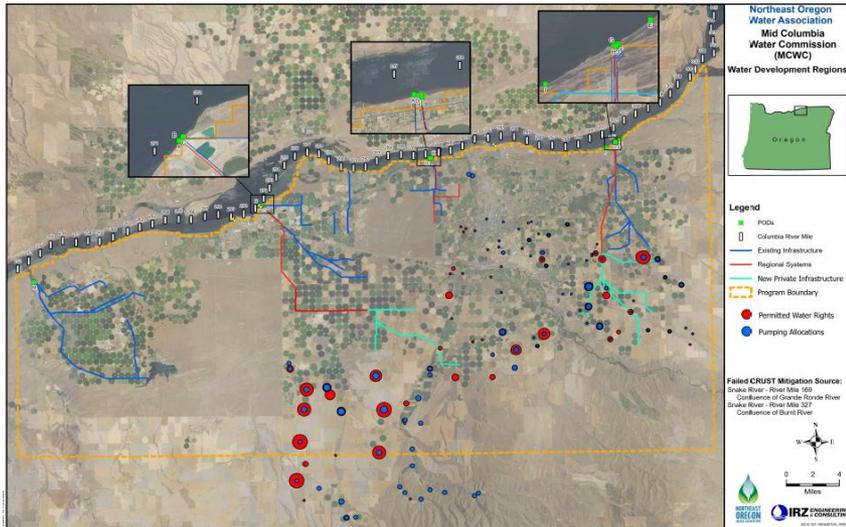


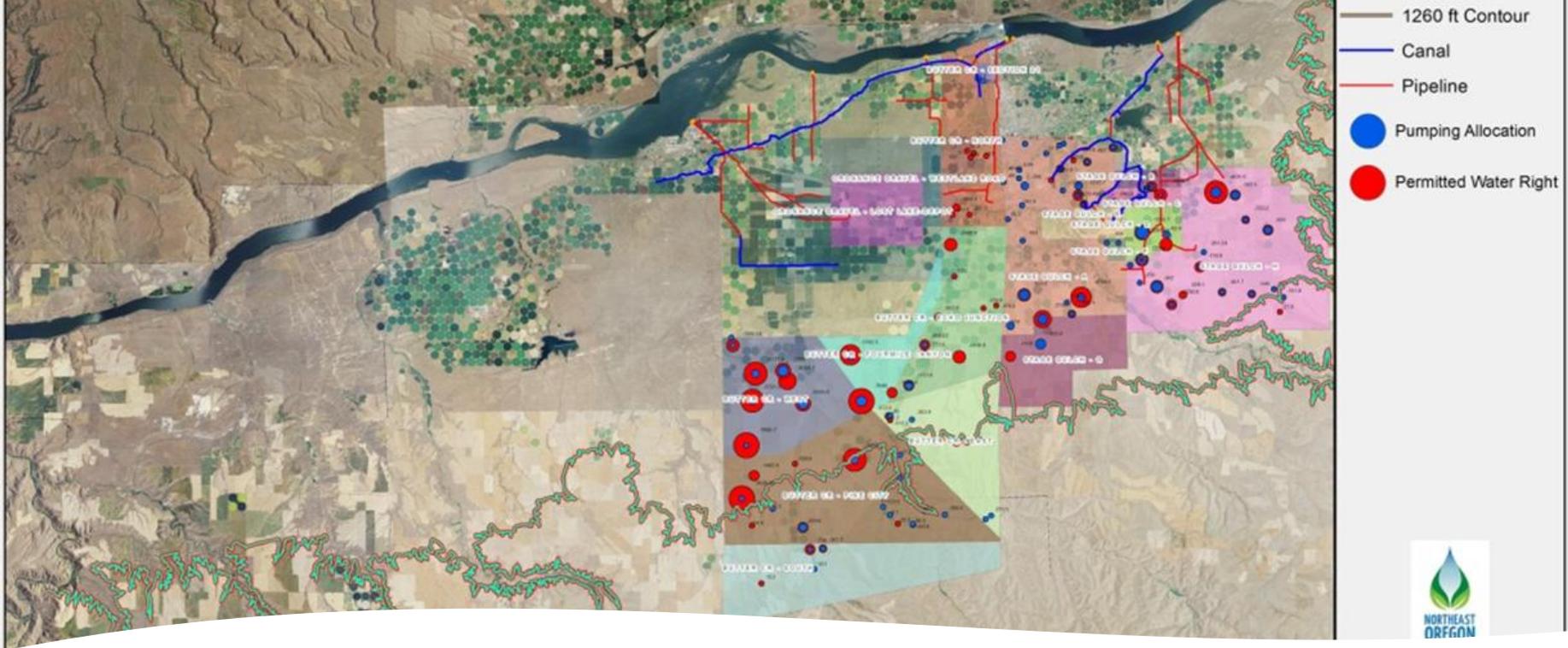


**NORTHEAST
OREGON
WATER ASSOCIATION**

LIFE DEPENDS ON WATER, WE DEPEND ON YOU.

