

# CROOKED RIVER WATER QUALITY PARTNERSHIP

*Strengthening Watershed Collaboration for Effective Planning and Project Development*



***Applicant:***

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***December 5, 2023***

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## Executive Summary

December 5, 2023 - Deschutes River Conservancy, Bend, Deschutes County, OR

The Deschutes River Conservancy (DRC) is applying for funding to strengthen and formalize the Crooked River Water Quality Partnership (CRWQP or the Partnership), identify and generate priority projects to reduce nutrient pollution in the Lower Crooked River watershed, and develop project designs for future implementation work. The CRWQP will serve as the key forum to address water quality issues in the Lower Crooked River. Funding will be used to support CRWQP Core Partners organizational capacity for facilitation and technical services to advance the CRWQP's continued development and execution of a Strategic Action Plan for improving water quality in the Crooked River. The DRC is an environmental non-profit based in Bend, Oregon, within Deschutes County. The DRC is a collaborative, multi-stakeholder organization dedicated to restoring streamflow and improving water quality throughout the Deschutes River Basin. Primary partners in this effort, and co-chairs of the CRWQP, are the Crooked River Watershed Council and the Crook County Soil and Water Conservation District, both based in Prineville, OR (Crook County) in the heart of the Lower Crooked River watershed. Other Core partners include the Ochoco Irrigation District, the city of Prineville, and Crook County. This project will also benefit the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs (the Tribes), both with regard to future outcomes and the added capacity the project will provide to support their involvement. The lower Crooked River is an important geography in the context of Spring Chinook and middle Columbia steelhead (ESA-listed; threatened) reintroduction. To date, significant investment has been made toward water quantity and in-stream habitat improvements in the Lower Crooked River, however, as a major tributary to the Deschutes River, the Crooked River basin represents a particularly important contributor to the water quality concerns of the Deschutes River system as a whole, including the fact the Lower Deschutes River serves as a primary source of domestic drinking water for the Tribes, downstream of the Crooked River. A 2019 report produced for Portland General Electric and the Tribes found that the Crooked River contributes nearly one-half of the dissolved phosphorus to Lake Billy Chinook (reservoir at the confluence of the Crooked, Metolious, and Deschutes Rivers) and over 86% of the dissolved nitrate (NO<sub>3</sub>) to the impoundment (Eilers and Vache, 2019). A finalized Crooked River Water Quality Strategic Action Plan (SAP) will be developed through the collaborative work of the CRWQP with technical support, coordination, and grant administration by the DRC. This Plan will provide a roadmap to reducing nutrient contributions and meeting long-term needs water quality needs in the Lower Crooked River and will give the basin a solid foundation to ensure future implementation outcomes maximize benefits for the resource and communities. The formation of a well-functioning CRWQP will also maintain progress beyond the life of this grant and help address barriers to implementation and secure funding needed to execute improvements. The planning area contains the entire Lower Crooked River watershed (HUC 17070305) and includes two Reclamation storage facilities as part of BORs Crooked River Project, Arthur R. Bowman Dam, which marks the upstream boundary point for HUC 17070305,

and Ochoco Dam on Ochoco Creek. Two irrigation districts, Ochoco Irrigation District and North Unit Irrigation District, are served by Crooked River Project water.

The project as proposed is planned for 3 years, with an anticipated start date in summer of 2024. Estimated project timeline is July 2024 – June 2027.

The Lower Crooked River watershed encompasses approximately 2,325 square miles, of which 58% are managed by Federal agencies (USFS, BLM, etc), 41% are private lands, and 1% is managed by the State of Oregon. Project efforts will evaluate the potential for strategic work with private, State, and Federal partners.

## Project Location

The Lower Crooked Watershed (HUC 17070305) covers an area of approximately 2,325 square miles and is located in central Oregon. The watershed is divided into three sub-basins: the Crooked River, Haystack Reservoir, and Ochoco Creek, of which the Crooked River is the largest sub-basin. The Lower Crooked River HUC boundaries are defined by the Arthur R. Bowman Dam at its upper end, and its confluence with Lake Billy Chinook (Deschutes River) at its downstream end. The Lower Crooked Watershed spans portions of Crook, Deschutes, and Jefferson counties, and includes the communities of Prineville and Terrebonne. The reservoirs in the watershed, Ochoco Reservoir and Prineville Reservoir, are important sources of water for irrigation and municipal use. Climate change is expected to impact the watershed's snowpack and surface water availability, potentially leading to increased competition for water resources.

## Applicant Category

DRC, on behalf of the Crooked River Water Quality Partnership, is applying for this funding opportunity as an **Existing Watershed Group**. The CRWQP was founded in 2019 specifically to focus on and address water quality concerns within the Crooked River watershed. The CRWQP counts six organizations as the Core Members who lead the partnership and include: DRC, Crooked River Watershed Council, Crook County Soil and Water Conservation District, Crook County, City of Prineville, and the Ochoco Irrigation District. These Core Partners are responsible for leadership, strategic planning, and carrying out tasks to strengthen and maintain the function of the CRWQP. In addition to the Core Partners, the Partnership also includes a collection of committed Associate and Supporting Partners who include local environmental non-profits, state and federal agency personnel, as the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs (Tribes). To date, the CRWQP as an entity has convened off and on over the last four years to establish CRWQP participation and roles, to gather information to set initial priorities, including undertaking a Theory of Change exercise to identify relationships between potential strategies, expected implementation results, and ultimate ecological outcomes, and are currently engaged in finalizing a preliminary Strategic Action Plan (DRAFT) to guide initial pathways for the work to come.

## Eligibility

The DRC is a 501c(3) organization founded in 1996 and incorporated in Oregon. Since its formation, the DRC has used its consensus-based approach to water management to restore over 200 cubic feet per second of water to streams and rivers throughout the Deschutes Basin. As a result, measurable improvements have been made in water quality and fish habitat in over 225 river miles. This work has been accomplished in close partnership with irrigation interests, agencies, local governments, landowners and other interested stakeholders and has resulted in substantial benefits to local producers. In addition to improving conditions for fish and aquatic life, and strengthening agriculture in the basin, the DRC has also helped municipal water providers by operating a groundwater mitigation bank and by coordinating long-range water supply planning efforts. The DRC is a convenor and a member of the Deschutes Basin Water Collaborative, a basin-wide group working on water management solutions, and provides technical staff in assistance to the Collaborative. The DRC is applying for funding on behalf of the CRWQP to support and elevate the work of CRWQP partners. The DRC brings a strong history of successful grant program management, Watershed Group formation and coordination, and implementation of proven strategies to the CRWQP effort.

## Project Description

This proposal seeks funding to help add additional support, capacity, and funding to address Water Quality concerns in the Lower Crooked River. Initial focus of funding for this project will be used to strengthen and formalize structure, governance, and operations of the Crooked River Water Quality Partnership. Once the CRWQP is fully established, the Partnership will build upon the Crooked River Strategic Action Plan through consensus-based and data-driven priority implementation planning (through Years 1 and 2), followed by the coordination and design of future projects (Year 3). Funding will be allocated across CRWQP Core Partners, and will be used to establish a Partnership Coordinator and add capacity across the Core Partners to help execute those needs of the program that align with their core competencies. The CRWQP envisions successful community supported actions that ultimately result in the reduction of nutrient concentrations and other water quality improvements in the Crooked River, and consequently in the Deschutes River/Lake Billy Chinook, for the benefit of spawning and rearing of reintroduced salmon and steelhead in the Lower Crooked River, as well as resident native fish, public recreation uses, and human health considerations for the Tribes who rely on the Deschutes River as a primary source of their drinking water supply. To accomplish this vision, CRWQP will include activities across all three primary Task Areas as described in Section C.4 of the Funding Opportunity guidance.

### **Task A: Watershed Group Development**

Core Partners will formalize the establishment of the Crooked River Water Quality Partnership through:

- Establish a Partnership Coordinator to help effectively manage stakeholder engagement, decision-making processes, and spearhead strategy and implementation
- Refinement and adoption of an MOU including agreed upon mission statement, vision statement, and goals for the group
- Development of CRWQP Operating Manual including confirmed roles and responsibilities, business practices, conflict resolution process, and resource and funding allocation procedures
- Re-establishment of regular meeting schedules, development of forums/platforms to inform the public, attract stakeholder participation and involvement, and conduct CRWQP organizational business
- Finalize the Crooked River Water Quality Partnership Strategic Action Plan

**Task B: Watershed Restoration Planning**

Core Partners, and Partnership Coordinator will conduct the following planning activities:

- Expand and refine upon the Crooked River Water Quality Partnership Strategic Action Plan and its implementation goals (Table 1) and detail potential opportunities and effectiveness of four primary strategies for nutrient reduction and water quality improvements in the Crooked River:
  - Floodplain, wetland, and riparian restoration
  - Flow transactions for water management improvements
  - On-farm best management practices
  - Irrigation district infrastructure improvements
- Continue development and execution of existing CRWQP Partner monitoring efforts and as needed, expand water quality studies to inform strategic planning and gauge effectiveness of future project implementation
- Engage with all CRWQP partners for their input, direction, and participation regarding the most efficient and effective approaches to examine and reduce nutrient concentrations in the basin
- Identify priority project activities and areas for future project implementation and initiate outreach with landowners to generate support and participation commitments

**Table 1.** CRWQP Strategic Action Plan – Draft Implementation Objectives

Implementation Goal	Working Objective	Metric
I-1: Floodplain reconnection projects are implemented	By 2025, 680 acres (additional) of floodplain habitat inundated at a 2-3 flow event – over bank full.	Acres of restored floodplain
I-2: Wetland restoration projects are implemented	By 2035, 200 acres of wetland habitat is restored or created	Acres of new wetland habitat
I-3: Riparian revegetation projects are implemented	By 2040, 36 acres of riparian, floodplain, and stream habitat is restored	Acres of restored riparian – or Linear feet of riparian buffers

I-4: Water transactions are executed	By 2030, water transactions are executed to restore 17 cfs of flow in the Crooked River.	7 McKay senior rights transfers protected through Crooked (4 cfs) 10 cfs leased instream Total 17 Cfs of restored flow
I-5: Agricultural cultivation practices are implemented	By 2030, cultivation practices are implemented on 500 acres of active agricultural lands	Acres of agricultural land under alternative cultivation practices
I-6: On-farm nutrient reduction BMPs are implemented	By 2030, nutrient reduction BMPs are implemented on X1,000 acres of active agricultural lands	Acres of agricultural land with nutrient reduction BMPs
I-7: On-farm irrigation efficiency projects are implemented	By 2030, irrigation efficiency practices are implemented resulting in 2,000 acres with > 15% efficiency improvement (includes 800 in McKay)	Modeled reduction in nutrients resulting from practice improvement
I-8: Irrigation infrastructure improvement/efficiency projects are implemented	By 2025, 6 cfs of water is conserved through irrigation infrastructure improvements	6 cfs of conserved water Iron Horse and Grimes Flat

### Task C: Watershed Management Project Design

Core Partners, and Partnership Coordinator will conduct the following project design activities:

- Solicit estimates and contract with environmental restoration specialists and engineers to develop initial designs for priority activities as identified in Task B above
- Catalogue all relevant environmental regulatory compliance needs associated with the recommended future priority activities as identified in Task B above
- Compile estimated costs for all aspects of project execution in preparation for next stage funding

The DRC is a recipient of two previously awarded CWMP grants. Those awards supported and are supporting the larger basin-wide collaborative effort focused on water management strategies to solve water supply needs for river, agriculture and communities. Specifically, the most recent award is in support of the Deschutes Basin Water Collaborative, a 47-member organization currently developing a Water Resources Management Plan for the Upper Deschutes watershed (17070304). The primary focus of that effort is on water quantity issues, and management of existing water supplies and future demand within the Upper Deschutes water users, including the cities of Bend, Redmond, and several irrigation districts. It currently does not include the Crooked River watershed in its analysis and evaluation. This proposal will provide a much needed and complementary effort to integrate water quality restoration actions into the broader flow and habitat restoration work that is occurring throughout the Deschutes basin, and in particular, target the watershed association with the highest nutrient loading to Lake Billy Chinook and the Deschutes River.

## Evaluation Criteria

### A1. Watershed Group Diversity

The Crooked River Water Quality Partnership benefits from an already established diverse collective of partners who represent key stakeholders, experts, and decision-making authorities in the Lower Crooked River. Members of the partnership have currently identified roles and responsibilities, however it is the intention that these roles and responsibilities may be refined through the formalization of the CRWQP, and additional partners may be added as the effort evolves.

