



North Unit Irrigation District Infrastructure Modernization Project

Public Comment Meeting: July 25, 2022



Meeting Agenda

Part 1

Welcome
&
Technology

Part 2

Watershed Planning
&
Project Overview

Part 3

Question
&
Answer Session



Part 1

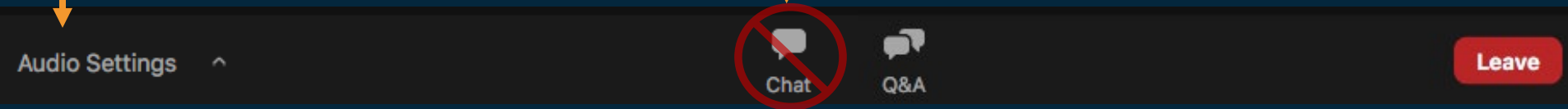
Welcome & Technology



Using Zoom Webinar

Microphones are muted

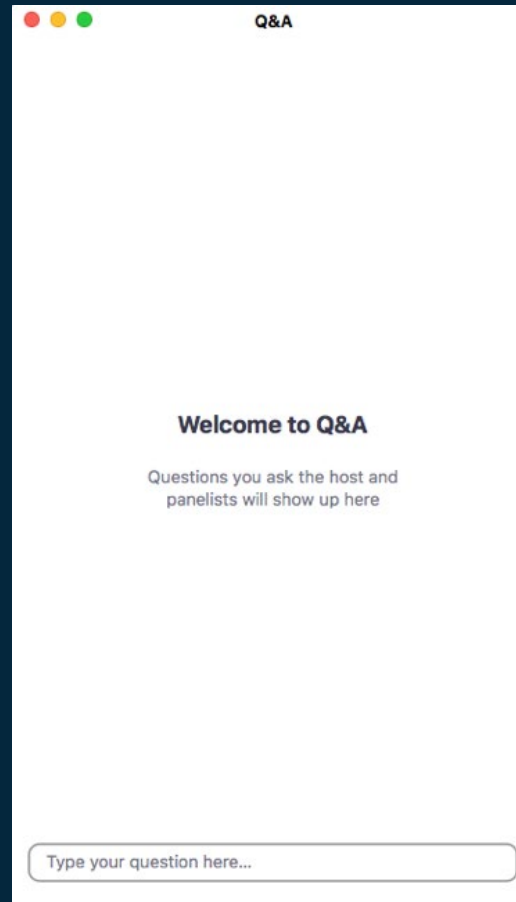
Chat box is disabled



Webinar is being recorded

Recording available afterward at
oregonwatershedplans.org

Using Zoom Webinar



- Submit questions at any time during the presentation
- Questions will be answered after the presentation by our panelists
- Formal comments can be submitted for the record via email, website, mail, or phone – more on that later

Use Q&A button
to submit a
question

Q&A box should
appear



Chat



Q&A

Leave

District Welcome



Part 2

Watershed Planning & Project Overview



Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Program (PL-566)

Managed and funded by
US Department of Agriculture
- Natural Resources Conservation Service
(NRCS)

To qualify, irrigation districts must have

- 1) match funding
- 2) authorized Final Watershed Plan-
Environmental Assessment (Plan-EA)



