



Oregon

John A. Kitzhaber, MD, Governor

Parks and Recreation Department
Region 3 Office
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February 1, 2011

Andy Fisher
Conservation Program Manager
Deschutes River Conservancy
PO Box 1560
Bend, OR 97709

Re: Conserved Water for TSID Hurlley Canal Piping Project

Dear Mr. Fisher,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Three Sisters Irrigation District (TSID) Hurlley Canal Piping Project.

According to the information provided, it is our understanding that TSID will be piping approximately 6000' of lateral canal to eliminate up to 0.5cfs of seepage losses. The result of this project is to produce up to 0.5cfs of conserved water, 100% of this placed in stream in Whychus Creek for fish, wildlife, and recreation benefit. The conserved water will be transferred instream through the use of the Oregon Conserved Water Statute (see ORS 537.455 to 537.500).

Furthermore, TSID assures all conserved water will be permanently protected instream at the TSID diversion around RM 23.5 to the mouth of Whychus Creek from April to November and retain an 1895 priority date. The instream water is for restoration purposes only. Project expectations include improved water quality and quantity for the benefit of aquatic species including, but not limited to, reintroduced steelhead, spring Chinook, and resident trout.

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department generally supports projects aimed at permanently protecting water instream, and is in full support of the Hurlley Canal Piping Project.

Greg Ciannella
Program Coordinator

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Oregon

John Kitzhaber, Governor

Department of Fish and Wildlife

High Desert Region

61374 Parrell Road

Bend, OR 97702

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February 16, 2011

Aaron Maxwell
Deschutes River Conservancy
700 NW Hill Street
Bend, Oregon 97701

Re: Three Sisters Irrigation District Conserved Water Application

Dear Aaron;

The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) is writing in support of the conserved water application for the Three Sisters Irrigation District (TSID) Hurtley Piping Project.

It is ODFW's understanding that the piping project will result in piping of 6000' of TSID lateral canals and eliminate 0.50 cfs of seepage losses. The applicant and agent propose to transfer and permanently protect 0.5 cfs (100%) of the conserved water instream from the point of diversion (RM 23.5) downstream to the mouth of Whychus Creek for the benefit of fish, wildlife, and other aquatic resources. Flows would be protected from April 1 through November 1 during the normal irrigation season and retain the 1895 priority date. ODFW further understands that adequate monitoring will be in place to ensure the conserved 0.5 cfs remains instream. This instream transfer will result in improved habitat and productivity for redband trout, bull trout, summer steelhead and spring Chinook in Whychus Creek and the Deschutes River.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments.

Sincerely,

Deschutes District Fish Biologist
541-388-6009
brett.l.hodgson@state.or.us

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