

NOTE FROM DBBC PRESIDENT

Water has always been important to Central Oregon, but what used to be the concern of just a handful of hardy pioneers, ranchers and farmers in the Oregon outback now impact global businesses, the livelihoods of tens of thousands and the quality of life for nearly 150,000 Central Oregonians.

This is a critical time for irrigation in Central Oregon. Long-term climate change, short-term droughts, an increased demand for water from a growing population and an increasing moral and legal responsibility to manage wildlife habitats in a sustainable way; each challenge has the ability to affect the economic viability of the agricultural industry that is the foundation for our region.

As the eight irrigation districts that make up the Deschutes Basin Board of Control (DBBC) and serve Central Oregon's many ranches and farms, we believe it is our responsibility to promote the importance of agriculture in our region, both economically and culturally.

Mike Britton,
DBBC President

OREGON SPOTTED FROG UPDATE

In April, Federal Judge Ann Aiken ordered the Center for Biological Diversity, WaterWatch of Oregon, the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (USBOR), and five central Oregon irrigation districts to meet and attempt to resolve the lawsuits that claim the operation of Crane Prairie, Wickiup and Crescent Lake reservoirs cause harm to the Oregon spotted frog. A court-ordered settlement conference took place June 1, 2016, in Eugene, and was overseen by United States Magistrate Judge Thomas M. Coffin. No settlement was reached and discussions are ongoing.

It is important to understand that the Court did not dismiss the underlying lawsuits filed by the Center for Biological Diversity and WaterWatch. In those lawsuits, the two groups claim the operation of the reservoirs by USBOR and Central Oregon, North Unit, and Tumalo irrigation districts violates the Endangered Species Act and results in harm to Oregon spotted frogs.

**YOUR LAND.
YOUR LIVELIHOOD.
YOUR WATER.
YOUR VOICE.**

Water is crucial to your business and your way of life. That's why we need your help. We are creating an outreach and educational campaign to promote the importance of agriculture to our region. With your financial support we'll be able to tell your side of the story and ensure the agricultural community's voice is heard in the days, months

and years ahead as we seek to enact the Habitat Conservation Plan and modernize 100+ year old irrigation systems.

Your donation will go towards funding educational materials, support for agricultural events, information stands at community events, public outreach campaigns and other materials to help illustrate the importance of agriculture to our livelihoods, the fabric of our communities and our way of life.

**Make your voice heard. Learn more and donate to the campaign today
at www.gofundme.com/CentralOregonAg.**