



OREGON WATER MONTHLY

Published monthly by Oregon Water Coalition with coverage important to Oregon agriculture

JUNE 2015
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New email newsletter arrives this month! Subscribe now.
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Oregon Water Monthly eEdition arrives, first issue headed to subscribers

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IMAGE: OWC

Oregon Water Monthly's new *eEdition* is a re-imagined and expanded full-color version of our printed monthly with additional items not available in print. At OWC, we are giving you even more ways to get news about issues important to the economic success of irrigated agriculture in the Northwest.

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Basin flow forecast still at 72 percent, recent rains insufficient

Despite recent rains in the Columbia Basin, it hasn't been enough to alter forecasts for low river flows until September, as drought conditions continue in Washington and Oregon.

Taylor Dixon of the National Weather Service's River Forecast Center in Portland gave a June teleconference presentation on weather and river flows, and the storyline of the last few months persists.

"Temperatures have played the biggest role in things this year," he said, adding that there was more rain than snow compared to 30-year averages, there was an earlier than normal snowpack melt followed by an earlier than normal runoff.

Dixon stressed that the overall precipitation picture since last October was actually close to average, and in many drainages throughout the basin, it was even better than last year's overall precipitation.

"Overall runoff is not far from normal but the timing of it has been abnormal," Dixon said.

Runoffs were higher than normal in most Columbia Basin river drainages up until April, but after that, they dropped precipitously.

At The Dalles Dam on the Columbia River, for instance, flows from October through June 3 has been at 102 percent of average, but between April 1 and June 3, flows have been at 77 percent of average.

That does not reflect dry conditions west of the Cascades, where record-low volume flows are forecasted through September. The outlook is somewhat [different] east of the Cascades, largely because river flows are augmented by higher elevation basins in Canada, Montana and Idaho, Dixon said.

Flows through September at The Dalles Dam on the Columbia River are expected to be 72 percent of average, a forecast that has not changed since an early May River Forecast Center update.

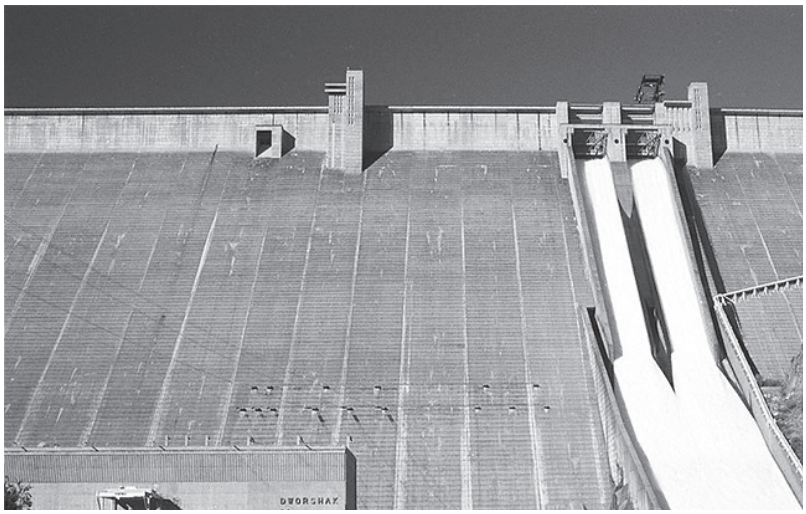
However, Dixon said that unexpected, increased diversions from upstream drainages, for agricultural or other purposes, could lead to lower flows.

More at: **oregonwater.org/news**

+ Oregon faces summer with little water to spare
+ Owyhee Irrigation District increases its water allotment
+ Counting flood releases against water rights causes stir

Temps, flows prompt earlier hydro operations in Lower Snake River

Higher temperatures and lower flows in the Lower Snake River are resulting in an earlier-than-usual change in summer hydro operations.



DWORSHAK DAM PHOTO: U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

This week the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers increased the outflow of Dworshak Dam's cool water to help keep the lower Snake River cool, which was measured this week near 68 degrees Fahrenheit.

That's the temperature number in Lower Granite Dam's tailwater that triggers summer cooling operations in order to protect salmon and steelhead listed under the Endangered Species Act.

