

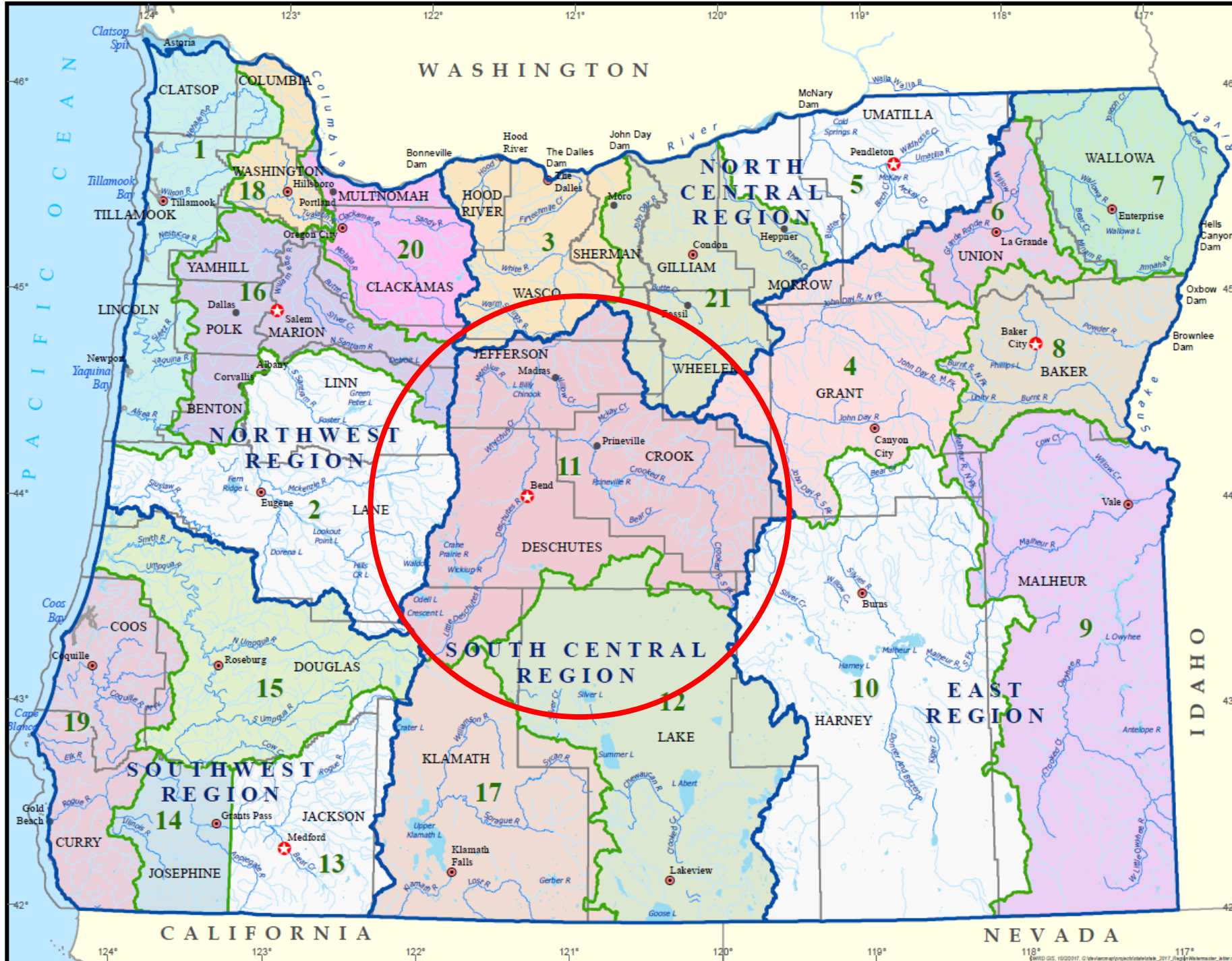
Craig Horrell, Managing Director  
Leslie Clark, Director of Water Rights  
Ron Nelson, Consultant