The Irreplaceable \$2 Billion+ High-Value Ag Region



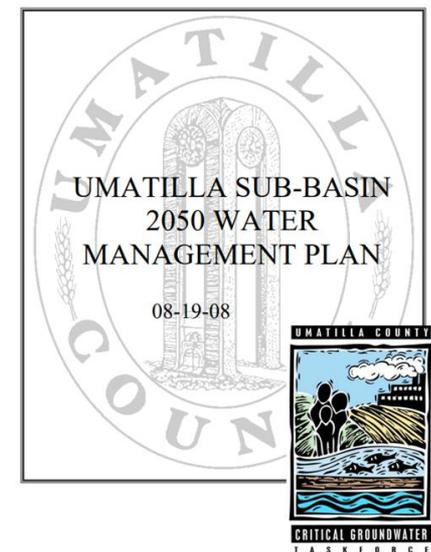


Problem
 Statements –
 What we set out
 to fix to become
 drought and
 climate resilient
 (decades of work)

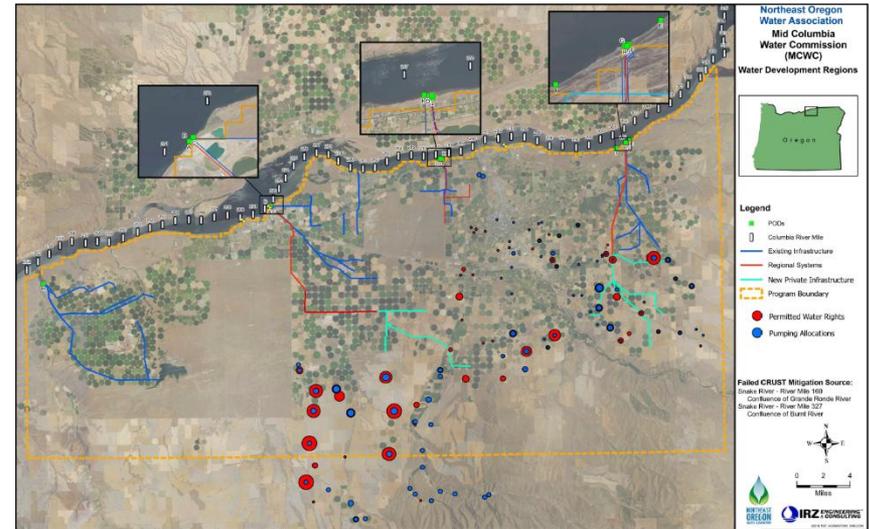
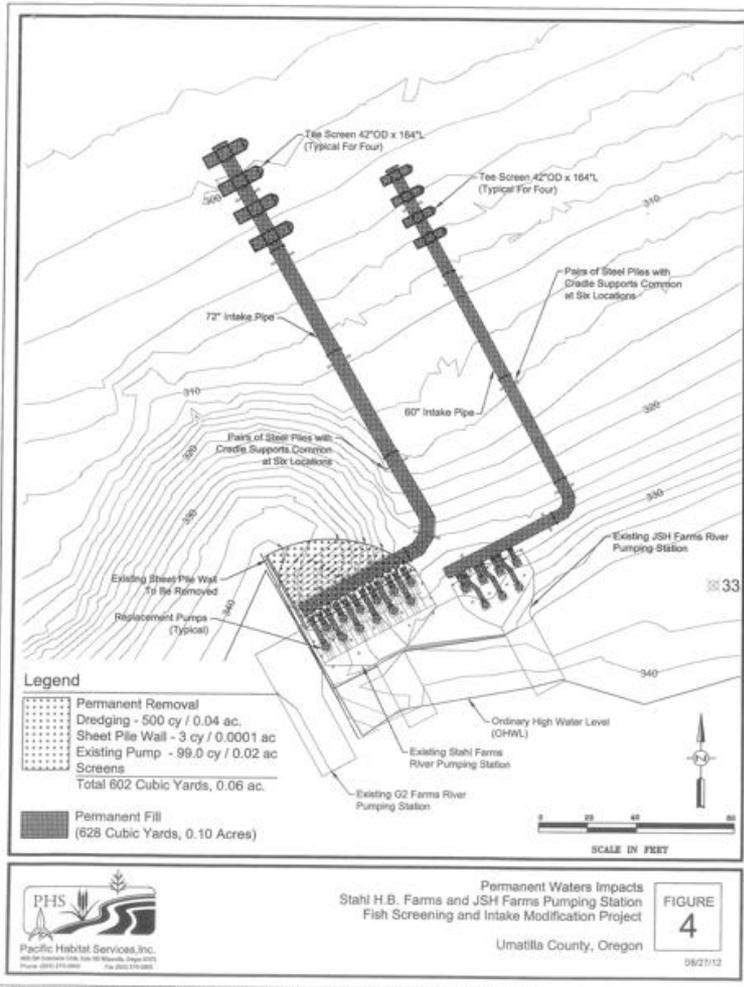
- Federal Government gave water away twice
- Over-appropriated Surface Water System
- Over-appropriated aquiferS
- Salmon Wars and ESA
- Fossil water- Easy to get out, hard to get back in
- **Study for No not Study for Yes**
- **No memorialization of Objectives**
- **Modernized infrastructure but not modernized management/policy**