In addition, the Corps transitioned to summer spill operations at lower Columbia River dams and will do the same next week at Snake River dams, and it changed minimum operating pool levels at some Snake River dams to ensure a safe entrance to locks for barge traffic on the river.

This after a spring season of compromises and operations as a result of one of the worst water supply forecasts on record, making 2015 the 51st worst out of the last 55 years.

The Northwest River Forecast Center had initially predicted that the April-through-August runoff volume at The Dalles Dam would be less than 72.2 million acre-feet, or less than 82 percent of average. However, the May forecast for the period dropped the prediction to 62.4 million acre-feet, or 71 percent of average.

When this happens, water and fishery managers of the Technical Management Team generally shift as much water as possible to aid juvenile migrants in the spring, understanding that using water earlier risks the supply of water normally available in the summer for flow augmentation and for reducing instream temperatures.

At last week's Northwest Power and Conservation Council meeting in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, the Bonneville Power Administration's Tony Norris said that more than half of the estimated 8 million acre-feet of flow augmentation for this spring and summer was provided from reservoirs in British Columbia under the Columbia River Treaty and the Non-Treaty Storage Agreement.

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Temps, flows prompt early hydro operations in Lower Snake River

That strategy was successful and resulted in average or near-average travel time for downstream juvenile migrants, said Ritchie Graves off NOAA Fisheries, also at the Council meeting.

"The bottom line for us is that we care about migration timing because fish that arrive later to the ocean generally return in lower numbers as adults than fish that arrive earlier," Graves said. "We're eager to see how fish respond to the hydrosystem conditions this year."

The last time the dry year criteria was triggered was in 2010. If the current dryness continues into 2016 or later, "I'm confident we could handle it," the Corps' Steve Barton said.

Some of the impact from spring flow choices is already showing in the lower Snake River where the temperature in the Lower Granite Dam tailrace measured within one-half of a degree of the 68 degree trigger, according to Steve Hall of the Corps' Walla Walla office. The Corps, he said, slightly increased the outflow at Dworshak Dam Wednesday, June 17, from 3,000 cubic feet per second to 5.3 kcfs.

"We'll have a little bit of a cooling period the next few days," he said. "But there is a warming trend over the weekend and we should get fairly close to the target (68 degrees) then, but we should squeak by."

He added that river temperatures have heated up to this point about three weeks earlier than last year.

The Dworshak Reservoir on the North Fork of the Clearwater River this week is just one-half foot from a full pool, but the water is needed now so the lower Snake River will remain within its temperature limits to ensure adequate water conditions for returning adult chinook and sockeye.

Outflow from the dam comes from the bottom and coolest part of the Dworshak pool and is typically used in summer months to keep water within the 68 degree limit for fish set by the federal biological opinion for Columbia-Snake river salmon and steelhead.

Still, Hall said, the Corps would like to conserve as much Dworshak water as possible now while meeting the 68-degree obligation. With outflow at 5.3 kcfs, he expects the Dworshak pool to be five feet from full by the end of June. By the end of July, the pool could be 25 feet to 50 feet from full.

Currently, there is a temperature buffer of one to one-half a degrees. Hall said if the cooling goal was closer to the 68 degree target, some water could be con-

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Farm Bureau analysis finds final WOTUS rule worse than original

Farm Bureau calls rule extreme and unlawful. President Bob Stallman says final rule will allow EPA and Corps to remotely discover tributaries, without even stepping foot on a farm.



EPHEMERAL STREAM PHOTO: NEBRASKA FARM BUREAU

American Farm Bureau Federation officials have now released documents outlining how the EPA's "Waters of the U.S." rule will give the agency sweeping powers to regulate land use despite a body of law prohibiting such overreach.

The Farm Bureau analysis, now available online at ***fbnews.fb.org*** makes available to the public details the EPA has refused to address in public meetings over the past year. The documents are available as PDF files.

"Our analysis shows yet again how unwise, extreme and unlawful this rule is," American Farm Bureau Federation President Bob Stallman said. "Our public affairs specialists and legal team have assembled the best analysis available anywhere, and their conclusions are sobering: Despite months of comments and innumerable complaints, the Waters of the U.S. proposal is even worse than before."