Overview  
Past  
Current  
Future  
Next Steps



BALANCING WATER DISTRIBUTION WITHIN BASIN



**District Offices**

- 1 Tillamook
- 2 Eugene
- 3 The Dalles
- 4 Canyon City
- 5 Pendleton
- 6 La Grande
- 7 Enterprise
- 8 Baker City
- 9 Vale
- 10 Burns
- 11 Bend
- 12 Lakeview
- 13 Medford
- 14 Grants Pass
- 15 Roseburg
- 16 Salem
- 17 Klamath Falls
- 18 Hillsboro
- 19 Coquille
- 20 Clackamas
- 21 Condon

- District office
- Region office
- District boundary
- Region boundary
- County boundary

0 10 20 30 40 50 Miles



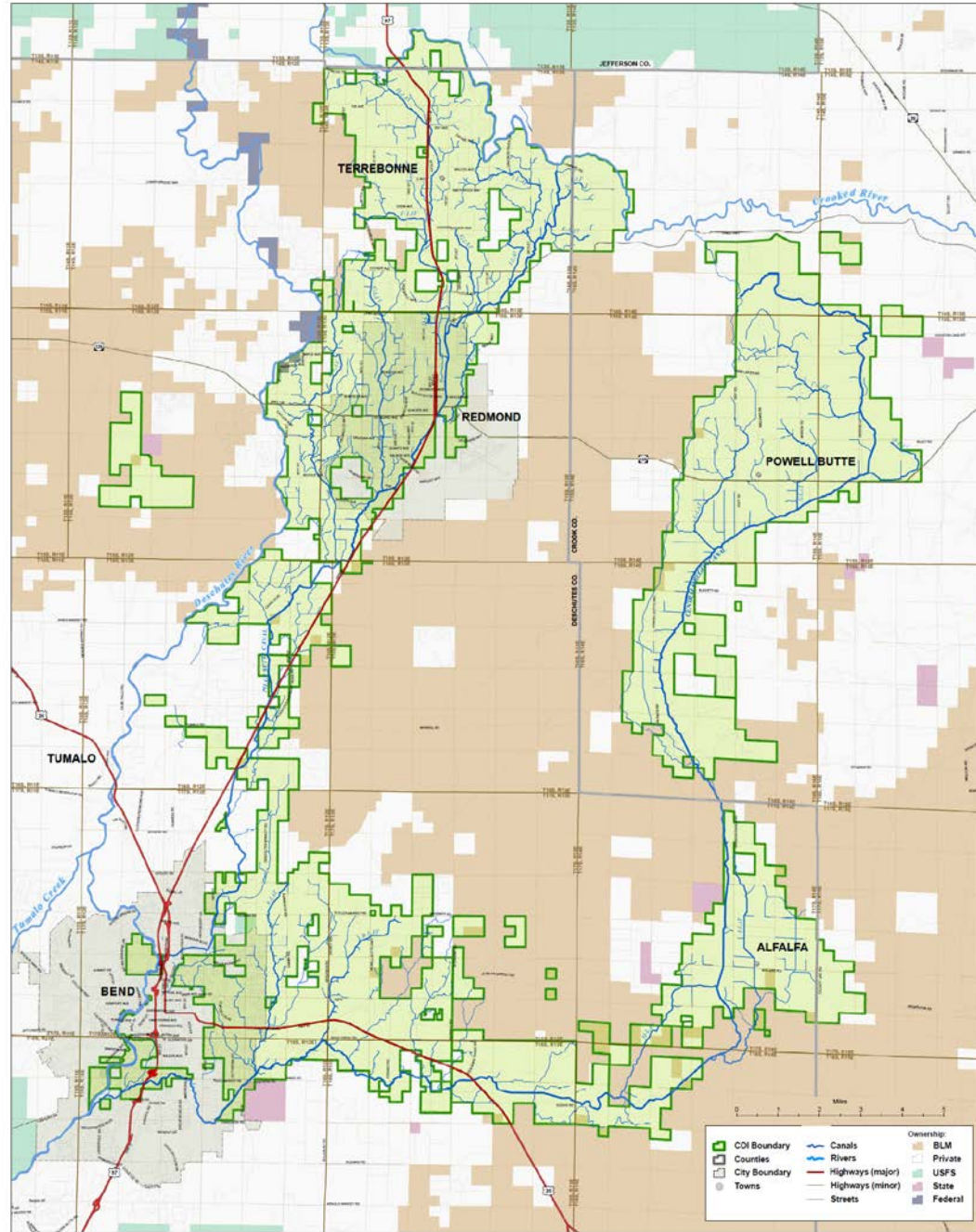
State of Oregon  
 Water Resources Department  
 725 Summer Street NE, Suite A  
 Salem, Oregon 97301-1266  
 (503)986-0900  
[www.wrd.state.or.us](http://www.wrd.state.or.us)

