

Swalley Irrigation District

Public Meeting on Draft Watershed Plan-Environmental Assessment



Meeting Agenda

- Welcome
- Introduction to PL 83-566
- Introduction to Swalley Irrigation District
- Overview of the Draft Watershed-Plan Environmental Assessment (EA)
- How to submit comments
- Opportunity to submit comments



Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Program (PL 83-566)

- Authorized by Congress in 1954
- Managed by the US Department of Agriculture - Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)
- Provides technical and financial assistance for:
 - Watershed protection
 - Agricultural water management
 - Other authorized purposes



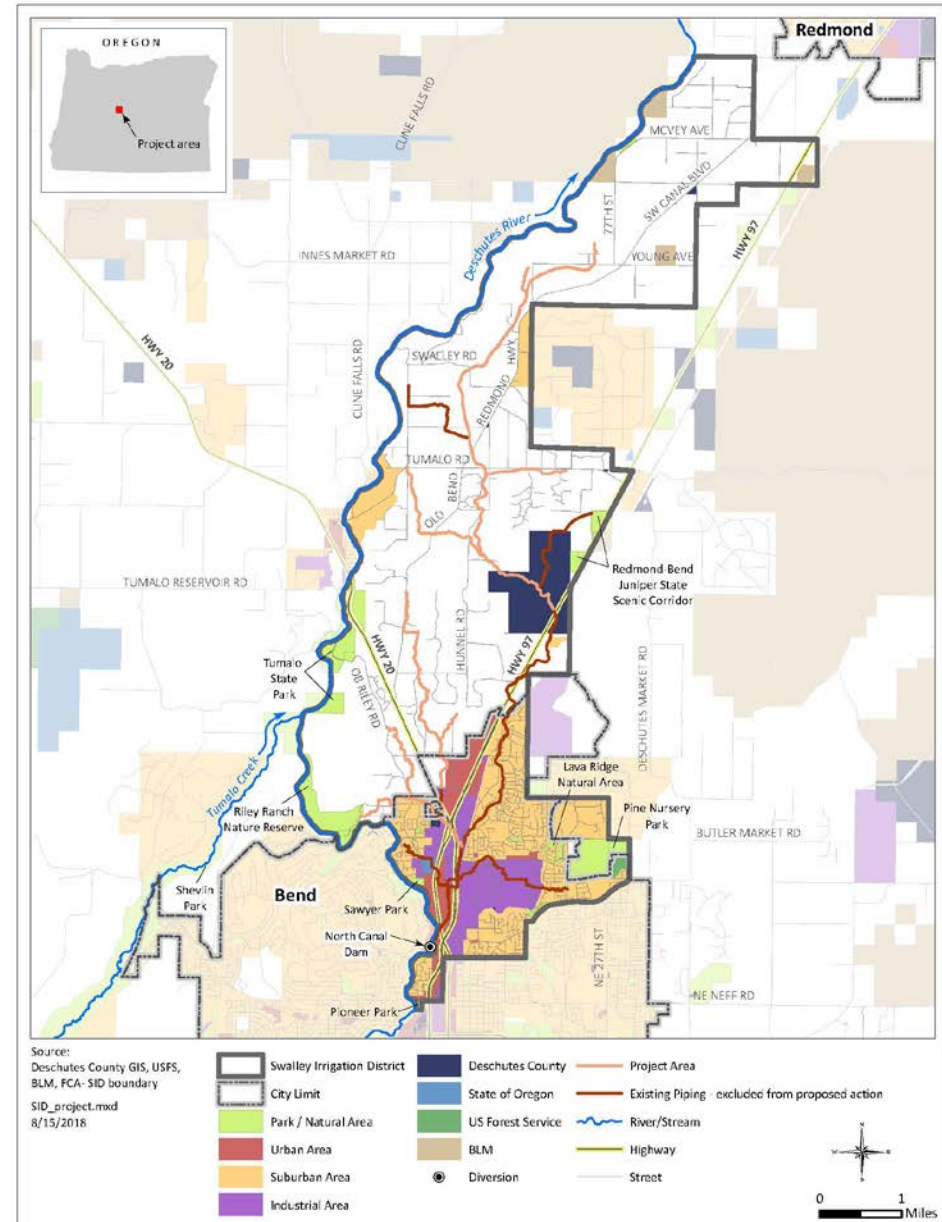
PL 83-566 Funding Available

- Congress appropriates funds for this program
- Deschutes Basin irrigation districts are eligible
- To qualify districts must have match funding and an authorized Final Watershed Plan
 - Includes public input
 - Satisfies requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)



