

ROAD SALT

What is all the fuss?

Nichelle Swisher
Lewis County Soil and Water Conservation District

ROAD SALT BENEFITS

- Reduces car accidents before and after the storm 88%
- Saves thousands of lives
- Relatively Cheap
- Effective



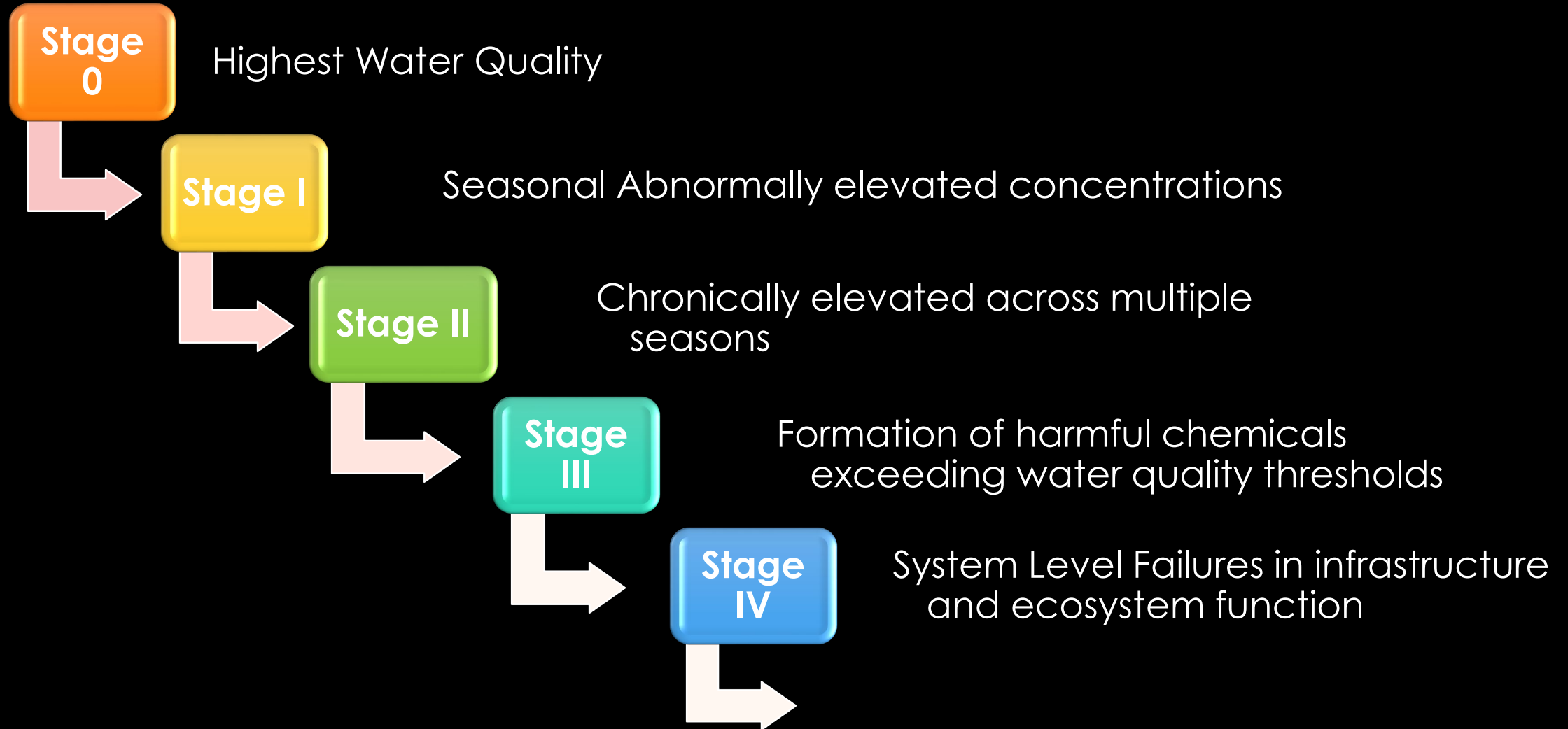
HOW MUCH DO WE USE

- \$19-22 MILLION TONS OF ROAD SALT IS USED IN THE UNITED STATES According to the National Mineral Information Center
- New York is the largest consumer of road salt in North America

THE PROBLEM WITH SALT

- Levels of chloride have increased 89% in urban streams
- Attracts animals to the road like deer and moose increasing the potential for collisions
- Salt accumulates in soils making it difficult to grow plants and kills aquatic wildlife
- Increase frequency of freeze and thaw cycle increasing cracks in concrete
- Leaches out calcium in concrete corroding it and the steel that is inside of the concrete
- Changes salinity of downstream waterways and drinking water
- Changes water chemistry
- Corrosive making vehicles rust prematurely & bridges corrode
- \$16-19 billion dollars a year to repair the damage
- 29-44% of urban streams exceeded safe levels of chloride for at least part of the year

