



RESOLUTION OF DIRECTORS

OF

**DESCHUTES RIVER CONSERVANCY,
an Oregon nonprofit corporation**

November 10, 2017, Revised November 13, 2020

*Endorsement of Water Management Principles for District Water Security and
Streamflow Protection in the Upper Deschutes River*

WHEREAS, the DRC and its partners, through the Deschutes Basin Study, are focused on developing a long-term water management strategy that can advance the DRC's overarching goal to restore the flow necessary to provide for functioning streams and rivers in the Deschutes Basin, and meet water supply needs for agriculture and cities at a basin scale, and

WHEREAS, restoring flows in the Upper Deschutes River below Wickiup Reservoir, and providing a reliable water supply to junior agricultural water users in the Deschutes River are dual outcomes of the long-term water management strategy and have increased in priority since the Oregon spotted frog was listed under the Endangered Species Act in 2014, and

WHEREAS, the October 2016 Settlement Agreement in the Oregon Spotted Frog lawsuit dictated a 100 cfs minimum winter flow in the Upper Deschutes, and

WHEREAS, restoring flow in the Upper Deschutes River below Wickiup Reservoir and providing a reliable water supply to junior agricultural water users in the Deschutes basin will require Central Oregon Irrigation District (COID) and North Unit Irrigation District (NUID) to work together and will entail creative solutions integrating water conservation approaches and market-based incentive programs, and

WHEREAS, piping leaky irrigation district canals is an important early-phase water conservation approach because it will make in-district operations more efficient thereby increasing the opportunities for on-farm irrigation efficiencies and market-based incentive programs.

WHEREAS, inter-district cooperation and the movement of water resources from COID to NUID is the critical first step in achieving an improved water distribution in the basin and the DRC applauds the current efforts underway now by COID and NUID to coordinate and cooperate over water supply.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the DRC Board of Directors hereby supports the following principles:

1. The proposed movement of water at a basin scale encompasses a set of linked inter-district trades and instream transfers.



2. The supply of water to be moved can be generated through water conserved from COID irrigation efficiencies in-district and on-farm, temporary and permanent idling of COID land, and new allocation of stored water in Wickiup..
3. Conserved Water from Canal Piping
 - a. Water conserved by piping canals may be used to restore flows in both the Upper and Middle reaches of the Deschutes River, but priority will be given to address flow imbalances in the Upper Deschutes to address the habitat requirements in that reach.
 - b. As COID conservation projects are completed and conserved water is made available to NUID, NUID agrees to protect an equal volume of water instream below Wickiup with the same reliability as the water it receives from COID.
 - c. These flows protected below Wickiup build on the minimum winter flows established by the 2016 Settlement Agreement.
 - d. COID will dedicate 100% of the conserved water from canal piping projects to these efforts.
 - e. COID has stated the desire to give higher priority to canal piping that optimizes opportunities for on-farm conservation and water leases and transfers.
 - f. There will be no increase in irrigated acres in COID or NUID as a result of the water conserved through canal piping.
4. Water Leases and Transfers
 - a. Consistent with its agreement with NUID, COID endeavors to make water rights available for temporary or permanent transfer to NUID subject to the operational viability of its canals.
 - b. As interdistrict transfers are completed, NUID agrees to protect an equal volume of water instream below Wickiup with the same reliability as the water it receives from COID.
 - c. These flows protected below Wickiup build on the minimum winter flows established by the 2016 Settlement Agreement.
5. On-Farm Efficiency and Private Lateral Upgrades
 - a. Acknowledging that there are operational, policy and authority considerations with protecting water from irrigation efficiency upgrades on private parcels and in privately-owned laterals, COID will endeavor to make water available from on-farm and private lateral efficiencies to NUID; NUID agrees to protect an equal volume of water instream below Wickiup with the



same reliability as the water it receives from COID. Protection directly in the Middle Deschutes could also be considered where appropriate. To achieve this goal, COID will endeavor to:

- i. Increase measurement and management capabilities in priority areas, including those areas adjacent to main canal piping projects.
- ii. Support the development of tools to prioritize the best investment of resources, to incentivize landowners, and to quantify and track savings from projects and groups of projects.
- iii. When water can be quantified and tracked, COID will mobilize saved water into an agreement with NUID; NUID protects an equal volume in the Upper Deschutes River.
- iv. Consider pathways to make these agreements permanent where appropriate, particularly when the district or public funders provide resources to pipe private laterals that result in saved conveyance water.
- v. Work to integrate the on-farm and water marketing programs as they will add value to each other and will utilize similar pathways, such as inter-district agreements and instream protection. Consider these different tools as components of a pool of water, or a 'water bank' that moves water flexibly between districts and to the Upper Deschutes River.

6. Inter-District Agreements

- a. Acknowledging that Lone Pine, Arnold and Tumalo Irrigation Districts also have legal water rights to divert from the Deschutes system that may be impacted by these actions, DRC will support COID and NUID endeavors to forge agreements with these districts.

Adopted by the Deschutes River Conservancy Board: November 10, 2017; revised November 13, 2020