Appendix A

Comments and Responses

A.1 Scoping Report

Scoping Report

Medford Irrigation District

Joint System Canal Project

Jackson County, Oregon

November 2023

USDA United States Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service

Financial and technical assistance for this Project has been provided by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), U.S. Department of Agriculture. NRCS will serve as the lead Federal Agency under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

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Appendix 1. Public Meeting Notice Documents

Appendix 2. Scoping Meeting Presentation Slides

Introduction

The United States Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), with the Medford Irrigation District (hereafter referred to as "MID") as the project sponsor, is developing a Watershed Plan – Environmental Impact Statement (Plan-EIS) for the Medford Irrigation District Joint System Canal Project in Jackson County, Oregon. Development of the plan is authorized by the Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act (Public Law [PL] 83-566).

NRCS, as the lead federal agency, has initiated scoping under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) to inform the development of a Plan-EIS. The Plan-EIS will comply with the Council on Environmental Quality's (CEQ's) regulations at 40 CFR Parts 1500-1508, which require an evaluation of potential environmental impacts associated with federal projects and actions. The purpose of the Plan-EIS is to develop and analyze the effects of watershed project plan alternatives to the natural and human environment. The purpose of the project is to modernize District irrigation infrastructure to improve the efficiency of its system.

Scoping Goals and Objectives

Scoping is the integral first step of the NEPA process. It is an early and open process for determining the scope of resources to be addressed, a range of alternatives, and for identifying the potential effects related to a proposed action (40 CFR Part 1501.7). The objectives of the scoping process are to:

- Engage interested parties and the general public in the early identification of concerns, potential impacts, and possible alternative actions;
- Determine the scope of the issues to be analyzed in depth in the Plan-EIS, as well as identifying and eliminating issues that would not be affected by the proposed action or that have been covered by prior environmental review; and
- Identify technical studies needed to adequately address potential impacts of the project.

Scoping Process

Schedule

The following section outlines the milestones for the scoping announcement and activities that occurred in preparation for the scoping comment period. A Notice of Intent for the project was published in the Federal Register on July 19, 2023. The scoping comment period closed on September 2, 2023.

Outreach

Federal, state, local agencies and representatives, as well as non-governmental organizations, received an invitation to participate in scoping the Plan-EIS. Advertisements announcing the scoping period and associated scoping meetings were placed in a local newspaper in addition to multiple online locations including the NRCS website, the MID website, and a project website managed by FCA (oregonwatershedplans.org).

NRCS sent official letters to the following federal agencies and Tribes on August 8, 2023, to formally notify them of the scoping period:

- National Marine Fisheries Service
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
- U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- Coquille Indian Tribe
- Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians
- Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde
- Confederated Tribes of the Siletz Indians

Public Meetings

Two public scoping meetings for agencies, partners, and the public were held (see Appendix 1 of this report for the Public Meeting Notice):

In-Person Meeting
August 17, 2023
6:00 p.m.
Medford Library, 205 South Central Ave.
Medford, OR 97501

Virtual Meeting via Zoom
August 22, 2023
6:00 p.m.

The meetings consisted of a presentation of the PL 83-566 program, the project purpose and need, an introduction to the Plan-EIS process, and ways in which the public could get involved. Presenters included staff from NRCS (Jane Dalgliesh), Farmers Conservation Alliance (Kate Hart), and the Medford Irrigation District (Jack Friend). The meeting presentation slides can be found in Appendix 2 of this report.

Public Scoping Comments

Comments were submitted by email, mail, phone, or website. The comments are summarized below.

Summary of Identified Issues

The following list summarizes the comments and concerns that were expressed during the scoping process:

- General support – Several comments supported modernizing the District's infrastructure to address water supplies and support local agriculture and the community.
- Support for multiple benefits – The project should balance the needs of agriculture and ecological health.
- Instream water for fish habitat – Several letters expressed support for legally protecting saved water from the project instream to benefit fish habitat in Little Butte Creek. It was noted that increasing streamflow in Little Butte Creek is a priority for ODFW to benefit threatened coho salmon.
    - The proportion of water instream should match the proportion of public funding allocated to the project
    - The amount of water conserved and protected instream should be defined both temporally and geographically
    - How will conserved water result in a guaranteed, measurable benefit to the public and natural resources?
    - How will overall water use be reduced and how will these reductions be measured through this project?
    - What percent of conserved water will be put instream?
    - How will the amount of water loss or conserved water be determined?
    - What mechanism(s) will be used to legally protect conserved water instream?
        - Conserved water should be protected as an instream water right with the same priority date as the irrigation water right
    - What methods will be used to improve water quality and riparian and aquatic habitat?
    - What will be the measurable results of improved water quality and aquatic habitat?
    - How will reduced seepage and changes in irrigation return flows impact groundwater and streamflows?
    - How will overall water use be reduced, and how will these reductions be measured through this project?
    - Prioritize Natural Flow Patterns: We advocate for any actions, whether piping or canal reshaping, to emulate natural flow patterns as closely as possible to minimize disruptions to the Rogue River's ecosystem.
    - As we understand it, MID will not be putting the project through the Conserved Water Act. We do not support this approach as we believe that given that public PL 566 funds are being sought for MID's project, we would request that the project be put through Oregon's Conserved Water Act. ORS 537.455-500. At a minimum, this would result in 25% of the saved water being protected instream, with the percentage instream increasing in proportion to public funding.

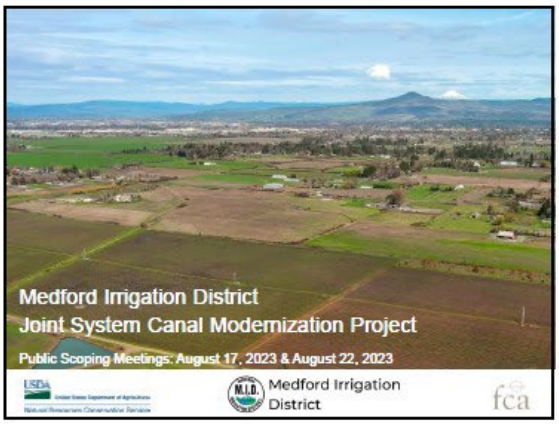
        - It is unclear how much water will be saved as a result of this project, but to ensure the maximum benefit to the public from the public funds that will be put into this project, we request that the EIS include a commitment to measure and verify the amount saved by piping (pre and post project measurement/verification).
- Purpose and need
    - We urge MID to include in the purpose of the project the authorized PL-566 purpose of "Public Fish and Wildlife (iv)".
    - The project purpose and need statement should state the purpose and need for reducing water loss for both agricultural and public benefit
- Fish passage
    - How will fish passage and fish screening statutes be met at the irrigation diversions and stream crossings associated with this canal?
    - Irrigation modernization should be defined to include fish passage and screening at diversions, investment in water management and measurement infrastructures, and elimination waste of water.
    - South Fork Little Butte Creek is a fish passage barrier listed on the 2019 Statewide Fish Passage Priority List in Group 8 and at this time it does not appear that this funding will require MID to bring the diversion to meet current fish passage criteria and Oregon Fish and Wildlife Passage Statutes.
- Alternatives – A cost-benefit feasibility analysis should be completed on the system as a whole that investigates a full suite of design and engineering alternatives. Consideration should be given to alternative pipeline alignments such as moving the points of diversion downstream to a pump system on Little Butte Creek to reduce the impacts of the diversion structures and the amount of piping required.
- Community Engagement – We appreciate the inclusion of public participation in the Plan-EIS process. We urge regular engagement with grassroots organizations and local communities to ensure that the voice and concerns of the Rogue Basin's residents are continuously considered.
- Wildlife – recommends conducting surveys in the project area as part of the impact analysis to identify wildlife present in the project area.
- Climate – recommends the NEPA document consider ongoing and projected regional and local climate change and ensure robust climate resilience/adaptation planning in the project design.
- Project timeline – The public wants to be informed of the project timeline. One comment thought the project planning should be accelerated as the canal already exists.

All comments submitted will be given full consideration for applicability to the project scope; however, not all the comments and concerns expressed are relevant to the analysis of the Proposed Action. Those comments that are relevant will be carried forward in the environmental analysis.

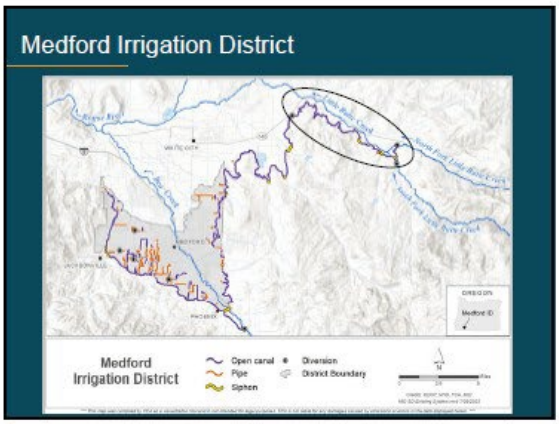
Scoping Report Appendix 1. Public Meeting Notice Documents

- Notice of Intent published in the Federal Register on July 19, 2023
- Public Notice published in The Daily Courier Newspaper on July 27, 2023, August 3, 2023, and August 10, 2023.
- MID mailed notification postcards to all of its patrons
- E-newsletter was sent to contact list
- Press release on the MID website
- Press release on the NRCS website
- Project website updated (watershedplans.org/Medford-id)

Scoping Report Appendix 2. Scoping Meeting Presentation Slides



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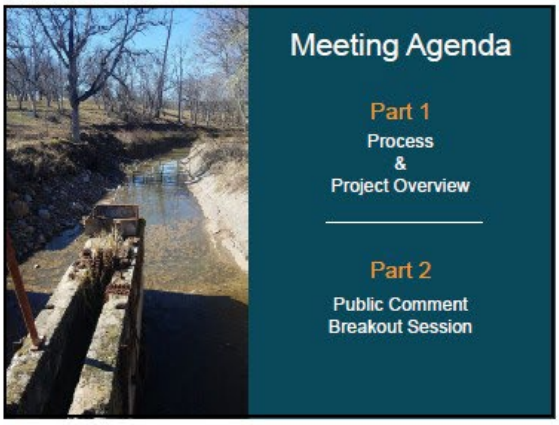
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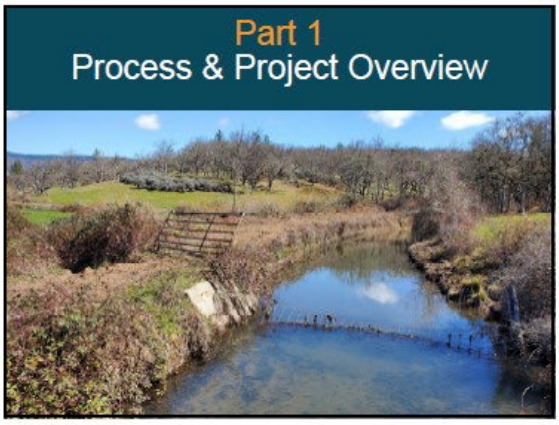
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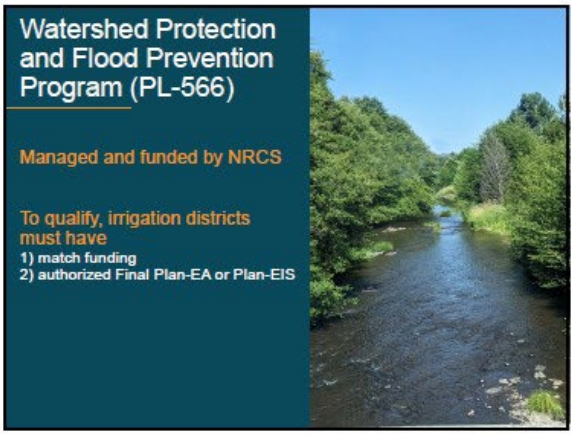
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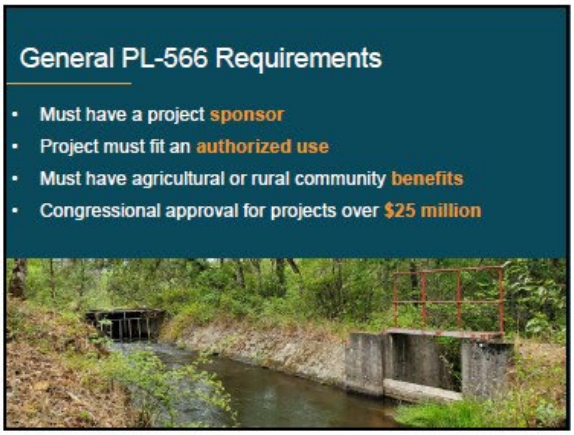
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Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Program (PL-566)
Managed and funded by NRCS
To qualify, irrigation districts must have
1) match funding
2) authorized Final Plan-EA or Plan-EIS

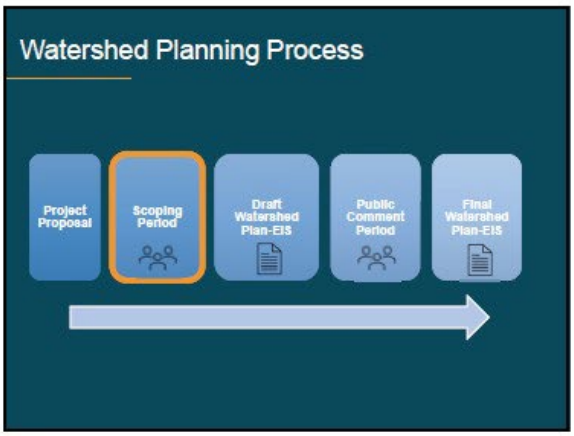
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General PL-566 Requirements
• Must have a project sponsor
• Project must fit an authorized use
• Must have agricultural or rural community benefits
• Congressional approval for projects over $25 million

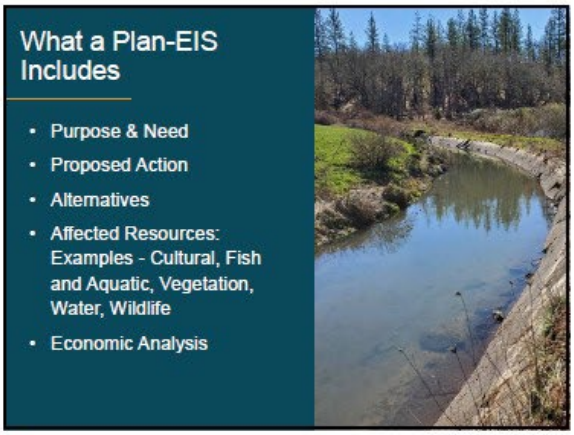
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Additional Requirements
• Watershed Plans must comply with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and
• Program requirements, including an economic analysis

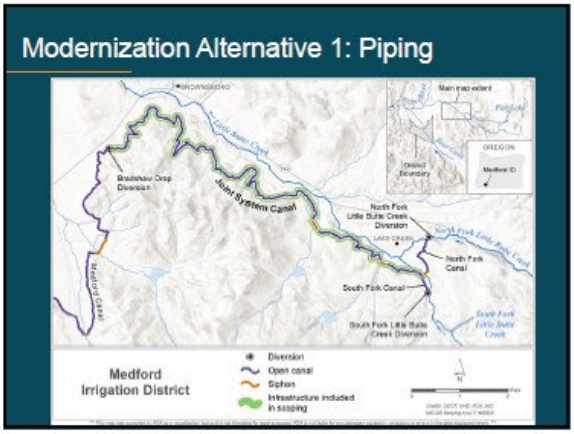
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Watershed Planning Process
Project Proposal
Scoping Period
Draft Watershed Plan-EIS
Public Comment Period
Final Watershed Plan-EIS

10

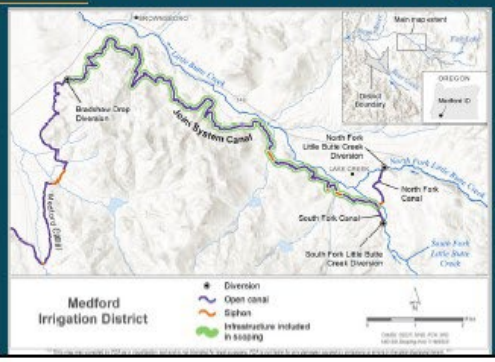

What a Plan-EIS Includes
• Purpose & Need
• Proposed Action
• Alternatives
• Affected Resources: Examples - Cultural, Fish and Aquatic, Vegetation, Water, Wildlife
• Economic Analysis

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Modernization Alternative 1: Piping
Joint System Canal
North Fork Canal
South Fork Canal
Medford Irrigation District
Diversion
Open canal
Siphon
Infrastructure included in scoping

12

Modernization Alternative 2: Canal Lining



13

No Action Alternative

- Future without PL-566 funding
- Joint System Canal would not be modernized



14

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
- Socioeconomic Resources
- Ecosystem Services
- Economic Benefits and Costs

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Potential Benefits of Modernizing the Joint System Canal

- **Save** water
- **Improve** irrigation water management and delivery reliability
- **Reduce** risk of canal failure
- **Improve** water quality and aquatic habitat
- **Reduce** operation and maintenance costs

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Part 2
Public Comment Breakout Session



17



Example Comments

- **Proposed project actions**
  Will I get irrigation water during construction?
- **Alternatives**
  What about piping the Medford Canal?
- **Surrounding environment**
  I am concerned about wildlife. Will you study the project effects to wildlife?