The WOTUS rule, first released in draft form in April 2014, has garnered fierce opposition from farmers, ranchers and land owners of all kinds. Dozens of states and countless municipalities oppose the measure since it would federalize regulation already handled at the local level. Just as important is the rule's radical view of "water" which, in its view, should encompass the vast majority of land in the U.S. since it surrounds actual water that may or may not be protected under the Clean Water Act.

Alarmed by the EPA's actions, the House recently voted to prohibit the it from enacting the rule. A similar bill is moving through the Senate and could come to a floor vote within weeks.

More at: **oregonwater.org/news**

- + Farm Bureau releases detailed analysis of 'Waters of U.S.' rule
- + EPA, Corps finish clean water rule aimed at streams, wetlands
- + New EPA rule muddies water for farmers and property owners
- + Ecology official says "Don't sweat over EPA water rule"

Writer: Staff
Publisher: American Farm Bureau
Published: June 11, 2015
URL: fbnews.fb.org

Governor Brown: Oregon must now rise to challenge of changing climate

With drought emergencies now declared in 19 Oregon counties, Governor Kate Brown says "Oregon must rise to the challenge that a changing climate brings."

Governor Brown has declared drought emergencies in four additional Oregon counties due to drought, low snow pack levels, and low water conditions. With the addition of Coos, Douglas, Gilliam and Jefferson Counties, 19 of Oregon's 36 counties are officially in a state of drought emergency.

"Oregon is only just beginning to face what will likely be an unprecedented wildfire season and drought," said Governor Brown. "Oregon must now rise to the challenge that a changing climate brings. My proposed $56 million package gives local communities the tools to prepare for drought conditions that may persist for years to come. It is imperative not only for us, but for future generations, that we take action now."

In an effort to raise awareness of the dire conditions that Oregon faces this summer, Governor Brown has launched the new "#ORdrought" campaign. State agencies are using the hashtag ***#ORdrought*** across social media to help keep Oregonians informed and prepared to adapt to drought conditions.

The Governor's drought declaration allows increased flexibility in how water is managed to ensure that limited supplies are used as efficiently as possible. In addition, the Governor is working with Oregon's federal delegation, state agencies, local governments, and other partners to coordinate efforts and mobilize actions to address drought-related issues.

More at: **oregonwater.org/news**

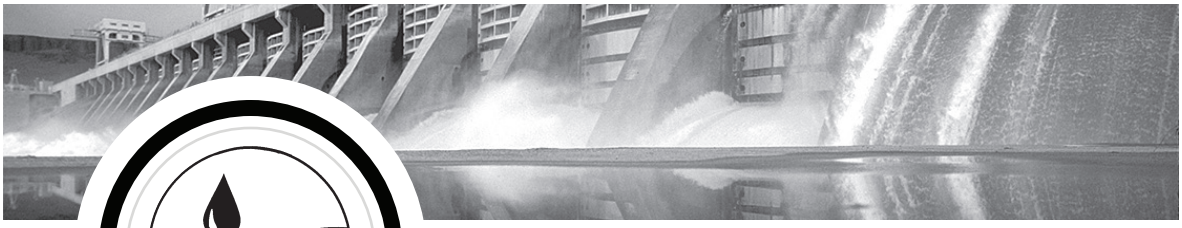
+ Sparse rainfall and unseasonable heat expected to impact Oregon wheat yields
+ Washington climatologist already foresees warm winter

Writer: Melissa Navas, Chris Pair
Publisher: State of Oregon
Published: June 12, 2015
URL: oregon.gov

*e*EDITION Headlines

1. Washington on brink of federal drought declaration, Central and Eastern worst hit
2. Water regulators halt new well permits in Harney County due to groundwater worries.
3. Washington plans shutdown of ag and ecology programs, which would affect drought relief.
4. Obama announces another $110 million of drought relief headed for the west.

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Follow older coverage from our legacy pages. Just visit ***oregonwater.org/legacy***. And starting in June 2015, OWC is proud to unveil a brand new monthly electronic news source, Oregon Water Monthly *eEdition*. Inside it, you will find all of the coverage of our printed newsletter and more, with additional content and related articles that simply cannot fit here. If you'd like to receive this electronically-delivered email-distributed publication each month, either 'in addition' to or 'instead' of your printed newsletter, point your browser to the web link below to subscribe now. You may also unsubscribe or opt out anytime.