**Regions and  
 Watermaster  
 Districts  
 2017**



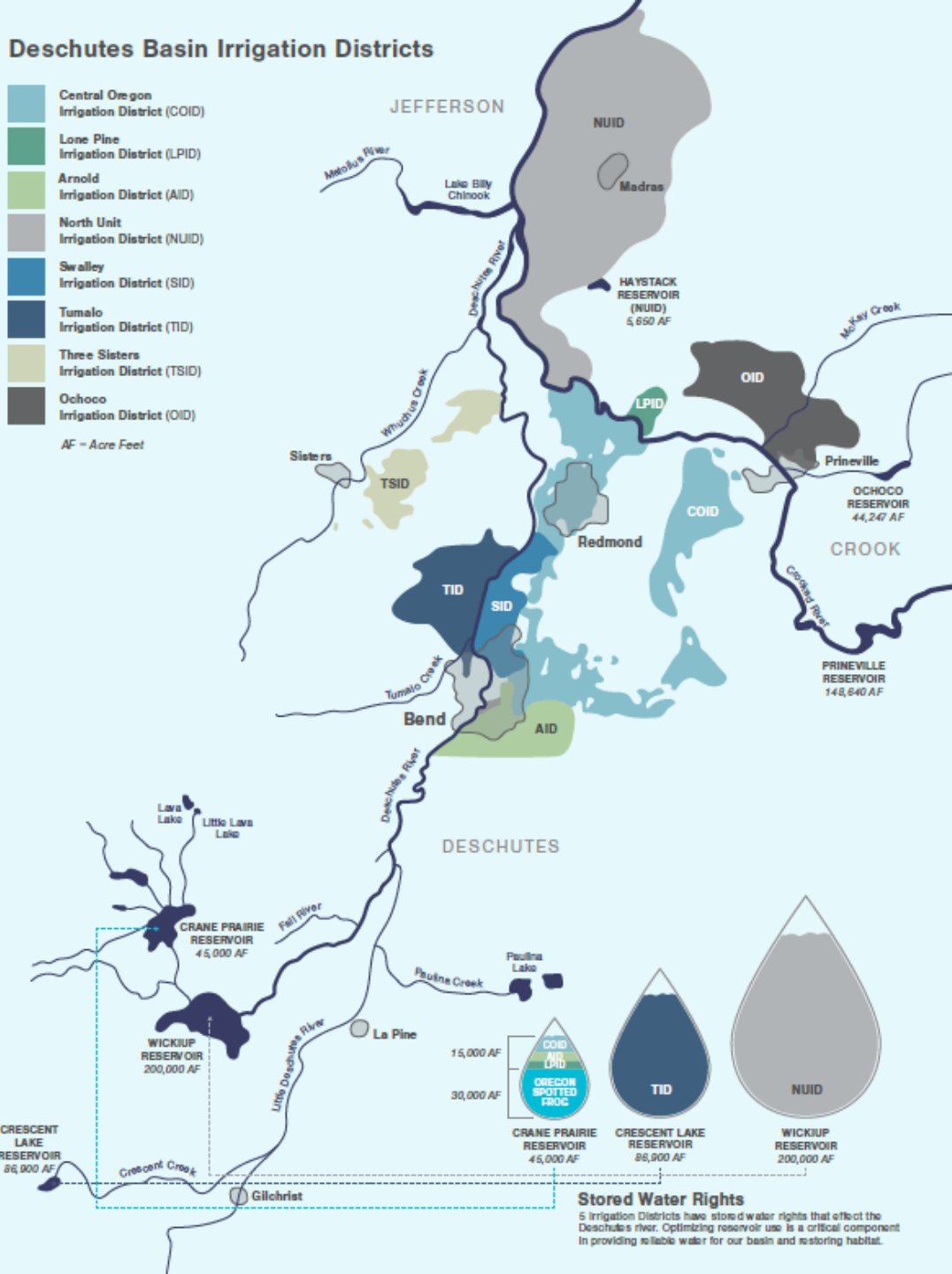


# CENTRAL OREGON IRRIGATION DISTRICT



## Deschutes Basin Irrigation Districts

- Central Oregon Irrigation District (COID)
  - Lone Pine Irrigation District (LPID)
  - Arnold Irrigation District (AID)
  - North Unit Irrigation District (NUID)
  - Swalley Irrigation District (SID)
