

A photograph of the Leaburg Hydroelectric Project dam. The dam is a concrete structure with several spillways. Water is flowing over the spillways, creating white rapids. The dam is surrounded by a dense forest of evergreen trees. The sky is overcast. The text "Decommissioning the Leaburg Hydroelectric Project: What's around the bend?" is overlaid on the image in white, bold, sans-serif font.

Decommissioning the Leaburg Hydroelectric Project:

What's around the bend?

Leaburg Hydroelectric Project



i eweb.org/LeaburgCanal

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Link: Leaburg Decommissioning Video (2m:33s)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RYw3yeHyFME>

Generation Manager: Lisa Krentz

Generation Engineering Supervisor: Mark Zinniker

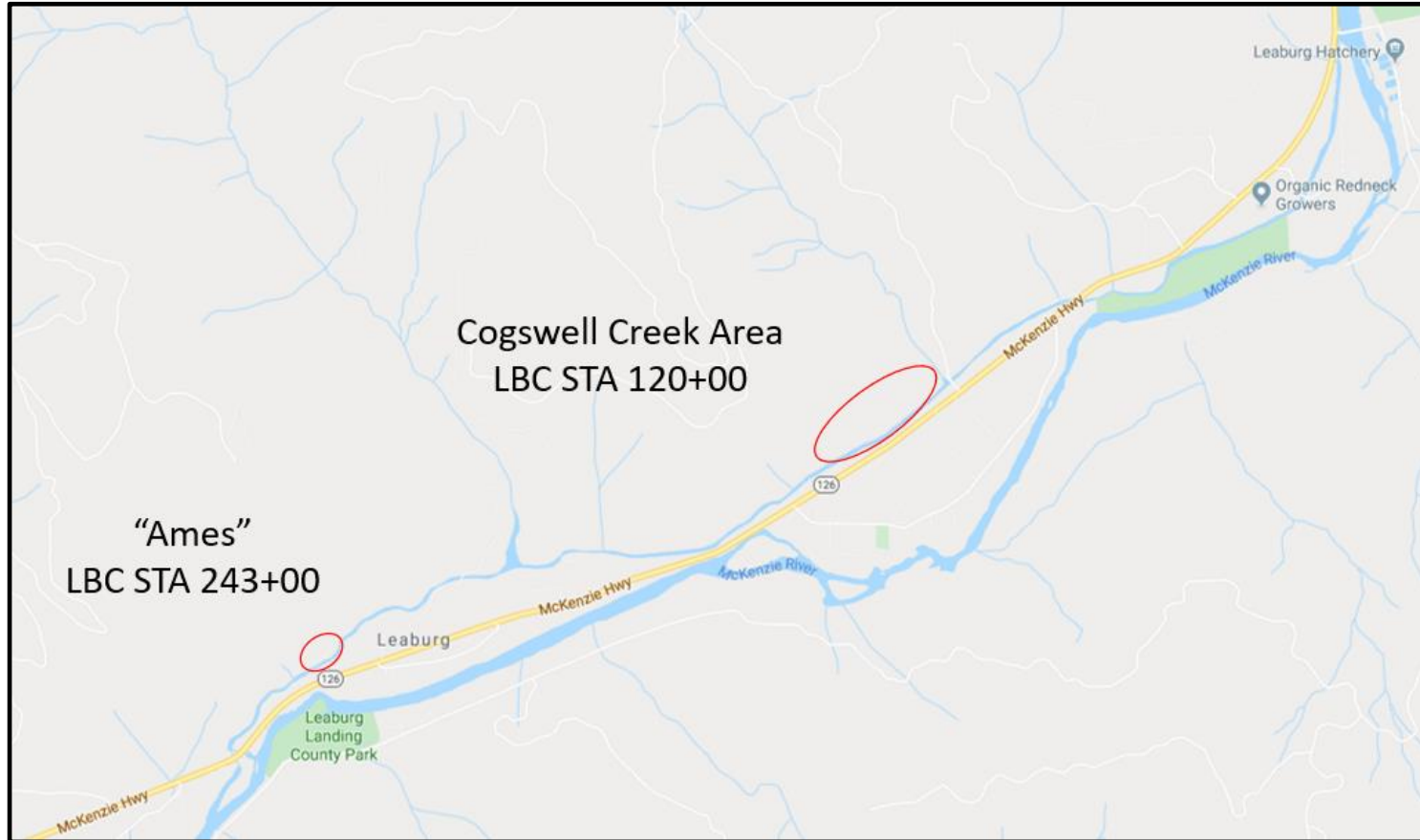
Project Manager: Jeremy Somogye – jeremy.somogye@eweb.org