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Farm Bureau hails Senate action to stop EPA overreach

The House of Representatives recently voted to prohibit the EPA from enacting its proposed WOTUS rule. Now a Senate committee has fast-tracked a bill to halt the rule.

The Senate Environment and Public Works Committee's passage of a bill to stop the EPA's "Waters of the U.S. Rule" shows Congress is listening, even if the EPA won't.

The controversial WOTUS rule gives federal agencies new powers to regulate many normal farming, ranching and business activities, making it the largest federal overreach in memory.

The Federal Water Quality Protection Act, S. 1140, would force EPA and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to scrap its own, extreme interpretation of the Clean Water Act and return to the drawing board, this time to craft a new rule that would fall within the parameters of Congress' intent. The EPA and Army Corps would be required to take into consideration the valid concerns of farmers, ranchers, home builders and others who would be affected by the new rule.

"Thousands of farmers, ranchers and land owners raised numerous concerns about the rule during the formal public comment period, but looking at the final rule it's clear no one at EPA was listening," American Farm Bureau Federation President Bob Stallman said.

"Farmers and ranchers are committed to protecting the land and resources we use to raise the food, fuel and fiber we all consume. We're grateful that congressional lawmakers are willing to step up to safeguard both farmers and their land."

Specifically, the bill directs the EPA and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to issue a revised WOTUS rule that does not include things such as isolated ponds, ditches, agriculture water, storm water, groundwater, floodwater, municipal water supply systems, wastewater management systems and streams without enough flow to carry pollutants to navigable waters.

The measure says EPA's re-written proposal must consider all stakeholders and include a review of economic and small business input, steps Farm Bureau says EPA skipped the first time. It also requires a comment period on the revised proposed rule of no less than 120 days and a final rule published no later than Dec. 31, 2016.

The committee's action comes less than a month after the House passed a similar measure, the Regulatory Integrity Protection Act of 2015, H.R. 1732. "We thank

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Yakima Basin water supply June forecast out, May storms factored

The June 2015 'Total Water Supply Available' forecast for the Yakima Basin has been released by the Bureau of Reclamation. May storms helped hold flows and reservoirs fairly level.



UPPER YAKIMA RIVER BASIN PHOTO: J BREW

The U.S. Bureau of Reclamation's June 1, 2015, Total Water Supply Available forecast for the Yakima Basin indicates a full water supply for senior water rights during the 2015 irrigation season but an estimated 44 percent supply for junior water rights during the same period.

Reclamation will issue further water supply forecasts monthly or as needed at least through July.

"The May rain storms have helped hold flows and reservoirs fairly level through the second half of May," said Chuck Garner, Yakima Project River Operations supervisor.

The June TWSA forecast is based on observed and estimated flows, precipitation, snowpack and reservoir storage for April 15 to September 30, 2015.

Future weather conditions that can help determine the timing of run-off and demand for water are also critical in determining streamflow, prorationing, and storage available in the reservoirs.

If precipitation and run-off continue to be unfavorable, Reclamation expects the water supply available for its junior users will decline further.

Since longer term weather conditions are unpredictable, Garner recommends that water conservation be considered by all users in the Yakima Basin.

The U.S. Bureau of Reclamation is the largest wholesale water supplier and the second largest producer of hydroelectric power in the United States, with operations and facilities in the 17 Western States.

Reclamation facilities also provide substantial flood control, recreation, and fish and wildlife benefits.

More at: **oregonwater.org/news**

+ Report: Washington snowpack officially gone
+ Roza District turns water back on, orchards losing to drought
+ Washington farmers, wildlife managers prepare for drought

Writer: Staff
Publisher: Bureau of Reclamation
Published: June 1, 2015
URL: usbr.gov

2015 sea lion predation report measures twice 10-year average

After a record year of devouring nearly 8,500 chinook salmon and steelhead in Bonneville Dam's tailrace, Steller and California sea lion (pinnipeds) presence is finally on the decline.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, which has reported every two weeks since March 12 on sea lion abundance and their predation on salmon and other fish species at the dam, completed its final report of the year, June 9.

The number of sea lions and the number of salmon they've eaten this year at Bonneville Dam rose to record levels, according to the status report. The daily averages in April rose to more than twice the ten year daily averages in the years 2002-2014.

There was an average of 12 pinnipeds per day in January and eight in February, and the sea lion presence per day rose from there to 22 in March, 78 in April and 56 in May.

