



# Powder Valley Water Control District Infrastructure Modernization Project

Public Scoping Meeting: October 5, 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)

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**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)



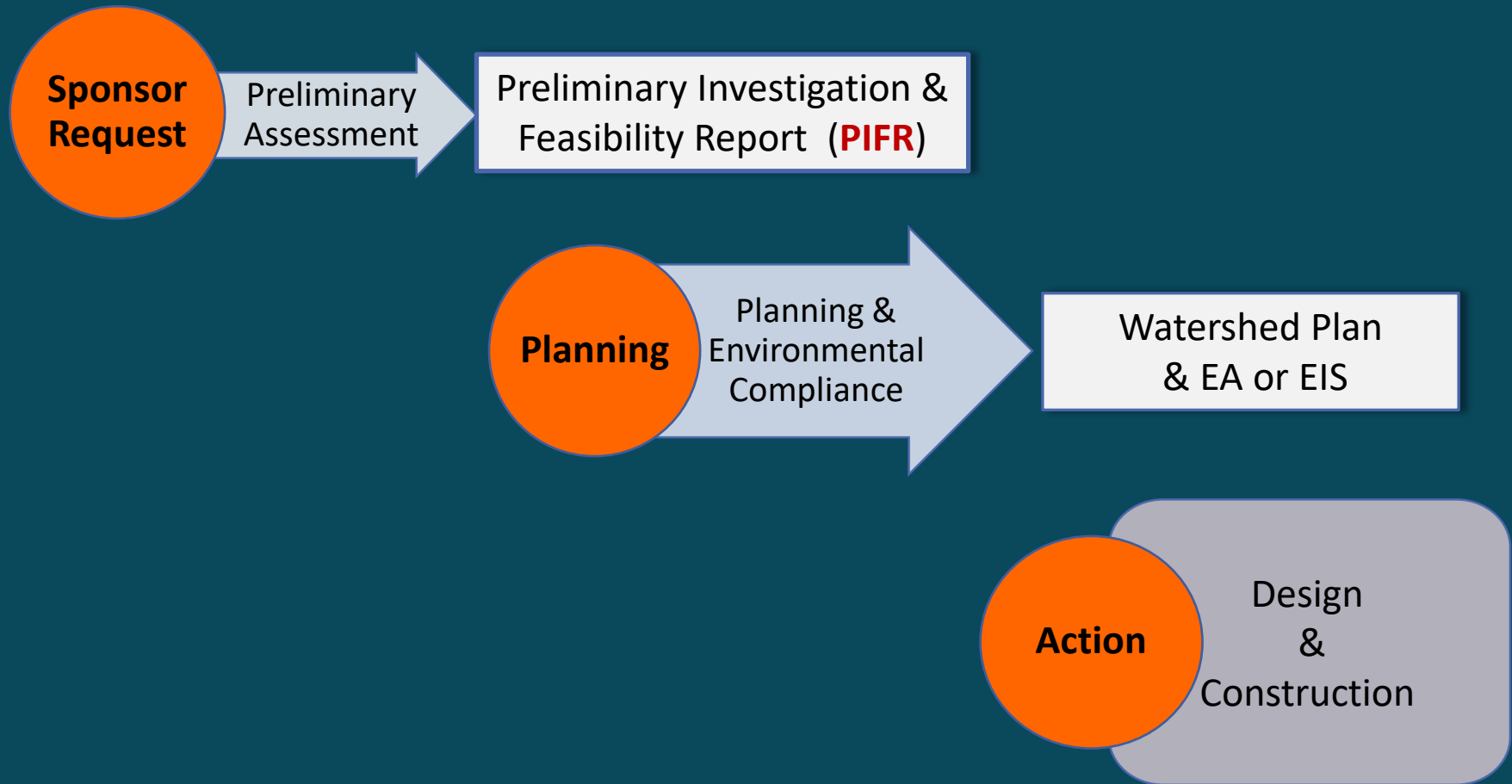
# General PL-566 Requirements

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- 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