Watershed Planning Process

Step 1:
Project Proposal Initiation



Scoping Meeting

Step 2:
Scoping Period



Step 3:
Prepare DRAFT
Watershed Plan- Environmental Assessment



Public Meeting

Step 4:
Public Comment Period



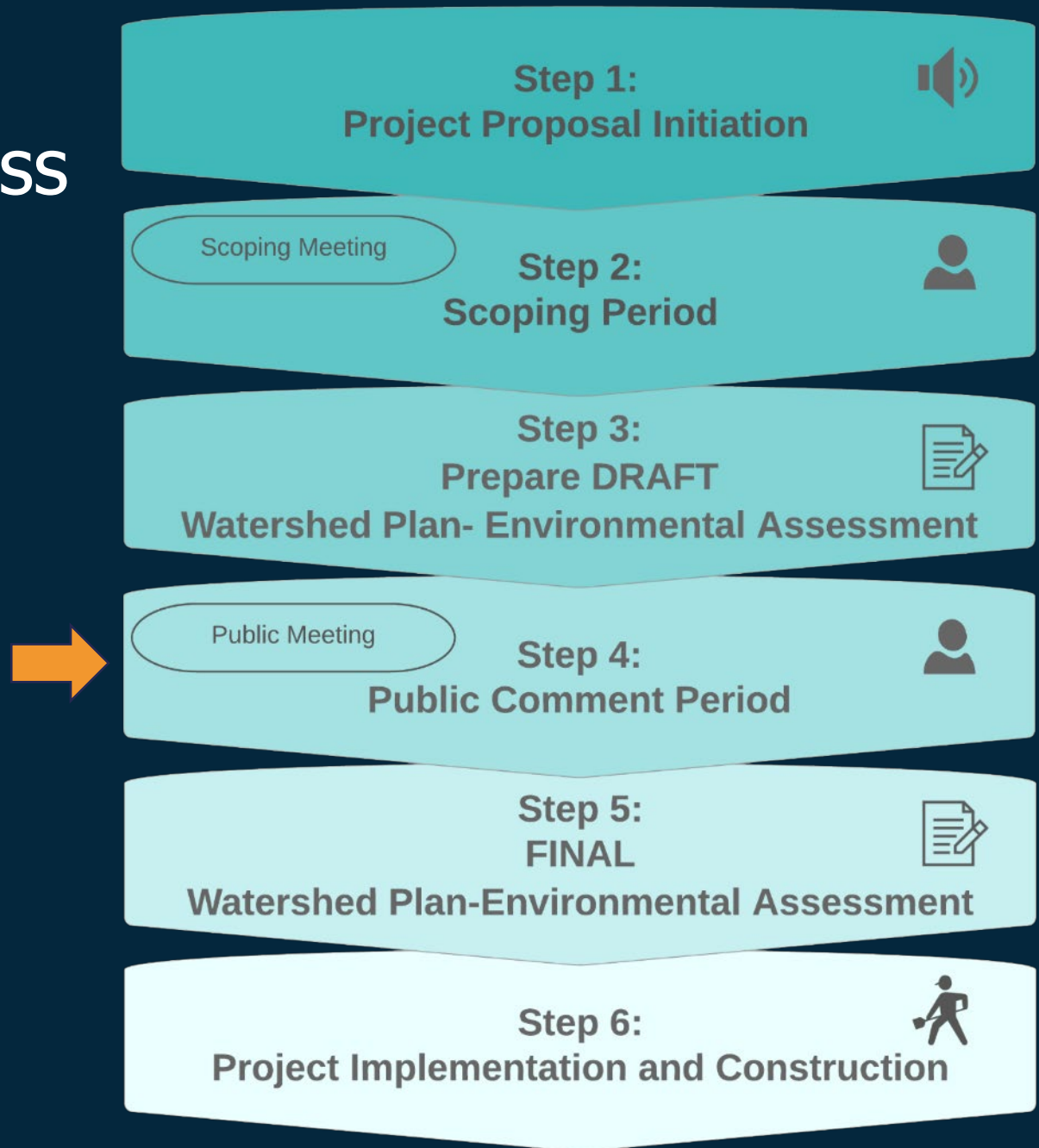
Step 5:
FINAL
Watershed Plan-Environmental Assessment



Step 6:
Project Implementation and Construction



Watershed Planning Process



What a Plan-EA Includes

- Purpose & Need
- Proposed Action
- Alternatives
- Effects
- Mitigation Measures
- Economic Analysis



