



## **Declaration of Cooperation**

### **Water for Irrigation Streams and Economy (WISE)**

**September 26, 2012**

**Sponsored by:**

**City of Medford  
Jackson County  
Medford Irrigation District  
Medford Water Commission  
Rogue River Valley Irrigation District  
Talent Irrigation District  
Oregon Solutions**

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# Declaration of Cooperation

## Oregon Solutions Process

Oregon Solutions (OS) is a program of the National Policy Consensus Center at Portland State University. The mission of Oregon Solutions is to develop solutions to community based problems that support sustainable objectives and are built through the collaborative efforts of citizens, businesses, government and non-profit organizations. The OS approach integrates and makes efficient use of public and private investments, elevates the visibility of the project and engages communities in creating solutions. The process provides a neutral forum – a place where various interests, community leaders and stakeholders can come together as parties in a “Project Team” to think creatively and take action to move forward.

The WISE partners asked Governor Kitzhaber for Oregon Solutions to help them with three things:

1. Identify EIS funding
2. Create a multi-year phased plan
3. Recommend a governance structure to implement the plan

## Purpose of Declaration of Cooperation

Through the Oregon Solutions process, collaboration between parties on the WISE Project Team has resulted in many recommendations, decisions and agreements. This document, the Declaration of Cooperation, memorializes these as a non-binding *implementation plan*.

The Declaration of Cooperation serves as a roadmap or guidebook for WISE to use as they move forward. To supplement the Declaration, each party in the Project Team agrees to stakeholder commitments. These describe their commitment to the process, why they have participated, and how they may contribute to the actions identified as appropriate by the parties through the OS process, as documented in the Declaration. The Declaration, including the stakeholder commitments, is considered to be a “living” document that may evolve as unforeseen opportunities present themselves.

Successfully implementing the WISE Action Plan will require the commitments of all parties as identified later in this document. These commitments and this Declaration of Cooperation signify the substantial completion of the Oregon Solutions process. However, the success of the WISE Project will require an ongoing collaborative effort and the creation of a WISE organization and Board of Directors through an intergovernmental agreement (IGA).

## WISE Project Team

### Conveners:

Senator Jason Atkinson  
Representative Peter Buckley

### Project Sponsors:

- City of Medford
- Jackson County
- Medford Irrigation District
- Medford Water Commission
- Rogue River Valley Irrigation District
- Talent Irrigation District

### Additional Project Team Members and Declaration of Cooperation signers:

- Bear Creek Watershed Council
- Coastal Conservation Association
- The Freshwater Trust
- Geos Institute
- Governor’s Regional Solutions Center
- Harry and David
- Jackson County Farm Bureau
- Jackson Soil and Water Conservation District
- Little Butte Creek Watershed Council
- National Fish and Wildlife Foundation
- Natural Resources Conservation Service
- Oregon Department of Environmental Quality
- Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife
- Oregon Water Resources Commission
- Oregon Water Resources Department
- Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
- Rogue Flyfishers
- Rogue Riverkeepers
- Rogue Valley Council of Governments
- Rogue Valley Sewer Services
- Southern Oregon Research & Extension Center
- US Bureau Of Reclamation
- US Bureau of Land Management
- US Fish and Wildlife Service
- US Forest Service
- US National Marine Fisheries Service
- US Senator Jeff Merkley
- US Senator Ron Wyden
- US Congressman Greg Walden
- WaterWatch

### Oregon Solutions Project Manager:

Jim Jacks

## **WISE Project Background**

The WISE project is a multi-faceted partnership between water users and stakeholders working proactively to improve water quality and quantity in the Little Butte Creek and Bear Creek watersheds for irrigation, aquatic habitat, and other uses in an economically and environmentally feasible manner.

The WISE Project is located within Jackson County. The defined study area includes Bear Creek, Little Butte Creek, and tributaries and reservoirs that serve the Bear Creek and Little Butte Creek watersheds. The WISE portion of the Bear Creek Watershed includes six municipalities within its boundaries, including the Cities of Medford, Ashland, Talent, Central Point, Phoenix and Jacksonville. Agriculture is a significant land use in the two basins and the agricultural lands are primarily served by the Talent, Medford, and Rogue River Valley Irrigation Districts. In the Rogue River Valley, 35,000 acres of farms are supported by irrigation water delivered by these three districts. The current irrigation system is an arrangement of mostly open canals that flow through six reservoirs- Four Mile Lake, Fish Lake, Howard Prairie Reservoir, Hyatt Reservoir, Agate Reservoir and Emigrant Lake, and intersect with Bear Creek and Little Butte Creek and their tributaries at various points.

## **Problem and Goals**

The irrigation infrastructure is outdated and is cause for a significant amount of water loss throughout the system. The WISE Project is needed because the Little Butte Creek and Bear Creek watersheds suffer from unreliable irrigation water supplies and degraded water quantity and quality for native anadromous salmonids and for other uses during low flow periods.

Specific goals of the WISE project are to:

- Improve efficiency of water deliveries to the Medford, Rogue River Valley, and Talent irrigation districts.
- Improve irrigation water supply reliability for the Medford, Rogue River Valley, and Talent irrigation districts.
- Improve water conservation system-wide.
- Improve water quantity, water quality, and water reliability for native anadromous salmonids.
- Improve aesthetics and recreation values of reservoirs, streams, and rivers.
- Improve water quality at the Robert Duff Water Treatment Facility intake by improving water quality in Little Butte Creek.
- Incorporate the most cost-effective solution for the reliable reuse of effluent from the Regional Water Reclamation Facility's future discharge permit requirements into the WISE Project.

## **Partners**

During the Oregon Solutions phase of the WISE project, WISE had six primary partners: City of Medford, Medford Water Commission (MWC), Jackson County, Talent Irrigation District (TID), Medford Irrigation District (MID), and Rogue River Valley Irrigation District (RRVID). In addition to the six primary partners, there was a 19 member Project Advisory Committee (PAC). It included members from several stakeholder organizations and provided input on the project and assisted with public education and outreach.

## **Significant WISE Milestones**

Preliminary Feasibility Study 2009

In December 2009 a *Preliminary Feasibility Report* was completed. The purpose of the preliminary feasibility study was to complete a technical screening of conceptual projects that could address the

WISE goals. From the feasibility study two top options emerged. Potential projects screened through this phase will be further developed and evaluated in a subsequent feasibility study/environmental impact statement. Additional engineering studies will be completed as project alternatives are further developed based on the recommendations of this *Preliminary Feasibility Report*.

#### Cost Benefit Analysis 2012

In 2012 WISE successfully competed for an Oregon Water Resources Department (OWRD) grant of \$243,000 to conduct a cost benefit analysis. This will specifically quantify various project components including piping, pressure levels, hydro power, reclaimed effluent, increasing reservoir storage and other topics. That work will commence in the fall of 2012.

#### Oregon Solutions (OS) 2012

At the WISE Partners request, Governor Kitzhaber designated WISE an Oregon Solutions Project. He appointed Senator Jason Atkinson and Representative Peter Buckley as co-conveners. The OS Project Team had more than 40 members. The Kickoff meeting was in January 2012 and its final meeting was August 2012. Oregon Solutions helped the team achieve three main goals: identify EIS funding, create a multi-year plan and recommend a governance structure to implement the plan.

#### Next Steps

The OS-WISE Project Team agreed to the following next steps:

- The WISE Feasibility Study/Environmental Impact Statement (FS/EIS) will be done by the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation). They are the lead federal agency for the NEPA document. It is estimated that the EIS could cost approximately \$3 million to complete. Reclamation has been Congressionally authorized to perform the EIS. But they have not yet been appropriated sufficient funds to do so.
- Secure the identified EIS funding
- Implement the WISE Action Plan
- Create the new WISE governance structure

## **WISE Project Team Commitments**

The commitments represented in the following pages form a public statement of intent to participate in the project, to strive to identify opportunities and solutions whenever possible, to contribute assistance and support within resource limits, and to collaborate with other team members in promoting the success of the WISE project. All team members acknowledge that the best solutions depend upon cooperation by all entities at the table. Accordingly, they recognize that each party has a unique perspective and contribution to make and legitimate interests that need to be taken into account for the project's success.

**This Declaration of Cooperation, while not a binding legal contract, is evidence to and a statement of the good faith and commitment of the undersigned parties. The undersigned parties to this Declaration of Cooperation have, through a collaborative process, agreed and pledged their cooperation to the following findings and actions:**

### **Representative Peter Buckley:**

Representative Buckley has acted a Co-Convener for the WISE Project at the request of Governor Kitzhaber. He has a strong interest in the success of this project. The WISE Project encompasses his legislative district and the interests of the population he represents. The stated goals of the WISE Project, including improving the economy, protecting regional agriculture and restoring local streams, are all consistent with the values Representative Buckley works to protect.

The Oregon Solutions process and the Declaration of Cooperation represent the commitments of the stakeholders which participated in the Oregon Solutions process for the WISE Project. These commitments are necessary to: maintain the involvement of the Project stakeholders, provide a mechanism for each stakeholder to continue to actively participate and serve as a roadmap to guide us towards successful implementation of WISE in the years to come.

In support of the WISE Project, Representative Buckley declares his commitment to:

- Collaborate with WISE partners and stakeholders to secure EIS funding.
- Support the implementation of the WISE Action Plan.
- Lead the effort for WISE to be listed as a top priority for the 2013 legislative session by the Southern Oregon legislative delegation to secure \$1.5 million of state funding towards the federal matching funds for the WISE EIS.
- Serve as convener for one meeting of the Oregon Solutions-WISE Project Team in July 2013 to evaluate the status of the project and progress made toward the commitments contained in this document.
- Review the completed Cost Benefit Analysis document in August 2013.
- Participate in WISE community outreach and education activities as needed.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: 9-26-12

**Representative Peter Buckley, Oregon State House of Representatives, 5th District**

FINAL, Approved by BCWC Exec. Committee, Oct. 2, 2012

**Bear Creek Watershed Council:**

The Bear Creek Watershed Council (BCWC) has long recognized the need for improving water quality in the Bear Creek watershed while supporting the regional importance of agriculture. Additionally, BCWC has supported the WISE Project as a means to meet these irrigation infrastructure improvements while also improving instream conditions, recreation opportunities, and local economies.

The Oregon Solutions process and the Declaration of Cooperation represent the commitments of the stakeholders, including BCWC, which participated in the Oregon Solution process for the WISE Project. These commitments are necessary to: maintain the involvement of the Project stakeholders, provide a mechanism for each stakeholder to continue to actively participate and serve as a roadmap to guide us towards successful implementation of WISE in the years to come.

In support of the WISE Project, Bear Creek Watershed Council declares its commitment to assist in achieving the following goals:

1. Actively work with our partners and stakeholders to implement the attached WISE Action Plan.
2. Collaborate with WISE partners and stakeholders to secure EIS funding.
3. Coordinate outreach and education activities with WISE outreach efforts.
4. Provide technical assistance as needed to the FS/EIS consulting team.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

*Steve Mason*

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

*10/4/2012*

**Steve Mason, Bear Creek Watershed Council, Chair**



**Coastal Conservation Association:**

The Coastal Conservation Association (CCA) has long recognized the need for improving stream habitat in the Rogue Valley while protecting the regional agricultural economy. Additionally, CCA has supported the WISE Project as a means to meet these irrigation infrastructure improvements while also improving instream conditions, recreation opportunities, and local economies.

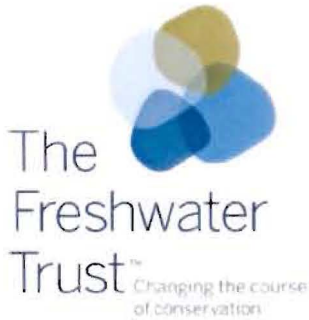
The Oregon Solutions process and the Declaration of Cooperation represent the commitments of the stakeholders, including CCA, which participated in the Oregon Solution process for the WISE Project. These commitments are necessary to: maintain the involvement of the Project stakeholders, provide a mechanism for each stakeholder to continue to actively participate and serve as a roadmap to guide us towards successful implementation of WISE in the years to come.

In support of the WISE Project, Coastal Conservation Association declares its commitment to:

- Actively work with our partners and stakeholders to implement the attached WISE Action Plan.
- Provide funding towards staffing the WISE Project Coordinator.
- Collaborate with WISE partners and stakeholders to secure EIS funding.
- Meet with members of the local state legislative delegation by November 30, 2012 to advocate that state funding towards the federal matching funds for WISE be listed as a top priority by the Southern Oregon legislative delegation for the 2013 legislative session.
- Participate in WISE community outreach and education activities as needed.
- Provide technical assistance as needed to the FS/EIS consulting team.
- 

Signed:  Date: 26 Sept 2012

**Coastal Conservation Association**



September 26, 2012

To whom it may concern:

The Freshwater Trust (TFT) has long recognized the need for improving stream habitat in the Rogue Basin while protecting the regional agricultural economy. Additionally, TFT has supported the WISE Project as a means to meet these irrigation infrastructure improvements while also improving instream conditions, recreation opportunities, and local economies.

The Oregon Solutions process and the Declaration of Cooperation represent the commitments of the stakeholders, including TFT, which participated in the Oregon Solution process for the WISE Project. These commitments are necessary to: maintain the involvement of the Project stakeholders, provide a mechanism for each stakeholder to continue to actively participate and serve as a roadmap to guide us towards successful implementation of WISE in the years to come.

In support of the WISE Project, The Freshwater Trust declares its commitment to:

- Actively work with our partners and stakeholders to implement the attached WISE Action Plan.
- Collaborate with WISE partners and stakeholders to secure EIS funding.
- Meet with members of the local state legislative delegation by November 30, 2012 to advocate that state funding towards the federal matching funds for WISE be listed as a top priority by the Southern Oregon legislative delegation for the 2013 legislative session.
- Participate in a meeting of the Oregon Solutions Project Team in July 2013 to evaluate the status of the project and progress made toward the commitments contained in this document.
- Review the completed Cost Benefit Analysis document in August 2013.
- Participate in WISE community outreach and education activities as needed.
- Provide technical assistance as needed to the FS/EIS consulting team.

In support,

Alan Horton  
Managing Director

455 W Yamhill Street, Suite 200  
Eugene, Oregon 97404  
503.222.5031  
[www.thefreshwatertrust.org](http://www.thefreshwatertrust.org)

Jesse Whitworth, President

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**Jack Williams, Ph.D.**  
Trout Unlimited

September 17, 2012

**WISE Project Team**

Re: Geos Institute, Declaration of Cooperation

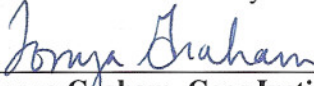
The Geos Institute has long recognized the need for improving stream habitat conditions in the Rogue Valley in a manner, if at all possible, that also protects the regional agricultural economy. Additionally, the Geos Institute has supported the WISE Project as a means to meet these irrigation infrastructure improvements while also improving instream condition, recreation opportunities, and local economies.

The Declaration of Cooperation represents the commitments of the stakeholders, including the Geos Institute, which participated in the Oregon Solutions process for the WISE Project. These commitments are necessary to maintain the involvement of the Project stakeholders, provide a mechanism for each stakeholder to continue actively participating, and guide stakeholders to a successful implementation of WISE in the years to come.

In support of the WISE Project, the Geos Institute declares its commitment to:

- Actively work with our partners and stakeholders to implement the WISE Action Plan.
- Collaborate with WISE partners and stakeholders to secure funding towards staffing the WISE Project Coordinator.
- Collaborate with WISE partners and stakeholders to secure EIS funding.
- Meet with local state legislative delegation to advocate for state funding toward the federal matching funds for WISE be listed as a top priority by the Southern Oregon legislative delegation for the 2013 legislative session.
- Participate on the Oregon Solutions Project Team to evaluate project status and progress made toward the commitments contained in this document.
- Review the completed Cost Benefit Analysis document.
- Serve on the Instream Committee.