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Regulatory Compliance Specialist: Robin Leighty

Leaburginfo@eweb.org (Coming Soon)

Leaburg Canal Embankment Issues



- Leaburg Canal Dewatered in October 2018
- Subsequent studies & explorations indicated the structural issues were not limited to the Cogswell area

Internal Erosion



Sediment filter and weir installation in the Cogswell Reach

Subsurface exploration in Cogswell Reach



Alternatives Analysis Overview

Eleven Alternatives Initially Identified

Seven Return to Service Alternatives

Three Decommissioning Alternatives

Do Nothing Alternative

Four Alternatives Selected for Detailed Analysis

Alt. 1: Decommission to Pre-Project Conditions

Alt. 2: Full Return to Service – Full Facility Renewal

Alt. 3: Partial Return to Service - Luffman Power Plant

Alt. 4: Decommission to Stormwater Conveyance

Triple Bottom Line Attributes

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Social	Environmental	Economic
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public Safety • Local Economic Activity • Wildfire Response / Mitigation • Social Justice • Environmental Justice • Recreation - Lake • Recreation – River • Recreation - Trails • Cultural / Historical Resources • Visual / Aesthetics • Domestic Groundwater Wells • Surface Water Supplies • Local Community Property Values • Fish Hatcheries • Local Transportation Networks • Noise Levels 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water Quality – McKenzie River • Aquatic Resources • Carbon Footprint • Terrestrial / Avian Species Wetlands • Vegetation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project Cost / Rate Impacts • Financing and Bond Rating Impacts • Power Price Risk Reduction (via EWEB owned generation) • Future Economic Risk • Access to Grant Funding • Access to Partnership (e.g., Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife, US Army Corps of Engineers, Lane County Public Works) • Future Economic Opportunity

Recommendation Highlights



Consistency with EWEB's Mission and Organizational Values



Alignment with Customer-Owned Priorities



Understanding and Mitigating Risks and Uncertainties



Impacts of Long-Term Obligations and Commitments



Directional Resiliency / Flexibility

Recommendation Summary

1. Permanently discontinue electricity generation
2. Remove Leaburg Dam
3. Develop southern access
4. Repair canal for stream/storm water conveyance; preserve options to naturalize
5. Mitigation opportunities: water rights, hatcheries
6. Conduct similar assessment Walterville (2030)
7. Identify opportunities and requirements for Board review, guidance, and direction (potential decisions or course adjustments)



Steps Around the Bend

- 1 Leaburg Decision: Pursue Amendment or Surrender**
- 2 Application Preparation**
 - Dam Decommissioning Plan, Environmental Report**
 - Consultation and Outreach**
- 3 File Application with FERC**
- 4 FERC Initiates Formal Consultation under NEPA, ESA, CWA, etc.**
- 5 FERC Issues Order**