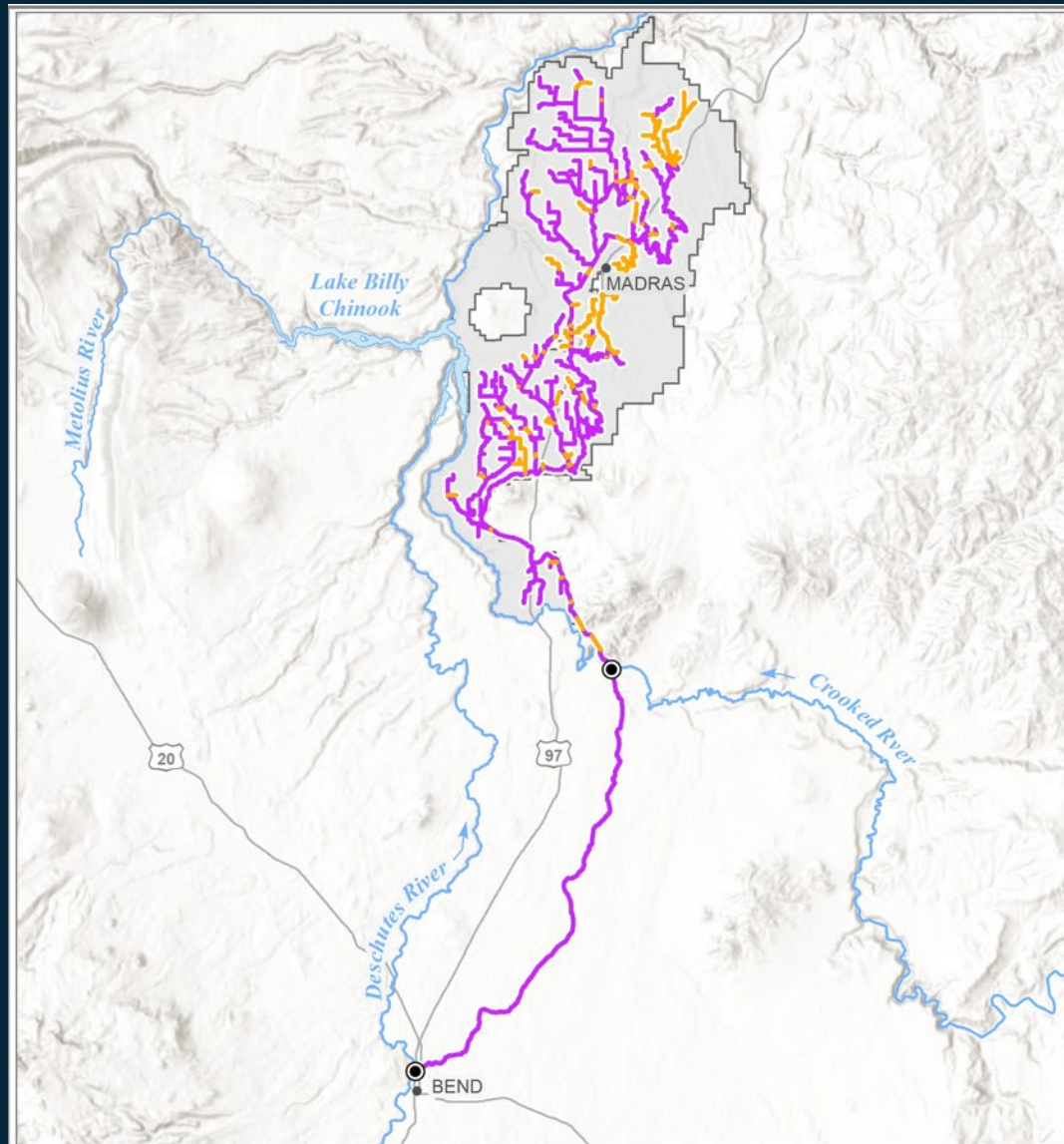
How the Plan-EA is Organized

1. Introduction
2. Purpose and Need
3. Scope of the Plan-EA
4. Affected Environment
- 5. Alternatives**
- 6. Environmental Consequences**
7. Consultation, Coordination, and Public Participation
- 8. Preferred Alternative**
- 9-13. Other Required Sections
14. Appendix



North Unit Irrigation District Overview

- **58,885** acres irrigated
- **952** irrigators
- Irrigation season **April-Oct**
- **300**-mile system
- **186,606** acre-feet of water diverted on average for all diversions over the last 10 years
- **~37%** of the water diverted lost to seepage