# Watershed Program Phases

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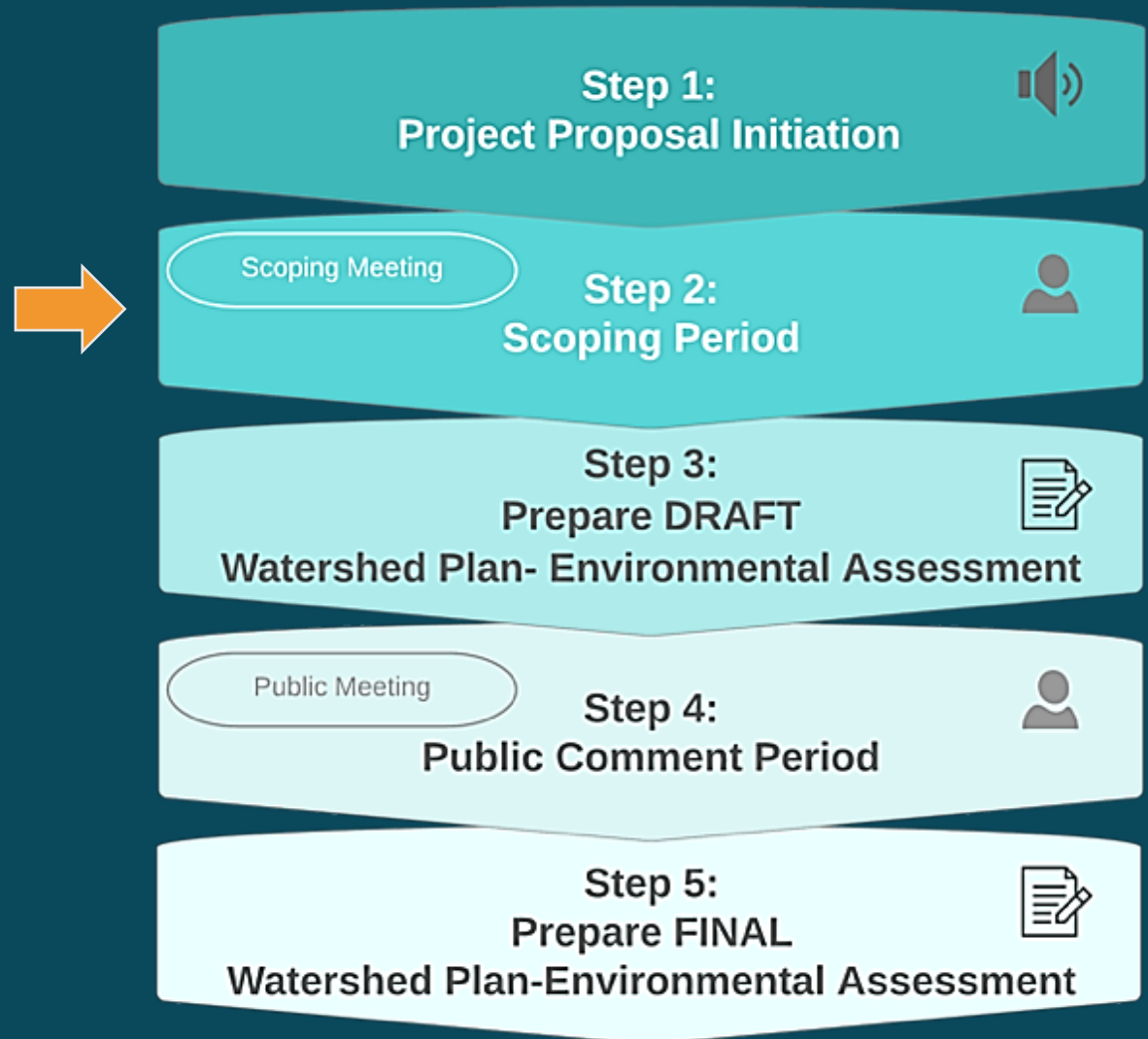
# NEPA and PR&Gs

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- 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

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# What a Plan-EA Includes

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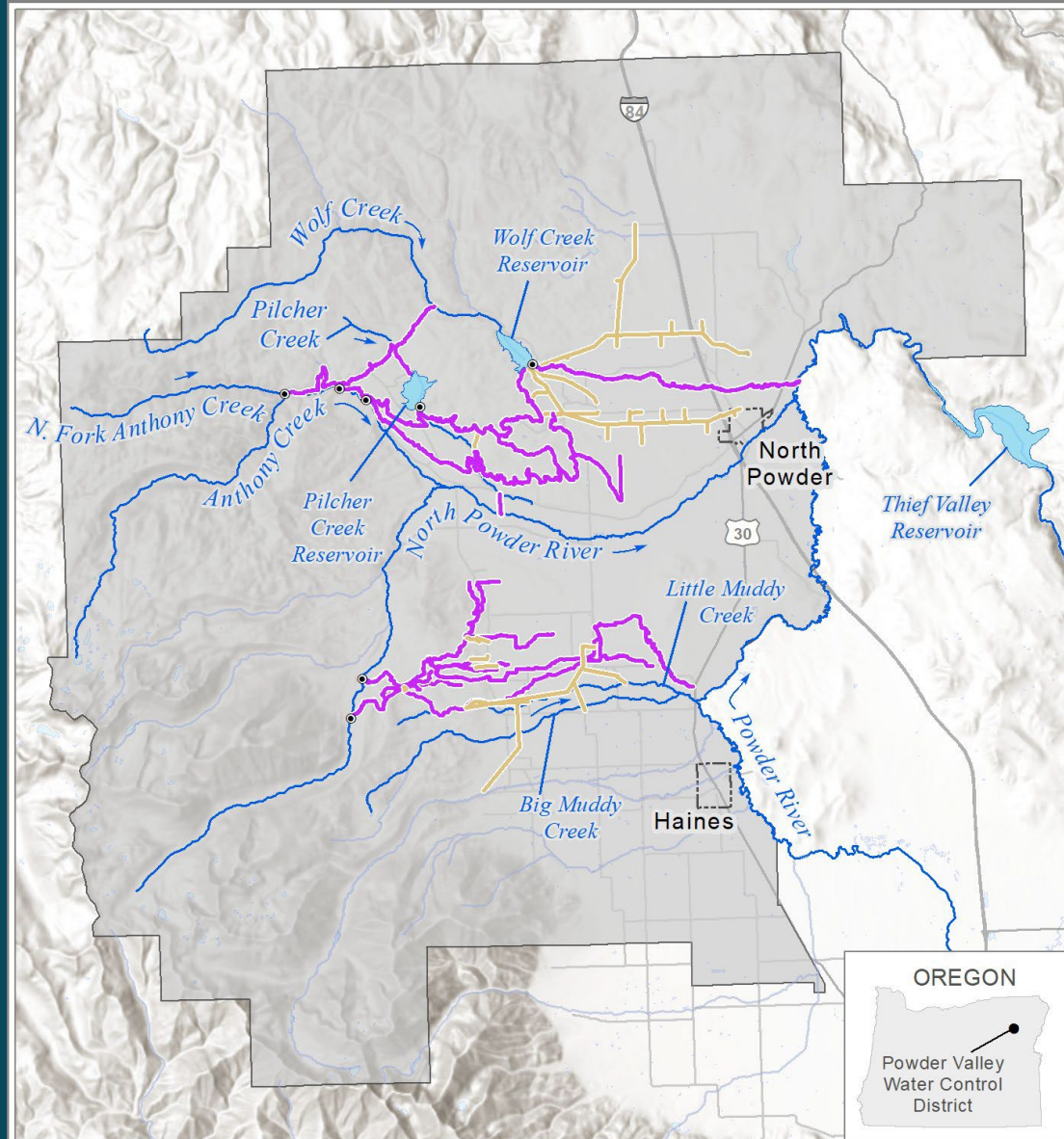
- Purpose & Need
- Proposed Action
- Alternatives
- Affected Resources:  
Examples - Cultural, Fish and Aquatic, Vegetation, Water, Wildlife
- Economic Analysis





