



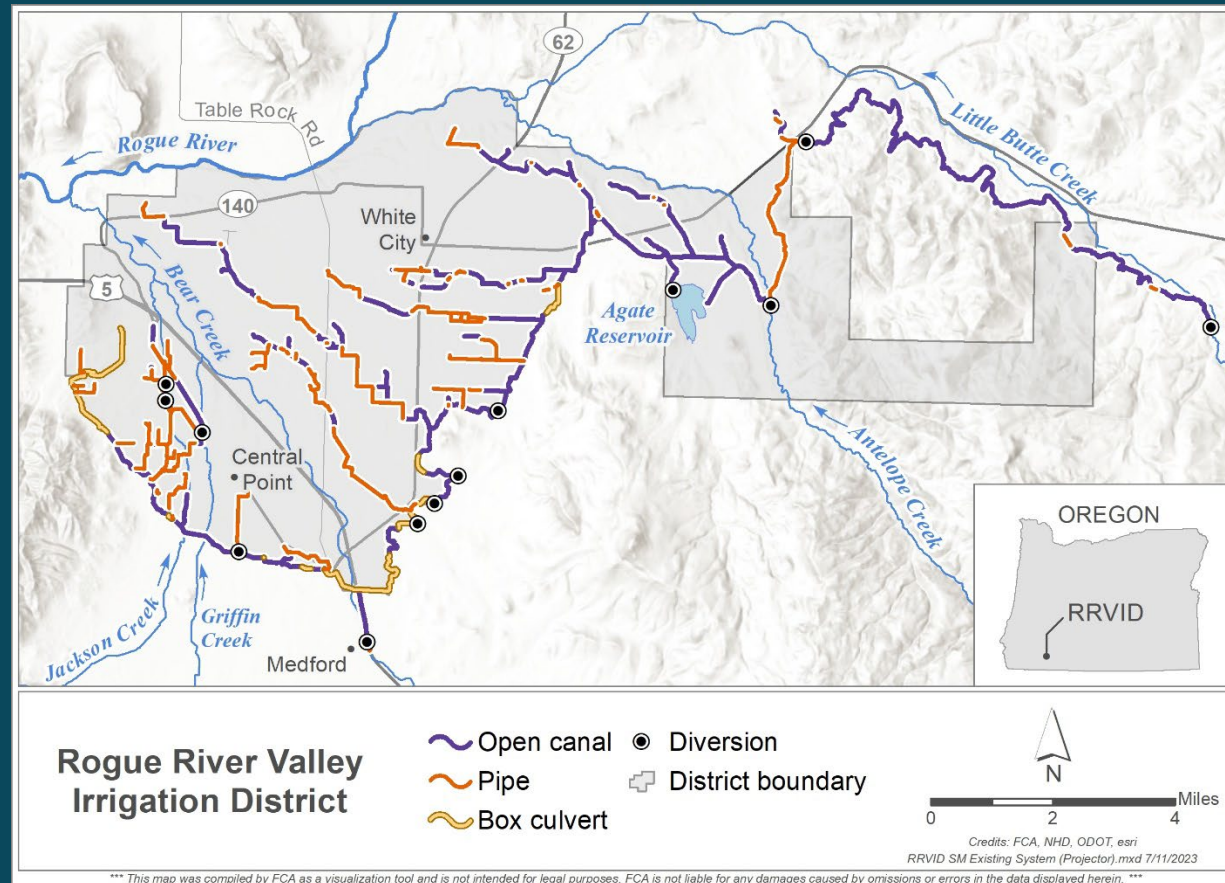
# Rogue River Valley Irrigation District Infrastructure Modernization Project

Public Scoping Meeting: July 18, 2023



# Rogue River Valley Irrigation District Overview

- **713** patrons served
- **~9,600** acres irrigated
- Irrigation season  
**April 15 – October 1**
- **~93-mile** system
  - **~53** miles open canals and laterals
  - **~40** miles pipelines and culverts





# Project Purpose and Need

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- Reduce water loss
- Improve water management and delivery  
Open canals make it challenging to deliver water
- Improve drought resiliency





