



RESOLUTION OF DIRECTORS

OF

**DESCHUTES RIVER CONSERVANCY,
an Oregon nonprofit corporation**

November 10, 2017

*Endorsement of Water Management Principles for District Water Security and
Streamflow Protection in the Upper Deschutes River*

WHEREAS, the DRC and its partners, through the Deschutes Basin Study, are focused on developing a long-term water management strategy that can advance the DRC's overarching goal to restore the flow necessary to provide for functioning streams and rivers in the Deschutes Basin, and meet water supply needs for agriculture and cities at a basin scale, and

WHEREAS, restoring flows in the Upper Deschutes River below Wickiup Reservoir, and providing a reliable water supply to junior agricultural water users in the Deschutes River are dual outcomes of the long-term water management strategy and have increased in priority since the Oregon spotted frog was listed under the Endangered Species Act in 2014, and

WHEREAS, the October 2016 Settlement Agreement in the Oregon Spotted Frog lawsuit dictated a 100 cfs minimum winter flow in the Upper Deschutes, and

WHEREAS, restoring flow in the Upper Deschutes River below Wickiup Reservoir and providing a reliable water supply to junior agricultural water users in the Deschutes basin will require Central Oregon Irrigation District (COID) and North Unit Irrigation District (NUID) to work together and will entail creative solutions integrating water conservation approaches and market-based incentive programs, and

WHEREAS, piping leaky irrigation district canals is an important early-phase water conservation approach because it will make in-district operations more efficient thereby increasing the opportunities for on-farm irrigation efficiencies and market-based incentive programs.

WHEREAS, inter-district cooperation and the movement of water resources from COID to NUID is the critical first step in achieving an improved water distribution in the basin and the DRC applauds the current efforts underway now by COID and NUID to coordinate and cooperate over water supply.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the DRC Board of Directors hereby supports the following principles:

1. The proposed movement of water at a basin scale encompasses a set of linked inter-district trades and instream transfers.



2. The supply of water to be moved can be generated through water conserved from COID irrigation efficiencies in-district and on-farm, temporary and permanent idling of COID land, and new allocation of stored water in Wickiup and Crane Prairie Reservoir.
3. Conserved Water from Canal Piping
 - a. Water conserved by piping canals may be used to restore flows in both the Upper and Middle reaches of the Deschutes River, but priority will be given to address flow imbalances in the Upper Deschutes to address the habitat requirements in that reach.
 - b. As COID conservation projects are completed and conserved water is made available to NUID, NUID agrees to protect an equal volume of water instream below Wickiup with the same reliability as the water it receives from COID.
 - c. These flows protected below Wickiup build on the minimum winter flows established by the 2016 Settlement Agreement.
 - d. It is the DRC's intent to work towards having 100% of the conserved water going instream. COID may need to hold back a portion of the water conserved by its canal piping projects and may lease this water instream in the Middle Deschutes until it can confirm operational integrity.
 - e. COID has stated the desire to give higher priority to canal piping that optimizes opportunities for on-farm conservation and water leases and transfers.
 - f. There will be no increase in irrigated acres in COID or NUID as a result of the water conserved through canal piping.
4. Water Leases and Transfers
 - a. Consistent with its agreement with NUID, COID endeavors to make water rights available for temporary or permanent transfer to NUID subject to the operational viability of its canals.
 - b. As interdistrict transfers are completed, NUID agrees to protect an equal volume of water instream below Wickiup with the same reliability as the water it receives from COID.
 - c. These flows protected below Wickiup build on the minimum winter flows established by the 2016 Settlement Agreement.

Adopted by the Deschutes River Conservancy Board: November 10, 2017