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Opportunities to Submit Comments
• Submit comments tonight
• Online: oregonwatershedplans.org
• Email: Medford.id.comments@gmail.com
• Phone: (541) 716-6085
• Mail: MID Scoping
FCA, 102 State St., Hood River, OR 97031
• Online Meeting August 22
Scoping Period Ends September 2, 2023
Medford Irrigation District
fca

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Thank you for coming
Please bring your comments to the tables

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A.2 Correspondence to Support Required Consultation

A.2.1 Section 106 Consultation Materials

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Southern Oregon Historical Society
Jim Teece, Board President
Chelsea Rose, Board Vice-President

October 9, 2026

Subject: Resolution of Adverse Effects, Medford Irrigation District, Joint System Canal

Dear Mr. Teece and Ms. Rose

As a part of the Medford Irrigation District (MID) modernization project, the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS Oregon) plans to provide funding to MID to assist infrastructure modernization efforts including the piping of the MID Joint System Canal into a closed piped system. Following surveys for both built environment and archaeological resources, a determination of eligibility was made for the MID Joint System Canal and a finding of adverse effect.

The MID Joint System Canal is considered eligible for listing in the NRHP as a contributing element to the Rogue River Basin Project Linear District based on USBR's evaluation. It is considered contributing eligible under Criterion A and C, with a period of significance from 1955 to 1958.

The proposed piping of the MID Joint System Canal will include modification to a resource determined to be contributing to the NRHP-eligible Rogue River Basin Project resulting in an adverse effect.

In consideration of the adverse effect, NRCS and MID propose the following actions to address the adverse effects:

- Visual documentation (e.g.video, story map) of the Medford Irrigation District, for the purpose of documenting and educating the community about the role of the Irrigation District in early settlement history of the Rogue Valley.
    - To include historic photographs and narrative.
    - drone video footage of the Joint System Canal, before and after construction.
    - Video to be hosted on the District website, with possibilities to share with other interested parties. (e.g. Southern Oregon Historical Society, SOU, Oregon Historical Society via Oregon Encyclopedia and Oregon History Project)

NRCS and MID invite the Southern Oregon Historical Society to consult on potential mitigation options that are accessible for the public to engage with the agricultural history of the Rogue Valley. We welcome your input and suggestions regarding these recommendations.

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We would like to invite the participation of consulting parties in the development of an MOA to mitigate adverse effects to the MID Joint System Canal.

We are proposing a virtual meeting via the Zoom platform to discuss mitigation options on **Tuesday, October 20th or Wednesday, October 21st between 9 and noon**. I realize the possible meeting dates are quickly coming up. If you, or someone from your organization wishes to attend, I hope that one of these mornings will be workable for you. Please **let us know by Thursday October 15** whether you will be able to join us via Zoom for either of those dates.

Other consulting parties and Tribes include: Oregon State Historic Preservation Office, the Bureau of Land Management, the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde and the Cow Creek Tribe of Umpqua Indians.

Sincerely,

Rachel LS Gebauer

Rachel Smith Gebauer, M.A., RPA
NRCS Oregon State Cultural Resources Specialist

cc. Gary Diridoni, NRCS ASTC for Watershed Resources
Lars Santana, NRCS Watershed Planning Specialist
Jack Friend, MID District Manager

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State Historic Preservation Office
Oregon Parks and Recreation Department
Heritage Conservation Division
725 Summer St NE, Suite C
Salem, OR 97301

October 6, 2026

Subject: Meeting to discuss Mitigation options for Adverse Effects to Medford Irrigation District, Joint System Canal SHPO Case No. 24-0805

Dear Ms. French and Mr. Olguin,

Thank you for your positive response to our initial letter with mitigation ideas, for the mitigation for the adverse effects to the Medford Irrigation District (MID) Joint System Canal in March of this year. Following up on that letter, we are now setting up a meeting with consulting parties to discuss mitigation options.

As a part of the MID modernization project, the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS Oregon) plans to provide funding to MID to assist infrastructure modernization efforts including the piping of the MID Joint System Canal into a closed piped system. A cultural resources survey report was shared with consulting Tribes on November 25, 2024 and a revised report was submitted to your office on July 14, 2025. A determination of eligibility was made for the MID Joint System Canal and a finding of adverse effect.

The MID Joint System Canal is considered eligible for listing in the NRHP as a contributing element to the Rogue River Basin Project Linear District based on USBR's evaluation. It is considered contributing eligible under Criterion A and C, with a period of significance of 1955 to 1958.

The proposed piping of the MID Joint System Canal will include modification to a resource determined to be contributing to the NRHP-eligible Rogue River Basin Project resulting in an adverse effect.

In consideration of the adverse effect, NRCS and MID propose the following actions to address the adverse effects:

- Visual documentation (e.g.video, story map) of the Medford Irrigation District, for the purpose of documenting and educating the community about the role of the Irrigation District in early settlement history of the Rogue Valley.
    - To include historic photographs and narrative.
    - drone video footage of the Joint System Canal, before and after construction.

- Video to be hosted on the District website, with possibilities to share with other interested parties. (e.g. Southern Oregon Historical Society, SOU, Oregon Historical Society via Oregon Encyclopedia and Oregon History Project)

NRCS and MID would like to invite your participation in the development of an MOA to mitigate adverse effects to the MID Joint System Canal.

We are proposing a Zoom meeting to discuss mitigation options on Tuesday, Oct 20th or Wednesday, Oct 21st between 9 and noon for all consulting parties.

Please let us know by Tuesday, October 13th whether you can join us via Zoom for either of those dates.

Sincerely,

Rachel LS Gebauer

Rachel Smith Gebauer, M.A., RPA
NRCS Oregon State Cultural Resources Specialist

cc. Gary Diridoni, NRCS ASTC for Watershed Resources
Lars Santana, NRCS Watershed Planning Specialist
Jack Friend, MID District Manager

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Cheryl Pouley
Cultural Protection Coordinator
Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde
9615 Grand Ronde Rd.
Grand Ronde, OR 97347

October 6, 2026

Subject: Meeting to discuss Mitigation options for Adverse Effects to Medford Irrigation District, Joint System Canal

Dear Ms. Pouley,

Thank you for agreeing to consult with NRCS over the mitigation for the adverse effects to the Medford Irrigation District (MID) Joint System Canal in March of this year. Following up on that request, we are now setting up a meeting with consulting parties to discuss mitigation options.

As a part of the MID modernization project, the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS Oregon) plans to provide funding to MID to assist infrastructure modernization efforts including the piping of the MID Joint System Canal into a closed piped system. A cultural resources survey report was shared on November 25, 2024 and a revised report was shared with your office on February 28, 2025. A determination of eligibility was made for the MID Joint System Canal and a finding of adverse effect.

The MID Joint System Canal is considered eligible for listing in the NRHP as a contributing element to the Rogue River Basin Project Linear District based on USBR's evaluation. It is considered contributing eligible under Criterion A and C, with a period of significance of 1955 to 1958.

The proposed piping of the MID Joint System Canal will include modification to a resource determined to be contributing to the NRHP-eligible Rogue River Basin Project resulting in an adverse effect.

In consideration of the adverse effect, NRCS and MID propose the following actions to address the adverse effects:

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- Video to be hosted on the District website, with possibilities to share with other interested parties. (e.g. Southern Oregon Historical Society, SOU, Oregon Historical Society via Oregon Encyclopedia and Oregon History Project)

NRCS and MID would like to invite your participation in the development of an MOA to mitigate adverse effects to the MID Joint System Canal.

We are proposing a Zoom meeting to discuss mitigation options on Tuesday, Oct 20th or Wednesday, Oct 21st between 9 and noon.

Please let us know by Tuesday, October 13th whether you can join us via Zoom for either of those dates.

Sincerely,

Rachel LS Gebauer

Rachel Smith Gebauer, M.A., RPA
NRCS Oregon State Cultural Resources Specialist

cc. Gary Diridoni, NRCS ASTC for Watershed Resources
Lars Santana, NRCS Watershed Planning Specialist
Jack Friend, MID District Manager

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Todd Bowen
Medford District
Bureau of Land Management
3040 Biddle Rd.
Medford, OR 97504

October 6, 2026

Subject: Meeting to discuss Mitigation options for Adverse Effects to Medford Irrigation District, Joint System Canal

Dear Mr. Bowen and Ms. Sigler,

In March of this year, we sent out an invitation for BLM to be involved with consultation for mitigation to the adverse effects to the Joint System Canal. Following up on that request, we are now setting up a meeting with interested consulting parties to discuss some potential proposed mitigation options.

As a part of the MID modernization project, the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS Oregon) plans to provide funding to MID to assist infrastructure modernization efforts including the piping of the MID Joint System Canal into a closed piped system. A cultural resources survey report was shared on November 25, 2024 and a revised report was shared with your office on February 28, 2025. A determination of eligibility was made for the MID Joint System Canal and a finding of adverse effect.

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Society via Oregon Encyclopedia and Oregon History Project)

NRCS and MID would like to invite you to participate in the development of the MOA to mitigate adverse effects to the MID Joint System Canal.

We are proposing a Zoom meeting to discuss mitigation options on Tuesday, Oct 20th or Wednesday, Oct 21st between 9 and noon.

Please let us know by Tuesday, October 13th whether you can join us via Zoom for either of those dates.

Sincerely,

Rachel LS Gebauer

Rachel Smith Gebauer, M.A., RPA
NRCS Oregon State Cultural Resources Specialist

cc. Gary Diridoni, NRCS ASTC for Watershed Resources
Lars Santana, NRCS Watershed Planning Specialist
Jack Friend, MID District Manager
Jen Sigler, BLM Archaeologist

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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Ben Steward, Tribal Heritage Manager
Cow Creek Band of the Umpqua Indians
2371 NE Stephens St., Suite 100
Roseburg, OR 97470

October 6, 2026

Subject: Meeting to discuss Mitigation options for Adverse Effects to Medford Irrigation District, Joint System Canal

Dear Mr.Steward,

In March of this year, we sent out an invitation for the Cow Creek Band of the Umpqua Indians to be involved with consultation for mitigation to the adverse effects to the Joint System Canal. Following up on that request, we are now setting up a meeting with interested consulting parties to discuss some potential proposed mitigation options.

As a part of the MID modernization project, the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS Oregon) plans to provide funding to MID to assist infrastructure modernization efforts including the piping of the MID Joint System Canal into a closed piped system. A cultural resources survey report was shared on November 25, 2024 and a revised report was shared with your office on February 28, 2025. A determination of eligibility was made for the MID Joint System Canal and a finding of adverse effect.

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- Visual documentation (e.g.video, story map) of the Medford Irrigation District, for the purpose of documenting and educating the community about the role of the Irrigation District in early settlement history of the Rogue Valley.
    - To include historic photographs and narrative.
    - drone video footage of the Joint System Canal, before and after construction.
    - Video to be hosted on the District website, with possibilities to share with other

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interested parties. (e.g. Southern Oregon Historical Society, SOU, Oregon Historical Society via Oregon Encyclopedia and Oregon History Project)

NRCS and MID would like to invite your participation in the development of the MOA to mitigate adverse effects to the MID Joint System Canal.

We are proposing a Zoom meeting to discuss mitigation options on Tuesday, Oct 20th or Wednesday, Oct 21st between 9 and noon.

Please let us know by Tuesday, October 13th whether you can join us via Zoom for either of those dates.

Sincerely,

Rachel LS Gebauer

Rachel Smith Gebauer, M.A., RPA
NRCS Oregon State Cultural Resources Specialist

cc. Gary Diridoni, NRCS ASTC for Watershed Resources
Lars Santana, NRCS Watershed Planning Specialist
Jack Friend, MID District Manager
Melina Pastos, NRCS Tribal Liaison

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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

State Historic Preservation Office
Oregon Parks and Recreation Department
Heritage Conservation Division
725 Summer St NE, Suite C
Salem, OR 97301

March 27, 2026

Subject: Resolution of Adverse Effects Medford Irrigation District SHPO Case No. 24-0805

Dear Ms. French and Mr. Olguin,

As a part of the Medford Irrigation District (MID) modernization project, the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS Oregon) plans to provide funding to MID to assist infrastructure modernization efforts including the piping of the MID Joint System Canal into a closed piped system. Consultation for this project, SHPO Case No. 24-0805, was initiated on April 18, 2024. A cultural resources survey report was shared with consulting Tribes on November 25, 2026. Requested report edits by one of the consulting Tribes resulted in a final cultural resources survey report for both the built environment and archaeological survey was submitted to the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde on February 28, 2025 and to Oregon SHPO on July 14, 2025. The final report was accompanied by the Determination of Eligibility for the MID Joint System Canal and NRCS's Findings of Effect for the project.

The MID Joint System Canal is considered eligible for listing in the NRHP as a contributor to the Rogue River Basin Project Linear District based on USBR's evaluation It is considered contributing eligible under Criterion A and C, with a period of significance of 1955 to 1958.

The proposed piping of the MID Joint System Canal will include modification to a resource determined to be contributing to the NRHP-eligible Rogue River Basin Project resulting in an adverse effect.

In consideration of the adverse effect, NRCS and MID propose the following actions to address the adverse effects:

- Visual documentation (e.g.video, story map) of the Medford Irrigation District, for the purpose of documenting and educating the community about the role of the Irrigation District in early settlement history of the Rogue Valley.
    - To include historic photographs and narrative.
    - drone video footage of the Joint System Canal, before and after construction.

- Video to be hosted on the District website, with possibilities to share with other interested parties. (e.g. Southern Oregon Historical Society, SOU, Oregon Historical Society via Oregon Encyclopedia and Oregon History Project)

NRCS and MID would welcome input and suggestions from consulting parties on these recommendations. We would like to invite the participation of consulting parties in the development of an MOA to mitigate adverse effects to the MID Joint System Canal.

A copy of this letter is being sent to consulting parties and Tribes: Bureau of Land Management, the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde and the Cow Creek Tribe of Umpqua Indians.

Sincerely,

Rachel LS Gebauer

Rachel Smith Gebauer, M.A., RPA
NRCS Oregon State Cultural Resources Specialist

cc. Gary Diridoni, NRCS ASTC for Watershed Resources
Lars Santana, NRCS Watershed Planning Specialist
Jack Friend, MID District Manager

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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Ben Steward, Tribal Heritage Manager
Cow Creek Band of the Umpqua Indians
2371 NE Stephens St., Suite 100
Roseburg, OR 97470

March 27, 2026

Subject: Resolution of Adverse Effects, Medford Irrigation District, Joint System Canal

Dear Mr. Steward,

As a part of the Medford Irrigation District (MID) modernization project, the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS Oregon) plans to provide funding to MID to assist infrastructure modernization efforts including the piping of the MID Joint System Canal into a closed piped system. A cultural resources survey report was shared with your office on November 25, 2024. A determination of eligibility was made for the MID Joint System Canal and a finding of adverse effect.

The MID Joint System Canal is considered eligible for listing in the NRHP as a contributing element to the Rogue River Basin Project Linear District based on USBR's evaluation. It is considered contributing eligible under Criterion A and C, with a period of significance of 1955 to 1958.

The proposed piping of the MID Joint System Canal will include modification to a resource determined to be contributing to the NRHP-eligible Rogue River Basin Project resulting in an adverse effect.

In consideration of the adverse effect, NRCS and MID propose the following actions to address the adverse effects:

- Visual documentation (e.g.video, story map) of the Medford Irrigation District, for the purpose of documenting and educating the community about the role of the Irrigation District in early settlement history of the Rogue Valley.
    - To include historic photographs and narrative.
    - drone video footage of the Joint System Canal, before and after construction.
    - Video to be hosted on the District website, with possibilities to share with other interested parties. (e.g. Southern Oregon Historical Society, SOU, Oregon Historical Society via Oregon Encyclopedia and Oregon History Project)

NRCS and MID would welcome input and suggestions from Tribes and consulting parties on these recommendations. We would like to invite your participation in the development of an MOA to mitigate adverse effects to the MID Joint System Canal.

