

FJ Sayers Dam & Reservoir Feasibility Study Project Modifications for Improvement of the Environment



US Army Corps
of Engineers®
Baltimore District

Public Workshop
August 30, 2017

SRBC

Workshop Format

- 6:00-7:00pm Doors Open and Poster Session Available
 - 7:00-7:30pm Welcome and FJ Sayers Project Overview
 - 7:30-8:30pm Public Comment
 - 8:30pm Adjourn
- ❖ Follow up through the project website, media postings, email comments accepted through Sept. 15.



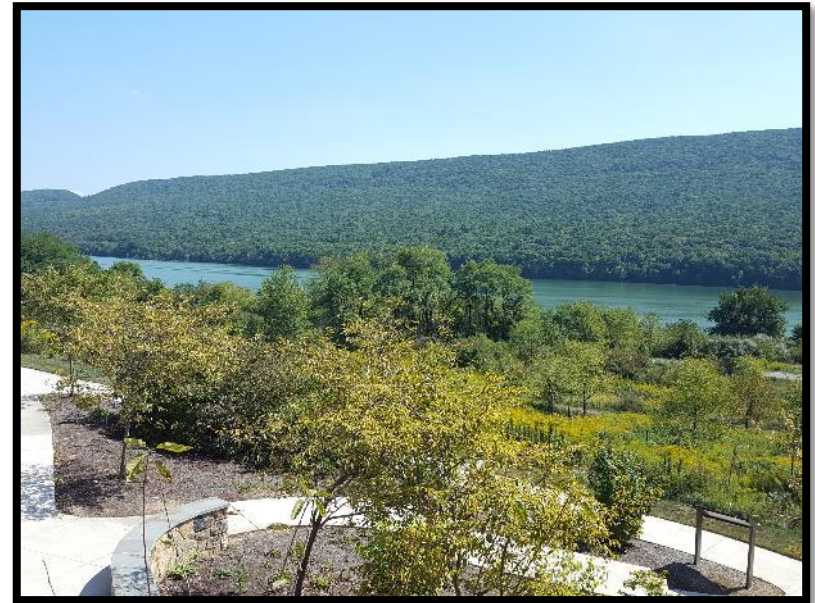
Workshop Outline

- Introduction
- Study Purpose & Scope
- Next Steps
- Public Comment



Study Purpose

- To consider alternatives for operational changes that would improve the environment *without* adversely impacting flood control, recreation, or water quality.



Bottom Line: Can we do better?

FJ Sayers Dam & Reservoir

- USACE flood control reservoir on Bald Eagle Creek (West Branch Susquehanna Sub-basin) operational since 1969.
- Project purposes include flood risk management (primary), recreation, and water quality.
- Drainage area of 339 square miles; recreation pool & storage capacity.
- PA DCNR leases, operates, & maintains 5,900 acres of recreational land/facilities (Bald Eagle State Park).



What this study will not do

The study will not recommend reservoir operational changes that:

- Significantly alter the summer pool levels or change the recreational use of the reservoir.
- Diminish the flood reduction, recreation, or water quality improvement purposes of the reservoir and dam.
- Increase dust, odor, or insect problems.
- Provide extra water for natural gas development.



What this study will do

- Evaluate alternatives to improve the in-lake and downstream environment.
- Evaluate more stable lake levels and low flow releases during droughts.
- Compare benefits versus impacts of various other alternatives.

Existing Constraints

- ***Flood control:*** Winter drawdown pool level is based on snowpack conditions, current drought/wet conditions, projections for spring rains.
- ***Recreation:*** Over 500,000 visitors annually; Water-based recreation are tied to lake levels.
- ***Dust:*** Based on the Dust Alleviation Study (1994) - 625' maintained through February 15 unless flood storage capacity is needed.
- ***Ecosystem resources:*** Supports wild trout; Differences exist between upstream and downstream fish communities.



Recreation Input Received Already

- Beach - impacts at 629' and closes at 628';
- Marina - A,B, C docks close at 629', boat ramp closes at 627', and the entire marina closes at 625';
- Boat launches - needs vary, impacts start at 629', closures at 628', 627' and 625'; and
- Howard Fire Company Punkin' Chunkin' in October - normal pool level in beach cove.



Environmental Resources

- PA Chapter 93 use designations: upstream - Trout Stocked Fishery, downstream - Warmwater Fishery;
- Stonefly documented above but not below dam (pollution sensitive species);
- Limited submerged aquatic vegetation due to winter drawdown - curly leaf pond weed, milfoil, water lilies; and
- Limited wetlands - some wetlands are associated with lake but more extensive wetlands exist in the stream corridor above and below dam.