Geos Institute's support of the WISE Project and our commitments as stated above are based on the assumption that the partners and stakeholders will reach a benefit sharing agreement acceptable to Geos Institute by the end of 2013. If this does not occur, Geos Institute reserves the right to reconsider its support of the WISE Projects and our commitments beyond that date.

Signed:   
**Tonya Graham, Geos Institute,  
Executive Director**

Date: 9/18/12

**Governor's Regional Solutions Center:**

The Governor's Regional Solutions Center recognizes the need for improving stream habitat in the Rogue Valley while protecting the regional agricultural economy. Additionally, the Regional Solutions Center has supported the WISE Project as a means to meet these irrigation infrastructure improvements while also improving instream conditions, recreation opportunities, and local economies.

The Oregon Solutions process and the Declaration of Cooperation represent the commitments of the stakeholders, including the Regional Solutions Center, which participated in the Oregon Solutions process for the WISE Project. These commitments are necessary to: maintain the involvement of the Project stakeholders, provide a mechanism for each stakeholder to continue to actively participate and serve as a roadmap to guide us towards successful implementation of WISE in the years to come.

In support of the WISE Project, the Regional Solutions Center declares its commitment to:

- Actively work with our partners and stakeholders to implement the attached WISE Action Plan.
- Collaborate with WISE partners and stakeholders to secure EIS funding.
- Participate in a meeting of the Oregon Solutions Project Team in July 2013 to evaluate the status of the project and progress made toward the commitments contained in this document.
- Review the completed Cost Benefit Analysis document in August 2013.
- Participate in WISE community outreach and education activities as needed.
- Assist in identifying state resources that can assist in project development.
- Keep the Governor's Office informed about project status.

Signed:



Date: 9-26-12

**Jeff Griffin, Regional Coordinator, Governor Kitzhaber's Regional Solutions Center**



Pete Kratz  
Executive VP, Operations  
(541) 864-2652  
(541) 864-4884 FAX  
pkratz@harryanddavid.com

Oregon Solutions-WISE Project Team,

August 17, 2012

Harry & David has long recognized the need for improving stream habitat in the Rogue Valley while protecting the regional agricultural economy. Additionally, Harry & David has supported the WISE Project as a means to meet these irrigation infrastructure improvements while also improving instream conditions, recreation opportunities, and local economies.

Harry & David participated in the Oregon Solutions process for the WISE Project. As a stakeholder of water resources in the Rogue Valley, Harry & David commits to continuing to work with other stakeholders towards successful implementation of WISE in the years to come.

In support of the WISE Project, Harry & David declares its commitment to:

- Continue to work with our partners and stakeholders to implement the attached WISE Action Plan.
- Consider some funding towards staffing the WISE Project Coordinator.
- Collaborate with WISE partners and stakeholders to secure EIS funding.
- Participate in a meeting of the Oregon Solutions Project Team in July 2013 to evaluate the status of the project and progress made toward the commitments contained in this document.
- Review the completed Cost Benefit Analysis document in August 2013.
- Participate in WISE community outreach and education activities as needed.
- Provide technical assistance as needed to the FS/EIS consulting team.

Sincere regards,

Pete Kratz  
Executive Vice President  
Operations

PK/nb



BEFORE THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

STATE OF OREGON, COUNTY OF JACKSON

IN THE MATTER OF A DECLARATION OF )  
COOPERATION FOR THE WATER FOR )  
IRRIGATION, STREAMS AND ECONOMY )  
(WISE) PROJECT )

ORDER NO. 290-12

WHEREAS, Jackson County has long recognized the need to protect the regional agricultural economy and improve water quality; and

WHEREAS, the Water for Irrigation, Streams, & Economy (WISE) Project is developing strategies to improve irrigation infrastructure while also improving instream conditions, recreation opportunities, and local economies; and

WHEREAS, the Oregon Solutions process has been working with stakeholders, including Jackson County, to further develop the WISE Project; and

WHEREAS, The Oregon Solutions process is concluding with all stakeholders completing a Declaration of Cooperation to demonstrate each stakeholders commitment to maintain involvement in the project and to serve as a roadmap to guide us towards successful implementation of WISE in the years to come; and

WHEREAS, this Declaration of Cooperation, while not legally binding, is evidence to and a statement of the good faith and commitment of Jackson County to the WISE project.

Now, therefore,

In support of the WISE Project, the Board of County Commissioners of Jackson County declares its commitment to:

1. Actively work with our partners and stakeholders to implement the WISE project, including participation on project and leadership teams, stakeholder meetings, and public outreach.
2. Provide funding towards the staffing of the WISE Project Coordinator as county funding allows.

3. Collaborate with WISE partners and stakeholders to secure grant funding to complete an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the project.
4. Participate in a meeting of the Oregon Solutions Project Team in July 2013 to evaluate the status of the project.
5. Participate in WISE community outreach and education activities as needed.
6. Provide technical assistance as needed to the FS/EIS consulting team.

DATED this 19<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2012, at Medford, Oregon.

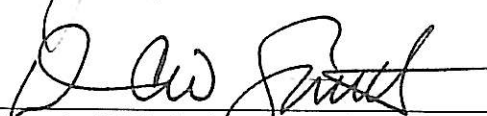
JACKSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS



Don Skundrick, Chair



John Rachor, Commissioner



Dennis C.W. Smith, Commissioner

**Jackson County Farm Bureau:**

The Jackson County Farm Bureau (JCFB) has long recognized the need for improving stream habitat in the Rogue Valley while protecting the regional agricultural economy. Additionally, JCFB has supported the WISE Project as a means to meet these irrigation infrastructure improvements while also improving instream conditions, recreation opportunities, and local economies.

The Oregon Solutions process and the Declaration of Cooperation represent the commitments of the stakeholders, including JCFB, which participated in the Oregon Solution process for the WISE Project. These commitments are necessary to: maintain the involvement of the Project stakeholders, provide a mechanism for each stakeholder to continue to actively participate and serve as a roadmap to guide us towards successful implementation of WISE in the years to come.

In support of the WISE Project, Jackson County Farm Bureau declares its commitment to:

- Actively work with our partners and stakeholders to implement the attached WISE Action Plan.
- Provide funding towards staffing the WISE Project Coordinator.
- Collaborate with WISE partners and stakeholders to secure EIS funding.
- Meet with members of the local state legislative delegation by November 30, 2012 to advocate that state funding towards the federal matching funds for WISE be listed as a top priority by the Southern Oregon legislative delegation for the 2013 legislative session.
- Participate in a meeting of the Oregon Solutions Project Team in July 2013 to evaluate the status of the project and progress made toward the commitments contained in this document.
- Review the completed Cost Benefit Analysis document in August 2013.
- Participate in WISE community outreach and education activities as needed.
- Provide technical assistance as needed to the FS/EIS consulting team.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_



Date: \_\_\_\_\_

9/26/12

**Bill Ryan, Jackson County Farm Bureau, Board member**





Jackson Soil & Water Conservation District  
573 Parsons Drive, Suite 102, Medford, Oregon 97501  
Phone: (541) 776-4270 Ext. 3 FAX: (541) 776-4295  
web-site: [www.jswcd.org](http://www.jswcd.org)

## Jackson County Soil & Water Conservation District:

The Jackson County Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD) has long recognized the need for improving stream habitat in the Rogue Valley while protecting the regional agricultural economy. Additionally, SWCD has supported the Water for Irrigation, Streams and the Economy (WISE) Project as a means to meet these irrigation infrastructure improvements while also improving instream conditions, recreation opportunities, and local economies.

The Oregon Solutions process and the Declaration of Cooperation represent the commitments of the stakeholders, including SWCD, which participated in the Oregon Solution process for the WISE Project. These commitments are necessary to: maintain the involvement of the Project stakeholders, provide a mechanism for each stakeholder to continue to actively participate and serve as a roadmap to guide us towards successful implementation of WISE in the years to come.

In support of the WISE Project, Jackson County Soil & Water Conservation District declares its commitment to:

- Actively work with our partners and stakeholders to implement the attached WISE Action Plan.
- Provide funding or in-kind contributions towards assisting WISE staff.
  - a. JSWCD staff time – Senior Planner; Communication Education and Outreach Coordinator and/or
  - b. Funding, based on WISE budgetary needs and JSWCD funding availability.
- Collaborate with WISE partners and stakeholders to secure Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) funding.
- Board members will meet with or contact members of the local state legislative delegation by November 30, 2012 to advocate that state funding towards the federal matching funds for WISE be listed as a top priority by the Southern Oregon legislative delegation for the 2013 legislative session.
- Participate in a meeting of the Oregon Solutions Project Team in July 2013 to evaluate the status of the project and progress made toward the commitments contained in this document.
- Review the completed Cost Benefit Analysis document in August 2013.
- Participate in WISE community outreach and education activities as needed.
- Provide technical assistance as needed to the FS/EIS consulting team and workgroups.

Signed: Allen Campbell Date: 09-19-12  
"Name", Jackson County Soil & Water Conservation District, Chair

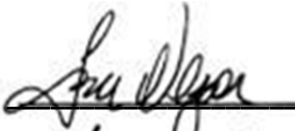
**Little Butte Creek Watershed Council:**

The Little Butte Creek Watershed Council (LBCWC) has long recognized the need for improving stream habitat in the Rogue Valley while protecting the regional agricultural economy. Additionally, LBCWC has supported the WISE Project as a means to meet these irrigation infrastructure improvements while also improving instream conditions, recreation opportunities, and local economies.

The Oregon Solutions process and the Declaration of Cooperation represent the commitments of the stakeholders, including LBCWC, which participated in the Oregon Solutions process for the WISE Project. These commitments are necessary to: maintain the involvement of the Project stakeholders, provide a mechanism for each stakeholder to continue to actively participate and serve as a roadmap to guide us towards successful implementation of WISE in the years to come.

In support of the WISE Project, Little Butte Creek Watershed Council declares its commitment to:

- Actively work with our partners and stakeholders to implement the attached WISE Action Plan.
- Provide funding towards staffing the WISE Project Coordinator.
- Collaborate with WISE partners and stakeholders to secure EIS funding.
- Participate in a meeting of the Oregon Solutions Project Team in July 2013 to evaluate the status of the project and progress made toward the commitments contained in this document.
- Review the completed Cost Benefit Analysis document in August 2013.
- Participate in WISE community outreach and education activities as needed.
- Provide technical assistance as needed to the FS/EIS consulting team.
- 

Signed:  \_\_\_\_\_ Date: 9/26/12 \_\_\_\_\_  
*for Lou Decker*

**Little Butte Creek Watershed Council**



OFFICE OF  
THE CITY MAYOR  
www.ci.medford.or.us

**CITY OF MEDFORD**  
411 WEST 8TH STREET  
MEDFORD, OREGON 97501

TELEPHONE (541) 774-2000  
FAX: (541) 618-1700  
E-mail: [mayor@ci.medford.or.us](mailto:mayor@ci.medford.or.us)

August 20, 2012

Dear Water for Irrigation, Streams and the Economy Project Advisory Committee:

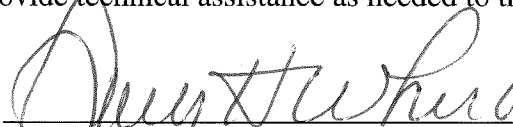
The City of Medford (Medford) has long recognized the need for improving stream habitat in the Rogue Valley while protecting the regional agricultural economy. Additionally, Medford has supported the WISE Project as a means to meet these irrigation infrastructure improvements while also improving instream conditions, recreation opportunities, and local economies.

The Oregon Solutions process and the Declaration of Cooperation represent the commitments of the stakeholders, including Medford, which participated in the Oregon Solution process for the WISE Project. These commitments are necessary to: maintain the involvement of the Project stakeholders, provide a mechanism for each stakeholder to continue to actively participate and serve as a roadmap to guide us towards successful implementation of WISE in the years to come.


In support of the WISE Project, City of Medford declares its commitment to:

- Actively work with our partners and stakeholders to implement the attached WISE Action Plan.
- Provide funding towards staffing the WISE Project Coordinator.
- Collaborate with WISE partners and stakeholders to secure EIS funding.
- Participate in a meeting of the Oregon Solutions Project Team in July 2013 to evaluate the status of the project and progress made toward the commitments contained in this document.
- Review the completed Cost Benefit Analysis document in August 2013.
- Participate in WISE community outreach and education activities as needed.
- Provide technical assistance as needed to the FS/EIS consulting team.

Signed:

  
Gary Wheeler, City of Medford, Mayor

Date:



**Medford Irrigation District:**

The Medford Irrigation District (MID) has long recognized the need for improving stream habitat in the Rogue Valley while protecting the regional agricultural economy. Additionally, MID has supported the WISE Project as a means to meet these irrigation infrastructure improvements while also improving instream conditions, recreation opportunities, and local economies.

The Oregon Solutions process and the Declaration of Cooperation represent the commitments of the stakeholders, including MID, which participated in the Oregon Solution process for the WISE Project. These commitments are necessary to: maintain the involvement of the Project stakeholders, provide a mechanism for each stakeholder to continue to actively participate and serve as a roadmap to guide us towards successful implementation of WISE in the years to come.

In support of the WISE Project, Medford Irrigation District declares its commitment to:

- Actively work with our partners and stakeholders to implement the attached WISE Action Plan.
- Provide funding if available by District upon Board approval and if any available would be January 1, 2013 through December 2013.
- Collaborate with WISE partners and stakeholders to secure EIS funding.
- MID along with all partners, meet with members of the local state legislative delegation by November 30, 2012 to advocate that state funding towards the federal matching funds for WISE be listed as a top priority by the Southern Oregon legislative delegation for the 2013 legislative session.
- Participate in a meeting of the Oregon Solutions Project Team in July 2013 to evaluate the status of the project and progress made toward the commitments contained in this document.
- Review the completed Cost Benefit Analysis document in August 2013.
- Participate in WISE community outreach and education activities as needed.
- Provide technical assistance as needed to the FS/EIS consulting team.
- Provide assistance to the WISE staff, take minutes or help as needed

Signed:  \_\_\_\_\_ Date: 8-8-12 \_\_\_\_\_  
**Gary West, Board Chairman, Medford Irrigation District**

**Medford Water Commission**  
**Declaration of Cooperation for the WISE Project**

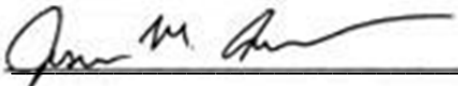
The Medford Water Commission (MWC) has long recognized the value of managing our water resources to maintain a sustainable and reliable regional supply for Municipal, Industrial, Agriculture, Aquatic species, Wildlife and the Environment. MWC has supported the Water for Irrigation, Streams and Economy (WISE) Project as a means to meet the irrigation infrastructure improvements while also improving instream conditions, water quality, recreation opportunities and the local economies.

The Oregon Solutions Process and the Declaration of Cooperation (DOC) represent the commitments of the stakeholders, including MWC, which participated in the Oregon Solutions Process for the WISE Project. These commitments are necessary in order to: maintain involvement of the Project stakeholders, provide a mechanism for each stakeholder to continue to actively participate, and serve as a roadmap to guide us towards successful implementation of WISE in the years to come.

In support of the WISE Project, MWC hereby declares its commitment to:

- Actively work with the partners and stakeholders to implement the WISE Action Plan, attached as Exhibit A;
- Continue funding towards staffing the WISE Project Coordinator position;
- Collaborate with WISE partners and stakeholders to secure Environmental Impact Statement funding;
- Meet with members of the local state legislative delegation by November 30, 2012, to advocate that state funding towards the federal matching funds for WISE be listed as a top priority by the Southern Oregon legislative delegation for the 2013 legislative session;
- Participate in a meeting of the Oregon Solutions Project Team in July 2013 to evaluate the status of the project and progress made toward the commitments contained in this document;
- Review the completed Cost Benefit Analysis document in August 2013;
- Participate in the development of the Benefit Sharing Agreement(s);
- Participate in WISE community outreach and education activities as needed; and
- Provide technical assistance as needed to the Feasibility Study/Environmental Impact Statement consulting team.

