



Hermiston Irrigation District Infrastructure Modernization Project

Public Scoping Meeting: August 30, 2022

Meeting Agenda

Part 1

Process
&
Project Overview

Part 2

Public Comment
Breakout Session



Part 1

Process & 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)



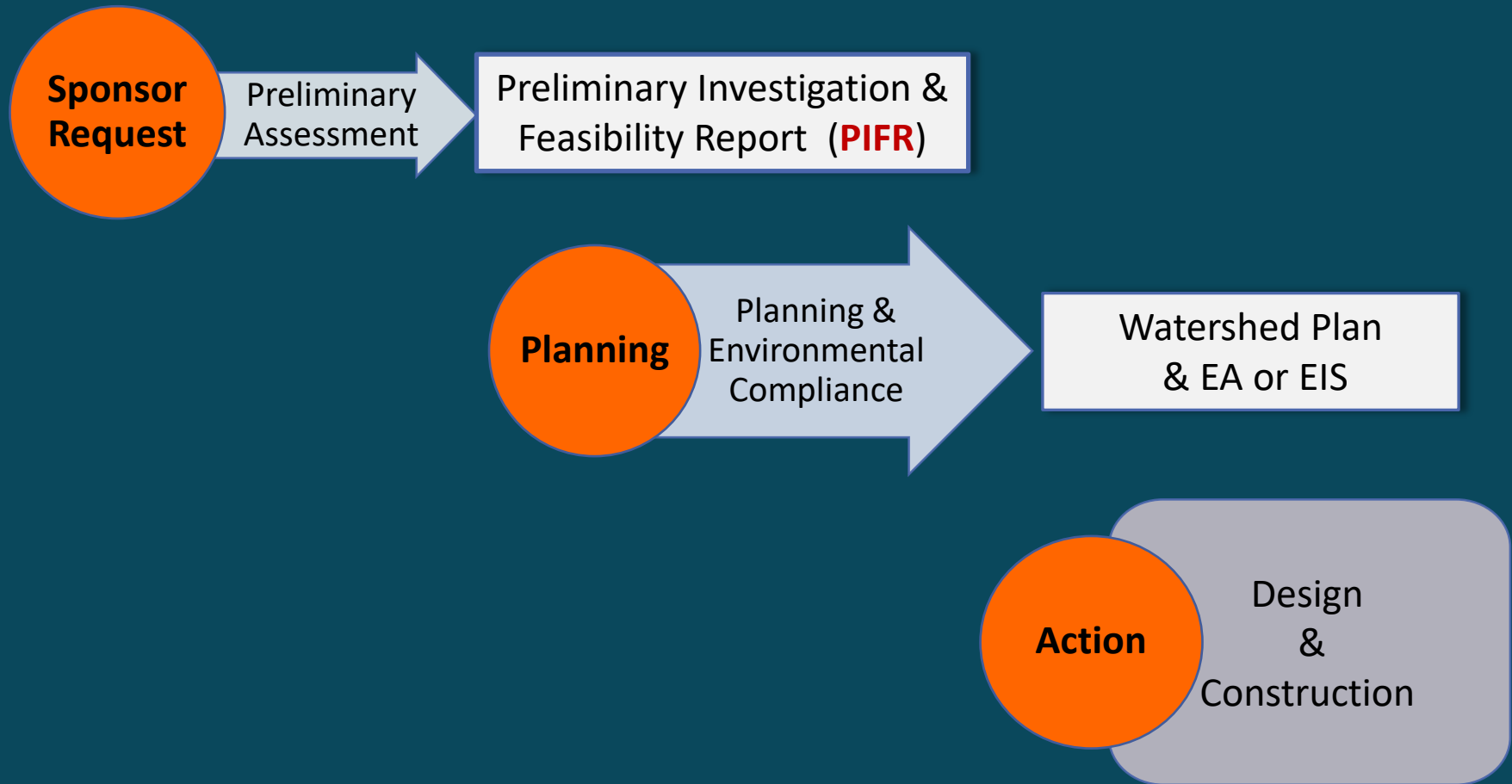
General PL-566 Requirements

- Must have a project **“SPONSOR”**
 - Public Sponsorship – at least one sponsor must be a City, County, State, or Tribal Government entity*
 - One sponsor must agree to be the financial agreement holder with NRCS (usually Tribal, City, County or State)*
- Project must fit at least **one** of the eight **authorized uses**
- **> 20%** of benefits are agricultural or for rural community
- No structure with
 - > 12,500 acre-feet of flood storage**
 - > 25,000 acre-feet of total capacity**
- Projects that need over **\$25 million** of federal construction funding require Congressional approval