# Powder Valley Water Control District Overview\*

- **~17,000** acres irrigated
- **152** irrigators served
- Irrigation season **April-Oct**
- **~105-mile** system
  - **61** miles open ditches
  - **44** miles pipelines



## Powder Valley Water Control District

Existing System

- Existing Diversion/Dam
- Existing Canal
- Existing Pipeline
- Project Watershed Area (PVWCD Boundary)



0 2 4 Miles

Source: FCA, NHD, ODOT, PVWCD, esri  
PVWCD\_PIFR\_ExistingSystem.mxd 6/29/2022

\* Values encompass PVWCD and Mansfield and Bulger Ditch Companies

# Project Purpose and Need

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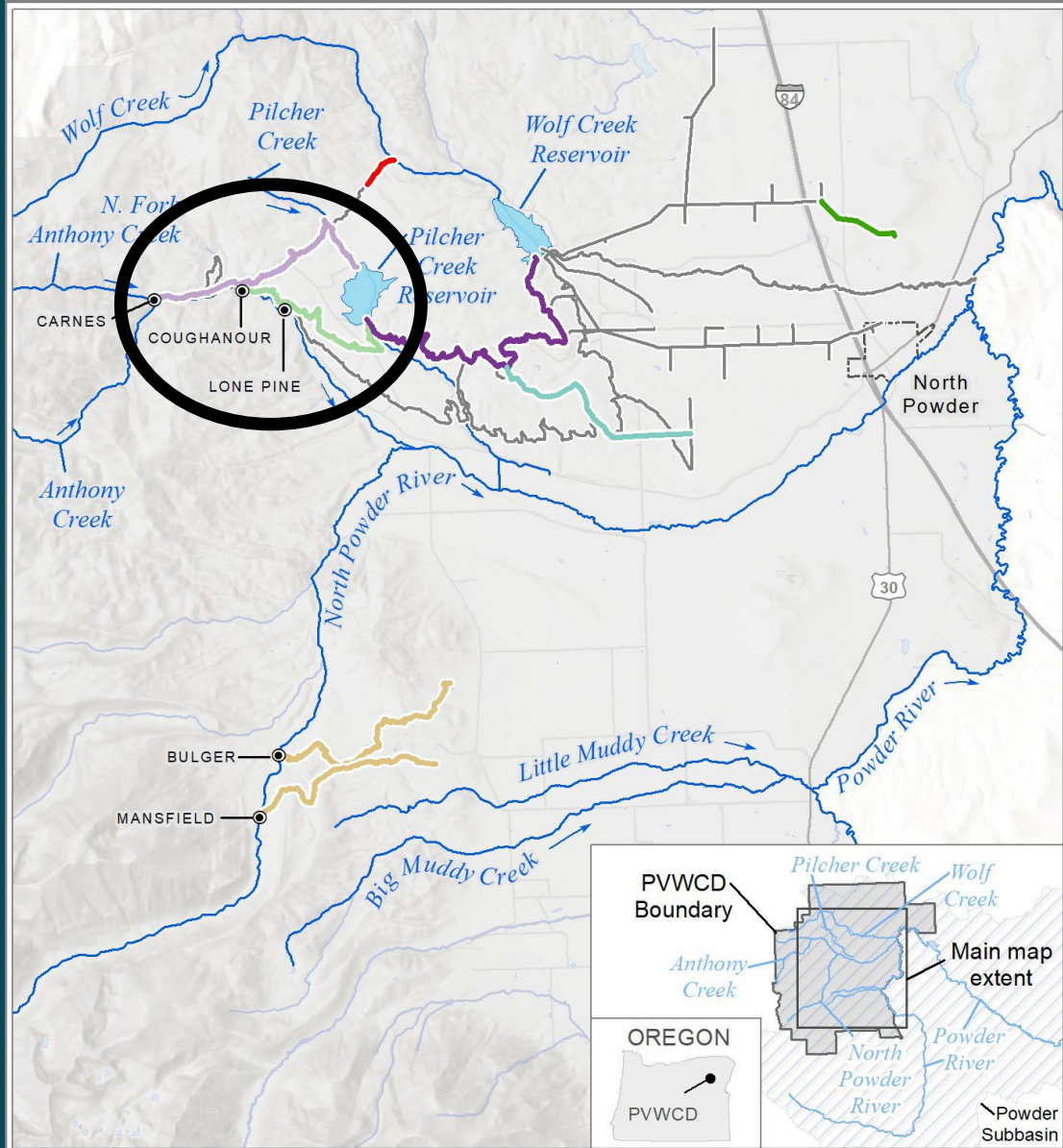
- **Reduce water loss**
- **Improve water supply reliability**
- **Improve operation efficiency**  
Open ditches make it challenging to deliver water