Introduction to SID

- **668** patrons
- **4,333** acres of water rights
- **1899** priority water rights
- **28.1-mile system**
- Irrigation season **April-October**
- Typical peak diversion **82 cfs**
- Loses **23% or 19.2 cfs (6,172 acre-feet/yr)** of water diverted to seepage and evaporation
- **≈50% piped system and 43 cfs from past conservation projects** legally protected instream



Watershed Plan Process

- Project initiation: June 16, 2017
- Public scoping meeting: July 6, 2017
- **Public review of Draft Watershed Plan-EA**
 - **30-day public comment: September 21- October 24, 2018**
 - **Public meeting: October 10, 2018**
- Final Watershed Plan-EA
- NRCS issues Finding of No Significant Impact if warranted
- NRCS authorizes the Final Watershed Plan-EA if warranted



Watershed Plan-EA (Plan-EA)

- Purpose and need for the project
- Identification of resources
- Alternatives
- Effects of the alternatives
- Economic analysis
- Consultation and public participation



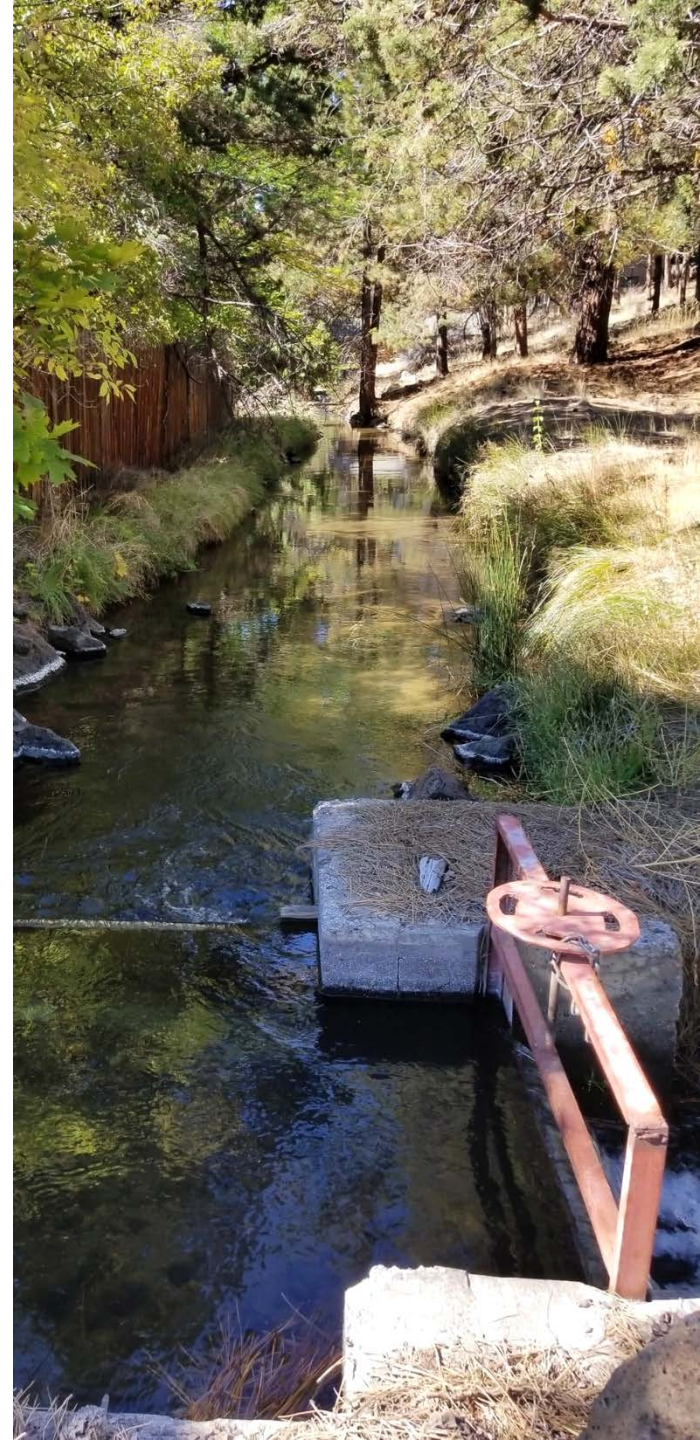
Section 1: Introduction

- General Setting
- Current Infrastructure
- Project Area



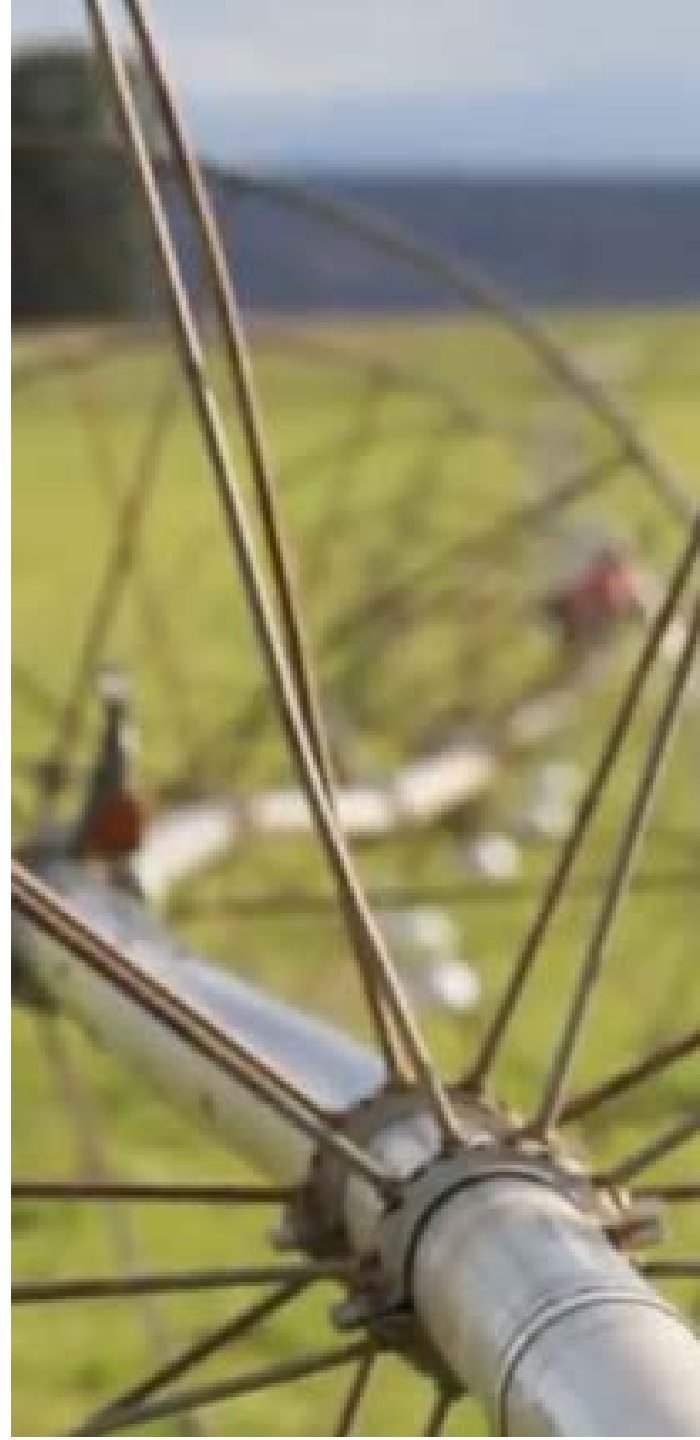
Section 2: Purpose and Need for Action

- Water Loss
 - Canal seepage and evaporation
- Water Delivery and Operation Inefficiencies
 - SID often unable to provide full deliveries to users
- Environmental Issues
 - Fish and aquatic species habitat
- Public Safety
 - Risk from drowning
 - Aging infrastructure and threat of canal breaches