The Partnership is currently framed around three categories of participation and engagement. Core partners provide leadership, contribute to partnership decisions, meet regularly to coordinate strategy implementation, and carry out key tasks necessary to maintain the function of the Partnership. Core partners are also the primary project-implementing organizations. Associate partners may also meet regularly with the Partnership but participate to provide technical input and guidance or fulfill other needs to help the core members advance projects in an effective and efficient way. Associate partners may also conduct focused research or other investigations to fill critical data or knowledge gaps. Supporting partners represent state and federal agencies with funding programs that may finance projects or have governmental jurisdiction over water quality and/or restoration actions. Table 2 lists current partners and provides a brief description of their experience and programmatic expertise/scope.

**Table 2.** Partnership members and brief description of experience and programmatic scope.

Partner	Experience
<b>Core Partners</b>	
<b>Crook County Soil &amp; Water District (CC-SWCD)</b>	The CC-SWCD was formed in 1972, and operates from Prineville. It works directly with landowners, local, state, and federal partners, interest groups, producer organizations and local governments to implement conservation projects and practices that improve water and land in Crook County. The district is the authorized agent for the Oregon Department of Agriculture relative to implementing the Agricultural Water Quality Management program in the County.
<b>Crooked River Watershed Council (CRWC)</b>	The CRWC was established in 1994 and chartered by the Crook County Court in 1997. The council focuses on habitat conservation in a working lands context. Fish passage and screening are top priorities for the focus area. The council has implemented watershed projects totaling over \$12 million since 2000, monitored water quality at over 30 fixed sites and provided watershed outreach to the service area impacting an average of over 200 people and students per year.
<b>Ochoco Irrigation District (OID)</b>	Established in 1916, OID represents approximately 898 patrons and serves their needs to operate, maintain, and improve over time, the delivery and conveyance infrastructure that support annual water delivery of their water rights in the lower Crooked River. OID has a long record of making successful and timely improvements to district operations, including implementing water conservation projects. The district works with other districts in the basin to share knowledge, represent irrigation interests, and address regionally important issues.



<b>Deschutes River Conservancy (DRC)</b>	The DRC was founded in 1996 with a mission of restoring streamflow and improving water quality in the Deschutes basin. The DRC is a collaborative, multi-stakeholder organization that works to balance instream and out of stream water needs. The DRC's Board of Directors makes decisions by consensus and is comprised of key public and private interests including irrigation, development, hydro-power, recreation, tribes, and environment. The DRC has completed over \$35 million in flow restoration projects and manages a total annual flow restoration volume exceeding 80,000 acre-feet of water.
<b>Crook County (CC)</b>	Crook County is the local county-level government with oversight and administrative duties for most all acres in the watershed and administers the ODEQ onsite septic system management for the entire county including the city. The County's relatively new Natural Resources committee coordinates with local land management agencies and provides input and advice to the County Court on working lands issues related to water, fish, wildlife, range, timber, and other resource topics.
<b>City of Prineville (CoP)</b>	The city was incorporated by the Oregon Legislative Assembly in 1880. The City's role is to provide quality municipal services and support the organized, efficient, and economical development of lands inside the city limits. The city administers land use and provides and maintains; street, water and wastewater facilities for its residents.
<b>Associate Partners</b>	
<b>Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation</b>	A federally-recognized Indian Tribe and declared sovereign nation, the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs includes the native peoples of the Warm Springs, Wasco, and Northern Paiute tribes. Water quality is a key priority for the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs and the members of the Partnership have been in engaged in conversations with the Tribes to determine their capacity for participation.
<b>Trout Unlimited (TU)</b>	TU is a fish habitat and water focused conservation non-profit with a national level footprint. First established in 1959, TU has been actively working with partners in the Crooked River watershed for over 15 years. TU brings a broad perspective to the group underlain by the most current conservation practices and approaches to addressing resource issues.
<b>Supporting Partners</b>	
<b>Portland General Electric (PGE)</b>	PGE is a large utility company founded in 1888. PGE is the leader of the anadromous fish reintroduction program in the lower Crooked River and coordinates these efforts with multiple federal and state agencies. In the Deschutes Basin, PGE has been an active Restoration partners for many significant projects and programs essential to reintroduction success.
<b>Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (ODEQ)</b>	ODEQ is a state agency in Oregon established in 1969, and charged with implementing the Clean Water Act and environmental regulations intended to protect, preserve, or improve natural resource conditions in the state. ODEQ is the state authority regarding on-site septic system program oversight.
<b>Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)</b>	Through voluntary conservation programs, NRCS helps producers, soil and water conservation districts, and other partners protect and conserve natural resources on private lands throughout the United States. With approximately 2,300 Service Centers in communities nationwide, NRCS and other USDA employees work side-by-side with producers in every State and territory.
<b>Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA)</b>	ODA's mission is to "...ensure healthy natural resources, environment, and economy for Oregonians now and in the future through inspection and certification, regulation, and promotion of agriculture and food" by serving the "...changing needs of Oregon's diverse

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agricultural and food sectors to maintain and enhance a healthy natural resource base and strong economy in rural and urban communities across the state.”

**United States  
Geological Survey  
(USGS)**

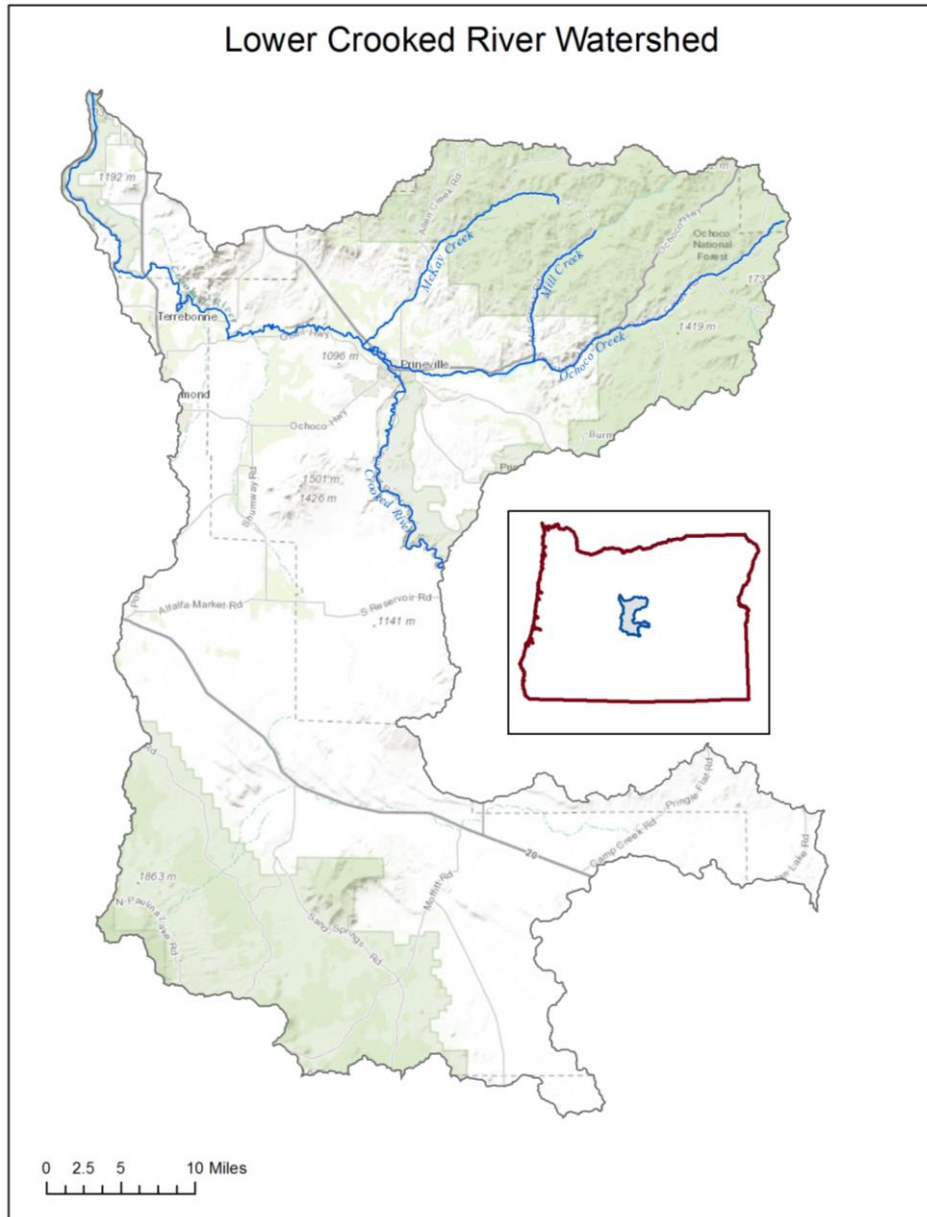
Created by an act of Congress in 1879, the U.S. Geological Survey is the Nation's largest water, earth, and biological science and civilian mapping agency. We collect, monitor, analyze, and provide science about natural resource conditions, issues, and problems. USGS's diverse expertise enables large-scale, multidisciplinary investigations and provides impartial scientific information to resource managers, planners, and their customers.

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Beyond the identified partners, the diversity of the attached letters of support convey the breadth of interests invested in and supporting this work.

## A2. Geographic Scope

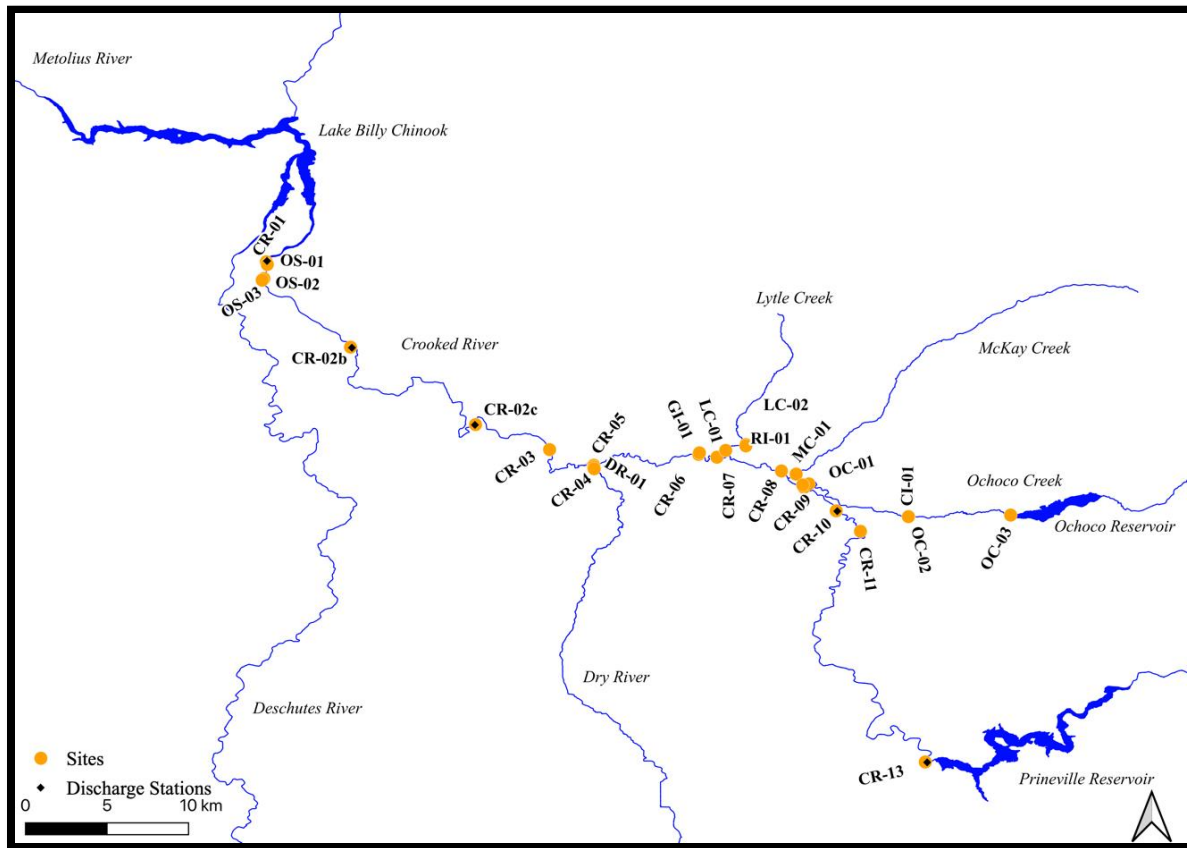
The geographic scope for this project includes the entire Lower Crooked River watershed (HUC 17070305). Figure 1 below illustrates the watershed boundaries and includes the Crooked River and major tributaries (blue line features). Figure 1 also distinguishes lands managed by Federal agencies (USFS, BLM, etc) in green, from non-federal and private lands in white. Land ownership in the Lower Crooked River is divided approximately 58% Federal land management, and 41% private lands, with an additional 1% under state management. As noted in Section A1 above, primary stakeholders involved in the CRWQP represent a diverse array of organizations that include land managers and decision-makers across the full geographic scope of the watershed. At this time, no specific individual private landowners are defined in the Partnership membership, however, currently, the Crooked River Watershed Council, Ochoco Irrigation District, Crook County, the Crook County Soil and Water Conservation District, serve as direct conduits to, and reflections of local private land management interests and concerns. As the Partnership is formalized, and strategic priorities to address the most significant contributions of controllable nutrient inputs are more discretely identified, more directed public and/or private landowner involvement will build upon existing efforts by the Crook County Soil and Water Conservation District to engage in outreach with landowners interested in improving on-farm efficiencies (a key identified water quality improvement strategy), and existing efforts by the Crooked River Watershed Council to engage landowners in riparian and instream habitat improvements to benefit water quality.