**Medford Water Commission**

By:  \_\_\_\_\_ Date: 9-26-12 \_\_\_\_\_  
Jason Anderson, Chair, Board of Water Commissioners

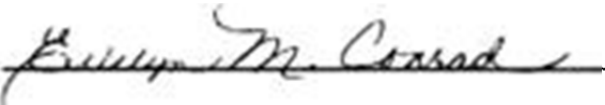
**Natural Resources Conservation Service:**

The Natural Resources Conservation Service has long recognized the need for improving stream habitat in the Rogue Valley while protecting the regional agricultural economy. Additionally, the Natural Resources Conservation Service has supported the WISE Project as a means to meet these irrigation infrastructure improvements while also improving instream conditions, recreation opportunities, and local economies.

The Oregon Solutions process and the Declaration of Cooperation represent the commitments of the stakeholders, including the Natural Resources Conservation Service, which participated in the Oregon Solutions process for the WISE Project. These commitments are necessary to: maintain the involvement of the Project stakeholders, provide a mechanism for each stakeholder to continue to actively participate and serve as a roadmap to guide us towards successful implementation of WISE in the years to come.

In support of the WISE Project, the Natural Resources Conservation Service declares its commitment to:

- Actively work with our partners and stakeholders to provide input on implement the attached WISE Action Plan, within the capacity of NRCS staffing resources.
- Participate in the Oregon Solutions Project Team in July 2013 to evaluate the status of the project and progress made toward the commitments contained in the action plan.
- Provide technical assistance as needed to the FS/EIS consulting team.
- Work with local partners to help identify and request financial resources needed for agricultural producers to address on-farm improvements to water quality, subject to the availability of technical and financial resources.

Signed:  \_\_\_\_\_ Date: 9-24/2012 \_\_\_\_\_

**Evelyn Conrad, Basin Team Leader, Natural Resource Conservation Service**

**Oregon Department of Environmental Quality:**

The Oregon Department of Environmental Quality has long recognized the need for improving stream habitat in the Rogue Valley while protecting the regional agricultural economy. Additionally, the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality has supported the WISE Project as a means to meet these irrigation infrastructure improvements while also improving in-stream conditions, recreation opportunities, and local economies.

The Oregon Solutions process and this Declaration of Cooperation represent the commitments of the stakeholders, including the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality, which participated in the Oregon Solution process for the WISE Project. These commitments are necessary to: maintain the involvement of the Project stakeholders, provide a mechanism for each stakeholder to continue to actively participate and serve as a roadmap to guide us towards successful implementation of WISE in the years to come.

In support of the WISE Project, the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality declares its commitment to:

- Actively work with our partners and stakeholders to implement the attached WISE Action Plan.
- Participate in a meeting of the Oregon Solutions Project Team in July 2013 to evaluate the status of the project and progress made toward the commitments contained in this document.
- Review the completed Cost Benefit Analysis document in August 2013.
- Continue to contribute to workgroup meetings and activities. These workgroups include municipal stormwater, in-stream, and governance, and may include other topics in the future.
- Participate in WISE community outreach and education activities as needed.
- Collaborate with WISE partners and stakeholders to secure EIS funding.
- Provide technical assistance as needed to the FS/EIS consulting team.
- Coordinate through the Regional Solutions Team with other state and federal agencies.
- Assist with identification and pursuit of additional funding sources.
- Meet with WISE staff to evaluate loan options and assist with application procedures.
- Review application for CWSRF loan in a timely fashion.
- Assist with evaluation of in-stream benefits when design detail becomes available.

Signed:  \_\_\_\_\_ Date: 9/28/12 \_\_\_\_\_

**Keith Andersen**  
**Western Region Administrator**  
**Oregon Department of Environmental Quality**

**Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife:**

The Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife has long recognized the need for improving stream habitat in the Rogue Valley while protecting the regional agricultural economy. Additionally, the Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife has supported the WISE Project as a means to meet these irrigation infrastructure improvements while also improving instream conditions, recreation opportunities, and local economies.

The Oregon Solutions process and the Declaration of Cooperation represent the commitments of the stakeholders, including the Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife, which participated in the Oregon Solution process for the WISE Project. These commitments are necessary to: maintain the involvement of the Project stakeholders, provide a mechanism for each stakeholder to continue to actively participate and serve as a roadmap to guide us towards successful implementation of WISE in the years to come.

In support of the WISE Project, the Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife declares its commitment to:

- Actively work with our partners and stakeholders to implement the attached WISE Action Plan.
- Collaborate with WISE partners and stakeholders to secure EIS funding.
- Participate in a meeting of the Oregon Solutions Project Team in July 2013 to evaluate the status of the project and progress made toward the commitments contained in this document.
- Review the completed Cost Benefit Analysis document in August 2013.
- Participate in WISE community outreach and education activities as needed.
- Provide technical assistance as needed to the FS/EIS consulting team.

Signed:  \_\_\_\_\_ Date: 9/26/12

**Russ Stauff, Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife, Rogue Watershed Manager**





# Oregon

John A. Kitzhaber, MD, Governor

**Water Resources Department**  
North Mall Office Building  
725 Summer Street NE, Suite A  
Salem, OR 97301-1271  
503-986-0900  
FAX 503-986-0904

## **Oregon Water Resources Commission:**

The Oregon Water Resources Commission has long recognized the need for improving stream habitat in the Rogue Valley while protecting the regional agricultural economy. Additionally, the Oregon Water Resources Commission has supported the WISE Project as a means to meet irrigation infrastructure improvements while also improving instream conditions, recreation opportunities, and local economies.

The Oregon Solutions process and the Declaration of Cooperation represent the commitments of the stakeholders, including the Oregon Water Resources Commission through its Southern Oregon Commissioner, which participated in the Oregon Solution process for the WISE Project. These commitments are necessary to: maintain the involvement of the Project stakeholders, provide a mechanism for each stakeholder to continue to actively participate and serve as a roadmap to guide us towards successful implementation of WISE in the years to come.

In support of the WISE Project, the Oregon Water Resources Commission declares its commitment to:

- **Actively** work with our partners and stakeholders to implement the attached WISE Action Plan.
- **Collaborate** with WISE partners and stakeholders to assist in securing EIS Funding.
- Participate in a meeting of the Oregon Solutions Project Team in July 2013 to evaluate the status of the project and progress made towards the commitments contained in this document.
- Review and comment on the completed Cost Benefit Analysis document in August 2013.
- Participate in WISE community outreach and education activities as time permits.
- Provide technical assistance as time permits to the FS/EIS consulting team.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

John E. Jackson, Chair  
Oregon Water Resources Commission

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

8/27/12



# Oregon

John A. Kitzhaber, MD, Governor

## Water Resources Department

North Mall Office Building  
725 Summer Street NE, Suite A  
Salem, OR 97301-1271  
503-986-0900  
FAX 503-986-0904

### **Oregon Water Resources Department:**

The Oregon Water Resources Department has long recognized the need for improving stream habitat in the Rogue Valley while protecting the regional agricultural economy. Additionally, the Oregon Water Resources Department has supported the WISE Project as a means to meet these irrigation infrastructure improvements while also improving instream conditions, recreation opportunities, and local economies.

The Oregon Solutions process and the Declaration of Cooperation represent the commitments of the stakeholders, including the Oregon Water Resources Department, which participated in the Oregon Solution process for the WISE Project. These commitments are necessary to: maintain the involvement of the Project stakeholders, provide a mechanism for each stakeholder to continue to actively participate and serve as a roadmap to guide us towards successful implementation of WISE in the years to come.

In support of the WISE Project, the Oregon Water Resources Department declares its commitment to:

- Actively work with our partners and stakeholders to implement the attached WISE Action Plan as time and resources allow.
- Collaborate with WISE partners and stakeholders to assist in securing EIS funding as time and resources allow.
- Participate in a meeting of the Oregon Solutions Project Team in July 2013 to evaluate the status of the project and progress made toward the commitments contained in this document.
- Review the completed Cost Benefit Analysis document in August 2013.
- Participate in WISE community outreach and education activities as time and resources allow.
- Provide technical assistance as time and resources allow to the FS/EIS consulting team.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

  
Phillip C. Ward, Director  
Oregon Water Resources Department

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

9/10/12

**Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board:**

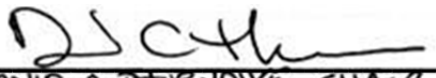
The Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board has long recognized the need for improving stream habitat in the Rogue Valley while protecting the regional agricultural economy. Additionally, the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board has supported the WISE Project as a means to meet these irrigation infrastructure improvements while also improving instream conditions, recreation opportunities, and local economies.

The Oregon Solutions process and the Declaration of Cooperation represent the commitments of the stakeholders, including the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board, which participated in the Oregon Solutions process for the WISE Project. These commitments are necessary to: maintain the involvement of the Project stakeholders, provide a mechanism for each stakeholder to continue to actively participate and serve as a roadmap to guide us towards successful implementation of WISE in the years to come.

In support of the WISE Project, the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board declares its commitment to:

- Collaborate with WISE partners to identify potential funding sources for supporting the WISE Project Coordinator position.
- Collaborate with WISE partners and stakeholders to identify potential EIS funding sources.
- Participate in a meeting of the Oregon Solutions Project Team in July 2013 to evaluate the status of the project and progress made toward the commitments contained in this document.
- Review the completed Cost Benefit Analysis document in August 2013.
- Participate in WISE community outreach and education activities as needed.
- Provide technical assistance as needed to the FS/EIS consulting team.

Signed:

  
By DANIEL C. THORNDIKE, CHAIR

Date: 9/26/2012

Tom Byler, Director, Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

# OS-WISE Declaration of Cooperation

adopted by Rogue Flyfishers Board September 5, 2012

## Rogue Flyfishers:

The Rogue Flyfishers has long recognized the need for improving stream habitat in the Rogue Valley while protecting the regional agricultural economy. Rogue Flyfishers has supported the WISE Project as a means to meet irrigation infrastructure improvement while also improving water quality, fish habitat, instream conditions, recreation opportunities, and local economies.

The Oregon Solutions process and the Declaration of Cooperation represent the commitments of the stakeholders, including the Rogue Flyfishers, which participated in the Oregon Solution process for the WISE Project. These commitments are necessary to: maintain the involvement of the Project stakeholders, provide a mechanism for each stakeholder to continue to actively participate and serve as a roadmap to guide us towards successful implementation of WISE in the years to come.

In support of the WISE Project, the Rogue Flyfishers declares its commitment to:

- Actively work with our partners and stakeholders to implement the WISE Action Plan.
- Consider funding towards staffing the WISE Project Coordinator as resources permit.
- Collaborate with partners and stakeholders to secure Environmental Impact Statement funding.
- Meet with members of the local state legislative delegation by November 30, 2012 to advocate that state funding towards the federal matching funds for WISE be listed as a top priority by the Southern Oregon legislative delegation for the 2013 legislative session.
- Participate in the development of the Benefits Sharing Agreement(s).
- Participate in a meeting of the Oregon Solutions Project Team in July 2013 to evaluate the status of the project and progress made toward the commitments contained in this document.
- Serve on the Instream Workgroup
- Review and comment on the completed Cost Benefit Analysis document in August 2013.
- Participate in WISE community outreach and education activities as time permits.
- Provide technical assistance as needed to the Feasibility Study/ Environmental Impact Statement consulting team.

Rogue Flyfishers support of the WISE Project and its commitments stated above are based on the assumption that the partners and stakeholders will be able to reach a benefit sharing agreement acceptable to Rogue Flyfishers by the end of 2013. If this does not occur Rogue Flyfishers reserves the right to reconsider its support for the WISE Project and its commitments stated above.

Signed:  Date: 9/26/12

**Kellie Christensen, President, Rogue Flyfishers**

**Rogue Riverkeeper:**

Rogue Riverkeeper recognizes the need for improving stream habitat in the Rogue Valley while protecting the regional agricultural economy. Rogue Riverkeeper has supported the WISE Project as a means to meet irrigation infrastructure improvements while also improving water quality, fish habitat, recreation opportunities, and local economies.

The Oregon Solutions process and the Declaration of Cooperation represent the commitments of the stakeholders, including Rogue Riverkeeper, which participated in the Oregon Solution process for the WISE Project. These commitments are necessary to maintain the involvement of the Project stakeholders, provide a mechanism for each stakeholder to continue to actively participate and serve as a roadmap to guide us towards successful implementation of WISE in the years to come.

In support of the WISE Project, Rogue Riverkeeper declares its commitment to:

- Actively work with our partners and stakeholders to implement the attached WISE Action Plan.
- Collaborate with partners to secure funding towards staffing the WISE Project Coordinator.
- Collaborate with WISE partners and stakeholders to secure EIS funding.
- Meet with members of the local state legislative delegation by November 30, 2012 to advocate that state funding towards the federal matching funds for WISE be listed as a top priority by the Southern Oregon legislative delegation for the 2013 legislative session.
- Participate in a meeting of the Oregon Solutions Project Team in July 2013 to evaluate the status of the project and progress made toward the commitments contained in this document.
- Review the completed Cost Benefit Analysis document in August 2013.
- Participate in WISE community outreach and education activities.
- Provide technical assistance as needed to the FS/EIS consulting team.
- Host a listserv for the WISE group and any committees that desire a listserv.
- Serve on the In-stream and Communications Committees.

Rogue Riverkeeper's support of the WISE Project and its commitments stated above are based on the assumption that the Partners and stakeholders will be able to reach a benefit sharing agreement acceptable to Rogue Riverkeeper by the end of 2013. If this does not occur then Rogue Riverkeeper reserves the right to reconsider its support for the Wise Project and its commitments stated above.

Signed:  Date: 9/26/12  
**Lesley Adams, Rogue Riverkeeper, Program Director**

# Rogue River Valley Irrigation District

3139 Merriman Road  
Medford, OR 97501

Phone: (541) 773-6127  
Fax: (541) 773-5420  
Email: [rrvid@rrvid.org](mailto:rrvid@rrvid.org)  
[www.rrvid.org](http://www.rrvid.org)

## Oregon Solutions – WISE Project Declaration of Cooperation, August 2012

The Rogue River Valley Irrigation District (RRVID) has long recognized the need for improving stream habitat in the Rogue Valley while protecting the regional agricultural economy. Additionally, RRVID has supported the WISE Project as a means to meet these irrigation infrastructure improvements while also improving instream conditions, recreation opportunities, and local economies.

The Oregon Solutions process and the Declaration of Cooperation represent the commitments of the stakeholders, including RRVID, which participated in the Oregon Solution process for the WISE Project. These commitments are necessary to: maintain the involvement of the Project stakeholders, provide a mechanism for each stakeholder to continue to actively participate and serve as a roadmap to guide us towards successful implementation of WISE in the years to come.

In support of the WISE Project, Rogue River Valley Irrigation District declares its commitment to:

- Actively work with our partners and stakeholders to implement the attached WISE Action Plan.
- Provide funding to WISE as budget allows.
- Provide in house office staff to work on WISE Project needs as the District Manager sees fit.
- Collaborate with WISE partners and stakeholders to secure EIS funding.
- Meet with members of the local state legislative delegation by November 30, 2012 to advocate that state funding towards the federal matching funds for WISE be listed as a top priority by the Southern Oregon legislative delegation for the 2013 legislative session.
- Participate in a meeting of the Oregon Solutions Project Team in July 2013 to evaluate the status of the project and progress made toward the commitments contained in this document.
- Review the completed Cost Benefit Analysis document in August 2013.
- Participate in WISE community outreach and education activities as needed.
- Provide technical assistance as needed to the FS/EIS consulting team.
- Continue to participate in the work group sub-committees.
- Provide irrigation delivery technical assistance.