  - Tumalo Irrigation District (TID)
  - Three Sisters Irrigation District (TSID)
  - Ochoco Irrigation District (OID)
- AF - Acre Feet



### Stored Water Rights

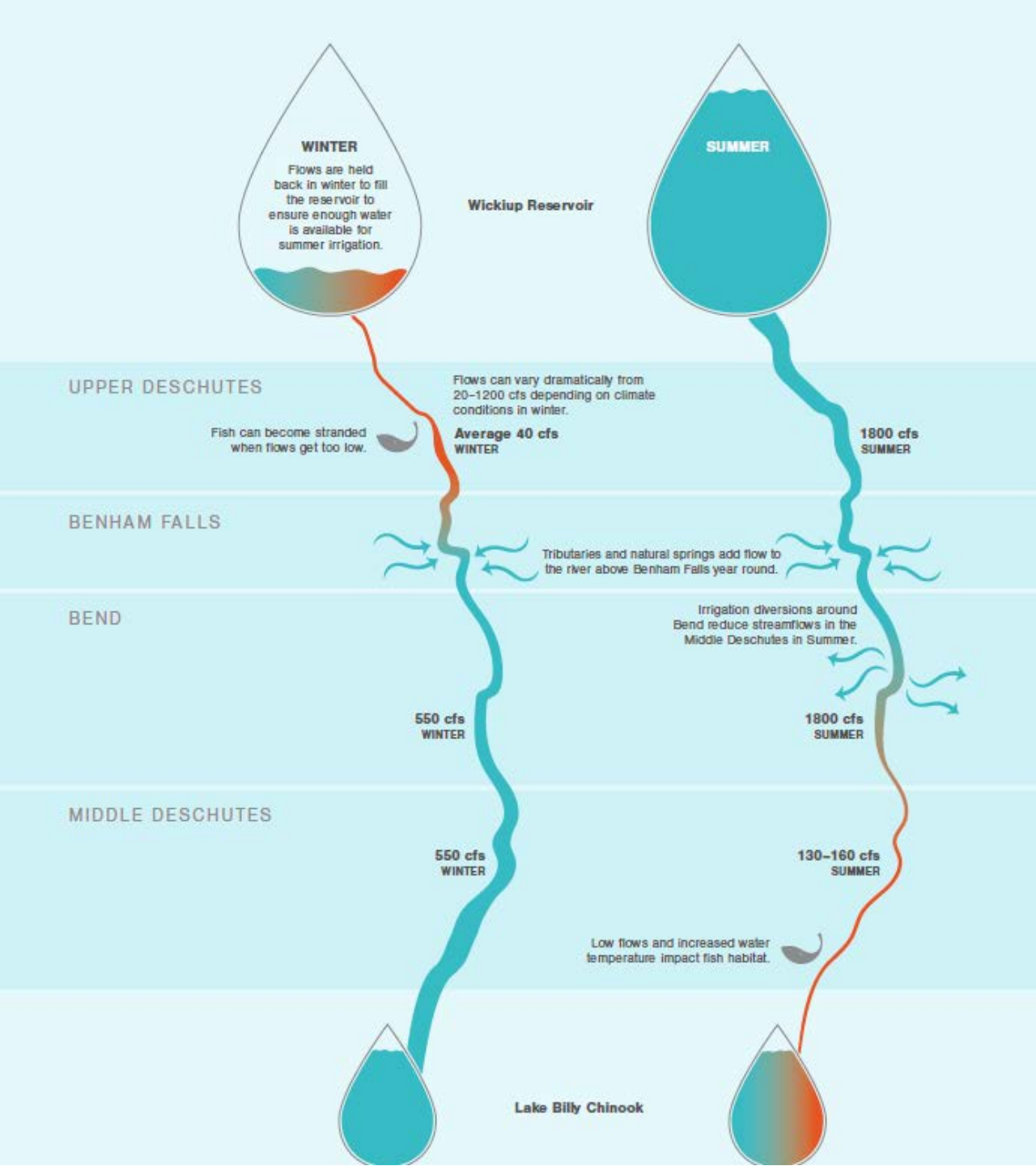
5 Irrigation Districts have stored water rights that affect the Deschutes river. Optimizing reservoir use is a critical component in providing reliable water for our basin and restoring habitat.

