

FY2024 Appropriations Testimony on Key Programs

- U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Reclamation, WaterSMART Program
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Civil Works
- U.S. Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service Programs
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Clean Water State Revolving Loan Program
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Fisheries Restoration Irrigation Mitigation Act Program
- U.S. Geological Survey, Streamgage Programs

Testimony of April Snell, Executive Director, Oregon Water Resources Congress, Submitted to the United States Senate Appropriations Committee, Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies, April 21, 2023

U.S. Department of the Interior's FY2024 Budget for the U.S Bureau of Reclamation

The Oregon Water Resources Congress (OWRC) continues to support increased funding for the U.S Bureau of Reclamation's (Reclamation) Water and Related Resources program and requests that a minimum of \$4 billion be included in the FY2024 Budget, an increase from the \$1.93 billion enacted for FY2023. Reclamation's highly effective WaterSMART Initiative has been woefully underfunded for years and needs significant resources to meet the broad and diverse water supply and infrastructure needs in the seventeen western states Reclamation serves. The additional funding will help leverage state and local resources, support collaborative partnerships, and enhance coordination between other federal agencies.

OWRC was established in 1912 as a trade association to support the protection of water rights and promote the wise stewardship of water resources statewide. OWRC members are local governmental entities, which include irrigation districts, water control districts, drainage districts, water improvement districts, and other agricultural water suppliers that deliver water to roughly one-third of all irrigated land in Oregon. These water stewards operate complex water management systems, including water supply reservoirs, canals, pipelines, pumps, and hydropower facilities. About one-half of our members are in Reclamation Projects and most of our members have been awarded grants under the WaterSMART program or have contracts with Reclamation.

WaterSMART Initiative

OWRC strongly supports increased funding for Reclamation's WaterSMART Grants and the Water Conservation Field Services Program (WCFSP)—the two programs used the most by Oregon's irrigation districts to support water conservation activities. These programs are an important part of the overall funding package for water resources projects collaboratively developed by local communities, supported with local and state funding, and designed to meet those communities' unique needs while still meeting the goal of water conservation.

The WCFSP is a key component in supporting irrigation districts and similar water delivery systems' water conservation efforts. The WCFSP has provided a breadth of technical assistance to irrigation districts and provided partial funding for materials used to pipe and line canals, water measurement and other technology, and water conservation plans–all supporting water conservation efforts being implemented by these districts. Providing increased funding for WCFSP projects will yield immediate and cost-effective water conservation measures in all seventeen western states served by Reclamation.

Additionally, we believe the management of the WCFSP should remain with the Regional Offices to retain the close connection between Reclamation and Project managers and ensure Reclamation's resources are best used to support the management of its Projects. The WCFSP is one of the Reclamation services most appreciated by our members. The regional staff, and particularly the local area office staff, understand the unique operating and delivery challenges of

the various Projects, and therefore provide very meaningful support to the managers of those Projects. Reclamation regional offices in the Columbia-Pacific Northwest Region (most of Oregon) and California-Great Basin (Klamath Basin) provide meaningful and locally tailored technical and financial assistance to our members and other agricultural interests.

WaterSMART Grants

WaterSMART cost-share grants have supported Oregon districts' efforts to improve water delivery systems, conserve water, and implement innovative projects to meet water supply needs in Oregon. These projects have been a key ingredient in the districts' cooperative efforts with other stakeholders in their respective river basins to address in-stream, water quality, and water supply needs of their basins, without reducing the amount of land to which the districts deliver water and avoiding regulatory actions by federal or state agencies. There continues to be more applicants than available funding and additional financial resources are needed to enable local water suppliers to continue their work to conserve water and help meet the Interior's water conservation goal. With a return of over \$5 for every \$1 of federal investment, and non-federal match generally exceeding the required amount, this program far surpasses the results of other partnerships between the federal government and local project sponsors. The following projects are examples of how the WaterSMART Initiative has been recently used in Oregon:

Water and Energy Efficiency Projects:

- Klamath Irrigation District, Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition and Automation Improvements -The District, located in southern Oregon, will install twentyone new Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) components on gates and canals throughout the system that do not currently have automated controls. The project will provide near real-time data on flow rates, water elevations, and control device statuses, and is expected to result in annual water savings of 19,500 acre-feet by reducing spills, overdeliveries, and seepage. Conserved water can be stored in Upper Klamath Lake for a longer period, which may benefit fish species, including the endangered Short nosed Sucker and Coho Salmon, by increasing lake levels and reducing lake temperatures, while also providing a more reliable supply for growers during times of shortage. In addition, conserved water may be available for the fall waterfowl migration at the Lower Klamath National Wildlife Refuge. The project has significant support from stakeholders, including the Klamath Basin National Wildlife Refuge Complex, the Farmers Conservation Alliance, and Ducks Unlimited. Reclamation Funding: \$500,000, Total Project Cost: \$1,071,774
- North Unit Irrigation District, Optimized Conveyance Efficiency and Control in Main Canal The District, located in central Oregon, will upgrade the automation at nine gated check structures and seven measuring stations along the main canal of its distribution system. The improvements will increase conveyance efficiency and operational control, resulting in an expected annual water savings of 3,337 acre-feet. Overallocation of the Deschutes River and an agreement to adapt dam operations to reduce impact on endangered species has limited District water usage to 60-75% of a water user's minimum water right. The district has shut down periodically because of drought and shortage. Water conserved because of the project will be stored within Haystack Reservoir for a more controlled and targeted release during the irrigation season to avoid further reductions during times of drought. Reclamation Funding: \$244,871, Total Project Cost: \$511,611

Small-Scale Water Efficiency Projects

- Arnold Irrigation District River Diversion Gate Automation and Flow Measurement -The District, located in Bend, Oregon, will modernize the Deschutes River main headgate to automate the existing radial gate to improve diversion flow measurement with a new Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) system. This project will allow the district to better manage and measure a highly fluctuating river flow that requires daily adjustments. The project addresses the goals and objectives identified in the district's 2022 Water Management and Conservation Plan, and supports the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Habitat Conservation Plan for Oregon Spotted Frog. Reclamation Funding: \$28,668. Total Project Cost: \$60,835.
- West Extension Irrigation District, Canal Automation and Monitoring Project The District, located in northeastern Oregon, will install three automatic Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) controlled gates within its Relocation Canal. The solar-powered gates will provide continual monitoring capabilities and automatic adjustment of flow rates to decrease daily water consumption. The project supports the goals of system automation as identified in the district's 2011 Water Management and Conservation Plan. Reclamation Funding: \$70,000. Total Project Cost: \$144,104.

WaterSMART Drought Contingency Planning Grant

Santiam Water Control District, North Santiam Watershed Drought Contingency Plan Update - The District, in the Willamette Basin, will work with regional stakeholders to update the North Santiam Watershed Drought Contingency Plan (DCP), an area covering approximately 766 square miles from the western slopes of the Cascade Mountains to the Willamette Valley in Oregon. Communities, businesses, and fish and wildlife depend upon the North Santiam River within this watershed for drinking water, commercial and industrial uses, agricultural irrigation, and instream flows. The watershed has experienced repeated episodes of extreme drought in 2015, 2018, 2020, and 2021, in addition to wildfires in 2020 and a heat dome with historic high temperatures in 2021. The updated DCP will address emerging concerns, improve the drought monitoring process, incorporate new mitigation actions, and streamline the operational and administrative framework and plan update process. This planning effort will build on coordination with the North Santiam Watershed Collaborative Planning initiative started in 2009, including the annual North Santiam Watershed Summit hosted by Salem and the North Santiam Watershed Council to discuss regional watershed management issues. Reclamation Funding: \$25,000 Total Project Cost: \$50,000

Environmental Water Resources Projects

• East Fork Irrigation District, Sublateral Efficiency Project - The District, in the Hood River Basin, will upgrade the Oanna and Yasui sublateral irrigation pipeline with 10,700 feet of high-density polyethylene pipe and install nine pressure-reducing stations along the new pipeline to improve water reliability and increase instream flows in the East Fork Hood River and mainstem Hood River in northwestern Oregon. The East Fork Hood River supports populations of spring Chinook salmon, winter and summer steelhead, and coho, which are federally listed under the Endangered Species Act. The pipeline upgrades will create an enclosed, pressure-rated system that will conserve water and decrease the District's water

diversion, increasing streamflow and adequate fish habitat for native fish populations. This project is supported by the Hood River Conservation Strategy for the Hood River Watershed. The project has support from local irrigation districts, the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation, Oregon Water Resources Department, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, local governments, and the Hood River Watershed Group. **Reclamation Funding: \$2,000,000 Total Project Cost: \$3,400,000**

Further innovative projects like the ones above could be developed and implemented in Oregon if more funding is made available through the WaterSMART Initiative. Additionally, OWRC would like to see the funding cap increased from \$1 million to \$5 million in areas where there are known endangered, threatened, or vulnerable species. By increasing the funding cap, Reclamation would have the ability to fund projects aimed at improving species habitat at a higher level, allowing for these important projects to move forward.

