Investing In Oregon's Rural Infrastructure **Ensuring Reliable Water**





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.



Columpia River



"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



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.

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.

INCREASE WATER RELIABILITY **DEVELOP** LOCAL RENEWABLE ENERGY **STRENGTHEN** RURAL ECONOMIES **RESTORE** FISH AND WILDLIFE HABITAT

STIMULATE THE 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.



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

\$219.9 MILLION

\$219.9 million in economic development for our rural communities.

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

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			\$286 M	\$87,595 M	\$9 M	\$79.31 M	545,053				
	TOTAL				\$2 M				4,946		

Some project funding includes allowable non-construction technical assistance.
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.



dbbcirrigation.com

9,000+

residents are served by the

City of Prineville. Providing

essential services, including

public safety, municipal water

supply, and sewage treatment.

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



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

Maintain winter flows in the Crooked River downstream of Bowman Dam of at least **50cfs**





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

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.

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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





Connecting Central Oregon's Water, Land & Environment

www.dbbcirrigation.com