SALT STAGES OF CONTAMINATION



PRODUCT EFFICIENCY & ALTERNATIVES

How to cut back on our own salt use

- Computerized salt spreaders improved spreading efficiency
- Pre-treating with Brine
- Beet Juice
- Prewetting salt so it doesn't bounce so far keeping it on the road
- Use less & Be Strategic About Use
- Incorporate sand
- Calcium or Magnesium Chloride



PRODUCT ALTERNATIVES

- Cheese Brine
- Pickle Brine
- Grape Skin
De-icer



ADIRONDACK ROAD SALT TASK FORCE



[NATURE](#)[RECREATION](#)[HISTORY](#)[ARTS](#)[ENVIRONMENT](#)[FOOD](#)[Adirondack Explorer](#)[Adventure Planner](#)[Email Newsletter](#)

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2023

Where's the road salt report?

by Zachary Matson

6 Comments



Latest News Headlines

These stones gather moss

Gravestones damaged in crash at Moriah cemetery

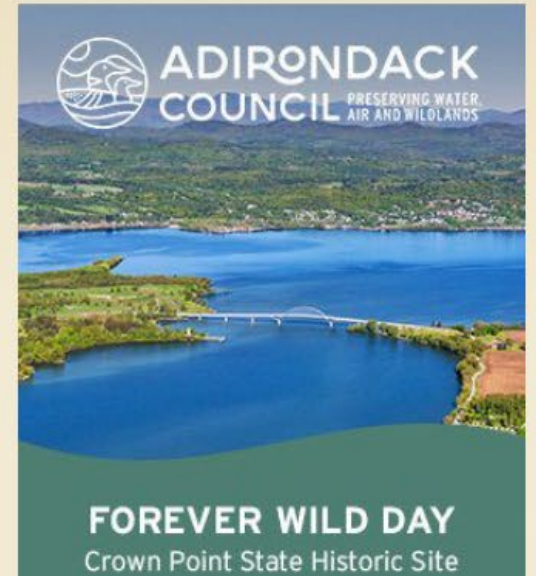
Community mourns the loss of Capt. Christopher Garrow

Bill allowing towns to better combat aquatic invasives passes

Concern grows amid possible Lake Placid ER closure

Affordable housing complex planned for Ticonderoga

William Miner: Builder of Adirondack dams,



WHERE'S THE ROAD SALT REPORT

Adirondack Explorer

REPORT DELAYS

Tracy Eldridge, the Hamilton County Superintendent of Public Works says the Report will be valuable to establish a baseline of best practices and noted that budget support is important to local municipalities.

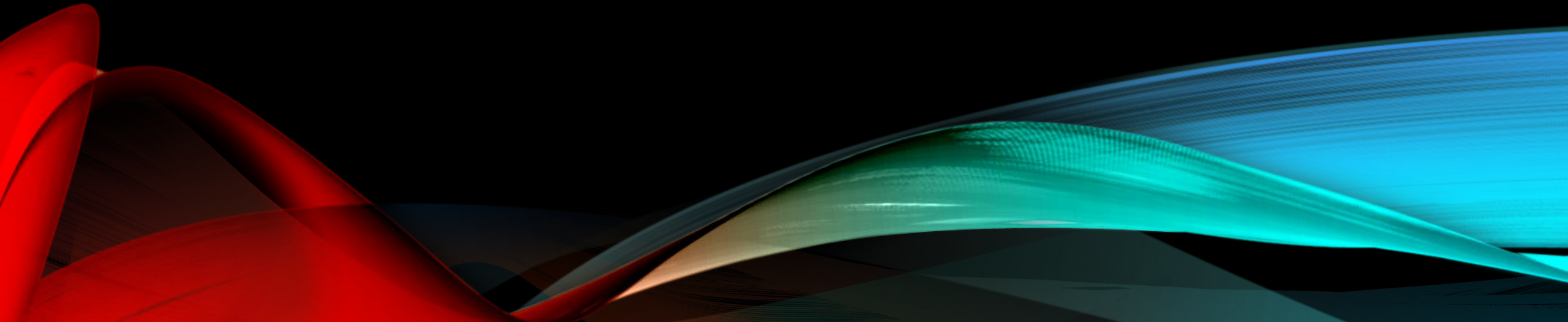


A state plow on Route 30 near Lake Colby in Saranac Lake. Explorer file photo.

Road Salt Task Force Members Frustrated With Report Delays

...

HOW CAN WE BE PROACTIVE IN REDUCING SALT
USAGE?



INCENTIVISE ROAD SALT REDUCTION

Assist Local Municipalities

- Measuring how much salt/sand used per lane mile
- Calibrating equipment
- Purchase of equipment such as plows, brine systems, training
- Assist Municipalities with Salt/Sand Management Plans that protect water quality





QUESTIONS?