Steps Around the Bend

6 Permitting/Development of Additional Management Plans

7 Implementation

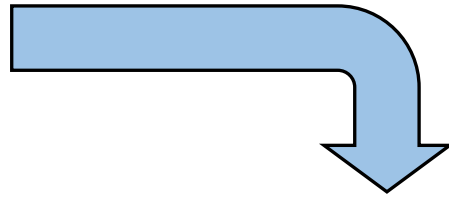
8 Post Implementation Monitoring

9 Submit Final Decommissioning Report to FERC

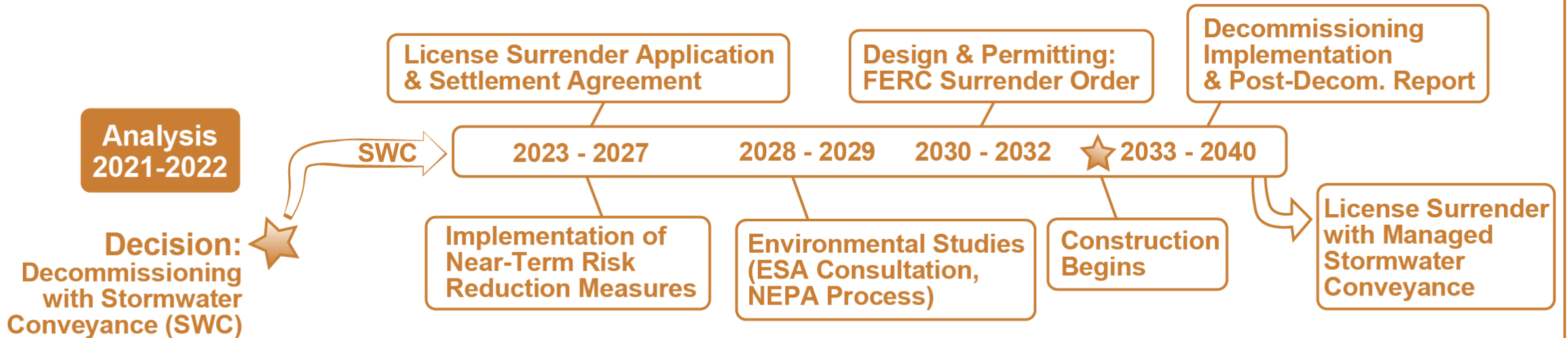
10 FERC Notification that License Surrender is Complete

Target Project Implementation Roadmap

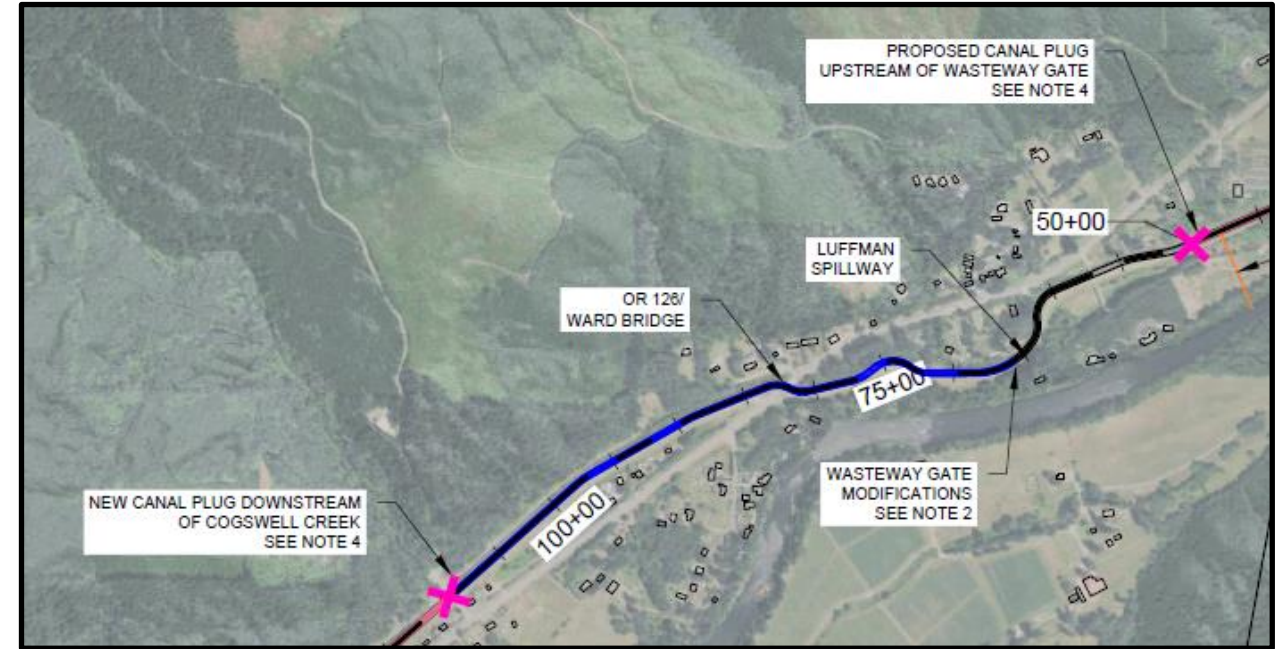
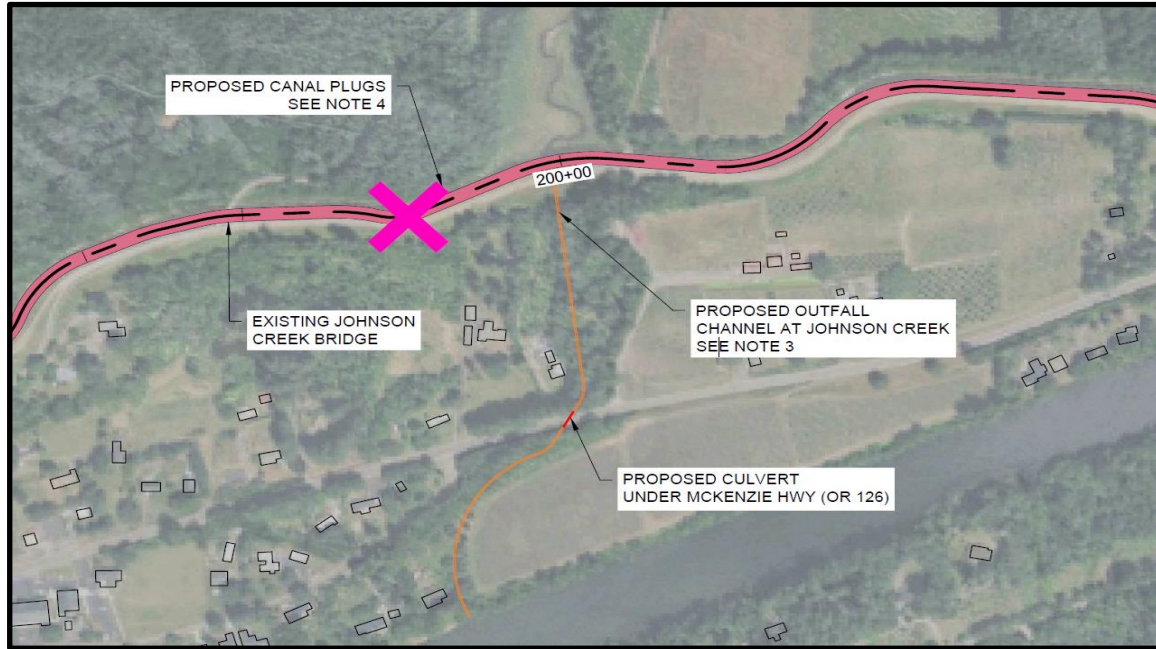
Record of Decision & Implementation Plan