# Deschutes Basin Irrigation Districts

# PAST

- COID & partners were instrumental in bringing forward the conservation statute.
- Completed 6 conserved water projects resulting in 29 cfs of conserved water protected instream.
- Since 2005, 2,082 acres of COID water permanently transferred instream for groundwater mitigation and flow restoration.
  - 62 cfs in diversion reductions with 36 cfs protected instream.
- Participate in annual instream lease program protecting an average 30 cfs.

# Historical Deschutes River Flows



# Current

Habitat Conservation Plan Update

Basin Study Work Group Update

Studies identified:

- Changing conditions, water demand, and a suite of options to meet them.

The challenge:

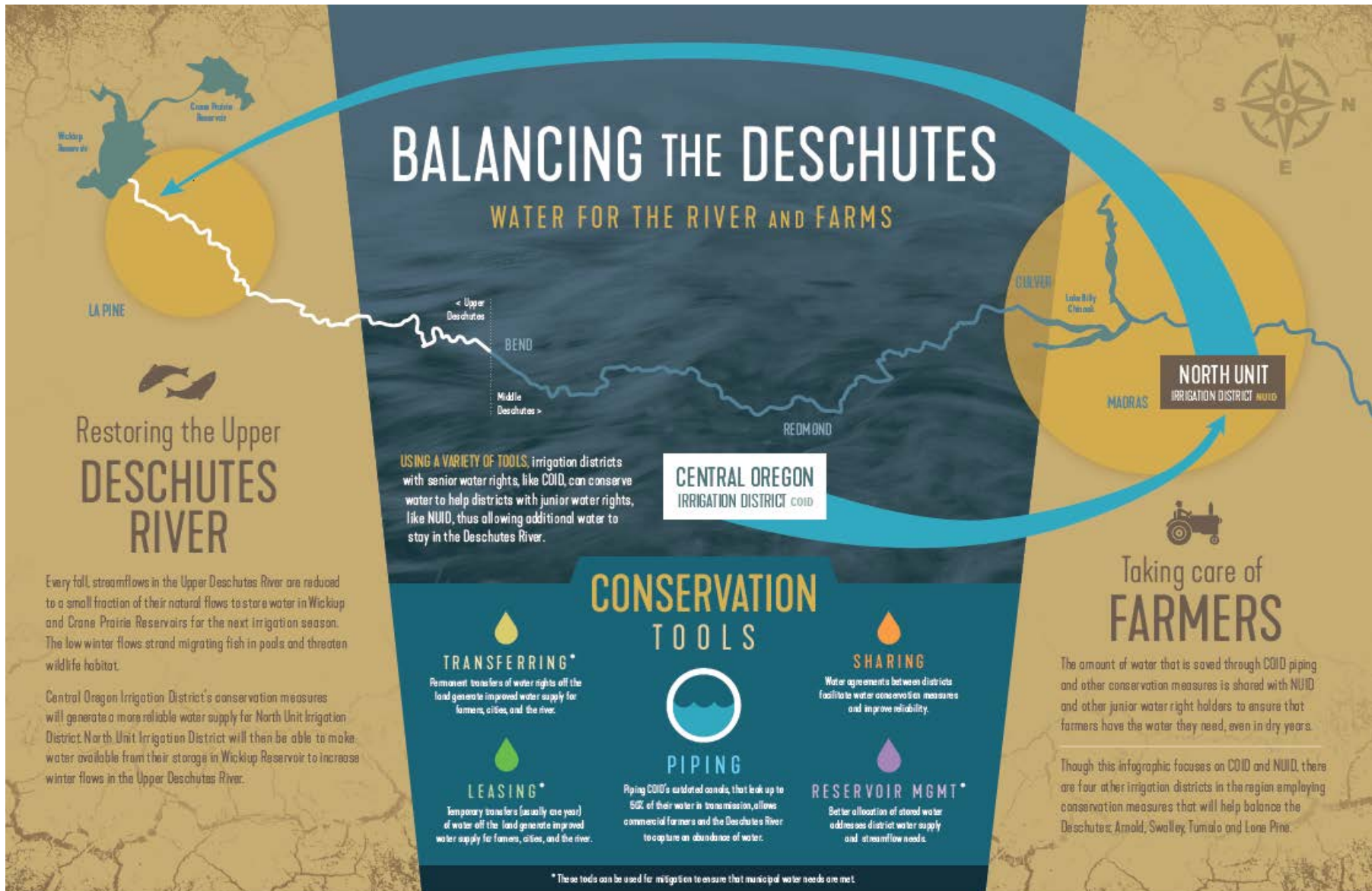
- Rules may not be in place to embrace the opportunities.



# Planning for the Future

# BALANCING THE DESCHUTES

WATER FOR THE RIVER AND FARMS



## 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.

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, Swallow, 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.