The highest per day count was April 22 with 116 pinnipeds in the tailrace, a new record for Bonneville Dam. The former record was in 2010 with 71 pinnipeds. The single day record from 2010 was surpassed on 15 separate days in 2015.

To break that down by sea lion species, the first California sea lions arrived at the dam February 9 and the highest number was 70 on May 13, a new record for Bonneville. The former record of 52 was set in 2007. The single day record from 2007 was exceeded this year 12 times.

Some 190 California sea lions were branded; 28 were branded in previous years and are returning sea lions. Another 31 were brands on sea lions not previously observed at Bonneville and 131 were trapped and branded at Bonneville this year.

The first Steller sea lions were observed January 13, with the highest daily number of 69 observed on April 22. That's a new Bonneville record. The previous daily record was 53 Steller sea lions in 2010. The single day record from 2010 was exceeded on five days this year.

The Corps documented 54 unique individual Steller sea lions. 33 were repeat sea lions and 21 were unidentified and may be new to the dam. Of the 33 repeat sea lions, 15 were branded.

More at: **oregonwater.org/news**

+ NOAA fisheries releases sockeye salmon recovery plan
+ Summer chinook, steelhead, sockeye fishing begins

Columbia treaty negotiations may include 'ecosystem-based function'

The U.S. has decided to include flood risk mitigation, ecosystem-based function, and hydropower generation interests in its Columbia River Treaty draft negotiating position.



COLUMBIA RIVER, REVELSTOKE BC PHOTO: ALAN SILVESTER

The U.S. State Department, in possible future negotiations with Canada over the Columbia River Treaty, has decided "to include flood risk mitigation, ecosystem-based function, and hydropower generation interests in the draft U.S. negotiating position," according to a recent letter from the state department to the Northwest congressional delegation.

"We assure you that the future of the Treaty is a priority, and internal deliberations are gaining momentum," says the state department in the letter.

"We hope to approach Canada soon to begin discussions on modernization of the Treaty."

Northwest conservation groups praised the state department for including "ecosystem function" in the nation's negotiation position as it prepares to negotiate the Columbia River Treaty with Canada.

At issue in the region is whether or not a revised or "modernized" treaty should take into account ecosystem function considerations, such as salmon restoration. The original treaty in place today is focused on hydropower generation and flood control considerations.

"There is solid, broad-based support among Northwest states, tribes, businesses and citizens to promptly begin formal talks with Canada to modernize the half-century-old Columbia River Treaty for tomorrow's Northwest," said Pat Ford, representing Save Our Wild Salmon. "Conservationists and fishermen applaud the State Department for taking this needed step."

Throughout the process of developing U.S. recommendations for a new treaty, utility interests have expressed concern that expanding the scope of the treaty to include ecosystem-based functions is unwise, particularly because draft negotiating positions do not recognize billions of dollars that have been spent over decades to mitigate damages caused by construction of federal hydropower dams.

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NEW WEBSITE

If you haven't visited the brand NEW Oregon Water Coalition website, you are missing out. Our all new site, launched last winter, delivers additional content to our members and anyone else interested in the issues many of us care about. The redesigned site brings all new functionality and a totally revamped look and feel. Improvements and upgrades include sliding presentation panels, a new integrated Press Room newsblog (now in the same place as the regular site), separate news and gallery content, lightbox viewing effects, semantic menus and a fresh new look.

Keep informed of all the latest issues and developments in water, irrigation and agriculture throughout the Northwest at oregonwater.org

Unlike our monthly newsletter occasionally edited for content, internet coverage will be unlimited by space and publishing deadline. This means expanded and more timely coverage. Go to ***oregonwater.org***



Drought Watch page: Oregon Water Resources Department provides coverage of conditions

Oregon is experiencing drought conditions in many areas of the state. Find out more about the conditions, drought assistance, and what you can do to use water wisely.

Visit the Oregon Water Resources Department's new *Drought Watch* page to learn more about current conditions, drought assistance, and what you can do to use water more wisely.

With drought emergencies now declared in 19 of Oregon's 36 counties, and counting, it's important to stay up to date on all current data and new developments.

Resources at the site include OWRD's new weekly drought reports, drought water right summary reports, basin water supply status reports and maps, historical executive drought orders, and a lot more.

