Investing In Oregon's Rural Infrastructure

Ensuring Reliable Water

Deschutes Basin Board of Control

Connecting Central Oregon's Water, Land & Environment

Farming and ranching have long played important roles in Central Oregon. It was only natural for the first pioneers to settle close to the Deschutes River. Homesteaders without access to water tried their luck with dry farming, best described as a lottery considering the desert climate.

No one ever said rural agriculture was easy work. But these days, the rural spirit that pioneered our country is at dire risk. Dwindling, uncertain water supplies are making it harder and harder for farmers to grow their crops, feed our communities, and keep rural values alive. To preserve our traditional way of life, we must look to updating antiquated irrigation infrastructure in a way that does the most good for farmers, the community, and the environment.

Agriculture continues to contribute to the region's economy through job creation, capital investment, and reliable economic activity.

"The frequency and intensity of drought events highlight the urgency to update antiquated irrigation infrastructure through water conservation projects. We are committed to piping open canals and improving on-farm efficiencies to increase water reliability and conserve water."

—Craig Horrell, President of the Deschutes Basin Board of Control

The Deschutes Basin

Irrigation districts play an invaluable role in conveying water supplies throughout the Deschutes Basin in Central Oregon to many farm and ranch families, and are also working diligently to improve fish and wildlife habitat.

The Deschutes Basin Board of Control (DBBC) is comprised of eight irrigation districts in rural Central Oregon that are critical to conveying water supplies throughout the Deschutes Basin to over 7,600 farm and ranch families, schools, and local parks and recreation districts.

"Funding irrigation modernization is a smart investment. We have an incredible opportunity to create jobs, save and generate energy, and conserve and improve water supplies for agriculture and the environment."

—Mike Britton, North Unit Irrigation Manager

WHAT WE DO

- Convey water to 7,653 farmers, ranchers, cities, parks and schools.
- Irrigate over 150,000 acres throughout the Deschutes Basin.
- Contribute annually to fish and wildlife habitat conservation. Over $5.2 million in restoration funds will be collected over the next 30 years.
- Partner with stakeholders to secure large-scale investments needed to conserve water supplies, improve fish and wildlife habitat, reduce energy costs, and increase agriculture production.
- Creating jobs for economic growth.

Modernization:
The Benefits Go Far

Irrigation districts throughout Oregon's Deschutes Basin are implementing an array of water conservation, fisheries improvement, and hydropower projects. These projects help hardworking small family farmers and ranchers raise crops and benefit the environment. Since the 1960s, the Districts have significantly reduced their water use. These conserved water supplies are increasing instream flows in the Deschutes River, Crooked River, Whychus Creek, Tumalo Creek, and other smaller tributaries; improving habitat for the Oregon spotted frog, salmon, steelhead, other fish and wildlife; and providing recreational benefits. Many of these projects, such as piping irrigation canals, also increase public safety and create the opportunity for developing small hydropower generation with zero carbon emissions.

Central Oregon's irrigation districts have $350 million of projects that can move quickly through design, bid, and construction, and will create jobs at each stage. These infrastructure conservation projects will play a significant role in stimulating the economy.

These projects could benefit from increased funding to existing programs, including the Natural Resources Conservation Service's Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act (PL-566), Bureau of Reclamation's WaterSMART program, Environmental Protection Service's Clean Water State Revolving Fund, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Fisheries Restoration and Irrigation Mitigation Act program, along with measures to increase district borrowing capabilities, by forgiving federal indebtedness, are all proven mechanisms for job creation and stimulating our economy.

Investments in modernizing irrigation infrastructure in the Deschutes Basin create multiple economic, environmental, conservation, and resilienceoriented benefits for Central Oregon's communities.

Central Oregon irrigation districts have successfully implemented over $53 million in projects, conserving over 49 cfs annually, and ensuring more water for farmers, food, and fish.

A PIVOTAL MOMENT

The time is now to help rural communities increase water reliability and restore fish and wildlife habitat, while also investing in critical infrastructure and creating opportunities for economic growth.

STIMULATE THE ECONOMY

INCREASE WATER RELIABILITY

DEVELOP LOCAL RENEWABLE ENERGY

STRENGTHEN RURAL ECONOMIES

RESTORE FISH AND WILDLIFE HABITAT

CREATING A POSITIVE IMPACT

IN THE DESCHUTES BASIN

Modernization projects throughout the irrigation districts in the Deschutes Basin will create multiple benefits for our local communities.

165.7 MILLION GALLONS

Conserve 165.7 million gallons of water annually.

4,946 JOBS

Support 4,946 jobs through these projects.

$219.9 MILLION

$219.9 million in economic development for our rural communities.

10-15 MW

Generate more than 10-15 megawatts of new hydropower using irrigation water.