We respectfully request the appropriation of at least \$4 billion for Reclamation's Water and Related Resources program for FY2024. Providing increased funding for the WaterSMART Initiative is a wise investment that will leverage resources, increase strategic partnerships, and yield immediate and long-term benefits for our nation's economy, environment, and communities. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony regarding the FY2024 budget for the U.S Bureau of Reclamation.

Sincerely, April Snell, OWRC Executive Director Address: 795 Winter Street, NE Salem, OR 97301 Testimony of April Snell, Executive Director, Oregon Water Resources Congress, Submitted to the United States House Appropriations Committee, Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies,

April 17, 2023

RE: U.S. Department of the Interior's FY2024 Budget for the U.S Bureau of Reclamation

The Oregon Water Resources Congress (OWRC) continues to support increased funding for the U.S Bureau of Reclamation's (Reclamation) Water and Related Resources program and requests that a minimum of \$4 billion be included in the FY2024 Budget, an increase from the \$1.93 billion enacted for FY2023. Reclamation's highly effective WaterSMART Initiative has been woefully underfunded for years and needs significant resources to meet the broad and diverse water supply and infrastructure needs in the seventeen western states Reclamation serves. The additional funding will help leverage state and local resources, support collaborative partnerships, and enhance coordination between other federal agencies.

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Sincerely, April Snell, Executive Director, Address: 795 Winter Street, NE Salem, OR 97301

Testimony of April Snell, Executive Director, Oregon Water Resources Congress Submitted to the United States Senate Appropriations Committee, Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies April 21, 2023 FY2024 Budget for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Civil Works

The Oregon Water Resources Congress (OWRC) supports increases to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Civil Works budget and is requesting appropriations for this program be at least **\$8.5 billion in FY2024, which is a modest increase over the FY2023 enacted budget**. The USACE Civil Works program addresses vital water resource needs throughout the nation, and in Oregon, the USACE Northwestern Division includes operations on the Columbia River, which is our largest river system, its tributary the Willamette River, Rogue River, and the Oregon Coast. The President's proposed FY2024 Budget for USACE Civil Works is inadequate to meet the growing water infrastructure needs of Oregon and our nation despite increases appropriated in the Bi-Partisan Infrastructure Bill (BIL). Increased funding would help support crucial USACE projects and leverage ongoing collaborative state level planning efforts in Oregon and nationally.

OWRC was established in 1912 as a trade association to support the protection of water rights and promote the wise stewardship of water resources statewide. OWRC members are local governmental entities, which include irrigation districts, water control districts, drainage districts, water improvement districts, and other agricultural water suppliers that deliver water to roughly one-third of all irrigated land in Oregon. These water stewards operate and manage complex water management systems, including water supply reservoirs, canals, pipelines, and hydropower facilities. Several districts receive water from reservoirs operated by the USACE in the Willamette Basin and Rogue Basin.

Our members across Oregon face challenges related to irrigation water supply, reliability, and aging infrastructure. While there are common concerns and interests throughout irrigated agriculture, each basin is unique, and necessitates local communities working together to identify needs and develop solutions to best meet them. USACE facilities and operations play a vital role in providing not only water supplies for agriculture, but also navigable ports and passage for transporting food and fiber globally, flood protection for communities, fish and wildlife benefits, hydropower production, and recreation. Additional funding for the Civil Works budget is needed to ensure USACE has the necessary resources to meet the myriad of infrastructure needs of those systems, without placing the entire burden on the backs of the farmers and ranchers who produce food and fiber for our nation.

FY2024 Appropriations

OWRC recognizes Congress must make strategic investments with scarce resources. The USACE Civil Works program is a perfect example of a budget that should have funding increased because the water infrastructure it encompasses directly contributes to the economy as well protecting public safety and environmental conservation. OWRC strongly believes USACE needs substantially increased funding to provide critical repairs to our nation's aging water infrastructure and prevent catastrophic failure, as well as address routine operations and maintenance on other infrastructure before it becomes irreparable.

Willamette Basin Reservoir Study

The Portland District of the USACE Northwestern Division operates thirteen dams and reservoirs in the Willamette Basin, with a combined storage capacity of over 1.6 million acrefeet. The dams were constructed primarily to protect downstream communities from flooding but also store and release water for irrigation, hydropower generation, water quality, fish and wildlife flows, and recreation. Since the construction of the dams started in the 1930s, Oregon has seen a dramatic increase in population, which in turn has spurred increased development, agriculture, and a whole host of new demands on reservoirs. Municipal water entities are seeking access to available stored water to better meet drinking water needs for growing communities as well as businesses such as the high-tech industry. Additionally, there are fish and wildlife species in the river system listed under the Endangered Species Act and related ecosystem restoration needs not contemplated when the facilities were constructed.

USACE and the Oregon Water Resources Department (OWRD) partnered on a jointly funded Willamette Basin Review (Reallocation) Study, with the state of Oregon providing 50 percent of the costs to support USACE efforts to examine whether stored water from the Willamette Valley Project reservoirs could be allocated to meet future water supply needs. OWRC engaged in this multi-year effort along with other agricultural, municipal, and conservation interests. In December 2019, the USACE finalized its Chief's Report, marking completion of the study and recommending a plan for the reallocation of stored water for consideration by U.S. Congress.

While the report has been finalized, there is still significant work that needs to occur before the reallocation can move forward. It is crucial USACE remains at the table and has staff capacity to collaboratively work with OWRD, other agencies, and stakeholders to flush out various details needed to determine how the reservoirs can best help meet the myriad of current and future water demands in the Willamette Basin. OWRC would like to see continued funding related to the implementation of the Willamette Reallocation included in the USACE Civil Works FY2024 budget to support this important effort.

Planning Assistance to States

OWRC strongly supports providing funding for states to undertake planning activities to meet their water needs. Oregon is the model for watershed planning and does not need a new federal agency or Executive Branch office to oversee planning, however, federal funding and technical assistance is needed. Planning activities are conducted through local watershed councils, volunteer-driven organizations that work with local, state and federal agencies, economic and environmental interests, agricultural, industrial and municipal water users, local landowners, tribes, and other members of the community. There are over 60 individual watershed councils in Oregon that are already deeply engaged in watershed planning and restoration activities.

Watershed planning in Oregon formally began in 1995 with the development of the Oregon Plan for Salmon Recovery and Watershed Enhancement, a statewide strategy developed in response to the federal listing of several fish species. This strategy led to the creation of the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB), a state agency and policy oversight board that funds and promotes voluntary and collaborative efforts that "help create and maintain healthy watersheds and natural habitats that support thriving communities and strong economies" in 1999. Additionally, OWRC has been an active participant and supporter of the Integrated Water Resources Strategy (IWRS) adopted by the Oregon Water Resources Commission in August 2012 and updated in December 2017. The IWRS continues to be an important step forward in planning for the various water needs of Oregon, but there is much more work to be done and little funding to implement. Providing funding for state-level planning activities will help support important efforts like the IWRS, and maximize the leveraging of state and federal resources, as well as providing viable models for other states to replicate. This approach will help leverage scarce financial resources at both the state and federal level while promoting cooperation and collaborative solutions to complex water resources challenges.

