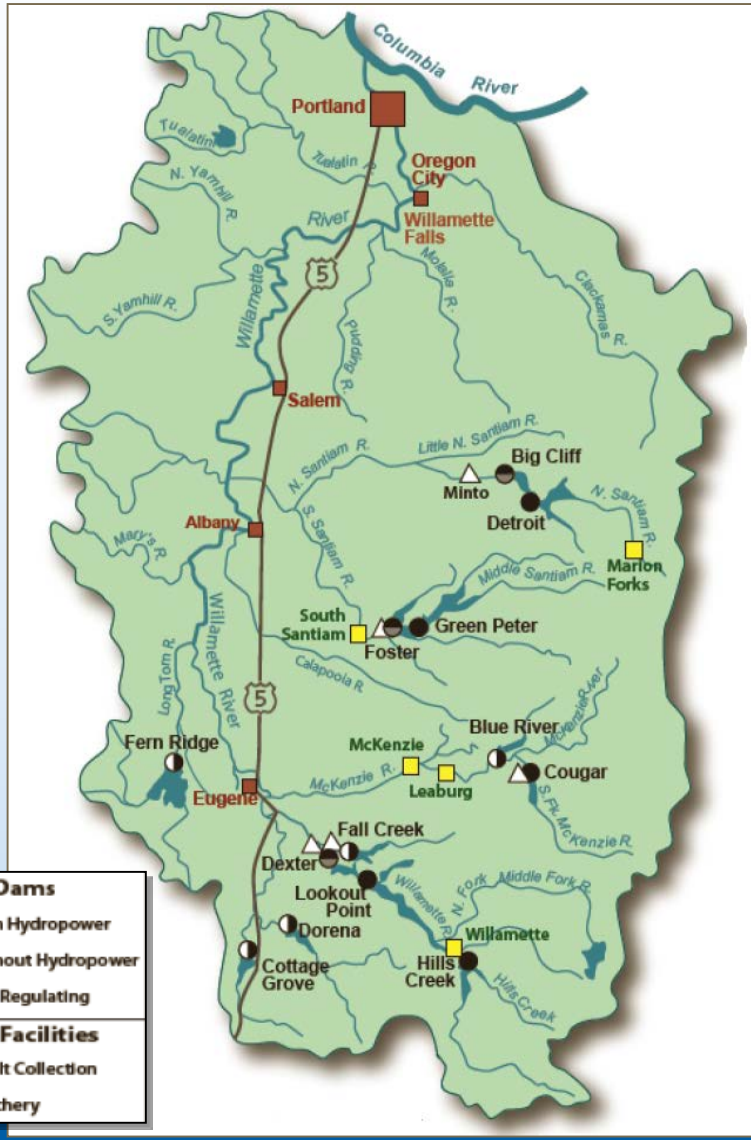
About the Willamette Basin

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
- Rapidly growing area of the state
- Diverse agricultural setting
- Several ESA-listed species



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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**

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The Drivers

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

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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

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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

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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**