Gradual Recovery Goal “what can we do over the next 50 years to ensure water supply indefinitely”

- Deficit Reduction/Groundwater Replacement – Use C. River to fix problems and sustain economy
- Water Supply Optimization
- Recharge
- Coordinated and Memorialized Governance Structure

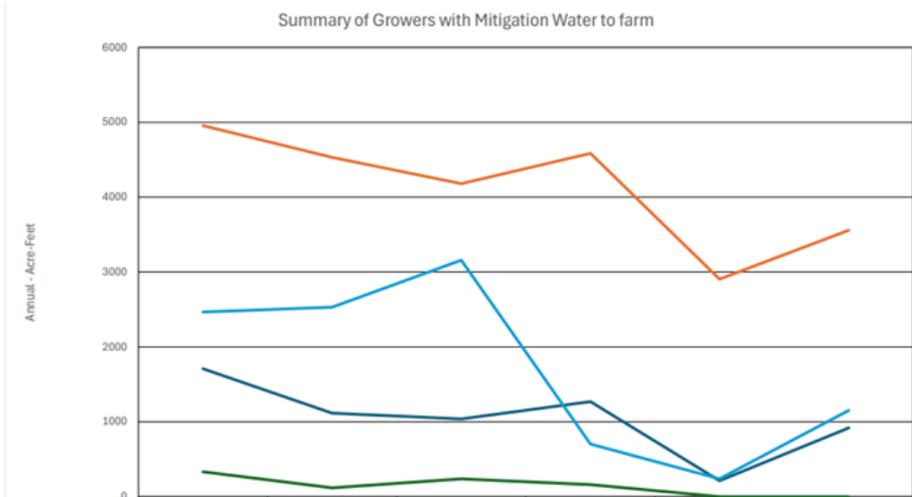


Build the Projects (Over \$300 Million Invested since 2015)