8 Purposes Authorized by PL-566

- *Agricultural Water Management*
- *Watershed Protection*
- *Flood Prevention (Flood Damage Reduction)*
- *Municipal and Industrial Water Supply*
- *Public Recreation*
- *Public Fish and Wildlife*
- *Water Quality Management*
- *Watershed Structure Rehabilitation*

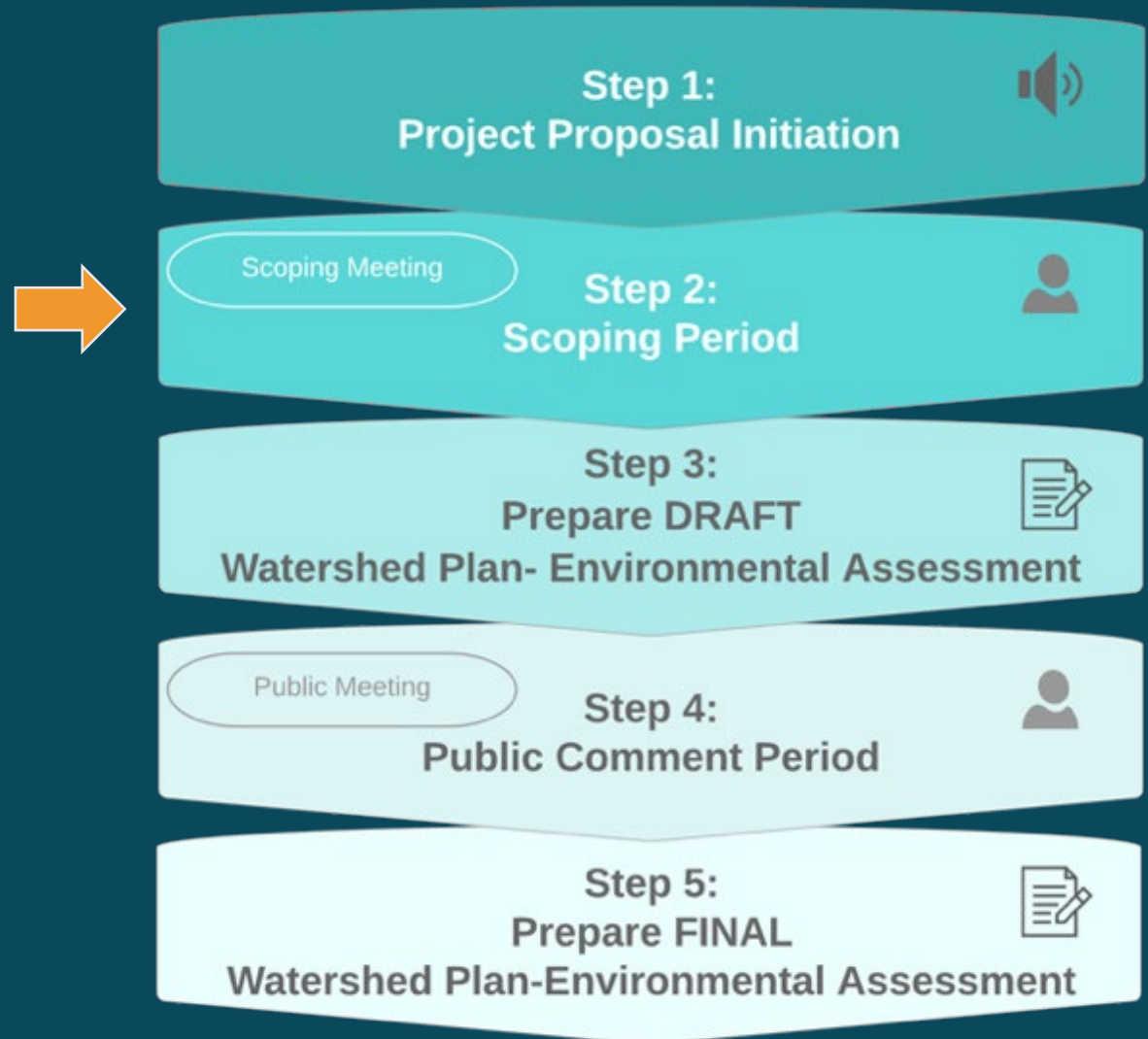
Watershed Program Phases



NEPA and PR&Gs

- National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)
 - Categorical Exclusions
 - Environmental Assessments
 - Environmental Impact Statements
- Principles Requirements and Guidelines for Water and Land Related Resources Implementation Studies (PR&Gs)

