Water in the Deschutes

March 3, 2020

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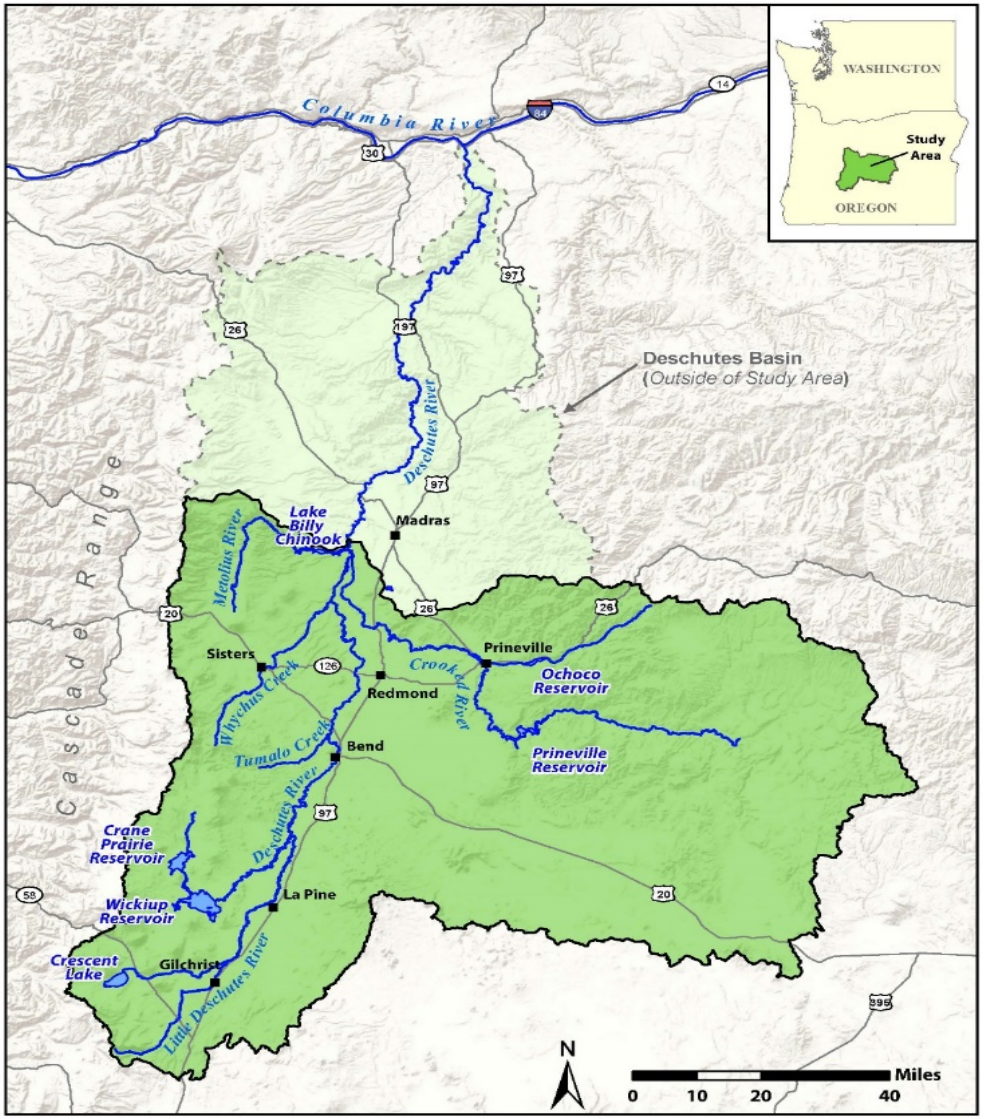
DESCHUTES RIVER
CONSERVANCY

