



Oregon Water Resources Congress

Issues Facing Irrigation Districts & Other Agricultural Water Suppliers

April Snell, Executive Director

About OWRC

- Nonprofit membership association representing irrigation districts, water control districts, drainage districts, improvement districts, and other agricultural water suppliers
- Our members deliver water to 1/3 of all irrigated land in Oregon
- Promoting the protection and use of water rights and the wise stewardship of water resources since 1912

OWRC Services

Advocacy

- 💧 State level lobbying and engagement in legislation, rulemaking, funding, and other agency actions impacting irrigated agriculture
- 💧 Federal level lobbying and engagement in Congressional legislation, agency rulemaking, and federal funding

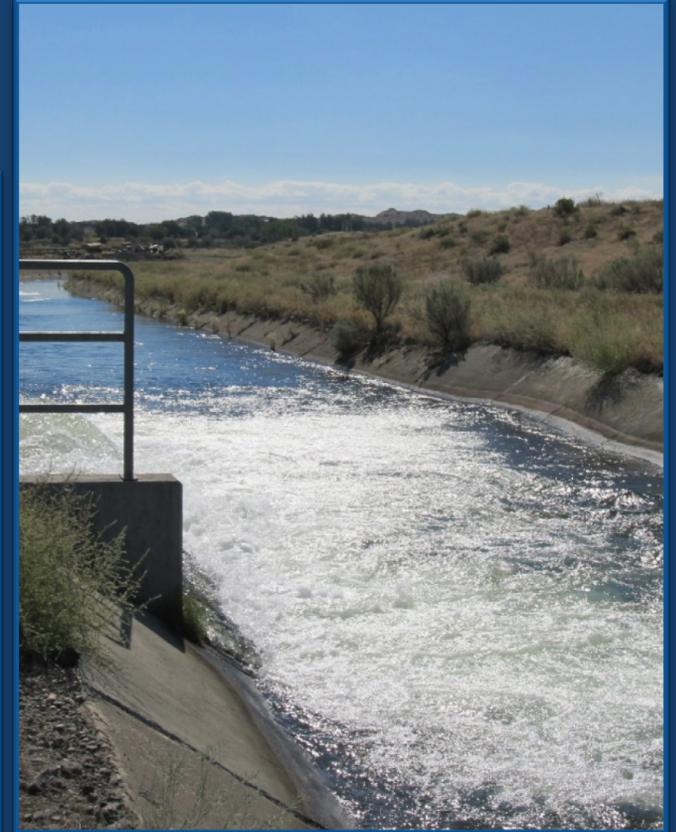
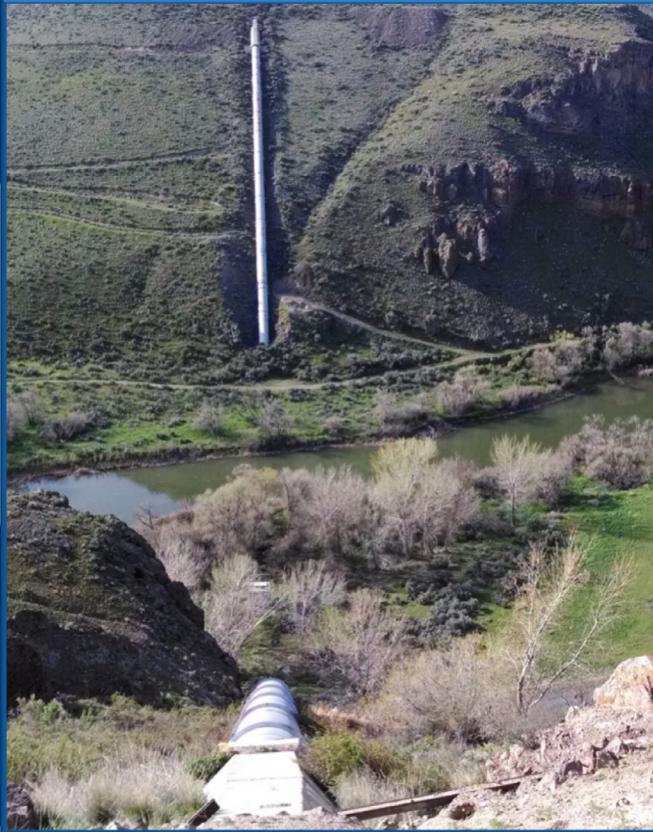
Education

- 💧 Provide variety of training and educational opportunities to agricultural suppliers and related affiliates
- 💧 Provide education to outside stakeholders, including tours for legislators and agency staff

Types of Districts Providing Agricultural Water Supplies

- 💧 Irrigation Districts – ORS 545
- 💧 Drainage Districts – ORS 547
- 💧 Water Improvement Districts – ORS 552
- 💧 Water Control Districts – ORS 553
- 💧 Other entities: Corporations, Private canal/ditch companies – ORS 554
- 💧 Most districts are classified as special districts and subject to some, but not all of the provisions of ORS 198, which includes elections, public meetings, etc.

