



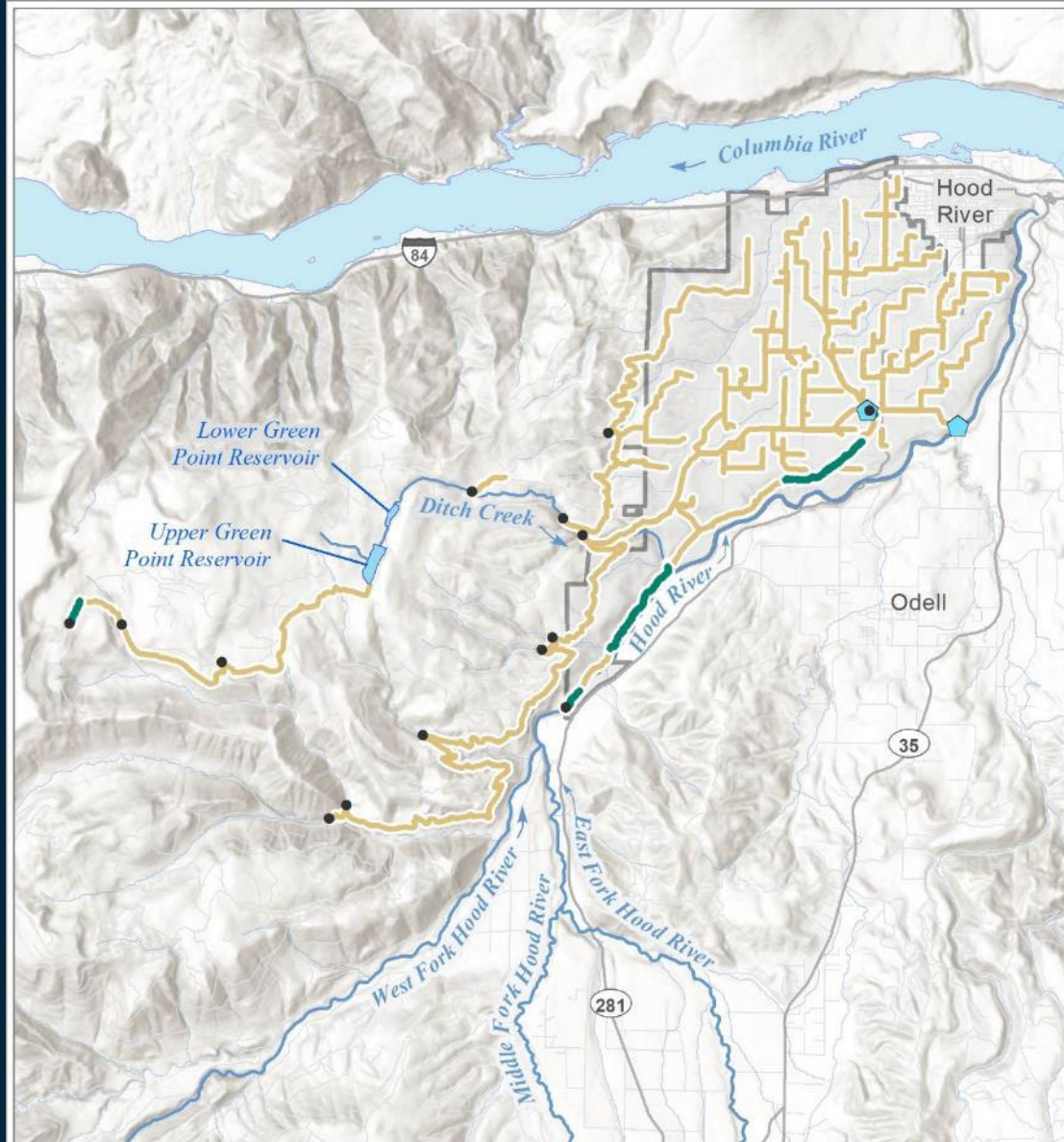
Farmers Irrigation District Infrastructure Modernization Project

Public Comment Meeting: November 8, 2023



Farmers Irrigation District

- **5,888** acres irrigated
- **1,932** irrigators served
- Irrigation season **April-Sept**
- **~73**-mile system
 - 70 miles piped
 - 3 miles open canals
- **11** screened diversions
- **2** reservoirs
- **2** hydroelectric plants



Farmers Irrigation District

- Diversion
- ◊ Hydropower Plant
- ~ Existing Open Canal
- ~ Existing Pipeline
- ⊕ Farmers Irrigation District