Find additional resources including reservoir storage diagrams for the Deschutes, Rogue, Tualatin, Umatilla and Willamette River Basins, and Southeastern Oregon.

Other useful data can be accessed from the site, such as the latest Oregon water supply outlook, three-month outlook, temperature precipitation probability, Oregon surface water supply index, and 7-day average streamflow compared to historical streamflow for the same day.

Visit the updated OWRD *Drought Watch* page on the web anytime at:

+ drought.oregon.gov

OREGON WATER MONTHLY

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EPA, DOE reach settlement on timetable to remove Hanford sludge

The EPA and Department of Energy have settled differences over the department's failure to meet a prior milestone for beginning removal of sludge from Hanford's K area.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Department of Energy have reached a settlement over DOE's failure to meet a critical September 2014 Tri-Party Agreement milestone for beginning sludge removal from the Hanford Nuclear Reservation's K West Basin along the Columbia River.

The settlement includes an "updated achievable and enforceable timetable" for beginning and completing sludge removal from the Basin, says an EPA press release.

According to Rick Albright, Director of EPA's Superfund cleanup program in Seattle, the Agency is looking forward to seeing real progress on the K Basin cleanup.

"We're glad we've reached an agreement so we can get back to focusing on cleanup and protecting the Columbia River," Albright said. "The K Basins should be one of the Department of Energy's highest cleanup priorities at the site. They need to make some real progress, rather than just explain missed deadlines, or they will face more penalties."

Under the terms of the settlement, 10 other associated 100 K Area cleanup milestones affected by the delay in the start of sludge removal are being extended. A new milestone for completing installation of sludge transfer equipment has also been added.

The new milestone date for starting sludge removal is September 30, 2018. Sludge removal must now be completed by December 31, 2019.

Other milestones that have been extended include the milestone to complete deactivation, demolition and removal of the K West Basin by 2023 and to complete all response actions in the K Area by 2024.

As part of the agreement, DOE will pay a stipulated penalty of $125,000 for missing the September sludge removal start date.

The 100 K Area is located along the Columbia River, and is one of six areas where plutonium production reactors operated during the Cold War.

K East and K West Reactors are operated in the 100 K Area. Water-filled basins stored spent uranium fuel pieces removed from the reactor cores. Beginning in the 1970s, spent fuel from another reactor, Hanford's N Reactor, was stored in the K Basins.

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Report suggests 'user-pays' to fund Corps' inland waterway ops

A report from the National Research Council's Transportation Research Board says a new plan is needed to target reliability, performance and efficiency of resources.

While the U.S. inland waterways system covers a vast geographic area, its freight traffic is highly concentrated, and the system needs a sustainable and well-executed plan for maintaining system reliability and performance to ensure that its limited resources are directed where they are most essential, according to a new report.

More targeted operations and maintenance (O&M) investments informed by an asset management approach would prioritize locks and facilities most in need of maintenance and for which the economic impacts of disruption would be highest.

The federal inland waterways infrastructure is managed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and funded through Corps' navigation budget. The system moves nearly 7 percent of all ton-miles of domestic cargo, primarily coal, petroleum, food and farm products, chemicals, and crude materials.

It consists of more than 36,000 miles of commercially navigable channels and about 240 working lock sites. Navigation could be improved by directing O&M resources toward major facilities with high volumes of traffic, and where the time lost to shipping delays is significantly higher than the river average, the report says.

About 50 percent of all barge cargo moves on six major corridors – including the Columbia-Snake River, Mississippi River, Illinois River, and Ohio River – which represent 16 percent of the total waterway miles, while many inland waterway segments have minimal or no freight traffic. The distribution of funding toward more essential facilities is already occurring in Corps' budgeting process, but a standard asset management approach to O&M spending is not fully developed or deployed across all Corps districts.

A system more reliant on user payments would provide needed revenue for maintenance and promote economic efficiency while being more consistent with the federal posture toward other freight transportation modes that are more dependent on user fees, the report says.

Writer: Staff
Publisher: Columbia Basin Bulletin
Published: June 19, 2015
URL: cbbulletin

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Treaty position includes 'ecosystem function'

Utility interests say that there are multiple mitigation plans already in place because of laws such as the Endangered Species Act.