**Figure 1.** Lower Crooked River Watershed boundary (HUC 17070305)

While the CRWQP efforts are interested in the entire Lower Crooked River Watershed, existing data and recent water quality studies, such as the 2020-2022 Water Quality Monitoring Analysis conducted by Mt Hood Environmental and the Crooked River Watershed Council provide insight that will help hone the focus of the CRWQP to areas and corridors that are most likely to contribute elevated nutrient levels. These areas include agricultural lands and areas of irrigation returns in proximity of, or with direct connection to, the Crooked River and its tributaries. Lytle Creek in particular, has been found to demonstrate the some of the highest seasonal nutrient concentrations to the Crooked River. Figure 2 below shows 24 water quality monitoring locations where data was collected between 2020-2022, the results of which will be used by the

CRWQP to identify key areas of focus for future project implementation. In addition to the tributary contributions, the Mt Hood Environmental analysis identified the lower 11 kilometers of the Crooked River, downstream of Smith Rock State Park, as contributing the vast majority (~90%) of summer nitrate load to the Crooked River, however the source of this nitrate load is currently unknown, and as such, will also be an area of focus for the CRWQP. The Crooked River Watershed Council, Deschutes River Conservancy, and other CRWQP are in the midst of conducting a nitrogen isotope analysis that will help further identify sources of nutrients and subsequently, areas for targeting effort of this project. That study is expected to conclude in 2024.



**Figure 2.** Mt Hood Environmental & Crooked River Watershed Council Monitoring Locations. 2020-2022

### B1. Critical Watershed Needs or Issues

The Crooked River is the largest source of nitrogen and phosphorus to Lake Billy Chinook (LBC), the lake formed by the Round Butte Dam at the confluence of the Crooked, Metolious, and Deschutes Rivers. Although the Crooked River only contributes 38% of the mean annual surface flow into LBC, a study conducted from 2015-2017 for Portland General Electric and The Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation by Joseph Eilers and Kellie Vache (Eilers and Vache, 2019) found that it was responsible for 86% of the dissolved nitrate (NO<sub>3</sub>) and over 50% of dissolved phosphorus (PO<sub>4</sub>) entering LBC. The high nutrient levels, in combination with

increasing summer temperatures, have increased occurrences of large cyanobacteria blooms and other algal blooms in LBC that degrade water quality and release harmful cyanotoxins. These impacts in turn threaten human health, and aquatic life and habitat both in the Crooked River and Lake Billy Chinook, as well as downstream in the mainstem of the Lower Deschutes River. The risk to human health is perhaps most acutely felt by the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation, who rely on the Lower Deschutes River as a source of their public water supply. Lake Billy Chinook is listed in Oregon Department of Environmental Quality's 303(d) list of impaired waters for chlorophyll-a and harmful algal blooms.

The Lower Deschutes River is also an important Middle Columbia steelhead and Chinook salmon fishery, and in addition to being a key river system for those species spawning and rearing habitat, the maintenance of healthy populations of these fish in the Lower Deschutes provide significant cultural and economic opportunity for the Tribe, in addition to supporting recreation-based economy in the rural communities that exist along the river, such as Madras and Maupin. State and Federal fishery management agencies have been working diligently to reintroduce Middle Columbia steelhead (an ESA 10(j) population designated as Threatened) into the Upper Deschutes River basin by helping transport them above the Round Butte Dam and into Lake Billy Chinook. These efforts are largely driven by the FERC relicensing of the Pelton Round Butte Dam operation which included the reintroduction as a commitment of the permittees (PGE, and the Tribes who were made co-owners of the facility as part of relicensing). The Crooked River is being used by reintroduced steelhead as they migrate upstream to spawn. As such, nutrient reductions in the Crooked River are necessary to improve water quality and habitat and create conditions to allow for sustained success of the reintroduction efforts. In addition, bull trout, another ESA-listed species designated as Threatened, have been known to occupy the lower reaches of the Crooked River, and native redband trout occur from the mouth of the to the upper reaches of the Lower Crooked River watershed. CRWQP Core Partners, the city of Prineville and Ochoco Irrigation District are also signatories to the [Deschutes River Basin Habitat Conservation Plan](#) which is designed to minimize and mitigate impacts caused by the incidental take of covered listed species, which include bull trout and Oregon spotted frog.

Recent prolonged drought in Central Oregon, coupled with increased demands for water by agricultural users, suggest that water quality impacts in and from the Crooked River are likely to become more severe if actions are not taken to reduce nutrient contributions in the watershed. If no reductions in nutrient inputs are made, lower flows in the river as a result of drought and pressure from water users will inherently result in higher concentrations of nutrients in the river water. Lower flows and hotter, drier summertime temperatures also lead to increased water temperatures, and that combination of high nutrient concentrations, low flows, and warm water temperatures significantly increases the likelihood of algal bloom occurrences which have detrimental impacts on habitat, recreation and human health via the risk of toxic and persistent cyanobacteria.

The lower Crooked River also experiences critically low streamflows in some reaches during some water years, particularly drought years. DRC and water management partners in the lower Crooked River have been working to address these issues for decades. Strategies in place include a large-scale water conservation project below the North Unit Irrigation pumps on the lower reach of the Crooked River that provides minimum streamflows, and the Crooked River Collaborative Water Security and Jobs Act of 2014 (aka [Crooked River Act](#)) which contracted up to 65,000 acre-feet of stored water in Prineville Reservoir to be released for the benefit of listed species. Drought years continue to pose streamflow challenges, however, and DRC and partners continue to work on solutions, including streamflow restoration in McKay Creek, a key tributary, and increased voluntary instream leasing. Streamflow restoration efforts will be optimized when paired with additional water quality efforts.

## B2. Project Benefits

The formalization of the Crooked River Water Quality Partnership is a critical first step toward coalescing Crooked River partners and stakeholders around the directed and dedicated action needed to reduce nutrient contributions in the Lower Crooked River watershed. As described above, the Crooked River has been clearly identified as a major source of nutrients and the resultant impacts into Lake Billy Chinook and the Lower Deschutes River downstream. What is less understood however, is what specific on-the-ground actions should occur, and where, that will result in the most effective change. Focused efforts by the CRWQP will help answer those questions. The CRWQP will strengthen the relationships between interested and affected parties in the Crooked River watershed; it will increase the collective ability of partner organizations to gather and share information, provide support for increased capacity to conduct the actions necessary for success, and identify the best practices to implement to achieve the desired results. In addition, it will initiate the execution of those best practices through soliciting willing partners of change and set the stage for next-phase implementation through project design and planning assistance. Collectively and collaboratively, the CRWQP will finally move the Lower Crooked River community beyond a simple understanding of how water quality in their basin is impacting their river, their resources, and their neighbors and themselves, but put them on a course of action to proactively manage these conditions at a time when it is most needed. Importantly, the community in the Crooked River has been working proactively to address the reintroduction of steelhead into its river system and is looking for ways to retain its agricultural community while supporting fish and river health. It is also acutely aware of Clean Water Act regulations and a TMDL that is planned for 2030, and it would like to stay ahead of these problems by implementing solutions in advance.

## C1. Readiness to Proceed

Since 2019, the Crooked River Water Quality Partnership has been working together to identify sources of water quality impacts in the watershed, and solutions that support water quality improvements in the context of a community largely supported by working lands agriculture. As water quality impacts stemming from the Crooked River have become more understood, so too

has the level of interest and energy across the CRWQP members to more formally organize and investigate, catalog, and assess water quality impairment by location, magnitude, and timing, and develop actionable and strategic steps to reduce nutrient levels in the Crooked River. This proposal marks the next step in the evolution of the CRWQP to solidify Partnership governance, strengthen efficacy, and establish long-term sustainability.

The CRWQP has laid the groundwork for future success. They have a strong team of partners with a diversity of expertise and capacity to execute the work. The DRC, as grant applicant, brings a wealth of experience in grant management and administration, and a long history of successfully coordinating diverse stakeholders toward common goals and achieved outcomes. The DRC operates on an annual budget of over \$2 million and manages numerous grants annually from a wide variety of federal and state agencies, foundations, and funding organizations. If awarded, DRC is poised to immediately enter into a financial assistance agreement and will shepherd the project toward completion within the 3-year timeframe.

The Crooked River Watershed Council, Crook County Soil and Water Conservation District, and other Core Partners have intimate knowledge of the landscape and issues in the basin and have close relationships with many of the landowners with whom potential projects may be implemented. They have extensive history working on a variety on-the-ground projects and monitoring efforts in the basin, all of which directly contribute to and inform the CWQP. Specifically, the CRWC and SWCD serve as co-chairs of the CRWQP in part because of a deep commitment to the communities of the Crooked River watershed to maintain a close and local-level of coordination and collaboration with the people who rely on the Crooked River and surrounding landscape for their livelihoods.

As noted in the Project Description, this project will be comprised of three main overarching Tasks, occurring in stages that are roughly broken out by year:

### **Year 1: (A) Watershed Group Development**

*Activities:* Preliminary activities in year 1 will focus on the formalization and strengthening of the Crooked River Water Quality Partnership organizational structure, governance, and operations with the ultimate goal of establishing a self-sustaining effective Partnership, that regularly convenes to share information, direct priorities and activities, and develop consensus-based actions for implementation for the improvement of water quality in the Crooked River and its tributaries. These activities will include regularly occurring CRWQP meetings, and the solicitation and engagement of a dedicated Partnership Coordinator (PC) who will help provide capacity to the Partnership as facilitator of CRWQP business and efforts. Partnership Coordinator will be either contracted by the DRC, or on-boarded by one of the Core Partner organizations depending on what is deemed most appropriate by the CRWQP partners. There is an expressed desire to ensure the PC is based locally, and as such there may be benefits to embed the PC with one of the local organizations (e.g. Ochoco Irrigation District or Crooked River Watershed Council). The decision on where to install the PC will be determined through

strategic discussions with CRWQP members, and will factor Core Partner capacity and fiscal considerations (e.g. appropriate wage, cost-sharing opportunity, etc). After convening the Core Partners and broader CRWQP the first months of the project, the PC “host” will initiate solicitation, hiring, and on-boarding.

*Expected Milestones (no later than):*

- Pre-Award – Finalize the Draft Crooked River Water Quality Partnership Strategic Action Plan; re-establish regular meeting schedules
- March 2025 - Solicit and bring on dedicated Partnership Coordinator
- June 2025 – finalize CRWQP MOU and business operations with mission statement, vision, goals formalized and adopted by CRWQP members

*Roles and Responsibilities:*

- Deschutes River Conservancy – Grant administration and Core Partners member, support organization and coordination of initial CRWQP meetings with Crooked River Watershed Council and Crook County Soil and Water Conservation District
- Partnership Coordinator “Host” (TBD) – with direction and assistance from the CRWQP, will initiate all necessary solicitation and on-boarding for the Partnership Coordinator. Once on-boarded, the Partnership Coordinator will take the lead role in coordinating meetings, developing strategies and work plans, and engaging with Partners
- Core Partners (DRC, CRWC, SWCD, OID, CoP, CC) – Core Partners will guide development of CRWQP formalization across all member partners. Specific duties will be determined based on Partner capacity, expertise, and core competencies. This will include completing the initial draft of a Strategic Action Plan.