Potential Benefits

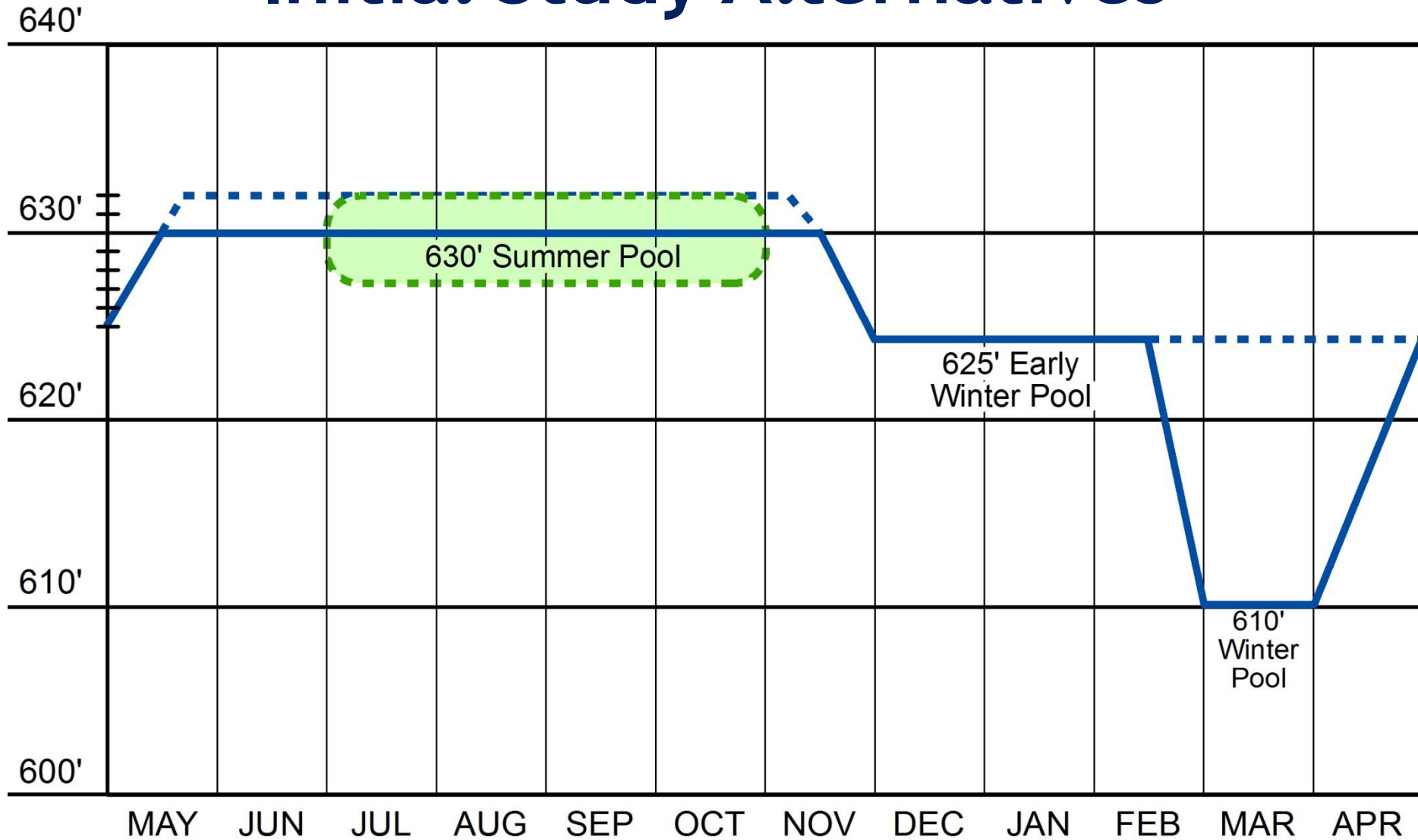
- Improve fishery downstream (Brown Trout)
- Improve in-lake fishery and nearshore habitat (bass/panfish)
- Improve stream habitat conditions during droughts (low flow periods)
- Improve water quality (temperature and acid mine drainage)
- Improve recreation downstream (kayaking, fishing)

Initial Study Alternatives

- No Action
- Revised Fall Release
- More Stable Lake Level
- Increased Lake Level
- Revised Minimum Release
- Fisheries Based Releases
- Water Quality Based Releases



Initial Study Alternatives



Recreational Constraints

● 629 - Marina (100 Slips)

● 628 - Beach/Swimming

● 627 - Boat Launches

Initial Study Alternatives

- No Action
- Revised Fall Release
- More Stable Lake Level
- Increased Lake Level
- **Revised Minimum Release**
- **Fisheries Based Releases**
- **Water Quality Based Releases**



Next Steps

- Follow up through the project website, media postings, email comments accepted through 15 Sept
- Finalize alternative plans
- Conduct model simulations
- Analyze alternatives and impacts
- Release of draft report for public and agency review
- Next public workshop in Spring 2018

Public Comment Period

7:30-8:30PM

- **Goals:**
 - ✓ Receive agency and public input - support and/or concerns
 - ✓ Identify additional data or information
 - ✓ Ensure an open process as part of, and BEFORE, decision-making

Public Comment Period

7:30-8:30PM

- ~7:30-8:15pm: Comments from microphones
 - 2 minutes each (30 sec remaining notice)
 - May state your name and who you represent
 - Agree with the commenter, raise your hand
 - Comment card collection
- ~8:15-8:30pm: Agency responses to comment cards and themes from open comment period
- Comments can be provided on the project website



Study Information

http://www.nab.usace.army.mil/FJSayers_Feasibility_study/

