

North Unit Irrigation District is the lifeblood of Central Oregon agriculture.



NORTH UNIT IRRIGATION DISTRICT

AN AGRICULTURAL LEGACY IN THE HEART OF OREGON

North Unit Irrigation District (North Unit) plays an invaluable role in conveying irrigation water to nearly 60,000 irrigated acres of productive farmland in Central Oregon. As Oregon's second largest irrigation district, North Unit is a state and regional economic powerhouse.

North Unit has served the agricultural water needs of Jefferson County and surrounding community, since 1945. It was formed in 1913, with the sole purpose of delivering agricultural water and remains the largest irrigation district in Central Oregon today.

Drought conditions have left Jefferson County farmers with half of the normal amount of water they have historically been allotted each year. Over the past two years, idled land has reached 40% for many farms.

North Unit Irrigation District holds the region's most junior water rights, yet our farmers grow approximately 55% of the domestic and 45% of the global carrot variety seed market. As the junior water right holder in the basin, North Unit and its farmers aggressively pursue innovative conservation practices to make the most of its limited water supplies.

Holding the most junior water rights on the Deschutes River, North Unit is only able to supply, on average, 2.00-acre feet per acre of water from the Deschutes River and 1.00 acre-feet per acre from the Crooked River to its patrons. Historic drought conditions, low reservoirs, extreme heat and wind have been devastating to North Unit agricultural producers and local economy. Vast stretches of land are fallow because there's simply not enough water to meet acreage needs.

Though North Unit faces many challenges now and into the future, the district is committed to collaborating on long-term solutions that increase water reliability, improve fish and wildlife habitat, while investing in critical infrastructure. North Unit cannot afford to lose another drop of water!



WHAT WE DO

Irrigate nearly 60,000 acres of productive farmland in Central Oregon

Deliver water to 952 family farms and ranches

Operate and maintain 2 dams and reservoirs – Wickiup and Haystack

Generate 3.5 MW of renewable energy through two in-conduit hydroelectric facilities

Support and steward fish and wildlife habitat conservation

Navigate water through 60 miles of river system and 300 miles of district conveyance systems

Partner with stakeholders to secure large-scale investments needed to conserve water, improve fish and wildlife habitat, reduce energy costs, and increase agriculture production

CREATING A POSITIVE IMPACT



WORKING TOGETHER FOR THE FUTURE

Since 1995, North Unit, in partnership with the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation and basin partners, has invested over \$20,000,000 in projects. A few project highlights include state-of-the-art fish screens and ladders, conveyance piping and lining, new and improved water measurement technology, as well as an internet-based water user management portal. These investments were implemented to stretch limited water supplies while also improving fish and wildlife habitat.

FUTURE INVESTMENTS



\$25 million (secured) in future piping projects



Inter-basin water marketing and transfers programs

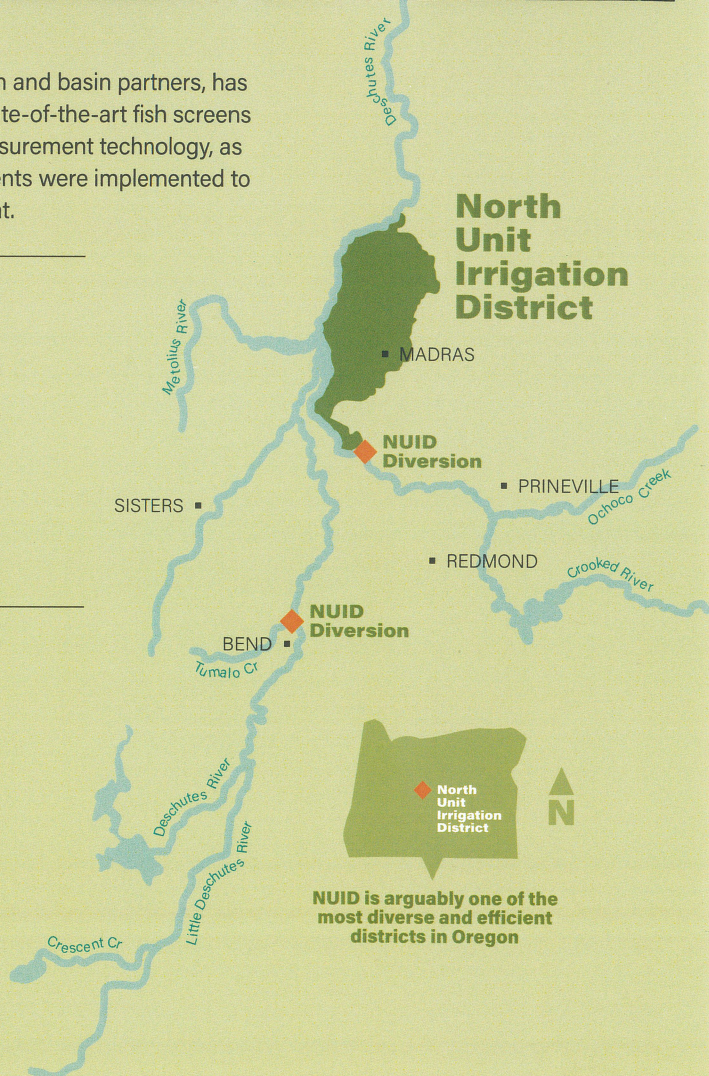


Lake Billy Chinook Pumping Plant: \$400 million investment to secure a long-term sustainable water supply for North Unit and its famers

DESCHUTES BASIN HABITAT CONSERVATION PLAN

North Unit, along with seven other irrigation districts and the City of Prineville, collaborated on the Deschutes Basin Habitat Conservation Plan (DBHCP). Historic in itself, the DBHCP is the result of twelve years of collaboration between irrigators, federal and state agencies, the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs, cities, counties, multiple non-governmental organizations, and the general public in the Deschutes Basin of Central Oregon.

The DBHCP provides 30 years of certainty for the irrigation districts, the environment in the Deschutes Basin, and protects habitat for three species of fish and one amphibian (steelhead trout, bull trout, sockeye salmon, and Oregon spotted frog).



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Central Oregon's future prosperity is dependent on sustainable agriculture and proactive conservation efforts. We know collaborative solutions can be achieved when all parties come to the table and are willing to adapt.

MIKE WEBER, CENTRAL OREGON SEED, INC