Signed:  Date: 8/23/12  
Bryan Baumgartner, Rogue River Valley Irrigation District, Director

Signed:  Date: 8/23/12  
Brian Hampson, Rogue River Valley Irrigation District, Alternate

**Rogue Valley Council of Governments:**

The Rogue Valley Council of Governments has long recognized the need for improving stream habitat in the Rogue Valley while protecting the regional agricultural economy. Additionally, the Rogue Valley Council of Governments has supported the WISE Project as a means to meet these irrigation infrastructure improvements while also improving instream conditions, recreation opportunities, and local economies.

The Oregon Solutions process and the Declaration of Cooperation represent the commitments of the stakeholders, including the Rogue Valley Council of Governments, which participated in the Oregon Solutions process for the WISE Project. These commitments are necessary to: maintain the involvement of the Project stakeholders, and provide a mechanism for each stakeholder to continue to actively participate and serve as a roadmap to guide us towards successful implementation of WISE in the years to come.

In support of the WISE Project, the Rogue Valley Council of Governments declares its commitment to:

- Actively work with our partners and stakeholders to implement the attached WISE Action Plan.
- Work with other supporters to seek funding for staffing the WISE Project Coordinator position(s).
- Collaborate with WISE partners and stakeholders to secure EIS funding.
- Participate in a meeting of the Oregon Solutions Project Team in July 2013 to evaluate the status of the project and progress made toward the commitments contained in this document.
- Review the completed Cost Benefit Analysis document in August 2013.
- Participate in WISE community outreach and education activities.
- Provide technical assistance to the FS/EIS consulting team.

Signed:  \_\_\_\_\_ Date: 9/17/12 \_\_\_\_\_

**Michael Cavallaro, Executive Director, Rogue Valley Council of Governments**



**University Outreach and Engagement**  
**Southern Oregon Region** (Jackson, Josephine Counties & Southern Oregon Research & Extension Center)  
Oregon State University, 569 Hanley Road, Central Point, Oregon 97502  
T 541-776-7371 | F 541-772-5110 | <http://outreach.oregonstate.edu/>

**Southern Oregon Research & Extension Center:**

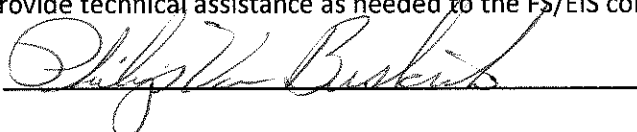
The Southern Oregon Research & Extension Center has long recognized the need for improving stream habitat in the Rogue Valley while protecting the regional agricultural economy. Additionally, the Southern Oregon Research & Extension Center has supported the WISE Project as a means to meet these irrigation infrastructure improvements while also improving instream conditions, recreation opportunities, and local economies.

The Oregon Solutions process and the Declaration of Cooperation represent the commitments of the stakeholders, including the Southern Oregon Research & Extension Center, which participated in the Oregon Solutions process for the WISE Project. These commitments are necessary to: maintain the involvement of the Project stakeholders, provide a mechanism for each stakeholder to continue to actively participate and serve as a roadmap to guide us towards successful implementation of WISE in the years to come.

In support of the WISE Project, the Southern Oregon Research & Extension Center declares its commitment to:

- Actively work with our partners and stakeholders to implement the attached WISE Action Plan as deemed appropriate.
- Collaborate with and support the WISE partners and stakeholders as they secure EIS funding.
- Participate in a meeting of the Oregon Solutions Project Team in July 2013 to evaluate the status of the project and progress made toward the commitments contained in this document.
- Review the completed Cost Benefit Analysis document in August 2013.
- Participate in WISE community outreach and education activities as needed.
- Provide technical assistance as needed to the FS/EIS consulting team.

Signed:



Date:



**Philip Van Buskirk, Southern Oregon Research & Extension Center, Director**



**Talent Irrigation District:**

The Talent Irrigation District (TID) has long recognized the need for improving stream habitat in the Rogue Valley while protecting the regional agricultural economy. Additionally, TID has supported the WISE Project as a means to meet these irrigation infrastructure improvements while also improving instream conditions, recreation opportunities, and local economies.

The Oregon Solutions process and the Declaration of Cooperation represent the commitments of the stakeholders, including TID, which participated in the Oregon Solutions process for the WISE Project. These commitments are necessary to: maintain the involvement of the Project stakeholders, provide a mechanism for each stakeholder to continue to actively participate and serve as a roadmap to guide us towards successful implementation of WISE in the years to come.

In support of the WISE Project, Talent Irrigation District declares its commitment to:

- Actively work with our partners and stakeholders to implement the attached WISE Action Plan.
- Provide funding towards staffing the WISE Project Coordinator.
- Collaborate with WISE partners and stakeholders to secure EIS funding.
- Meet with members of the local state legislative delegation by November 30, 2012 to advocate that state funding towards the federal matching funds for WISE be listed as a top priority by the Southern Oregon legislative delegation for the 2013 legislative session.
- Participate in a meeting of the Oregon Solutions Project Team in July 2013 to evaluate the status of the project and progress made toward the commitments contained in this document.
- Review the completed Cost Benefit Analysis document in August 2013.
- Participate in WISE community outreach and education activities as needed.
- Provide technical assistance as needed to the FS/EIS consulting team.

Signed: Bob Morris Date: 9-26-12

**Bob Morris, Talent Irrigation District, President of the Board**

**U.S. Bureau of Reclamation:**

The U.S. Bureau of Reclamation has long recognized the need for improving stream habitat in the Rogue Valley while protecting the regional agricultural economy. Additionally, the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation has supported the WISE Project as a means to meet these irrigation infrastructure improvements while also improving instream conditions, recreation opportunities, and local economies.

The Oregon Solutions process and the Declaration of Cooperation represent the commitments of the stakeholders, including the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, which participated in the Oregon Solutions process for the WISE Project. These commitments are necessary to: maintain the involvement of the Project stakeholders, provide a mechanism for each stakeholder to continue to actively participate and serve as a roadmap to guide us towards successful implementation of WISE in the years to come.

In support of the WISE Project and pending Congressional authorization and appropriation, the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation declares its commitment to:

- Actively work with our partners and stakeholders to implement the attached WISE Action Plan.
- Provide funding towards staffing the WISE Project Coordinator.
- Collaborate with WISE partners and stakeholders to identify and secure EIS funding.
- Participate in a meeting of the Oregon Solutions Project Team in July 2013 to evaluate the status of the project and progress made toward the commitments contained in this document.
- Review the completed Cost Benefit Analysis document with the WISE Board and other stakeholders beginning in August 2013, as time and resources allow.
- Participate in WISE community outreach and education activities as appropriate.
- Take the lead to conduct the Feasibility Study/Environmental Impact Statement.
- Provide guidance and advice to WISE Board of Directors before, during and after the FS/EIS process.

Signed:  Date: 8/29/12

**Gerald W. Kelso**

**Columbia-Cascades Area Manager**


**United States Fish & Wildlife Service:**

The Fish and Wildlife Service's (Service) mission is to work with others to conserve, protect and enhance fish, wildlife and plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. To accomplish our mission, the Service has long recognized the need for improving stream habitat in the Rogue Valley while maintaining a sustainable regional agricultural economy. The Service has supported the WISE Project as a means to meet the need for agricultural-irrigation infrastructure improvements while also improving instream conditions benefitting trust resources.

The Oregon Solutions process and the Declaration of Cooperation represent the commitments of the stakeholders, including the Service, which participated in the Oregon Solutions process for the WISE Project. These commitments are necessary to: maintain the involvement of the Project stakeholders, provide a mechanism for each stakeholder to continue to actively participate, and serve as a roadmap to guide us towards successful implementation of WISE in the years to come.

In support of the WISE Project, the Service declares its commitment to:

- Actively work with our partners and stakeholders to implement the WISE Action Plan.
- Collaborate with WISE partners and stakeholders to secure EIS funding.
- Participate in a meeting of the Oregon Solutions Project Team in July 2013 to evaluate the status of the project and progress made toward the commitments contained in this document.
- Review the completed Cost Benefit Analysis document in August 2013.
- As resources allow, participate in WISE community outreach and education activities as needed.
- As resources allow, provide technical assistance as needed to the FS/EIS consulting team.
- Provide technical assistance in project planning for listed species under Service jurisdiction.
- Conduct Endangered Species Act consultation, as needed, for the proposed project

Signed:  Date: 9/26/2012

**Jim Thrailkill, Roseburg Field Office Supervisor,**

**United States Fish & Wildlife Service**

Oregon Solutions – WISE Project Declaration of Cooperation, August 2012

**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS):**

The NMFS has long recognized the need for improving stream habitat in the Rogue Valley while protecting the regional agricultural economy. Additionally, NMFS has supported the WISE Project as a means to meet these irrigation infrastructure improvements to improve instream conditions.

The Oregon Solutions process and the Declaration of Cooperation represent the commitments of the stakeholders, including NMFS, which participated in the Oregon Solutions process for the WISE Project. These commitments are necessary to: maintain the involvement of the Project stakeholders, provide a mechanism for each stakeholder to continue to actively participate and serve as a roadmap to guide us towards successful implementation of WISE in the years to come.

In support of the WISE Project, NOAA's NMFS declares its commitment to:

- Actively work with our partners and stakeholders to implement a WISE Action Plan.
- Collaborate with WISE partners and stakeholders to secure EIS funding.
- Participate in a meeting of the Oregon Solutions Project Team in July 2013 to evaluate the status of the project and progress made toward the commitments contained in this document.
- Review the completed Cost Benefit Analysis document in August 2013.
- As resources permit, participate in WISE community outreach and education activities as needed.
- As resources permit, provide technical assistance as needed to the FS/EIS consulting team.
- Complete Endangered Species Act and Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act consultations with the Bureau of Reclamation.

Signed:  Date: 9/26/2012

**Kenneth W. Phippen, NOAA Fisheries, Oregon Coast Branch Chief, Habitat Conservation Division**

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

October 10, 2012  
WISE Project Team  
c/o Steve Mason, Project Manager  
Medford Irrigation District  
P. O. Box  
Medford, Oregon

Dear WISE Project Team,

We write to express our congratulations to the Water for Irrigation, Streams and Economy (WISE) Project Team for the recent signing of an Oregon Solutions Memorandum of Understanding of a Declaration of Cooperation (MOU). The MOU is the culmination of six months of extraordinary effort by many partners on the common goal of conserving water by improving the outdated irrigation infrastructure in the Bear Creek and Little Butte Creek watersheds.

We are pleased that Governor Kitzhaber had designated WISE an Oregon Solutions project and that State Representative Peter Buckley has convened a group of community leaders from the public sector, private sector and non-profits around the table.


Congratulations on your multi-faceted partnership between water users and stakeholders. You are working proactively to improve water quality and quantity in the Little Butte Creek and Bear Creek watersheds for irrigation, aquatic habitat, and other uses in an economically and environmentally feasible manner. Piping your canal and lateral system will improve the reliability and efficiency of water deliveries, and a pressurized system will allow farmers and orchardists to irrigate more effectively. It will also improve the water quality and quantity for native anadromous salmonids and improve instream habitat.

Our staffs have apprised us of the successful collaboration to identify ways for agricultural interests and environmental interests to move forward together. You should be proud of the relationships you have built and the creative solutions you have been agreed upon. You understand that the best solutions depend upon cooperation by all entities at the table.

Successfully implementing the WISE Action Plan will require your ongoing collaboration and the commitment of many people and organizations. We have asked our staffs to remain engaged with your efforts and work closely with the relevant federal agencies to help the WISE team move forward.

Please feel free to contact our offices if we can be of any assistance.

Sincerely,



Jeff Merkley  
United States Senator



Ron Wyden  
United States Senator



### **WaterWatch of Oregon Declaration of Cooperation in Respect to the WISE Project:**

WaterWatch has long recognized the need for improving stream habitat in the Rogue Valley while protecting the regional agricultural economy. Additionally, WaterWatch has supported the WISE Project as a means to improve irrigation infrastructure while also improving instream conditions, recreation opportunities, and the local economy.

The Oregon Solutions process and the Declaration of Cooperation represent the commitments of the stakeholders, including WaterWatch, which participated in the Oregon Solution process for the WISE Project. These commitments are necessary to: maintain the involvement of the Project stakeholders, provide a mechanism for each stakeholder to continue to actively participate and serve as a roadmap to guide us towards successful implementation of WISE in the years to come.

In support of the WISE Project, WaterWatch declares its commitment to:

- Actively work with our partners and stakeholders to implement the attached WISE Action Plan.
- Collaborate with WISE Partners and stakeholders to secure funding towards staffing the WISE Project Coordinator.
- Collaborate with WISE partners and stakeholders to secure EIS funding.
- Meet with members of the local state legislative delegation by November 30, 2012 to advocate that state funding towards the federal matching funds for WISE be listed as a top priority by the Southern Oregon legislative delegation for the 2013 legislative session.
- Participate in a meeting of the Oregon Solutions Project Team in July 2013 to evaluate the status of the project and progress made toward the commitments contained in this document.
- Review the completed Cost Benefit Analysis document in August 2013.
- Participate in WISE community outreach and education activities.
- Provide technical assistance as needed to the FS/EIS consulting team.
- Serve on the Instream Committee.
- Participate in negotiations of a benefit sharing agreement that includes defined instream benefits resulting from the WISE Project.

WaterWatch's support of the WISE Project and its commitments stated above are based on the assumption that the Partners and stakeholders will be able to reach a benefit sharing agreement acceptable to WaterWatch by the end of 2013. If this does not occur then WaterWatch reserves the right to reconsider its support for the WISE Project and its commitments stated above.

**John DeVoe, Executive Director**

**Dated: 8/30/12**

# Attachment A – Feasibility Study / Environmental Impact Statement (FS/EIS) Funding Hybrid Scenario

## Recommendation, August 2012

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In an era of limited resources, the competition for public money in Salem and Washington DC is stiff. Being a “very worthy” project is insufficient to get funded. WISE needs to become a “community top priority.” WISE has a powerful win-win (both agriculture and environment) story to tell that is compelling at many levels. The on-going collaboration and this win-win aspect is what makes this project “special.” In addition, the cost benefit analysis will demonstrate the specific financial return on the investment of public dollars.

This document illustrates a variety of paths towards FS/EIS funding. This document is not about construction funding.

The WISE Project Team assumes that the FS/EIS will cost \$3 million and 50% of that must be from non-federal sources. See bullets below for more details.

### FS/EIS Background

- Bureau of Reclamation (BOR)'s existing congressional authorization (see below) is sufficient for them to conduct any level of FS/EIS.
- The rule of 3x3x3 (\$3 million, 3 years and a 3 inch thick document) applies though there is a chance (decent) that a programmatic EIS will come in less on each count.
- However, a programmatic usually requires additional environmental work when preparing to *construct* phases of the project.
- Because the majority of the project is defined by piping canals and laterals most of the additional environmental work during construction phases would likely be relatively simple such as environmental assessments (EA) and categorical exclusions (CatExs).
- The Project Team unanimously agreed that the BOR should conduct the FS/EIS
- The Project Team unanimously agreed that BOR should do a Programmatic FS/EIS

### FS/EIS Funding Information

- The authorization says the local share / federal share of the \$3 million is 50%/50% (see below).
- BOR staff could begin working on a WISE FS/EIS as soon as funds were made available.
  - \*If WISE supplied funds for a match, BOR could initiate the FS/EIS before any federal funds were put in BOR's budget. However, if federal funds were delayed, then work would discontinue as soon as local funds were fully expended.
- Local funds already spent (\$243,000 for the cost benefit analysis and \$40,000 for Oregon Solutions) counts towards the 50% local match.