# Meeting Agenda

## Part 1

Process  
&  
Project Overview

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## Part 2

Public Comment  
Breakout Session



# Part 1

## Process & Project Overview





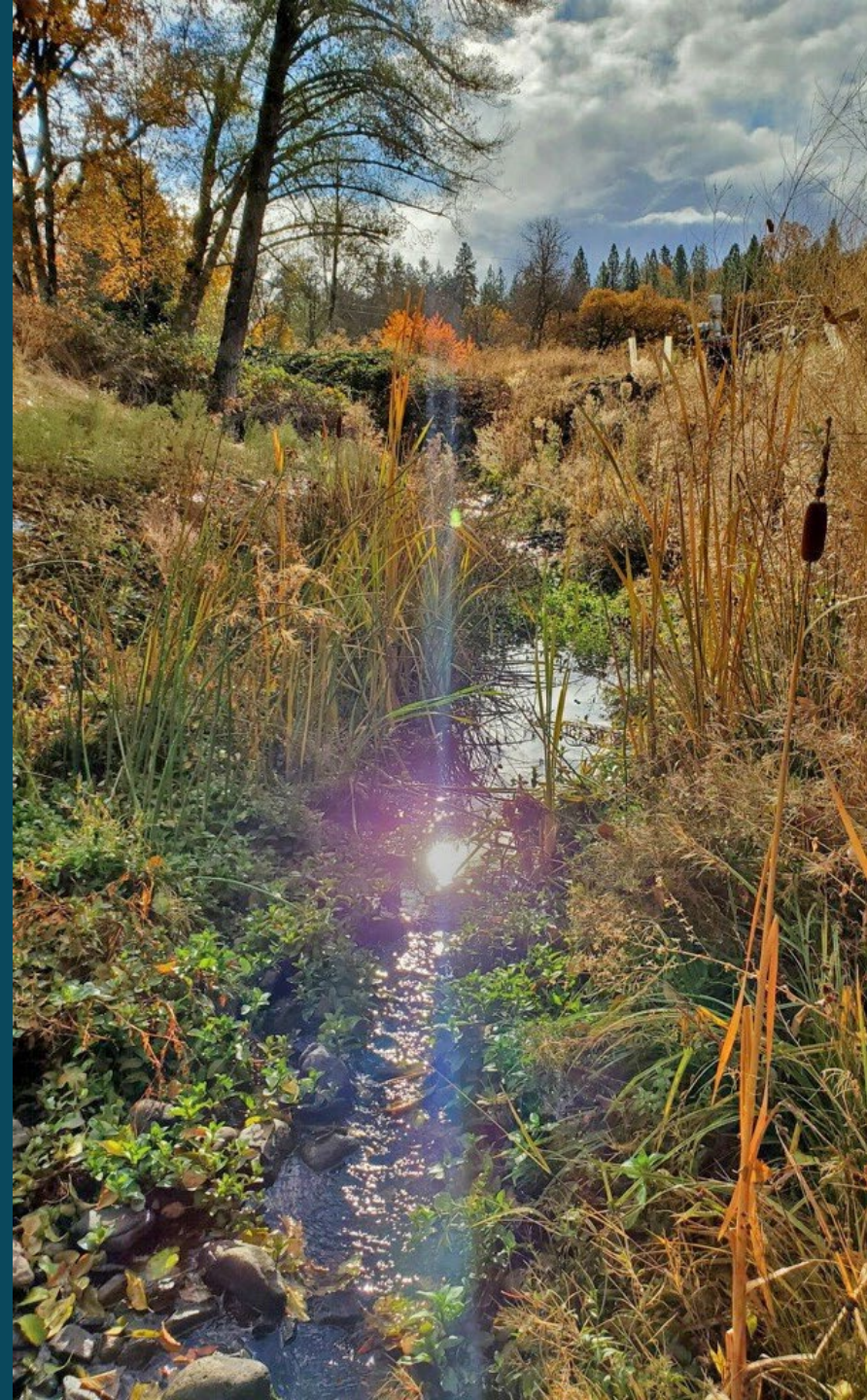
# Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Program (PL-566)

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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, Tribal Government entity, a soil or water conservation district, or a flood prevention or control district*
  - 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