Additional Funding Programs

OWRC is encouraged by the recent additions to the USACE Civil Works program including funding for climate change response, dam safety, and earthquake hazard reduction; however, programs as important as these should receive even more funding. Oregon faces the risk of a catastrophic earthquake from the Cascadia Subduction Zone and is in the early stages of planning and mitigating to improve seismic resiliency. Oregon is extremely vulnerable since most infrastructure was constructed prior to the discovery of the fault in 1970 and does not meet current seismic standards. There is a significant need for financial and technical assistance to upgrade reservoirs and other key facilities. Without increased earthquake preparedness and dam safety funding, Oregon cannot mitigate the potential damage.

Additionally, like many other western states, Oregon has been experiencing more frequent and severe drought conditions. For Oregon, the drought stems from a lack of snowpack that serves as the natural water storage throughout the year for agriculture, communities, and fish and wildlife. The impacts may take longer to show, but drought can be as devastating as earthquakes, hurricanes, and other natural disasters. Impacts from prolonged drought take time to recover from and like other natural disasters, the best way to survive and help communities recover is through coordinated planning and developing diverse tools to use when these crises occur. We know from our experience working with our state agency and partner organizations in Oregon that funding for planning, feasibility, and implementation of projects to increase drought preparedness and resiliency is a cornerstone to an economically, socially, and environmentally sound approach for a sustainable water future.

In conclusion, we respectfully request the appropriation of at least \$8.5 billion for the USACE Civil Works budget for FY2024. The critical nature of the water infrastructure services the USACE provides requires a budget that matches the seriousness of the national need, and the importance of the water supply, navigation, public safety, and other natural resources benefits it provides.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony regarding the FY2024 budget for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Sincerely, April Snell, OWRC Executive Director Address: 795 Winter St. NE, Salem, OR 97301 Testimony of April Snell, Executive Director, Oregon Water Resources Congress Submitted to the United States House Appropriations Committee, Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies April 17, 2023

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April Snell, OWRC Executive Director Address: 795 Winter St. NE, Salem, OR 97301 April Snell, Executive Director, Oregon Water Resources Congress Testimony submitted to the United States Senate Appropriations Committee, Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Friday, March 31, 2023

RE: FY 2024 Budget for USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service Programs

The Oregon Water Resources Congress (OWRC) strongly supports increased funding for the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) programs for FY 2024. A minimum of \$4 billion is needed to support watershed protection and irrigation modernization efforts across the nation, split between the PL-566 programs, the Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP), and the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP). Within the PL-566 programs, a minimum of \$1 billion is needed to support ongoing irrigation modernization efforts under the Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Operations (WFPO) Program and \$500 million is needed for coordinated federal agency watershed planning and assistance with dam rehabilitation under the Small Watershed Rehabilitation Program (SWRP).

OWRC was established in 1912 as a trade association to support the protection and use of water rights and promote the wise stewardship of water resources in Oregon. Our members are local governmental entities, including irrigation districts, water control districts, drainage districts, water improvement districts, and other agricultural water suppliers that deliver water to one-third of all irrigated land in Oregon. These water stewards operate complex water management systems, including water supply reservoirs, canals, pipelines, fish screens, and hydropower facilities.

PL-566 Program Needs & Benefits

Our members in Oregon face many challenges related to irrigation water supply reliability, including recurring drought, aging infrastructure, climate change, and issues related to the Endangered Species Act (ESA) and the Clean Water Act (CWA). While there are common concerns and interests throughout irrigated agriculture, each basin is unique, and necessitates local communities' work collaboratively to identify needs and develop tailored solutions. NRCS's programs support multi-benefit projects that help improve water quality, restore habitat, and more efficiently deliver water to users, without placing the entire burden on the backs of the agricultural economy that produces food and fiber for our nation.

These programs also leverage scarce state and local resources and incentivize phased-in strategic approaches to meet the myriad of watershed needs, allowing for irrigation districts and other partners to plan and implement projects incrementally. NRCS-funded irrigation modernization projects go through a robust public outreach and scoping process which leads to the development of a Draft Watershed Plan and Environmental Assessment. Once the watershed plan is completed and approved by NRCS, the project is eligible for implementation funding through the PL-566 WFPO program. While the *2021 Bipartisan Infrastructure Law* provided \$500 million for WFPO, this amount is still woefully insufficient in comparison to the multitude of funding needs in Oregon and across the nation. Given the high interest in planning or implementing projects using NRCS PL-566 funding, we anticipate a sustained demand for additional funding to support projects like the examples below.

Examples of WFPO Projects in Oregon:

The irrigation modernization projects below are in various stages of developing and implementing Watershed Plans through the WFPO program. More projects like these could be developed and implemented in Oregon and throughout the nation with additional federal support.

Arnold Irrigation District, Deschutes County - The District recently received approval for its NRCS Watershed Plan and is moving forward with its first phase of project implementation in Fall of 2023. The overall project will convert 11.9 miles of open canals into pipe and install two SCADA systems to improve operational efficiency over the course of 6 years. Additionally, 88 turnouts will be upgraded to pressurized delivery systems. The project will save 32.5 cfs of water, conserve 80.8K kWh/year in energy, improve water quality, and improve 52 miles of the Deschutes River. The District is seeking funding for the subsequent phases of its Watershed Plan.

Hermiston Irrigation District, Umatilla County - The District is proposing to modernize aging infrastructure to conserve water, improve operational efficiencies, improve water quality, enhance fish and wildlife habitat in the Umatilla River, reduce public safety risks, and increase recreation opportunities. By converting open-ditch irrigation canals into underground, closed-pipe systems or lining the District's remaining open canals, the proposed Hermiston Irrigation District Modernization Project could reduce conveyance and operational losses over the entire irrigation season and improve the District's ability to efficiently provide water to its patrons.

Klamath Drainage District, Klamath County – The District is process of developing a Watershed Plan to modernize district irrigation infrastructure and improve watershed protection. Proposed projects include install fish screens at the district's diversions on the Klamath River, extend and re-engineer sections of canals to increase flows to the Lower Klamath National Wildlife Refuge (LKNWR), and improve the district's use and control over water throughout the district. The proposed project would enable the district to improve water management within the district's conveyance system and benefit fish populations by preventing fish from getting trapped in the district's canals. By reducing water use inefficiencies, the proposed project would improve water quality. The project would also allow the district to supply additional water to the LKNWR, which would increase critically needed habitat for wildlife.

North Unit Irrigation District, Jefferson County – The District is moving forward with implementing initial projects from its Watershed Plan, which will install 27.5 miles of gravity-pressurized, buried pipe; upgrade 153 turnouts; and construct four 1,000 cubic-yard retention ponds, each approximately 0.5 acres in size. The project will improve water conservation on District-operated laterals; improve water delivery reliability and drought resilience to NUID irrigators; reduce NUID's operation and maintenance costs; reduce operational spills into natural waterbodies; and improve streamflow, water quality, and habitat in the Deschutes River. Following project completion, 4,567 acre-feet of the water saved annually by the project would augment water supplies for NUID's existing patrons, helping to fulfill existing water rights, and alleviate water supply shortages across the District. The remaining 1,522 acre-feet of water saved annually would be allocated for instream purposes and released into the upper Deschutes River during the non-irrigation season.

Tumalo Irrigation District, Deschutes County – The District was among the first in the nation to receive funding for an Irrigation Modernization Project through WFPO and has been implementing identified projects in phases over the past five years. The project includes modernizing up to 1.9 miles of the District's canals and 66.9 miles of laterals to improve water conservation, water delivery reliability, and public safety. The project will occur in phases over 11 years. By converting open irrigation ditches into a closed piped system, the project will reduce water loss from canals by up to 48 cubic feet per second (cfs). Water saved from the project will be protected in the Deschutes River and Tumalo Creek, benefiting fish and wildlife habitat. The project also will deliver water to irrigators in a safer, more efficient manner and reduce energy consumption from pumping. The District is reaching the final phases of funding eligibility based on current program caps but still has several project phases to implement.