Active & Anticipated Conservation & Restoration Projects

As of April 2022	Total Cost Construction & Engineering	PL 83-566 Funding (1)	Required Match Funds	Portion of Cost Share Obtained	Cost Share Need	Approximate Pipe Linear Feet	Water Saved CFS	Jobs Created	Estimated Start Date	Estimated Completion Date
CENTRAL OREGON								3,161		
Smith Rock Way & King Way 1A (2)	$22 M			$2 M	0	35,480	13.6		OCT 20	COMPLETE
Smith Rock & King Way 1B	$11.2 M			$7 M	0	8,450	17.4		OCT 21	COMPLETE
Pilot Butte Canal Phases 2-14	$250 M	$187.5 M	$62.5 M	$0	$62 M	121,440	126		OCT 23	MAR 28
SWALLEY								150		
Rogers Way	$2 M	$1.4 M	$600 K			16,000	1.8			APR 20
MC-7	$3 M	$2.2 M	$800 K			7,000	3			APR 24
Elder Lateral	$1.6 M	$1.2 M	$400 K			10,500	1.3			APR 25
TUMALO								201		
Tumalo Feed VB	$6.9 M	$5.2 M	$1.7 M			11,300	7.3			COMPLETE
Tumalo Feed VB	$7.2 M	$4.5 M	$2.7 M			81,596	7.3			COMPLETE
Tumalo Feed VB	$6.2 M	$4.7 M	$1.6 M			25,519	4.2			COMPLETE
Pipes Group 6A	$5.9 M					12,299	1.4			MAR 23
Pipes Group 4	$5.7 M					52,248				MAR 24
Pipes Group 6B	$5.5 M					28,405				MAR 25
Measurement/Monitoring	$350 K		$350 K							MAR 23
NORTH UNIT								565		
31,32,34,43 Lateral Piping	$33 M	$25 M	$8 M	$2 M	$6 M	43,500	15		OCT 23	MAR 29
Main Canal Automation	$500 K		$500 K			N/A	5.5		MAR 22	MAR 24
41-9/58-3-2 Lateral Piping	$200 K		$150 K			3,500	1.3		OCT 22	APR 23
Main Canal Lining	$550 K	$55 K	$280 K	280 K	$0	0	10		OCT 22	APR 23
Bend Diversion Fish Screens (Design and SHPO complete)	$7 M	$0	$3.5 M		$3.5 M	N/A	N/A		UNKNOWN	UNKNOWN
LONE PINE	$10.3 M	$7.7 M	$2.6 M			59,396	8.8	111		MAR 23
ARNOLD							32.6	435		
Main Canal Phase 1	$8.72 M	$6.49 M	$2.22 M	0	$2.22 M	16,976	11.1		NOV 2022	MAR 2024
Main Canal Phase 2	$11.94 M	$8.89 M	$3.05 M	0	$3.05 M	23,142	12.6		NOV 2023	MAR 2025
Main Canal Phase 3	$3.85 M	$2.87 M	$980 K	0	$980 K	9,486	3.4		NOV 2024	MAR 2026
Main Canal Phase 4	$6.13 M	$4.57 M	$1.56 M	0	$1.56 M	13,265	5.4		NOV 2025	MAR 2027
OCHOCO								323		
Group 1 - McKay Switch	$20.3 M	$14.8 M	$5.5 M			77,230	11.2		OCT 22	MAR 24
Group 2 - Grimes Flat Piping	$5 M	$3.7 M	$1.3 M			43,166	4.9		JUL 23	MAR 24
Group 3 - IronHorse Piping	$6.5 M	$4.8 M	$1.7 M			7,500	1.1		JUL 22	MAR 23
TOTAL COMPLETED	**$53.5 M**						**49.8**			
TOTAL NEEDED	**$350,380 M**	**$286 M**	**$87,595 M**	**$9 M**	**$79.31 M**	**545,053**	**256.4**			
TOTAL				**$2 M**				**4,946**		

(1) Some project funding includes allowable non-construction technical assistance.
(2) Concurrent with this project, Central Oregon will be working with private landowners on the G-4 Lateral to improve on-farm efficiencies.

Habitat Conservation Plan

The Deschutes Basin Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) modifies the timing and magnitude of flow in the Deschutes River and a number of its tributaries through the storage, release, diversion, and return of irrigation water. The plan will serve as one part of a larger regional effort to restore and enhance aquatic habitats for the covered species in the Deschutes Basin.

DBBC

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The DBBC, which includes the eight irrigation districts that have developed the Habitat Conservation Plan, and the City of Prineville are focused on the conservation measures set forth in the HCP, and the measures will be the priorities for the immediate future.

Conservation Measures

30 years of protection

for steelhead trout, bulltrout, sockeye salmon, and Oregon spotted frogs.

Increase summer flows and provide habitat restoration funds

for Whychus, Ochoco, and McKay Creeks.

480 miles

of rivers and creeks affected by eight irrigation districts and the City of Prineville will be addressed.

Maintain winter flows in the Crooked River downstream of Bowman Dam of at least

50cfs

Year-round habitat for Oregon spotted frogs

in Crane Prairie Reservoir, upper Deschutes River, Crescent Creek, and the Little Deschutes River.

In 30 years, the HCP will improve winter flows from **100cfs to 400-500cfs** and summer flows down to **1200cfs from 1800cfs.**

Our Work

$174,000

contributed annually by the City of Prineville and irrigation districts to fish and wildlife habitat conservation. Over **$5.2 million** in restoration funds collected over the next 30 years.

12 years of collaboration

between irrigators, federal and state agencies, the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation, multiple non-governmental organizations, counties, cities, and the general public in the Deschutes Basin of Central Oregon.

9,000+

residents are served by the City of Prineville. Providing essential services, including public safety, municipal water supply, and sewage treatment.

151,000 irrigated acres

and over 7,653 patrons are collectively served by the irrigation districts.

A Major Milestone

The DBBC and the City of Prineville achieved a major milestone in December of 2020 with the approval of the Deschutes Basin Habitat Conservation Plan. The plan is the result of nearly twelve years of collaboration between irrigators, federal and state agencies, the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation, cities, counties, multiple non-governmental organizations, and the general public in the Deschutes Basin of Central Oregon. The HCP covers irrigation and related water management operations in the basin for the next 30 years, while enhancing fish and wildlife habitat.

"To meet the goals and objectives set forth in the HCP, the districts will continue working together to conserve and manage flows for the benefit of the entire community. The districts are committed putting water into the Deschutes River as soon as conservation piping and on-farm projects are completed."

— Craig Horrell, President
Deschutes Basin Board of Control

Irrigation modernization is one of the greatest agriculture, conservation, and economic development opportunities of our time.

The Time Is Now

Deschutes Basin
Board of Control

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