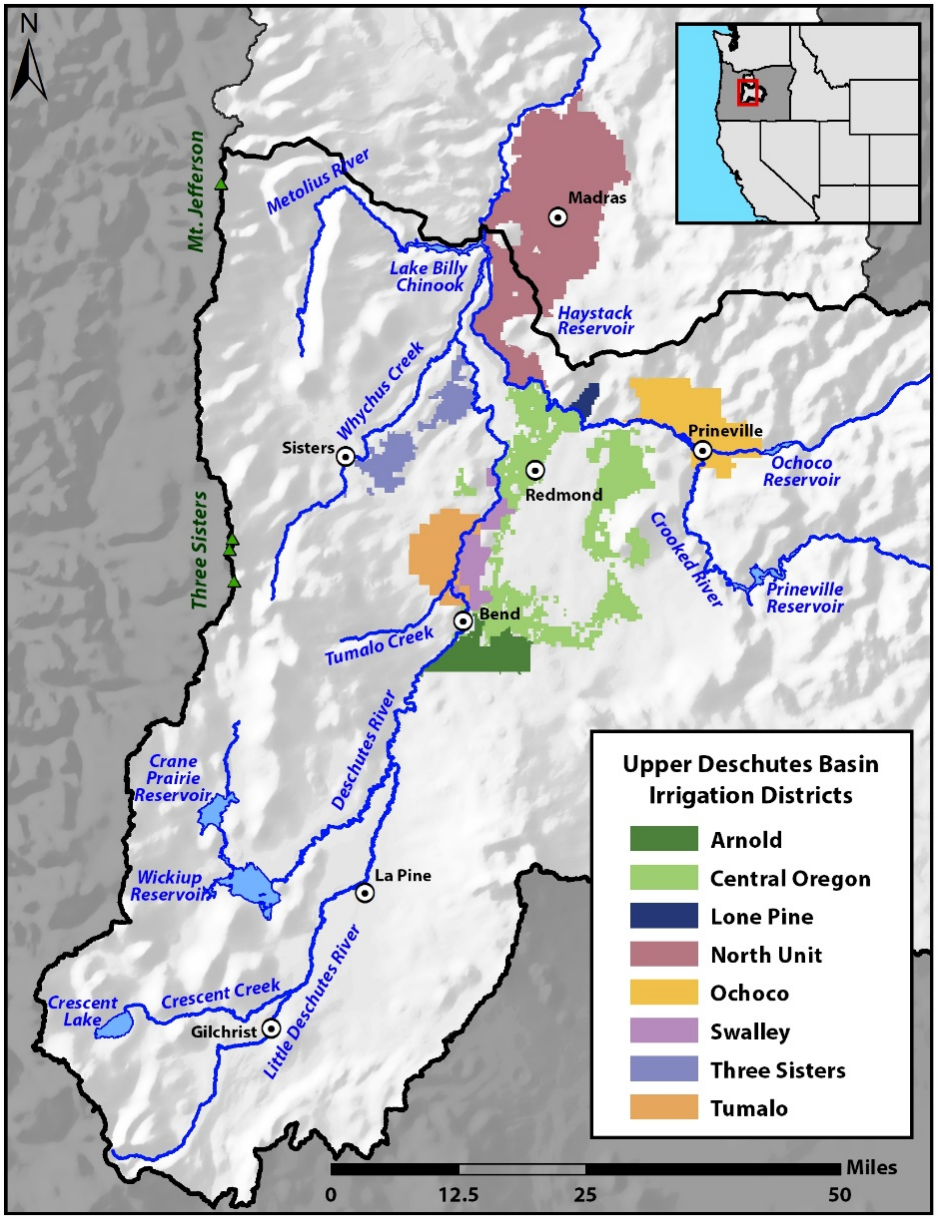
The Deschutes Basin



Water Use in the Upper Deschutes

- Deschutes River and its tributaries
- Agriculture: 150,000 irrigated acres; 8 districts
- Growing communities: Bend, Redmond, Prineville etc

Upper Deschutes Basin Context



- Over-appropriated system: closed to new rights
- Deschutes Groundwater Mitigation Program ORS 537.746, ORS 540.155
- Reintroduction of steelhead and salmon: 2007
- Listing of Oregon spotted frog in Upper Deschutes: 2014. Litigation.
- Ongoing Habitat Conservation Planning Effort
- Upper Deschutes Basin Study (recently completed)
- Deschutes Basin Water Collaborative

