

Draft Watershed Plan-Environmental Assessment Now Available for Tumalo Irrigation District Modernization Project



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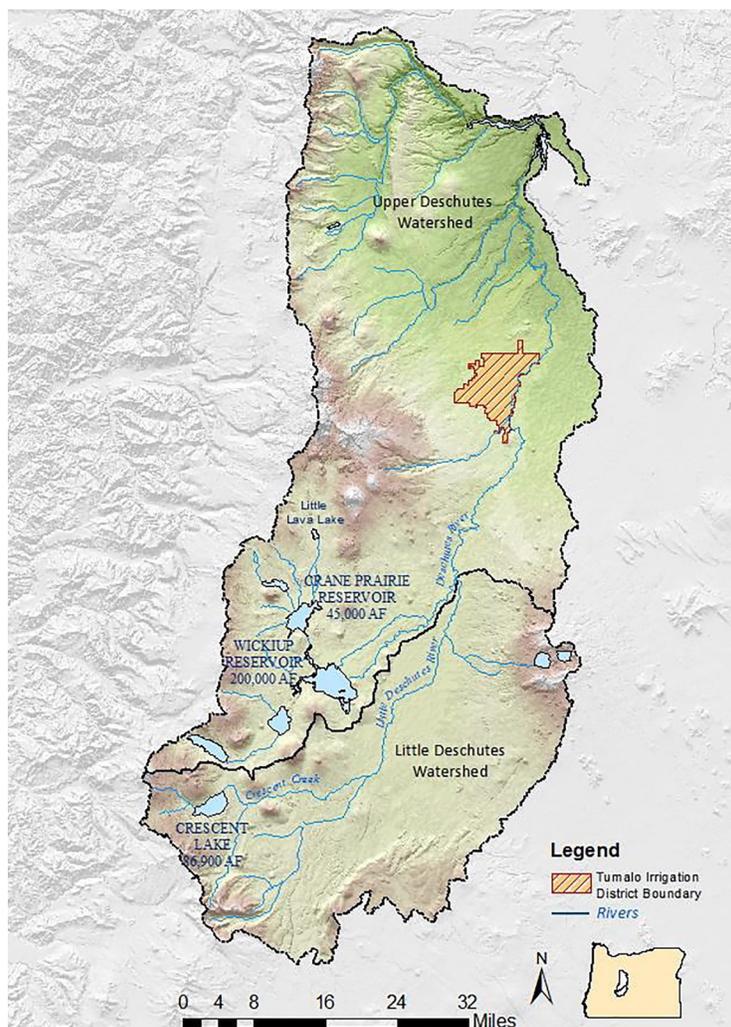
NRCS is hosting a public meeting on the Draft Watershed Plan-EA for the Tumalo Irrigation District project on:



Tuesday
May 8, 2018
6—7:30 p.m.
Presentation
at 6:00 p.m.



Cascades Academy
19860 Tumalo
Reservoir Road
Bend, OR 97703



WE WANT YOUR INPUT!

NRCS invites all interested parties to review the Draft Watershed Plan-EA and attend the public meeting to learn more about the project. We are asking for your comments and suggestions to develop a Final Watershed Plan-EA. Written comments are highly encouraged and will be accepted in person at the public meeting or via U.S. Mail or email at:



U.S. Mail:
Attn: Margi Hoffmann
Farmers Conservation
Alliance
11 3rd St. Suite 101
Hood River, OR 97031



E-mail:
wsp@tumalo.org



Phone
Margi Hoffmann
(541) 716-6085

The comment period will be open from:
April 16, 2018 to May 22, 2018

VIEW HARD COPIES OF THE DRAFT WATERSHED PLAN-EA

Deschutes Public Library
507 NW Wall St
Bend, OR 97703

Tumalo Irrigation District
64697 Cook Ave
Bend, OR 97703

USDA Redmond Service Center
625 SE Salmon Ave
Redmond, OR 97756

GET THE ELECTRONIC VERSION OF THE DRAFT WATERSHED PLAN-EA ON THE PROJECT WEBSITE

www.oregonwatershedplans.org

Project Overview

This project is a team effort between the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, the Deschutes Basin Board of Control, Tumalo Irrigation District, and Farmers Conservation Alliance to help local irrigators conserve water, reduce energy consumption, increase irrigation delivery efficiency, improve public safety, and benefit instream habitat for threatened and endangered fish species.

The proposed project would convert open irrigation ditches into a closed piped system, which would reduce water loss from canals by up to 48 cubic feet per second (cfs) or 4.9 billion gallons per season. A piped irrigation system would keep more streamflow in the Deschutes River and Tumalo Creek, providing increased benefits to fish and wildlife habitat.

These improvements would provide water supply delivery to irrigators in a safer, more efficient manner and reduce energy consumption from pumping.

Irrigation improvements may be partially funded through the NRCS Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act (PL 83-566).



By converting open irrigation ditches (above) into a closed piped system, Tumalo Irrigation District can reduce water loss from canals by up to 48 cubic feet per second (cfs) or 4.9 billion gallons each season.

Purpose and Need

Through the Watershed Program authorized by Public Law 83-566, NRCS provides technical and financial assistance to local organizations for planning and carrying out watershed projects that help solve natural resource and related economic problems in a specific watershed. These issues can include watershed protection, flood prevention, erosion and sediment control, water supply, water quality, fish and wildlife habitat enhancement, and wetlands creation.

In accordance with the provisions of the NRCS's Watershed Program, Tumalo Irrigation District is eligible for funding to address water loss in District conveyance systems, water delivery and operations inefficiencies, instream flow for fish and aquatic habitat, and risks to public safety from open irrigation canals. The purpose of this project is to improve water conservation, water delivery reliability, and public safety on up to 68.8 miles of District-owned canals and laterals.

NRCS has reviewed the potential impacts of the projects and released a Draft Plan-EA.



Learn more by visiting the project website:

www.oregonwatershedplans.org