North Unit Irrigation District

- Diversion
- Existing Canal
- Existing Pipeline
- North Unit Irrigation District



0 5 10 Miles

7/25/2022; Sources: FCA, NHD, ODOT, Esri
NUID District Map.mxd

Project Purpose and Need

- Improve water conservation
- Improve water supply management and delivery reliability
- Reduce irrigation return flows to address water quality concerns
- Reduce District operation and maintenance costs



Alternatives

No Action Alternative

Future without Federal Investment

Continuation of the District's standard operations and maintenance procedures

Modernization Alternative

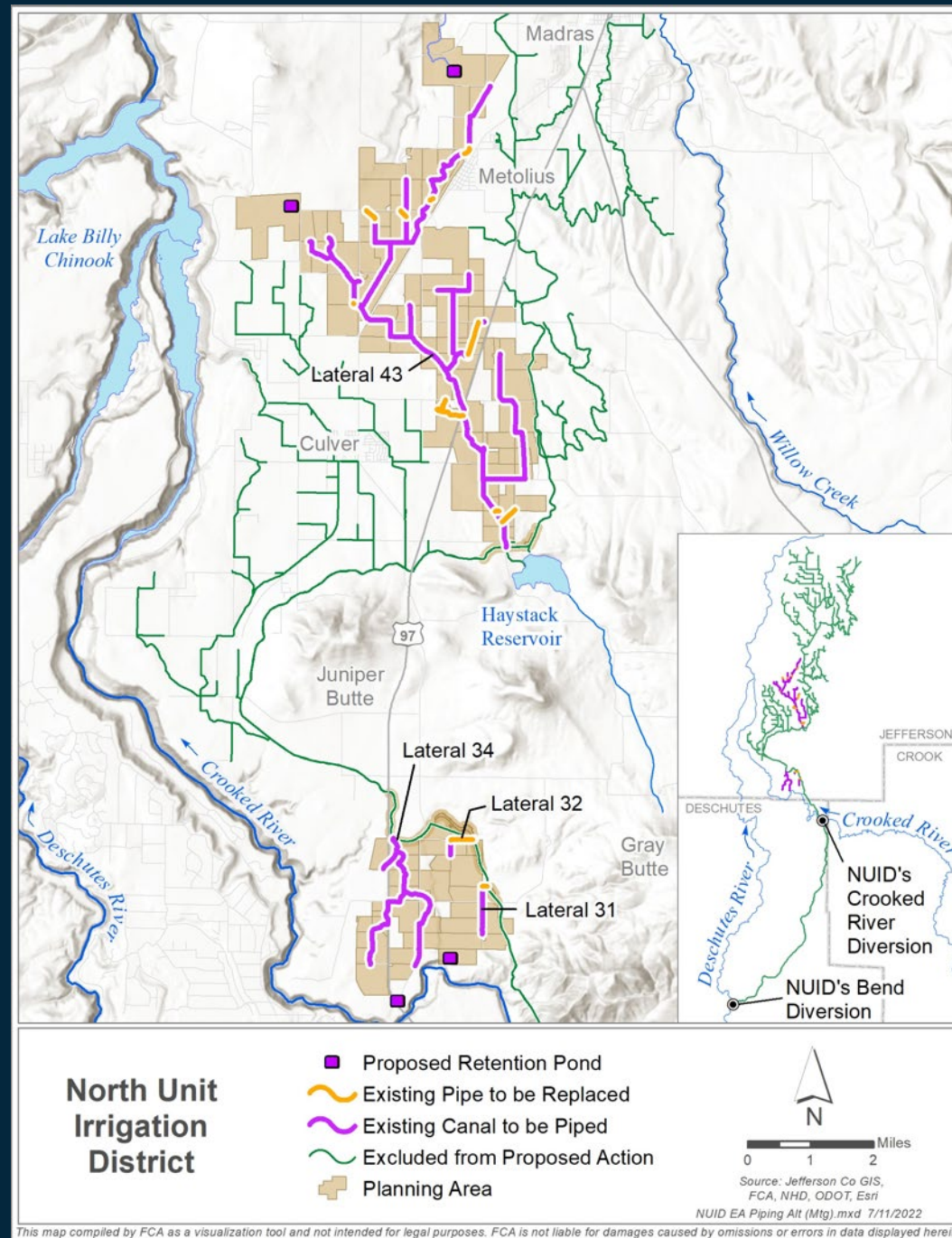
Future with Federal Investment

Proposed Action Infrastructure Improvements

- Pipe laterals 31, 32, 34, and 43
- Construct four 1,000-cubic yard retention ponds
- Upgrade associated turnouts
- Install three pressure reducing valves throughout Lateral 43