DESCHUTES RIVER
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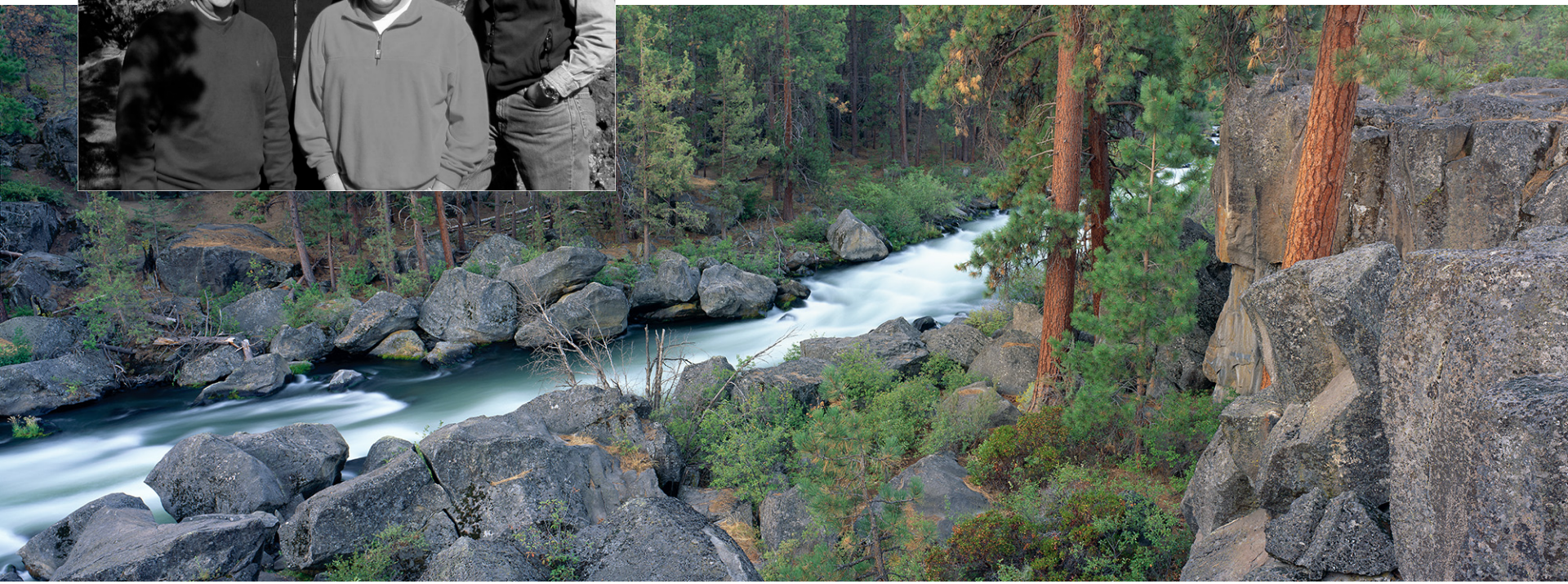


Formed in 1996

Mission: To Restore Streamflow and Water Quality in the Deschutes Basin

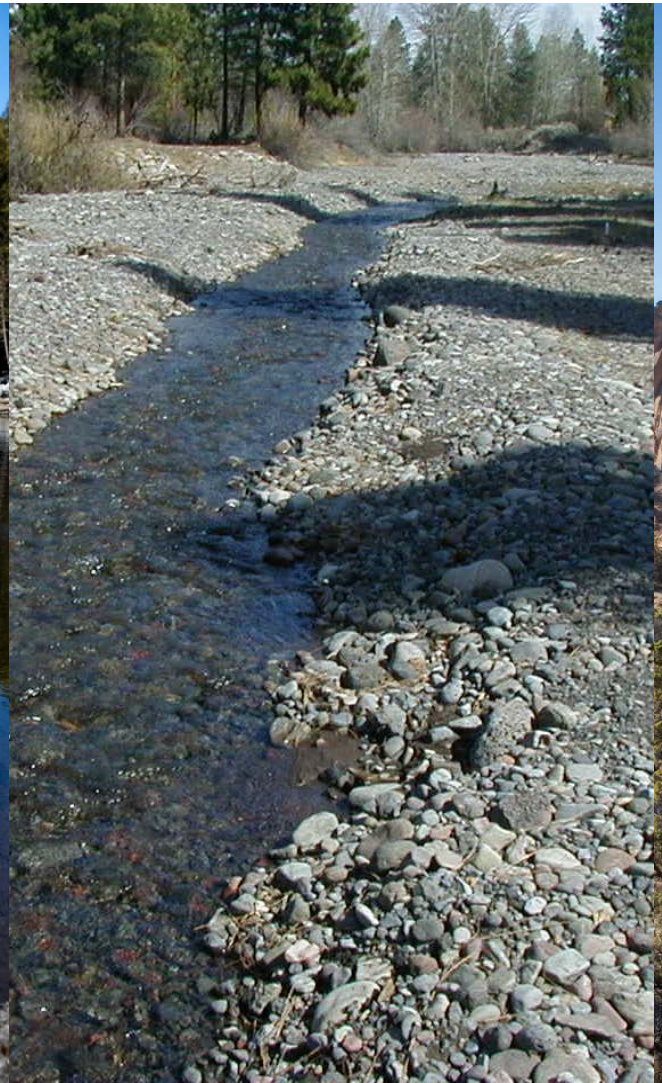
Local, Multi-Stakeholder Board, Consensus-Based

