East Fork Irrigation District
Infrastructure Modernization Project

Public Comment Meeting: January 29th, 2020
Meeting Agenda

Part 1:
Project Overview

Part 2:
Public Comment
Breakout Session
Part 1: Project Overview
Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Program (P.L. 83-566)

- Managed and funded by: US Department of Agriculture - Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

- To qualify, irrigation districts must have:
  1) Match funding
  2) Authorized Final Watershed Plan-Environmental Assessment (Plan-EA)
Watershed Planning Process

Step 1: Project Proposal Initiation

Step 2: Scoping Period

Step 3: Prepare DRAFT Watershed Plan - Environmental Assessment

Step 4: Public Comment Period

Step 5: FINAL Watershed Plan - Environmental Assessment

Step 6: Project Implementation and Construction
What a Plan-EA Should Address

- Purpose and need for the project
- Proposed Action
- Proposed Action alternatives
- Proposed Action effects
- Measures to minimize and mitigate impacts
- Economic analysis
How the Plan-EA is Organized

1. Introduction
2. Purpose and Need
3. Scope of the Plan-EA
4. Affected Environment
5. Alternatives
6. Environmental Consequences
7. Consultation, Coordination, and Public Participation
8. Preferred Alternative
9-13. Other Required Sections
14. Appendix
East Fork Irrigation District Overview

• ~9,600 acres irrigated
• 990 irrigators served
• Irrigation season April-Sept
• 83-mile irrigation system
• Approx. 18% or 16.6 cfs of water diverted lost to end spills (5,287 acre-feet/yr)
Project Purpose and Need

- Improve water conservation in District-owned infrastructure
- Improve water delivery
- Improve irrigation water quality
- Reduce public safety risk
- Reduce environmental issues
Proposed Project

- Pipe up to **17.5 miles** of canals and upgrade up to **38 miles** of aging pipe
- 3 project groups over 10 years
- Upgrade turnouts
- Install sedimentation basin
- **$68,700,000**
What this Project would Achieve

- Improve water delivery reliability
- Pressurization for patrons
- Decrease sediment in irrigation water
- Protect up to 12.45 cfs of water in the East Fork Hood River
- Improve District’s water supply
- Improve public safety
Plan-EA Resource Analysis

- Cultural Resources
- Fish and Aquatic Resources
- Land Use
- Public Safety
- Socioeconomic Resources
- Vegetation
- Visual Resources
- Water Resources
- Wetlands and Riparian Areas
- Wildlife Resources
- Ecosystem Services
Part 2:
Breakout Session
We Would Like Your Comments

- Your input helps NRCS make informed decisions
- Paper forms are available
- Comments must be specific to EFID’s project
- Staff from NRCS and FCA are available to assist
- Your comment will be included in the Final Plan-EA
Commenting Suggestions

- Accuracy, methodology, assumptions, information used for analysis
- Errors and omissions
- Range of alternatives included
- NEPA and NRCS requirements
Comment Period Ends February 13, 2020

Opportunities to Comment

• Submit comments tonight
• Online: oregonwatershedplans.org
• Email: eastforkcomments@gmail.com
• Phone: (541) 716-6085
• Mail: Attn: East Fork Watershed Plan Farmers Conservation Alliance
102 State St.
Hood River, OR 97031
Thank you for coming
Please bring your comments to the tables