

# Stimulus Investment Opportunities – Water and Conservation

HOUSE WATER COMMITTEE

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OREGON  
**WATERSHED**  
ENHANCEMENT BOARD

# Why Water & Conservation in Stimulus?

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Well-paying jobs in rural communities

- 15-24 jobs from every \$1 million in conservation investments
- \$.90 stays in communities

Outdoor jobs – easier to implement with social distancing

Organizations already doing this work - easy to infuse funds

Funds to farms/ranches, local non-profits, state government

# Examples:

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Grants for water/wastewater infrastructure

Investments in restoration

Funding for on-farm water quality/soil health improvements

# Congressional Conversations...

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- 💧 CARES –
  - 💧 Low Income Household Drinking Water and Wastewater Assistance (\$1.5 billion)
  - 💧 Potable Water for tribal members (\$20 million)
- 💧 *21st Century Conservation Corps for Our Health and Our Jobs Act* - Senator Wyden

# Important to note...

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- In most cases, increased funding is needed for programs
- \$\$ may or may not pass through state agencies
- In most cases, eliminate state match requirements
- Ensure funding for planning, technical assistance, capacity, and engineering design
- Reduce paperwork and reporting requirements

# State Perspective on Investment Opportunities

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*NOTE: Detailed summary in attached GNRO Letter*

## Natural Resource Conservation Service

- *Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)*
- *Watershed and Flood Prevention Operations (PL-566)*

## National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (National Marine Fisheries Service)

- *Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund (PCSRF)*

## Bonneville Power Administration (National Fish and Wildlife Foundation)

- *Columbia Basin Water Transactions Program*

## US Department of Agriculture- Rural Development

- *Water Environmental Programs Direct Loans and Grants*

## Federal Emergency Management Administration

- *High Hazard Dam Rehabilitation Grant*

## US Bureau of Reclamation

- *WaterSMART Basin Studies*

# What's Next?

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Coordination with federal agencies on existing funds

Shovel-ready projects

Increased funding for existing programs

Big picture vision... longer term