Owyhee Irrigation District, Malheur County – In recent years, the District has faced droughts that limit water supply to irrigators and the design and age of the District's conveyance system no longer meets its obligations. To address these concerns, funds will be used to implement agwater management and conservation practices and rehabilitate the conveyance system to improve water delivery reliability and water conservation throughout the District. Modernizing the conveyance infrastructure will enable opportunities to benefit the local agricultural community by improving drought resilience and reducing inefficiencies associated with the current system.

Small Watershed Rehabilitation Program Needs

OWRC also strongly supports funding for projects under the Small Watershed Rehabilitation Program. Two of our members, Sutherlin Water Control District (SWCD) and Middle Fork Irrigation District (MFID) have dams that were built under the original PL-566. SWCD and MFID have received funds to begin the long and expensive process of updating their 50-year-old dams to today's standards for safety, however; both districts will need continued funding from the Watershed Rehabilitation Program and other NRCS funding programs to fully update their infrastructure.

SWCD operates two dams built under PL-566, Plat I and Cooper Creek, located in the Umpqua River watershed in Douglas County. While they were built to seismic standards 55 years ago, they do not meet today's standards for earthquakes. SWCD's dams serve as multi-purpose storage for the community: providing flood control, irrigation water for farmland, municipal water for the city of Sutherlin, and recreation. To date, SWCD has been authorized to receive funding for planning, design, and construction of one of their dams and planning and design for the other. However, SWCD will still need considerable funding dollars to complete necessary work on both dams. Current estimates for Cooper Creek are ~2.4 million for construction and a minimum of \$7 million for Plat I, primarily for dredging, sediment removal.

MFID is responsible for the management and maintenance of Clear Branch Dam, a PL-566 dam within the Hood River watershed, which provides a clean, dependable water supply and distribution system for the irrigation of pears, apples, cherries, and other high value crops. Rehabilitation of the dam is needed to protect the public from flooding, for access to a clean and dependable water supply, and to maintain agricultural productivity. In the past year, MFID has continued the dam rehabilitation planning process with its federal partners (NRCS as the lead federal agency and USDA Forest Service as a cooperating agency), which has included analysis

of elements to include in an updated watershed workplan and EIS document. Planned rehabilitation project elements that support dam stability include seismic upgrade, seepage mitigation, fish passage and water quality improvements that support ESA listed species while maintaining the project purpose and the need to support irrigated agriculture with a clean and dependable water supply. Considering the high costs to fix just three of the PL-566 dams in Oregon, and the immense price tag of modernizing infrastructure to increase water conservation, preserve wildlife habitat, and increase water reliability for farmers and ranchers, a minimum of \$500 million is needed to fund this important program in FY 2024.

RCPP & EQIP Benefits & Needs

OWRC strongly supports robust funding for RCPP and EQIP, which are critical tools for districts and other agricultural water suppliers in developing and implementing water and energy conservation projects in Oregon. RCPP currently has over 2,000 partners engaged in locally led conservation efforts that help implement collaborative basin-level solutions and reduce detrimental legal action, resulting in better outcomes for all. Since 2014, RCPP has invested over \$1 billion in over 375 projects across all fifty states and Puerto Rico. That \$1 billion investment has leveraged an additional \$2 billion from state and local partners for a total of \$3 billion invested in RCPP related water conservation projects. Federal support of water conservation activities funded through NRCS programs, including the RCPP, is essential to the conservation of our natural resources and critical to protecting our food, energy, and water supply. Irrigation districts in Oregon are the model of successful RCPP projects that "innovate, leverage additional contributions, offer impactful solutions and engage more participants."

Ongoing RCPP Projects in Oregon - *East Fork Irrigation District, Hood River County* – This project brings together a diverse set of partners in the Hood River watershed to focus on a top-priority water conservation and fish habitat project. The project will construct Phase 1 of a pipeline project, assist agricultural producers with approximately 400 acres of on-farm water conservation practices, educate producers and farm workers on the latest irrigation water management techniques, and restore one mile of spawning and rearing habitat for threatened fish species. NRCS programs that will support these efforts include EQIP, CSP, and PL566. Together, these projects will increase irrigation water reliability for high value food crops, improve resilience to drought, and restore instream habitat for ESA-listed species.

Additional funding for PL-566, RCPP, and EQIP programs will ensure NRCS can continue to provide critical technical and financial assistance to project partners and build upon momentum from successful projects to accelerate innovative solutions to some of our most vexing water management challenges. Increasing the budget for NRCS programs is a strategic investment that will pay both environmental and economic dividends for current and future generations in Oregon and nationally.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on FY 2024 Budget for the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) programs.

Sincerely, April Snell, Executive Director Address: 795 Winter St. NE, Salem, OR 97301 April Snell, Executive Director, Oregon Water Resources Congress

Testimony submitted to the United States House Appropriations Committee, Subcommittee on

Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies

Friday, April 10, 2023

RE: FY 2024 Budget for USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service Programs

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PL-566 Program Needs & Benefits

Our members in Oregon face many challenges related to irrigation water supply reliability, including recurring drought, aging infrastructure, climate change, and issues related to the Endangered Species Act (ESA) and the Clean Water Act (CWA). While there are common concerns and interests throughout irrigated agriculture, each basin is unique, and necessitates local communities' work collaboratively to identify needs and develop tailored solutions. NRCS's programs support multi-benefit projects that help improve water quality, restore habitat, and more efficiently deliver water to users, without placing the entire burden on the backs of the agricultural economy that produces food and fiber for our nation.

These programs also leverage scarce state and local resources and incentivize phased-in strategic approaches to meet the myriad of watershed needs, allowing for irrigation districts and other partners to plan and implement projects incrementally. While the *2021 Bipartisan Infrastructure Law* provided \$500 million for WFPO, this amount is still woefully insufficient in comparison to the multitude of funding needs in Oregon and across the nation. Given the high interest in modernization projects using NRCS PL-566 funding, we anticipate a sustained demand for additional funding to support projects like the examples below, in Oregon and throughout the nation.

Examples of WFPO Projects in Oregon:

Arnold Irrigation District, Deschutes County - The District recently received approval for its Watershed Plan and is moving forward with its first phase of project implementation in Fall of 2023. The overall project will convert 11.9 miles of open canals into pipe and install two SCADA systems to improve operational efficiency over the course of 6 years. The project will save 32.5 cfs of water, conserve 80.8K kWh/year in energy, improve water quality, and improve

52 miles of the Deschutes River. The District is seeking funding for the subsequent phases of its Watershed Plan.

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completed, 4,567 acre-feet of the water saved annually by the project would augment water supplies for NUID's existing patrons, helping to fulfill existing water rights, and alleviate water supply shortages across the District. The remaining 1,522 acre-feet of water saved annually would be allocated for instream purposes and released during the non-irrigation season.

Owyhee Irrigation District, Malheur County – In recent years, the District has faced droughts that limit water supply to irrigators and the design and age of the District's conveyance system no longer meets its obligations. To address these concerns, funds will be used to implement agwater management and conservation practices and rehabilitate the conveyance system to improve water delivery reliability and water conservation throughout the District. Modernizing the conveyance infrastructure will enable opportunities to benefit the local agricultural community by improving drought resilience and reducing inefficiencies associated with the current system.

Small Watershed Rehabilitation Program (SWRP) Needs

OWRC also strongly supports funding for projects under SWRP. Two of our members, Sutherlin Water Control District (SWCD) and Middle Fork Irrigation District (MFID), have dams that were built under the original PL-566. SWCD and MFID have received funds to begin the long and expensive process of rehabilitating their 50-year-old dams to today's standards for safety, however; both districts will need continued funding from the SWRP and other NRCS funding programs to fully update their infrastructure.