**Year 2: (B) Watershed Restoration Planning**

*Activities:* Preliminary activities in year 2 will focus on the analysis of watershed conditions and water quality information to refine and detail the strategies and goals set forth by the CRWQP and guided by draft Strategic Action Plan. PC will evaluate the state of existing information to propose a suite of actions that will guide future implementation toward the most effective projects to develop and most meaningful reductions of nutrients into the Lower Crooked River. Actions may include developing and executing approaches to gather additional information to better inform strategies and expected outcomes, and/or evaluating and modeling best management practices or other techniques to identify the most effective and appropriate projects to introduce to basin partners. As part of these efforts, CRWQP Core Partners may undertake tasks relevant to their expertise, that complement the efforts of the PC and increase capacity and effectiveness of the CRWQP. Funding from this proposal will be used to help support capacity needs and complete relevant tasks as identified by the PC and CRWQP over the course of the project. The result of these efforts will be the design of a targeted project campaign for future on-the-ground implementation.



*Expected Milestones (no later than):*

- September 2025 – Updated and refined Strategic Action Plan-Work Plan; with more specific details, prioritized implementation areas, and expected outcomes stemming from potential actions
- March 2026 – Develop recommended project planning campaign with formal approval by the CRWQP

*Roles and Responsibilities:*

- Deschutes River Conservancy – Grant administration, regular engagement in CRWQP as a Core Partner; lead for funding and regional strategic partnerships
- Partnership Coordinator “Host” (TBD) – oversight and administration of PC
- Partnership Coordinator – Lead organizer and facilitator of CRWQP actions, including development and advancement of Strategic Action Plan refinements, data gathering, and project planning development
- Core Partners (DRC, CRWC, SWCD, OID, CoP, CC) – Regularly engage in all CRWQP meetings and decision-making. Provide technical and administrative support to the PC and CRWQP, as identified and warranted throughout the course of the project. This will include receipt of project funding to help support work efforts and maintain capacity for engagement with the CRWQP (e.g. conduct outreach, develop maps and other analysis tools, review planning documents, conduct monitoring, etc).

**Year 3: (C) Watershed Management Project Design**

*Activities:* Preliminary activities in year 3 will focus on advancing all Tasks associated with planning and preparation of future Projects. This will include outreach with landowners to introduce Project Goals, establish commitment for partnership to execute work, and all subsequent design and environmental regulatory compliance planning, including detailed tasks and cost estimates to execute future project work. The outcome of this stage of the project is to be fully prepared to seek funding and implement on-the-ground project activities at the conclusion of this grant.

*Expected Milestones (no later than):*

- December 2025 – Initiate outreach with local landowners and land managers to solicit interest and possible participation in the future project implementation
- September 2026 – Initiate solicitation for contractors (environmental project design/environmental regulatory compliance) to conduct all pre-implementation needs for future project development
- June 2027 – Finalize a CRWQP approved Future Project Implementation Plan

*Roles and Responsibilities:*

- Deschutes River Conservancy – Grant administration, regular engagement in CRWQP as a Core Partner
- Partnership Coordinator “Host” (TBD) – oversight and administration of PC
- Partnership Coordinator - Lead organizer and facilitator of CRWQP actions, including development and advancement of Strategic Action Plan refinements, data gathering, and project planning development
- Core Partners (DRC, CRWC, SWCD, OID, CoP, CC) – Regularly engage in all CRWQP meetings and decision-making. Provide technical and administrative support to the PC and CRWQP, as identified and warranted throughout the course of the project. This will include receipt of project funding to help support work efforts and maintain capacity for engagement with the CRWQP (e.g. conduct outreach, develop maps and other analysis tools, review planning documents, conduct monitoring, etc).
- Environmental Consulting Professionals – Conduct all relevant technical site-specific design planning, including expected timelines, cost-estimates, and environmental regulatory compliance and permitting needs that will be required to execute future implementation of future Projects.

**Table 3.** Preliminary Project Schedule

Task	Sub-Task	Q3 24	Q4 24	Q1 25	Q2 25	Q3 25	Q4 25	Q1 26	Q2 26	Q3 26	Q4 26	Q1 27	Q2 27	Budget
A	Refine/Adopt CRWQP mission statement, vision, goals													
A	Develop articles of incorporation, bylaws, business practices													
A	Solicit and on-board Partnership Coordinator													
A	Coordinate/facilitate bi-monthly Planning Team meetings													
B	Confirm and compile existing data/identify data gaps													
B	Develop and execute strategies to fill data needs (as warranted)													
B	Synthesize available information to refine Crooked River priorities and strategic targets													
B	Adapt and finalize CRWQP Strategic Action Plan													
B	Define Future Project goals, outcomes, and develop													

	prioritized list of near-term projects												
<b>C</b>	Conduct outreach and secure landowner commitments for Future Project activity												
<b>C</b>	Solicit and secure environmental contractors for Future Project design services												
<b>C</b>	Research and compile all regulatory compliance needs associated with proposed Future Project activity												
<b>C</b>	Develop workplan, timelines, complete budget estimates for Future Project implementation												
	Grant Administration/Reporting												
	<b>Total Budget</b>												

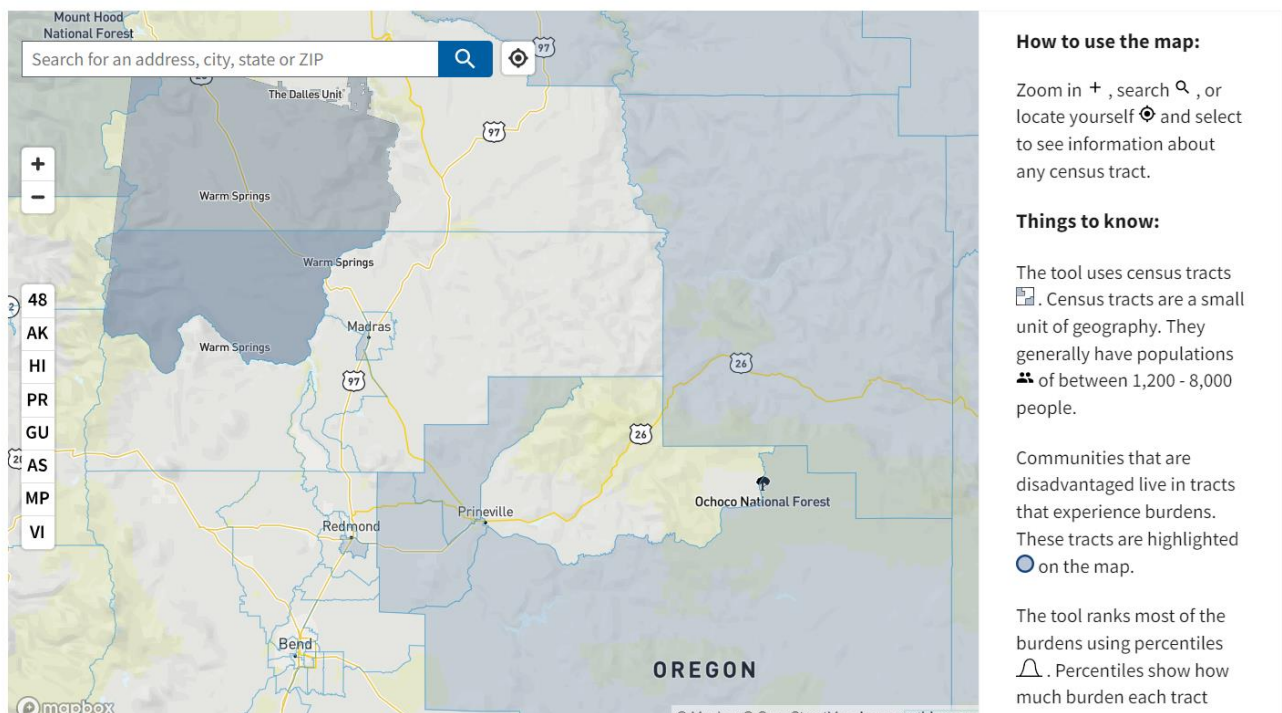
### D1. Presidential and DOI Priorities: Climate Change

In 2019, the Bureau of Reclamation, in partnership with the Oregon Water Resources Department and the Deschutes Basin Study Work Group, of which DRC is a part, commissioned the [Upper Deschutes River Basin Study](#) to assess current and future water supply and demand in the Upper Deschutes Basin. Climate change models were used to evaluate climate conditions in the future (forecasted at 10 to 50 years). Combinations of climate change models were used to develop regional projections that describe the potential trend in future climate conditions comparing the 2060s (2050 to 2079) to the historical reference period (1980 to 2009). Model analysis indicated that future annual average temperatures may increase by 2.8° C (4.9° F) with increases ranging from 1.4 to 3.4° C (2.5 to 6.1° F). The climate projections also indicate that the timing patterns for precipitation may change in the future. Though there is wide variation in modeled future changes in precipitation, there is general agreement that winter precipitation may increase while summer precipitation decreases. This information indicates that changes in timing of precipitation, combined with higher temperatures, could shift runoff to earlier in the year on average, with higher winter and spring volumes and lower summer volumes (Reclamation 2018c). This information helps underscore the need to focus and concentrate on nutrient impacts, which are exacerbated by low flow conditions and warmer temperatures that lead to the algal blooms and toxic cyanobacteria described earlier in this proposal. Thus, the efforts of the CRWQP are directly tied to the overall improvements to management of land and water (both in terms of water quality and water quantity), to help mitigate climate change impacts, protect public health, and increase resiliency for ESA listed species who are trying to establish populations in the Crooked River and Upper Deschutes basins.

## D2. Presidential and DOI Priorities: Disadvantaged, Underserved, and Tribal Communities

The White House Council on Environmental Quality's interactive Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool was used to identify disadvantaged and Tribal communities within the project area. A screen-capture from that tool is provided below. The tool highlights the city of Prineville, which lies within the Lower Crooked River watershed, and the surrounding areas to the north, west, and south of Prineville as disadvantaged communities. CRWQP activities within this project area will ultimately help improve land management, agricultural practices, and water quality for the region, and benefit conditions in the Crooked River and downstream, for steelhead, salmon, and native resident fish and aquatic life.

In addition, the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation is represented on this map by the large gray polygon to the northwest of Prineville and Madras. The Deschutes River flows north and through the Warm Springs Reservation and is a primary source of drinking water for the Warm Springs Tribe. The nutrient loads from the Crooked River enter the Deschutes River upstream of the Warm Springs Reservation. As such, the improvement of water quality in the Crooked River will benefit public health and safety, particularly for the Warm Springs Tribal community, and will also help improve water quality and habitat conditions for reintroduced salmon and steelhead, which are central to tribal culture and values, and provides additional ecological, economic, and cultural benefits to the region.



**Figure 3.** Project area disadvantaged and tribal areas (from Environmental Quality's interactive Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool)

## Project Budget

<b>Table 4. CRWQP Project Estimated Budget</b>				
<b>BUDGET ITEM DESCRIPTION</b>	<b>COMPUTATION</b>		<b>Quantity Type</b>	<b>TOTAL COST</b>
	<b>\$/unit</b>	<b>Quantity</b>		
<b>DRC Salaries and Wages*</b>				
DRC Executive Director	\$67.35	180	hours	\$12,123.13
DRC Program Director	\$45.57	216	hours	\$9,843.16
DRC Communications Director	\$45.35	54	hours	\$2,449.11
DRC Program Manager	\$36.73	120	hours	\$4,407.62
Total				<b>\$28,823.01</b>
<b>Fringe Benefits*</b>				
DRC Executive Director	\$34.54	180	hours	\$ 6216.42
DRC Program Director	\$22.79	216	hours	\$ 4,922.69
DRC Communications Director	\$26.39	54	hours	\$ 1,424.84
DRC Program Manager	\$19.64	120	hours	\$ 2356.50
Total				<b>\$ 14,920.45</b>
<b>Contractual/Construction</b>				
Partnership Coordinator	\$100.00	100	hours	<b>\$110,000</b>
Core Partner Capacity/Subcontracting	\$100.00	1100	hours	<b>\$95,000</b>
Project Engineering/Design	\$100.00	200	hours	<b>\$20,000</b>
<b>Travel/Mileage</b>				
	\$0.66	6000	miles	<b>\$3960</b>
<b>TOTAL DIRECT COSTS</b>				<b>\$ 272,703.46</b>
<b>Indirect Costs</b>				
DRC de minimus MTDC	10%			\$27,270.35
<b>TOTAL ESTIMATED PROJECT COSTS</b>				<b>\$299,973.81</b>

## **Budget Narrative**

### ***Salaries and Wages***

DRC staff will provide facilitation, technical support, Plan development, and outreach efforts for the CRWQP. Kate Fitzpatrick, DRC Executive Director (60 hrs/yr), will be the main link to the previous planning efforts, and will play a lead role in building consensus amongst CRWQP members and formalizing the CRWQP. Jim Bond, Program Director (72 hrs/yr), will play a lead role providing technical support to the CRWQP, as well as grant administration. The Program Manager (40 hrs/yr) will provide limited support as needed, particularly with regard to strategy review, stakeholder communications, and information sharing. The Communications Director (18 hrs/yr) will assist with outreach development and informational materials. Table 4 provides a weighted average rate for the hourly wage rate, used to reflect an anticipated COLA adjustment of 3% that would be enacted in both years 2 and 3.

