



# Rogue River Valley Irrigation District *Bradshaw Drop Piping Project*

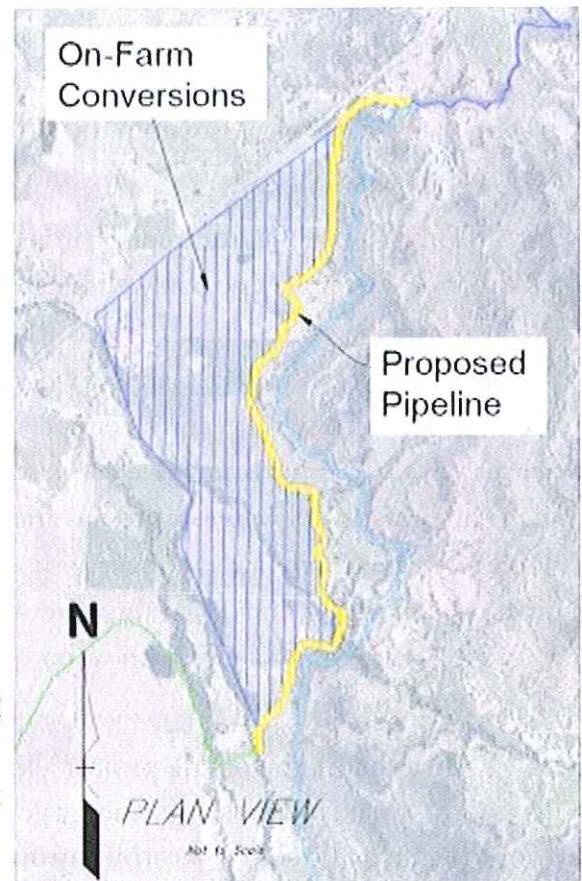
The Little Butte Creek Watershed is considered one of the prime spawning tributaries for salmonids, especially Coho. In fact, outside the Columbia River Basin, it is believed to have the highest spawning returns of any tributary. However, Little Butte Creek and its tributary, Antelope Creek, are also water quality limited for a variety of factors that negatively impact fish and wildlife. These factors include sedimentation, bacteria and temperature.

The Rogue River Valley Irrigation District (RRVID) and Medford Irrigation District divert water from Little Butte Creek through a shared canal that then splits at the top of what is known as Bradshaw Drop. The area from Bradshaw Drop to Antelope Creek, which is approximately 3.3 miles and is completely within RRVID’s jurisdiction, is known to have substantial leakage. RRVID has collaborated with the Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) to leave 7 CFS of water in Little Butte Creek during the month of June in median water years in order to help Coho, but must pipe this stretch of canal to achieve sufficient water savings to leave that water instream.

RRVID has partnered with the Farmer’s Conservation Alliance (FCA) to develop a comprehensive assessment and modernization strategy for the entire irrigation district. Funding

to develop this strategy is provided through the Oregon Energy Trust. The strategy is expected to be completed in August 2017 and will provide a roadmap for the district, baseline engineering data and a funding strategy.

Several other substantial related efforts are occurring in this watershed and in the greater Rogue Basin. The Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS), in partnership with the Jackson Soil & Water Conservation District (JSWCD) wrote a Conservation Implementation Strategy (CIS) to specifically impact agricultural-related water quality in



## Proposed Project Timeline

Fall 2018	Begin installation of main pipeline
Fall 2019	Begin on-farm conversions
Date TBD	Potential hydro-power generation

Estimated Budget	
Staff Time and Equipment	\$112,819
Engineering and Construction	\$3,272,880
Supplies	\$2,306,666
Permits and Compliance	\$192,825
Administrative	\$40,622
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$5,925,813</b>

the Little Butte Creek Watershed; their efforts have focused on flood to sprinkler conversion to eliminate polluted tailwater from returning to streams. This program is in its fifth year and has been successful in achieving its goal. In addition, JSWCD declared the Little Butte Creek Watershed its Oregon Department of Agriculture Focus Area, which has concentrated staff resources and money in that area for a variety of projects that improve soil and water resources. JSWCD has committed to continuing its focus in this area until 2022. The effort of these two programs and the associated monitoring has shown great reduction in surface water pollution.

On a larger basin scale, the Water for Irrigation, Streams and Economy (WISE) is moving forward with the ambitious goal of eventually piping all the irrigation canals within the basin in order to conserve water, protect habitat, improve water quality and increase economic opportunities along with a host of other goals. This project is within the WISE boundaries, and has been designated by the WISE board as a demonstration project showing how the overall WISE project can occur and its benefits.

The Bradshaw Drop piping project, which extends from the top of Bradshaw Drop to the siphon at Antelope Creek, will not only eliminate leakage but put water back instream. The piping of this section will also provide pressurized water to RRVID's patrons within this stretch, many of whom have been unable to convert to sprinkler irrigation because of the cost of bringing electricity to the site. The pressurized water creates a variety of flood to sprinkler irrigation conversion opportunities, which previous work in the watershed has shown has a substantial effect on water quality in nearby streams and rivers.

In addition, the piping project allows the district to pursue hydroelectric energy generation, which may be sold to nearby patrons or put back on the grid. This portion of the project is still being investigated.

Confirmed Funding	
BOR (USFW)	\$3,378,976
Gov. Regional Infrastructure Fund	\$216,454
BOR WaterSMART Grant	\$290,000
RRVID In-Kind	\$120,492
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$4,005,922</b>
<i>Current Shortfall</i>	<i>\$1,919,891</i>
Pending Funding	
State Lottery Bond	\$1,895,000
OWEB	\$150,000



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RRVID has letters of support from the following organizations:

- 1000 Friends of Oregon
- City of Central Point, Community Development
- City of Eagle Point
- City of Medford, Office of the City Mayor
- Congressman Greg Walden
- Farmers Conservation Alliance (FCA)
- Grange Co-op
- GEOS Institute
- Jackson County Farm Bureau
- Jackson County of Oregon, Board of Commissioners
- Jackson County Stockmen's Association
- Jackson Soil & Water Conservation District
- Leigh Johnson Consulting (Consultant to Harry & David Holdings, Inc.)
- Medford Irrigation District
- Medford Water Commission
- Naumes, Inc.
- Native Fish Society
- Oregon Water Resources Congress (OWRC)
- OSU Southern Oregon Research & Extension Center (SOREC)
- Rogue Basin Partnership
- Rotary Club of Central Point
- Rogue Riverkeepers
- Rogue River Watershed Council
- Rogue Valley Council of Governments
- Rogue Valley Sewer Services
- State of Oregon State Representative Duane Stark, House District 4
- Straus Ranches, LLC
- Southern Oregon Land Conservancy
- Southern Oregon Regional Economic Development, Inc. (SORED)
- Talent Irrigation District
- The Freshwater Trust
- Trout Unlimited
- Water for Irrigation, Streams & Economy (WISE)