Watershed Planning Phase and Process



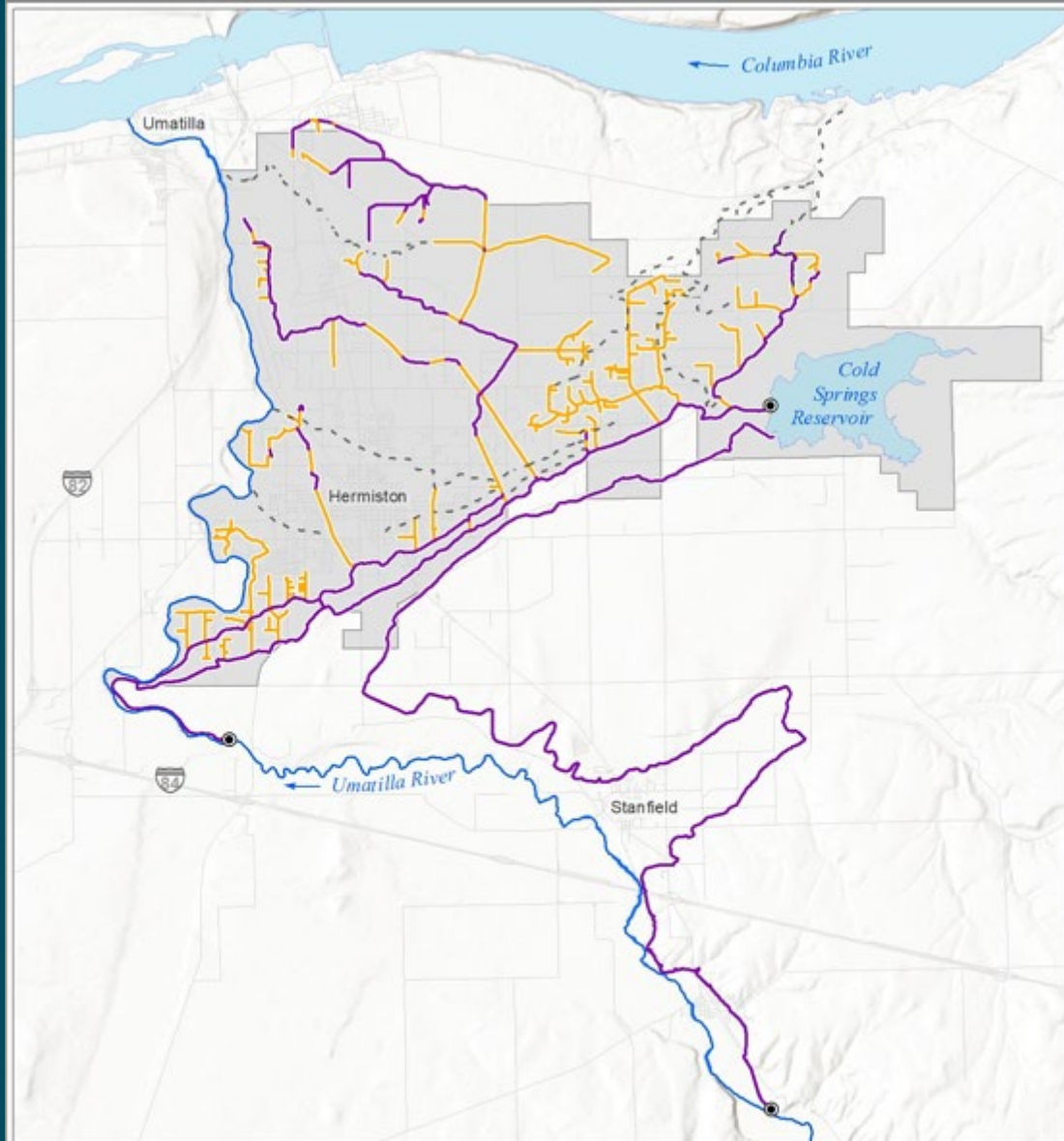
What a Plan-EA Includes

- Purpose & Need
- Proposed Action
- Alternatives
- Affected Resources:
Examples - Cultural, Fish and Aquatic, Vegetation, Water, Wildlife, Ecosystem services
- Economic Analysis



Hermiston Irrigation District Overview

- **9,843** acres irrigated
- **1,215** patrons served
- Irrigation season **March-Oct**
- Up to **50,000** acre-feet water diverted/year
- **112** mile system
 - **62.4** miles open canal
 - **49.9** miles piped canal



Hermiston Irrigation District

- Diversion
- Existing canal
- Existing pipe
- - - Existing drain
- Hermiston Irrigation District