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A copy of this letter is also being sent to consulting parties and other Tribes: Oregon State Historic Preservation Office, the Bureau of Land Management, and the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde.

Sincerely,

Rachel LS Gebauer

Rachel Smith Gebauer, M.A., RPA
NRCS Oregon State Cultural Resources Specialist

cc. Gary Diridoni, NRCS ASTC for Watershed Resources
Lars Santana, NRCS Watershed Planning Specialist
Jack Friend, MID District Manager

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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Cheryl Pouley
Cultural Protection Coordinator
Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde
9615 Grand Ronde Rd.
Grand Ronde, OR 97347

March 27, 2026

Subject: Resolution of Adverse Effects, Medford Irrigation District, Joint System Canal

Dear Ms. Pouley,

As a part of the Medford Irrigation District (MID) modernization project, the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS Oregon) plans to provide funding to MID to assist infrastructure modernization efforts including the piping of the MID Joint System Canal into a closed piped system. A cultural resources survey report was shared on November 25, 2024 and a revised report was shared with your office on February 28, 2025. A determination of eligibility was made for the MID Joint System Canal and a finding of adverse effect.

The MID Joint System Canal is considered eligible for listing in the NRHP as a contributing element to the Rogue River Basin Project Linear District based on USBR's evaluation. It is considered contributing eligible under Criterion A and C, with a period of significance of 1955 to 1958.

The proposed piping of the MID Joint System Canal will include modification to a resource determined to be contributing to the NRHP-eligible Rogue River Basin Project resulting in an adverse effect.

In consideration of the adverse effect, NRCS and MID propose the following actions to address the adverse effects:

- Visual documentation (e.g.video, story map) of the Medford Irrigation District, for the purpose of documenting and educating the community about the role of the Irrigation District in early settlement history of the Rogue Valley.
    - To include historic photographs and narrative.
    - drone video footage of the Joint System Canal, before and after construction.
    - Video to be hosted on the District website, with possibilities to share with other interested parties. (e.g. Southern Oregon Historical Society, SOU, Oregon Historical Society via Oregon Encyclopedia and Oregon History Project)

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NRCS and MID would welcome input and suggestions from Tribes and consulting parties on these recommendations. We would like to invite your participation in the development of an MOA to mitigate adverse effects to the MID Joint System Canal.

A copy of this letter is also being sent to consulting parties and other Tribes: Oregon State Historic Preservation Office, the Bureau of Land Management, and the Cow Creek Tribe of Umpqua Indians.

Sincerely,

Rachel LS Gebauer

Rachel Smith Gebauer, M.A., RPA
NRCS Oregon State Cultural Resources Specialist

cc. Gary Diridoni, NRCS ASTC for Watershed Resources
Lars Santana, NRCS Watershed Planning Specialist
Jack Friend, MID District Manager

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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Todd Bowen
Medford District
Bureau of Land Management
3040 Biddle Rd.
Medford, OR 97504

March 27, 2026

Subject: Resolution of Adverse Effects, Medford Irrigation District, Joint System Canal

Dear Mr. Bowen,

As a part of the Medford Irrigation District (MID) modernization project, the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS Oregon) plans to provide funding to MID to assist infrastructure modernization efforts including the piping of the MID Joint System Canal into a closed piped system. A cultural resources survey report was shared with BLM in October 2024. A determination of eligibility was made for the MID Joint System Canal and a finding of adverse effect.

The MID Joint System Canal is considered eligible for listing in the NRHP as a contributing element to the Rogue River Basin Project Linear District based on USBR's evaluation. It is considered contributing eligible under Criterion A and C, with a period of significance of 1955 to 1958.

The proposed piping of the MID Joint System Canal will include modification to a resource determined to be contributing to the NRHP-eligible Rogue River Basin Project resulting in an adverse effect.

In consideration of the adverse effect, NRCS and MID propose the following actions to address the adverse effects:

- Visual documentation (e.g.video, story map) of the Medford Irrigation District, for the purpose of documenting and educating the community about the role of the Irrigation District in early settlement history of the Rogue Valley.
    - To include historic photographs and narrative.
    - drone video footage of the Joint System Canal, before and after construction.
    - Video to be hosted on the District website, with possibilities to share with other interested parties. (e.g. Southern Oregon Historical Society, SOU, Oregon Historical Society via Oregon Encyclopedia and Oregon History Project)

NRCS and MID would welcome input and suggestions from consulting parties on these

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recommendations. We would like to invite the participation of consulting parties in the development of an MOA to mitigate adverse effects to the MID Joint System Canal.

A copy of this letter is also being sent to consulting parties and Tribes: Oregon State Historic Preservation Office, the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde and the Cow Creek Tribe of Umpqua Indians.

Sincerely,

Rachel LS Gebauer

Rachel Smith Gebauer, M.A., RPA
NRCS Oregon State Cultural Resources Specialist

cc. Gary Diridoni, NRCS ASTC for Watershed Resources
Lars Santana, NRCS Watershed Planning Specialist
Jack Friend, MID District Manager

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Oregon
Tina Kotek, Governor

Parks and Recreation Department
Oregon Heritage/
State Historic Preservation Office
725 Summer St. NE, Suite C
Salem, OR 97301-1266
(503) 986-0690
Fax (503) 986-0793
oregonheritage.org

August 15, 2025

Ms. Rachel Gebauer
USDA-NRCS
1945 Main St. Ste 200
Klamath Falls, OR 97601

RE: SHPO Case No. 24-0805
USDA, Medford Irrigation District Modernization PL566
Irrigation infrastructure improvements
multiple legals, Jackson County

Dear Rachel Gebauer:

Thank you for submitting information for the undertaking referenced above. Our office concurs that the MID Joint System Canal is not individually eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP), but is a contributing element to the Rogue River Basin Project Linear District, which was previously determined eligible for listing in the NRHP under Criteria A and C. Based on the proposed scope of work, we concur that there will be an adverse effect to historic properties and look forward to developing an appropriate approach toward mitigating the adverse effect.

While mitigation can take many forms based upon the resource and the participation of consulting parties; our office has the following guiding principles:

- The resource should be fully and properly documented

- Mitigation should be relevant to the affected property

- Mitigation should be commensurate with the scale of the adverse effect

- Mitigation should provide some tangible measure of education and information for the public and be as accessible as possible

If you have not already done so, be sure to consult with all appropriate Native American tribes and interested parties regarding the proposed undertaking. Additional consultation regarding this case must be sent through Go Digital. In order to help us track the undertaking accurately, reference the SHPO case number above in all correspondence.

Our office has assigned the report SHPO biblio number 36145. Details will be available in the bibliographic database.

Please contact our office if you have any questions, comments or need additional assistance.

Sincerely,

Aspen Kemmerlin

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

June 26, 2025

Elizabeth Burghard,
Bureau of Land Management, Medford District Manager
3040 Biddle Rd,
Medford, OR 97504

RE: Request for Lead Agency Status on the Watershed Plan EIS for Medford Irrigation District Modernization Project

Dear Elizabeth,

In accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) regulations for Section 106 at 36CFR §800.2(a)(2), USDA-NRCS is formally requesting that your agency designate NRCS as the Lead Federal Agency in the development of the Watershed Plan-EIS for the Medford Irrigation District (MID) Modernization Project. This request is being made because your agency has land management authority over lands which MID maintains their water delivery ditches and canal infrastructure.

Medford ID is seeking federal funds to address necessary upgrades to the irrigation district through the Natural Resources Conservation Service's (NRCS) Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Program (Public Law (PL) 83-566), as well as technical assistance from NRCS. An authorized Watershed Plan-Environmental Impact Statement (Plan-EIS) is required. NRCS and MID are developing the Plan- EIS with assistance from Farmers Conservation Alliance. After the plan is authorized, PVWCD will seek implementation funding through PL83-566 to modernize parts of PVWCD's infrastructure identified in the plan.

As your agency may have NEPA compliance responsibilities concerning this project, the Plan-EIS should also assist in fulfilling your NEPA requirements and meet NEPA's intent of reducing duplication and delay between agencies.

We are requesting confirmation from you that NRCS will take Lead Agency for the Medford Irrigation District Modernization Project.

Sincerely,

GARY DIRIDONI Digitally signed by GARY DIRIDONI
Date: 2025.06.26 14:14:00 -07'00'

Gary Diridoni
NRCS Assistant State Conservationist Water Resources and Planning
1201 NE Lloyd Blvd
Suite 901
Portland, OR 97232

Cc:
Jen Sigler, BLM Medford District Archaeologist and Tribal Liaison
Rachel Gebauer, NRCS OR State Cultural Resources Specialist

Natural Resources Conservation Service
1201 NE Lloyd Blvd., Suite 900
Portland, OR 97232
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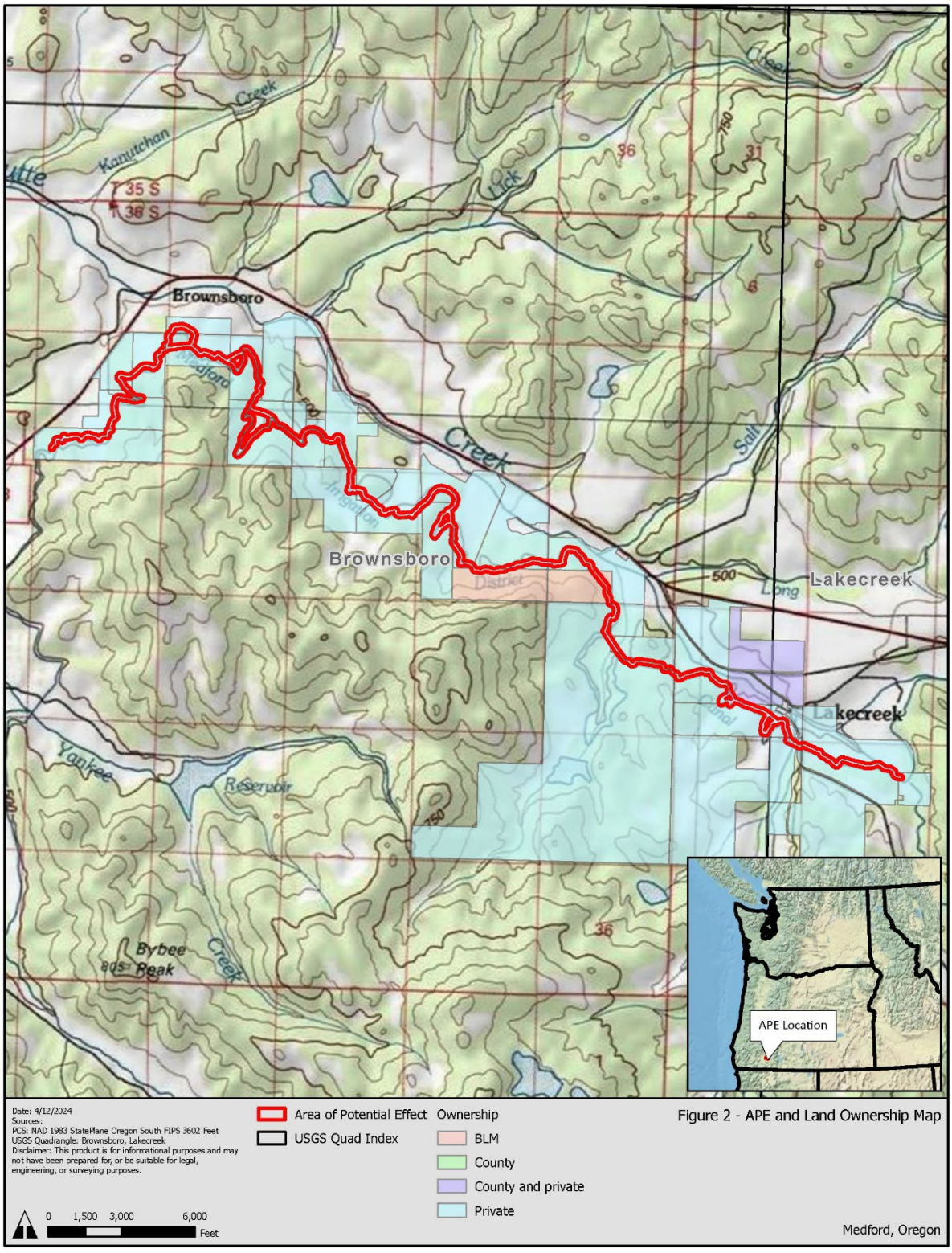


Figure 2 - APE and Land Ownership Map

From: Cheryl Pouley
To: Gebauer, Rachel - FPAC-NRCS, OR
Subject: RE: Medford Irrigation District Modernization project _NRCS
Date: Tuesday, November 26, 2024 12:05:26 PM
Attachments: image005.png

Dear Rachel,
Thank you for the opportunity to review the Cultural Resources Assessment for the Medford Irrigation District Infrastructure Modernization Project, in Jackson County, Oregon.

After reading through the report, it is unclear how Parametrix chose locations for shovel probing. Are these three clusters of shovel probes staging areas? If so, why are there only three when section 1.1 of the report lists 11 staging areas? Were these 11 areas all inspected? If so, please include justification as to why pedestrian survey only or shovel probing was used for the archaeological inventory. It would also be helpful if the map of the APE showed these staging areas. If these three locations are not staging areas, I'd appreciate a better description for determining STP locations than "15 STPs were excavated on private land within the APE where both subsurface ground disturbance outside of the existing irrigation canals and laterals is proposed (from page 7-1)." What is the subsurface ground disturbance in these locations? Are they siphon installations?

As the lead federal agency, what are your next steps for resolution of the adverse effect to the Built Environment? Also, as the Canal was built before any archaeological surveys were done, we recommend that an Inadvertent Discovery Plan be in place prior to construction in the event that redeposited cultural materials are found during project implementation. We'd appreciate an opportunity to review and comment on the draft IDP.

Feel free to call me with any questions,

hayu-masi (many thanks),
Cheryl

Cheryl K. Pouley
Cultural Protection Coordinator
Historic Preservation Office | Cultural Resources Department
The Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde Community of Oregon
9615 Grand Ronde Road, Grand Ronde, OR 97347
Phone: (503) 879-1667
Please submit consultation requests to: THPO@grandronde.org

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From: Gebauer, Rachel - FPAC-NRCS, OR <rachel.gebauer@usda.gov>

USDA
Natural Resources Conservation Service
Oregon State Office
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
1201 NE Lloyd Blvd. Suite 900
Portland, OR 97232

April 18, 2024

725 Summer Street NE, Suite C Salem, OR 97301

Re: Initiate Section 106 Consultation for the Medford Irrigation District Modernization Project, Jackson County, Oregon

Dear Oregon SHPO,

In accordance with 36 CFR §800.3(c), the United States Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is formally initiating the §106 consultation process for Medford Irrigation District (MID). NRCS is cooperating with MID on an infrastructure improvement effort in accordance with the Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act of 1954 (PL-566) by providing financial and technical assistance.

Project Description

MID proposes to make a series of upgrades and improvements, including:

- Piping approximately 13 miles of the Joint System Canal from the junction of the North Fork Canal and the South Fork Canal to its intersection with Rogue River Valley Irrigation District's Hopkins Canal, commonly referred to as the Bradshaw drop.
- Upgrade three existing siphons: Lake Creek Siphon (563 feet in length), Wyant Siphon (145 feet), and Osborne Siphon (1,094 feet). The Wyant Siphon would be upgraded with a new siphon in a new alignment. The Lake Creek and Osborne siphons would be upgraded in their existing alignments.
- The construction of five new siphons: Grasshopper Siphon (438 feet), Owens Siphon (537 feet), Eagle Gulch Siphon (1,001 feet), and Marshall Siphon (741 feet).
- The conversion of twenty-four gravity fed turnouts on the existing Joint System Canal to pressurized delivery systems. Each converted turnout would be 10 inches in diameter with a valve, locking valve box, flow meter, and pipe stub out.
- Staging areas would be located adjacent to or in the immediate vicinity of the Joint System Canal within Jackson County Parcel Nos. 1-099129-8, 1-024154-7, 1-024199-3, 1-024197-7, 1-024409-9, 3-098861-8, and 1-024415-3. These areas have been previously disturbed and are accessible via existing access routes. In some locations, specifically at new siphons, construction access would need to be created before delivering pipe or equipment into construction areas and could include vegetation removal within the construction area. Appropriately sized construction equipment would be used to minimize disturbance in the construction area.

