

Ochoco Irrigation District Infrastructure Modernization Project



SPONSORS	Deschutes Basin Board of Control(lead sponsor) and Ochoco Irrigation District (OID)
LOCATION	Crook County, Oregon
PROJECT COST	\$50M
YEAR COMPLETED	2026
PROJECT PARTNERS	Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs, Deschutes Basin Board of Control, Deschutes River Conservancy, Energy Trust of Oregon, Farmers Conservation Alliance, Oregon Water Resources Congress








DISTRICT OVERVIEW

OID delivers water from the Crooked River, its tributaries, and associated reservoirs to 898 patrons that irrigate 20,062 acres of land. Patrons grow alfalfa, hay, various grains, grass seed and specialty crops.

PROJECT OVERVIEW

With support from the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, US Bureau of Reclamation as a cooperating agency, and other federal, tribal, state, and local partners, OID has begun the construction of projects included in its Watershed Plan -Environmental Assessment. When complete, OID will have installed 7.25 miles of buried pipe, improved 11 miles of canal banks, and installed three new pump stations. The projects will improve water delivery reliability to OID patrons and enable the long-awaited McKay Creek Water Rights Switch Project, which has been in progress for over a decade and was included under the Crooked River Collaborative Water Security and Jobs Act of 2014 (PL 113-244).

PROJECT BENEFITS

BEFORE	AFTER
 <p>Aged and inadequate infrastructure limits water delivery reliability during the irrigation seasons.</p>	<p>Improved water delivery reliability to OID irrigators and irrigators previously relying on McKay Creek live flow, which is estimated to improve yield by \$207,000 annually.</p>
 <p>Inefficient infrastructure loses water during conveyance due to seepage and evaporation.</p>	<p>Piping saves up to 1 cubic foot per second (CFS) (432 acre-feet/year) of water for instream use.</p>
 <p>Live flow diversions in McKay Creek and persistent drought in the area limits aquatic species habitat in the Crooked River and its tributaries.</p>	<p>Up to 11.2 CFS (approximately 2,021 acre-feet/year) of McKay Creek water rights transferred and permanently protected in McKay Creek and the Crooked River to improve habitat for aquatic species.</p>
 <p>Open canals pose public safety risks, including drowning and flooding.</p>	<p>Improved public safety along the IronHorse section of the Crooked River Distribution Canal.</p>
 <p>High operations and maintenance costs due to aquatic weed and debris removal and failure of open canal.</p>	<p>OID's operations and maintenance costs are reduced by \$231,000 annually.</p>