# NEPA and PR&Gs

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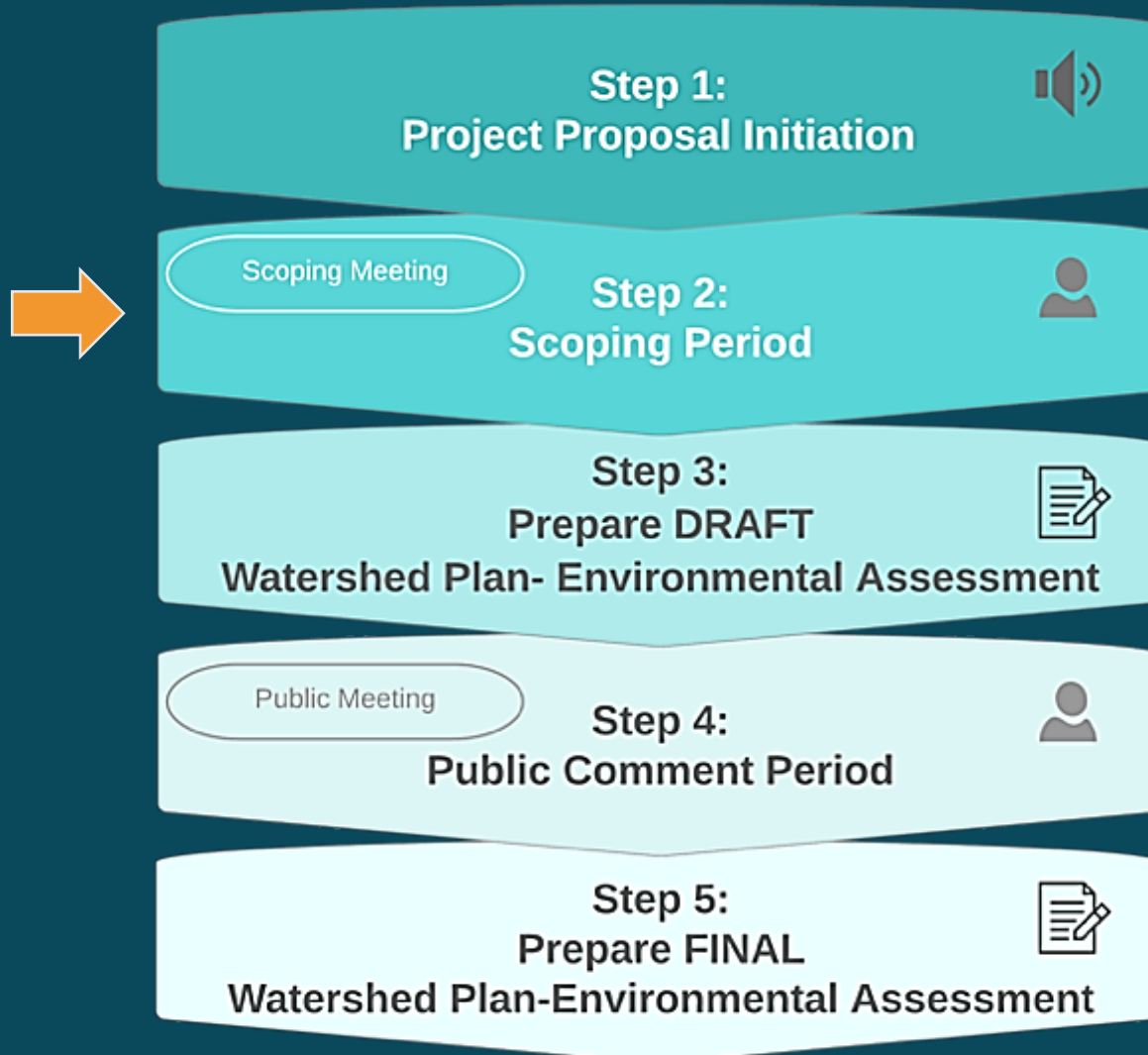
- National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)
- Principles Requirements and Guidelines for Water and Land Related Resources Implementation Studies (PR&Gs)