Section 3: Scope of the Plan-EA

- Outreach
- Scoping Meeting
- Scoping Comments
- Identification of Resources of Concern



Section 4: Affected Environment

- Cultural Resources
- Fish and Aquatic Resources
- Geology and Soils
- Land Use
- Public Safety
- Recreation
- Socioeconomic Resources
- Vegetation
- Visual Resources
- Water Resources
- Wetlands and Riparian Areas
- Wildlife Resources
- Wild and Scenic Rivers



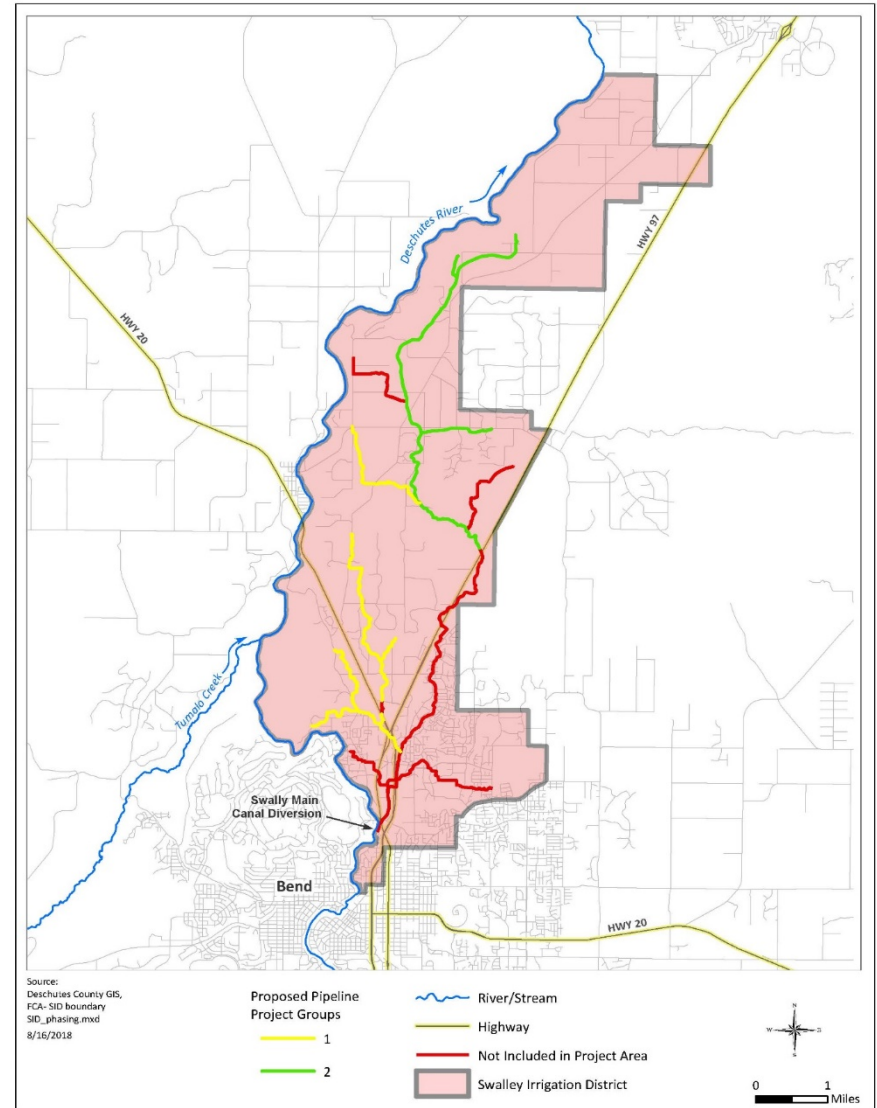
Section 5: Alternatives

- Alternatives Eliminated from Detailed Study
 - Don't meet the purpose and need
 - Inconsistent with PL 83-566 requirements
 - Unreasonable due to: costs, logistics, existing technology, or social/environmental reasons



Section 5: Alternatives Cont.