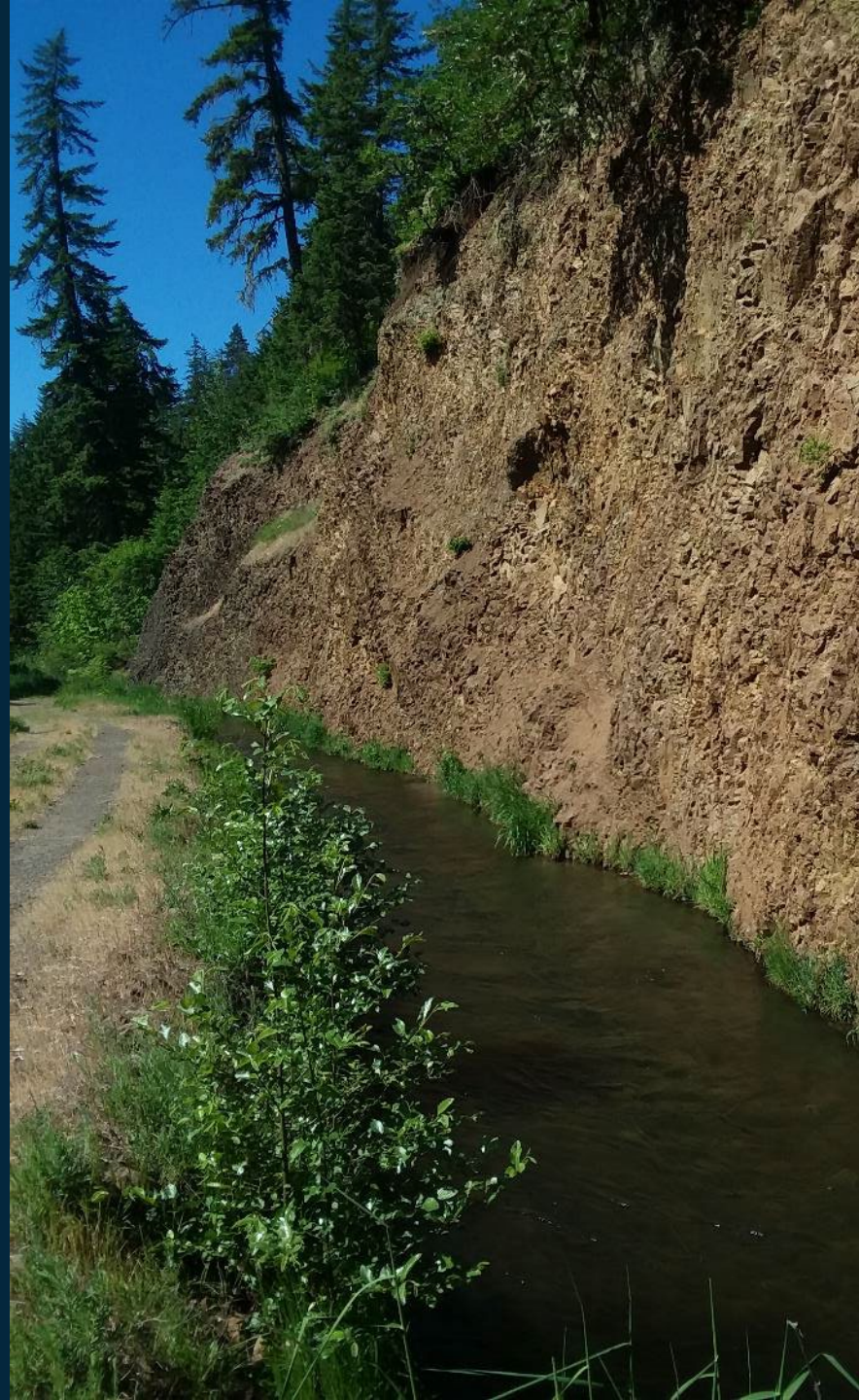
0 1 2 Miles

Source: FCA, FID, NHD, ODOT

FID Scoping Exist System.mxd 5/26/2021

Project Purpose and Need

- Conserve water in District infrastructure
- Improve District water conveyance
- Improve District operation efficiency
- Increase drought resiliency