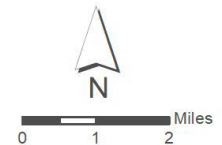
# Potential Modernization Alternatives

- **Pipe or line** open ditches
- **Consolidate diversions,** install fish screens and fish passage
- **Realign infrastructure**
- **Upgrade existing pipeline**



**Powder Valley Water Control District**  
**Potential Projects**

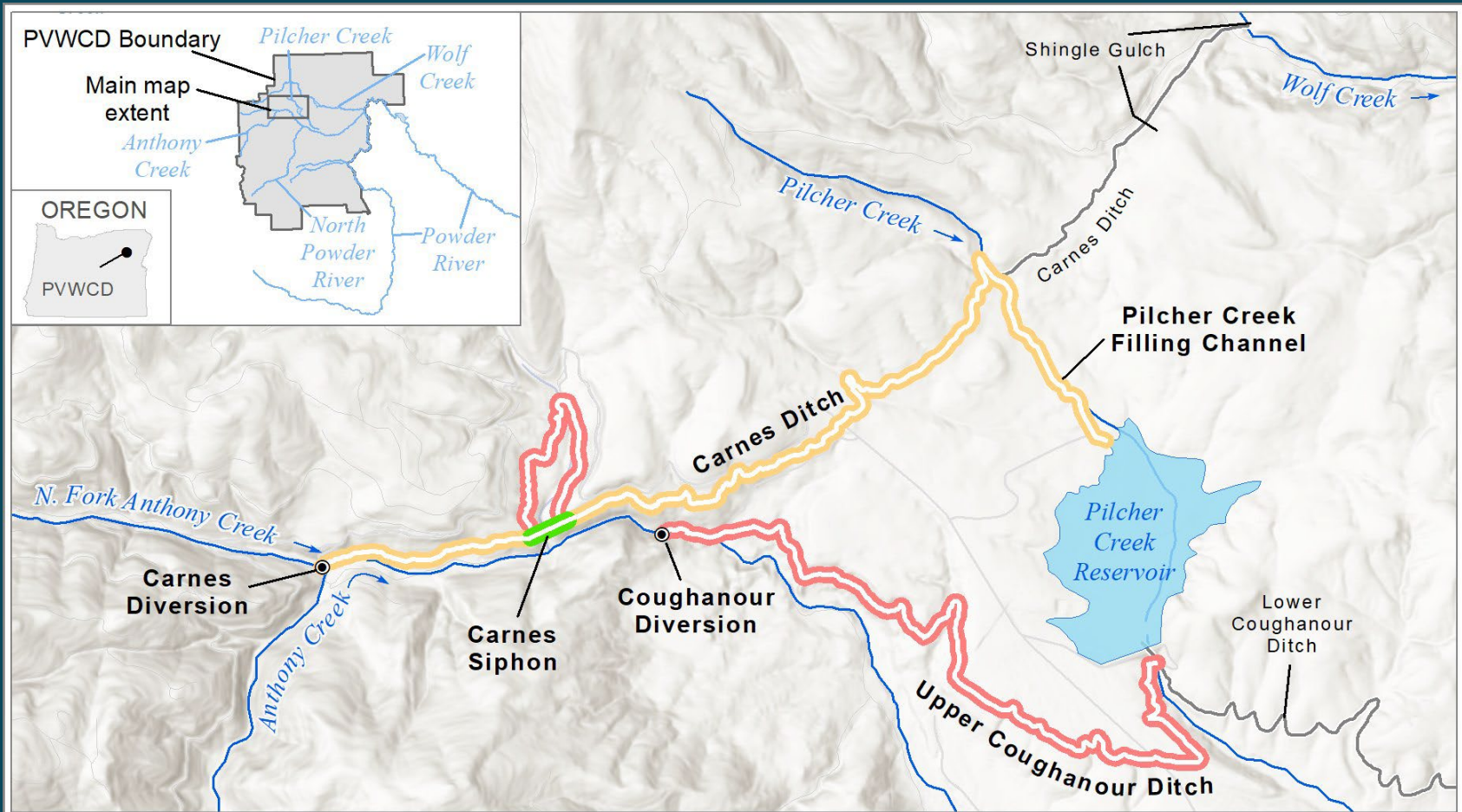
- Lower Coughanour Ditch
- C1 Pipe
- Upper Coughanour Ditch
- Carnes Ditch
- Shingle Gulch
- W1 Pipe
- Bulger Mansfield Ditches
- Existing infrastructure outside project area
- Diversion
- Powder Valley Water Control District boundary



Source: FCA, NHD, ODOT, PVWCD, esri  
 PVWCD\_Scoping\_PotentialProjects.mxd 8/16/2022


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# Carnes and Coughanour Potential Project





