



A Brief History of Columbia River Basin Flood Risk Management

1900

1925

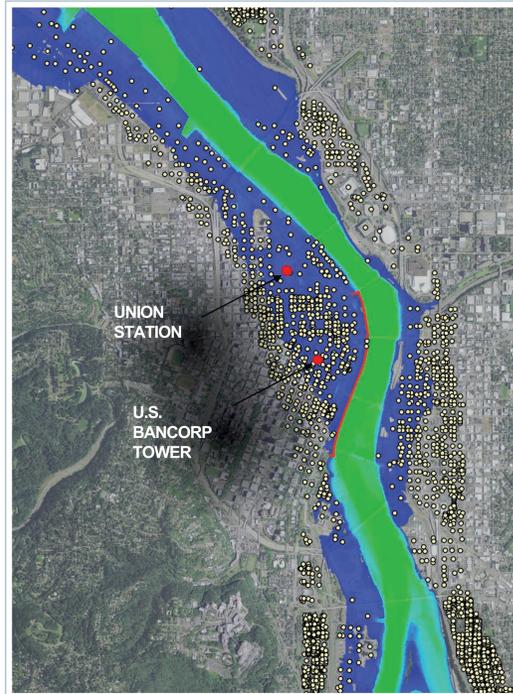
1950

1975

Present

Present

1894 Flood Downtown Portland



Engineers use computer models to understand potential consequences of flooding. On this map, each circle represents a building in downtown Portland; the blue area depicts where flooding would occur if 1894 happened today.

1948 Columbia River Flood

After 1948, the President directed the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to include flood control in all future Columbia River Basin planning studies.



Vanport, Oregon in 1948

The 1948 flood destroyed Vanport, Oregon, a city of 20,000-30,000 people. About 50-60 people were killed.



Trail, B.C. in 1948

The flood damaged homes, farms, and levees from British Columbia all the way to Astoria, Oregon.

1950 Flood Control Act



1950 Flood Control Act (House Document 531):

- ▶ Addressed new levees and improvements to existing levees
- ▶ Added to and modified previous system reservoir design
- ▶ Authorized several projects to provide 20.55 Maf* of useable flood control storage (including Libby Dam)

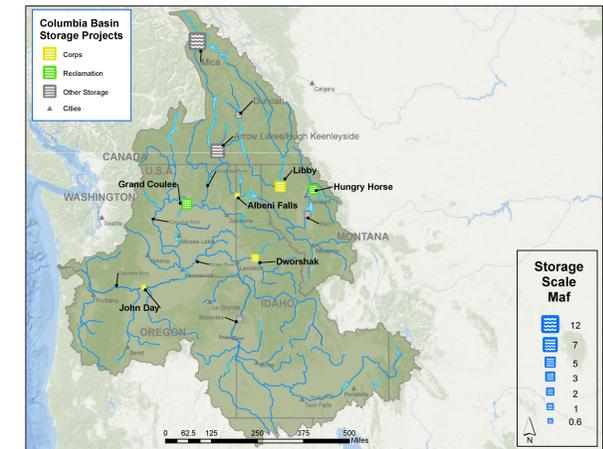
* Maf = million acre feet

1962 Flood Control Act



1962 Flood Control Act (House Document 403):

- ▶ Re-examined projects after studies found that multiple reservoirs authorized by 1950 FCA were impracticable or undesirable
- ▶ Authorized 14.9 Maf of useable flood control storage (down from 20.55 Maf, including Dworshak Dam)
- ▶ Only two large storage projects authorized by either the 1950 or the 1962 Flood Control Acts were actually constructed: Libby and Dworshak Dams (providing 7 Maf of storage out of the original 14.9 Maf).



Columbia River Basin Flood Risk Management Storage

- ▶ All Columbia River dams operating for system flood risk management are authorized for multiple purposes.
- ▶ A total of 40 Maf of storage space is available in the Columbia River Basin for flood risk management operations. About half of this storage is located in Canada.