Area of Potential Effects

A project's APE is defined as the geographic area(s) in which an undertaking may directly or indirectly affect the character or use of historic properties (36 CFR 800.16.c). Effects may be direct or indirect, with the former including any type of effect (i.e., physical, visual, auditory, etc.) resulting from an undertaking and the latter including any type of reasonably foreseeable effect caused by the undertaking after its completion or farther in distance. In determining the project's APE, the APE for direct effects was delineated primarily to account for physical and visual effects, as well as construction-related effects such as vibration, noise, and fugitive dust. The project's physical APE will be limited to the vertical and horizonal footprint of the areas and/or structures where the proposed project activities will occur. The project's visual APE includes a 100-foot radial buffer around the physical APE to account for effects on the viewsheds of historic properties resulting from alterations to select components of the MID. The APE for indirect effects is the same as the APE for direct effects as reasonably foreseeable indirect effects are not anticipated to occur outside of the APE established for direct effects. The APE is shown in the enclosed figure.

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Cultural resources studies of the APE will be performed and shared with consulting parties. If the Oregon SHPO is interested in becoming a consulting party for the project, please provide a response within 30 days of receipt of this letter with confirmation of your interest and any key contacts to be included in future correspondence. NRCS is also interested in input regarding the identification of any historic properties that may exist within the project's APE that may have religious and cultural significance. If you have any questions or concerns about the project, please contact me at Kevin.Sippel@usda.gov.

Sincerely,

Kevin Sippel
Acting State Cultural Resources Specialist
USDA NRCS
503.414.3212
Kevin.Sippel@usda.gov

KEVIN SIPPEL

Digitally signed by KEVIN SIPPEL
Date: 2024.04.18 14:21:10 -07'00'

cc:
Gary Diridoni, State Watershed Planner

Enclosed: Area of Potential Effect Figure

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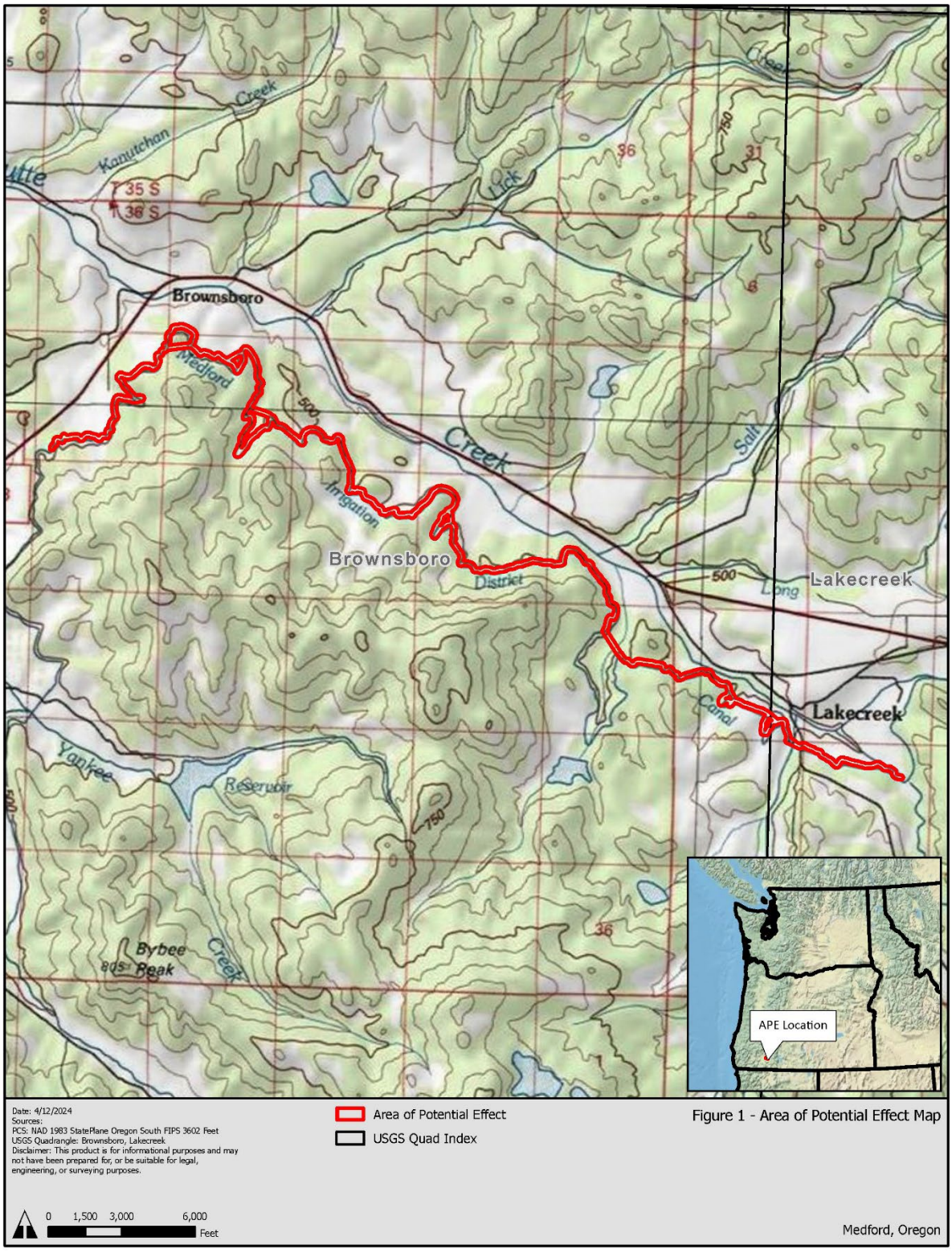


Figure 1 - Area of Potential Effect Map

USDA
Natural Resources Conservation Service
Oregon State Office
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
1201 NE Lloyd Blvd. Suite 900
Portland, OR 97232

April 18, 2024

3050 Tremont Street
North Bend, OR 97459

Re: Initiate Section 106 Consultation for the Medford Irrigation District Modernization Project, Jackson County, Oregon

Dear Tribal Leader,

In accordance with 36 CFR §800.3(c), the United States Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is formally initiating the §106 consultation process for Medford Irrigation District (MID). NRCS is cooperating with MID on an infrastructure improvement effort in accordance with the Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act of 1954 (PL-566) by providing financial and technical assistance.

Project Description

MID proposes to make a series of upgrades and improvements, including:

- Piping approximately 13 miles of the Joint System Canal from the junction of the North Fork Canal and the South Fork Canal to its intersection with Rogue River Valley Irrigation District's Hopkins Canal, commonly referred to as the Bradshaw drop.
- Upgrade three existing siphons: Lake Creek Siphon (563 feet in length), Wyant Siphon (145 feet), and Osborne Siphon (1,094 feet). The Wyant Siphon would be upgraded with a new siphon in a new alignment. The Lake Creek and Osborne siphons would be upgraded in their existing alignments.
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- Staging areas would be located adjacent to or in the immediate vicinity of the Joint System Canal within Jackson County Parcel Nos. 1-099129-8, 1-024154-7, 1-024199-3, 1-024197-7, 1-024409-9, 3-098861-8, and 1-024415-3. These areas have been previously disturbed and are accessible via existing access routes. In some locations, specifically at new siphons, construction access would need to be created before delivering pipe or equipment into construction areas and could include vegetation removal within the construction area. Appropriately sized construction equipment would be used to minimize disturbance in the construction area.

Area of Potential Effects

A project's APE is defined as the geographic area(s) in which an undertaking may directly or indirectly affect the character or use of historic properties (36 CFR 800.16.c). Effects may be direct or indirect, with the former including any type of effect (i.e., physical, visual, auditory, etc.) resulting from an undertaking and the latter including any type of reasonably foreseeable effect caused by the undertaking after its completion or farther in distance. In determining the project's APE, the APE for direct effects was delineated primarily to account for physical and visual effects, as well as construction-related effects such as vibration, noise, and fugitive dust. The project's physical APE will be limited to the vertical and horizonal footprint of the areas and/or structures where the proposed project activities will occur. The project's visual APE includes a 100-foot radial buffer around the physical APE to account for effects on the viewsheds of historic properties resulting from alterations to select components of the MID. The APE for indirect effects is the same as the APE for direct effects as reasonably foreseeable indirect effects are not anticipated to occur outside of the APE established for direct effects. The APE is shown in the enclosed figure.

Cultural resources studies of the APE will be performed and shared with consulting parties. If the Coquille

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Indian Tribe is interested in becoming a consulting party for the project, please provide a response within 30 days of receipt of this letter with confirmation of your interest and any key contacts to be included in future correspondence. NRCS is also interested in input regarding the identification of any historic properties that may exist within the project's APE that may have religious and cultural significance to the Coquille Indian Tribe. If you have any questions or concerns about the project, please contact me at Kevin.Sippel@usda.gov.

Sincerely,

Kevin Sippel
Acting State Cultural Resources
Specialist USDA NRCS
503.414.3212
Kevin.Sippel@usda.gov

KEVIN SIPPEL

Digitally signed by KEVIN SIPPEL
Date: 2024.04.18 14:19:10 -07'00'

cc:
Gary Diridoni, State Watershed Planner

Enclosed: Area of Potential Effect Figure

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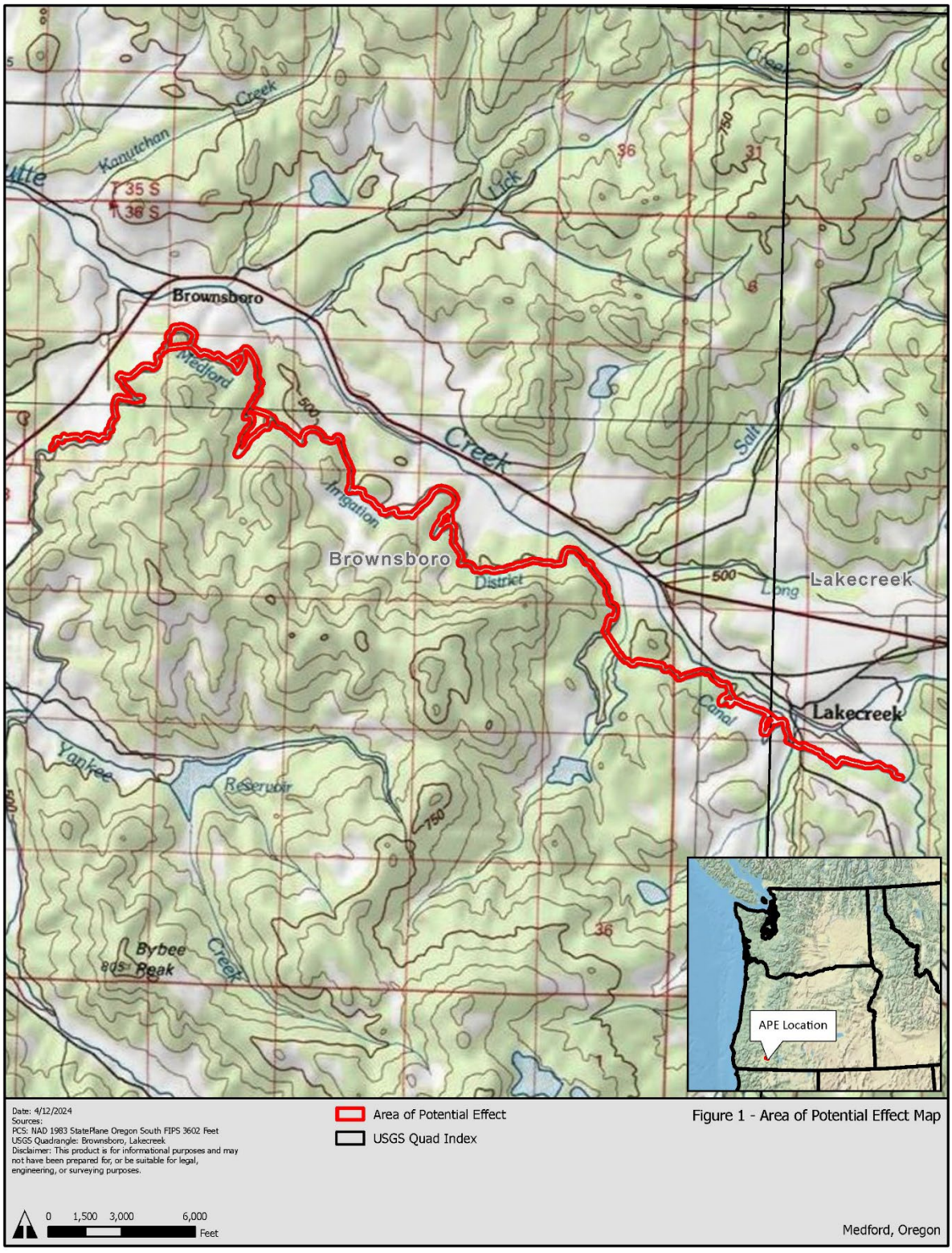


Figure 1 - Area of Potential Effect Map

USDA
Natural Resources Conservation Service
Oregon State Office
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
1201 NE Lloyd Blvd. Suite 900
Portland, OR 97232

April 18, 2024

2371 NE Stephens St., Suite 100
Roseburg, OR 97470

Re: Initiate Section 106 Consultation for the Medford Irrigation District Modernization Project, Jackson County, Oregon

Dear Tribal Leader,

In accordance with 36 CFR §800.3(c), the United States Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is formally initiating the §106 consultation process for Medford Irrigation District (MID). NRCS is cooperating with MID on an infrastructure improvement effort in accordance with the Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act of 1954 (PL-566) by providing financial and technical assistance.

Project Description

MID proposes to make a series of upgrades and improvements, including:

- Piping approximately 13 miles of the Joint System Canal from the junction of the North Fork Canal and the South Fork Canal to its intersection with Rogue River Valley Irrigation District's Hopkins Canal, commonly referred to as the Bradshaw drop.
- Upgrade three existing siphons: Lake Creek Siphon (563 feet in length), Wyant Siphon (145 feet), and Osborne Siphon (1,094 feet). The Wyant Siphon would be upgraded with a new siphon in a new alignment. The Lake Creek and Osborne siphons would be upgraded in their existing alignments.
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- Staging areas would be located adjacent to or in the immediate vicinity of the Joint System Canal within Jackson County Parcel Nos. 1-099129-8, 1-024154-7, 1-024199-3, 1-024197-7, 1-024409-9, 3-098861-8, and 1-024415-3. These areas have been previously disturbed and are accessible via existing access routes. In some locations, specifically at new siphons, construction access would need to be created before delivering pipe or equipment into construction areas and could include vegetation removal within the construction area. Appropriately sized construction equipment would be used to minimize disturbance in the construction area.

Area of Potential Effects

A project's APE is defined as the geographic area(s) in which an undertaking may directly or indirectly affect the character or use of historic properties (36 CFR 800.16.c). Effects may be direct or indirect, with the former including any type of effect (i.e., physical, visual, auditory, etc.) resulting from an undertaking and the latter including any type of reasonably foreseeable effect caused by the undertaking after its completion or farther in distance. In determining the project's APE, the APE for direct effects was delineated primarily to account for physical and visual effects, as well as construction-related effects such as vibration, noise, and fugitive dust. The project's physical APE will be limited to the vertical and horizonal footprint of the areas and/or structures where the proposed project activities will occur. The project's visual APE includes a 100-foot radial buffer around the physical APE to account for effects on the viewsheds of historic properties resulting from alterations to select components of the MID. The APE for indirect effects is the same as the APE for direct effects as reasonably foreseeable indirect effects are not anticipated to occur outside of the APE established for direct effects. The APE is shown in the enclosed figure.

Cultural resources studies of the APE will be performed and shared with consulting parties. If the Cow

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.

Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians is interested in becoming a consulting party for the project, please provide a response within 30 days of receipt of this letter with confirmation of your interest and any key contacts to be included in future correspondence. NRCS is also interested in input regarding the identification of any historic properties that may exist within the project's APE that may have religious and cultural significance to the Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians. If you have any questions or concerns about the project, please contact me at Kevin.Sippel@usda.gov.

Sincerely,

Kevin Sippel
Acting State Cultural Resources
Specialist USDA NRCS
503.414.3212
Kevin.Sippel@usda.gov

KEVIN SIPPEL Digitally signed by KEVIN SIPPEL Date: 2024.04.18 14:22:48 -07'00'

cc:
Gary Diridoni, State Watershed Planner

Enclosed: Area of Potential Effect Figure

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.