## Powder Valley Water Control District

### Coughanour and Carnes Ditches

 Canal to be piped

 Canal to be decommissioned

 New conveyance to be piped

 Existing infrastructure outside project area



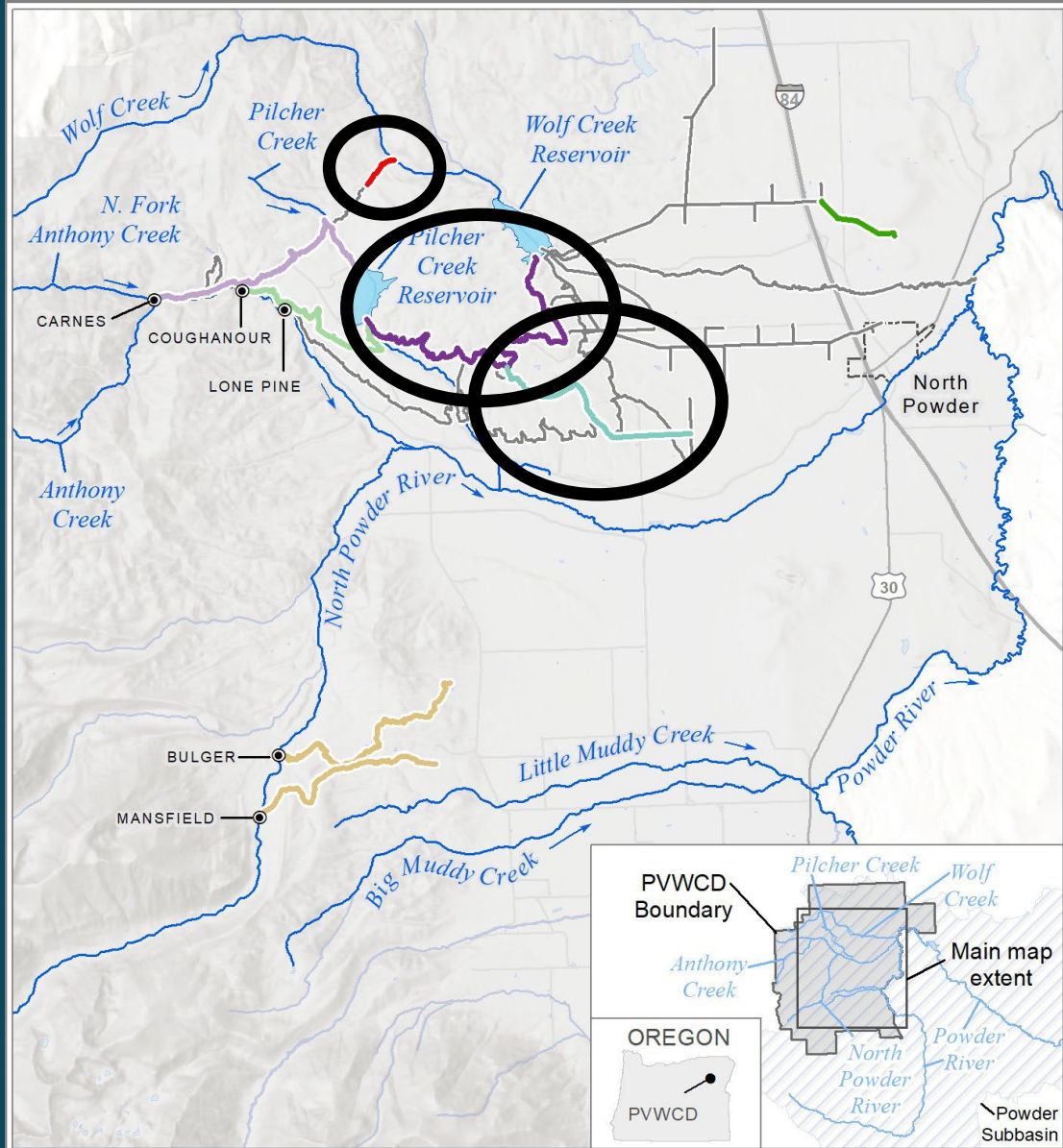
Credits: ODOT, NHD, FCA, PVWCD, esri  
PVWCD\_Scoping\_CarnesCoug\_Consol.mxd 5/17/2022

