



MEMORANDUM

TO: Deschutes County Board of County Commissioners (Board)

FROM: Tarik Rawlings, Associate Planner
Will Groves, Planning Manager

DATE: April 17, 2023

SUBJECT: Deschutes River Mitigation and Enhancement Committee - Update

The Deschutes River Mitigation & Enhancement (M & E) Committee acts as an advisory committee in the distribution of grant funding provided by Central Oregon Irrigation District (COID) for Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) to assist with restoration projects in the upper Deschutes River. Kate Fitzpatrick (Committee Chair – Deschutes River Conservancy), Gerald George (Committee Coordinator – ODFW), and Doug Watson (Director of Hydro Operations – COID) will provide an informational update on efforts undertaken by the Committee during the past few years and future plans for the Committee’s work.

I. BACKGROUND

In order to mitigate for its siphon hydropower project located upstream from Bill Healy Bridge in Bend, the Central Oregon Irrigation District (COID) signed an agreement with the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) on March 31, 1987. The agreement was a requirement of a County conditional use permit (CU-87-2). The goal of the agreement is to ensure that no net loss of fish, wildlife, habitats, or recreational opportunities result from construction and operation of the hydropower project. To help accomplish the goal of the agreement, managers created the Deschutes River M & E Program.

The program sets general priorities for habitat mitigation and enhancement activities based on location within the upper Deschutes River. These priorities have been further refined to target key fish spawning and rearing areas and adult fish holding areas. Other program goals are described in the M & E Program Plan¹. The Program is consistent with other regional and statewide plans, such as the ODFW Upper Deschutes Subbasin Fish Management Plan and the Oregon Conservation Strategy. COID is required to use a portion of the revenues generated by the power plant for enhancing river habitat and water conservation improvements in the upper Deschutes basin. The M & E Committee oversees approximately \$90,000/year of funding and reviews plans developed and submitted by ODFW. The program has funded and built over 60 separate fish habitat and bank stabilization projects in the upper Deschutes River basin since 1989, in addition to several feasibility studies and monitoring projects.

¹ <https://www.deschutescounty.gov/cd/page/deschutes-river-mitigation-and-enhancement-committee>

II. COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

The following table describes the current membership of the M&E Committee.

Voting Members		
Kate Fitzpatrick - Chair	Conservation Organization - Deschutes River Conservancy	<i>Term ends: February 28, 2026</i>
Patrick Griffiths	Member at Large – City of Bend Utility Department Water Resources Manager	<i>Term ends: February 28, 2025</i>
Doug Watson	COID – Director of Hydro Operations	<i>Term ends: February 28, 2026</i>
Ted Wise	Member at Large - ODFW	<i>Term ends: February 28, 2025</i>
Shaun Pigott	Fisheries Expertise - Trout Unlimited	<i>Term ends: February 28, 2025</i>
Jason Wilcox	Fisheries Expertise – Forest Fisheries Biologist USFS	<i>Term ends: February 28, 2026</i>
Kris Knight	Conservation Organization - Upper Deschutes Watershed Council	<i>Term ends: February 28, 2025</i>

Non-voting Members	
Jackson Morgan	Department of State Lands
Sam Vanlaningham	Oregon Water Resources Department
Jason Gritzner	U.S. Forest Service
Tarik Rawlings	Deschutes County – CDD

Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife Member	
Jerry George	ODFW M & E Coordinator

III. NEXT STEPS

The Board is welcome to direct any questions or comments concerning the Deschutes River Mitigation and Enhancement Committee to the three (3) presenters and/or staff. The Committee will likely hold a coordination meeting sometime in early summer 2023.