Deschutes River

98% of flows were diverted for irrigation

Whychus Creek

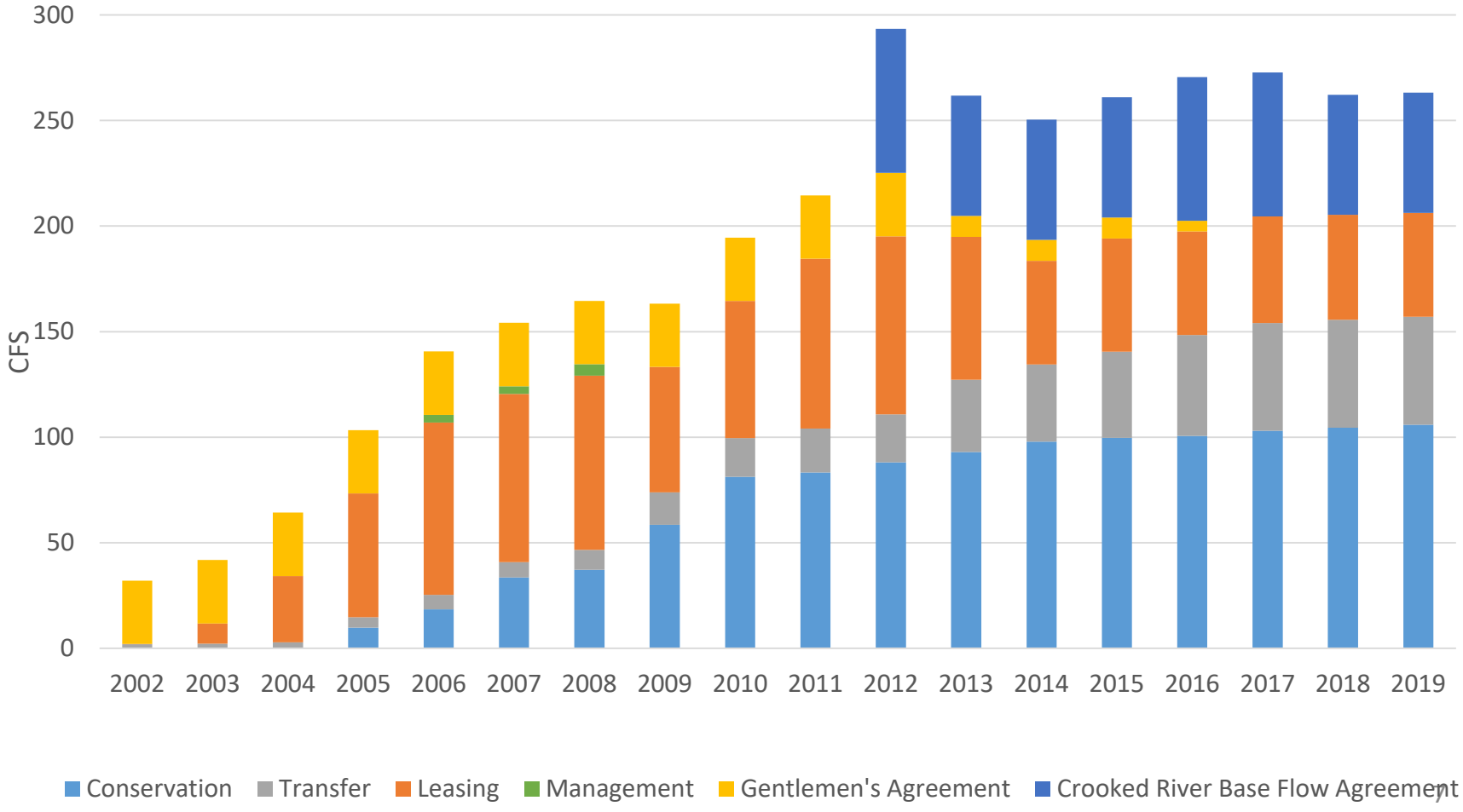
Every 2 out of 3 years, the creek would run dry