SWCD operates two dams built under PL-566, Plat I and Cooper Creek, located in the Umpqua River watershed in Douglas County. While they were built to seismic standards 55 years ago, they do not meet today's standards for earthquakes. SWCD's dams serve as multi-purpose storage for the community: Providing flood control, irrigation water for farmland, municipal water for the city of Sutherlin, and recreation. To date, SWCD has been authorized to

receive funding for planning, design, and construction of one of their dams, and planning and design for the other. Current estimates for Cooper Creek are \$2.4 million for construction and a minimum of \$7 million for Plat I, primarily for dredging and sediment removal.

MFID is responsible for the management and maintenance of Clear Branch Dam, a PL-566 dam within the Hood River watershed, which provides a clean, dependable water supply and distribution system for the irrigation of pears, apples, cherries, and other high value crops. Rehabilitation of the dam is needed to protect the public from flooding, for access to a clean and dependable water supply, and to maintain agricultural productivity. Planned project elements include seismic upgrade, seepage mitigation, fish passage, and water quality improvements that support ESA listed species while maintaining the project purpose and providing irrigated agriculture with a clean and dependable water supply. Considering the high costs to fix just three of the PL-566 dams in Oregon, and the immense price tag of modernizing infrastructure to increase water conservation, preserve wildlife habitat, and increase water reliability for farmers and ranchers, a minimum of \$500 million is needed to fund this important program in FY 2024.

Additional funding for PL-566, RCPP, and EQIP programs will ensure NRCS can continue to provide critical technical and financial assistance to project partners and build upon momentum from successful projects to accelerate innovative solutions to some of our most vexing water management challenges. Increasing the budget for NRCS programs is a strategic investment that will pay both environmental and economic dividends for current and future generations in Oregon and nationally. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on FY 2024 Budget for the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) programs.

Sincerely, April Snell, Executive Director; Address: 795 Winter St. NE, Salem, OR 97301

Testimony of April Snell, Executive Director, Oregon Water Resources Congress Submitted to the United States Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies April 21, 2023

FY2024 Budget for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Clean Water State Revolving Fund Loan Program

The Oregon Water Resources Congress (OWRC) is highly supportive of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Clean Water State Revolving Fund Loan Program (CWSRF). OWRC respectfully requests FY2024 appropriations for this program be increased to at least **\$3 billion,** as proposed in the President's Budget and included additional authorized funding found in the Bi-Partisan Infrastructure Bill (BIL). The CWSRF is an effective loan program that addresses critical water infrastructure needs while benefiting the environment, local communities, and the economy. As an existing and proven program, it is a perfect fit for increased investment during a time of need for climate and environmentally friendly infrastructure.

OWRC was established in 1912 as a trade association to support the protection of water rights and promote the wise stewardship of water resources statewide. OWRC members are local governmental entities, which include irrigation districts, water control districts, drainage districts, water improvement districts, and other agricultural water suppliers that deliver water to roughly 1/3 of all irrigated land in Oregon. These water stewards operate complex water management systems, including water supply reservoirs, canals, pipelines, fish screens and fish passage, and hydropower production facilities.

FY2024 Appropriations

We recognize our country must make strategic investments with scarce resources, particularly as our economy recovers from pandemic-related impacts and inflation. The CWSRF is a perfect example of the type of program that should have funding increased because it creates jobs while benefiting the environment and is an efficient return on taxpayer investment. CWSRF projects provide much needed construction and professional services jobs, particularly in rural areas facing economic hardship. Moreover, as a loan program, it is a wise investment that allows local communities to leverage their limited resources and address critical infrastructure needs that would otherwise be unmet.

In Oregon, the CWSRF is administered by the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), which has updated its rules implementing the program to reflect new criteria enacted under the BIL. DEQ responsibly maintains the program through repaid loans, interest, fees, and available federal capitalization grants. According to EPA, for every \$1 of federal capitalization funding, \$3 worth of assistance is provided, leveraging available funds to maximize benefits for local communities, the environment, and the economy. Unfortunately, available funding for water infrastructure projects continues to be woefully insufficient to meet the growing water infrastructure funding needs in Oregon and nationwide. Appropriations for the CWSRF needs to be increased in FY2024, as authorized in the BIL, to support water infrastructure projects that are addressing these critical needs.

Background of CWSRF Usage by Oregon Irrigation Districts

During the program's thirty-plus year history in Oregon, numerous OWRC member districts have successfully used CWSRF for projects that improve water quality and water conservation associated with water delivery diversions, canals, and pipelines throughout the state. OWRC and our members are highly supportive of the CWSRF, including promoting the program to our members, hosting workshops with agency staff, and annually submitting federal appropriations testimony in support of increased funding for the CWSRF. We believe it is an important funding tool for irrigation districts and other water suppliers that are using it for innovative piping projects that provide multiple environmental and economic benefits.

Numerous irrigation districts and other water suppliers need to pipe currently open canals, which significantly reduces sediment, improves water temperature, and provides other water quality benefits to rivers and streams. Piping immediately improves the efficiency of the water delivery system and helps increase available water supplies for aquatic life and irrigators alike. These projects also decrease energy consumption (from reduced pumping), and have opportunities for generating renewable energy, primarily through in-conduit hydropower. CWSRF is often an integral part of an overall package of local, state, and federal funding sources necessitating a higher level of federal loan funding availability for planned water infrastructure projects. Reductions in CWSRF appropriations could lead to loss of matching grant funding and delay or derail beneficial projects irrigation districts have been developing for years.

The success Oregon districts have experienced using the loan program to design and implement multi-beneficial projects has led to increased applications to the CWSRF. Irrigation districts are once again eligible for a key funding element, principal forgiveness, up to 50% and capped at \$500,000 for projects in a distressed community or eligible for the Green Project Reserve designation. As a result, we expect to see even more interest in the program. OWRC is hopeful there will be enough funding available to complete projects that will not only benefit the environment and the patrons served by the water delivery system, but also benefit the rural economy.

CWSRF Needs in Oregon

The appropriations for the CWSRF program prior to the BIL had fallen far short of what is needed to address critical water infrastructure needs in Oregon and across the nation. This has led to fewer water infrastructure projects, and therefore a reduction in improvements to water quality and water conservation. However, OWRC is pleased with the five-year commitment to increased funding authorized in the BIL. This federal commitment is important as infrastructure needs have become more expensive and even more time critical.

The most recent Intended Use Plan (IUP), updated on January 6, 2023, includes 22 loan applications for a total of \$174,783,989 in requested funding. Currently, the loan program has \$312,610,437 net available to lend for state FY2023. DEQ can award a maximum individual loan amount of \$46,891,566. The following irrigation district projects are included in the current FY2023 IUP. Increased funding will help catalyze many more projects like the ones below in Oregon and throughout the nation:

Oregon Projects on FY23 IUP

Owyhee Irrigation District (Malheur County) - \$500,000. Construction - Kingman Lateral First Mile Piping Project. Owyhee Irrigation District will construct 5,800 feet of piping of the Kingman Lateral canal to address embankment instability caused by seepage. The piping will prevent sediment loading and other water quality issues in the Owyhee River basin caused by seepage and/or catastrophic failure of this canal section. The project includes installation of pipe between the lateral headgate and a tunnel at the end of the worst problem section.

Rogue River Valley Irrigation District and Medford Irrigation District (Jackson County) -\$24,334,500. Design and Construction -- Joint System Canal Piping Project. Rogue River Valley Irrigation District and Medford Irrigation District jointly use the Joint System Canal to serve several thousand customers with crop irrigation. Seepage and evaporation are occurring along the canal, which is resulting in lost water and ultimately less water flowing through the canal downstream to other water bodies. The proposed project includes design and construction of piping up to 4.4 miles of canal and diversions, replacement of siphons, improvements to water diversion structures, and fish passage. The project will address water quantity and quality downstream, including South Fork Little Butte Creek, which experiences low flow in some seasons. The project focuses on best management practices for irrigation to improve water quality from non-point sources and is consistent with the 2014 Nonpoint Source Management Program Plan sections 3.6.1 Watershed Approach Basin Reports and 6.1 Clean Water State Revolving Fund.