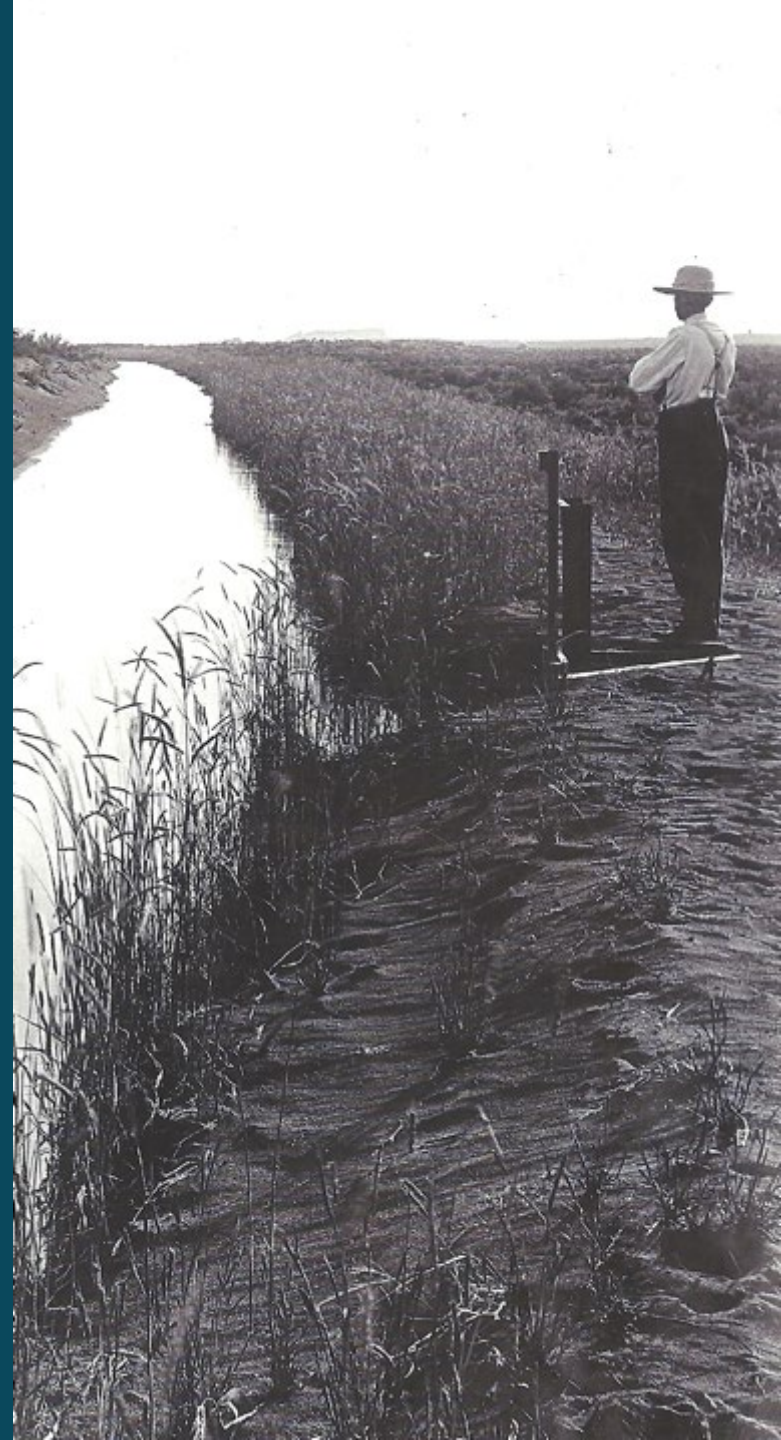


0 1 2 Miles

Source: FCA, NHD, ODOT, Esri
HID SD Existing System.mxd 5/6/2022

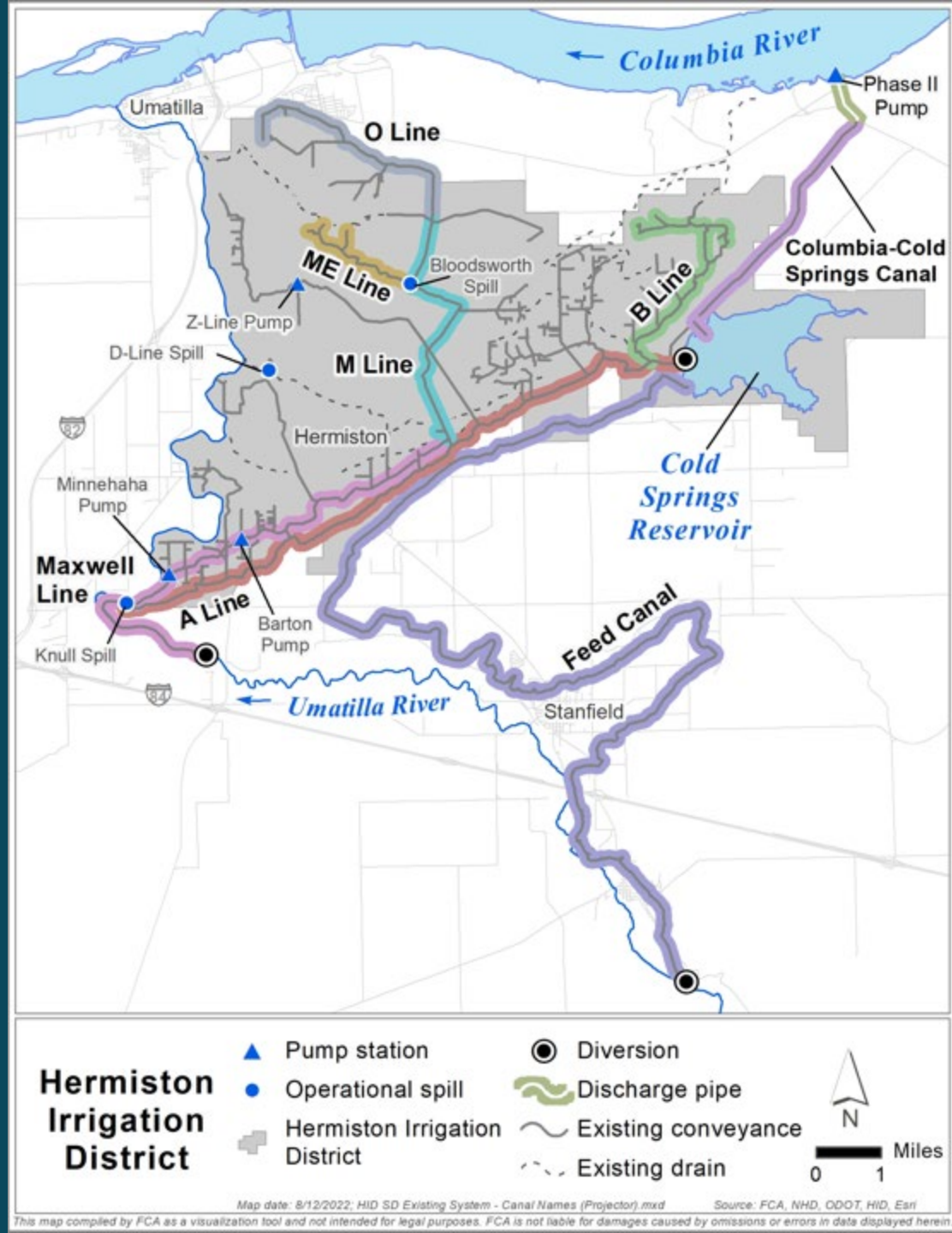
Project Purpose and Need

- **Improve conveyance efficiency**
Up to 25% of diverted water is lost to canal seepage and end spills
- **Reduce public safety risk**
Open canals pose risk of injury or drowning
- **Reduce environmental issues**
Degraded fish and aquatic habitat



Potential Modernization Alternatives

- Pipe or line **62 miles** of remaining open canal
- Upgrade **turnouts** for pressurized water deliveries
- Install **automated headgates, flow meters, and telemetry** at patron turnouts



Project Resource Effects to be Analyzed

- Geology and soils
- Cultural resources
- Vegetation
- Fish and aquatic species
- Wildlife
- Surface water
- Groundwater
- Wetlands, Riparian Areas, Floodplains
- Land use and recreation
- Environmental Justice
- Public Health and Safety
- Ecosystem Services
- Economic Benefits and Costs

Potential benefits of HID's Infrastructure Modernization Project

- **Save** water
- **Improve** irrigation water management and delivery reliability
- **Reduce** operations and maintenance costs
- **Reduce** public safety risks
- **Reduce** patron energy consumption and costs
- **Improve** local instream flow for fish and aquatic habitat

Part 2

Public Comment Breakout Session



Example Comments

- **Proposed project actions**

Will the construction affect my irrigation deliveries?

- **Alternatives**

What about using groundwater as an alternative to piping?

- **Surrounding environment** (cultural, natural, and economic resources)

I am concerned about wildlife in the area. Will you study the impacts of the project on wildlife?



Opportunities to Submit Comments

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

Scoping Period Ends September 30, 2022

Thank you for coming



Please bring your comments
to the tables