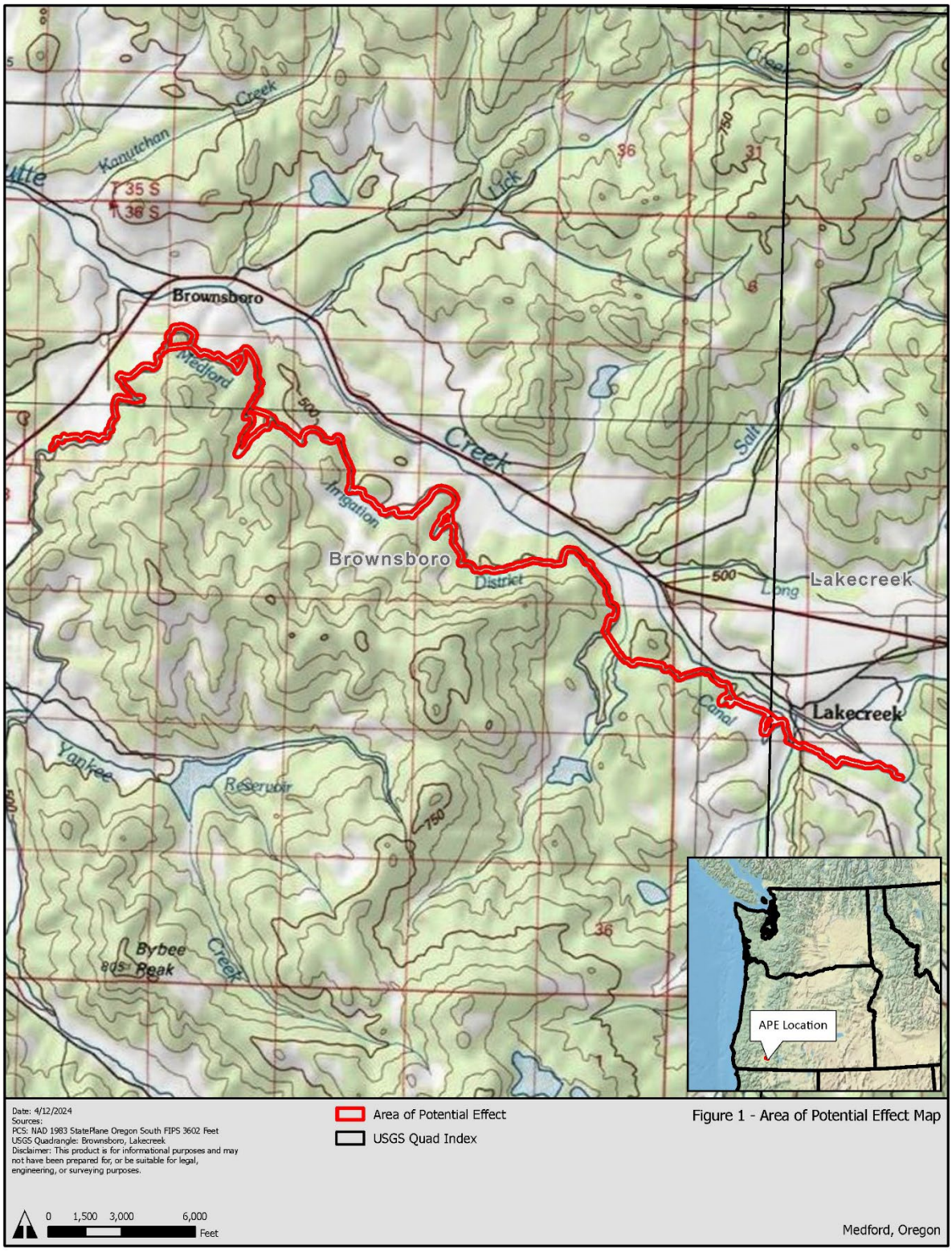


Figure 1 - Area of Potential Effect Map

USDA
Natural Resources Conservation Service
Oregon State Office
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
1201 NE Lloyd Blvd. Suite 900
Portland, OR 97232

April 18, 2024

9615 Grand Ronde Road
Grand Ronde, OR 97347

Re: Initiate Section 106 Consultation for the Medford Irrigation District Modernization Project, Jackson County, Oregon

Dear Tribal Leader,

In accordance with 36 CFR §800.3(c), the United States Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is formally initiating the §106 consultation process for Medford Irrigation District (MID). NRCS is cooperating with MID on an infrastructure improvement effort in accordance with the Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act of 1954 (PL-566) by providing financial and technical assistance.

Project Description

MID proposes to make a series of upgrades and improvements, including:

- Piping approximately 13 miles of the Joint System Canal from the junction of the North Fork Canal and the South Fork Canal to its intersection with Rogue River Valley Irrigation District's Hopkins Canal, commonly referred to as the Bradshaw drop.
- Upgrade three existing siphons: Lake Creek Siphon (563 feet in length), Wyant Siphon (145 feet), and Osborne Siphon (1,094 feet). The Wyant Siphon would be upgraded with a new siphon in a new alignment. The Lake Creek and Osborne siphons would be upgraded in their existing alignments.
- The construction of five new siphons: Grasshopper Siphon (438 feet), Owens Siphon (537 feet), Eagle Gulch Siphon (1,001 feet), and Marshall Siphon (741 feet).
- The conversion of twenty-four gravity fed turnouts on the existing Joint System Canal to pressurized delivery systems. Each converted turnout would be 10 inches in diameter with a valve, locking valve box, flow meter, and pipe stub out.
- Staging areas would be located adjacent to or in the immediate vicinity of the Joint System Canal within Jackson County Parcel Nos. 1-099129-8, 1-024154-7, 1-024199-3, 1-024197-7, 1-024409-9, 3-098861-8, and 1-024415-3. These areas have been previously disturbed and are accessible via existing access routes. In some locations, specifically at new siphons, construction access would need to be created before delivering pipe or equipment into construction areas and could include vegetation removal within the construction area. Appropriately sized construction equipment would be used to minimize disturbance in the construction area.

Area of Potential Effects

A project's APE is defined as the geographic area(s) in which an undertaking may directly or indirectly affect the character or use of historic properties (36 CFR 800.16.c). Effects may be direct or indirect, with the former including any type of effect (i.e., physical, visual, auditory, etc.) resulting from an undertaking and the latter including any type of reasonably foreseeable effect caused by the undertaking after its completion or farther in distance. In determining the project's APE, the APE for direct effects was delineated primarily to account for physical and visual effects, as well as construction-related effects such as vibration, noise, and fugitive dust. The project's physical APE will be limited to the vertical and horizonal footprint of the areas and/or structures where the proposed project activities will occur. The project's visual APE includes a 100-foot radial buffer around the physical APE to account for effects on the viewsheds of historic properties resulting from alterations to select components of the MID. The APE for indirect effects is the same as the APE for direct effects as reasonably foreseeable indirect effects are not anticipated to occur outside of the APE established for direct effects. The APE is shown in the enclosed figure.

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Cultural resources studies of the APE will be performed and shared with consulting parties. If the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde is interested in becoming a consulting party for the project, please provide a response within 30 days of receipt of this letter with confirmation of your interest and any key contacts to be included in future correspondence. NRCS is also interested in input regarding the identification of any historic properties that may exist within the project's APE that may have religious and cultural significance to the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde. If you have any questions or concerns about the project, please contact me at Kevin.Sippel@usda.gov.

Sincerely,

Kevin Sippel
Acting State Cultural Resources Specialist
USDA NRCS
503.414.3212
Kevin.Sippel@usda.gov

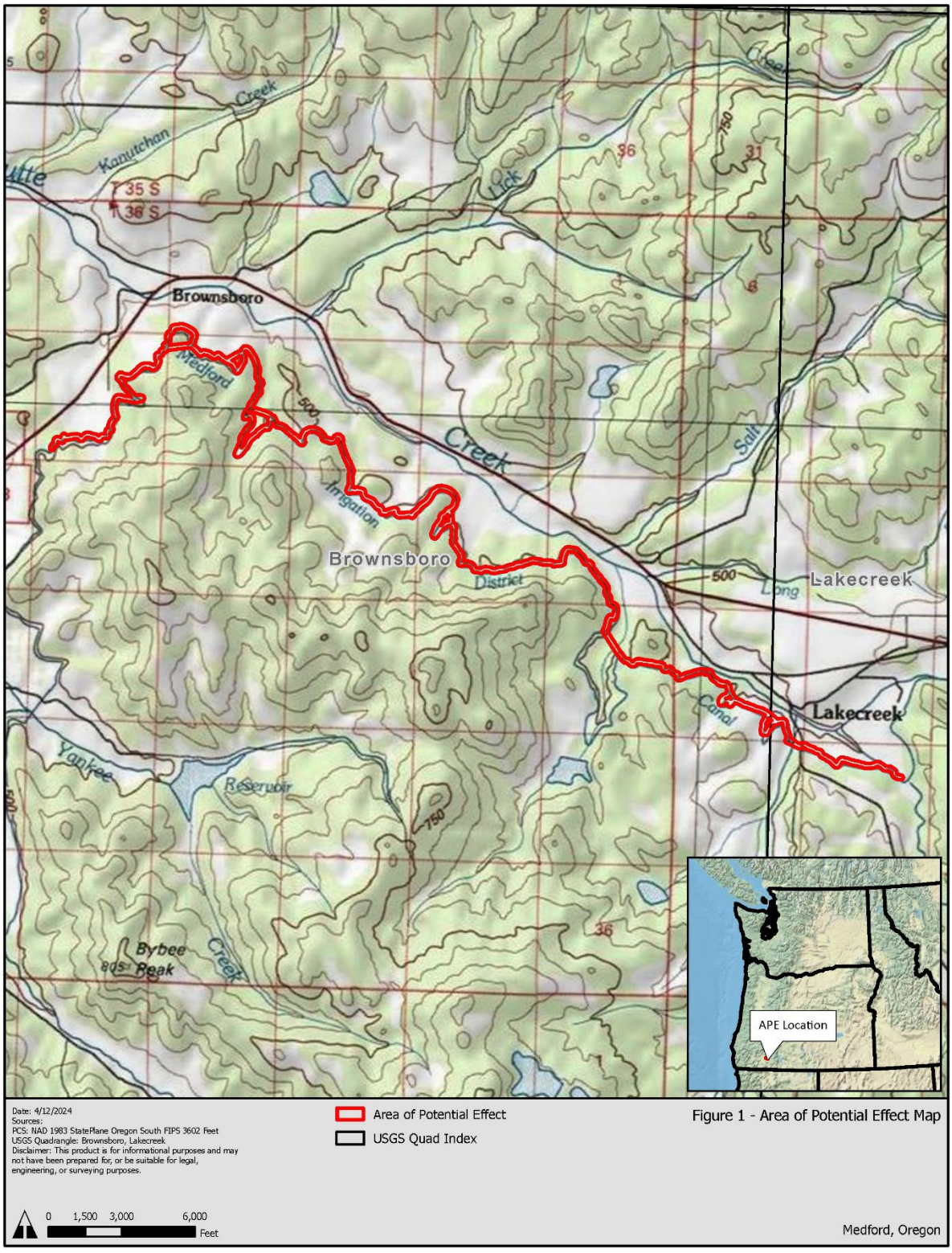
KEVIN SIPPEL

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Date: 2024.04.18 14:24:30 -07'00'

cc:
Gary Diridoni, State Watershed Planner

Enclosed: Area of Potential Effect Figure

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Brownsboro
Medford
Irrigation
Creek
Brownsboro
District
Lakecreek
Lakecreek
Canal
Yankee
Reservoir
Bybee
Peak
Creek
Kanutchan
Creek
T 35 S
T 36 S
Lick
Salt
Long
APE Location
Date: 4/12/2024
Sources:
PCS: NAD 1983 StatePlane Oregon South FIPS 3602 Feet
USGS Quadrangle: Brownsboro, Lakecreek
Disclaimer: This product is for informational purposes and may not have been prepared for, or be suitable for legal, engineering, or surveying purposes.
Area of Potential Effect
USGS Quad Index
0 1,500 3,000 6,000
Feet
Figure 1 - Area of Potential Effect Map
Medford, Oregon

USDA
Natural Resources Conservation Service
Oregon State Office
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
1201 NE Lloyd Blvd. Suite 900
Portland, OR 97232

April 18, 2024

P.O. Box 549
Siletz, OR 97380

Re: Initiate Section 106 Consultation for the Medford Irrigation District Modernization Project, Jackson County, Oregon

Dear Tribal Leader,

In accordance with 36 CFR §800.3(c), the United States Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is formally initiating the §106 consultation process for Medford Irrigation District (MID). NRCS is cooperating with MID on an infrastructure improvement effort in accordance with the Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act of 1954 (PL-566) by providing financial and technical assistance.

Project Description

MID proposes to make a series of upgrades and improvements, including:

- Piping approximately 13 miles of the Joint System Canal from the junction of the North Fork Canal and the South Fork Canal to its intersection with Rogue River Valley Irrigation District's Hopkins Canal, commonly referred to as the Bradshaw drop.
- Upgrade three existing siphons: Lake Creek Siphon (563 feet in length), Wyant Siphon (145 feet), and Osborne Siphon (1,094 feet). The Wyant Siphon would be upgraded with a new siphon in a new alignment. The Lake Creek and Osborne siphons would be upgraded in their existing alignments.
- The construction of five new siphons: Grasshopper Siphon (438 feet), Owens Siphon (537 feet), Eagle Gulch Siphon (1,001 feet), and Marshall Siphon (741 feet).
- The conversion of twenty-four gravity fed turnouts on the existing Joint System Canal to pressurized delivery systems. Each converted turnout would be 10 inches in diameter with a valve, locking valve box, flow meter, and pipe stub out.
- Staging areas would be located adjacent to or in the immediate vicinity of the Joint System Canal within Jackson County Parcel Nos. 1-099129-8, 1-024154-7, 1-024199-3, 1-024197-7, 1-024409-9, 3-098861-8, and 1-024415-3. These areas have been previously disturbed and are accessible via existing access routes. In some locations, specifically at new siphons, construction access would need to be created before delivering pipe or equipment into construction areas and could include vegetation removal within the construction area. Appropriately sized construction equipment would be used to minimize disturbance in the construction area.

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Cultural resources studies of the APE will be performed and shared with consulting parties. If the

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.

Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians is interested in becoming a consulting party for the project, please provide a response within 30 days of receipt of this letter with confirmation of your interest and any key contacts to be included in future correspondence. NRCS is also interested in input regarding the identification of any historic properties that may exist within the project's APE that may have religious and cultural significance to the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians. If you have any questions or concerns about the project, please contact me at Kevin.Sippel@usda.gov.