Modernization Alternative

- Install 27.5 miles of buried pipe
- Construct four 1,000-cubic yard retention ponds
- Upgrade turnouts along laterals
- Install three pressure reducing valves throughout Lateral 43



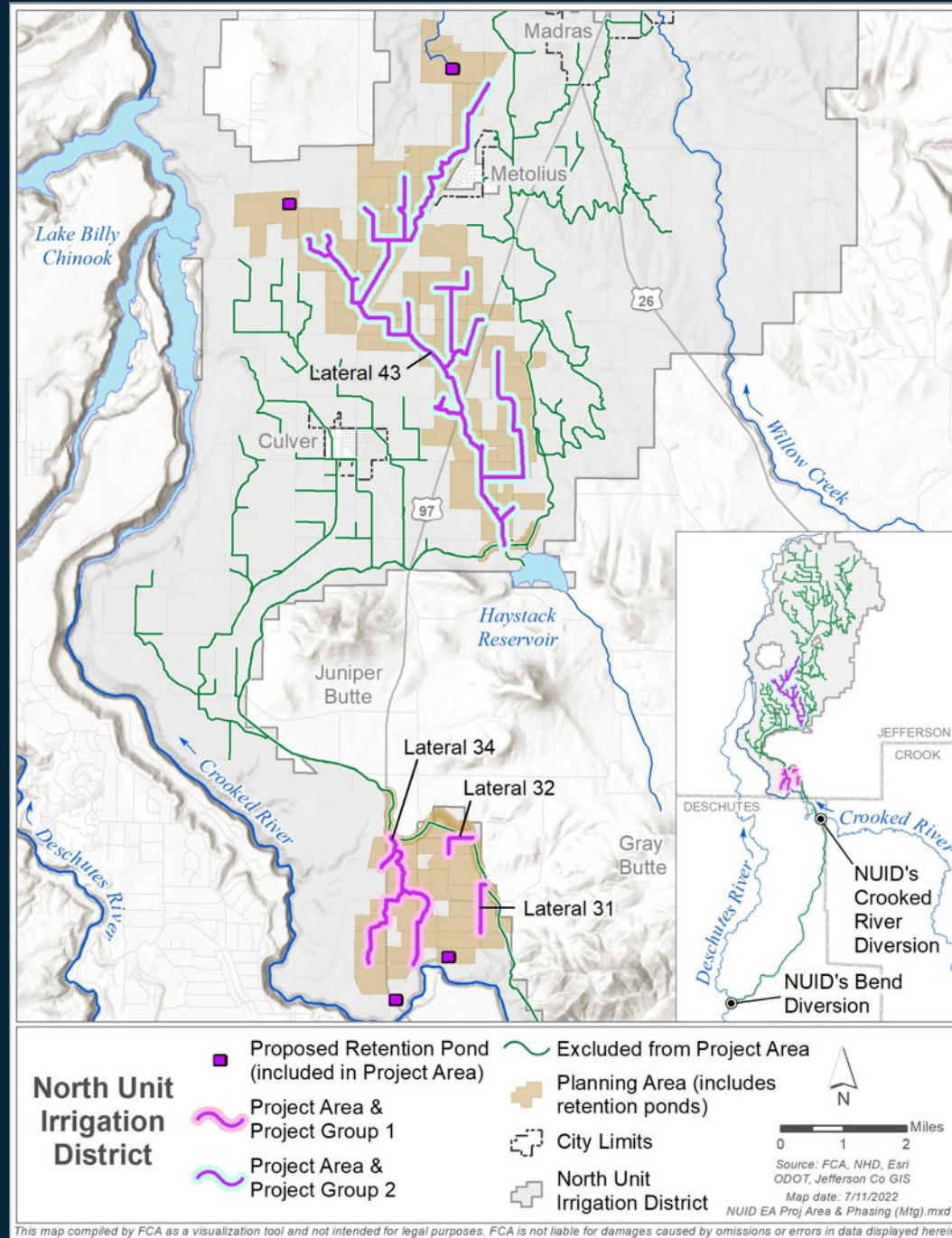
Modernization Alternative

Construction Timeline: 6 years

Phase	Year
1	2023-2024
2	2025-2029

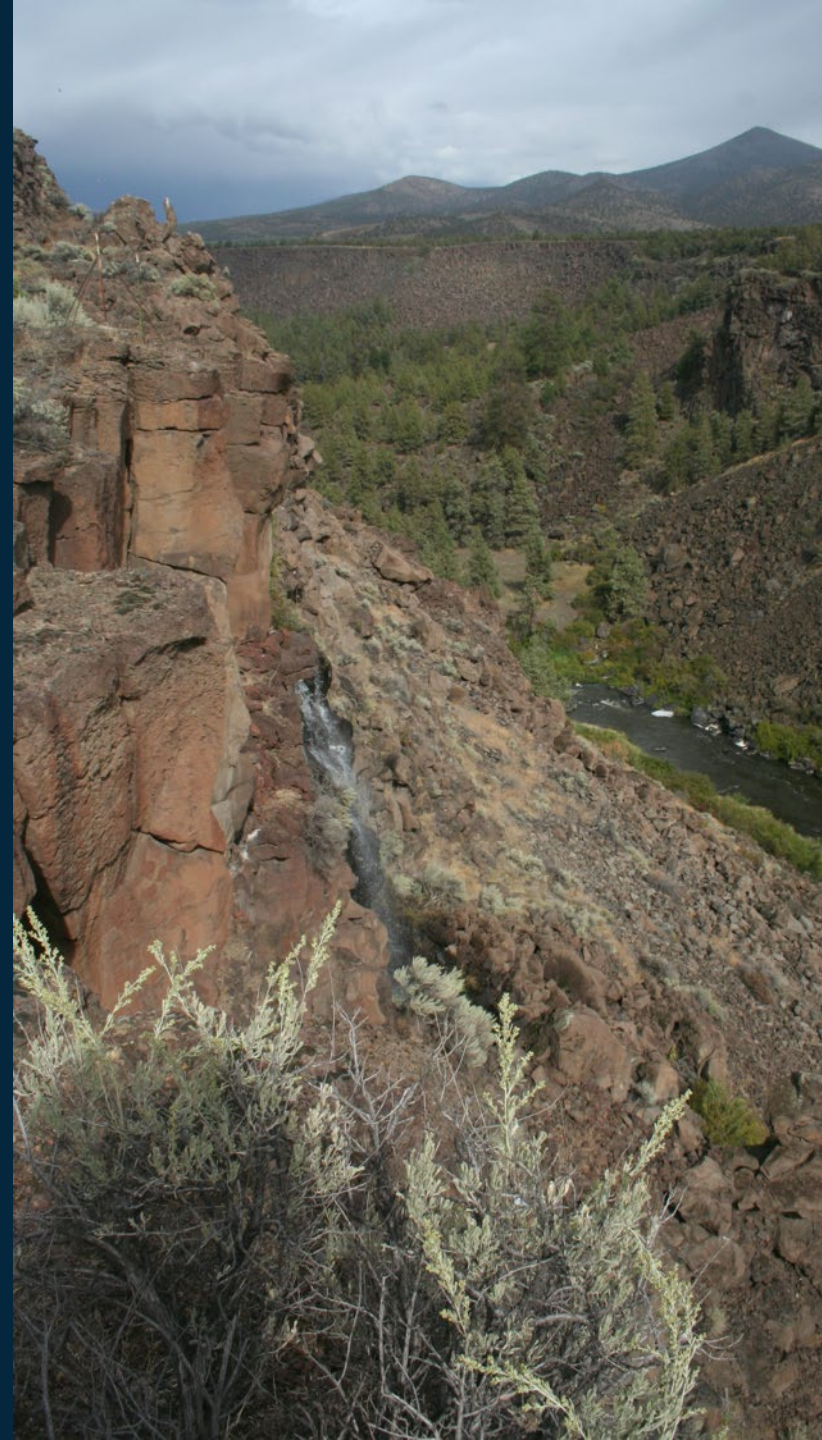
Cost: \$34,020,000

PL-566 Funds	District Match
\$25,810,000	\$8,210,000



What This Project Would Achieve

- Improve water delivery reliability
- Save water
 - Up to 6,089 acre-feet/year during the irrigation season
