

Public Scoping Meeting

Lone Pine Irrigation District Irrigation Modernization Project

Wednesday, October 17th, 2018

Meeting Purpose

To inform the community of the proposed Lone Pine Irrigation District Irrigation Modernization Project and to gather community comments and suggestions on the proposed project.

Project Goals

The goals of the proposed project are to modernize District-owned canals and laterals to conserve water, improve operational efficiencies and water supply reliability, enhance public safety, and improve habitat in the Deschutes River while improving the economic sustainability and resilience of local agriculture. The proposed project would help the agricultural community meet the requirements under the Clean Water Act and the Endangered Species Act.

District Facts

- The District's system is within the Crooked River and Upper Deschutes River basin, serves 21 patrons and irrigates 2,369 acres.
- LPID has both live flow water rights in the Deschutes River and storage rights in Crane Prairie Reservoir. Patrons order water 48 hours in advance which is then diverted from the Deschutes River and conveyed through the Central Oregon Irrigation District's Pilot Butte Canal before entering a system of approximately 15 miles of pipes and open canals.
- The District loses up to 8.8 cubic feet per second (3,219 acre-feet) over the entire irrigation season from seepage and evaporation.
- The Deschutes River experiences low flows downstream of the City of Bend during the summer that diminish water and habitat quality.
- The Deschutes River provides important habitat for sensitive species, including, but not limited to, bull trout, Chinook salmon, Oregon spotted frog, and many other fish, bird, and wildlife species.

Resource Concerns

The sponsors have identified the following resource concerns:

- Water loss in the District's conveyance system
- Water delivery inefficiencies, including end spills and high operation and maintenance costs
- Reduced instream flow for fish and aquatic habitat and diminished water quality
- Risk of open canals to human health and safety
- Inefficient energy usage from irrigation pumps

Potential Project Benefits

- Piping LPID's system could reduce seepage losses by up to 3,219 acre-feet (a rate of up to 8.8 cubic feet per second) over the entire irrigation season.
- Saved water could be permanently protected instream using Oregon's Allocation of Conserved Water Program, enhancing stream flow in the Deschutes River while also improving water supply reliability to LPID patrons.
- More instream flow in the Deschutes River would assist in meeting streamflow goals designed to enhance ecological function and habitat for sensitive fish and other aquatic species.
- Irrigation water delivery reliability could be improved to ensure that patrons receive the amount of water they need at the right time.
- Public safety could be improved by converting open canals to buried pipe, eliminating the risk of drowning and canal breaches.
- LPID patron energy use could be reduced by up to 1.3 megawatt hours per year.

Stakeholders/Entities with Interest

The project sponsor is the Deschutes Basin Board of Control with co-sponsor Lone Pine Irrigation District (LPID), in cooperation with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and Farmers Conservation Alliance (FCA). Currently identified stakeholders include:

- Central Oregon Landwatch
- Coalition for the Deschutes
- Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs
- Crook County
- Crooked River Watershed Council
- Deschutes County
- Deschutes River Conservancy
- District patrons and water users
- Jefferson County
- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Fisheries
- Oregon Department of Agriculture
- Oregon Department of Environmental Quality
- Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife
- Oregon Department of State Lands
- Oregon Water Resources Department
- State Historic Preservation Office
- Trout Unlimited
- United States Army Corps of Engineers
- United States Bureau of Land Management
- United States Bureau of Reclamation
- United States Fish and Wildlife Service
- United States Forest Service, Deschutes National Forest
- Upper Deschutes Watershed Council
- Water Watch of Oregon

Scoping comments will be accepted through November 15, 2018

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