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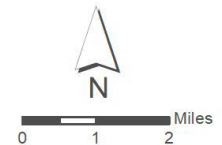
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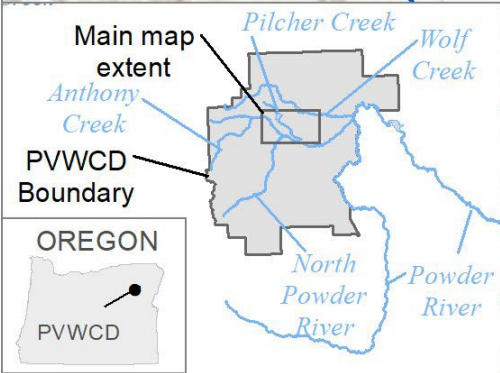
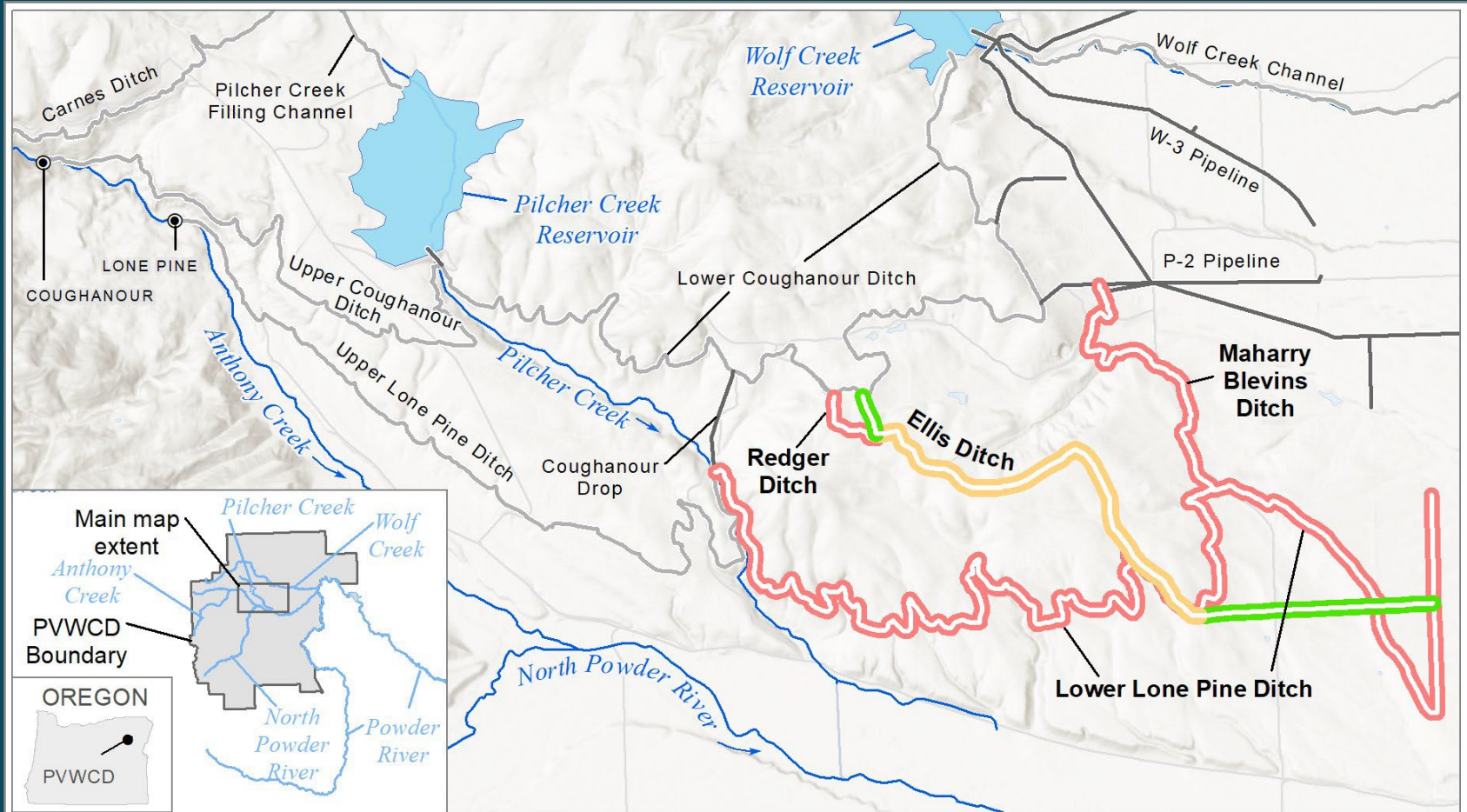


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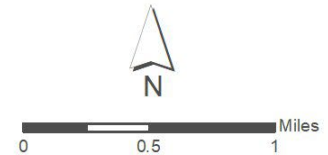
# C-1 Potential Project



## Powder Valley Water Control District C-1 Pipeline

- Diversion
- ~ Existing canal outside project area
- ~ Existing pipe outside project area

- New conveyance to be piped
- Canal to be piped
- Existing canal to be decommissioned

