

## **Public Scoping Meeting**

### **Arnold Irrigation District Infrastructure Modernization Project**

April 17<sup>th</sup>, 2019

#### **Meeting Purpose**

To inform the community of the proposed Arnold Irrigation District Infrastructure Modernization Project and to gather community comments and suggestions on the proposed project.

#### **Project Goals**

The goals of the proposed project are to modernize District-owned canals and laterals to conserve water, improve operational efficiencies and water supply reliability, enhance public safety, and improve habitat in the Deschutes River while improving the economic sustainability and resilience of local agriculture. The proposed project would help the agricultural community meet the requirements under the Clean Water Act and the Endangered Species Act.

#### **District Facts**

- The Arnold Irrigation District (AID) serves 646 patrons and irrigates approximately 4,400 acres.
- Water is delivered through a system of approximately 39 miles of open canals and pipes. The District loses an estimated 39% of diverted water (45.1 cubic feet per second or 14,607 acre-feet) to seepage over the irrigation season.
- Water for AID is diverted from the Deschutes River, which reduces streamflow and aquatic habitat in the Deschutes River.
- The Deschutes River provides important habitat for sensitive species, including, but not limited to, steelhead trout, redband trout, Chinook salmon, bull trout, the Oregon spotted frog, and many other fish, bird, and wildlife species.

#### **Resource Concerns**

- Water loss in the District's conveyance system
- Water delivery inefficiencies and high operation and maintenance costs
- Reduced instream flow for fish and aquatic habitat
- Risk of open canals to human safety
- Inefficient energy usage from irrigation pumps

### Potential Project Benefits

- Modernizing AID’s system could reduce water losses by an estimated 45.1 cubic feet per second (14,607 acre-feet) over the irrigation season.
- Saved water could be permanently protected instream using Oregon’s Allocation of Conserved Water Program, enhancing stream flow in the Deschutes River.
- More instream flow in the Deschutes River could enhance habitat conditions for sensitive fish and other aquatic species.
- Irrigation water delivery reliability could be improved to ensure that patrons receive the amount of water they need at the right time.
- Public safety could be improved by converting open canals to buried pipe, eliminating the risk of drowning.
- AID patron energy consumption and costs could be reduced.

### Stakeholders/Entities with Interest

The project sponsor is the Deschutes Basin Board of Control with co-sponsor Arnold Irrigation District, in cooperation with the Natural Resources Conservation Service and Farmers Conservation Alliance.

Currently identified stakeholders include:

- Central Oregon Landwatch
- City of Bend
- Coalition for the Deschutes
- Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs
- Deschutes County
- Deschutes River Conservancy
- Deschutes Soil and Water Conservation District
- District patrons and water users
- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Fisheries
- Oregon Department of Agriculture
- Oregon Department of Environmental Quality
- Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife
- Oregon Department of State Lands
- Oregon Governor’s Office
- Oregon Water Resources Department
- State Historic Preservation Office
- Trout Unlimited
- United States Army Corps of Engineers
- United States Bureau of Land Management
- United States Bureau of Reclamation
- United States Fish and Wildlife Service
- United States Forest Service, Deschutes National Forest
- Upper Deschutes Watershed Council
- Water Watch of Oregon

### Scoping comments will be accepted through May 15, 2019

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### Mail

Farmers Conservation Alliance

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