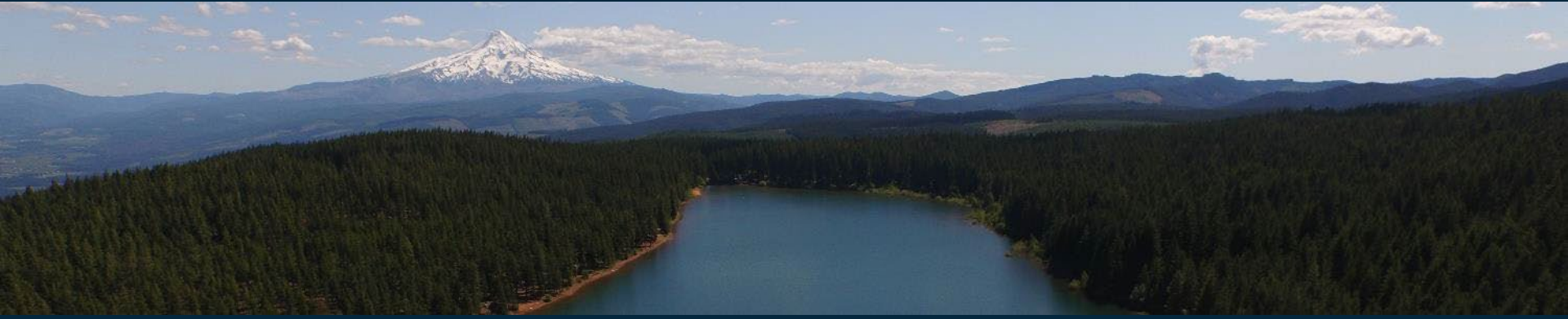
Meeting Agenda

Part 1

Process &
Project Overview

Part 2

Public Comment
Breakout Session



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



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**

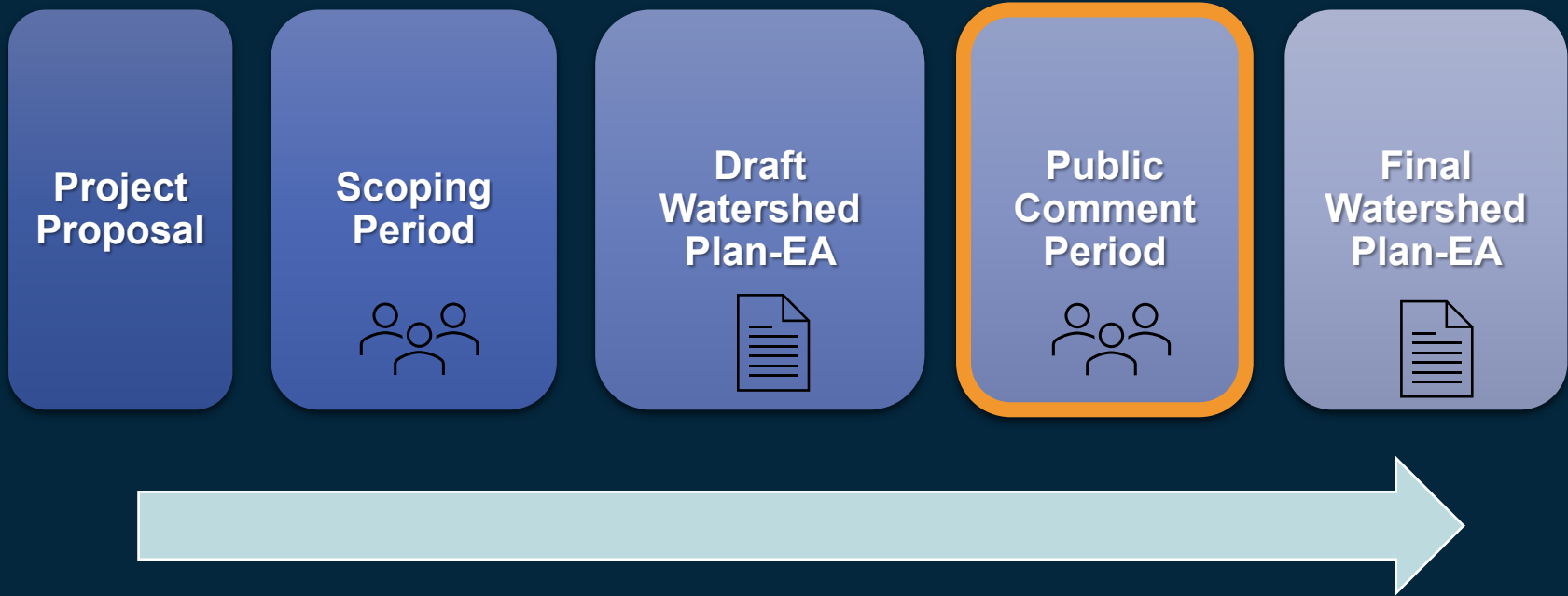


Additional Requirements

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

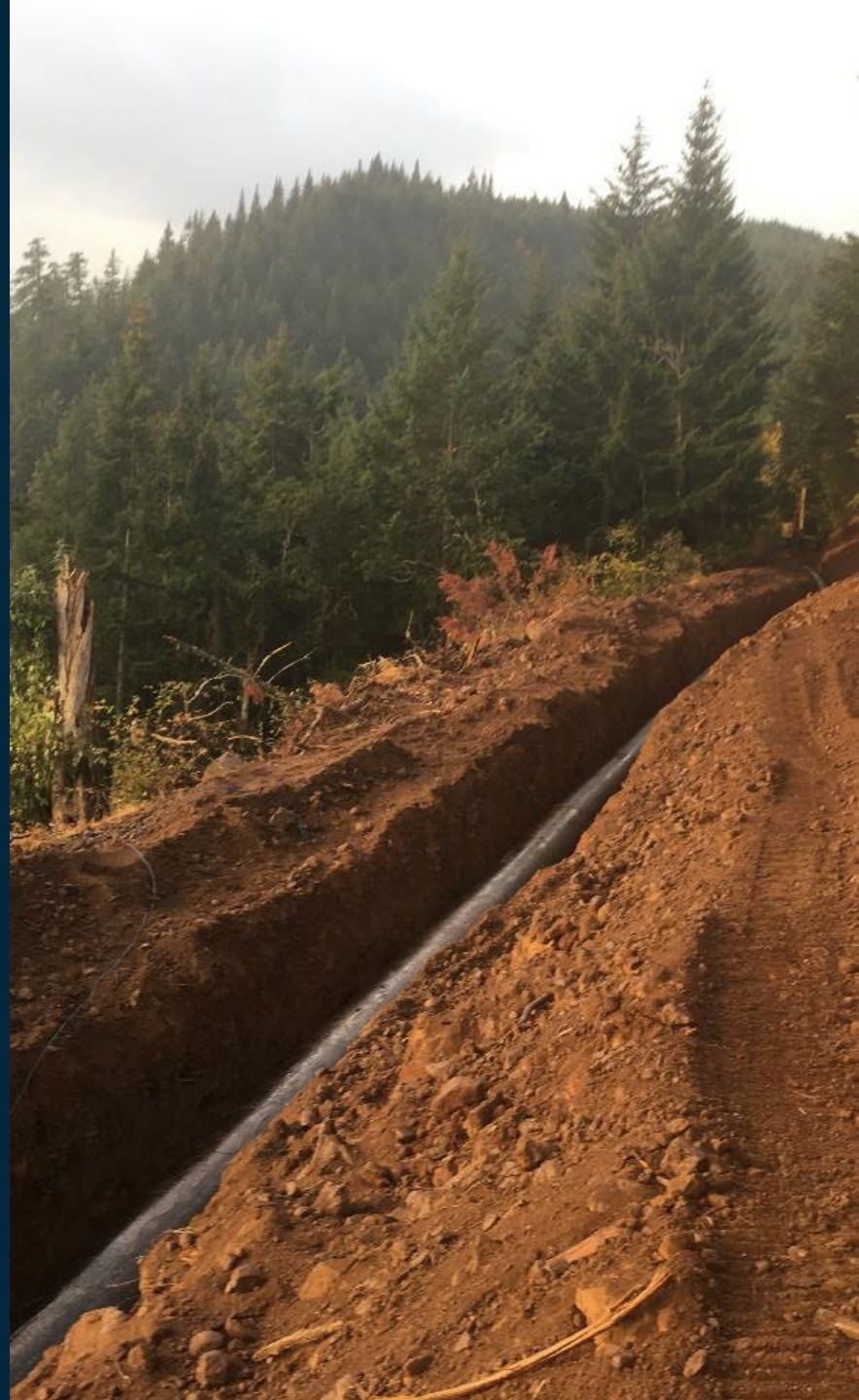


Watershed Planning Process



What a Plan-EA Includes

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