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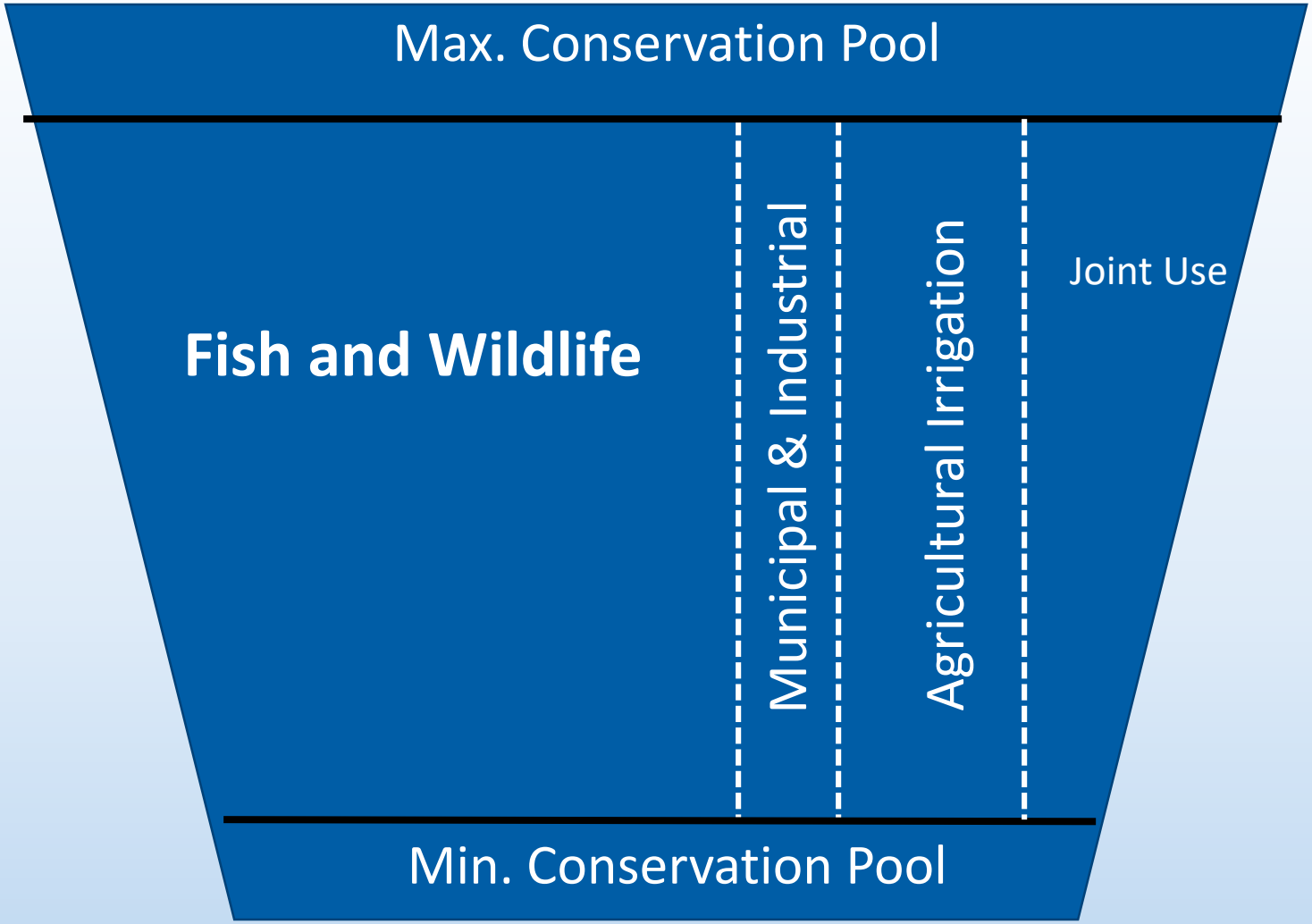
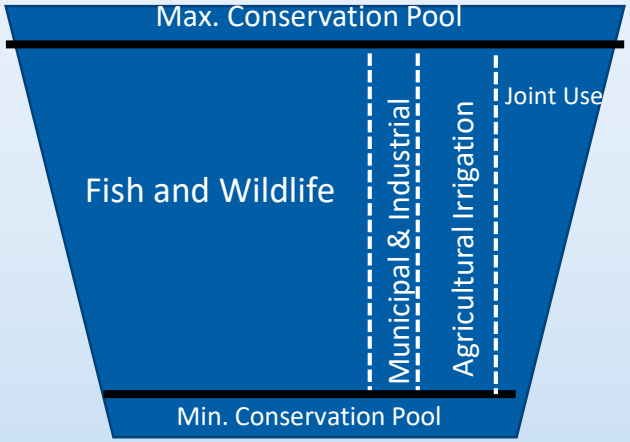
Allocation Alternative D



Allocation Alternative D

Allocation Alternative D (acre-feet)

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



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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**

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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)**