- Reduce agricultural production damages arising from water shortages
- Reduce risk to public safety



Plan-EA Resource Analysis

Cultural Resources

Fish and Aquatic Resources

Land Use

Public Safety

Socioeconomic Resources

Soils

Vegetation

Water Resources

Wetlands and Riparian Areas

Wild and Scenic Rivers

Wildlife Resources

Visual Resources

We Would Like Your Comments

- Your input helps NRCS make informed decisions
- Formal comments must be submitted in writing (letter, email, website) or by phone
- Comments must be specific to NUID's project
- Your comment will be included in the Final Plan-EA



Commenting Suggestions

- Accuracy, methodology, assumptions, information used for analysis
- Errors and omissions
- Range of alternatives included
- NEPA and NRCS requirements



Comment Period Ends **August 10, 2022**

Opportunities to Submit Formal Comment

- Online: oregonwatershedplans.org
- Email: northunit.id.comments@gmail.com
- Phone: (541) 716-6085
- Mail: Attn: North Unit Watershed Plan
Farmers Conservation Alliance
102 State St.
Hood River, OR 97031

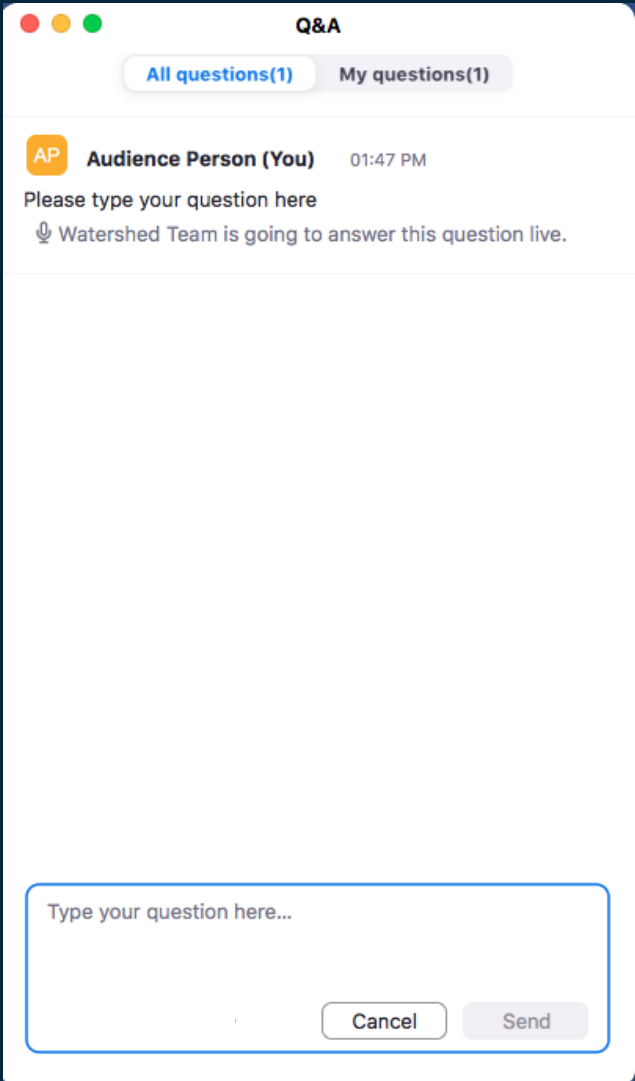


Part 3

Question & Answer Session



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