North Unit Irrigation District (Deschutes County) \$8,150,000 - *Sec. 319, Design and Construction: Lateral 43 and Juniper Butte Piping Project.* The District's System Improvement Plan (2017) proposes to pipe the district's open canal network, including the addition of pressure reducing stations, reuse/retention reservoirs, and metered turnouts for every water user. The current project proposes to start in one portion of the district by piping laterals 31, 32, 34 and 43, which represents a total of 8.2 miles of leaky canal and serves over 9,800 acres of agricultural land. The project will improve water quality in the lower Crooked River, Lake Billy Chinook, and the lower Deschutes River by removing canal seepage and minimizing and eliminating return flow from agricultural lands. Piping of the laterals will also encourage on-farm efficiency by providing pressurized water, which enables the switch from furrow irrigation to sprinkler irrigation, reducing excessive seepage and agricultural runoff from fields. The project is consistent with Section 3.6.1 of the 2014 Nonpoint Source Management Plan and Section 6.1 of the CWSRF.

Examples of Green Project Reserves in Oregon

Oregon irrigation districts and other water suppliers are on the forefront of innovative piping projects that provide and leverage multiple benefits, including "green" infrastructure projects. Otherwise known as Green Project Reserve (GPR), DEQ is required to use at least ten percent of annual federal capitalization grants on projects that promote water and energy efficiency, are environmentally innovative, or include green infrastructure.

East Fork Irrigation District (Hood River County) \$4,000,000 - Design and Construction -EFID Canal and Pipe Improvements. The proposed loan will support several water quality/water conservation projects that have been identified as high priority actions in recent East Fork Irrigation District planning studies. The primary projects will replace open canals or nonpressure rated pipe with pressure-rated pipe and pressure reducing stations. Additional potential projects would reduce warm water return flows; reduce sediment and chemical inputs to the Hood River; reduce water loss and remove sediment from the system; reduce operation and maintenance costs; and improve fish screening and increase instream flow. The proposed projects will meet multiple water quality improvement objectives including: 1) Decrease stream temperatures in the East Fork and mainstem Hood River (both reaches are covered by the Columbia-Hood River TMDL); and 2) Reduce sediment, pesticide, fertilizer, and other chemical inputs to the East Fork Hood River, Neal Creek, and the mainstem Hood River, all of which have water quality 303(d) listings.

Arnold Irrigation District (Deschutes County) \$8,699,900 – Design and Construction --Infrastructure Resiliency and Modernization Project. The Arnold Irrigation District Infrastructure Resiliency and Modernization Project will enclose 11.9 miles (62,868 length-feet) of open porous canal into leak-free piping resulting in the conservation of 11,083 acre-feet (AF) of water per year. Piping the canals has two immediate outcomes: (1) a substantial reduction in water quantity diverted; and (2) substantial increase of water quantity remaining instream. These outcomes have an immediate benefit to improving streamflow that will result in improvements to water quality, habitat, and habitat availability in the Deschutes River downstream from Wickiup Reservoir.

Providing increased appropriations for the CWSRF program will help implement additional innovative and multi-benefit projects like these in Oregon and across the nation.

Conclusion

In conclusion, OWRC is strongly supportive of increased appropriations to the CWSRF program, allowing Oregon's DEQ to continue making targeted loans that address Clean Water Act issues and improve water quality while incentivizing innovative water management solutions that benefit local communities, agricultural economies, and the environment. This voluntary approach creates and promotes cooperation and collaborative solutions to complex water resources challenges. We respectfully request an appropriation of at least \$3 billion as authorized in the *Bi-Partisan Infrastructure Bill* for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Clean Water State Revolving Loan Fund for FY2024.

Sincerely, April Snell, Executive Director Phone: 503-363-0121 Address: 795 Winter St. NE, Salem, OR 97301 Testimony of April Snell, Executive Director, Oregon Water Resources Congress Submitted to the United States House Appropriations Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies March 17, 2023

FY2024 Budget for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Clean Water State Revolving Fund Loan Program

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FY2024 Appropriations

We recognize our country must make strategic investments with scarce resources, particularly as our economy recovers from pandemic-related impacts and inflation. The CWSRF is a perfect example of the type of program that should have funding increased because it creates jobs while benefiting the environment and is an efficient return on taxpayer investment. CWSRF projects provide much needed construction and professional services jobs, particularly in rural areas facing economic hardship. Moreover, as a loan program, it is a wise investment that allows local communities to leverage their limited resources and address critical infrastructure needs that would otherwise be unmet.

In Oregon, the CWSRF is administered by the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), which has updated its rules implementing the program to reflect new criteria enacted under the BIL. DEQ responsibly maintains the program through repaid loans, interest, fees, and available federal capitalization grants. According to EPA, for every \$1 of federal capitalization funding, \$3 worth of assistance is provided, leveraging available funds to maximize benefits for local communities, the environment, and the economy. Unfortunately, available funding for water infrastructure projects continues to be woefully insufficient to meet the growing water infrastructure funding needs in Oregon and nationwide. Appropriations for the CWSRF needs to be increased in FY2024, as authorized in the BIL, to support water infrastructure projects that are addressing these critical needs.

Background of CWSRF Usage by Oregon Irrigation Districts

During the program's thirty-plus year history in Oregon, numerous OWRC member districts have successfully used CWSRF for projects that improve water quality and water conservation associated with water delivery diversions, canals, and pipelines throughout the state. OWRC and our members are highly supportive of the CWSRF, including promoting the program to our members, hosting workshops with agency staff, and annually submitting federal appropriations testimony in support of increased funding for the CWSRF. We believe it is an important funding tool for irrigation districts and other water suppliers that are using it for innovative piping projects that provide multiple environmental and economic benefits.

Numerous irrigation districts and other water suppliers need to pipe currently open canals, which significantly reduces sediment, improves water temperature, and provides other water quality benefits to rivers and streams. Piping immediately improves the efficiency of the water delivery system and helps increase available water supplies for aquatic life and irrigators alike. These projects also decrease energy consumption (from reduced pumping), and have opportunities for generating renewable energy, primarily through in-conduit hydropower. CWSRF is often an integral part of an overall package of local, state, and federal funding sources necessitating a higher level of federal loan funding availability for planned water infrastructure projects. Reductions in CWSRF appropriations could lead to loss of matching grant funding and delay or derail beneficial projects irrigation districts have been developing for years.

The success Oregon districts have experienced using the loan program to design and implement multi-beneficial projects has led to increased applications to the CWSRF. Irrigation districts are once again eligible for a key funding element, principal forgiveness, up to 50% and capped at \$500,000 for projects in a distressed community or eligible for the Green Project Reserve designation. As a result, we expect to see even more interest in the program. OWRC is hopeful there will be enough funding available to complete projects that will not only benefit the environment and the patrons served by the water delivery system, but also benefit the rural economy.

CWSRF Needs in Oregon

The appropriations for the CWSRF program prior to the BIL had fallen far short of what is needed to address critical water infrastructure needs in Oregon and across the nation. This has led to fewer water infrastructure projects, and therefore a reduction in improvements to water quality and water conservation. However, OWRC is pleased with the five-year commitment to increased funding authorized in the BIL. This federal commitment is important as infrastructure needs have become more expensive and even more time critical.

The most recent Intended Use Plan (IUP), updated on January 6, 2023, includes 22 loan applications for a total of \$174,783,989 in requested funding. Currently, the loan program has \$312,610,437 net available to lend for state FY2023. DEQ can award a maximum individual loan amount of \$46,891,566. The following irrigation district projects are included in the current FY2023 IUP. Increased funding will help catalyze many more projects like the ones below in Oregon and throughout the nation:

Oregon Projects on FY23 IUP

Owyhee Irrigation District (Malheur County) - \$500,000. Construction - Kingman Lateral First Mile Piping Project. Owyhee Irrigation District will construct 5,800 feet of piping of the Kingman Lateral canal to address embankment instability caused by seepage. The piping will prevent sediment loading and other water quality issues in the Owyhee River basin caused by seepage and/or catastrophic failure of this canal section. The project includes installation of pipe between the lateral headgate and a tunnel at the end of the worst problem section.