Sincerely,

Kevin Sippel
Acting State Cultural Resources Specialist
USDA NRCS
503.414.3212
Kevin.Sippel@usda.gov

KEVIN SIPPEL
Digitally signed by KEVIN SIPPEL
Date: 2024.04.18 14:26:14 -07'00'

cc:
Gary Diridoni, State Watershed Planner

Enclosed: Area of Potential Effect Figure

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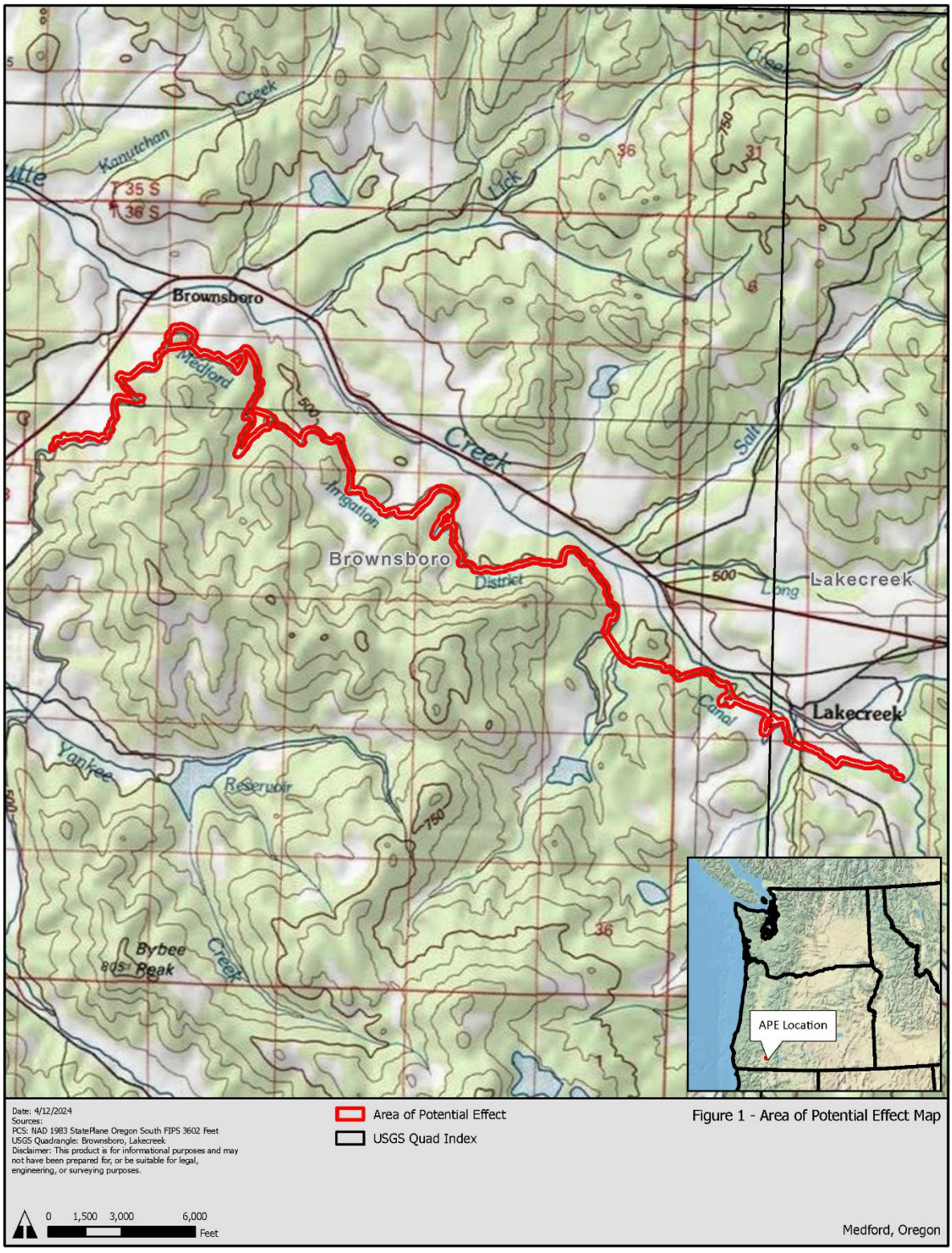


Figure 1 - Area of Potential Effect Map

A.2.2 Section 7 Consultation Materials

Santana, Lars - FPAC-NRCS, OR

From: Stone, Eileen - FPAC-NRCS, OR
Sent: Thursday, October 8, 2026 1:16 PM
To: icbd.consultations.wcr@noaa.gov
Cc: Santana, Lars - FPAC-NRCS, OR; Diridoni, Gary - FPAC-NRCS, OR; Benfield, Connor - FPAC-NRCS, OR
Subject: USDA-NRCS EISX-005-53-000-1769172473-Variance-PNF-Jackson Co, OR
Attachments: Medford PNF_ORWAC_NRCS_2026.pdf; Medford Irrigation District BA 2026.10.06.pdf

Hello,

Attached is a PNF with variance request for the Medford Irrigation District (MID) Joint System Canal Project in Jackson County.

In previous coordination with NOAA's Lance Kruzic and NOAA Affiliate Brooke Anderson, it was determined the Proposed Action fit under the ORWAC Programmatic Consultation (NMFS 2018) for potential effects to SONCC coho salmon and Pacific salmon EFH. The specific activities outlined in the ORWAC Programmatic Consultation that cover the Proposed Action are: Water Conveyance Improvement and Irrigation Water Siphons. Applicable conservation measures would be employed for design and construction to ensure NRCS obligations for ESA Section 7 and MSA obligations would be met for potential effects to SONCC coho salmon and Pacific salmon EFH. NRCS will continue to coordinate with NMFS on the Project to ensure project design and implementation are in compliance with the ORWAC Programmatic Consultation to achieve ESA Section 7 and MSA compliance.

Details beyond the PNF are supplied in the attached joint Biological Assessment. If needed, we can provide a hardcopy print upon request. If you have any questions, please contact me, or Gary Diridoni at Gary.Diridoni@usda.gov or at (503) 314-1548.

Thank you,
Eileen

Eileen Lavan Stone
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Natural Resource Conservation Service
1201 NE Lloyd Blvd. Suite 900, Portland, Oregon 97232
971.480.8581

1

USDA NRCS
U.S. Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service

USFWS TRACKING #:
01EOFW00-2017-F-0501

NMFS PROGRAMMATIC #:
WCR-2017-7216

Project Notification Form (PNF)[1]

Oregon and Washington NRCS Conservation Programmatic Implementation[2]

****See instructions on last page****

Clear Form

NRCS Program Contract No. (REQUIRED):	USDA-NRCS EISX-005-53-000-1769172473		
Date of Request	10/7/2026	**Consultation Agency:** ☐ NMFS ☐ USFWS	
Statutory Authority	◯ ESA-Only	◯ EFH-Only	◉ ESA & EFH Combined
NRCS Contact Information	Field Office City/State: Oregon State Office	Contact Name: Gary Diridoni	
	Phone: (503)414-3092	Email: gary.diridoni@usda.gov	

Project Name/Title	Medford Irrigation District Joint System Canal	
6th field HUC (12-digit) & Name	Multiple See Discription	
Latitude/Longitude (use WGS84, Decimal Degrees)	Lat.: 42°24'50.98"N	Long.: 122°36'18.75"W
County	Jackson	**State:** ☑ OR ☐ WA
Proposed Implementation Period	Start Date: 10/1/2027	End Date: 4/15/2031
Are work area isolation and fish salvage anticipated?	◯ Yes ◉ No	
Proposed length of stream to be treated under Stream Restoration and Management activities (feet)	_____feet	☑ N/A
Proposed number of acres to be treated under Floodplain and Wetland Restoration and Management activities	_____ acres	☑ N/A
Proposed acres of riparian herbicide application within 100 feet of surface water for each 6th field HUC	_____ acres	☑ N/A

☑ **Early NMFS/USFWS review required** (see Type of Action and Early Review Requirements below). Attach early review certification and submit with the PNF (see end of form for process).

[1] NRCS State Office must submit the completed form to NMFS 30 days prior to starting work and, for bull trout, USFWS 45 days prior to starting work, as appropriate; recommendation is 45 days for both.

[2] Upon receipt of this form, if NMFS/USFWS does not respond within 10 business days, the project (including either of the minor project modification requests) is automatically approved.

Brief Project Description:

Explain the project type and purpose, and include the stream name (e.g., "Replacing a perched culvert with a bridge to restore fish passage on Alder Creek"; "resloping an eroding streambank and replanting it to increase riparian function along Beaver Creek"; "treating (x) acres of riparian habitat with herbicide to re-establish native plants along Cow Creek").

HUC 12 Locations: Kanutchan Creek-Little Butte Creek 171003070812, Lick Creek-Little Butte Creek 171003070809, Lake Creek-Little Butte Creek 171003070807, Lower South Fork Little Butte Creek 171003070806.

NMFS Consultation No: WCR-2017-7216

Oregon NRCS would like to utilize the Oregon and Washington NRCS Aquatic Habitat Conservation (ORWAC) Programmatic Biological Opinion for the Medford Irrigation District Joint System Canal Modernization Project and associated EIS and is requesting one variance from ORWAC requirements, as described below.

Two existing irrigation diversions and fish screens supply the Joint System Canal. The fish screens were installed in 2003, meet NMFS screening criteria, and are regularly maintained. The proposed project begins about 0.4 mile down the canal from the nearest diversion and would not modify the diversions or fish screens.

The project is allowing management of water to predominantly benefit streamflow but in order to do so would also cause a minor reduction in North Fork Little Butte Creek (NFLBC) during the irrigation season (April through October) in most years. ORWAC covers all proposed construction activities but does not cover post-project declines in instream flow.

Minor Project Modifications

Check the appropriate box if requesting a Minor Project Modification:

☑	Variance to the timing of in-water work	☐	Location of staging/refueling area where applicant cannot meet the required distance due to site constraints

Justification for Minor Project Modification Request

1) Tell why the minor project modification is necessary

While this variance request does not fit cleanly as work outside the in-water work window, we believe this action fits within the analysis of effects to the species in the biological opinion.

Variance Request: Declines in Instream Flow

Overall, the project will provide substantial increase in streamflow. From August 1 through September 30 in all water years, SFLBC flows from RM 0 to RM 1.1 would increase by 6.09 cfs, or 106 percent. In September of dry water years, NFLBC flows from RM 0.9 to RM 16 would also increase by 26.5 cfs, or 79 percent.

However, in order to increase these flows, the project will also result in a minor streamflow reduction in NFLBC from RM 0.9 to 16 during the irrigation season in most years. In normal and wet years, average flow in this reach would decrease by 1.4 cfs, or 2 percent.

2) Describe how the effects of the modification will either provide a conservation benefit or, at a minimum, will not cause additional adverse effects beyond those analyzed in the biological opinion:

As described above, there will be significant increases in streamflow which greatly offset the minor streamflow reduction. The flow increases are not feasible without the associated decrease.

NRCS therefore requests a variance for the minor NFLBC streamflow reduction. The effects of the reduction in flow to ESA-listed fish and associated critical habitat would be offset by substantial long-term streamflow benefits, including net benefits of increased late-summer SFLBC flows that would improve habitat and passage for Southern Oregon and Northern California Coast coho salmon and other aquatic species.

Type of Action and NMFS/FWS Review Requirements: *Check all Activities that are proposed.*

Category		Activities	NMFS/FWS Engineering Review Requirements
Fish Passage Restoration	☐	Structure Removal	Greater than 3 vertical feet of grade control proposed in engineering design
	☐	Irrigation Diversion Improvement	Complete replacement
			Water operation modification affecting fish passage
			Point of diversion is moved
			Greater than 3 vertical feet of grade control proposed in engineering design
	☐	Headcut and Grade Stabilization	Structures, roughened channels and grade control structures with greater than 3 vertical feet of grade control proposed in engineering design.
	☐	Fish Passage at Existing Structure	All projects except maintenance of existing structures.
	☐	Bridge and Culvert Removal or Replacement	*No engineering review required
	☐	Stream Crossing Improvement	*No engineering review required
Tide and Flood Gate Removal, Replacement, or Retrofit	☐	Tide and Flood Gate Removal, Replacement, or Retrofit Subcategory: ☐ Estuary ☐ Riverine ☐ Marshes ☐ Wetland	All projects require engineering review
Stream, Floodplain, and Wetland Restoration and Management	☐	Restore Wetlands and Secondary Channels Subcategory: ☐ Riverine ☐ Wetland	*No engineering review required
	☐	Setback or Removal of Existing Berms, Dikes, and Levees Subcategory: ☐ Estuary ☐ Riverine ☐ Marshes ☐ Wetland	Projects that may affect bull trout require engineering review; others do not.
	☐	Bioengineering for Streambank Protection	*No engineering review required
	☐	Stream Habitat Improvement with Natural Materials	*No engineering review required
	☐	Riparian and Wetland Vegetation Planting Subcategory: ☐ Estuary ☐ Riverine ☐ Marshes ☐ Wetland	*No engineering review required
	☐	Fluvial Channel Reconstruction	All projects require engineering review
	☐	Beaver Dam Analogues	Only if water elevation difference between upstream and downstream is greater than 1 foot for each individual BDA.
Vegetation Management	☐	Physical Control Subcategory: ☐ Riverine ☐ Wetland	*No engineering review required
	☐	Herbicide	*No engineering review required
	☐	Juniper Tree Removal	*No engineering review required
	☐	Prescribed Burning	*No engineering review required
Road Maintenance, Erosion Control, and Decommissioning	☐	Road Maintenance and Erosion Control	*No engineering review required
	☐	Road Decommissioning	*No engineering review required
Irrigation and Water Delivery and Management	☑	Irrigation Efficiency Improvement	*No engineering review required
	☑	Water Conveyance Improvement	*No engineering review required
	☐	Conversion of Instream Diversions to Groundwater Wells	*No engineering review required
	☑	Irrigation Water Siphons	*No engineering review required
	☐	Livestock Watering Facilities	*No engineering review required
	☐	Fish Screens	Fish screens for surface water diversion by gravity or by pumping at a rate exceeding 3 cfs.
	☐	Pump Station Diversions	*No engineering review required

When engineering review is required, see documentation requirements in Handbook pp 16-17 in addition to any action-specific requirements. For bull trout, engineering review requests go to both FWS and NMFS as NMFS engineers assist FWS in these reviews.
*Submit PNF, no additional engineering review required.

Species/Critical Habitat/Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) Species Present in Action Area: *Check all relevant boxes for the species, critical habitats (CH), and/or essential fish habitat (EFH) present in the project action area:*

Proposed and Final Effect Determination for Species below are Likely to Adversely Affect (LAA):		
Listed Species	**Species**	**Critical Habitat**
Bull trout	☐	☐
Salmon, Chinook (Puget Sound)	☐	☐
Salmon, Chinook (Lower Columbia River)	☐	☐
Salmon, Chinook (Upper Willamette River Spring-run)	☐	☐
Salmon, Chinook (Upper Columbia River Spring-run)	☐	☐
Salmon, Chinook (Snake River Spring/Summer-run)	☐	☐
Salmon, Chinook (Snake River Fall-run)	☐	☐
Salmon, chum (Hood Canal Summer-run)	☐	☐
Salmon, chum (Columbia River)	☐	☐
Salmon, coho (Lower Columbia River)	☐	☐
Salmon, coho (Oregon Coast)	☐	☐
Salmon, coho (So. Oregon/No. California Coast)	✓	✓
Salmon, sockeye (Ozette Lake)	☐	☐
Steelhead (Puget Sound)	☐	☐
Steelhead (Lower Columbia River)	☐	☐
Steelhead (Upper Willamette River)	☐	☐
Steelhead (Middle Columbia River)	☐	☐
Steelhead (Upper Columbia River)	☐	☐
Steelhead (Snake River Basin)	☐	☐
Eulachon (Southern DPS)	☐	☐

Proposed and Final Effect Determination for Species below are Not Likely to Adversely Affect (NLAA):	**Species**	**Critical Habitat**
Salmon, sockeye (Snake River DPS)	☐	☐
Sturgeon, green (Southern Resident DPS)	☐	☐
Killer whale (Southern Resident DPS)	☐	☐

Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) present in the project action area:	**Presence**
Salmon, Chinook	✓
Salmon, coho	✓
Salmon, Pink (Puget Sound)	☐
Coastal pelagics	☐
Groundfish	☐

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

OR State Office
1201 NE Lloyd Blvd.
Suite 900
Portland, OR 97232

Michael Asch, Field Supervisor
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
777 NW Garden Valley Blvd
Roseburg, OR 97471

October 6, 2026

SUBJECT: Request to Initiate Voluntary Conferencing Under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act for the Medford Irrigation District Joint System Canal Modernization Project

Dear Mr. Asch,

The purpose of this letter is to initiate voluntary conferencing under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act for potential effects of the Medford Irrigation District (MID or District) Joint System Canal Modernization Project's (Project) Proposed Action on federally listed and proposed species and designated critical habitat in accordance with the provisions of Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (ESA; 16 U.S.C. §§1531-1543).

The District has requested financial and technical assistance from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) to plan and implement the Project in Jackson County, Oregon. The Project proposes to pipe approximately 11.5 miles of MID's Joint System Canal. The purpose of the Project is to enhance agricultural water management through irrigation water infrastructure mondernization, improvement of water delivery reliability to patrons, and reduction of long-term operation and maintenance costs.

The Project is further described in the Environmental Impact Statement for the Medford Irrigation District Joint System Canal Modernization Project (herein referred to as the Plan-EIS) prepared by the Farmers Conservation Alliance and Parametrix on behalf of MID and NRCS. The Plan-EIS was prepared under the authority of the Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act of 1954 (Public Law Number [Pub. L. No.] 83-566) and the National Environmental Policy Act (Public Law Number [Pub. L. No.] 91-190).

Section 7(a)(2) of the ESA (16 USC 1531-1544 and Section 1536) specifies that each federal agency shall, in consultation with and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), ensure that any action authorized, funded, or carried out by such agency is not likely to jeopardize the continued existence of an endangered or threatened species or result in the destruction or adverse modification of critical habitat.