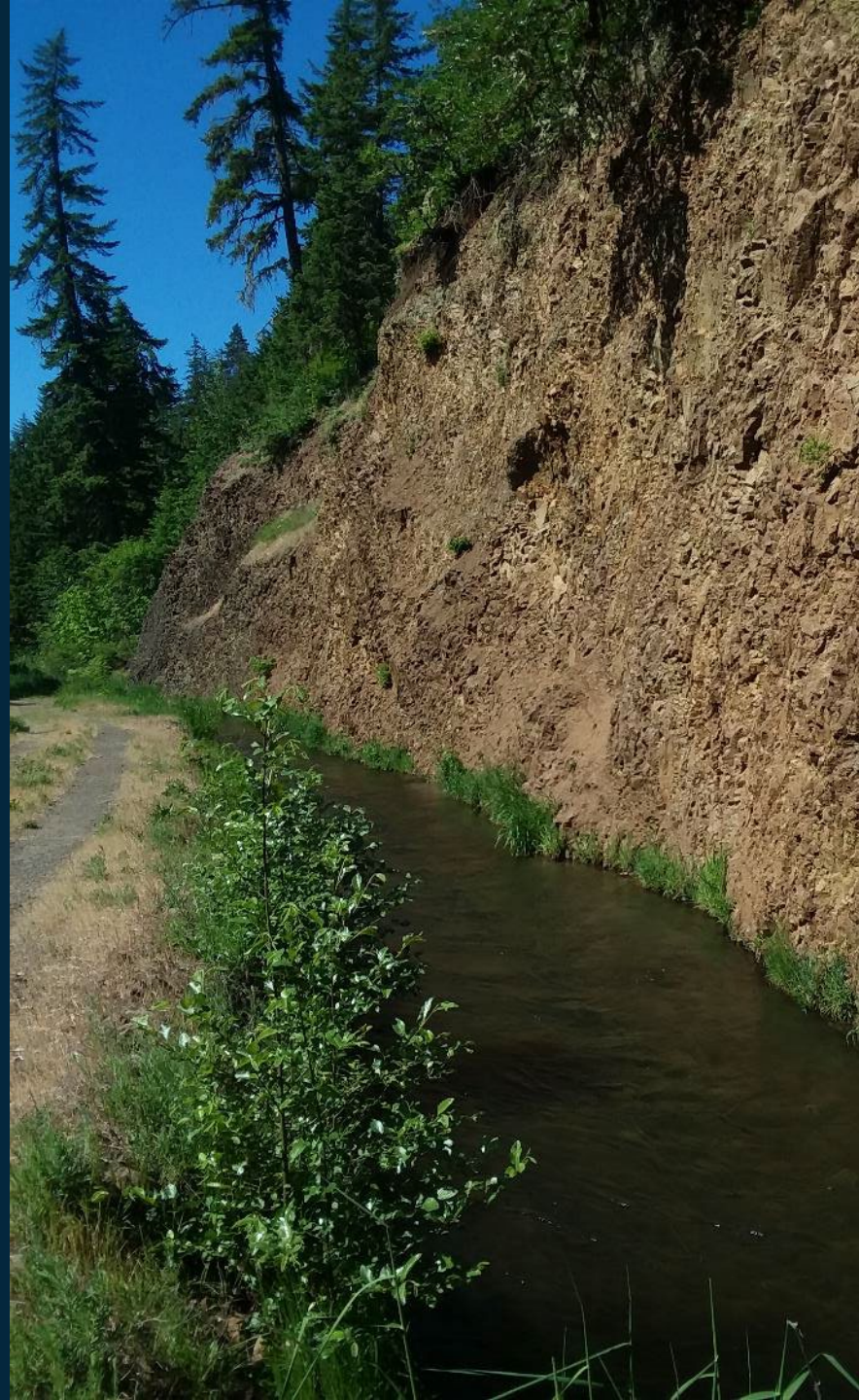
How the Plan-EA is Organized

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



Project Purpose and Need

- Conserve water in District infrastructure
- Improve District water conveyance
- Improve District operation efficiency
- Increase drought resiliency



Alternatives

No Action Alternative

Future without Federal Investment

Construction activities associated with the project would not occur.

FID would continue to operate and maintain its existing system in its current condition.