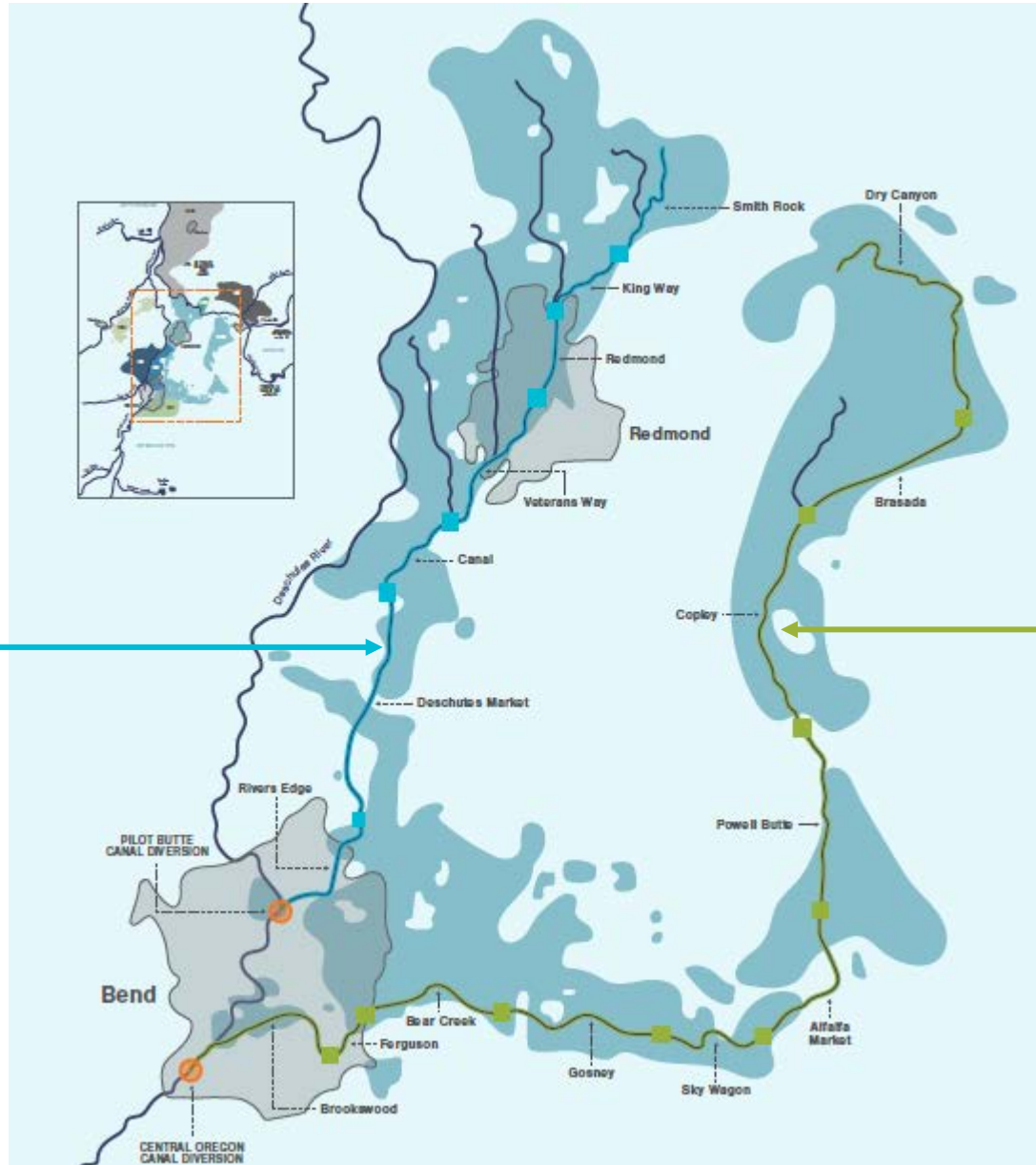
**PIPING**  
Piping COID's old and leaky canals, that leak up to 50% of their water in transmission, allows commercial farmers and the Deschutes River to capture an abundance of water.