### ***Fringe Benefits***

Regarding the listed salaries and associated fringe benefits, each employee has a different fringe rate, due to longevity, rate of pay, and other factors. The rate also changes from year to year, with adjustments in rate of pay and which benefits are being utilized. In Table 4, a weighted average rate was used to reflect an anticipated COLA adjustment of 3% that would be enacted in both years 2 and 3. Fringe benefits include medical and dental insurance, retirement contributions, FICA/ Medicare, unemployment insurance, and workers' compensation insurance.

### ***Personnel***

Kate Fitzpatrick, Executive Director, brings eighteen years of experience in water management, collaborative planning, partnership development and leadership in the Deschutes Basin. She has a Masters degree in Environmental Studies and has a deep working knowledge of water law, policy and transactions. Kate has established long-lasting and trusted partnerships throughout the region and will be a key contributor to the formalization of the CRWQP MOU and organizational structuring.

Jim Bond, Program Director, has over twenty years of experience in water and land management, water quality planning, river restoration, wildfire restoration, forest resilience planning, water transaction development, and other forms of community-based collaborative resource planning. Jim has a Masters degree in Environmental Science & Management from the Bren School at University of California, Santa Barbara. Jim oversees the development and implementation of DRC's streamflow and water quality restoration programs. In addition to managing the grant award, Jim will contribute technical input to the CRWQP

Marisa Chappell Hossick, Communications Director, has ten years of experience in communications and outreach for DRC. She works on DRC's Social Media campaign, event

coordination, newsletters, and website, bringing additional skills of professional photography to this work.

Jacob Kimiecik, Program Manager, has a BS in Environmental and Natural Resource Economics along with a BA in Economics from Colorado State and earned his JD from Lewis & Clark Law school in 2021 with a certificate in Environmental and Natural Resource Law. He works closely with the Ochoco Irrigation District and landowners throughout the basin on the McKay Switch Project.

### **Contractual/Construction**

For this proposal, Contractual line items primarily refer to providing capacity support to the CRWQP and its Core Partners.

**Partnership Coordinator:** A Partnership Coordinator will be one of the primary pieces to help lift the CRWQP into a more formal, organized, and functioning organization. The Partnership Coordinator may be hired as an independent contractor or may be brought on as an employee under one of the Core Partner organizations. The direction the CRWQP goes with the hiring of the Partnership Coordinator will be made by the CRWQP members as they convene and evaluate and develop the PC scope of work, and subsequently, whatever option provides the greatest benefit to the goals of the CRWQP. The proposal budgets \$45,000 for the first year, with a reduction in year 2 to \$35,000, and then again to \$30,000 in year 3. It is not anticipated that the PC funding requested in this proposal completely cover all PC costs. Rather, the \$45,000 in year 1 is meant to provide an initial foundation upon which other Core Partners will be able to contribute a modest contribution to complement the grant funds and provide a competitive offer to the PC. It is assumed, that once established and effective progress can be shown, that there will be greater opportunity for the Core Partners to help contribute, or successfully seek additional funding to complement the BOR funds and maintain the PC across the 3-years of the project.

**Core Partner Capacity/Subcontracting:** Specific details for funding allocation and associated tasks are currently undefined because, as with the Partnership Coordinator, details related to the full scope of needs will not be revealed until the CRWQP is more formally established. That said, part of the challenge in getting the CRWQP fully off the ground since 2019 is the result of limited capacity and economic constraints across many of the Core Partners, including the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation. This proposed budget allows for \$30,000 in Year 1, \$35,000 in Year 2, and \$30,000 in Year 3 that would be available to direct to the Core Partners (in particular SWCD, CRWC, OID) and the Tribes to aid their capacity to participate and provide CRWQP-associated services. These services will be defined, and funds allocated accordingly, by the CRWQP, and may include, but are not limited to, support for meeting participation, stakeholder outreach, data collection and analysis, among other tasks.

**Project Engineering/Design:** Professional technical services will be sought in Years 2 and 3 to provide the services needed for all pertinent engineering and environmental regulatory

compliance assessments. \$20,000 has been budgeted for external professional consulting services to meet these needs. The CRWQP will seek a qualified local entity skilled in these areas. The CRWQP will comply with all competitive procurement requirements for any cost of services in excess of \$10,000.

### **Travel/Mileage**

The budget includes estimated travel costs for DRC project team to travel to coordination meetings and site visits with CRWQP partners and stakeholders. Travel is estimated based on the currently published government mileage rate of \$0.655/mi, with the following general assumptions: approximately 6000 miles over three years to attend CRWQP meetings and coordinate with Core Partners and stakeholders, and project site visits related to future project site selection and field-visits during design development. Round trip distance between Bend and Prineville is 75 miles. Generally, it is assumed that 30 trips per year (~2000 mi) will be conducted by the DRC to travel to Prineville and back. However, it is also acknowledged that some of the visits may include destinations beyond Prineville to parts across the Lower Crooked River watershed, and as such the estimate is not exclusive to point-to-point trips between the cities.

### **Indirect Rate**

DRC elects to take the “de minimus” 10% indirect rate. DRC does have a federally approved NICRA (27.54%) but will accept the de minimus amount for this project to maximize the amount available for Contractual/Construction line items in support of building the capacity and engagement of the CRWQP Core Partners and Tribes.

## **Environmental and Cultural Resources Compliance**

This project will focus on identification and gathering preliminary design and regulatory compliance information needed to ultimately implement projects. There are no identified project sites and any environmental and resource compliance needs are not yet known but will be catalogued as part of this project. Actual implementation of projects are expected to occur after the completion of this funding award.

## **Required Permits or Approvals**

With no identified project sites at the time of proposal submission, required permits and/or approvals needs are not known. However, this project is for Watershed Group development, and strategic priorities targeting and preliminary design. As the targeted future Projects are identified, Permits/Approvals will be defined and pursued as appropriate. Implementation of future projects will occur via future funding.

## **Overlap or Duplication of Effort Statement**

DRC has not submitted applications for funding that would be considered duplicative to this proposal.



## Conflict of Interest Disclosure Statement

There is no known active or potential conflict of interest related to this proposal and/or projects described herein.

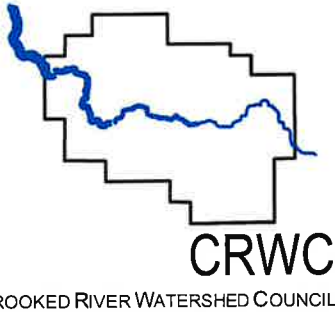
## Uniform Audit Reporting Statement

The Deschutes River Conservancy did not spend more than \$750,000 in Federal funds in Fiscal Year 2022. Our organization audit report for Fiscal Year 2023 will not be available until March 2024.

## Disclosure of Lobbying Activities

No funds from this grant award will be applied in any way to pay a person or organization for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of any agency, a Member of Congress, an officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a Member of Congress in connection with any Federal actions associated with this project.

Attachment A – Letters of Support



498 SE Lynn Blvd.  
Prineville, Oregon 97754

Phone: (541) 447-8567 Fax: (541) 416-2115

contact@crwc.info  
www.crookedriver.deschutesriver.org

Bureau of Reclamation  
Water Resources and Planning Office  
Attn: NOFO Team  
Mail Code: 84-27133  
P.O. Box 25007 Denver, CO 80225

November 28, 2023

Dear Review Committee Members,

The Crooked River Watershed Council is pleased to offer our support for the Deschutes River Conservancy's application on behalf of the Crooked River Water Quality Partnership (CRWQP) to the Bureau of Reclamation's Cooperative Watershed Management Program Phase I funding.

The Deschutes Basin has a long history of effective collaboration to solve natural resource concerns associated with water and aquatic habitat. This approach and engagement have a proven track-record for implementing long-lasting solutions to address complex water issues in the basin. This Partnership will advance water quality improvements in the Crooked River. Continued support for this basin-wide collaboration is critical, and time is of the essence for forging and implementing broadly supported strategies.

The lower Crooked River is an important geography in the context of anadromous fish species reintroduction. Many millions of dollars have been expended thus far supporting efforts to reestablish both Spring Chinook and middle Columbia steelhead (ESA-listed; threatened) in the Deschutes basin. To date, much of this time and investment has been directed to water quantity and in-stream habitat concerns in the Upper Deschutes River basin and the Crooked River. As a major tributary to the Deschutes River, the Crooked River basin represents a particularly important contributor to the water *quality* concerns of the Deschutes River system as a whole. In addition to impacts poor water quality has on stream ecology, a significant concern is the fact the Lower Deschutes River serves as a primary source of domestic drinking water for the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs, located downstream of the Crooked River. Our organization is excited to support expanded focus on water quality issues within the Crooked River watershed. The result of this effort will be a strengthened and formalized Crooked River Partnership, expanded capacity for the Core Partners within the CRWQP, and will build upon the Crooked River Water Quality Strategic Action Plan to refine prioritized implementation strategies and goals, and develop actions to meet the various water quality needs of Deschutes Basin.

As an organization that is both a member of the Partnership and deeply invested in prioritizing long-term maintenance of our service area, the watershed council supports this collaborative effort to address water quality issues in the Crooked River. You can consider the Crooked River Watershed Council a full and active partner on behalf of the Crooked River Partnership, its mission, and the watershed management goals it seeks to achieve.

Sincerely,



Crook County Soil & Water Conservation District  
498 SE Lynn Blvd.  
Prineville, Oregon 97754

Phone: (541) 447-3548 Fax: (541) 416-2115

Andy.gallagher@oregonstate.edu

Bureau of Reclamation  
Water Resources and Planning Office  
Attn: NOFO Team  
Mail Code: 84-27133  
P.O. Box 25007 Denver, CO 80225

December 4<sup>th</sup>, 2023

Dear Review Committee,

Crook County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) supports the Deschutes River Conservancy's application on behalf of the Crooked River Water Quality Partnership (CRWQP) to the Bureau of Reclamation's Cooperative Watershed Management Program Phase I funding. Partners in the Deschutes Basin have a long history of collaborative engagement and a proven track-record for implementing long-lasting solutions to solve water issues. This Partnership will advance water quality knowledge and improvements in the Crooked River, a priority for the Crooked River Sub-Basin and the Deschutes Basin as a whole.

The lower Crooked River is an important geography in the context of anadromous fish species reintroduction. Many millions of dollars have been expended thus far supporting efforts to reestablish both Spring Chinook and middle Columbia steelhead (ESA-listed; threatened) in the Deschutes basin. To date, much of this time and investment has been directed to water quantity and in-stream habitat concerns in the Upper Deschutes River basin and the Crooked River. As a major tributary to the Deschutes River, the Crooked River basin represents an important contributor to the water quality concerns of the Deschutes River system as a whole. In addition to impacts poor water quality has on stream ecology, a significant concern is the fact the Lower Deschutes River serves as a primary source of domestic drinking water for the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs, located downstream of the Crooked River. The result of this effort will be a strengthened and formalized Crooked River Partnership, expanded capacity for the Core Partners within the CRWQP, and will build upon the Crooked River Water Quality Strategic Action Plan to refine prioritized implementation strategies and goals, and develop actions to meet the water management needs of Deschutes Basin tribes, communities, agriculture, and anadromous fish as affected by the Crooked River watershed.

This effort aligns with the SWCD's efforts to improve habitat, water quality, efficiency of irrigation water use, and educate agricultural producers and citizens alike. Crook SWCD both supports and endorses this collaborative effort to address water quality issues in the Crooked River.