Rogue River Valley Irrigation District and Medford Irrigation District (Jackson County) -\$24,334,500. Design and Construction -- Joint System Canal Piping Project. Rogue River Valley Irrigation District and Medford Irrigation District jointly use the Joint System Canal to serve several thousand customers with crop irrigation. Seepage and evaporation are occurring along the canal, which is resulting in lost water and ultimately less water flowing through the canal downstream to other water bodies. The proposed project includes design and construction of piping up to 4.4 miles of canal and diversions, replacement of siphons, improvements to water diversion structures, and fish passage. The project will address water quantity and quality downstream, including South Fork Little Butte Creek, which experiences low flow in some seasons. The project focuses on best management practices for irrigation to improve water quality from non-point sources and is consistent with the 2014 Nonpoint Source Management Program Plan sections 3.6.1 Watershed Approach Basin Reports and 6.1 Clean Water State Revolving Fund.

North Unit Irrigation District (Deschutes County) \$8,150,000 - *Sec. 319, Design and Construction: Lateral 43 and Juniper Butte Piping Project.* The District's System Improvement Plan (2017) proposes to pipe the district's open canal network, including the addition of pressure reducing stations, reuse/retention reservoirs, and metered turnouts for every water user. The current project proposes to start in one portion of the district by piping laterals 31, 32, 34 and 43, which represents a total of 8.2 miles of leaky canal and serves over 9,800 acres of agricultural land. The project will improve water quality in the lower Crooked River, Lake Billy Chinook, and the lower Deschutes River by removing canal seepage and minimizing and eliminating return flow from agricultural lands. Piping of the laterals will also encourage on-farm efficiency by providing pressurized water, which enables the switch from furrow irrigation to sprinkler irrigation, reducing excessive seepage and agricultural runoff from fields. The project is consistent with Section 3.6.1 of the 2014 Nonpoint Source Management Plan and Section 6.1 of the CWSRF.

Examples of Green Project Reserves in Oregon

Oregon irrigation districts and other water suppliers are on the forefront of innovative piping projects that provide and leverage multiple benefits, including "green" infrastructure projects. Otherwise known as Green Project Reserve (GPR), DEQ is required to use at least ten percent of annual federal capitalization grants on projects that promote water and energy efficiency, are environmentally innovative, or include green infrastructure.

East Fork Irrigation District (Hood River County) \$4,000,000 - Design and Construction -EFID Canal and Pipe Improvements. The proposed loan will support several water quality/water conservation projects that have been identified as high priority actions in recent East Fork Irrigation District planning studies. The primary projects will replace open canals or nonpressure rated pipe with pressure-rated pipe and pressure reducing stations. Additional potential projects would reduce warm water return flows; reduce sediment and chemical inputs to the Hood River; reduce water loss and remove sediment from the system; reduce operation and maintenance costs; and improve fish screening and increase instream flow. The proposed projects will meet multiple water quality improvement objectives including: 1) Decrease stream temperatures in the East Fork and mainstem Hood River (both reaches are covered by the Columbia-Hood River TMDL); and 2) Reduce sediment, pesticide, fertilizer, and other chemical inputs to the East Fork Hood River, Neal Creek, and the mainstem Hood River, all of which have water quality 303(d) listings.

Arnold Irrigation District (Deschutes County) \$8,699,900 – Design and Construction --Infrastructure Resiliency and Modernization Project. The Arnold Irrigation District Infrastructure Resiliency and Modernization Project will enclose 11.9 miles (62,868 length-feet) of open porous canal into leak-free piping resulting in the conservation of 11,083 acre-feet (AF) of water per year. Piping the canals has two immediate outcomes: (1) a substantial reduction in water quantity diverted; and (2) substantial increase of water quantity remaining instream. These outcomes have an immediate benefit to improving streamflow that will result in improvements to water quality, habitat, and habitat availability in the Deschutes River downstream from Wickiup Reservoir.

Providing increased appropriations for the CWSRF program will help implement additional innovative and multi-benefit projects like these in Oregon and across the nation.

Conclusion

In conclusion, OWRC is strongly supportive of increased appropriations to the CWSRF program, allowing Oregon's DEQ to continue making targeted loans that address Clean Water Act issues and improve water quality while incentivizing innovative water management solutions that benefit local communities, agricultural economies, and the environment. This voluntary approach creates and promotes cooperation and collaborative solutions to complex water resources challenges. We respectfully request an appropriation of at least \$3 billion as authorized in the *Bi-Partisan Infrastructure Bill* for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Clean Water State Revolving Loan Fund for FY2024.

Sincerely, April Snell, Executive Director Phone: 503-363-0121 Address: 795 Winter St. NE, Salem, OR 97301

Testimony of April Snell, Executive Director, Oregon Water Resources Congress Submitted to the United States Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies April 21, 2023

FY2024 Budget for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Fisheries Restoration Irrigation Mitigation Act (FRIMA) Program

The Oregon Water Resources Congress (OWRC) is writing to express its strong support for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's (USFWS) Fisheries Restoration Irrigation Mitigation Act (FRIMA) program and is requesting **\$15 million** in FY2024, which is the previously authorized amount. The FRIMA program is an essential cost-share funding program that helps water users and fishery agencies better protect sensitive, threatened, and endangered fish species while ensuring water supply delivery to farms and communities.

OWRC was established in 1912 as a trade association to support the protection of water rights and promote the wise stewardship of water resources statewide. OWRC members are local governmental entities, which include irrigation districts, water control districts, drainage districts, water improvement districts, and other agricultural water suppliers that deliver water to roughly 1/3 of all irrigated land in Oregon. These water stewards operate complex water management systems, including water supply reservoirs, canals, pipelines, fish screens and fish passage, and hydropower facilities.

FY2024 Appropriations

The FRIMA program meets a critical need in fishery protection and restoration, complimenting other programs through USFWS. Fish passage and fish screen installations are a vital component to fishery protection with several benefits:

- Keep sensitive, threatened and endangered fish out of canals and water delivery systems
- Allow fish to be safely bypassed around reservoirs and other infrastructure
- Reduce water quality risks to fish species

There are over one hundred irrigation districts and other special districts in Oregon that provide water supplies to over one million acres of irrigated cropland in the state. Almost all these districts are affected by either state or federal Endangered Species Act listings of salmon, steelhead, bull trout or other sensitive, threatened or endangered species. The design and installation of fish screens and fish passage facilities to protect the myriad of fish species is often cost-prohibitive for individual districts to implement without outside funding sources.

The cost of addressing fish screening and fish passage needs in Oregon far outweighs current appropriations or the program authorization as a whole. Oregon irrigation districts anticipate at least \$25 million in funding is needed to meet current fish passage and fish screen needs in our state alone. Limited cost-share funds are available from the Oregon Watershed Enhanced Board (OWEB), but the primary cost-share for fish screen and fish passage projects has been provided by the districts and their water users. Projects include construction of new fish screens and fish passage facilities as well as significant upgrades of existing facilities to meet new requirements (new species or science) from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)

Fisheries Service and the USFWS. Upgrades are often needed to modernize facilities with new technologies that provide better protection for fish species as well as reduced maintenance and increased lifespan for the operator.

Background of the Fisheries Restoration Irrigation Mitigation Act (FRIMA) Program

FRIMA, originally enacted in November 2000, created a federal partnership program incentivizing voluntary fish screen and fish passage improvements for water withdrawal projects in Idaho, Oregon, Washington and western Montana. The funding went to local governments for construction of fish screens and fish passage facilities and is matched with non-federal funding. Irrigation districts and other local governments that divert water for irrigation accessed the funding directly, while individual irrigators accessed funding through their local Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD), which are local governments affiliated with USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS).

