

BALANCING THE DESCHUTES

WATER FOR THE RIVER AND FARMS



LA PINE



Restoring the Upper DESCHUTES RIVER

Every fall, streamflows in the Upper Deschutes River are reduced to a small fraction of their natural flows to store water in Wickiup and Crane Prairie Reservoirs for the next irrigation season. The low winter flows strand migrating fish in pools and threaten wildlife habitat.

Central Oregon Irrigation District's conservation measures will generate a more reliable water supply for North Unit Irrigation District. North Unit Irrigation District will then be able to make water available from their storage in Wickiup Reservoir to increase winter flows in the Upper Deschutes River.

< Upper
Deschutes

BEND

Middle
Deschutes >

REDMOND

CULVER

Lake Billy
Chinoak

MADRAS

NORTH UNIT
IRRIGATION DISTRICT **NUID**

USING A VARIETY OF TOOLS, irrigation districts with senior water rights, like COID, can conserve water to help districts with junior water rights, like NUID, thus allowing additional water to stay in the Deschutes River.

CENTRAL OREGON
IRRIGATION DISTRICT **COID**



Taking care of FARMERS

The amount of water that is saved through COID piping and other conservation measures is shared with NUID and other junior water right holders to ensure that farmers have the water they need, even in dry years.

Though this infographic focuses on COID and NUID, there are four other irrigation districts in the region employing conservation measures that will help balance the Deschutes: Arnold, Swalley, Tumalo and Lone Pine.

CONSERVATION TOOLS



TRANSFERRING*

Permanent transfers of water rights off the land generate improved water supply for farmers, cities, and the river.



LEASING*

Temporary transfers (usually one year) of water off the land generate improved water supply for farmers, cities, and the river.



PIPING

Piping COID's outdated canals, that leak up to 50% of their water in transmission, allows commercial farmers and the Deschutes River to capture an abundance of water.



SHARING

Water agreements between districts facilitate water conservation measures and improve reliability.



RESERVOIR MGMT*

Better allocation of stored water addresses district water supply and streamflow needs.

* These tools can be used for mitigation to ensure that municipal water needs are met.