Modernization Alternative

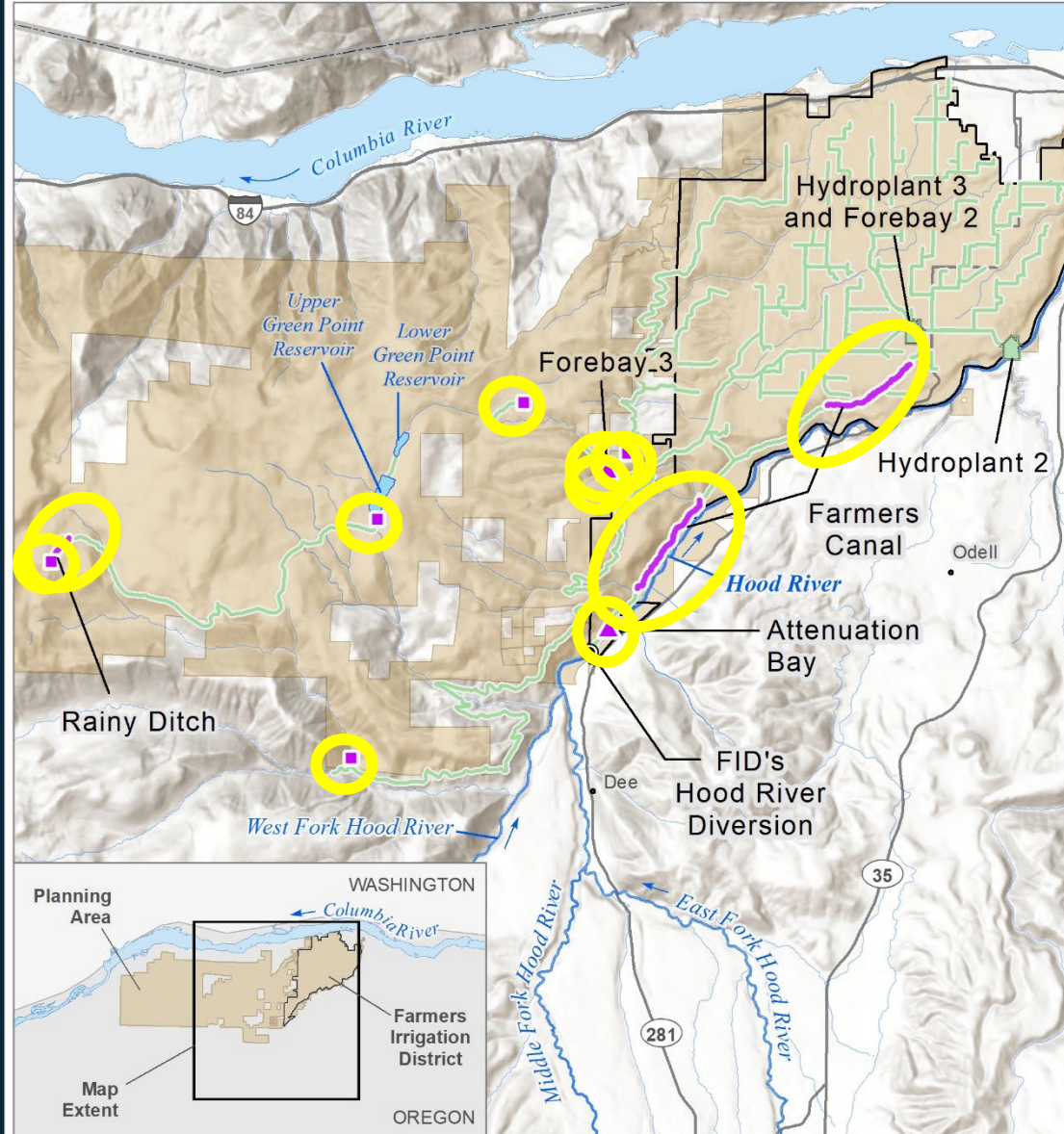
Future with Federal Investment

Proposed Action

- Pipe Farmers Canal and Rainy Ditch
- Install Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) systems
- Deepen existing attenuation bay
- Expand Forebay 3

Modernization Alternative

- Install 3 miles of pipeline
- Install 6 SCADA systems
- Deepen existing attenuation bay
- Expand Forebay 3