Crooked River

Extensively diverted flows would leave only a trickle of water at Smith Rock

Streamflow Restoration Results 2002-2019



Whychus Creek

Crooked River

Middle Deschutes River

Holistic Results

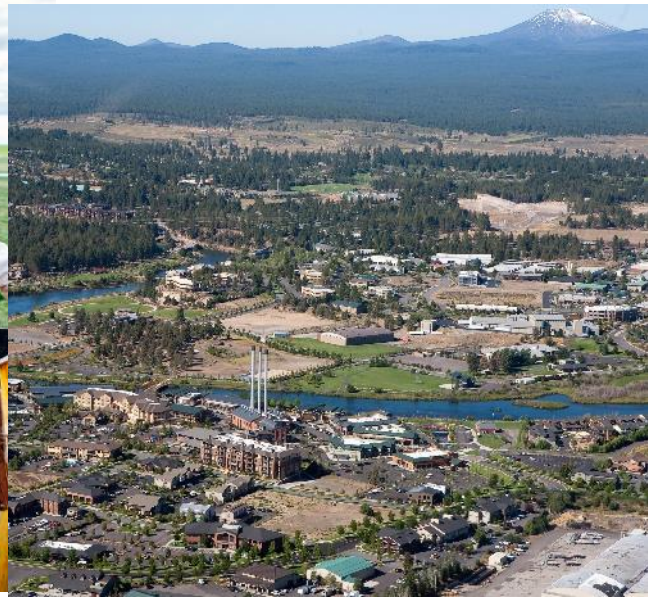
- Flow restoration & water quality benefits
- Partnerships to restore related habitat/natural storage
- Maintained or improved reliability for agriculture
- Generation of groundwater mitigation credits for muni/quasi-municipalities
- Community collaborative capacity

Key Issues Remain

- Upper Deschutes River Flow Restoration
- Time-critical ESA issues, Oregon spotted frog and risk to agricultural interests
- Ongoing need for reliable groundwater mitigation for municipal water providers

THE UPPER DESCHUTES BASIN STUDY

Water for agriculture, rivers & cities



THE UPPER DESCHUTES BASIN STUDY
Water for agriculture, rivers & cities

Common Foundation of Information

- Powerful water resources model
- Information on existing hydrology, instream and out of stream needs over 50 years
- Climate change considerations
- Water supply strategies
- Water management scenarios
- Analysis of legal/policy issues

THE UPPER DESCHUTES BASIN STUDY
Water for agriculture, rivers & cities

Basin Study Work Group

- Central Oregon Irrigation District
- North Unit Irrigation District
- Arnold Irrigation District
- Swalley Irrigation District
- Lone Pine Irrigation District
- Tumalo Irrigation District
- Ochoco Irrigation District
- Three Sisters Irrigation District
- City of Bend
- Avion
- City of Madras
- City of Redmond
- City of LaPine
- City of Prineville
- USDA Forest Service
- Department of Environmental Quality
- US Fish and Wildlife Service
- Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs
- Deschutes County
- Coalition for the Deschutes
- Crooked River Watershed Council
- Upper Deschutes Watershed Council
- Sunriver Anglers
- Central Oregon Flyfishers
- Deschutes River Conservancy
- Trout Unlimited
- Native Reintroduction Network
- Bureau of Reclamation
- Oregon Water Resources Department
- Oregon Land and Water Alliance
- Oregon Department of Agriculture
- Deschutes Soil and Water Conservation District
- Portland General Electric
- WaterWatch
- Deschutes Water Alliance
- Bend Paddle Trail Alliance

Basin Study Take-Aways

- We have enough water in the Deschutes to meet needs
- We need significant financial & cultural investment
- Integrating water supply strategies is optimal
- We need help thinking through how water can move
- We built a strong foundation of community understanding

Lessons Learned over 20 years

- Collaboration can create real results
- Time-intensive
- Investment in common information critical
- Needs to be supported for the long haul

The Path Forward

Continued Implementation

Deschutes Basin Water Collaborative

State support will be critical

- Continued support for basin planning
- Basin-specific policy staff capacity
- Continued support for implementation