

Greater Eastern Oregon Regional Solutions

Advisory Committee – Priority Project

Umatilla, Morrow, Gilliam, Wheeler, Grant, Harney, and Malheur Counties



Port of Umatilla-City of Hermiston Regional Water System Delivery Improvement

Project Description: \$900,000 for Columbia River water delivery infrastructure to enable the development of the Port of Umatilla’s water right for beneficial uses. The project will serve as a catalyst to further develop Columbia River delivery systems to increase irrigated agricultural production in Northeast Oregon, improve basalt groundwater aquifers relied upon by all municipalities in Morrow and Umatilla Counties, and significantly increase value-added support jobs for the agricultural base.

Use of Funds

\$2 million to install:

- 5500gpm pump and associated electrical upgrades
- 2600 linear feet of pipe upgrades to main raw water line
- New raw water delivery system

Leverage Other Funds

- Potential \$1 million commitment from the City of Hermiston for complimentary infrastructure investment
- Proposed \$12.5 million in private water delivery infrastructure investment (Umatilla Basin farmers)
- Proposed utilization of \$50 million state-wide water development fund (Governor’s proposed budget)
- \$100 million investment to maximize basin-wide irrigation opportunities (long term)

Social, environmental, economic benefits:

By taking most deep well water users off of groundwater and maximizing our access to the Columbia River the region can effectively:

- Increase economic output
- Recover groundwater aquifers
- Develop resilience to drought & climate change
- Improve environmental conditions critical to fisheries and cultural needs

Anticipated direct and indirect job creation:

Two economic impact studies completed in 2008 and 2012 reveal significant increased business activity and tax base, as well as a positive return on investment by maximizing irrigated agriculture and support industries in the Umatilla Basin:

Type of Effect	Employment Full & Part- Time	Labor Income (\$)	Total Value Added (\$)	Output (\$)
Direct (Manufacturer)	5,989	158,052,082	225,015,545	1,063,288,422
Indirect (Suppliers)	3,054	99,471,765	173,184,004	357,002,946
Induced (Household Spending)	1,209	37,182,718	75,567,449	124,808,178
Total Effect	10,252	294,706,566	473,766,999	1,545,099,547

2012 Economic Impact Study of Additional Water Supply in the Umatilla Basin (Source: Bruce Sorte, OSU)