Sincerely,

Andy Gallagher  
District Manager



**CITY ADMINISTRATION**  
387 NE Third Street – Prineville, OR 97754  
EMAIL: [sforrester@cityofprineville.com](mailto:sforrester@cityofprineville.com)  
541.447.5627 ext. 1118 ph 541-447-5628 fax

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November 28, 2023

Bureau of Reclamation  
Water Resources and Planning Office  
Attn: NOFO Team  
Mail Code: 84-27133  
P.O. Box 25007 Denver, CO 80225

Dear Review Committee,

The City of Prineville strongly supports the Deschutes River Conservancy's application on behalf of the Crooked River Water Quality Partnership (CRWQP) to the Bureau of Reclamation's Cooperative Watershed Management Program Phase I funding. The Deschutes Basin has a long history of collaborative engagement and a proven track-record for implementing long-lasting solutions to meet water issues in the basin. This Partnership will advance water quality improvements in the Crooked River, a priority for the Crooked River Sub-Basin and the Deschutes Basin as a whole. Continued support for this basin-wide collaboration is critical, and time is of the essence for forging and implementing broadly supported strategies.

The lower Crooked River is an important geography in the context of anadromous fish species reintroduction. Many millions of dollars have been expended thus far supporting efforts to reestablish both Spring Chinook and middle Columbia steelhead (ESA-listed; threatened) in the Deschutes basin. To date, much of this time and investment has been directed to water quantity and in-stream habitat concerns in the Upper Deschutes River basin and the Crooked River. As a major tributary to the Deschutes River, the Crooked River basin represents a particularly important contributor to the water *quality* concerns of the Deschutes River system as a whole. In addition to impacts poor water quality has on stream ecology, a significant concern is the fact the Lower Deschutes River serves as a primary source of domestic drinking water for the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs, located downstream of the Crooked River. Our organization is excited to support expanded focus on water quality issues within the Crooked River watershed. The result of this effort will be a strengthened and formalized Crooked River Partnership, expanded capacity for the Core Partners within the CRWQP, and will build upon the Crooked River Water Quality Strategic Action Plan to refine prioritized implementation strategies and goals, and develop actions to meet the water management needs of Deschutes Basin tribes, communities, agriculture, and anadromous fish as affected by the Crooked River watershed.

As an organization that is keenly aware of, and deeply invested in the prioritizing of long-term maintenance of our larger regional watershed, the City of Prineville both supports and endorses this collaborative effort to address water quality issues in the Crooked River. You can consider City of Prineville a partner and an advocate on behalf of the Crooked River Partnership, its mission, and the watershed management goals it seeks to achieve.

Sincerely,



Bureau of Reclamation  
Water Resources and Planning Office  
Attn: NOFO Team  
Mail Code: 84-27133  
P.O. Box 25007 Denver, CO 80225

December 1, 2023

Dear Review Committee,

The Ochocho Irrigation District (OID) strongly supports the Deschutes River Conservancy's application on behalf of the Crooked River Water Quality Partnership (CRWQP) to the Bureau of Reclamation's Cooperative Watershed Management Program Phase I funding. The Deschutes Basin has a long history of collaborative engagement and a proven track-record for implementing long-lasting solutions to meet water issues in the basin. This Partnership will advance water quality improvements in the Crooked River, a priority for the Crooked River Sub-Basin and the Deschutes Basin as a whole. Continued support for this basin-wide collaboration is critical, and time is of the essence for forging and implementing broadly supported strategies.

The lower Crooked River is an important geography in the context of anadromous fish species reintroduction. Many millions of dollars have been expended thus far supporting efforts to reestablish both Spring Chinook and middle Columbia steelhead (ESA-listed; threatened) in the Deschutes basin. To date, much of this time and investment has been directed to water quantity and in-stream habitat concerns in the Upper Deschutes River basin and the Crooked River. As a major tributary to the Deschutes River, the Crooked River basin represents a particularly important contributor to the water *quality* concerns of the Deschutes River system as a whole. In addition to impacts poor water quality has on stream ecology, a significant concern is the fact the Lower Deschutes River serves as a primary source of domestic drinking water for the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs, located downstream of the Crooked River. Our organization is excited to support expanded focus on water quality issues within the Crooked River watershed. The result of this effort will be a strengthened and formalized Crooked River Partnership, expanded capacity for the Core Partners within the CRWQP, and will build upon the Crooked River Water Quality Strategic Action Plan to refine prioritized implementation strategies and goals, and develop actions to meet the water management needs of Deschutes Basin tribes, communities, agriculture, and anadromous fish as affected by the Crooked River watershed.

OID provides water to over 20,000 irrigated acres and nearly 900 patrons supplied mainly from the Crooked River. As an organization that is keenly aware of, and deeply invested in the prioritizing of long-term maintenance of our larger regional watershed, Ochocho Irrigation District both supports and endorses this collaborative effort to address water quality issues in the Crooked River. You can consider OID a partner and an advocate on behalf of the Crooked River Partnership, its mission, and the watershed management goals it seeks to achieve.

Sincerely,

Bruce Scanlon  
Manager



Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs, Oregon  
Natural Resources Branch  
PO Box C  
Warm Springs, OR 97761  
Phone: 541-553-2002  
Fax: 541-553-2303

Bureau of Reclamation  
Water Resources and Planning Office  
Attn: NOFO Team  
Mail Code: 84-27133  
P.O. Box 25007 Denver, CO 80225

December 4, 2023

Dear Review Committee,

The Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs Branch of Natural Resources (BNR) strongly supports the Deschutes River Conservancy's application on behalf of the Crooked River Water Quality Partnership (CRWQP) to the Bureau of Reclamation's Cooperative Watershed Management Program Phase I funding. The Deschutes Basin has a long history of collaborative engagement and a proven track record for implementing long-lasting solutions to water issues. This Partnership will advance water quality improvements in the Crooked River, a priority for the BNR. Continued support for this basin-wide collaboration is critical, and time is of the essence for forging and implementing broadly supported strategies.

The lower Crooked River is a critical geography for the CTWS-BNR for successfully re-introducing anadromous fish species above the Pelton-Round butte Dam complex. Many millions of dollars have been spent thus far, supporting efforts to reestablish Spring Chinook and middle Columbia steelhead (ESA-listed; threatened) in the Deschutes basin. Much of this time and investment has been directed to water quantity and in-stream habitat concerns in the Upper Deschutes River basin and the Crooked River. As a major tributary to the Deschutes River, the Crooked River basin is a significant contributor to the water quality concerns. In addition, the Crooked River enters upstream of the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs, the primary domestic water source on the Lower Deschutes River.

The BNR is excited to support this focus on addressing water quality issues within the Crooked River sub-basin. The result of this effort will be a strengthened and formalized Crooked River Partnership, expanded capacity for the Core Partners within the CRWQP, and will build upon the Crooked River Water Quality Strategic Action Plan to refine prioritized implementation strategies and goals and develop actions to meet the water management needs of Deschutes Basin tribes, communities, agriculture, and anadromous fish as affected by the water quality of the Crooked River.

The Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs BNR is keenly aware of and deeply invested in the prioritizing of long-term maintenance to improve the water quality of the Crooked River watershed; the BNR both supports and endorses this collaborative effort to address water quality issues in the Crooked River.

Sincerely,

Austin Smith Jr  
General Manager, Branch of Natural Resources  
Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs





**Portland General Electric**  
121 SW Salmon Street • Portland, OR 97204  
portlandgeneral.com

November 29, 2023

Bureau of Reclamation  
Water Resources and Planning Office  
Attn: NOFO Team  
Mail Code: 84-27133  
P.O. Box 25007 Denver, CO 80225

Dear Review Committee,

Portland General Electric (PGE) supports the Deschutes River Conservancy's application on behalf of the Crooked River Water Quality Partnership (CRWQP) to the Bureau of Reclamation's Cooperative Watershed Management Program Phase I funding. The Deschutes Basin has a long history of collaborative engagement and a proven track record for implementing long-lasting solutions to meet water issues in the basin. This Partnership will advance water quality improvements in the Crooked River, a priority for the Crooked River Sub-Basin and the Deschutes Basin as a whole. Continued support for this basin-wide collaboration is critical, and time is of the essence for forging and implementing broadly supported strategies.

PGE and the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs (CTWS), co-own and operate the Pelton Round Butte Hydroelectric Project on the Deschutes River. PGE and CTWS, alongside basin-wide partners like the DRC and the CRWQP, are working to reintroduce self-sustaining and harvestable runs of spring Chinook and steelhead trout to the upper Deschutes basin, including the Crooked River. To date PGE and CTWS have invested over \$20 million in fish habitat restoration and water conservation to support these reintroduction efforts. A multi-year Water Quality Study showed that the Crooked River, as a major tributary to the Deschutes River, is a particularly important contributor to the water quality concerns of the entire Deschutes River basin, including the lower Deschutes River downstream of the Pelton Round Butte Hydroelectric Project. Crooked River water quality has impacts on stream ecology, salmon and steelhead reintroduction, recreation and the domestic drinking water for the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs. Therefore, PGE is excited to support expanded focus on water quality issues within the Crooked River watershed.

PGE looks forward to working collaboratively with the Crooked River Water Quality Partnership to improve water quality so we can better meet the needs of Deschutes basin tribes, communities, agriculture, and anadromous fish.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sania Radcliffe".

Sania Radcliffe, Director of Government Affairs and Environmental Policy





**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**  
**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**  
**NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE**  
West Coast Region  
304 S. Water Street, Suite 201  
Ellensburg, Washington 98926-3617

November 30, 2023

Bureau of Reclamation  
Water Resources & Planning Office  
Attn: NOFO Team  
Mail Code: 84-27133  
P.O. Box 25007  
Denver, CO 80225

Re: Bureau of Reclamation's Cooperative Watershed Management Program Phase I Funding

Dear Review Committee:

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) strongly supports the Deschutes River Conservancy's (DRC) application on behalf of the Crooked River Water Quality Partnership (CRWQP) to the Bureau of Reclamation's Cooperative Watershed Management Program Phase I funding. The Deschutes Basin has a long history of collaborative engagement and a proven track record for implementing long-lasting solutions to meet water issues in the basin. This Partnership will advance water quality improvements in the Crooked River, a priority for the Crooked River subbasin and the Deschutes Basin as a whole. Continued support for this basin-wide collaboration is critical, and time is of the essence for forging and implementing broadly supported strategies.

The lower Crooked River is an important geography in the context of anadromous fish reintroduction. Significant funds have been expended in the effort to reestablish spring Chinook salmon, sockeye salmon, and Middle Columbia River steelhead in the Deschutes Basin above the Pelton Round Butte Hydroelectric Project. To date, much of this time and investment has been directed to water quantity and instream habitat restoration. As a major tributary to the Deschutes River, the Crooked River basin represents a particularly important contributor to the water quality concerns of the Deschutes River system. NMFS supports the expanded focus on water quality within the Crooked River watershed. The result of this effort would strengthen and formalize the Crooked River Partnership, expand capacity for the Core Partners within the CRWQP, and build upon the Crooked River Water Quality Strategic Action Plan to refine prioritized implementation strategies and goals, and develop actions to meet the water management needs of Deschutes Basin Tribes, communities, agriculture, and anadromous fish as affected by the Crooked River watershed.



As an organization that is keenly aware of, and deeply invested in the prioritizing of long-term maintenance of our larger regional watershed, NMFS supports this collaborative effort to address water quality issues in the Crooked River.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "JUSTIN YEAGER". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly stylized font.

Justin Yeager  
Chief, Columbia Basin Branch  
Interior Columbia Basin Office

cc: Kate Fitzpatrick, Deschutes River Conservancy



# United States Department of the Interior



FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE  
Bend Field Office  
63095 Deschutes Market Road  
Bend, Oregon 97701  
Phone: (541) 383-7146 FAX: (541) 383-7638

File Number: ADMI-670-3  
File Name: DRC support letter  
TS Number: 24-78

December 1, 2023

Bureau of Reclamation  
Water Resources and Planning Office  
Attn: NOFO Team  
Mail Code: 84-27133  
P.O. Box 25007  
Denver, CO 80225

Dear Review Committee,

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) strongly supports the Deschutes River Conservancy's application on behalf of the Crooked River Water Quality Partnership (CRWQP) to the Bureau of Reclamation's Cooperative Watershed Management Program Phase I funding. The Deschutes Basin has a long history of collaborative engagement and a proven track-record for implementing long-lasting solutions to meet water issues in the basin. This Partnership will advance water quality improvements in the Crooked River, a priority for the Crooked River Sub-Basin and the Deschutes Basin as a whole. Continued support for this basin-wide collaboration is critical, and time is of the essence for forging and implementing broadly supported strategies. It is our understanding that this effort's goals include floodplain reconnection, wetland restoration, increases in protected instream flow for both McKay Creek and the Crooked River, increased irrigation efficiency, and increased participation by our partners. The Service shares and supports these goals.