In December, 2013, the "U.S. Entity" – comprised of top officials of the Bonneville Power Administration and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers officials – sent a final regional recommendation concerning the future of the Columbia River Treaty to the state department.

The recommendation to strike up negotiations with Canada regarding a renewal of the treaty sets out numerous goals for such discussions, such as re-evaluation what monetary "entitlement" should be sent north of the border to pay for benefits received south of the border, and whether ecosystem considerations, such as salmon restoration needs, should be part of any new agreement.

The treaty between the two countries was signed in 1961, with implementation beginning in 1964. The treaty primarily aimed at reducing flood risk downstream, through the construction of water storage facilities in Canada and northwest Montana, and supporting hydropower generation.

More at: **oregonwater.org/news**

+ NW urges Obama-led Columbia Treaty negotiations
+ Federal government gathering info for Columbia Treaty
+ Groups issue declaration for Columbia River Treaty

Writer: Staff
Publisher: Columbia Basin Bulletin
Published: June 12, 2015
URL: cbbulletin.com

Farm Bureau hails action to stop EPA overreach

Chairman Inhofe and all the other committee members who voted for this legislation," Stallman said. "We also urge the Senate to pass this measure soon. The sooner Congress acts, the sooner the agencies can re-craft a rule that more accurately reflects the will of Congress and respects the concerns of all affected parties."

More at: **oregonwater.org/news**

+ EPA falls under scrutiny at Senate Judiciary hearing
+ House-passed bill hangs WOTUS rule out to dry
+ House wants evidence EPA considered ag in WOTUS

Writer: Staff
Publisher: American Farm Bureau
Published: June 10, 2015
URL: fbnews.fb.org

Temps, flows prompt earlier hydro operations in Lower Snake River

served and that water could be used later in the summer. As it is, water that the Corps would have this year for August cooling would be borrowed from water typically used in September.

At the TMT meeting Wednesday, Russ Keifer of the Idaho Department of Fish and Game suggested the operations remain on the cooler side in order to get the adult fish up through the system and then take another look in July to determine how to manage the operation through August. He said 90 percent of the adult sockeye run is usually through the Snake River by the end of July.

The Corps also moved to summer spill operations to aid fish passage at lower Columbia River dams (Bonneville, The Dalles, John Day and McNary dams) this week, beginning the new operations Tuesday, June 16.

It will transition to summer spill operations at the four lower Snake River dams next week, beginning June 21. Summer fish operations will continue at these eight dams until August 31.

In a statement, the Corps said summer spill for fish is in accordance with the 2015 Fish Operations Plan and is similar to last summer's operations. "Jointly developed by federal and regional fish managers, the goal is to provide timely and safe passage of juvenile salmon through the hydropower system during their outmigration to the ocean," the Corps said. "Spill for fish passage is one of several tools to facilitate safe, expedient passage at mainstem hydroelectric dams."

"Through a coordinated set of actions, the federal agencies are working with state and Tribal partners to enhance juvenile and adult salmon and steelhead survival, meet fish survival performance standards required by the 2008/2010/2014 Biological Opinion, and provide benefits to resident fish."

More at: **oregonwater.org/news**

+ Dworshak discharge flows raised to cool rising river temps
+ Corps announces extended Columbia-Snake lock closure
+ Ag's needs from Willamette dam, reservoir system studied
+ McNary Dam flows increased to move fish through Columbia
+ Faced with choice, fish/hydro managers briefly raise flows

Writer: Staff
Publisher: Columbia Basin Bulletin
Published: June 19, 2015
URL: cbbulletin.com

EPA, DOE reach settlement on Hanford sludge removal date

By 2004, all 2,300 tons of spent fuel were removed from the basins. Radioactive sludge, a result of corrosion on spent fuel stored in the basins for decades, has been consolidated in underwater storage containers in the K West Basin, with approximately 35 cubic yards of sludge remaining for removal.

More at: **oregonwater.org/news**

+ Groups file suit, challenge water quality permit for nuclear plant
+ DOE, DOI, Corps renew 5-year plan to advance hydropower

Writer: Staff
Publisher: Columbia Basin Bulletin
Published: May 29, 2015
URL: cbbulletin.com





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Please consider a membership from one of the tiers below. Thank you for helping us to preserve and promote responsible development and use of Oregon's water resources.

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