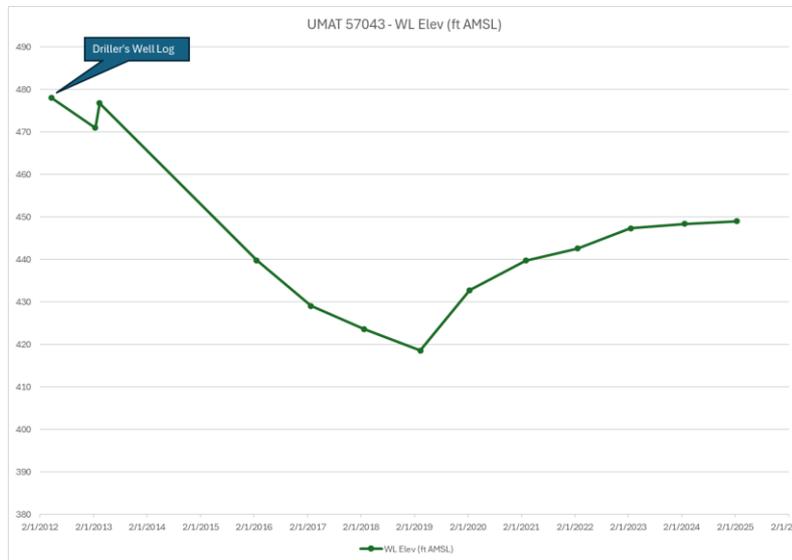


Replacing Basalt Groundwater Pumping

Ag saving potable groundwater

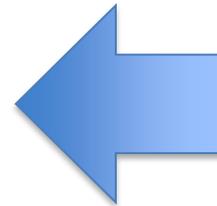


Aquifers are Responding

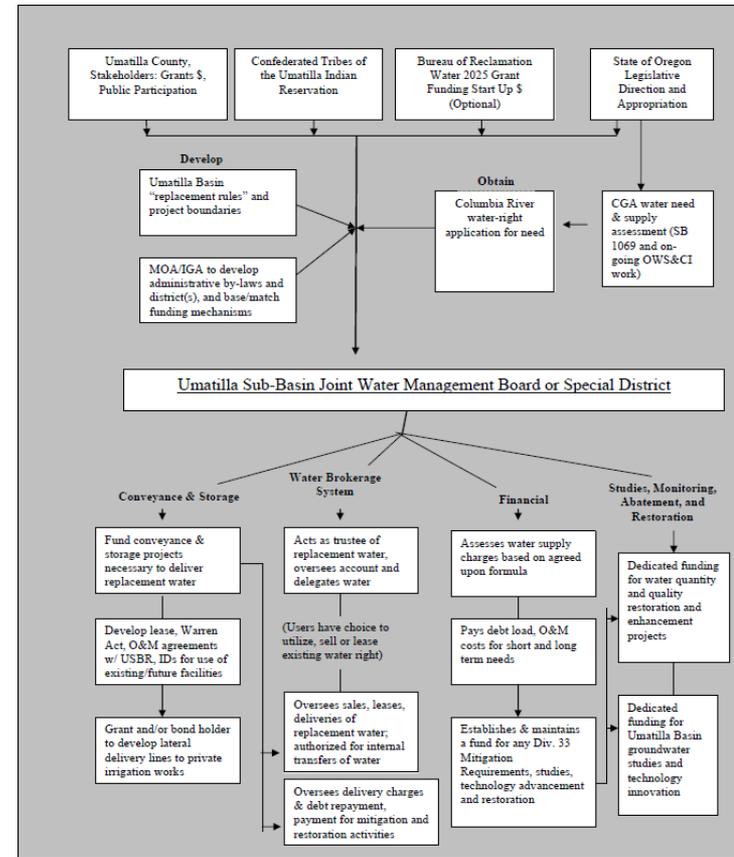
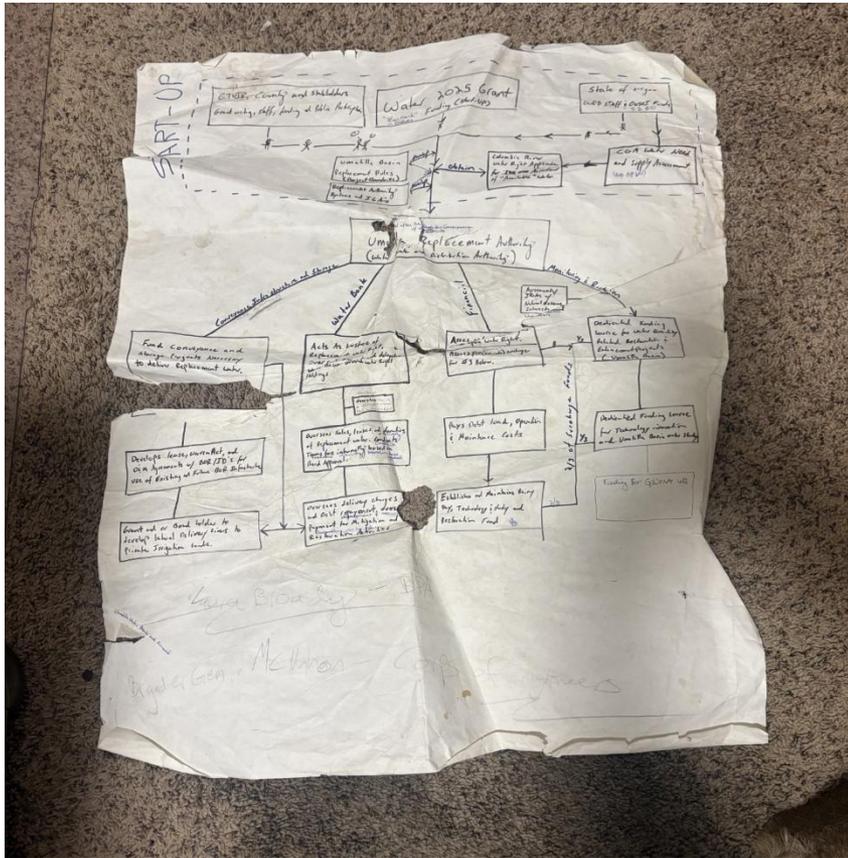