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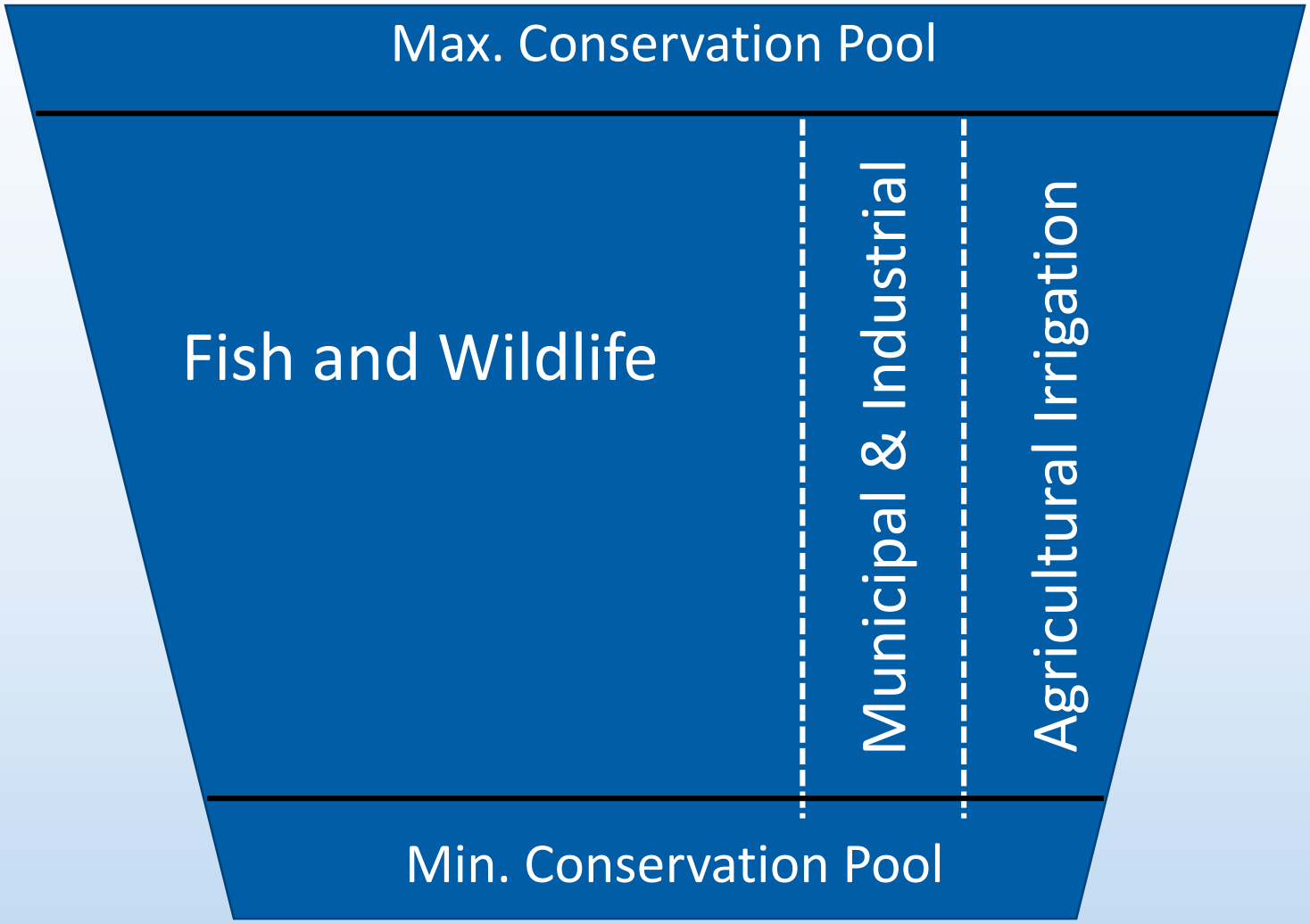
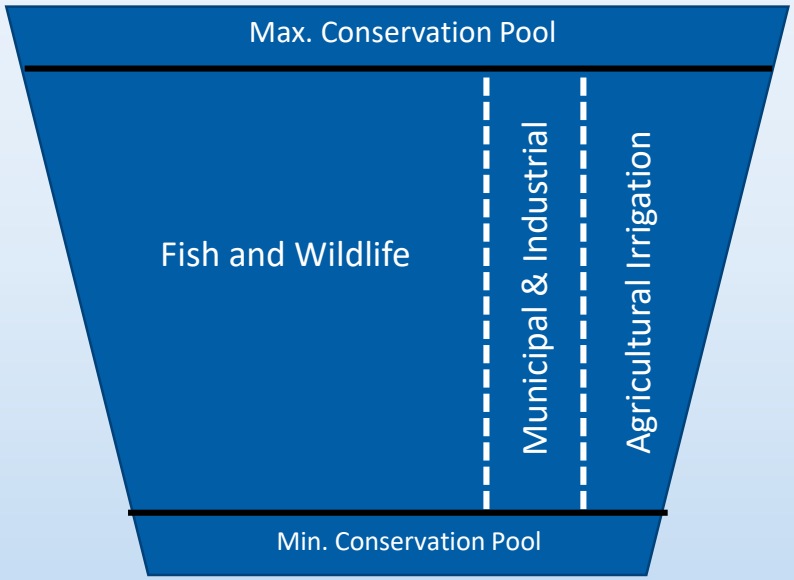
Allocation Alternative C



Allocation Alternative C

Allocation Alternative C (acre-feet)

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



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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 November 2019

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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

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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.