## **BOR's Existing Congressional Authorization**

“Consolidated Natural Resources Act of 2008”

Title V—BUREAU OF RECLAMATION AND UNITED STATES GEOLOGICAL SURVEY AUTHORIZATIONS

Sec. 509. Oregon water resources.

(c) LITTLE BUTTE/BEAR CREEK SUBBASINS, OREGON, WATER RESOURCE STUDY.—

(1) AUTHORIZATION.—The Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Bureau of Reclamation, may participate in the Water for Irrigation, Streams and the Economy Project water management feasibility study and environmental impact statement in accordance with the “Memorandum of Agreement Between City of Medford and Bureau of Reclamation for the Water for Irrigation, Streams, and the Economy Project”, dated July 2, 2004.

(2) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—There is authorized to be appropriated to the Bureau of Reclamation \$500,000 to carry out activities under this subsection.

(B) NON-FEDERAL SHARE.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—The non-Federal share shall be 50 percent of the total costs of the Bureau of Reclamation in carrying out paragraph (1).

(ii) FORM.—The non-Federal share required under clause (i) may be in the form of any in-kind services that the Secretary of the Interior determines would contribute substantially toward the conduct and completion of the study and environmental impact statement required under paragraph (1).

(3) SUNSET.—The authority of the Secretary to carry out any provisions of this subsection shall terminate 10 years after the date of the enactment of this section.

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## **Local/Private Sector/Foundation Funding**

### **Community Leader Education and Outreach**

It is critical to build broad and deep support for WISE among community leaders in the Valley. The Project Team understands the term “community leader” to be broadly defined. It could include elected officials, business leaders and CEOs, non-profit executive directors and board members, religious leaders, philanthropists, and anyone in the agricultural and environmental communities.

Another way to figure out who needs to be on board is to answer this question: If WISE is implemented and successful, who wins? The people and organizations in your answers need to be educated and then asked to provide in-kind support or financially contribute to WISE.

The WISE Action Plan has a community leader education and outreach section. It is critical that this be completed on time. The Communications-Media Workgroup has compiled a first draft list of community leaders to meet with. The Project Team should meet with 100 community leaders by the end of 2012. If each Project Team member meets with 3 leaders then the goal will be achieved.

For WISE to be a “community top priority” then the community leadership needs to understand it and support it.



## Potential Local Agricultural Allies & Funders

The Agriculture-Irrigation District Workgroup was asked for names of farmers they believed would be the most willing stop using flood irrigation techniques and switch to a pressurized irrigation system. This alphabetized list represents a group of potential WISE project allies. They should be fully educated about WISE and what the positive on-farm benefits for them could be. It is possible that they might become financial supporters of the project.

1. Rick Anderson
2. Roxy Ann – Hillcrest Orchards
3. Associated Fruit
4. Bryan Baumgartner
5. Ron Bjork
6. Carpenters
7. Murphy Clark
8. John Demick
9. L.A. Farms
10. Harry and David
11. Larry Martin
12. Jerry May
13. Don and Trautie Moore
14. Naumes Inc.
15. John Rachor - Pitchfork Ranch
16. Marilyn Rice
17. Jim Roberts
18. Ann Root
19. Seven Oaks Farms
20. Peter Slint
21. C.W. Smith
22. Dalton Straws
23. Trune Winery
24. Henry Vaninetti
25. Ed Vaughn
26. Ron Von Der Helen
27. Rob Wallace
28. Bill Warren
29. Mark Wisnovsky – Valley View Winery
30. Woolridge Winery

The location of these farms should be factored into decision making processes when deciding where pilot projects or early piping components would be installed.

In addition, most orchards in the Valley spend significant amounts of money for temperature control during the spring and summer. Any orchardist or vineyard should be approached as a potential WISE ally and supporter.

## National Fish & Wildlife Foundation

Project Team member Jim Root is a Board member for the National Fish & Wildlife Foundation (NFWF). He brought Christina Wolniakowski, NFWF Western Regional Director, to the Communications –Media Workgroup meeting on July 30<sup>th</sup>. We had an hour long conversation about WISE and then she requested a half day tour. While NFWF does not make million dollar investments, she did ask how NFWF can help.

## **Federal Funding**

Essentially, WISE needs to work with the Bureau of Reclamation to determine how to get funded for \$1.5 million in their budget in such a way that the Congressional delegation can successfully support it. Success in Washington DC will depend on a planned, organized and focused effort. Message discipline and clarity will be important. Timing and relationships will be critical. Professional assistance will be required.

Federal agencies have made significant investments in the Rogue Basin over the last several years. The WISE project can leverage and magnify the value of those previous investments. In addition, this community's experience during the BiOp consultation process could serve as a springboard.

## **State Funding**

### **Unify the Southern Oregon Legislative Delegation**

Convener Representative Peter Buckley is leading an effort to unify the southern Oregon legislative delegation behind supporting a request for \$1.5 million in the state budget for FS/EIS funding for WISE. He needs WISE Project Team members to meet with their legislators to talk about WISE and ask them to support WISE funding as a "top priority" during the 2013 Legislative Session.

The following 12 organization's Declaration of Cooperation commitments include the bullet:

"Meet with members of the local state legislative delegation by November 30, 2012 to advocate that state funding towards the federal matching funds for WISE be listed as a top priority by the Southern Oregon legislative delegation for the 2013 legislative session."

Coastal Conservation Association

Freshwater Trust

Geos Institute

Jackson County Farm Bureau

Jackson Soil and Water Conservation District

Medford Irrigation District

Medford Water Commission

Rogue Flyfishers

Rogue River Valley Irrigation District

Rogue Riverkeepers

Talent Irrigation District

WaterWatch

The WISE Action Plan has a specific section detailing the required activities between now and the end of the 2013 legislative session. It is imperative that these things be done on time and in a coordinated way.

### **Governor John Kitzhaber's June 19<sup>th</sup> visit**

Project Team member Jeff Griffin arranged for Governor John Kitzhaber to visit the Oak Street diversion on June 19<sup>th</sup>. Bob Hunter, Bob Morris, Henry Vaninetti and Steve Mason briefed him about the WISE project.

Earlier that day Project Team member Dan Thorndike spoke about the WISE project with Governor Kitzhaber and his Regional Solutions Advisory Team. During this meeting the Governor mentioned the West Coast Infrastructure Fund concept that he is exploring with the Governors of Washington and California.

In August the Governor's Office asked the two lead staff involved to get briefed on the WISE project. Oregon Solutions staff is scheduling a briefing for September.

## Department of Environmental Quality Memorandum

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**To:** WISE Project Members **Date:** July 9, 2012  
**From:** Kate Jackson, DEQ Southern Oregon Regional Liaison  
**Subject:** Project Eligibility for Clean Water State Revolving Fund Loan

The purpose of this memo is to provide basic information to the Water for Irrigation Streams and Economy project about the possible use of DEQ's Clean Water State Revolving Fund loan program. The CWSRF program provides low-interest loans to public agencies for the planning, design or construction of various projects that enhance, protect, or restore water quality. Several irrigation projects in eastern Oregon have received CWSRF funding. Following are key points that may be pertinent to the WISE project:

- Because the CWSRF program is a loan program, applicants must be able to demonstrate the ability to repay loans. The applicant, therefore, must be a 'Public Agency' as defined in ORS 468.423, which includes: incorporated cities, counties, sanitary authorities, federally recognized tribal governments, county service districts, metropolitan service districts, other special districts authorized to construct water pollution control facilities, or intergovernmental entities created by local units of government under ORS 190.003-190.130.
- The WISE project would likely be categorized as a nonpoint source project, which can include irrigation system improvements, riparian habitat restoration, source water protection, etc. Portions of the project may qualify for Green Project Reserve funds set aside for financing water efficiency improvements, green infrastructure, or environmentally innovative activities.
- Funding is also available for planning activities, including water quality data collection and measurement, evaluation, report preparation, environmental review and other reasonable activities leading to a written plan. The CWSRF program sets aside a reserve of up to \$3 million for planning loans. Individual allocations from the planning loan reserve will initially not exceed \$150,000. However, planning loan requests above this amount may still be funded through either unused reserve funds or general funds if money is available.
- Interest rates vary according to the type and term of the loan and are adjusted quarterly. Current interest rates may be found online. Note that for non-planning loans, an annual 0.5% fee is assessed each year on the unpaid balance for administrative costs. This annual fee is in addition to the annual interest rate. Planning loans do not include an annual fee.
- To apply for a loan, an applicant should contact the DEQ regional project officer. Although applications may be submitted at any time, the application scoring process typically occurs 3 times a year. The next scoring process will likely take place in October and applicants, therefore, are encouraged to submit by September 14<sup>th</sup>.
- To explore the financing terms of other State and Federal funding agencies and/or possible coordination, the applicant may also consider contacting OBDD's IFA to schedule a 'One-Stop' meeting.
- Bureau of Reclamation noted that local match for federal funds cannot originate from another federal program. Consultation with BOR found that state loans are eligible because of their repayment provisions. Grants would not be eligible if the source funds were federal. DEQ can use non-federal funds for the loan. Eligibility should be re-confirmed by consultation at the time of application.

Further information can be found in the attached Facts Sheets, online at <http://www.deq.state.or.us/wq/loans/loans.htm> and <http://www.deq.state.or.us/wq/pubs/factsheets/loans/11WQ011AppProcess.pdf>

## Attachment B -- WISE Action Plan - Adopted August 2012

Task	2012				2013				2014				2015				2016			
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
<b>Complete Feasibility Study/Environmental Impact Statement (FS/EIS)</b>																				
✓ <b>DECIDE: Programmatic EIS, Full Project EIS, Multiple Phased EISs</b>																				
Refine \$3M FS/EIS figure (FS \$1M / EIS \$2M)																				
Develop outline of federal appropriation process for WISE to be in BOR budget																				
✓ Identify state funding sources and develop plan																				
Identify local, private sector and foundation funding sources and develop plan																				
✓ Create hybrid plan to secure FS/EIS funding																				
Create plan to fund an Irrigation District piping component																				
Create plan to secure funding for long term capital phases																				
✓ <b>DECIDE: Which of three funding scenario(s) to pursue (federal or state or local/private sector/foundation. Or a <i>hybrid combination</i>.)</b>																				
Working with allies to include FS/EIS funding in BOR FY 14 budget																				
FS/EIS funding included in adopted BOR FY14 budget																				
Working with allies to include FS/EIS funding in State budget																				
Working with allies to secure local/private sector/foundation funding for FS/EIS																				
BOR selects & contracts for FS/EIS																				
FS/EIS done by BOR with contractor																				
BOR secures final approval & Record of Decision (ROD)																				

## Attachment B -- WISE Action Plan - Adopted August 2012

Task	2012	2012	2012	2012	2012	2013	2013	2013	2013	2013	2014	2014	2014	2014	2014	2015	2015	2015	2015	2015	2016	2016	2016	2016	2016
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1
<b>Organizational Structure</b>																									
Develop list of organizational tasks & responsibilities																									
Org Task -- Problem Solving (this means identify issues, gather info, make decisions & implement solutions to address issues relating to: Agriculture, Irrigation, Stormwater, Instream, Recreation, Municipal, Reclaimed effluent, shallow wells.)																									
Org Task -- Create & Maintain Support for WISE Project (this includes all types of community leaders, stakeholders, & agencies)																									
Org Task - - Relationship with Bureau of Reclamation																									
Org Task -- Hydropower (this means secure funding, plan, permit, build, operate and maintain hydropower generation facilities and also sell electricity and distribute revenue)																									
Org Task -- Support Partner's organizational interests & needs																									
Org Task -- Construction of non-BOR facilities (this means RFP writing, ranking bids, writing contracts, managing funds, construction management, and ribbon/pipe cutting.)																									
Org Task -- Adopts annual budget and is transparent & accountable for financial decisions																									
✓ <b>DECIDE:</b> is one of the governance structure org tasks to decide the prioritized order of construction of Phased components? <b>Yes.</b>																									
✓ <b>DECIDE:</b> Governance structure agreement (this means the Partners agree on: Governing board, Non-government involvement, Powers, Administrative entity, Employment of staff																									
Recommend WISE governance structure to decision making bodies at the respective partner's organizations.																									
Governing bodies vote to approve authorizing the new WISE governance structure.																									
Legally create organization and hold first WISE Board meeting																									

**Attachment B -- WISE Action Plan - Adopted August 2012**

Task	2012				2013				2014				2015				2016			
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
<b>Other WISE Project Related Activities</b>																				
<b>Cost Benefit Analysis (CBA)</b>																				
✓ <b>Decide: Who does CBA (BOR or consultant)?</b>																				
Working with BOR or consultant, contract management																				
Perform the \$243,000 Cost Benefit Analysis																				
Results to Partners, brief electeds, share with allies & community																				
<b>Phase I Component</b>																				
Identify options & select Phase I component																				
Identify and secure funding																				
Design																				
Permit																				
RFP, Selection, Contracting																				
Construct Phase I component (cannot start until ROD)																				
<b>Negotiate Sharing of Project Benefits</b>																				
✓ <b>DECIDE: Is one of the organizational tasks of the governance structure to negotiate benefit sharing agreements? Yes.</b>																				
Negotiation of benefits with WISE Board of Directors & PAC																				
Agreement of benefit sharing is signed																				

# Attachment C – Governance Workgroup Recommendation

August, 2012

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## WISE Formalization Recommendation

The OS-WISE Governance Workgroup recommends to the Project Team the following proposal to formalize a governance structure. This structure is intended to function during the cost benefit analysis and feasibility study/EIS phases of the project, or January 2013 through December 2016.

### End the Old

The existing Partnership between the City of Medford, Jackson County, Medford Irrigation District, Medford Water Commission, Rogue River Valley Irrigation District and Talent Irrigation District and also the Executive Committee are dissolved. Currently this partnership is legally and financially responsible for the WISE project.

### Create the New

Replace the Partnership with a new structure. The same six organizations (City of Medford, Jackson County, Medford Irrigation District, Medford Water Commission, Rogue River Valley Irrigation District and Talent Irrigation District) would form a new organization created by intergovernmental agreement (IGA) under chapter 190.010 of the Oregon Revised Statutes (ORS 190).

These founding member organizations will specify the following in the IGA. The Board may adopt further bylaws as needed.

### WISE Board of Directors (Board)

WISE would change from an informal partnership into a formal organization. WISE would be controlled by the six former partner organizations, who would act as the WISE Board of Directors (Board).

WISE Board membership:

- The Board determines which organizations are member organizations.
- The six founding Board member organizations are voting members of the Board.
- Each member organization is free to select its Board member and an alternate in any way they wish.
- Board members and alternates must be elected officials or members of senior level management.
- The Board may add or subtract new “voting” board member organizations.
- The Board may add or subtract “associate” or “ex officio” members who are non-voting board member organizations. Associate members fully participate in discussions, but do not vote on a final proposal.

Board responsibilities:

- Adopt a vision and mission
- Review and approve a yearly workplan
- Take any steps needed to fund and implement the WISE project
- Provide leadership to implement the WISE Action Plan
- Adopt a balanced annual budget based on estimated available funds

- Coordinate and lead any WISE project communications, outreach and education activities
- Seek advice and counsel from the WISE Board's Project Advisory Committee (PAC)

The Board's powers include:

- The WISE Board does NOT control operations or make operational decisions for the individual member organizations that constitute the Board. And it cannot bind them to any agreement without their express consent.
- Give direction to WISE staff (which includes any contractors, vendors, or consultants).
- Hire and terminate staff, and enter into agreements with other organizations to provide staffing resources.
- Creation of any future new governance structures needed.
- The Board will negotiate the sharing of WISE project benefits that meets the approval of the PAC and sign a written agreement to formalize those agreements as per the timeline in the WISE Action Plan.
- Adopting any policies necessary to implement WISE.
- Adopting any bylaws necessary to ensure the efficiency and effectiveness of the WISE governance structure.
- Create and adopt a hydro power plan in 2013
- The Board may create its own administrative structure, or contract with a member local government or a PAC member for administrative services.
- Creating or dissolving any workgroup or committee necessary to fund and implement WISE.
- Determining PAC membership.