Natural Resources Conservation Service
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Based on the findings of the attached Biological Assessment (BA), NRCS is requesting voluntary conferencing with USFWS for potential project impacts to Monarch Butterfly. This BA also documents NRCS's determination of no effects from the project to other ESA-listed and proposed species and associated critical habitat.

Accordingly, this BA addresses potential effects of the Proposed Action on the following species:

- Monarch Butterfly (*Danaus plexippus*) under the authority of USFWS.

The Project is anticipated to have impacts to Southern Oregon/Northern California Coast Coho Salmon, a species under the authority of NMFS. Accordingly, NRCS will be consulting with NMFS and utilizing the existing ESA Section 7(a)(2) Programmatic Biologal Opinion WCR-2017-7216.

The purpose of this letter is to initiate voluntary conferencing for Monarch Butterfly with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service required under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act. NRCS requests that the USFWS concur with our determination that the Project, may affect but is not likely to adversely affect Monarch Butterfly.

If you have any questions, please contact Gary Diridoni at Gary.Diridoni@usda.gov or at (503) 314-1548.

Sincerely,

GARY DIRIDONI Digitally signed by GARY DIRIDONI
Date: 2026.10.06 15:47:58 -07'00'

Gary Diridoni
Assistant State Conservationist Watershed Resources

Enclosures: Medford Irrigation District Joint System Canal Modernization Project BA

ECC:
Colleen Holland, USFWS
Trinity Harvey, USFWS
Sam Friedman, USFWS

Natural Resources Conservation Service
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A.2.3 Other Consultation Materials

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Oregon NRCS State Office
1201 NE Lloyd Blvd., Ste. 900
Portland, OR 97232

June 11, 2024

Dear Tribal Leader,
The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) wishes to formally initiate consultation with the Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians. NRCS recognizes the tribe's ancestral presence on the lands of Josephine County since time immemorial and is seeking input on multiple proposed PL566 watershed projects.

The Medford Irrigation District Irrigation Modernization Plan is currently in the scoping phase of plan development. Medford Irrigation District (MID) is seeking federal funding through the NRCS Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Program, Public Law 83-566 (PL 83-566). This funding would be used to modernize the Joint System Canal to improve agricultural water management and water delivery reliability. The Joint System Canal is essential infrastructure for MID and Rogue River Valley Irrigation District (RRVID). The two irrigation districts divert water from North Fork Litle Bute Creek and South Fork Litle Bute Creek and convey the water to the districts through the 13-mile Joint System Canal. Together MID and RRVID serve 2,225 farms and orchards on 21,758 irrigated acres.

The Rogue River Valley Irrigation District Irrigation Modernization Plan is in the Preliminary Draft phase of development. Additionally, the Talent Irrigation District, while very early in the process, is getting ready to lay the groundwork for communications in roughly the same geographic area.

While discussion of these draft plans would be our priority for this meeting as they are the most time sensitive, there are a number of other projects being discussed in other locations that we could add to the agenda to make efficient use of our time. Some of those projects include Central Oregon ID Butte Irrigation Modernization (Deschutes Co.), Klamath Drainage District Irrigation Modernization (Klamath Co.), Klamath Irrigation District Irrigation Modernization (Klamath Co.), and Sutherlin Cooper Creek Dam Rehab (Douglas Co.).

From NRCS we would include Gary Diridoni our Assistant State Conservationist for Watershed Resources and Heather Medina Sauceda the Basin Team Leader. Please let me know your availability to meet. Or if you don't have any interest in these projects, we would appreciate that feedback as well.

Thank you very much and I look forward to hearing from you.

Will Fett

Will Fett, Outreach Coordinator and Tribal Liaison

CC: Jason Robison, Natural Resource Land Resources and Tribal Program Officer; Kelly Coates, Natural Resources Director; Ben Steward, Tribal Historic Preservation Officer

Natural Resources Conservation Service
USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.

Appendix B

Project Maps

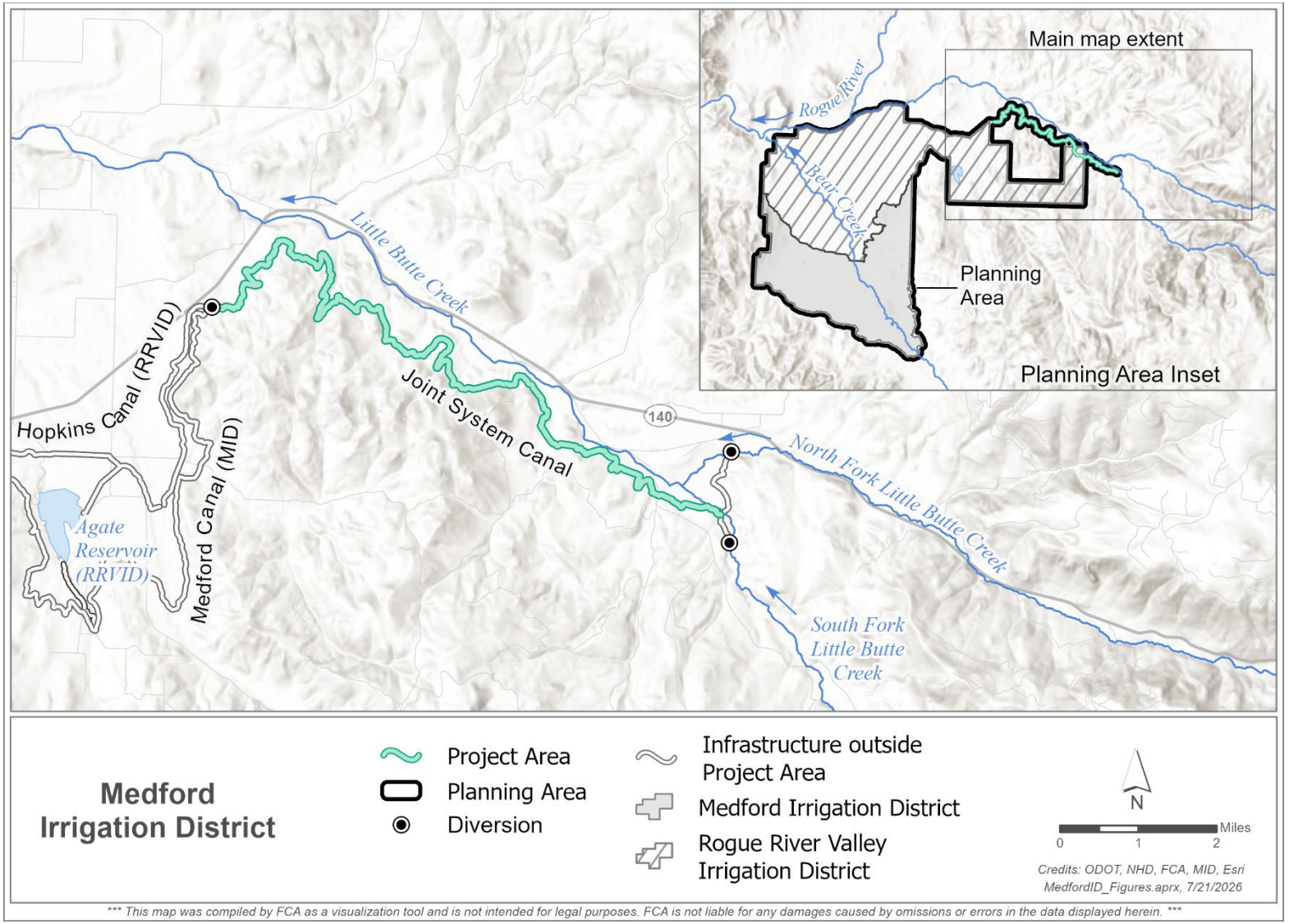


Figure B-1. Planning area and project area for the Medford Irrigation District Joint System Canal Modernization Project.

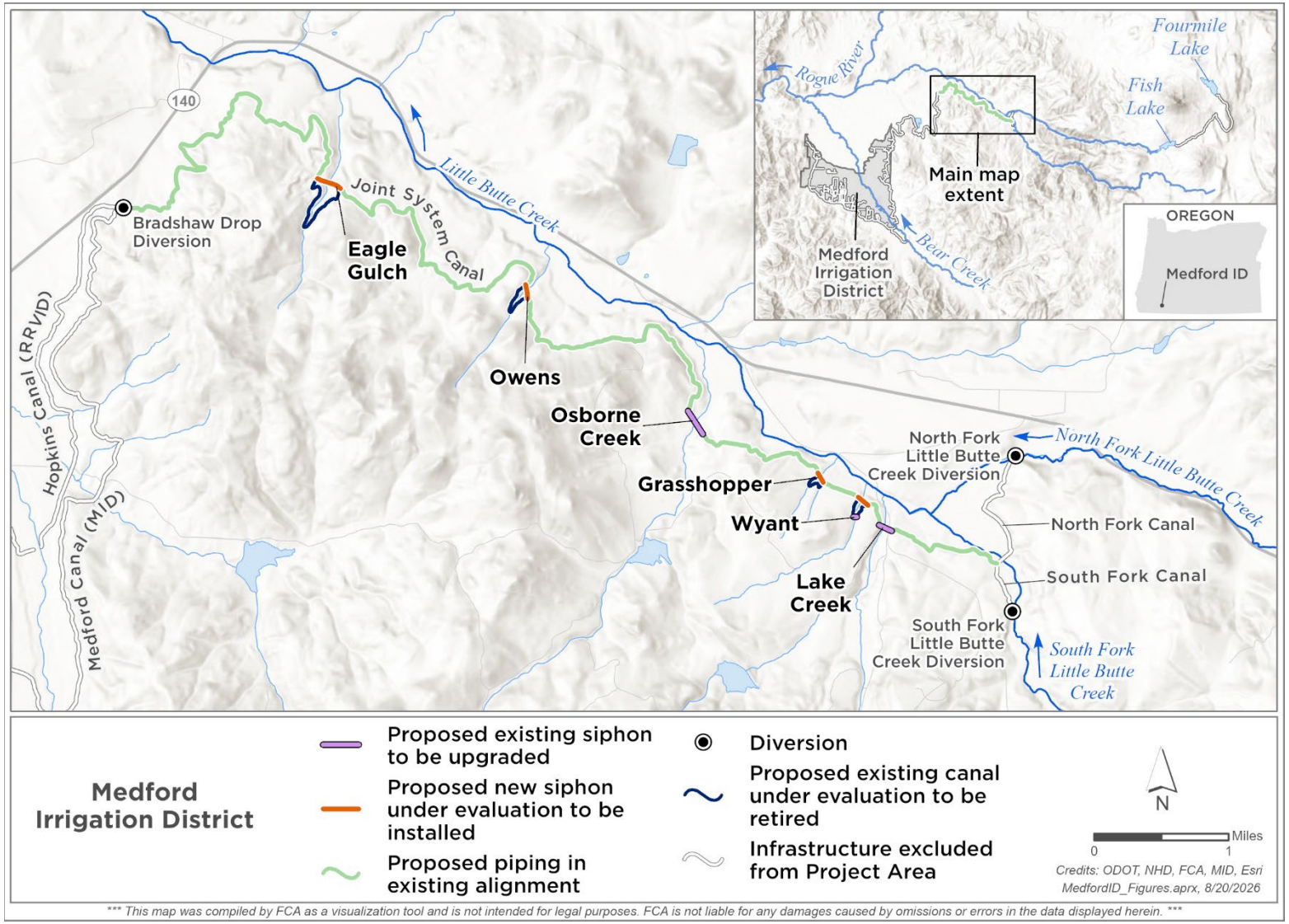


Figure B-2. Modernization Alternative for the Medford Irrigation District Joint System Canal Modernization Project.

Appendix C

Supporting Maps

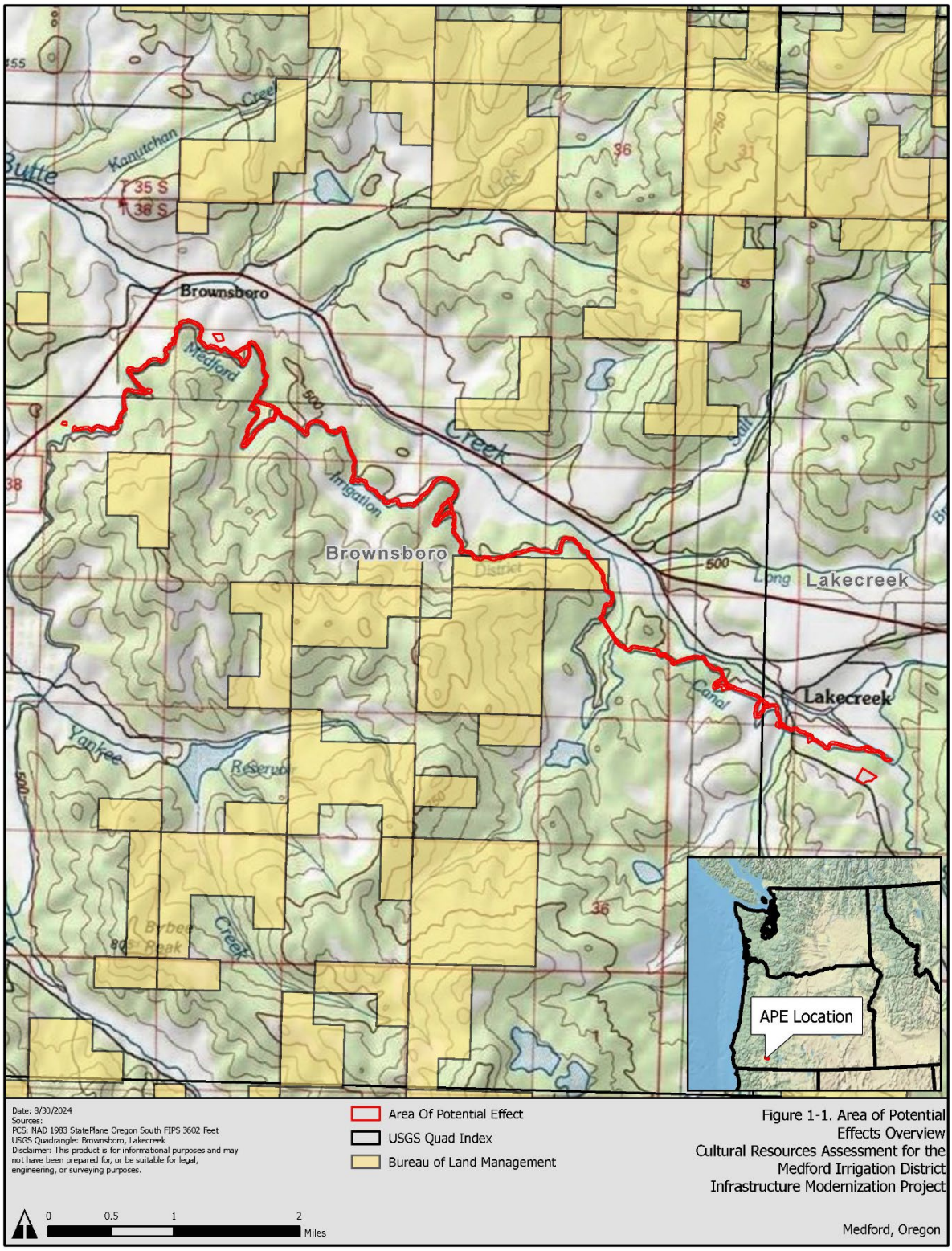


Figure C-1. APE overview map for the Medford Irrigation District Joint System Canal Modernization Project.