Farmers Irrigation District

- ▲ Project Area
- Proposed SCADA (Included in Project Area)
- Planning Area

- Excluded from Project Area
- Farmers Irrigation District



Source: FCA, NHD, ODOT, esri
FID EA Project Area.mxd 11/6/2023

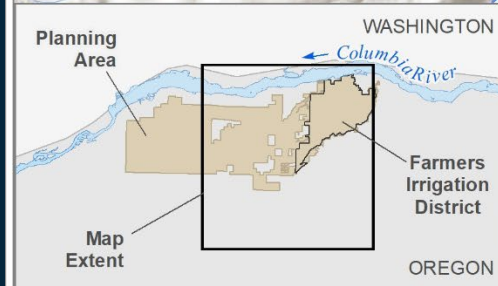
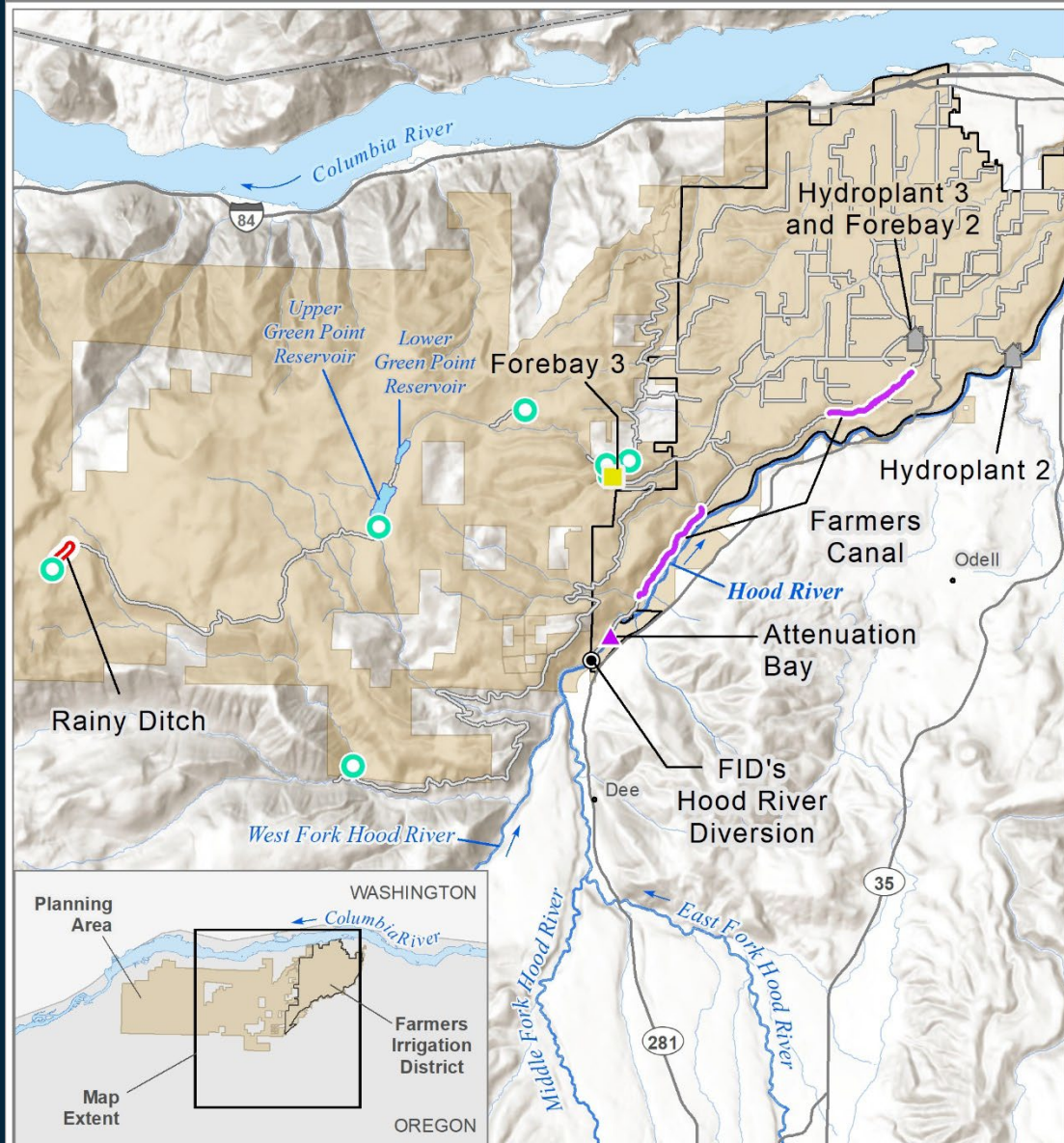
Modernization Alternative

Construction Timeline: 5 years

