



## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Deschutes County Board of County Commissioners (Board)

**FROM:** Nicole Mardell, AICP, Senior Planner

**DATE:** February 19, 2025

**SUBJECT:** Deschutes River Mitigation and Enhancement Committee / Appointments

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The Deschutes River Mitigation & Enhancement (M & E) Committee has seven voting members appointed to three-year terms by the Deschutes County Board of Commissioners. Four members are reaching the end of their three-year terms and are seeking reappointment.

### 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 Plan. 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 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.

The M & E Committee is made up of representative stakeholders, including: conservation organizations, ecology and fishery experts, members at large and COID. They oversee approximately \$98,000/year of funding.

## II. COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

The following table outlines current membership. Lori Faha, Ted Wise, Shaun Pigott, and Kris Knight are seeking reappointment for an additional three-year term ending on February 28, 2028.

Voting Members		
Kate Fitzpatrick - Chair	Member at Large - Deschutes River Conservancy	<i>Term ends: February 28, 2026</i>
Jason Wilcox	Fisheries Expertise – USFS Fisheries Program Manager	<i>Term ends: February 28, 2026</i>
Doug Watson	COID – Director of Hydro Operations	<i>Term ends: February 28, 2026</i>
Ted Wise*	Ecology Expertise – Retired ODFW	<i>Term ends: February 28, 2025</i>
Shaun Pigott*	Fisheries Expertise - Trout Unlimited	<i>Term ends: February 28, 2025</i>
Lori Faha*	Member at Large – City of Bend Environmental Resources Manager	<i>Term ends: February 28, 2025</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	Hydrologist, Watershed Program Manager, U.S. Forest Service
Nicole Mardell	Deschutes County – CDD, Secretary
Ben Campbell	East Region Hydropower Coordinator, ODFW

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

## III. STAFF RECCOMENDATION

The M&E Committee voted during their February 11, 2025, meeting to recommend approval of the reappointments. Staff recommends the Board approve reappointment for Lori Faha, Ted Wise, Shaun Pigott, and Kris Knight to serve on the M&E Committee until February 28, 2028.