Canals, pipelines, ditches, & other water delivery systems

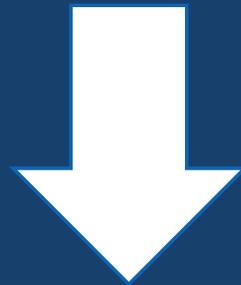


Irrigated Agriculture in Oregon

- 💧 Farmers, ranchers, nursery, and other agricultural users putting water to "beneficial use" – growing food, forage, fiber products, stock water, etc.
- 💧 Sources of water: Surface water diversions, stored water, groundwater wells
- 💧 More than 75% of Oregon's harvested crop value is produced using irrigation water from streams and rivers
- 💧 Water is delivered by irrigation districts, water control districts, drainage districts, improvement districts, and other agricultural water suppliers; or provided by individual farmers and nurserymen
- 💧 **Average acre of irrigated land is worth \$4,140 compared to \$1,190 for non-irrigated acres**



In-stream Versus Out-of-Stream Water Use



In-stream

- Fish & Aquatic Life
- Riparian Habitat
- Recreation

Out-of-Stream

- Business & Industry
- Growing Food & Fiber
- Community Drinking Supplies



Endangered, Threatened, & Sensitive Species



Oregon Spotted Frog

Photo: www.fws.gov



Shortnose Sucker

Photo: www.fws.gov



Chinook - Female

Chinook Salmon

