



**Oregon**  
Kate Brown, Governor

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**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Water Resources Commission  
**FROM:** Dwight French, Water Right Services Division Administrator  
**SUBJECT:** Agenda Item B, September 6, 2018  
Water Resources Commission Meeting

*Dwight French*

**Stewardship and Conservation Awards 2018**

**I. Introduction**

During this agenda item, staff will brief the Commission on the 2018 Stewardship and Conservation Awards.

**II. Background**

The Stewardship and Conservation Awards Program dates back to 1999. Awards were given annually until workload capacity issues prevented the program from continuing. Last year, in an effort to recognize the efforts of entities and individuals that are making concerted efforts to conserve water, the Stewardship and Conservation Awards program was reinstated.

In order to qualify for an award, nominees must meet the following criteria:

- Be in compliance with all OWRD rules and statutes;
- Be in compliance with all conditions of a grant agreement with OWRD, if applicable; and
- Not have any violations or civil fines/penalties assessed by OWRD within five (5) years prior to the nomination.

The process of selecting the award winners was based on the following standards:

- Percentage of water saved as a result of the project or program;
- Effectiveness or creativity of the project or program; and
- Benefit of the project or program to the community as a whole.

### III. Discussion

There are five 2018 Stewardship and Conservation Awards. The categories and winners are outlined below. More information about each recipient is included in Attachment 1.

#### The Tyler Hansell Award for Efficiency in Agriculture

- Woody and Megan Wolfe – Award Winners

#### Best Water Reuse Project or Program

- No award given. One nomination was received in this category; however, because the project is still in the planning stages and not yet complete, it did not meet the category criteria.

#### Best Conservation Program – Large Municipalities and Water Suppliers that Serve More than 1000 People

- Three nominations were received in this category; two of which were so closely matched (relative to their size), they tied for the First Place Gold Award:
  - City of Ashland – First Place Gold Award Winner
  - City of Bend – First Place Gold Award Winner
  - City of Lake Oswego – Second Place Silver Award Winner

#### Best Conservation Program – Small Municipalities and Water Suppliers that Serve less than 1000 People

- No award given. No nominations were received in this category.

#### Best Conservation Plan or Program – Commercial or Industrial

- Central Oregon Irrigation District– Award Winner

### IV. Conclusion

The Stewardship and Conservation Awards celebrate those taking actions to conserve our precious water resources. Highlighting those setting a good example not only recognizes the role that water users, municipal water providers, and agricultural water suppliers play in balancing water demands with sustainability, but it also provides an avenue to share these innovative ideas and successes with the public at large.

Attachment

#### 1. Stewardship and Conservation Award Recipients

**Stewardship and Conservation Award Recipients**

Summaries Excerpted from Nominations

*A. The Tyler Hansell Award for Efficiency in Agriculture*

***Woody and Megan Wolfe – Award Winners (Wallowa County)***

Woody and Megan Wolfe were early adopters of conservation practices in Wallowa County, Oregon working with the Nez Perce Tribe, Wallowa Land Trust, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and The Freshwater Trust (TFT). Starting in 2015, the Wolfes initiated conversations with The Freshwater Trust about upgrading their irrigation infrastructure to conserve water in the Lostine River and to improve their crop production. The result was the Lostine River Conservation Project, which was completed in 2017. The Wolfe family, TFT, OWRD, and the Columbia Basin Water Transaction Program worked together to fund and implement a large-scale irrigation efficiency upgrade that converted 872 acres of land from flood irrigation to pivot irrigation. Ninety percent of the conserved water was allocated to the state and permanently transferred instream. The remaining ten percent of the conserved water was allocated to the Wolfes to irrigate 60 acres of previously dry land during the early irrigation season.

*B. Best Conservation Program – Large Municipalities and Water Suppliers that Serve More than 1000 People*

***City of Ashland – First Place Gold Award Winner (Jackson County)***

The City of Ashland offers multiple water efficiency programs and resources to its customers. Examples include such things as a Water Wise Landscaping website, Smart Controller Rebate Program, water evaluations to assess efficiency of indoor fixtures and irrigation systems, hotel and motel plumbing fixture upgrades, distribution of free water-efficient showerheads, aerators, and soil moisture meters, and a Water Conservation Newsletter to provide educational information about Ashland's water supply and wise water resource management.