- Alternatives Carried Forward
 - No Action Alternative
 - High-density polyethylene (HDPE) Piping Alternative
 - Piping and pressurizing up to 16.6 miles
 - \$14,975,000
 - 25% non-federal funds (grants and loans), 75% PL 83-566 funds
 - 6-year construction



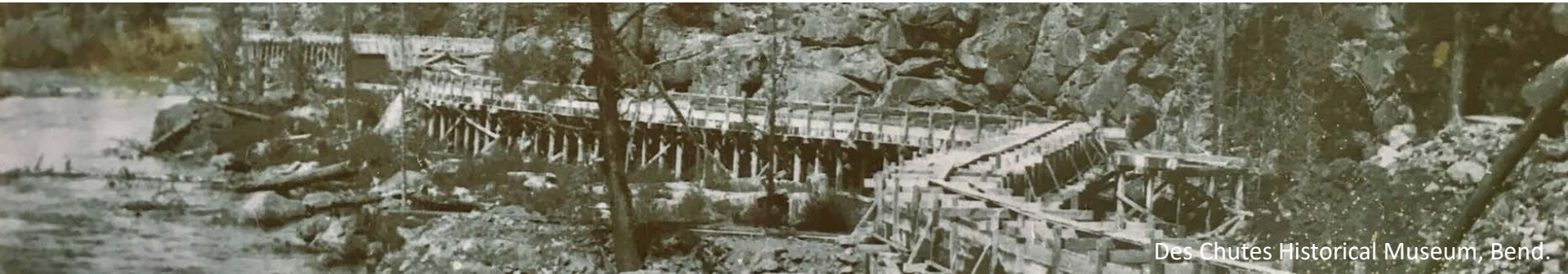
Section 6: Environmental Consequences

- Effects on resources described in Section 4
 - No Action Alternative
 - HDPE Piping Alternative
 - Compliance and Best Management Practices



Section 7: Consultation, Coordination, and Public Participation

- Agency coordination and public involvement activities
- Description of public review of the Draft Plan-EA



Section 8: Preferred Alternative

- Rationale for selection of HDPE Piping Alternative
 - Meets the purpose and need
 - Meets economic requirements
 - Provides the most beneficial resource and economic effects
- Costs, financing, and installation



Sections 9-14

- Section 9: References
- Section 10: List of Preparers
- Section 11: Distribution List
- Section 12: Acronyms, Abbreviations, and Short-forms
- Section 13: Index
- Section 14: Appendices



Collecting Public Comments Tonight

- Your input helps NRCS make informed decisions
- Computers and paper forms are available
- Comments must be specific to SID's project
- Staff from NRCS and FCA are available to assist
- Your comment will be included in the Final Plan-EA



Substantive Comments

- Question the accuracy, methodology, assumptions, analysis, and information in the Draft Plan-EA
- Present new information relevant to the analysis
- Present reasonable alternatives other than those analyzed in the Draft Plan-EA
- Cause changes or revisions in one or more of the alternatives¹

¹U.S. Bureau of Land Management. (2008). National Environmental Policy Act: Handbook H-1790-1. Washington DC: U.S. Bureau of Land Management.



Substantive Comment Examples

- I am concerned about fish in the Deschutes. Did you consider looking at “The Best Fish Study” when discussing the effects?
- There was no mention of species X, they are known to be present in the project area.



Opportunity to Provide Comments

- Learn more at oregonwatershedplans.org
- Submit comments at this meeting or via email, mail, website, or telephone
- Submit comments to swalleycomments@gmail.com
- Sign up for email notices through the website

Public Comment Period Ends October 24, 2018