The Board's officers and decision making process:

While not a part of the IGA, the Board will need to adopt by-laws to address the following topics:

- How many officers, what titles, what duties?
- How long are the terms of office?
- Does the Treasurer report on the state of WISE Project finances to both the WISE Board and WISE Project Advisory Committee?
- How many Board members make a quorum?
- What decision making process (consensus/voting etc.) will be used and when? If voting, how many votes are needed for decisions?

### **WISE Workgroups**

The creation of four Workgroups is necessary. They are: Instream-Recreation, Agriculture-Irrigation, Municipal Stormwater, and Communications-Outreach. The WISE Board and/or staff may invite any organization or individual to join or leave a Workgroup. Workgroups exist to:

- Make recommendations to the WISE Board
- Move the WISE project forward
- Provide technical assistance, explore options, solicit input, and gather information.

### **WISE Project Advisory Committee (PAC)**

The existing PAC will be reconstituted. It currently contains 19 stakeholders representing agricultural, irrigation, municipal, environmental, watershed, local, state and federal interests.

PAC membership:

The new PAC will contain member organizations that must have a stake in how the water resources of the Bear Creek and Little Butte Creek watersheds are managed for the benefit agriculture, irrigation, local residents, the economy and the environment. The WISE Board decides which organizations are PAC



members. Each PAC member organization is free to choose their representative that sits on the PAC in any manner they wish.

The left hand column contains a list of the current members, which includes the six WISE Board member organizations. The right column contains potential new members.

- Bear Creek Watershed Council
- The Freshwater Trust
- Harry & David
- Jackson County
- Jackson County Farm Bureau
- Jackson Soil and Water Conservation District
- Little Butte Creek Watershed Council
- Medford, City of
- Medford Irrigation District
- Medford Water Commission
- Oregon Water Resources Department
- Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
- Rogue Basin Coordinating Council
- Rogue River Valley Irrigation District
- Rogue Valley Council of Governments
- Rogue Valley Sewer Services
- Talent Irrigation District
- US Bureau of Reclamation
- WaterWatch
- City of Ashland
- City of Central Point
- City of Jacksonville
- City of Phoenix
- City of Talent
- Geos Institute
- Grange Co-op
- Jackson County Stockmen's Association
- National Marine Fisheries Service
- Natural Resource Conservation Service
- Naumes Inc.
- Oregon Department of Environmental Quality
- Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife
- Oregon Water Resources Commission
- OSU Extension Service
- Rogue Flyfishers
- Rogue RiverKeeper
- Southern Oregon Sales (SOS)
- US Bureau of Land Management
- US Fish & Wildlife Service
- US Forest Service

**PAC responsibilities:**

The WISE Board reorganizes the PAC, determines its member organizations and seeks its advice and counsel. PAC member organizations will, to the degree they are able, commit to:

- Actively work with the WISE Board and other stakeholders to implement the WISE Action Plan.
- Collaborate with the WISE Board and stakeholders to assist securing EIS funding (unless their organization is prevented, by policy or statute, from doing so).
- Provide technical assistance as needed to the WISE Board.
- Participate in WISE communications, outreach and education activities as approved by the Board.
- Provide advice and counsel to the WISE Board.

## Appendix A – Project Team Members

OS-WISE Project Team Members	Group/Agency
Sen. Jason Atkinson	Co-Convener
Rep. Peter Buckley	Co-Convener
Lesley Adams, Program Director	Rogue RiverKeepers
Amy Amrhein, Field Representative	US Senator Jeff Merkley
Bryan Baumgartner, Director	Rogue River Valley Irrigation District
Carol Bradford, General Manager	Medford Irrigation District
Larry Butts, State Vice-President	Coastal Conservation Association
Bill Cronin, State Engineer	Natural Resources Conservation Service
Jay Doino, Asst. District Fisheries Biologist	Oregon Department Fish & Wildlife
Traci Dow, Field Representative	US Senator Ron Wyden
Mark Grenbemer, SW Region	Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
Jeff Griffin, Regional Coordinator	Governor's Regional Solutions Center
Brian Hampson, General Manager	Rogue River Valley Irrigation District
Craig Harper, Natural Resource Program Mgr	Rogue Valley Council of Governments
Dave Henderson, District Director	US Congressman Greg Walden
Bob Hunter, Board member	WaterWatch
Kate Jackson, Regional Solutions Team	Oregon Department Environmental Quality
Leigh Johnson, Commissioner	Medford Water Commission
Bob Jones, Geologist	Medford Water Commission
Steve Mason	WISE staff
Larry Menteer, Watermaster	Oregon Water Resources Department
Bill Meyers, Rogue Basin Coordinator	Oregon Department Environmental Quality
Bob Morris, Director	Talent Irrigation District
Jim Pendleton, General Manager	Talent Irrigation District
Ken Phippen, SW Oregon Branch Chief	US National Marine Fisheries Service
Marilyn Rice, Director	Jackson Soil & Water Conservation District
John Roberts, Commissioner	Oregon Water Resources Commission
Jim Root, Board member	National Fish & Wildlife Foundation
Bill Ryan, Board member	Jackson County Farm Bureau
Chris Smith, Principal	SmithWest, Inc.
CW Smith, Commissioner	Jackson County
Russ Stauff, Rogue Watershed Manager	Oregon Department Fish & Wildlife
Carl Tappert, General Manager	Rogue Valley Sewer Services
Roger Thom, Utilities Manager	City of Medford
Jim Thrailkill, SW Oregon Office Supervisor	US Fish & Wildlife Service
Dan Thorndike, Commissioner	Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
Phil VanBuskirk, Regional Director	Oregon State Extension Service
Henry Vaninetti, Director	Medford Irrigation District
John Vial, Public Works Director	Jackson County
John Ward, Board member	Rogue Flyfishers
Randy White, District Manager	Jackson Soil & Water Conservation District
Chuck Wheeler, Program Manager	US National Marine Fisheries Service
Dawn Wiedmeier, Deputy Area Manager	US Bureau of Reclamation

## Appendix B -- OS-WISE Workgroup Rosters

As per the Convener's direction, all OS-WISE Workgroups:

- Exist to make recommendations to the OS-WISE Project Team
  - Work to move the WISE Project forward
  - Work within the framework of the range of scenarios described in the 2009 Preliminary Feasibility Study
  - Explore options and gather the necessary information in order to do so
  - Any Project Team member has an open invitation to participate on any Workgroup
- 

### Agriculture-Irrigation District Workgroup

It met six times on the following dates: 4-5-12, 5-9-12, 5-23-12, 6-14-12, 6-26-12, and 7-31-12. The following 21 people attended one or more Workgroup meetings:

**Bryan Baumgartner**, Rogue River Irrigation District; **Scott Boelman**, Bureau of Reclamation; **Carol Bradford**, Medford Irrigation District; **Bill Cronin**, NRCS; **Brian Hampson**, Rogue River Valley Irrigation District; **Leigh Johnson**, Medford Water Commission; **Steve Mason**, WISE; **Larry Menteer**, Oregon Water Resources Department; **Bob Morris**, Talent Irrigation District; **Jim Pendleton**, Talent Irrigation District; **Marilyn Rice**, Jackson Soil & Water Conservation District; **Jim Root**, National Fish & Wildlife Foundation; **Bill Ryan**, Jackson County Farm Bureau; **Chris Smith**, SmithWest Co.; **Marc Thalacker**, Three Sisters Irrigation District; **Phil VanBuskirk**, OSU Extension Service; **Henry Vaninetti**, Medford Irrigation District; **John Ward**, Rogue Flyfishers; **Randy White**, Jackson Soil & Water Conservation District; **Dawn Wiedmeier**, Bureau of Reclamation; **Peter Winnick**, Natural Resources Conservation Service.

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### Communications-Media Workgroup

It met three times on the following dates: 2-6-12, 2-21-12, 7-30-12. The following 7 people attended one or more Workgroup meetings:

**Lesley Adams**, Rogue Riverkeepers; **Amy Amrhein**, Senator Jeff Merkley; **Bryan Baumgartner**, Rogue River Valley Irrigation District; **Craig Harper**, Rogue Valley Council of Governments; **Bob Jones**, Medford Water Commission; **Steve Mason**, WISE; **Marilyn Rice**, Jackson Soil & Water Conservation District.

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### EIS Funding Workgroup

This Workgroup never officially met. However, the following 16 people all played a role in developing various funding strategies and ideas:

**Peter Buckley**, State Representative; **Amy Amrhein**, Senator Jeff Merkley; **Traci Dow**, Senator Ron Wyden; **Mark Grenbemer**, Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board; **Jeff Griffin**, Governor's Regional Solutions Center; **Craig Harper**, Rogue Valley Council of Governments; **Kate Jackson**, Department of Environmental Quality; **Leigh Johnson**, Medford Water Commission; **Bob Jones**, Medford Water Commission; **Dave Henderson**, Congressman Greg Walden; **John Roberts**, Oregon Water Resources Commission; **Jim Root**, National Fish & Wildlife Foundation; **Chris Smith**, SmithWest; **Dan Thorndike**, Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board; **Randy White**, Jackson Soil & Water Conservation District; **Dawn Wiedmeier**, Bureau of Reclamation.

### **Governance Workgroup**

It met five times on the following dates: 5-22-12, 6-27-12, 7-16-12, 7-31-12 and 8-13-12. The following 18 people attended one or more Workgroup meetings:

**Bryan Baumgartner**, Rogue River Valley Irrigation District; **Carol Bradford**, Medford Irrigation District; **Mark Grenbemer**, Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board; **Jeff Griffin**, Governor Kitzhaber Regional Solutions Center; **Brian Hampson**, Rogue River Valley Irrigation District; **Craig Harper**, Rogue Valley Council of Governments; **Bob Hunter**, WaterWatch; **Kate Jackson**, Department of Environmental Quality; **Bob Jones**, Medford Water Commission; **Steve Mason**, WISE; **Bob Morris**, Talent Irrigation District; **Jim Pendleton**, Talent Irrigation District; **Marilyn Rice**, Jackson Soil & Water Conservation District; **John Roberts**, Oregon Water Resources Commission; **Bill Ryan**, Jackson County Farm Bureau; **Russ Stauff**, Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife; **Carl Tappert**, Rogue Valley Sewer Services; **Henry Vaninetti**, Medford Irrigation District;

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### **Instream Workgroup**

It met six times on the following dates: 4-25-12, 5-10-12, 5-24-12, 6-13-12, 6-26-12, 7-30-12 and 8-14-12. The following 19 people attended one or more Workgroup meetings:

**Lesley Adams**, Rogue Riverkeepers; **Brian Barr**, Geos Institute; **Larry Butts**, Coastal Conservation Association; **Jay Doino**, Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife; **Mark Grenbemer**, Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board; **Bob Hunter**, WaterWatch; **Bob Jones**, Medford Water Commission; **Steve Mason**, WISE; **Larry Menteer**, Oregon Water Resources Department; **Ken Phippen**, National Marine Fisheries Service; **Ian Reid**, US Forest Service; **Marilyn Rice**, Jackson Soil & Water Conservation District; **Jen Smith**, Bureau of Land Management; **Arden Thomas**, Bureau of Reclamation; **Heather Tugaw**, Department of Environmental Quality; **John Vial**, Jackson County; **John Ward**, Rogue Flyfishers; **Chuck Wheeler**, National Marine Fisheries Service; **Eugene Wier**, Freshwater Trust;

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### **Stormwater Workgroup**

It met three times on the following dates: 4-5-12, 5-10-12, 6-27-12. The following 17 people attended one or more Workgroup meetings:

**Jeff Ballard**, Public Works Management; **Jeff Griffin**, Governor's Regional Solutions Center; **Brian Hampson**, Rogue River Valley Irrigation District; **Craig Harper**, Rogue Valley Council of Governments; **Kate Jackson**, Department of Environmental Quality; **Steve Mason**, WISE; **Larry Menteer**, Oregon Water Resources Department; **Bill Meyers**, Department of Environmental Quality; **Jim Pendleton**, Talent Irrigation District; **Marilyn Rice**, Jackson Soil & Water Conservation District; **John Roberts**, Oregon Water Resources Commission; **Bill Ryan**, Jackson County Farm Bureau; **Peter Smeenk**, City of Ashland; **Carl Tappert**, Rogue Valley Sewer Service; **Roger Thom**, City of Medford; **John Vial**, Jackson County; **Steve Walker**, City of Ashland..

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# Appendix C – Agriculture-Irrigation District Workgroup

## Recommendations, August 2012

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### Agriculture-Irrigation District Workgroup

The following bullets guided the Workgroup:

- Exist to make recommendations to the OS-WISE Project Team
  - Work to move the WISE Project forward
  - Work within the framework of the range of scenarios described in the 2009 Preliminary Feasibility Study
  - Explore options and gather the necessary information in order to do so
  - Any Project Team member has an open invitation to participate on any Workgroup
- 

It met six times on the following dates: 4-5-12, 5-9-12, 5-23-12, 6-14-12, 6-26-12, and 7-31-12. The following 21 people attended one or more Workgroup meetings:

**Bryan Baumgartner**, Rogue River Irrigation District; **Scott Boelman**, Bureau of Reclamation; **Carol Bradford**, Medford Irrigation District; **Bill Cronin**, NRCS; **Brian Hampson**, Rogue River Valley Irrigation District; **Leigh Johnson**, Medford Water Commission; **Steve Mason**, WISE; **Larry Menteer**, Oregon Water Resources Department; **Bob Morris**, Talent Irrigation District; **Jim Pendleton**, Talent Irrigation District; **Marilyn Rice**, Jackson Soil & Water Conservation District; **Jim Root**, National Fish & Wildlife Foundation; **Bill Ryan**, Jackson County Farm Bureau; **Chris Smith**, SmithWest Co.; **Marc Thalacker**, Three Sisters Irrigation District; **Phil VanBuskirk**, OSU Extension Service; **Henry Vaninetti**, Medford Irrigation District; **John Ward**, Rogue Flyfishers; **Randy White**, Jackson Soil & Water Conservation District; **Dawn Wiedmeier**, Bureau of Reclamation; **Peter Winnick**, Natural Resources Conservation Service.