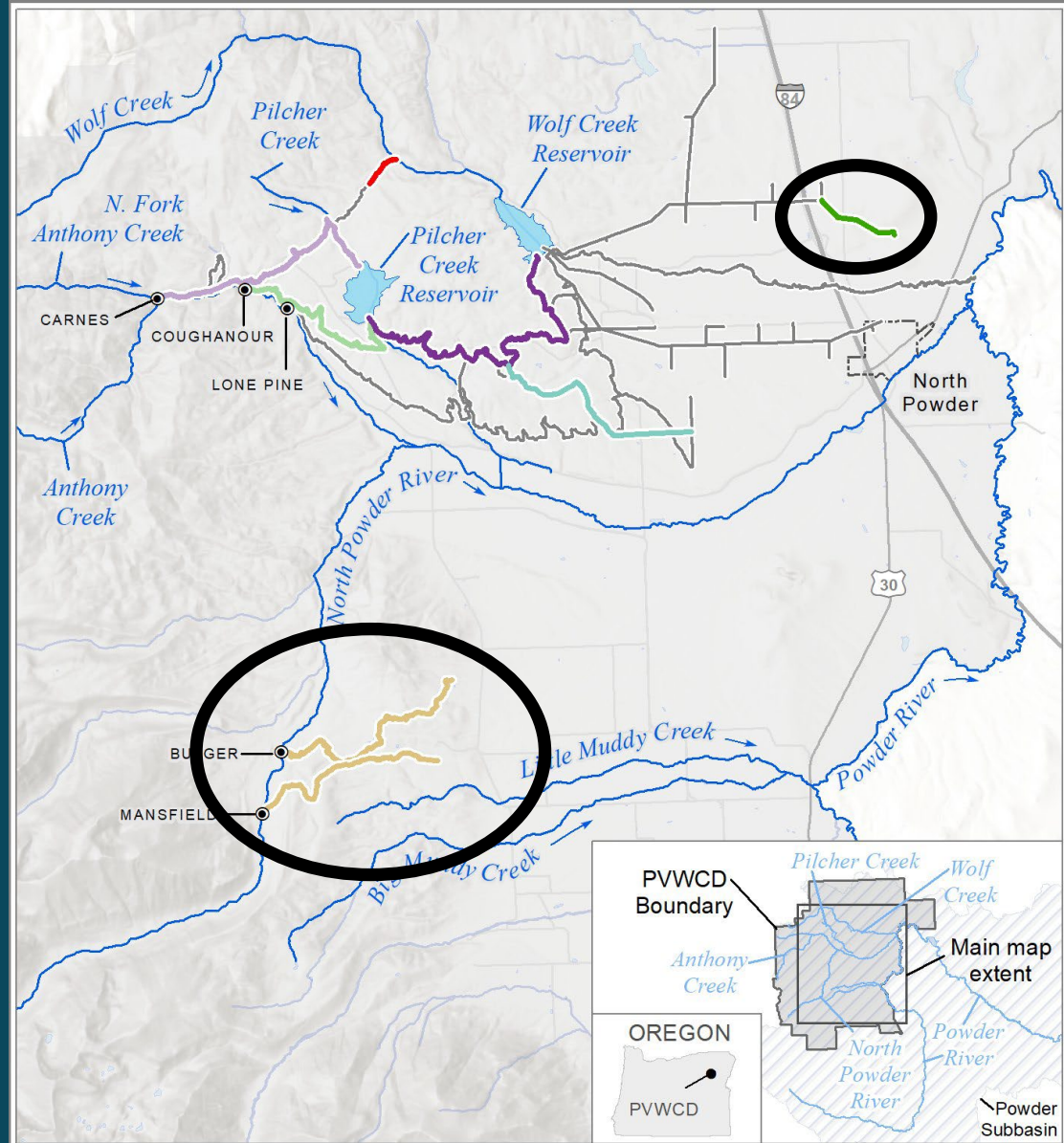


Credits: ODOT, NHD, FCA, PVWCD, esri  
PVWCD\_Scoping\_C1.mxd 8/16/2022

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# Potential Modernization Alternatives

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## Powder Valley Water Control District Potential Projects

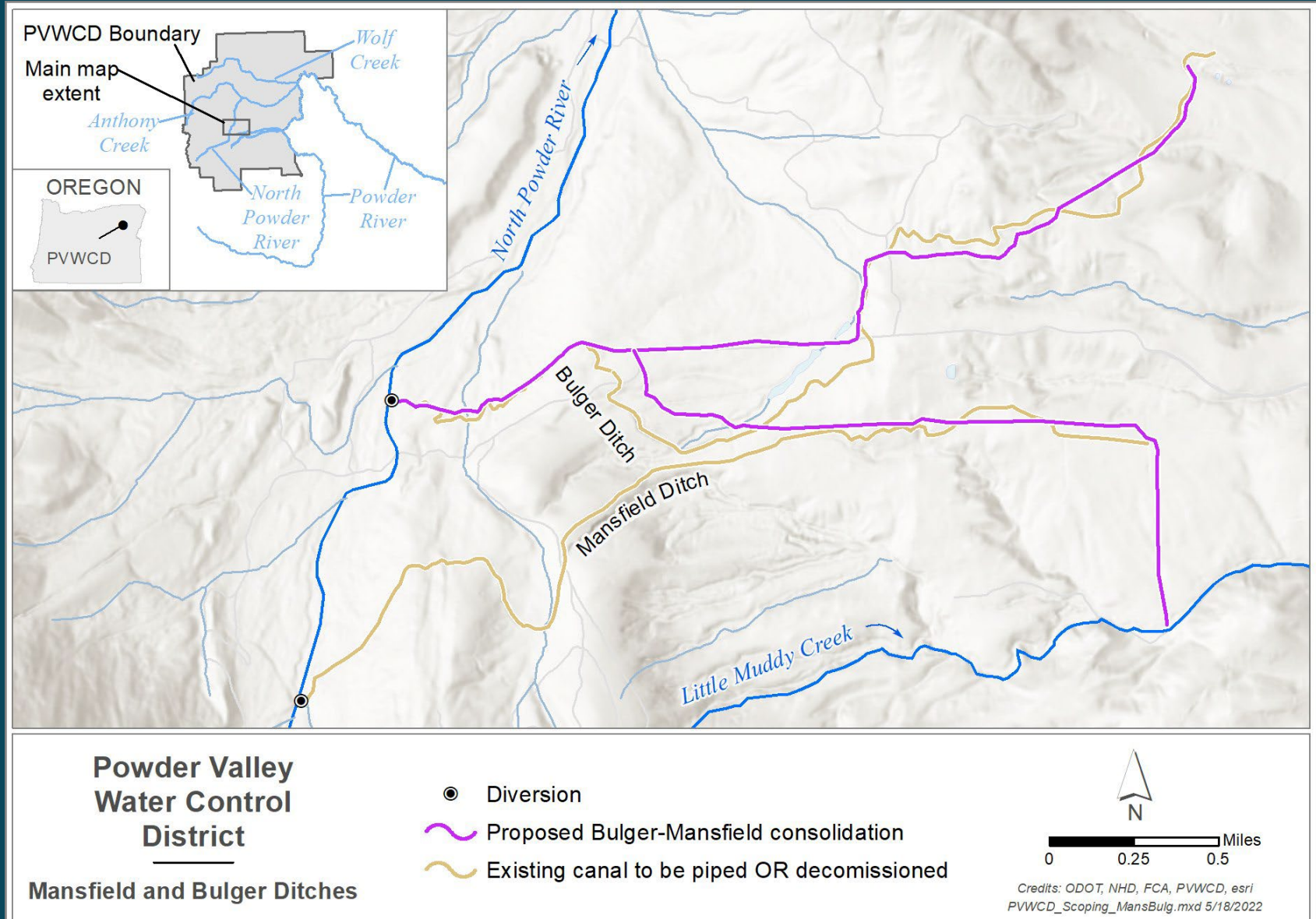
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PVWCD\_Scoping\_PotentialProjects.mxd 8/16/2022