Final Steps to Long-term Sustainability (Need State Memorialization)

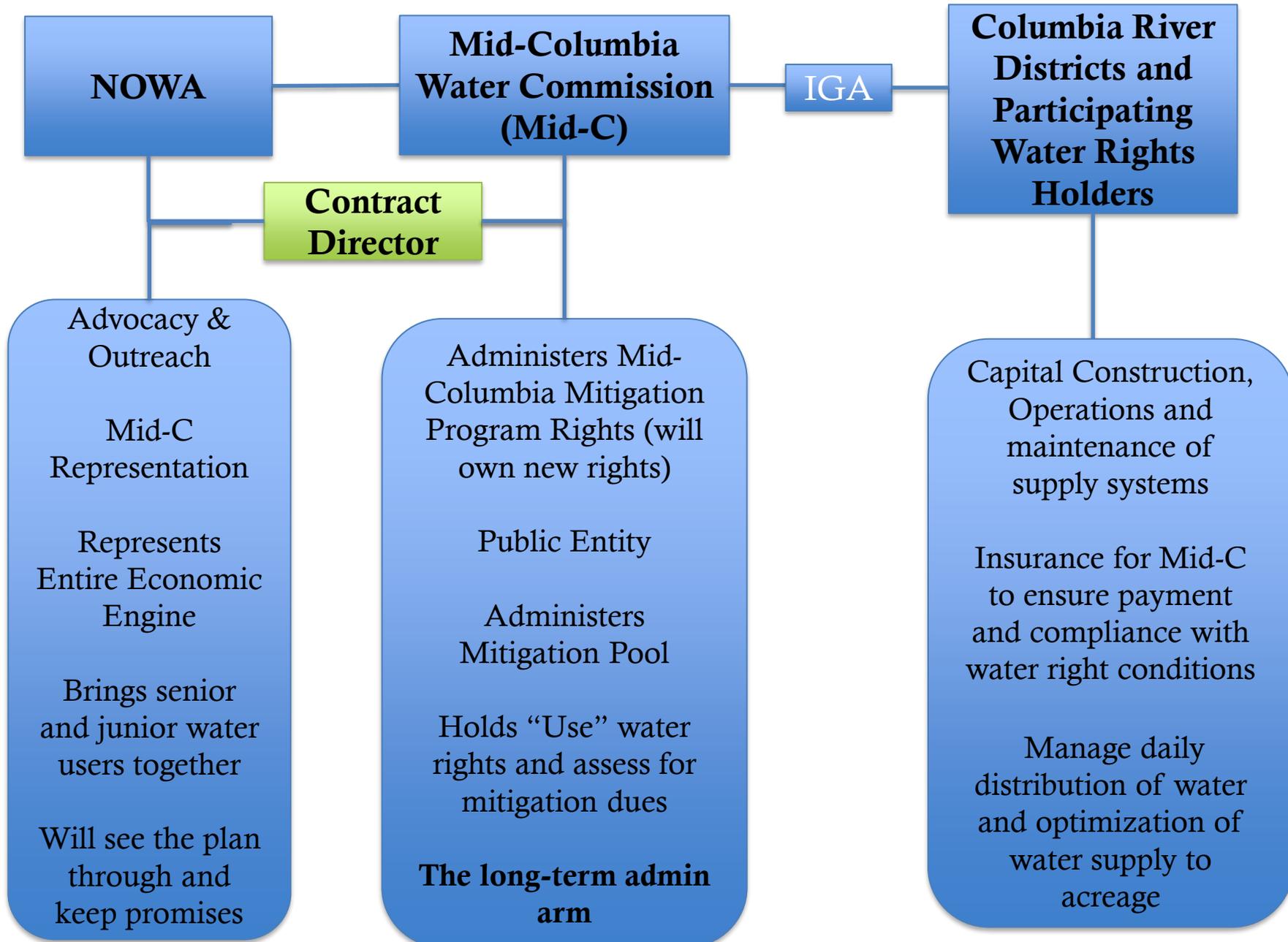
- Memorialize the Mid-Columbia Water Commission and Districts into one operating unit
- Secure permanent mitigation and secure permanent accounting system
 - Note: Need 150,000 acre-feet which is less than 1/2 of what WA has developed in the last decade
- Keep testing recharge and develop groundwater savings and banking program



