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Delaware River Basin Commission Regulated Flow Advisory Committee

# "Awaiting an Accord"

Presentation by Garth Pettinger, Trout Unlimited

Lake Wallenpaupack Environmental Learning Center, Hawley, PA April 5, 2016

### **AWAITING an ACCORD**

The Decree Parties have been unable to reach agreement on the implementation of any significant changes to the OST/FFMP since its inception in 2011. (approx. 5-years)

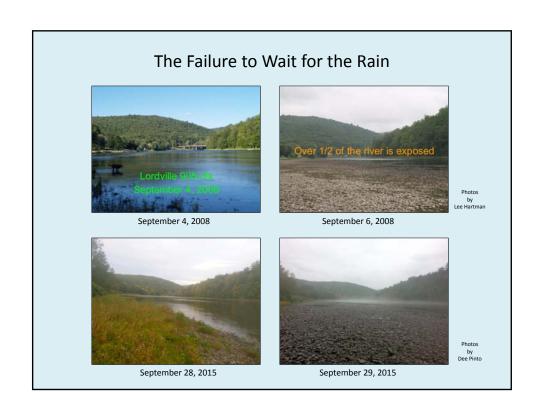
This deadlock has resulted in the failure to address multiple cases of avoidable and preventable damage to the ecology and economy of the upper Delaware region, during periods of high air/water temperatures; dewatering events; and low flow conditions on the East Branch and Neversink rivers.

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### **AWAITING an ACCORD**

In order to protect the ecology and economy of the upper Delaware River region, we have requested that the following three interim procedures (safeguards) be put into effect while the Decree Parties continue their negotiations:

- Thermal Relief Program (TRP),
  based on temperature targets, and a habitat bank.
- Moderation of the Rate of Reduction in Directed Releases, based on "Waiting for the Rain".
- Distribution of Directed Releases amongst the three Delaware Rivers,
  based on 5% Pepacton, 5% Neversink, and 90% Cannonsville.



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### **AWAITING an ACCORD**

The current long range weather forecast (Harris-Mann) predicts lower than normal precipitation for the majority of 2016:

Dec April May June July Aug Oct Nov Sept 90% 80% 90% 90% 90% 80% 80% 80% 120%

These conditions will invariably result in lower inflows; increased use of directed releases to meet the Montague target; and inherent risks for the upper Delaware region.

Summer temperatures on the whole, are forecast to be 2°F lower than normal; however, lower inflows tend to translate into lower release rates, and increased thermal stress events.

## **AWAITING an ACCORD**

So the question that remains for each Principal, is as follows:

Is your State/City prepared to adopt these interim procedures?