**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.

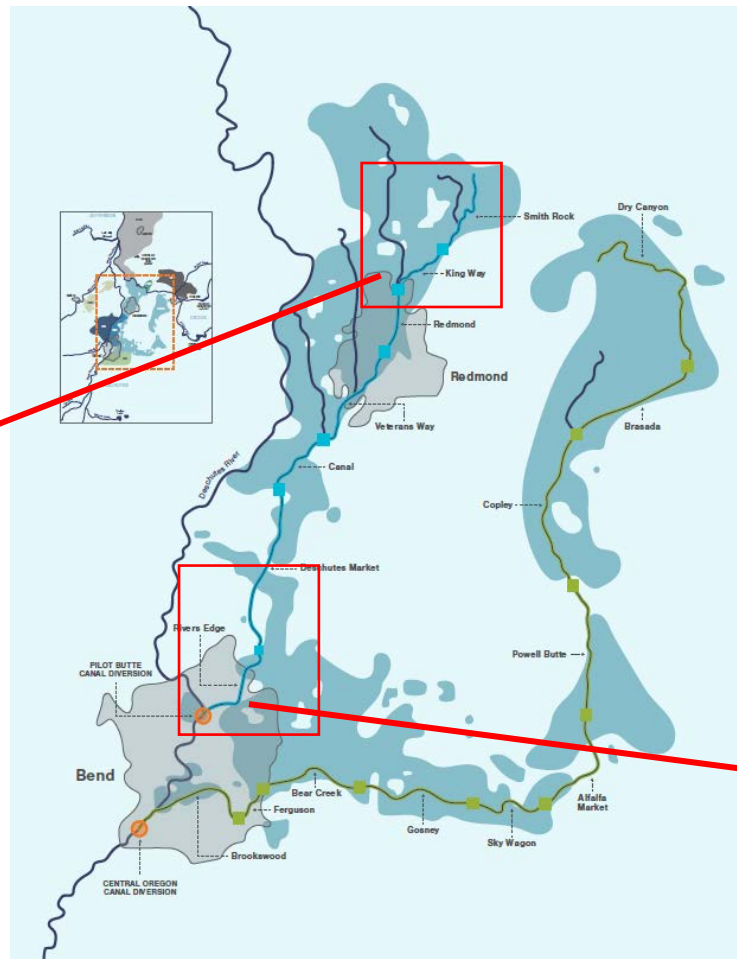
# SYSTEM IMPROVEMENT ...conservation potential



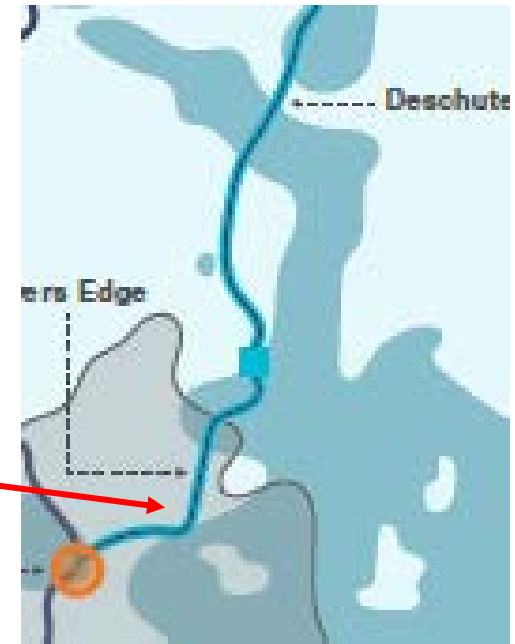
Pilot Butte Canal  
156 cfs  
(59,163 AF)

Central Oregon Canal  
99 cfs  
(37,300 AF)

Phase 1  
31cfs



Phase 2  
37cfs



# Capital Projects

# Next Steps

- Reduce NUID reliance on Wickiup storage by transferring COID conserved water to NUID lands.
- Transfer off NUID water, exchanging it with the senior COID conserved water.
- Transfer Wickiup storage instream during winter season.

In Addition:

- Create mitigation credits from the instreamed storage for growing Central Oregon cities.
  - Winter storage releases may balance the negative impact on winter flows caused by current, seasonal mitigation.



# What Worked in the Past Doesn't Work in the Future

Transferring COID urbanizing acres instream for groundwater mitigation is no longer a viable option.

- COID Instream transfers do not increase winter flows in the upper Deschutes River.
- Does not help junior irrigation district partners reduce dependence on storage.

# Finding Flexible Solutions

Form a workgroup, including OWRD staff, irrigation districts, municipal partners, and others, to develop solutions.

- Evaluate current ORS & OAR
  - COID pilot project
- Develop legislation



# Thank you



Deschutes Basin Annual Diversion Volumes and Projected Future Demands for Mitigation  
1 acre foot = 325,851 gallons