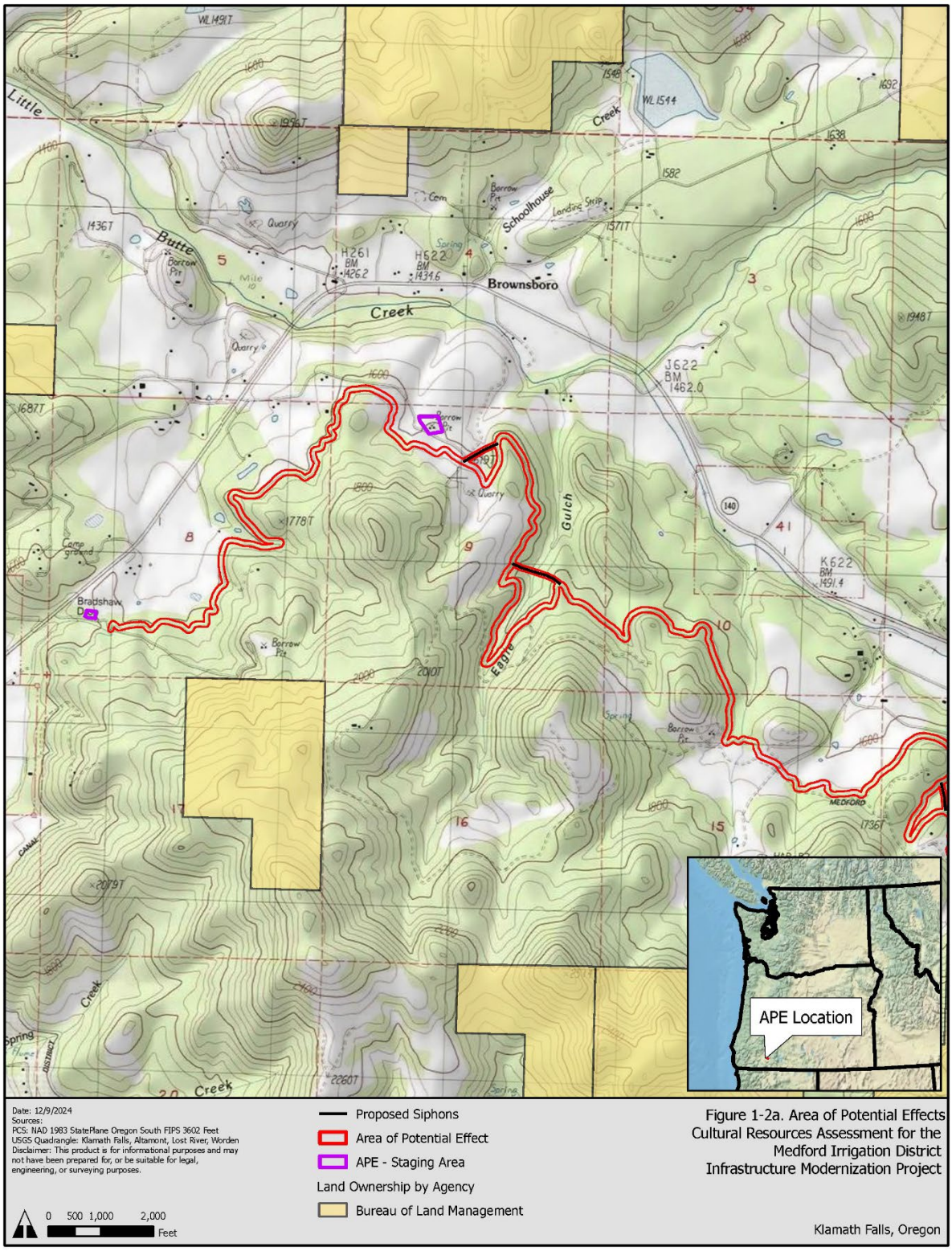


Figure C-2. Western APE map for the Medford Irrigation District Joint System Canal Modernization Project.

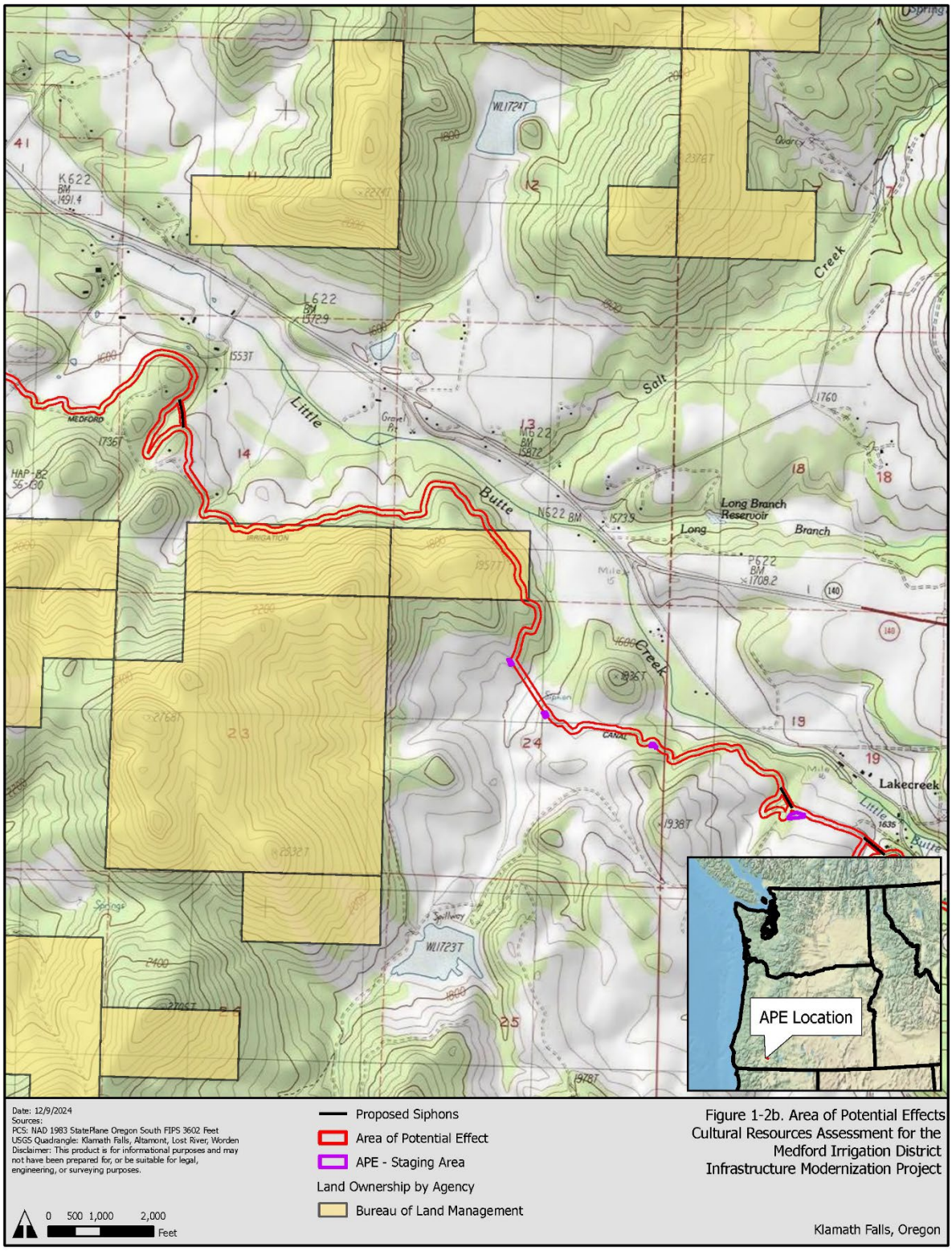


Figure C-3. Central APE map for the Medford Irrigation District Joint System Canal Modernization Project.

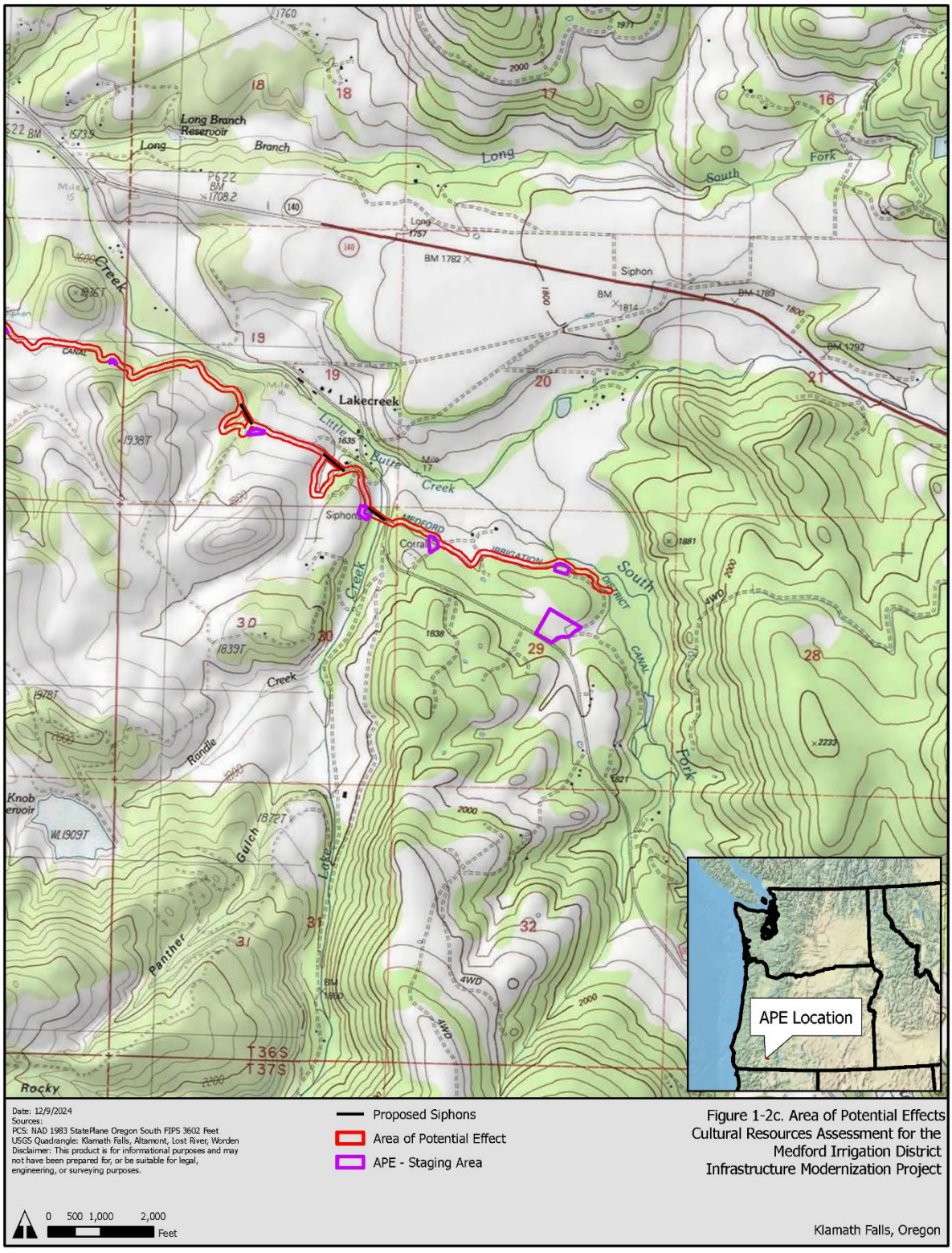


Figure C-4. Eastern APE map for the Medford Irrigation District Joint System Canal Modernization Project.

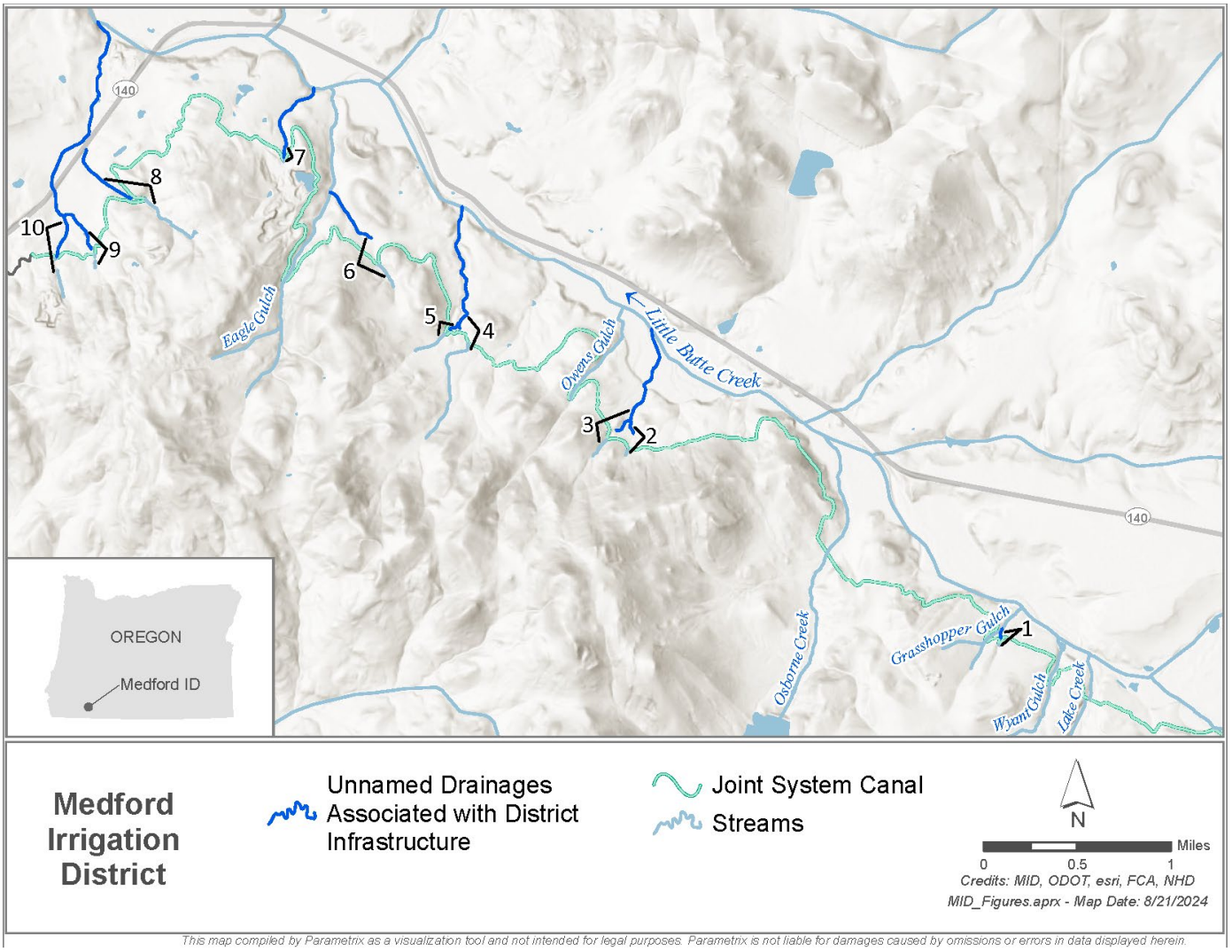


Figure C-5. Unnamed drainages associated with MID operations.

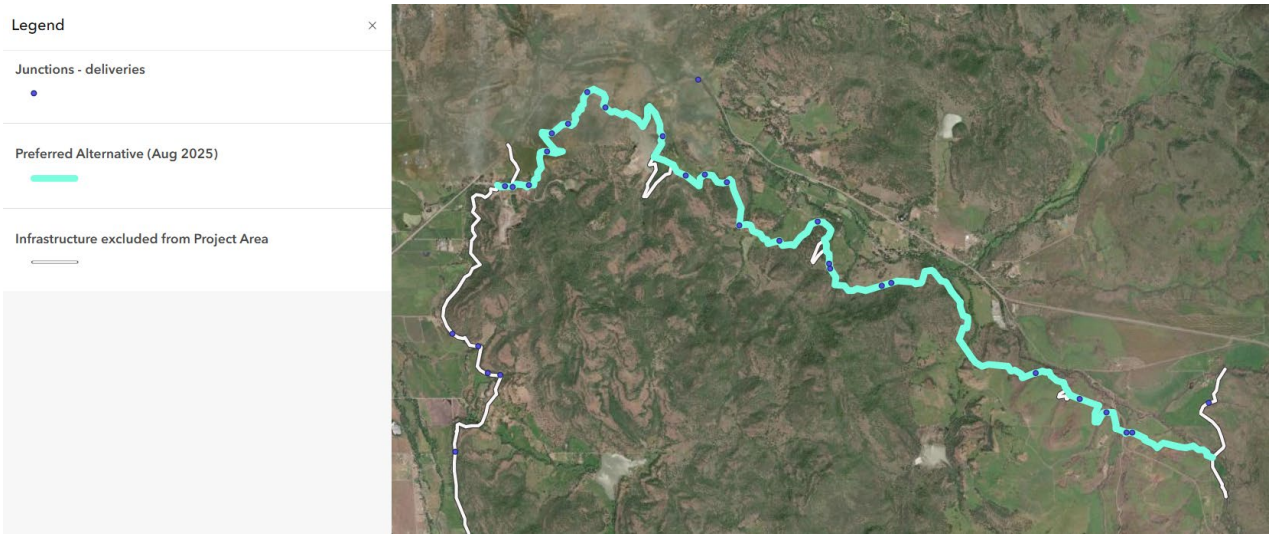


Figure C-6. Irrigation turnouts (labeled as Junctions – deliveries) along the Preferred Alternative.