# Watershed Planning Phase and Process

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# What a Plan-EA Includes

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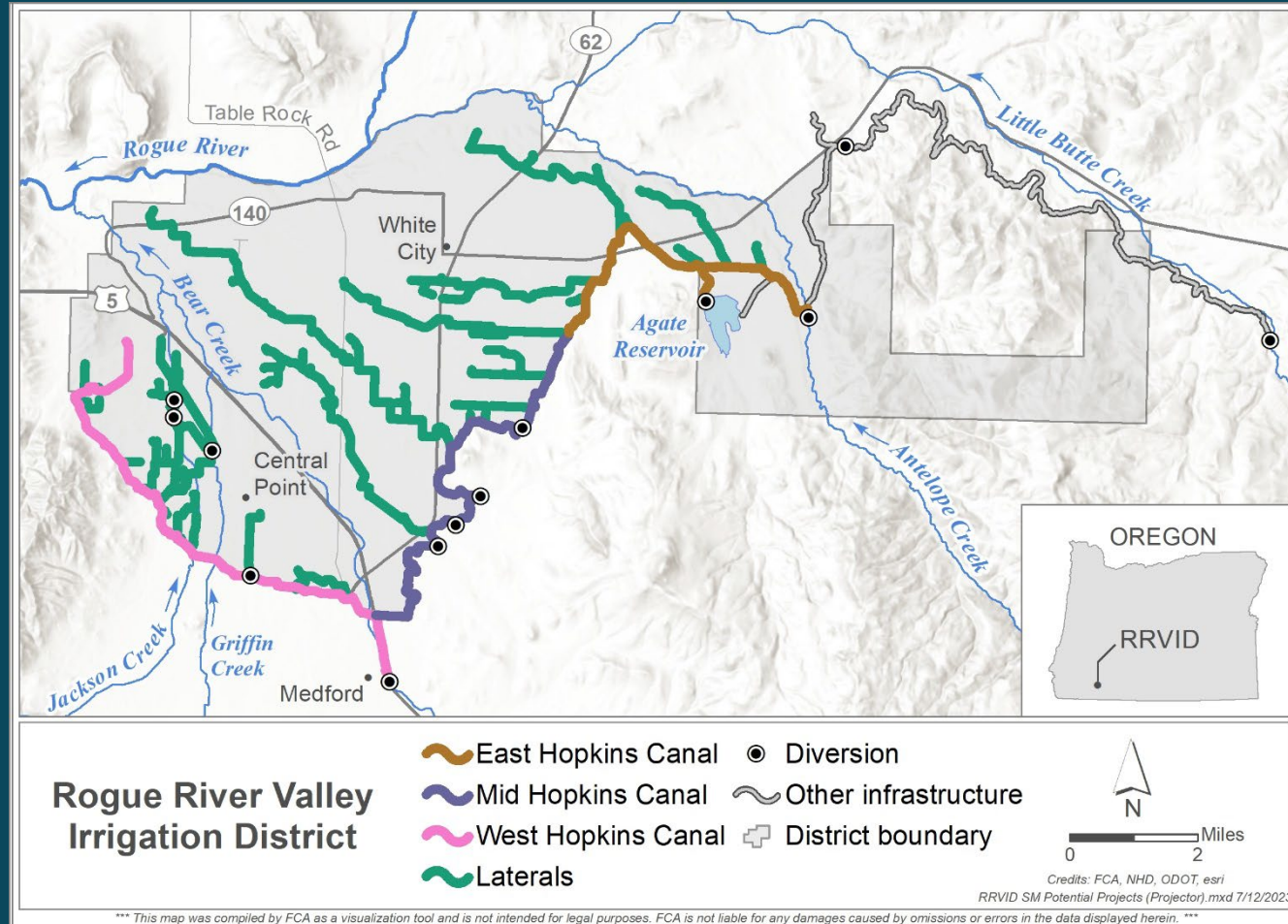
- Purpose & Need
- Proposed Action
- Alternatives
- Affected Resources:  
Examples - Cultural, Fish and Aquatic, Vegetation, Water, Wildlife
- Economic Analysis