One of Ashland's most popular conservation programs is the Lawn Replacement Program. It provides a monetary incentive (\$1.25 per square foot) for removal of lawn-covered areas from a property that are then replaced with drought-tolerant, more climate-appropriate plants and low-volume irrigation. To receive the full rebate amount, customers must show at least a ten percent reduction in water use per month between May and October. On average, a single customer saves 30,000 gallons each summer; with some saving even more. Since the program began in 2014, Ashland has received approximately 275 applications and 250 of those qualified for the rebate, resulting in an estimated total savings of approximately 7.5 million gallons of water per year.

***City of Bend – First Place Gold Award Winner (Deschutes County)***

The City of Bend Utility Department continues to implement its robust WaterWise Program, which includes such key elements as: educational programs for customers, K-12 students, and landscape contractors; web pages and publications promoting efficient water use inside and outside the home; the Sprinkler Inspection Program; and much more. In fact, Bend subjected their original WaterWise program to a rigorous verification process by the Alliance for Water Efficiency (AWE), an internationally recognized water conservation and efficiency organization.

AWE compared Bend's programs to the newly created ANSI-AWWA-G480 Standard for Water Conservation Programs. Bend was one of the first programs in the country to be reviewed and it earned a "Silver rating" for their Conservation Program. The City is using the results of this review and rating to improve their programs and plans to seek the AWE "Platinum rating" in the future.

The City's compelling list of integrated strategies support a more comprehensive approach to water conservation and efficiency – all based on conservation benchmarks set forth in their approved 2011 Water Management and Conservation Plan. They continue to build on and further develop this comprehensive set of foundational programs and processes that will, over the long run, continue to decrease water demand and stretch supplies while making the system more efficient and resilient. Even though Bend is one of the fastest growing regions in the country, the City has demonstrated dramatic new understanding, control, and reduction of its water use. They have not shown an increase in maximum day water demand (MDD) since 2008, or a significant increase in average annual day demand (ADD) – even with the addition of over 30,000 new residents and over 10,000 new water meters.

***City of Lake Oswego – Second Place Silver Award Winner (Clackamas County)***

In 2007, the City of Lake Oswego's annual average water consumption was about 170 gallons per capita per day (GPCD), and that number swelled to over 370 GPCD in the summer. Also at the time, the City's water system was aging, undersized, and in need of replacement. Peak daily summer demands were reaching and exceeding the existing capacity of the system, and the duration of these events was expanding. At-risk infrastructure, coupled with increases in demand, put the reliability of the City's water treatment plant and its attached distribution system in question. In response, the City of Lake Oswego established three goals regarding the protection and stewardship of their drinking water supply:

1. Adopt a water management and conservation program (WMCP);
2. Adopt a water curtailment plan; and
3. Develop and adopt a pricing structure (tiered water rates) for water that encourages conservation of water.

Since then, the City's implementation of its WMCP, water curtailment plan, and water rates have reduced historic consumption and peak per-capita water demand by almost 20 percent. Implementation of the conservation program also helped delay the timing of future water system expansions and reduce pressure on the current system.

**C. Best Conservation Plan or Program – Commercial or Industrial**

***Central Oregon Irrigation District– Award Winner (Deschutes, Crook and Jefferson Counties)***

The Central Oregon Irrigation District's (COID) mission statement is to "Provide reliable and efficient delivery of water to our patrons in an environmentally and economically sustainable manner with courtesy and integrity." Since 2000, COID has increased instream flows in the Deschutes Basin by nearly 39 cfs. One such example of COID's dedication to the environment is the Siphon Power Property Canal Piping Project, a carefully planned water conservation project resulting in piping approximately 3,600 feet of open canal within the city limits of Bend, Oregon. The project began in December 2017 and was completed in May 2018.

Starting at the Siphon Power Forebay, COID buried 3,600 feet of 13-foot diameter pipe to convey water across its 125-acre property. The property is zoned Rural Service (RS) and is prime for meeting the growing housing needs in the area. The piping project resulted in 5 cfs of water being returned to the Deschutes River, benefitting wildlife, fish, and the river ecosystem. All of the water conserved through the Siphon Power Property Canal Piping Project will be used to improve flows in the Deschutes River. In addition, COID is partnering with the Bend Parks and Recreation District to connect the east side of Bend with the Deschutes River via trails on COID canals to benefit the entire community.