# Mansfield and Bulger Potential Project

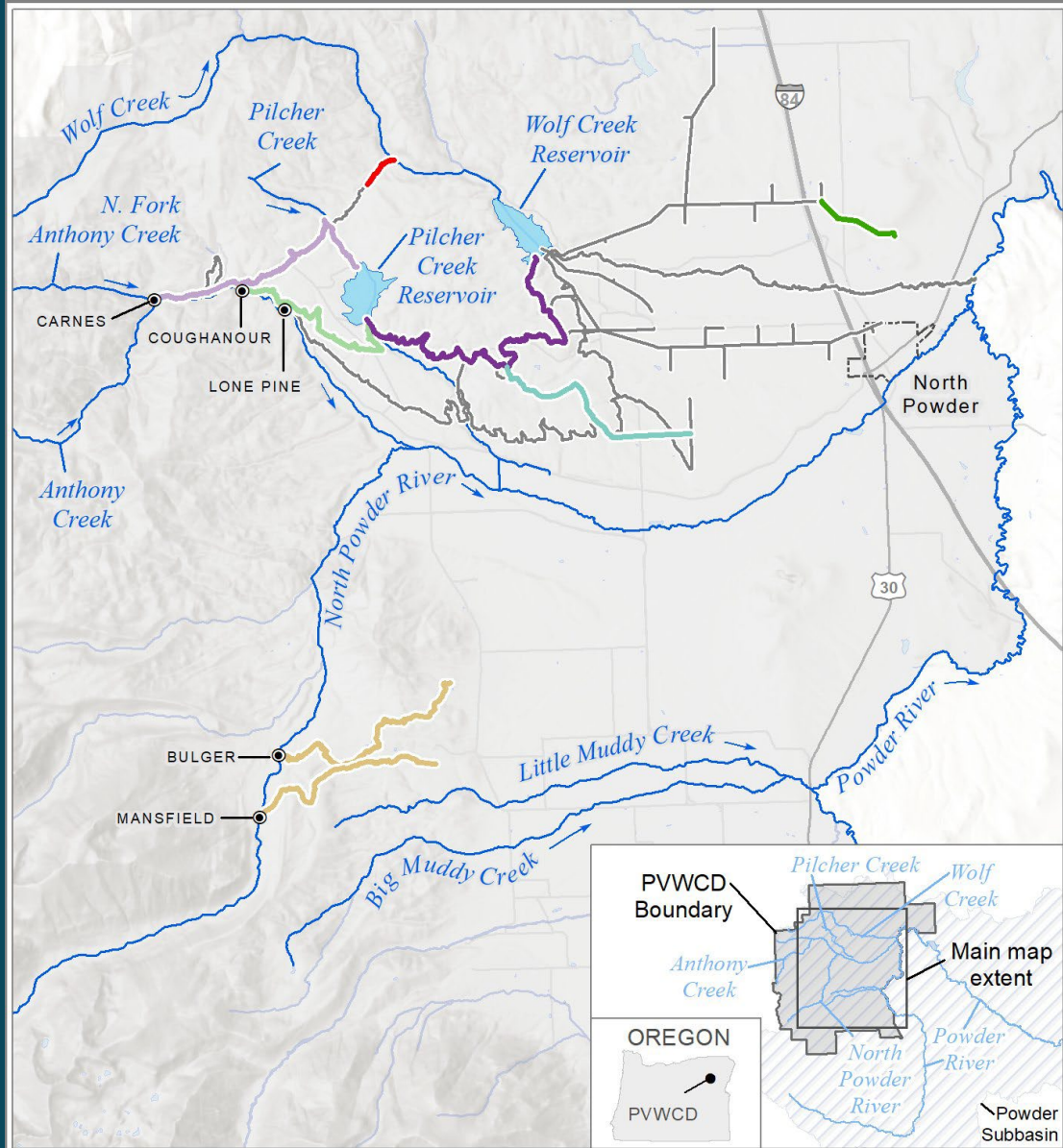


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# Project Resource Effects to be Analyzed

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- 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 PVWCD's Infrastructure Modernization Project

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



# Part 2

# Public Comment Breakout Session



# Example Comments

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- **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

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- Submit comments tonight
- Online: [oregonwatershedplans.org](https://oregonwatershedplans.org)
- Email: [powdervalley.wcd.comments@gmail.com](mailto:powdervalley.wcd.comments@gmail.com)
- Phone: (541) 716-6085
- Mail: Attn: Powder Valley Watershed Plan  
Farmers Conservation Alliance  
102 State St.  
Hood River, OR 97031

**Scoping Period Ends October 25, 2022**



Thank you for coming



Please bring your comments  
to the tables