# Potential Modernization Actions

- **Pipe or line** open canals
- **Pump stations**
- **Fish screening**

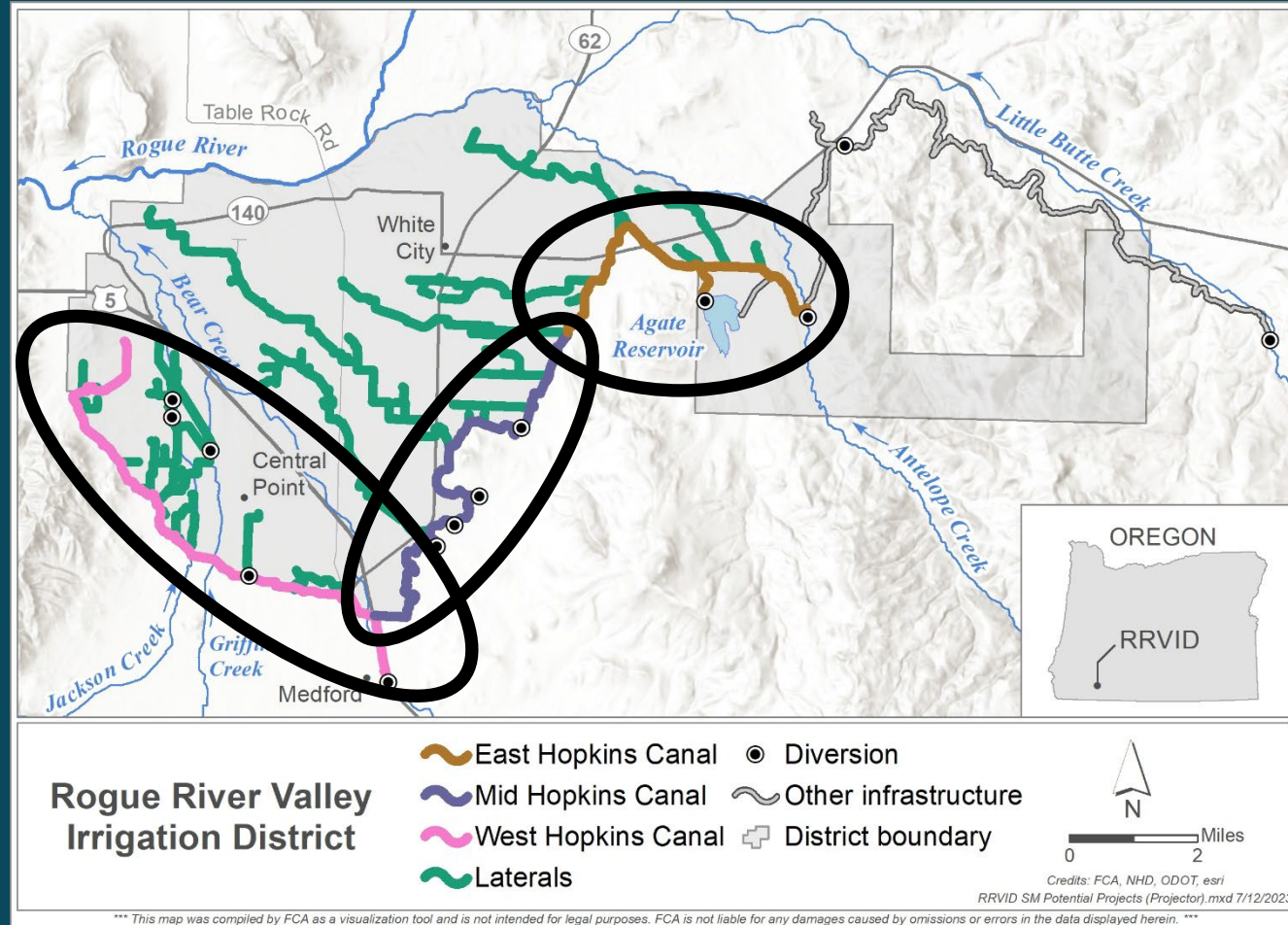




# Potential Modernization Actions

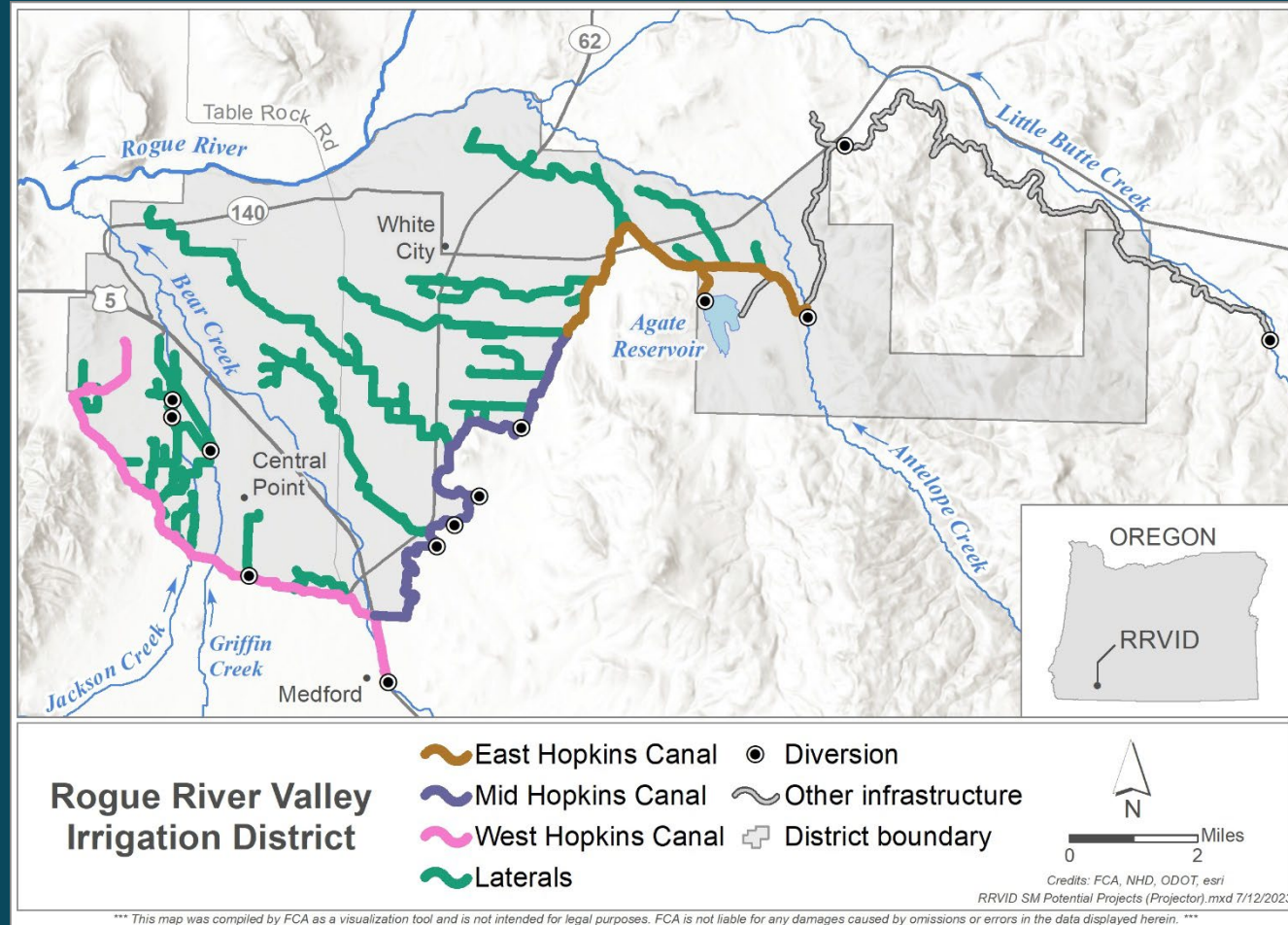
- **Pipe or Line Hopkins Canal**

- **East** (brown)
- **Mid** (purple)
- **West** (pink)



# Potential Modernization Actions

- **Pipe or line** open laterals
- **Update existing pipelines**





# 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
- Socioeconomic Resources
- Ecosystem Services
- Economic Benefits and Costs

# Potential benefits of RRVID's Infrastructure Modernization Project

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- **Save** water
- **Improve** irrigation water management and delivery reliability
- **Reduce** operations and maintenance costs
- **Improve** water quality 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: [rrvid.comments@gmail.com](mailto:rrvid.comments@gmail.com)
- Phone: (541) 716-6085
- Mail: Attn: RRVID Scoping  
Farmers Conservation Alliance  
102 State St.  
Hood River, OR 97031

**Scoping Period Ends August 15, 2023**

Thank you for coming



Please bring your comments  
to the tables