The lower Crooked River is an important geography in the context of anadromous fish species reintroduction. Many millions of dollars have been expended thus far supporting efforts to reestablish both Spring Chinook and middle Columbia steelhead (ESA-listed; threatened) in the Deschutes basin. To date, much of this time and investment has been directed to water quantity and in-stream habitat concerns in the Upper Deschutes River basin and the Crooked River. As a major tributary to the Deschutes River, the Crooked River basin represents a particularly important contributor to the water *quality* concerns of the Deschutes River system as a whole. In addition to impacts poor water quality has on stream ecology, a significant concern is the fact the Lower Deschutes River serves as a primary source of domestic drinking water for the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs, located downstream of the Crooked River. Our organization is excited to support expanded focus on water quality issues within the Crooked River watershed. The result of this effort will be a strengthened and formalized Crooked River Partnership, expanded capacity for the Core Partners within the CRWQP, and will build upon the Crooked River

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## PACIFIC REGION 1

IDAHO, OREGON\*, WASHINGTON,  
AMERICAN SAMOA, GUAM, HAWAII, NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

\*PARTIAL

Water Quality Strategic Action Plan to refine prioritized implementation strategies and goals, and develop actions to meet the water management needs of Deschutes Basin tribes, communities, agriculture, and anadromous fish as affected by the Crooked River watershed.

As an organization that is keenly aware of, and deeply invested in the prioritizing of long-term maintenance of our larger regional watershed, the Service both supports and endorses this collaborative effort to address water quality issues in the Crooked River. You can consider the Service a partner and an advocate on behalf of the Crooked River Partnership, its mission, and the watershed management goals it seeks to achieve.

Sincerely,

Bridget Moran  
Field Supervisor



# Deschutes Basin Board of Control



Bureau of Reclamation  
Water Resources and Planning Office  
Attn: NOFO Team  
Mail Code: 84-27133  
P.O. Box 25007 Denver, CO 80225

November 28, 2023

Dear Review Committee,

The Deschutes Basin Board of Control (DBBC) strongly supports the Deschutes River Conservancy's application on behalf of the Crooked River Water Quality Partnership (CRWQP) to the Bureau of Reclamation's Cooperative Watershed Management Program Phase I funding. The Deschutes Basin has a long history of collaborative engagement and a proven track-record for implementing long-lasting solutions to meet water issues in the basin. This Partnership will advance water quality improvements in the Crooked River, a priority for the Crooked River Sub-Basin and the Deschutes Basin as a whole. Continued support for this basin-wide collaboration is critical, and time is of the essence for forging and implementing broadly supported strategies.

The lower Crooked River is an important geography in the context of anadromous fish species reintroduction. Many millions of dollars have been expended thus far supporting efforts to reestablish both Spring Chinook and middle Columbia steelhead (ESA-listed; threatened) in the Deschutes basin. To date, much of this time and investment has been directed to water quantity and in-stream habitat concerns in the Upper Deschutes River basin and the Crooked River. As a major tributary to the Deschutes River, the Crooked River basin represents a particularly important contributor to the water *quality* concerns of the Deschutes River system as a whole. In addition to impacts poor water quality has on stream ecology, a significant concern is the fact the Lower Deschutes River serves as a primary source of domestic drinking water for the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs, located downstream of the Crooked River. Our organization is excited to support expanded focus on water quality issues within the Crooked River watershed. The result of this effort will be a strengthened and formalized Crooked River Partnership, expanded capacity for the Core Partners within the CRWQP, and will build upon the Crooked River Water Quality Strategic Action Plan to refine prioritized implementation strategies and goals, and develop actions to meet the water management needs of Deschutes Basin tribes, communities, agriculture, and anadromous fish as affected by the Crooked River watershed.

As an organization that is keenly aware of, and deeply invested in the prioritizing of long-term maintenance of our larger regional watershed, the Deschutes Basin Board of Control (DBBC) both supports and endorses this collaborative effort to address water quality issues in the Crooked River. You can consider Deschutes Basin Board of Control (DBBC) a partner and an advocate on behalf of the Crooked River Partnership, its mission, and the watershed management goals it seeks to achieve.

Sincerely,

Craig Horrell  
President, Deschutes Basin Board of Control

---

PO Box 919 - Madras, OR 97741

*DBBC Member Districts*

*Arnold Irrigation District • Central Oregon Irrigation District • Lone Pine Irrigation District • North Unit Irrigation District  
Ochoco Irrigation District • Swalley Irrigation District • Three Sisters Irrigation District • Tumalo Irrigation District  
DBBC President - Craig Horrell, 541-548-6047; chorrell@coid.org*



# Oregon

Tina Kotek, Governor

Department of Environmental Quality

Eastern Region Bend Office

475 NE Bellevue Drive, Suite 110

Bend, OR 97701

(541) 388-6146

FAX (541) 388-8283

TTY 711

December 4, 2023

Bureau of Reclamation  
Water Resources and Planning Office  
Attn: NOFO Team  
Mail Code: 84-27133  
P.O. Box 25007 Denver, CO 80225

Dear Review Committee,

The Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) supports the Deschutes River Conservancy's application on behalf of the Crooked River Water Quality Partnership (CRWQP) to the Bureau of Reclamation's Cooperative Watershed Management Program Phase I funding.

The CRWQP will advance water quality improvements in the Crooked River, a priority for the Crooked River Sub-Basin and the Deschutes Basin as a whole. Continued support for this basin-wide collaboration is critical, and time is of the essence for forging and implementing broadly supported strategies.

The lower Crooked River is an important geography in the context of anadromous fish species reintroduction. Many millions of dollars have been expended thus far supporting efforts to reestablish both Spring Chinook and middle Columbia steelhead (ESA-listed; threatened) in the Deschutes basin. To date, much of this time and investment has been directed to water quantity and in-stream habitat concerns in the Upper Deschutes River basin and the Crooked River. As a major tributary to the Deschutes River, the Crooked River basin represents a particularly important contributor to the water quality concerns of the Deschutes River system as a whole. In addition to impacts poor water quality has on stream ecology, a significant concern is the fact the Lower Deschutes River serves as a primary source of domestic drinking water for the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs, located downstream of the Crooked River. Our organization is excited to support expanded focus on water quality issues within the Crooked River watershed. The result of this effort will be a strengthened and formalized Crooked River Partnership, expanded capacity for the Core Partners within the CRWQP, and will build upon the Crooked River Water Quality Strategic Action Plan to refine prioritized implementation strategies and goals, and develop actions to meet the water management needs of Deschutes Basin tribes, communities, agriculture, and anadromous fish as affected by the Crooked River watershed.

DEQ both supports and endorses this collaborative effort to address water quality issues in the Crooked River. You can consider DEQ a partner and an advocate on behalf of the Crooked River Partnership, its mission, and the watershed management goals it seeks to achieve.

Sincerely,

  
Cole Hendrickson

Integrated Water Resources Specialist, Oregon DEQ



# Oregon

Tina Kotek, Governor

Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife

Deschutes Watershed District Office

61374 Parrell Rd

Bend, OR 97702

541.388.6363



December 4, 2023

**Bureau of Reclamation Grant Review Committee**

**Re: Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife Support for the Deschutes River Conservancy's Application for Water Quality Improvements on the Lower Crooked River**

The Deschutes District of the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) supports the Deschutes River Conservancy (DRC) in their efforts to improve water quality in the Lower Crooked River. The DRC's application on behalf of the Crooked River Water Quality Partnership (CRWQP) to the Bureau of Reclamation's Cooperative Watershed Management Program Phase I funding aligns with many of ODFW's objectives for restoring salmonid habitat and addressing limiting factors in the lower watershed.

Improving water quality is of particular importance to the ongoing effort to reintroduce Mid-Columbia summer steelhead and spring-run Chinook Salmon into historic habitats in the upper Deschutes Watershed, including the Crooked River subbasin. The Lower Crooked River between Dry Creek and Lone Pine Creek is on the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (ODEQ) 303(d) list for nutrient, phosphorus, pH, temperature, and total dissolved gas impairment. This reach is an important migration corridor connecting the groundwater-influenced lower Crooked River Canyon with spawning and rearing habitats upstream. This grant opportunity and pilot project implementation is timely as ODEQ plans to begin total maximum daily load development for the watershed soon.

ODFW is concerned about severe water quality degradation throughout much of the Lower Crooked River Subbasin resulting in conditions that are unsuitable for salmonids during much of the low-flow irrigation season. The Crooked River subbasin has been especially affected by a prolonged drought period leading to a scarcity in water available for agricultural uses and much below normal streamflow and poor water quality conditions. In 2022, streamflow in the Crooked River in Prineville, located downstream of the main irrigation diversions, was below 15 cfs for 152 days and below 6 cfs for 95 days. In the same year, the 7-day average daily maximum stream temperature for the Crooked River in Prineville exceeded 80°F for most of July and August and temperatures were in exceedance of the 64.4°F standard from June 5 through October 12.

The Deschutes Basin has a long history of collaborative engagement and a proven track-record for implementing long-lasting solutions to meet water issues in the basin. This Partnership will advance water quality improvements in the Crooked River, a priority for the Crooked River Subbasin and the Deschutes Basin as a whole. This collaborative project presents an exciting opportunity to reestablish beneficial ecological conditions that address water related issues and limiting factors for salmon and steelhead, such as, but not limited to, water availability for fish and wildlife and poor water quality.

ODFW supports this collaborative effort to address water quality issues in the Crooked River watershed. We intend to continue our partnership with the DRC and CRWQP by providing input and feedback during the planning process and on proposed project implementation activities.

Sincerely,

Jerry George  
District Fish Biologist  
Deschutes Watershed District Office  
61374 Parrell Rd, Bend, OR 97702  
541.388.6009

*Letter of Support – DRC – WaterSMART Application -December 2023*



**BOARD MEMBERS**

December 4, 2023

Deschutes County  
Commissioner  
Anthony DeBone,  
Chair

City of La Pine Councillor  
Cathi Van Damme  
Vice-Chair

Crook County Commissioner  
Jerry Brummer

City of Bend Councillor  
Mike Riley

Jefferson County  
Commissioner  
Wayne Fording

Confederated Tribes of  
Warm Springs,  
Tribal Council Member  
Vacant

City of Culver Councillor  
David Beck

City of Redmond Councillor  
Clifford Evelyn

City of Metolius Councillor  
Carl Elliott

City of Prineville  
Councillor Raymond Law

City of Madras Councillor  
Gabriel Soliz

City of Sisters Councillor  
Susan Cobb

**APPOINTED MEMBERS**

Agribusiness & Agriculture –  
Phil Fine

Timber & Wood Products –  
Tim Deboodt

Deschutes County Appointed –  
Jay Patrick  
Chris Piper  
James Lewis

Bureau of Reclamation  
Water Resources and Planning Office  
Attn: NOFO Team  
Mail Code: 84-27133  
PO Box 25007 Denver, CO 80225

Dear Review Committee,

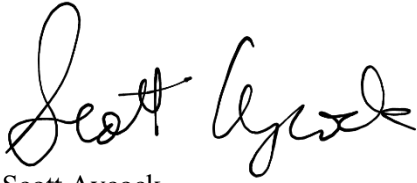
The Central Oregon Intergovernmental Council (COIC) strongly supports the Deschutes River Conservancy's application on behalf of the Crooked River Water Quality Partnership (CRWQP) to the Bureau of Reclamation's Cooperative Watershed Management Program Phase I funding. The Deschutes Basin has a long history of collaborative engagement and a proven track-record for implementing long-lasting solutions to meet water issues in the basin. This Partnership will advance water quality improvements in the Crooked River, a priority for the Crooked River Sub-Basin and the Deschutes Basin as a whole. Continued support for this basin-wide collaboration is critical, and time is of the essence for forging and implementing broadly supported strategies.

The lower Crooked River is an important geography in the context of anadromous fish species reintroduction. Many millions of dollars have been expended thus far supporting efforts to reestablish both Spring Chinook and middle Columbia steelhead (ESA-listed; threatened) in the Deschutes basin. To date, much of this time and investment has been directed to water quantity and in-stream habitat concerns in the Upper Deschutes River basin and the Crooked River. As a major tributary to the Deschutes River, the Crooked River basin represents a particularly important contributor to the water *quality* concerns of the Deschutes River system as a whole. In addition to the impacts that poor water quality has on stream ecology, a significant concern is the fact the Lower Deschutes River serves as a primary source of domestic drinking water for the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs, located downstream of the Crooked River. Our organization is excited to support expanded focus on water quality issues within the Crooked River watershed. The result of this effort will be a strengthened and formalized Crooked River Partnership, expanded capacity for the Core Partners within the CRWQP, and will build upon the Crooked River Water Quality Strategic Action Plan to refine prioritized implementation strategies and goals, and develop actions to meet the water management needs of Deschutes Basin tribes, communities, agriculture, and anadromous fish as affected by the Crooked River watershed.

