

# North Unit Irrigation District

In the early days of the North Unit, the area was devoted exclusively to grazing. Beginning in 1900, dryland wheat farming gradually replaced grazing until the area was practically all under dryland wheat cultivation and the land was settled in large holdings.

The first serious study of irrigation for the North Unit area was undertaken jointly in 1913 by the State of Oregon and the Bureau of Reclamation. However, it was not until July 21, 1938, that work was actually begun on the construction of the North Unit Project with some labor being contributed by the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC). Construction was halted by the war, however water was delivered to 17,000 acres during 1946 and 1947 and to all of the 50,000 acres by the spring of 1949.

Water for the area is from the Deschutes River and is stored at Wickiup Reservoir situated on the river approximately 45 miles southwest of Bend. From the reservoir the water travels to Bend by means of the Deschutes River and is there diverted to the North Unit Canal, which carries the water thirty miles to the southern edge of the North Unit Project. Water is also diverted from the Crooked River into the main canal at approximately canal mile 25 where the canal crosses the Crooked River. The project has a total of 65 miles of main canal and 235 miles of laterals.

The structures along the canal are the North Canal Diversion with fish screens, Crooked River Flume Crossing (a re-enforced concrete flume, 521 feet long), the Crooked River Pumping Plant, two concrete-lined tunnels having a total length of approximately 6,900 feet, a concrete and steel siphon across Willow Creek Canyon approximately 1,000 feet long, and Haystack Dam & Equalizing Reservoir.