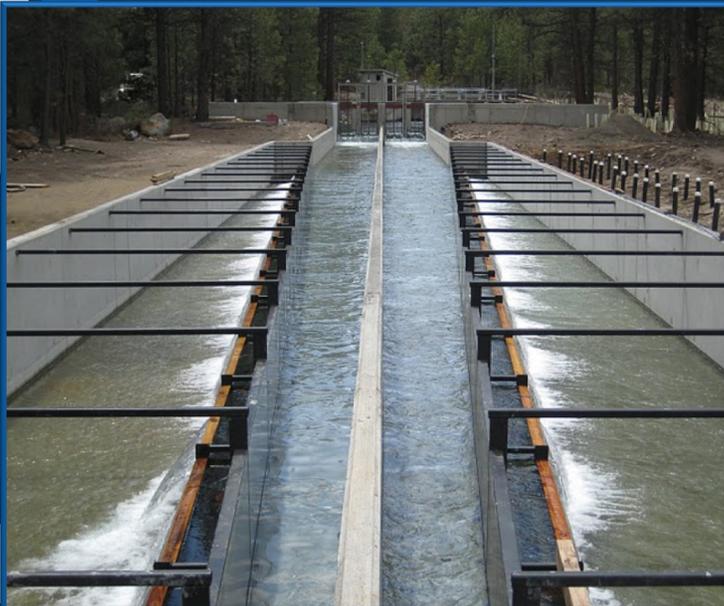
Photo: <http://wdfw.wa.gov/>

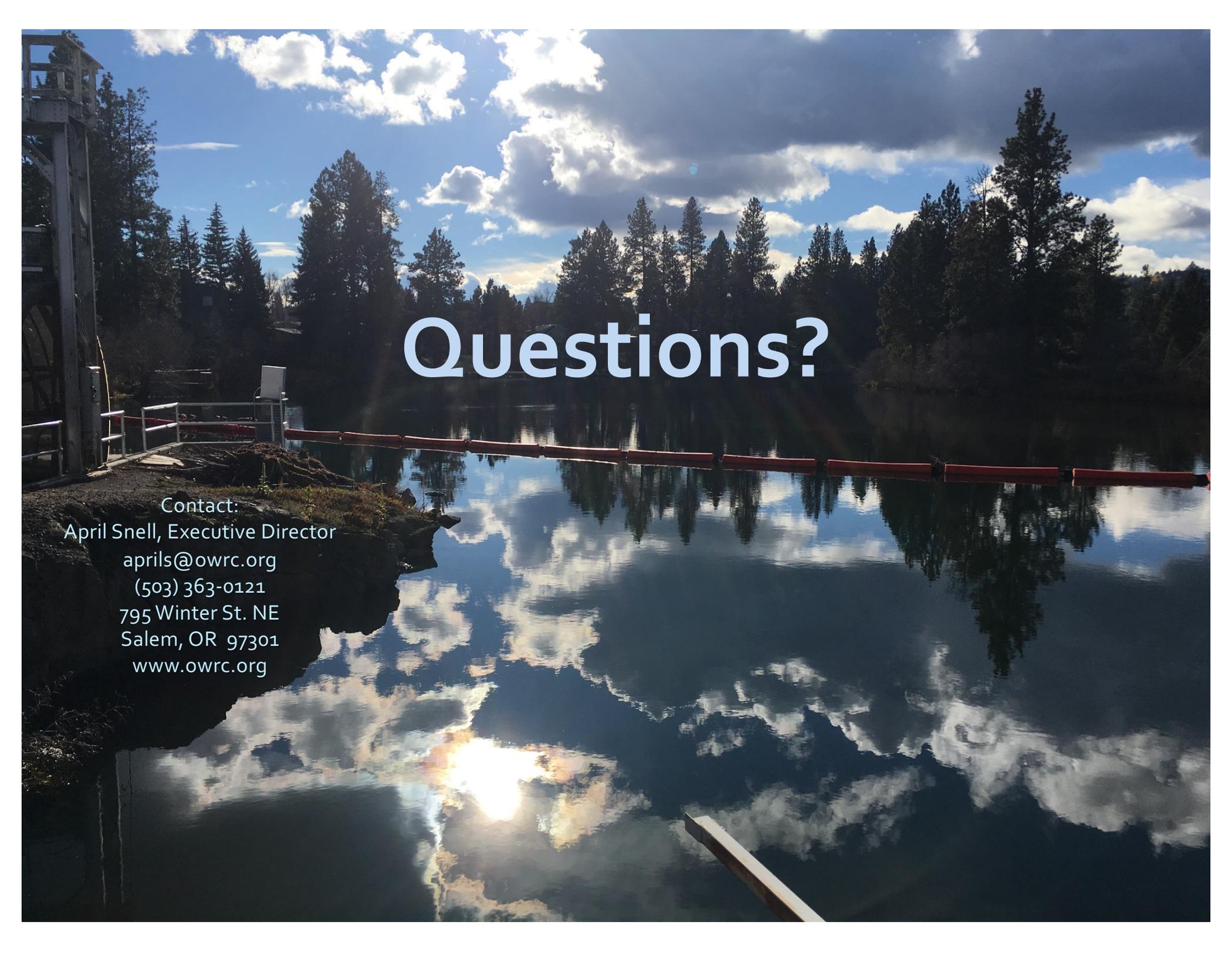
Threatened, Endangered, and Candidate

(T= Threatened, E= Endangered, C= Candidate, DPS= Threatened, Endangered, and Candidate Fish and Wildlife)

Common Name
FISH
Borax Lake Chub
Bull Trout (range-wide)
Columbia River Chum Salmon
Foskett Speckled Dace
Green Sturgeon (Southern DPS)
Hutton Spring Tui Chub
Lahontan Cutthroat Trout
Lost River Sucker
Lower Columbia River Chinook Salmon
Lower Columbia River Coho Salmon
Lower Columbia River Steelhead
Middle Columbia River Steelhead
Oregon Coast Coho Salmon
Pacific Eulachon/Smelt (Southern DPS)
Shortnose Sucker
Snake River Chinook Salmon (Fall)
Snake River Chinook Salmon (Spring/Summer)
Snake River Sockeye Salmon
Snake River Steelhead
Southern Oregon Coho Salmon
Upper Columbia River Spring Chinook Salmon
Upper Columbia River Steelhead
Upper Willamette River Chinook Salmon
Upper Willamette River Steelhead
Warner Sucker

Fish Screens & Fish Passage





Questions?

Contact:

April Snell, Executive Director

aprils@owrc.org

(503) 363-0121

795 Winter St. NE

Salem, OR 97301

www.owrc.org