### Recommendations

The Workgroup discussed many topics during their meetings. They also agreed that certain things should be evaluated during the Cost Benefit Analysis (CBA) or the Feasibility Study/Environmental Impact Statement (FS/EIS). The Workgroup recommends the following:

1. CBA should evaluate three scenarios: a 60 psi pressure, a 90 psi pressure and a maximum hydro revenue generation
2. Evaluate Alternative C-2
3. Evaluate Lost Creek water pumping station
4. Evaluate storage at Agate
5. Evaluate all 11 items in the BOR Value Planning Study
6. A future unfortunate experience with reclaimed effluent could damage the reputation of all agriculture in the valley. Regardless of the science, this potential public perception threat is a valid concern and needs to be taken seriously.
7. Evaluate and study reclaimed effluent. The potential for use may be only on crops not for human consumption. The recommendation is to “study it”, not “use” it.
8. Bureau of Reclamation should do the FS/EIS

## Benefits to agriculture and irrigation districts of the WISE project

1. Pressure
2. Water Availability
3. Water Reliability
4. Frost Prevention
5. Hydropower
6. Reduced O&M including moss control
7. Water metering

## Future Topics

The Workgroup identified the following topics or questions that need further exploration:

1. How is managing a pressurized system different than our current flood irrigation system?
2. How much pressure and flow do we need to each turnout?
3. Should every turnout have a meter? If yes, who pays for the meters?
4. A pressurized system will mean a significant learning curve for district patrons.
5. Technical support will be needed during the negotiation of benefits process.
6. Q: How do you handle canals that are designated “historic?” A: SHIPO has allowed other irrigation districts to do a historical section on their website as mitigation.
7. Hydro Power
8. The Workgroup believes that the following list (alphabetical order) could be willing to try pressurization first. These are potential allies. They should be briefed about the WISE Project.
  - Rick Anderson
  - Roxy Ann – Hillcrest Orchards
  - Associated Fruit
  - Bryan Baumgartner
  - Ron Bjork
  - Carpenters
  - Murphy Clark
  - John Demick
  - L.A. Farms
  - Harry and David
  - Larry Martin
  - Jerry May
  - Don and Trautie Moore
  - Naumes Inc.
  - John Rachor - Pitchfork Ranch
  - Marilyn Rice
  - Jim Roberts
  - Ann Root
  - Seven Oaks Farms
  - Peter Slint
  - C.W. Smith
  - Dalton Straws
  - Trune Winery
  - Henry Vaninetti
  - Ed Vaughn
  - Ron Von Der Helen
  - Rob Wallace
  - Bill Warren
  - Mark Wisnovsky – Valley View Winery
  - Woolridge Winery

## Appendix D – Communications-Media Workgroup

### Recommendations, August 2012

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#### Communications-Media Workgroup

The following bullets guided the Workgroup:

- Exist to make recommendations to the OS-WISE Project Team
  - Work to move the WISE Project forward
  - Work within the framework of the range of scenarios described in the 2009 Preliminary Feasibility Study
  - Explore options and gather the necessary information in order to do so
  - Any Project Team member has an open invitation to participate on any Workgroup
- 

#### Communications-Media Workgroup

It met three times on the following dates: 2-6-12, 2-21-12, 7-30-12. The following 6 people attended one or more Workgroup meetings:

**Lesley Adams**, Rogue Riverkeepers; **Amy Amrhein**, Senator Jeff Merkley; **Bryan Baumgartner**, Rogue River Valley Irrigation District; **Craig Harper**, Rogue Valley Council of Governments; **Bob Jones**, Medford Water Commission; **Steve Mason**, WISE; **Marilyn Rice**, Jackson Soil & Water Conservation District.

#### Recommendations

This Workgroup discussed many topics during their meetings. The results of their work are embedded into the WISE Action Plan (Attachment B of the Declaration of Cooperation). The Workgroup recommends the following:

1. Implement the Community Leaders WISE Outreach portion of the WISE Action Plan
2. Implement the Southern Oregon Legislative Delegation Outreach portion of the WISE Action Plan

#### Media Coverage (articles attached)

February 9, 2012 radio interview of Steve Mason on The Jefferson Exchange

<http://www.facebook.com/l.php?u=http%3A%2F%2Ftraffic.libsyn.com%2Fjpr%2FThe+Jefferson+Exchange+2+09+12+Hour+1.mp3&h=wAQH0m6SOAQGNcp77Wv6ftGMMby4dWDG9Oqt2v4v-9MHOnA>

January 28, 2012 “Does it Hold Water” article by Mark Freeman in the Medford Mail Tribune

<http://www.mailtribune.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20120128/NEWS/201280306/-1/NEWSMAP>

July 22, 2012 “Unsafe water in our creeks makes summer less fun” by Lesley Adams in the Medford Mail Tribune

<http://www.mailtribune.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20120722/OPINION/207220321&emailAFriend=1>



## **Does It Hold Water? If it can be found to be cost-effective, ambitious canal project would be more than a pipe dream**

By [Mark Freeman](#)

Mail Tribune

January 28, 2012 2:00 AM

If the Talent Irrigation District's diversion dam and fish ladder were to disappear from Bear Creek near the Oak Street bridge and its water delivered by pressured pipe, Steve Mason knows the benefits would be great.

Cheaper TID operating costs, water conservation and better habitat for threatened coho salmon would translate into net gains should the Oak Street and two other Bear Creek diversions disappear as part of an ambitious WISE project to pipe about 200 miles of exposed irrigation canals.

"We know the water's there, we know the engineering's there," says Mason, a hydrologist working on the Water for Irrigators, Streams and Economy project for about a decade. "Now we need to know if the cost-benefit is there."

Mason and others are one large step from learning whether and how long it would take for the up to \$450 million WISE project to pay for itself in economic benefits if completed, or whether it's just another pipe dream.

The WISE project is up for a nearly quarter-million-dollar grant to fund a cost-benefit analysis that could give the multi-agency group leverage in developing studies needed to replace open ditches with pipes for three irrigation districts that use the Bear Creek and Little Butte Creek systems.

The analysis will put dollar signs on water savings, determine whether on-demand water use by irrigators could improve crop output or allow some landowners to upgrade their crops, and determine how much money TID, Medford Irrigation District and the Rogue River Valley Irrigation District would save in operation costs.

The analysis will look at the financial benefits of more wild salmon grown in the Bear Creek Basin because of more in-stream water, and even quantify how higher projected water levels at Emigrant, Hyatt and Howard Prairie lakes would generate more money from fishing and boating use.

Recently Gov. John Kitzhaber designated WISE an Oregon Solutions project and appointed state Sen. Jason Atkinson, R-Central Point, and Rep. Peter Buckley, D-Ashland, to assist the group in the process.

"If both of these things work out the way I hope they will, they will significantly move the project forward," Mason says. "It's the most excited I've been about the project in a long time."

The leaders of WISE were scheduled to learn Monday whether a review team recommends the project for funding through the state Water Resources Department's Water Conservation, Re-use and Storage Grant Program.

A 30-day public comment period on the applications begins Feb. 6.



The review team's recommendations and the public comments will be crafted into the department's final recommendations in March.

The Oregon Water Resources Commission was set to choose what grants will be funded during its April 19-20 meeting in Salem.

However, the money available for the program could rise or drop based on what the Oregon Legislature decides during February meetings.

It is also contingent on the state issuing bonds backed by the Oregon Lottery in May.

The competition is stiff.

In all, 23 applications totaling just under \$2.3 million are up for an estimated \$1.25 million of available money.

Other applications include a \$100,000 request by the Medford Water Commission and several Bear Creek Valley cities to develop what they call a Rogue Valley Cooperative Urban Water Conservation Strategy.

If chosen, WISE could have its money by July and the analysis would take six to nine months, Mason says.

A preliminary feasibility study estimates that a fully completed WISE project during an average water year could provide more than 45,000 acre-feet of additional water to the region — enough to fill both Emigrant and Agate reservoirs.

The extra water would be available for agricultural uses as well as higher streamflows that would improve water quality and fish habitat in the Bear Creek Basin, a major nursery for the Rogue River Basin's wild salmon and steelhead.

"It's basically modernizing our canal systems and becoming a lot more efficient," says Larry Mentee, Jackson County's watermaster. "We can't make water, so this is one way we can improve the system."

The Water Conservation, Re-use and Storage Grant Program was established by the Legislature in 2008. It was designed to fund planning studies that determine the feasibility of developing a variety of water-conservation and water re-use projects and improving storage facilities.

The Legislature last year approved the program to run through 2013, and project applications were due last month.

Reach reporter Mark Freeman at 541-776-4470, or email at [mfreeman@mailtribune.com](mailto:mfreeman@mailtribune.com).

# Unsafe water in our creeks makes summer less fun

By Lesley Adams

July 22, 2012 2:00 AM

Summer hit the Rogue Valley in a week that teased 100 on the thermometer. One of the cooling comforts that residents and tourists alike have enjoyed for generations during these sizzling months is a dip in one of the creeks that grace our region. Unfortunately, chronic fecal bacteria pollution in the Rogue Basin makes many of our public waters unsafe for swimming or wading.

For example, the city of Eagle Point has signs posted year-round in Mattie Brown Park to warn people that Little Butte Creek is not safe. Warning signs on Ashland Creek regularly mar the town's crown jewel of Lithia Park when visitors bring their children to the water's edge on a scorching August afternoon. And Rogue River has similar signs warning potential swimmers of pollution in its Evans Creek tributary. Alas, the Rogue Basin has hundreds of stream miles that are listed under the Clean Water Act for dangerous bacteria pollution levels.

While municipal, state and county health divisions are doing important work to warn people of bacteria pollution, finding the source of that pollution and taking action to prevent it is the long-term solution to making our creeks safe for human use. To help address the problem, Rogue Riverkeeper began a program three years ago to closely study bacteria pollution in different areas of the Rogue Basin and provide recommendations to reduce and eliminate bacteria pollution in our public waters.

Rogue Riverkeeper recently released a report on our 2011 bacteria study in Little Butte Creek. Working with the Medford Water Commission, Jackson County Watermaster's office and Southern Oregon University, we collected stream samples once a week from June through October. All of the streams within the Little Butte Creek watershed that are defined by Oregon Department of Environmental Quality as having unsafe levels of fecal bacteria were sampled throughout the summer season, and when possible, compared against data going back to 1998.

The results are cause for concern. Based on study findings, fecal bacteria reductions of 59 percent are needed watershed-wide to reach safe levels for human health, while some of the creek's tributaries require 91 percent reductions. Perhaps even more troubling is that the bacteria problem is getting worse. The results show a steadily increasing trend for bacteria pollution in Little Butte Creek over the past 13 years.

Something needs to be done to improve the situation, not just for Little Butte Creek, but also for everyone downstream.

Based on Rogue Riverkeeper's Little Butte Creek bacteria report, we offer the following recommendations to address a serious pollution problem in this important salmon tributary of the Rogue.

- Modernize irrigation methods. Flood irrigation has been washing topsoil downstream and adding fecal pollution to streams and rivers for a long time. We can retain our important farmland soils and keep pollution out of our streams by using sprinkler systems.

- Reduce overall withdrawal quantities. The more water that is pulled out of the creek, the less water there is to dilute the bacteria, thereby concentrating and worsening the pollution. Water consumers can take steps to more conservatively use the resource and only take out what is truly needed.
- Protect and restore stream buffers. A healthy riparian buffer serves as an effective natural pollution filter, keeps down invasive species and maintains cool water for endangered salmon.
- Implement Water for Irrigation, Streams and Economy, or WISE. Implementing the WISE project would accomplish needed improvements by upgrading 100-year-old irrigation ditches, modernizing irrigation systems, conserving a precious resource and keeping more water in our streams. WISE would give farmers more reliable water while helping restore stream flows and improving water quality in our creeks.

We all love our rivers and streams, especially on a hot summer day when we can cool off by swimming or just dipping our toes in some refreshing water. Restoring our public waters so that they are swimmable, fishable and drinkable are not just the goals of the Clean Water Act, but also the desires of most Americans. We have a long row to hoe to achieve these goals, but together our community can make a commitment to act on behalf of safe water so that future generations can enjoy public waters that are not health hazards.

You can download the full Little Butte Creek report at [www.rogueriverkeeper.org/bacteria](http://www.rogueriverkeeper.org/bacteria).

Lesley Adams is the program director for Rogue Riverkeeper.

## Appendix E – EIS Funding Workgroup

### Recommendations, August 2012

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#### EIS Funding Workgroup

The following bullets guided the Workgroup:

- Exist to make recommendations to the OS-WISE Project Team
  - Work to move the WISE Project forward
  - Work within the framework of the range of scenarios described in the 2009 Preliminary Feasibility Study
  - Explore options and gather the necessary information in order to do so
  - Any Project Team member has an open invitation to participate on any Workgroup
- 

#### EIS Funding Workgroup

This Workgroup never officially met. However, the following 16 people all played a role in developing various funding strategies and ideas:

**Peter Buckley**, State Representative; **Amy Amrhein**, Senator Jeff Merkley; **Traci Dow**, Senator Ron Wyden; **Mark Grenbemer**, Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board; **Jeff Griffin**, Governor's Regional Solutions Center; **Craig Harper**, Rogue Valley Council of Governments; **Kate Jackson**, Department of Environmental Quality; **Leigh Johnson**, Medford Water Commission; **Bob Jones**, Medford Water Commission; **Dave Henderson**, Congressman Greg Walden; **John Roberts**, Oregon Water Resources Commission; **Jim Root**, National Fish & Wildlife Foundation; **Chris Smith**, SmithWest; **Dan Thorndike**, Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board; **Randy White**, Jackson Soil & Water Conservation District; **Dawn Wiedmeier**, Bureau of Reclamation.

#### Recommendations

The cumulative results of the work are incorporated into the EIS funding plan. This plan is Attachment A of the Declaration of Cooperation.

## Appendix F – Governance Workgroup Recommendations

August 2012

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### Governance Workgroup

The following bullets guided the Workgroup:

- Exist to make recommendations to the OS-WISE Project Team
  - Work to move the WISE Project forward
  - Work within the framework of the range of scenarios described in the 2009 Preliminary Feasibility Study
  - Explore options and gather the necessary information in order to do so
  - Any Project Team member has an open invitation to participate on any Workgroup
- 

### Governance Workgroup

It met five times on the following dates: 5-22-12, 6-27-12, 7-16-12, 7-31-12 and 8-15-12. The following 18 people attended one or more Workgroup meetings:

**Bryan Baumgartner**, Rogue River Valley Irrigation District; **Carol Bradford**, Medford Irrigation District; **Mark Grenbemer**, Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board; **Jeff Griffin**, Governor Kitzhaber Regional Solutions Center; **Brian Hampson**, Rogue River Valley Irrigation District; **Craig Harper**, Rogue Valley Council of Governments; **Bob Hunter**, WaterWatch; **Kate Jackson**, Department of Environmental Quality; **Bob Jones**, Medford Water Commission; **Steve Mason**, WISE; **Bob Morris**, Talent Irrigation District; **Jim Pendleton**, Talent Irrigation District; **Marilyn Rice**, Jackson Soil & Water Conservation District; **John Roberts**, Oregon Water Resources Commission; **Bill Ryan**, Jackson County Farm Bureau; **Russ Stauff**, Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife; **Carl Tappert**, Rogue Valley Sewer Services; **Henry Vaninetti**, Medford Irrigation District;

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### Recommendation

The cumulative results of their work are incorporated into the “Governance Structure Formalization Recommendation.” This recommendation is Attachment C of the Declaration of Cooperation.