Phase	Year
1	2025-2026
2	2026-2027
3	2027-2028
4	2028-2030

Cost: \$11,687,000

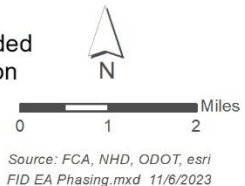
PL-566 Funds	District Match
\$8,918,000	\$2,769,000



Farmers Irrigation District

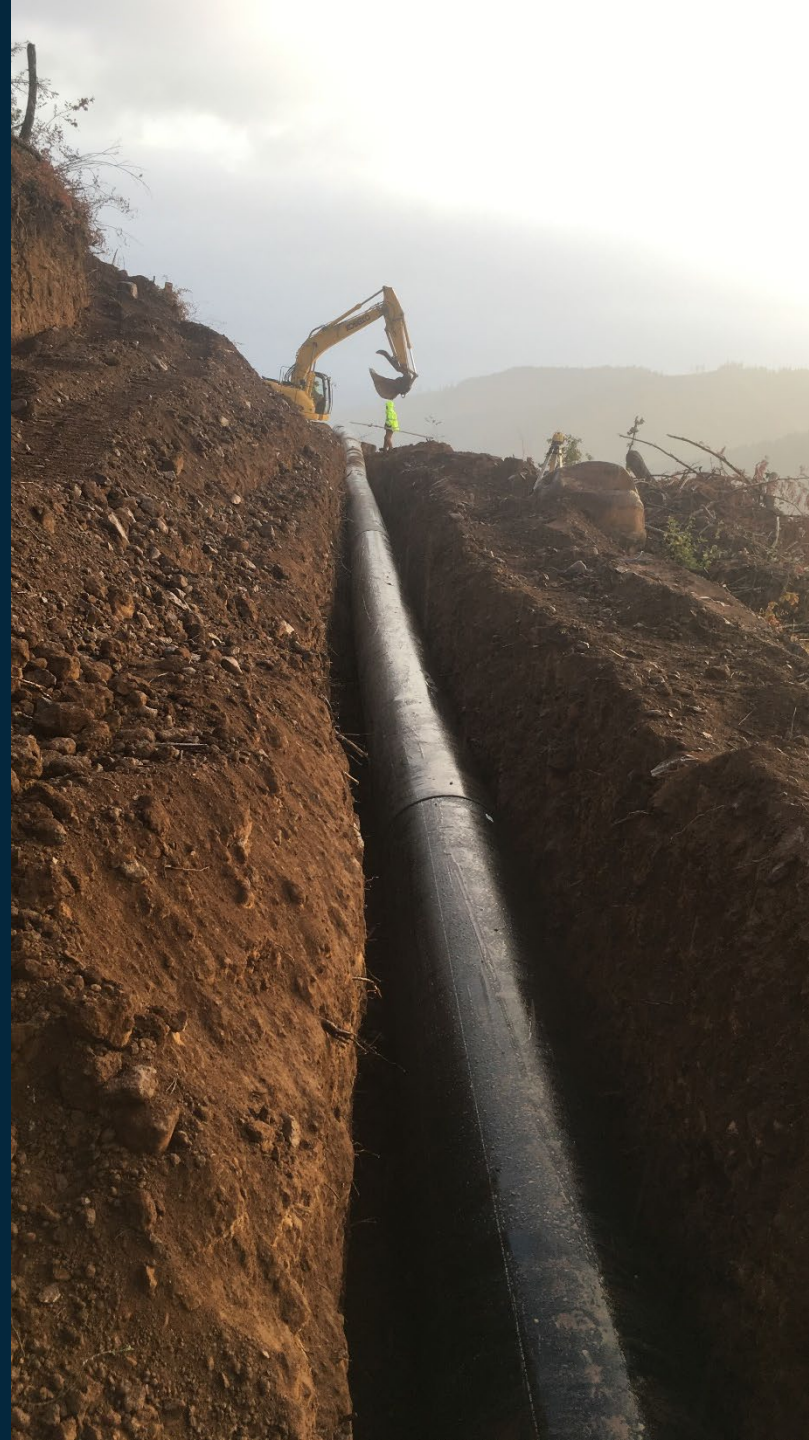
Modernization Alternative Construction Phases
 1 (purple wavy line)
 2 (SCADA) (green circle)
 3 (yellow square)
 4 (red wavy line)