2050 Plan Governance 2008 Recommendation



***Over \$2 Million Operating Budget Annually**



What Is Being Proposed

*The end use of water does not change;
management between diversion and use does.*

This legislation provides a targeted update to improve how existing Columbia River irrigation water rights and associated mitigation are managed and tracked in the Mid-Columbia region. The proposal:



Enables an approach to account for water use in shared-system infrastructure



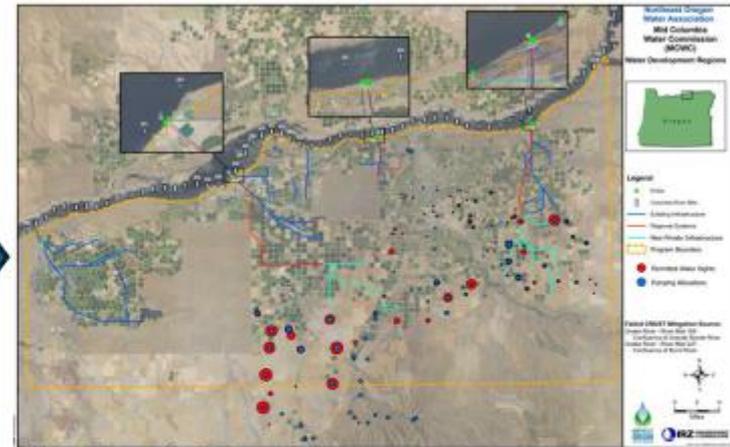
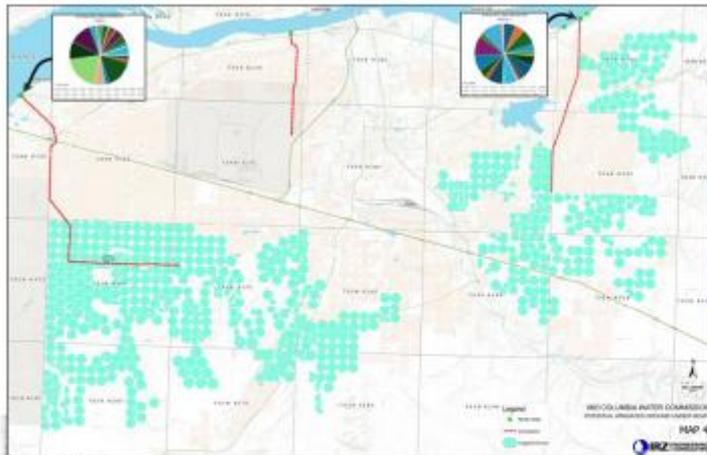
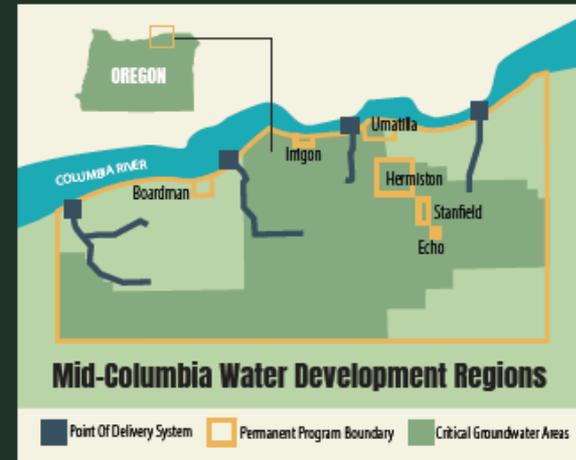
Focuses state resources on diversions, while recognizing local government expertise for water delivery management



Allows participation in an established district water-rights mapping process, so water use is reflected correctly on a system-wide basis



Supports groundwater recovery and long-term water reliability



LC 244

- DOES

- Allow senior users to voluntarily commit their water supplies for the benefit of the district
- Strengthen transparency and accountability
- Reduce unnecessary administrative complexity
- Ensure accurate measurement and reporting
- Support aquifer recovery and drought resilience

- DOES NOT

- Create new water rights
- Increase diversions or expand seasons of use
- Eliminate state oversight or enforcement
- Weaken protections for the Columbia River
- Infringe upon ongoing Umatilla River tribal settlement negotiations



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