Leaburg Decommissioning Timeline: 2040 Road Map



Near-Term Risk Reduction



- Mitigate hydraulic loading concerns in portions of the canal by isolating and re-directing tributary flows via canal plugs
- Providing a low-level outlet at the existing Leaburg Powerhouse
- Installation of an additional outfall near Johnson Creek to be explored
- Subsurface explorations to begin this year and mitigation work expected within 3 years

- **Access to Leaburg Dam Rd:**

- EWEB will explore all feasible options for access to the south side of the river in partnership with transportation agencies (Lane County and ODOT).
- The ultimate solution is not entirely in EWEB's control and will require more study and negotiations with multiple stakeholders over the next several years.
- Concerns regarding impacts on residents and visitors will be studied alongside structural, geotechnical, financial, environmental and regulatory options and constraints.

- **EWEB Goodpasture Boat Ramp:**

- EWEB is aware of siltation and is planning to address the issue in the "in-water work period" when flows are low enough to allow it (July-Aug.)
- Future of the Boat Ramp and management of it will be studied as part of Leaburg Decommissioning Action Plan

- **Irrigation Concerns:**

- EWEB is working with canal-dependent irrigators to provide short term fixes (check dams) while exploring how we can assist with their acquisition of permanent water rights transfers

- **Hatcheries and Water Supplies:**

- ODFW's management of the fish sorter helped lower proportion of hatchery-origin spawners (pHOS) to below 10% and will continue this setup until the dam is removed
 - pHOS will continue to decline as wild returns increase – as predicted for 2023
- ODFW & USACE have long been aware that their water access via Leaburg Project has always been interruptible, and it is not EWEB's responsibility to provide water
 - Water rights transfer is a Corps/federal issue and people can make their voices heard for supporting the hatcheries, especially on the federal level (Reps. & Senators)

- **Construction access:**

- EWEB will continue studying necessary construction access and will develop a plan to draft agreements and/or purchase properties, where deemed necessary

Questions and Comments