As an organization that is keenly aware of, and deeply invested in the prioritizing of long-term maintenance of our larger regional watershed, the Central Oregon Intergovernmental Council both supports and endorses this collaborative effort to address water quality issues in the Crooked River. You can consider COIC a partner and an advocate on behalf of the Crooked River Partnership, its mission, and the watershed management goals it seeks to achieve.



Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Scott Aycock". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Scott" and last name "Aycock" clearly legible.

Scott Aycock  
Community and Economic Development Director  
Central Oregon Intergovernmental Council  
1250 NE Bear Creek Rd,  
Bend, OR 97701



Bend, Culver, La Pine, Madras, Maupin  
Metolius, Prineville, Redmond, Sisters

Bureau of Reclamation  
Water Resources and Planning Office  
Attn: NOFO Team  
Mail Code: 84-27133  
P.O. Box 25007 Denver, CO 80225

November 30, 2023

Dear Review Committee,

The Central Oregon Cities Organization supports the Deschutes River Conservancy's application on behalf of the Crooked River Water Quality Partnership (CRWQP) to the Bureau of Reclamation's Cooperative Watershed Management Program Phase I funding. The Deschutes Basin has a long history of collaborative engagement and a proven track-record for implementing long-lasting solutions to meet water issues in the basin. This Partnership will advance water quality improvements in the Crooked River, a priority for the Crooked River Sub-Basin and the Deschutes Basin as a whole. Continued support for this basin-wide collaboration is critical, and time is of the essence for forging and implementing broadly supported strategies.

The lower Crooked River is an important geography in the context of anadromous fish species reintroduction. Many millions of dollars have been expended thus far supporting efforts to reestablish both Spring Chinook and middle Columbia steelhead (ESA-listed; threatened) in the Deschutes basin. To date, much of this time and investment has been directed to water quantity and in-stream habitat concerns in the Upper Deschutes River basin and the Crooked River. As a major tributary to the Deschutes River, the Crooked River basin represents a particularly important contributor to the water *quality* concerns of the Deschutes River system as a whole. In addition to impacts poor water quality has on stream ecology, a significant concern is the fact the Lower Deschutes River serves as a primary source of domestic drinking water for the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs, located downstream of the Crooked River. Our organization is excited to support expanded focus on water quality issues within the Crooked River watershed. The result of this effort will be a strengthened and formalized Crooked River Partnership, expanded capacity for the Core Partners within the CRWQP, and will build upon the Crooked River Water Quality Strategic Action Plan to refine prioritized implementation strategies and goals, and develop actions to meet the water management needs of Deschutes Basin tribes, communities, agriculture, and anadromous fish as affected by the Crooked River watershed.

As an organization that is keenly aware of, and deeply invested in the prioritizing of long-term maintenance of our larger regional watershed, the Central Oregon Cities Organization both supports and endorses this collaborative effort to address water quality issues in the Crooked River. You can consider

Central Oregon Cities Organization a partner and an advocate on behalf of the Crooked River Partnership, its mission, and the watershed management goals it seeks to achieve.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael T. Preedin". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent initial "M".

Michael Preedin, Mayor of Sisters, and Chair of Central Oregon Cities Organization

Cc: COCO Members



---

**Tommy Cianciolo**  
*Water Quality Project Coordinator*

Bureau of Reclamation  
Water Resources and Planning Office  
Attn: NOFO Team  
Mail Code: 84-27133  
P.O. Box 25007 Denver, CO 80225

November 28th, 2023

Dear Review Committee,

Trout Unlimited strongly supports the Deschutes River Conservancy's application on behalf of the Crooked River Water Quality Partnership (CRWQP) to the Bureau of Reclamation's Cooperative Watershed Management Program Phase I funding. The Deschutes Basin has a long history of collaborative engagement and a proven track-record for implementing long-lasting solutions to meet water issues in the basin. This Partnership will advance water quality improvements in the Crooked River, a priority for the Crooked River Sub-Basin and the Deschutes Basin as a whole. Continued support for this basin-wide collaboration is critical, and time is of the essence for forging and implementing broadly supported strategies.

The lower Crooked River is an important geography in the context of anadromous fish species reintroduction. Many millions of dollars have been expended thus far supporting efforts to reestablish both Spring Chinook and middle Columbia steelhead (ESA-listed; threatened) in the Deschutes basin. To date, much of this time and investment has been directed to water quantity and in-stream habitat concerns in the Upper Deschutes River basin and the Crooked River. As a major tributary to the Deschutes River, the Crooked River basin represents a particularly important contributor to the water quality concerns of the Deschutes River system as a whole. In addition to impacts poor water quality has on stream ecology, a significant concern is the fact the Lower Deschutes River serves as a primary source of domestic drinking water for the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs, located downstream of the Crooked River. Our organization is excited to support expanded focus on water quality issues within the Crooked River watershed. The result of this effort will be a strengthened and formalized Crooked River Partnership, expanded capacity for the Core Partners within the CRWQP, and will build upon the Crooked River Water Quality Strategic Action Plan to refine prioritized implementation strategies and goals, and develop actions to meet the water management needs of Deschutes Basin tribes, communities, agriculture, and anadromous fish as affected by the Crooked River watershed.

As an organization that is keenly aware of, and deeply invested in the prioritizing of long-term maintenance of our larger regional watershed, the Trout Unlimited both supports and endorses this collaborative effort to address water quality issues in the Crooked River. You can consider

Trout Unlimited a partner and an advocate on behalf of the Crooked River Partnership, its mission, and the watershed management goals it seeks to achieve.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tommy Cianciolo". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Tommy" and last name "Cianciolo" clearly distinguishable.

Tommy Cianciolo  
Water Quality Project Coordinator  
Tommy.cianciolo@tu.org  
1453 Esplanade Ave  
Klamath Falls, OR, 97601



Bureau of Reclamation  
Water Resources and Planning Office  
Attn: NOFO Team  
Mail Code: 84-27133  
P.O. Box 25007 Denver, CO 80225

November 30, 2023

Dear Review Committee,

On behalf of the Deschutes Redbands Chapter of Trout Unlimited (TU) and its 720 members in the Deschutes Basin, we want to convey our strong support for the Deschutes River Conservancy's application on behalf of the Crooked River Water Quality Partnership (CRWQP) to the Bureau of Reclamation's Cooperative Watershed Management Program Phase I funding. Our Basin has a long history of collaboration and more importantly a solid track record for implementing long-lasting solutions to meet water issues in our area. This CRWQP will advance water quality improvements in the Crooked River, a priority for the Crooked River Sub-Basin and the Deschutes Basin as a whole. Continued support for this basin-wide collaboration is critical, and time is of the essence for forging and implementing broadly supported strategies and actions.

Our Chapter is particularly focused on protecting and restoring the cold-water fisheries in the Deschutes Basin. Among these fisheries, none is more important than the Crooked River in the context of anadromous fish species reintroduction. Many millions of dollars have been expended toward supporting efforts to reestablish both Spring Chinook and Middle Columbia Steelhead (ESA-listed; threatened) in the Deschutes Basin. As a major tributary to the Deschutes River, the Crooked River Basin is also a significant contributor of non-point source pollutants which degrades water quality throughout the system and impairs fish reintroduction. In addition to the impacts of poor water quality on stream ecology, another significant concern is the fact that the Lower Deschutes River serves as a primary source of domestic drinking water for the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs, located downstream of the Crooked River. For these reasons, our Chapter strongly supports an expanded and long overdue focus on water quality issues within the Crooked River Watershed. The result of this effort will be a strengthened and formalized Crooked River Partnership, expanded capacity for the core partners within the CRWQP, and refinement/prioritization of its goals and implementation strategies. We believe that specific and quantifiable results will be produced through this process in order to meet the water management needs of Deschutes Basin tribes, communities, agriculture, and anadromous fish as affected by the Crooked River.

The Crooked River is a gem that deserves our undivided attention in restoring both the river and fishery to its former healthy status. Accordingly, our Chapter supports and endorses this collaborative effort to address water quality issues in the Crooked River and trusts that the Bureau of Reclamation will approve funding for the Crooked River Partnership, its mission, and watershed management goals.

Sincerely,

Steven Goldberg, President  
Deschutes Redbands Chapter – Trout Unlimited  
16 N.W. Kansas Ave.  
Bend, OR 97703



**Bureau of Reclamation**

**Water Resources and Planning Office**

**Mail code 84-27133**

**PO Box 25007**

**Denver, CO 80225**

Attention: NOFO Team, and Review Committee:

I am the Vice President of OLAWA: the Oregon Land and Water Alliance. I have been authorized by the Board of Directors to submit our position on the pending proposal on the Deschutes River Conservancy's application on behalf of the Crooked River Water Quality Partnership for approval of the Bureau of Reclamation's Cooperative Watershed Management Program's Phase 1 funding.

The Deschutes Basin, of which the Crooked River is an integral part, has a long and solid history of identifying and implementing permanent collaborative solutions to meet water issues in our basin. This application fits neatly into our ongoing local efforts in support of this endeavor.

The Lower Crooked River is an integral part of Oregon's efforts to support and promote the reestablishment of native Columbia River Steelhead and Spring Chinook runs in the Deschutes Basin. With widespread support, we are making good progress toward that effort. But we need your help.

OLAWA is an organization with deep ties to the region's collaborative efforts to support and expand the long-term maintenance of our regional watershed. OLAWA both supports and endorses these additional collaborative efforts to address current water quality issues in the Crooked River, and throughout the Deschutes River basin.

We very much appreciate your efforts to support our local resources in this longstanding and continuing effort.

Thank you for your continued attention to these matters.

Paul Lipscomb,

(OLAWA Vice President)

PO Box 579

Sisters, OR 97759

Judgelipscomb@gmail.com





December 3, 2023

Bureau of Reclamation  
Water Resources and Planning Office  
Attn: NOFO Team  
Mail Code: 84-27133  
P.O. Box 25007 Denver, CO 80225

Dear Bureau of Reclamation Review Committee,

The Juniper Group of the Sierra Club is providing this letter in support of the Deschutes River Conservancy's application on behalf of the Crooked River Water Quality Partnership (CRWQP) to the Bureau of Reclamation's Cooperative Watershed Management Program Phase 1 funding.

The Juniper Group functions both independently and in concert with the Oregon Chapter and the National Sierra Club. The Juniper Group is dedicated to preserving Central and Eastern Oregon's environment, natural resources, and quality of life. The Sierra Club champions future-focused, science-based solutions to address the health of our environment for all, including advocating for responsible ecological management of our surface and groundwaters.

The Juniper Group has supported ongoing collaborative efforts in the Deschutes Basin that focus on meeting water needs for rivers, communities, and agriculture. The restoration of native fish and healthy rivers and streams, and protection of Endangered and Threatened species is of particular importance to our organization.

The lower Crooked River is important to the anadromous fish species reintroduction in the Deschutes River and its tributaries. Many millions of dollars have been expended thus far supporting efforts to reestablish both Spring Chinook and middle Columbia steelhead (ESA-listed; threatened) in the Deschutes basin. To date, much of this time and investment has been directed to water quantity and in-stream habitat concerns in the Upper Deschutes River basin and the Crooked River. As a major tributary to the Deschutes River, the Crooked River basin represents a particularly important contributor to water quality impacts on the Deschutes River system. Poor water quality has a significant impact on river ecology. Of equal concern is the fact that the Lower Deschutes River serves as a primary source of domestic drinking water for the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs, located downstream of the Crooked River.

The Juniper Group of the Sierra Club believes it is essential for the BOR, State of Oregon, local communities, and non-profit organizations to support expanded efforts to focus on and address water quality issues within the Crooked River watershed. It is our hope that this effort will result in a partnership with expanded capacity to develop and implement strategies and projects that address these water quality issues. The Crooked River Water Quality Partnership will be enabled to build upon the Crooked River Water Quality Strategic Action Plan to develop actions to meet the ecological needs of the Crooked and Lower Deschutes Rivers, the Deschutes Basin tribes, communities, agriculture, and anadromous fish that are affected by the Crooked River watershed.

We believe that the ongoing collaborative efforts to restore ecosystem function in the Deschutes River basin at a regional scale and to help recover endangered species is achievable and essential, and we support this collaborative effort to address water quality issues and the ecosystem processes in the Crooked River. We urge you to support the Deschutes River Conservancy's application on behalf of the Crooked River Water Quality Partnership.

Sincerely,

/s/ Nancy Gilbert  
Juniper Group Executive Committee  
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