# Appendix G – Instream Workgroup

## Recommendations, August 2012

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### Instream Workgroup

The following bullets guided the Workgroup:

- Exist to make recommendations to the OS-WISE Project Team
  - Work to move the WISE Project forward
  - Work within the framework of the range of scenarios described in the 2009 Preliminary Feasibility Study
  - Explore options and gather the necessary information in order to do so
  - Any Project Team member has an open invitation to participate on any Workgroup
- 

It met seven times on the following dates: 4-25-12, 5-10-12, 5-24-12, 6-13-12, 6-26-12, 7-30-12 and 8-13-12. The following 19 people attended one or more Workgroup meetings:

**Lesley Adams**, Rogue Riverkeepers; **Brian Barr**, Geos Institute; **Larry Butts**, Coastal Conservation Association; **Jay Doino**, Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife; **Mark Grenbemer**, Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board; **Bob Hunter**, WaterWatch; **Bob Jones**, Medford Water Commission; **Steve Mason**, WISE; **Larry Menteer**, Oregon Water Resources Department; **Ken Phippen**, National Marine Fisheries Service; **Ian Reid**, US Forest Service; **Marilyn Rice**, Jackson Soil & Water Conservation District; **Jen Smith**, Bureau of Land Management; **Arden Thomas**, Bureau of Reclamation; **Heather Tugaw**, Department of Environmental Quality; **John Vial**, Jackson County; **John Ward**, Rogue Flyfishers; **Chuck Wheeler**, National Marine Fisheries Service; **Eugene Wier**, Freshwater Trust;

### Methodology

The Workgroup spent several meetings going through an evaluation process to guide their decision making and recommendations. They created several spreadsheets and developed criteria, analyzed data, and wrote a formula. The criteria and formula were applied to the streams in the WISE project area. The streams were prioritized in a series of tiers. The tier one and tier two streams are in the following alphabetized list:

Anderson	Jenny (Grizzly)
Antelope	Keene
Ashland	Larson
Bear Creek	Little Butte
Beaver Dam	McDonald
Coleman	Neil
Conde	North Fork Little Butte
Daley	Pole Bridge
Dead Indian	South Fork Little Butte
Dry	Soda
Griffin	Wagner
Jackson	Walker

## Recommendations

These tier one and tier two streams were analyzed and potential improvements were identified. The list is not of what will be done during the WISE Project, but rather what the options are for improving instream conditions. The Workgroup spent considerable time discussing specific potential changes that should be considered during WISE implementation. They recommend the following be considered for evaluation:

South Fork Little Butte (SFLB) improvements to be considered include:

- Pipe to Howard Prairie and move the water down SFLB
- Cumulative benefits should be protected to river mile 1 (MID diversion)
- Negotiate bypass flow
- More water should reach the mouth of Little Butte Creek (double current flow)

North Fork Little Butte (NFLB) improvements to be considered include:

- Pipe and/or line the Cascades Canal
- Increase flows on the NFLB, especially in the fall
- Reduce drawdown of Fish Lake
- Return to as natural as conditions as possible
- Fish Lake recreation
- Reduce diversion rate

Little Butte (LB) main stem improvements to be considered include:

- Cumulative benefits from changes to NF and SF
- Improve water quality by reducing return flows
- Duff Treatment Plant and reclaimed effluent

Bear Creek (BC) improvements to be considered include:

- Return to a more natural hydrograph
- Alternative C-3 (remove the three diversions)
  - Structures removed in long term
  - Improve fish passage in short term
  - Eliminate comingling
- WISE meet BiOp flows and improve all the way to mouth
- Protect flows to the BC mouth
- Reduce return flows
- Water quality improved (tributaries too)
- Fall flows improved
- Winter flows improved

Little Applegate – McDonald Creek improvements to be considered include:

- Remove the diversion structure
- Transfer the water to the Little Applegate

Antelope Creek – improvements to be considered include:

- Return to a more natural hydrograph
- Improve fish passage
- Manage bypass flows

Ashland Creek - improvements to be considered include:

- Remove the Ashland Street diversion
- Put conserved water instream

Neil Creek - improvements to be considered include:

- Eliminate comingling
- Improve fish passage

Jenny Creek (and tributaries Grizzly, Keene and Soda) - improvements to be considered include:

- Evaluate more closely for ecological benefits
- Analyze removing diversions on Soda and Grizzly
- Examine how the reservoirs could be managed differently for bypass flows

Coleman, Griffin, Jackson, Larson and Wagner Creeks - improvements to be considered include:

- Examine removing diversions
- Eliminate comingling
- Improve fish passage

## **Benefits to Instream of the WISE project**

Water quality

Water quantity

Natural hydrograph

Increased fish production

Improved fish passage

## **Future Topics**

The Workgroup identified the following topics or questions that need further exploration:

1. Monitoring will be important during construction phases in the years to come. It should be done pre construction, during and post construction.
2. Q: During the summer how much more instream cfs will lower stream temperature by how much? A: We will run this through the DEQ model after we have stream and flow decisions.
3. There are some concerns about the climate model HDR used in their 2009 Preliminary Feasibility Study
4. More information about natural hydrographs is needed



# Appendix H – Municipal Stormwater Workgroup

## Recommendations, August 2012

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### Municipal Stormwater Workgroup

The following bullets guided the Workgroup:

- Exist to make recommendations to the OS-WISE Project Team
- Work to move the WISE Project forward
- Work within the framework of the range of scenarios described in the 2009 Preliminary Feasibility Study
- Explore options and gather the necessary information in order to do so
- Any Project Team member has an open invitation to participate on any Workgroup

### Stormwater Workgroup

It met three times on the following dates: 4-5-12, 5-10-12, 6-27-12. The following 17 people attended one or more Workgroup meetings:

**Jeff Ballard**, Public Works Management; **Jeff Griffin**, Governor’s Regional Solutions Center; **Brian Hampson**, Rogue River Valley Irrigation District; **Craig Harper**, Rogue Valley Council of Governments; **Kate Jackson**, Department of Environmental Quality; **Steve Mason**, WISE; **Larry Menteer**, Oregon Water Resources Department; **Bill Meyers**, Department of Environmental Quality; **Jim Pendleton**, Talent Irrigation District; **Marilyn Rice**, Jackson Soil & Water Conservation District; **John Roberts**, Oregon Water Resources Commission; **Bill Ryan**, Jackson County Farm Bureau; **Peter Smeenk**, City of Ashland; **Carl Tappert**, Rogue Valley Sewer Service; **Roger Thom**, City of Medford; **John Vial**, Jackson County; **Steve Walker**, City of Ashland..

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### Recommendation

See the following three memos:

### State of Oregon

#### Department of Environmental Quality

#### Memorandum

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**To:** WISE Project Members **Date:** July 24, 2012  
**From:** Kate Jackson, DEQ , Chair Municipal Stormwater Workgroup  
**Subject:** Notes from Municipal Stormwater Workgroup

The initial purpose of the municipal workgroup was to solicit input from the cities about their use of the irrigation canal system for stormwater conveyance. Discussion quickly made it clear that use of the system for stormwater runoff extends throughout the county and year-round. Two white papers were produced. Bill Meyers and Carl Tappert provided a memo on the regulation of stormwater in canals, dated April 26, 2012. John Vial of Jackson County Road Department prepared a memo dated May 22 concerning the commingling of roadside runoff and irrigation ditches along county roads.

The main points are:

- Stormwater entering the canals is not just a concern for the cities, but throughout the County.
- Despite the fact that the irrigation canals are not legally intended to carry stormwater, in reality the canals and the lateral ditches are an integral part of the stormwater conveyance system.
- Rural and urban stormwater management methods are fundamentally different. Cities tend to collect runoff into a connected system. The County disperses road runoff in a distributed fashion to several hundred small, topographically-distinct areas.
- The amount and type of use varies considerably by city and is not well quantified. Each city will be impacted differently by the project. Ashland and Medford are already planning for piping and stormwater management. Talent would be most impacted if canals outside and upstream of the city are no longer in place to do so. Within the City of Phoenix, the open canals handle a major portion of city stormwater runoff.
- The canals enter the cities carrying stormwater, and leave the cities carrying stormwater for undetermined distances into Jackson County. The canals can incidentally intercept runoff from one drainage and drop it out in a different drainage, altering the natural flow of water in each drainage. The impacts of returning stormwater to more natural patterns of flow is not well quantified and could potentially cause serious damage and/or flooding in developed residential areas.
- Captured stormwater flows impact the county canal segments as well as the roadside ditch system. Roadside drainage ditches and the irrigation distribution laterals are extensively interconnected. One or more pilot projects should be created to learn more about the impacts of piping on the roadside system.

In conclusion:

- The need for stormwater handling in surface canals and ditches after the irrigation piping is buried remains to be fully assessed. Steve Mason is working on an initial set of maps depicting the present situation.
- The WISE project ought to include stormwater management, more fully than it has to date, throughout project planning, design and construction.
- Pilot projects would help assess the nature of the overlap and evaluate possible solutions.
- Some form of system-wide, multi-jurisdictional drainage district is likely to be required to manage the stormwater flows after the irrigation project is done.

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**TO:** WISE TEAM – STORMWATER GROUP  
**FROM:** BILL MEYERS - DEQ/CARL TAPPERT - RVSS  
**SUBJECT:** THE REGULATION OF STORMWATER IN CANALS  
**DATE:** APRIL 26, 2012

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The irrigation canals within the Bear Creek Watershed are currently not regulated as stormwater conveyance systems however it is recognized that they do transport stormwater during certain times of the year. One scenario under the WISE project would maintain some sections of the canal solely for stormwater conveyance. This may require the establishment of management agreements or a separate

stormwater management entity. This paper will briefly discuss the regulatory issues associated with stormwater in irrigation canals.

Under the current system and conveyance design, stormwater gets into the TID/MID/RRVID irrigation canal system in several ways: 1) direct inputs from private property, municipal or road sources, and 2) interception of surface runoff as the canals traverse small drainages, as well as the collection of hillside sheet flows.

For discharges into irrigation canals within the current Phase II Stormwater Management Area (MS4) boundaries (the cities of Ashland, Talent, Phoenix, Medford, Central Point and Urbanized Areas of Jackson County), the MS4 permittees are responsible for ensuring that MS4 stormwater permit requirements are met. Since MS4 stormwater permit conditions apply at the point of discharge from the municipal stormwater system into irrigation ditches/canals (i.e., waters of the State), the irrigation canals are not considered part of the regulated stormwater system. Non-stormwater discharges into the municipal stormwater system are considered an illicit discharge, with few exceptions, and must be effectively prohibited.

Conversely, irrigation canals located outside of the current Phase II MS4 boundaries and within Jackson County are not currently considered stormwater conveyances, unless the irrigation water or irrigation return flow in the irrigation canals is commingled with an unpermitted MS4 discharge or other NPDES regulated discharge. In instances where the irrigation canals are not considered stormwater conveyances, water quality rules still apply. DEQ is the primary agent to ensure compliance with water quality rules and standards. Any discharge other than stormwater into a canal is considered an illicit discharge and is not allowed except under permit from DEQ.

Within the previously identified cities and other Urbanized Areas of Jackson County, if the canals were to be abandoned for irrigation and used solely as stormwater conveyance, the ditches and canals would likely be subject to MS4 regulation and required to operate under a permit from DEQ. Such permittees are required to design their programs to reduce the discharge of pollutants to the “maximum extent practicable” (MEP), protect water quality, and satisfy the appropriate water quality requirements of the clean water act.

Outside of the Cities and Urbanized Areas of the County if the canals were to be abandoned for irrigation and used solely as stormwater conveyance, the stormwater conveyance system would be subject to the state’s non-point source program requirements. Such systems would be regulated under DEQ and such systems may also be subject to a TMDL and a subsequent Implementation Plan if it were determined that they have the reasonable potential to negatively impact waters of the state. Note that Stormwater in Jackson County outside of the MS4 area is currently subject to Jackson County’s TMDL implementation plan submitted in 2010. The plan states that the county will develop a stormwater management program addressing the six elements of Phase II Stormwater Management that are applicable for the rural areas outside of the Jackson County's current NPDES Phase II program.

In order to assess the impact that converting irrigation canals into stormwater conveyances would have for local cities, we must consider the following: regulatory impacts for the MS4 permits; regulatory impacts of the TMDL rules; and operation and maintenance issues.

The MS4 permit requires cities to implement a Stormwater Management Plan. This plan is divided into six management categories: Public Education; Public Participation; Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination; Construction Site Stormwater Runoff Control; Post Construction Stormwater Management;

and Pollution Prevention in Municipal Operations. Of these six measures, only two (Illicit Discharge and Post Construction Management) would be effected by the proposed WISE project. The WISE project would actually be beneficial to these programs

The basic Illicit Discharge program would be unaffected by the WISE project. In the event of a spill, having the canals defined as a stormwater conveyance rather than waters of the state would give responders more time and distance to work with to intercept the spill before it entered waters of the state.

The Post Construction management program covers the construction, operation and maintenance of infrastructure designed to enhance water quality. If the canals were redefined as stormwater conveyance, stormwater managers would have additional land available to construct features that would improve water quality.

The implementation plans for TMDL's in the Bear Creek watershed have been submitted, but it is expected that these rules will be more restrictive than the current MS4 permit requirements. One of the bigger issues cities have with the TMDL rules is the fact that they have no way to affect the quality of water flowing into the city. Having the canals converted into storm conveyances would add to this existing problem.

The final piece of the puzzle is the operations and maintenance of the canals themselves, after they have been rededicated for stormwater use. Cities are perfectly capable of maintaining the canals within their city limits, however, for the system to function properly it needs to be maintained outside of the city as well. This is more a question of governance than management. The governing structure of the WISE project would need to ensure that some agency assume responsibility for maintaining these stormwater conveyances outside the city limits.

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**White Paper – Impact of WISE project  
Jackson County Road Department  
May 22, 2012**

Co-mingled facilities - Under the WISE project, irrigation ditches would move from open earthen or lined facilities to pressurized buried pipes. The first issue for Jackson County Roads is we have a drainage system that is interconnected with the irrigation ditches and separating these facilities would be difficult. The rural storm water system is a very old system which has developed over the last 100+ years and is a system composed of natural drainage features, roadside ditches, irrigation ditches, and private facilities. The general guiding principle of the rural storm water system is to “pass the water on”, don't collect it or redirect it. *A quick review of our county roads located over 850 locations where a road side ditch discharges into an irrigation ditch or an irrigation ditch and roadside ditch are the same facility.* This review is likely an over estimate as some laterals and private ditches were also certainly included in the count. While likely an over estimate, the number of conflicts is significant. These conflicts are present throughout the county road network, but the largest number appears to be in the foothill areas on both the north and south sides of Bear Creek valley. A more detailed review of these two conditions is included below.

- a. Roadside and irrigation ditches the same. In these cases the road side ditch and the irrigation ditch are the same facility. Generally these co-locations are managed by the irrigation district,

but not always. Rights of way and easements for these facilities are often completely unknown and generally the irrigation district and Road department just “work it out”. If the irrigation ditch is piped, the pipe could be buried and a new roadside ditch could be constructed above. However, each location would require an analysis to determine where the storm water could be allowed to pass. In many cases the irrigation ditch leaves the road side right of way and managing the storm water within the right of way may not be possible.

- b. Roadside ditch passes storm water into irrigation ditch. The huge majority of the 850+ locations of conflict between roadside ditches and irrigation ditches are those locations where the roadside ditch passes storm water into the irrigation ditch. Commonly referred to as “getaways” these locations pose the largest problem if the irrigation ditch was piped. Establishing new getaways onto private property is often very difficult and in many cases due to grades is not possible or would create negative impacts. The passing of storm water into the irrigation ditches occurs primarily in the winter and spring when the ditches are not charged and capacity has typically not been an issue. Like those locations where the ditch is shared, each location where the irrigation ditch serves as the road side ditch getaway will require a detailed analysis to determine if storm water could be rerouted and the cost of doing so.

Direct Impact From Storm Water – The second biggest issue for the Road Department is the impact to the county road system if the natural drainages, which have been cut off by irrigation ditches at hundreds of locations throughout the valley, are returned to natural systems. In many locations the storm water drainage from the natural swales, valleys, and ephemeral streams has been intercepted by the irrigation ditches and is transported down grade. This condition has existed since the ditches were constructed, many of them nearly 100 years ago.

If each of these natural drainages is returned to pre-irrigation ditch condition, the impact to the roadside storm water system will be significant. Ditch capacity, culvert size, and discharge points have been constructed and developed over time with the irrigation ditch in place and many road side systems would be undersized to deal with the increase in storm water. This issue of storm water returning to a natural system has been discussed regarding impacts to private property and developed areas, but the impact to the rural road system needs to be better understood.

Drainage District – Many of the issues associated with the conflicts of piping the irrigation facilities could be remedied if the existing irrigation ditch system remained in place and the new pressure system is buried below the existing ditch grade. While this solution should be explored, the questions of maintenance and operation responsibility of the historical system cannot be ignored. The formation of a rural drainage district has been suggested as a possible solution.

Jackson County needs to be very clear that maintaining a rural drainage district without a dedicated funding source is not possible. The Road Department is funded exclusively through dedicated state and federal funding sources which can only be spent on transportation facilities. To do otherwise is a violation state and federal of law. Obtaining voter approval for a rural drainage district will be very difficult.

Next Steps – A more detailed analysis needs to be conducted on a road mile by road mile basis to determine where true conflicts exist and where conflicts are easily remedied.



# OREGON SOLUTIONS WISE PROJECT TEAM



State of Oregon  
Department of  
Environmental  
Quality



BEAR CREEK  
Watershed Council



GEOS  
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