Infrastructure excluded from Proposed Action (house icon)
 Farmers Irrigation District (cross-hatch icon)



What This Project Would Achieve

- Save water
- Increase Hood River streamflow
 - Up to 2,146 acre-feet per year during the irrigation season
- Improve water delivery reliability
- Improve irrigation water management
- Reduce sediment in irrigation water



Plan-EA Resource Analysis

Cultural Resources

Fish and Aquatic Resources

Land Use

Public Safety

Recreation

Socioeconomic Resources

Soils

Vegetation

Water Resources

Wetlands and Riparian Areas

Wildlife Resources

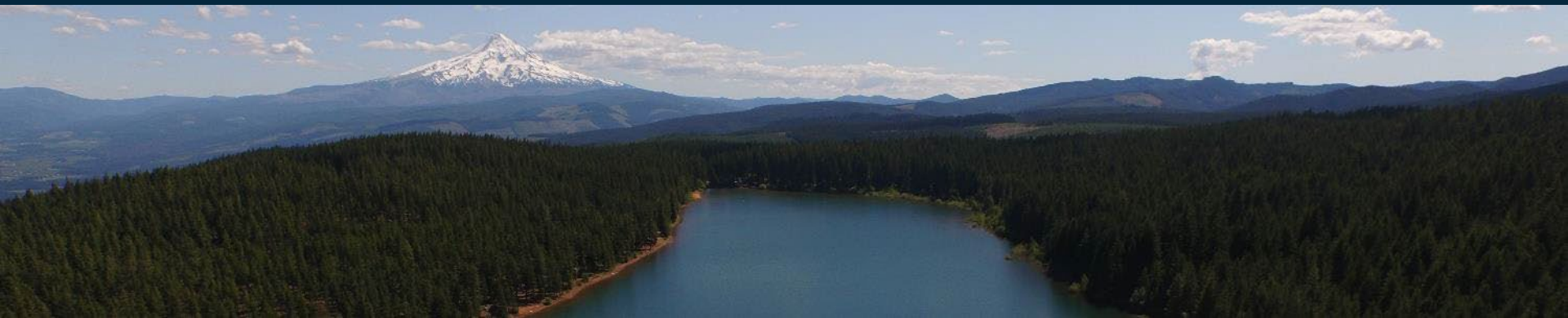
We Would Like Your Comments

- Your input helps NRCS make informed decisions
- **Formal comments must be submitted in writing (letter, email, website) or by phone**
- Comments must be specific to FID's project
- 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 **November 29, 2023**

Opportunities to Submit Formal Comment

- Online: oregonwatershedplans.org
- Email: farmers.id.comments@gmail.com
- Phone: (541) 716-6085
- Mail: Attn: Farmers Watershed Plan
Farmers Conservation Alliance
102 State St.
Hood River, OR 97031

