

Farmers Conservation Alliance  
11 Third Street, Suite 101  
Hood River, Oregon 97031  
(541) 716-6085

Public and Interagency Meeting

Thursday, July 6<sup>th</sup>, 2017

6:30 – 7:30 PM

Tumalo Community Church  
64671 Bruce Avenue, Bend, OR 97701

Swalley Irrigation District Irrigation Modernization Project

Purpose: To inform the community of the proposed Swalley Irrigation District Irrigation Modernization Project to pipe its canals, conserve water, improve fish habitat, and enable irrigation pump energy efficiencies; and to gather community comments on the proposed project.

Project Sponsor

Deschutes Basin Board of Control (DBBC)

Based on a  
Preliminary Investigative Report (PIR)  
prepared by the Farmers Conservation Alliance (FCA)  
in cooperation with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)  
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Proposed Agenda

- I. Welcome
- II. Introduction: Description, Goal, and Objectives of the proposed Irrigation Modernization Project
- III. Aquatic Species Issues and Opportunities in the Upper Deschutes Watershed
- IV. Project Costs, Benefits, and Effects: Using Oregon's Conserve Water Program to permanently protect instream water
- V. Contributions and Responsibilities of the USDA-NRCS, Sponsors, and Agricultural Landowners
- VI. Discussion, Questions, and Answers

Presenters

Tom Makowski, Natural Resources Conservation Service  
Jer Camarata, Manager, Swalley Irrigation District  
Margi Hoffmann, Farmers Conservation Alliance  
Bridget Moran, United States Fish and Wildlife Service

Swalley Irrigation District Irrigation Modernization Project

*Project Goal*

The goal of the proposed project is to pipe District-owned canals to conserve water, improve efficiencies and water supply reliability, enhance public safety, and improve fishery habitat in the Upper Deschutes Watershed while improving the economic sustainability and resilience of agriculture in the Deschutes Basin. This plan will help the agricultural community meet the requirements under the Clean Water Act and the Endangered Species Act.

*Sponsors and Other Stakeholders*

Project sponsors are the Deschutes Basin Board of Control (DBBC) and the Swalley Irrigation District (SID), in cooperation with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and Farmers Conservation Alliance (FCA). Other stakeholders include:

- United States Fish and Wildlife Service
- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Fisheries
- United States Army Corps of Engineers
- United State Bureau of Land Management
- United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), United States Forest Service, Deschutes National Forest
- Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife
- Oregon Water Resources Department
- State Historic Preservation Office
- Oregon Department of Environmental Quality
- Oregon Department of Agriculture
- Oregon Department of State Lands
- City of Bend
- Bend Parks and Recreation
- Deschutes County
- Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife
- Oregon Water Resources Department
- Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs
- Deschutes River Conservancy
- Water Watch
- Trout Unlimited
- Coalition for the Deschutes
- Central Oregon Land Watch
- Interested Public

### *Project Location*

- Deschutes County
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Congressional District
- Hydrologic Units: Upper Deschutes Watershed (17070301)

### *Resource Concerns*

The sponsors have identified the following resource concerns:

- Reduced habitat associated with low stream flows
- Inefficient irrigation water delivery and on-farm irrigation water management
- Risk of open canals to human health and safety
- Poor water quality, elevated stream temperatures
- Inefficient energy usage from irrigation pumps
- Economic instability of agricultural lands

### *Project Facts*

- The project area is the SID system within the Upper Deschutes watershed, irrigating approximately 4,305 acres using one primary diversion and 15 single farm diversions on the Deschutes River.
- Water is delivered through a system of pressurized pipe, and open canals and on-farm ditches, losing ~21% to evapotranspiration, seepage, and other loss.
- Water for the SID is diverted from the Deschutes River, which experiences low flows that diminish water and habitat quality throughout the Deschutes River.
- The project area is important for providing habitat for sensitive fish species, including, but not limited to, bull trout, steelhead trout, redband trout, Chinook salmon, Pacific lamprey.

### *Project Measures*

- Funding will be requested from the USDA-NRCS Small Watershed Program (PL-566) to finish piping the SID system.
- The USDA-NRCS Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) will be used to provide on-farm efficiency upgrades.

### *Project Benefits and Costs*

Direct Project Benefits Include:

- The project will reduce seepage losses by up to 16 cubic feet per second (CFS) and use Oregon's Conserve Water Program to permanently protect water instream; this will enhance stream flow in the Deschutes River while also enhancing water supply reliability to SID patrons.
- More instream flow in the Deschutes River will lower stream temperatures and increase available habitat for sensitive fish and other aquatic species.
- Reduction of SID patron energy costs by up to 2,455,294 kilowatt hours per year, or ~\$60,500 annually.

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Total installation cost for the HDPE pipe, a centralized pumping station, and optimized power production components estimated to be ~\$15,200,000. Financing for the project includes:

- \$11,250,000 from PL-566 (assuming 75% of \$15m - pending)
- \$1,000,000 from Department of Environmental Quality Clean Water State Revolving Loan Fund (pending)
- \$100,000 In-kind services from SID
- \$2,850,000 from other Grants or Water Transactions