The original legislation in 2000 (PL.106-502) was supported and requested by the Pacific Northwest Partnership, a coalition of local governmental entities in the four Northwest states, including OWRC. The FRIMA legislation authorized \$25 million annually, to be divided equally among the four states from 2001 to 2012, which was when the original authorization expired. The actual funding appropriated to the FRIMA program (through Congressional write-ins) ranged from \$1 million to \$8 million, well short of the \$25 million originally authorized and far short of what is needed to address fish passage and screening needs across the region. However, that small amount of funding was used to leverage other funds and assisted the region in making measurable progress towards installing fish screens and fish passage critical to protecting and restoring populations of sensitive, threatened, and endangered fish species.

FRIMA funding was channeled through USFWS to state fishery agencies in the four states, and distributed using an application and approval process based on a ranking system implemented uniformly among the states, including the following criteria: Fish restoration benefits, cost effectiveness, and feasibility of planned structure. All projects provided improved fish passage or fish protection at water diversion structures and benefitted native fish species in the area, including several state or federally listed species. Projects were also subject to applicable state and federal requirements for project construction and operation.

FRIMA was reauthorized as part of the Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation Act (WIIN) of 2016. However, a fifth state, California, was also added as an eligible FRIMA costshare recipient and the program was only reauthorized for \$15 million, well short of the estimated \$500 million in fish screening and passage needs in the Pacific Northwest alone. Now that the program has been reauthorized, it is imperative the program receive appropriations so all five states can better leverage state and local funding to meet their fish passage and screening needs.

Program Benefits

FRIMA projects provide immediate protection for fish and fills a large unmet need in the Western United States for cost-share assistance with fish screening and fish passage installation and improvements. Compared to other recovery strategies, installation of fish screens and fish passage has the highest assurance for increasing populations of sensitive, threatened, and

endangered fish species in the Pacific Northwest. Furthermore, the construction of these facilities have minimal impact on water delivery operations, and projects are done cooperatively using methods well accepted by landowners and rural communities.

Funding of the FRIMA program has catalyzed cooperative partnerships and innovative projects that provide immediate and long-term benefits to irrigators, fishery agencies, and local communities throughout the Pacific Northwest. This program is also a wise investment, with past projects contributing more than the required match and leveraging on average over one dollar for each federal dollar invested. FRIMA provides for a maximum federal cost-share of 65%, with the applicant's cost-share at 35% along with on-going maintenance and support of the structure for passage or screening purposes. Applicants operate the facilities and state agencies review and monitor the projects.

Oregon Projects & Benefits

Twenty-six fish screen or fish passage projects in Oregon were previously funded using FRIMA for part of the project financing. These projects have led to:

- Installation of screens at seventeen diversions or irrigation pumps
- Removal or modification of twelve fish passage barriers
- Three-hundred sixty-five miles of surface waters re-opened to safe fish passage

In addition, the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) has used some of the FRIMA funding to develop an inventory of needed fish screens and passages in the state. Grants ranged from just under \$6,000 to \$400,000 in size with a local match averaging 64% of the project costs, well over the amount required under the Act (35%). In other words, each federal dollar invested in the FRIMA program generates a local investment of just over one dollar for the protection of fish species in the Pacific Northwest.

The following are examples of how Oregon has effectively utilized FRIMA money. Additional examples of projects in other states are available from USFWS at: https://www.fws.gov/pacific/Fisheries/reportpub/Documents/FRIMA%20Accomplishments%20 Report%202002-2012.pdf

Santiam Water Control District: Fish screen project on a large 1050 cubic feet per second (cfs) multipurpose water diversion project on the Santiam River (Willamette Basin) near Stayton, Oregon. Partners are the Santiam Water Control District, ODFW, Marion Soil and Water Conservation District, and the City of Stayton. Approved **FRIMA** funding of **\$400,000** leveraged a **\$1,200,000** total project cost. Species benefited included winter steelhead, spring Chinook, rainbow trout, and cutthroat trout.

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Conclusion

Providing funding for the FRIMA program fills a vital funding gap for fish screens and fish passage projects that are needed to protect and restore sensitive, threatened, and endangered fish species, which in turn benefits the economy, local communities, and the environment. Eligible FRIMA funded projects are ready for construction and will provide immediate habitat benefits for fish as well as jobs and economic revitalization for local communities. Dollar-for-dollar, providing screening and fish passage at diversions is one of the most cost-effective uses of restoration dollars, creating fishery protection at relative low cost, with low risk and significant benefits.

The return of a robustly funded FRIMA program will once again catalyze cooperative partnerships and innovative projects that provide immediate and long-term benefits to irrigators, fishery agencies, and local communities throughout the Pacific Northwest. We respectfully request an appropriation of \$15 million for U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Fisheries Restoration Irrigation Mitigation Act program for FY2024.

Sincerely,

April Snell OWRC Executive Director 795 Winter St. NE, Salem, OR 97301 Phone: 503-363-012

Testimony of April Snell, Executive Director, Oregon Water Resources Congress Submitted to the United States House Appropriations Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies March 17, 2023

FY2024 Budget for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Fisheries Restoration Irrigation Mitigation Act (FRIMA) Program

The Oregon Water Resources Congress (OWRC) is writing to express its strong support for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's (USFWS) Fisheries Restoration Irrigation Mitigation Act (FRIMA) program and is requesting **\$15 million** in FY2024, which is the previously authorized amount. The FRIMA program is an essential cost-share funding program that helps water users and fishery agencies better protect sensitive, threatened, and endangered fish species while ensuring water supply delivery to farms and communities.

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Sincerely,

April Snell OWRC Executive Director 795 Winter St. NE, Salem, OR 97301 Phone: 503-363-012

Coalition Support for USGS Streamgage Networks and Modernization

Congressman Jeff Merkley, Chair Congresswoman Lisa Murkowski, Ranking Member Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Interior, Environment & Related Agencies 131 Dirksen Senate Office Building Washington, D.C. 20510

February 28, 2023

RE: WATER DATA & SCIENCE PROGRAM FUNDING Interior Department Appropriations for FY2024

Summary of Coalition's Requests for FY2024:

Federal Priorities Streamgages = \$32.0 M Cooperative Matching Funds Program = \$68M (includes \$33M streamgage support and studies) NGWOS/data modernization = \$35M

Dear Chairman Merkley and Ranking Member Murkowski:

Our coalition of 96 water management and use stakeholders urges your support to sufficiently fund the United States Geological Survey's Federal Priorities Streamgage network and supportive programs for the upcoming Fiscal Year 2024 budget appropriation.

A fully funded streamgage network – one that keeps pace with inflationary and routine maintenance overhead – is critical to ensuring the nation's socioeconomic and cultural wellbeing. These streamgages are crucial as we embark on new efforts to understand, plan for, and build our collective capacity to improve the nation's resilience to extreme weather events. A summary of our funding request is detailed below. The final section of this letter explains in more detail why we as a nation simply cannot risk an inadequately funded network of streamgages.

Summary of funding request

Our broad coalition of state agencies, interstate commissions, associations, universities, non-governmental organizations, and private industry request a total USGS Fiscal Year 2024 budget appropriation. This request consists of **\$32M** dedicated to Federal Priorities Streamgages, **\$68M** for the Cooperative Matching Funds Program (including \$33M for streamgage support) and **\$35M** for Next Generation Water Observing System and data delivery modernization.

Supporting details

Federal Priority Streamgages (FPS) -- \$32M

We envision the need for a \$2M increase over our FY2023 \$30M funding request which was designed to cover the costs of existing gages and preclude any loss of sites. This request does not include a cost-share takeover for any FPS gages; it is just to keep the current gages going.

Justification: Funding for FPS has been flat since 2016, yet operational costs have grown by approximately one to three percent per year due to increases in salary, travel, equipment and communication costs. Inflationary costs associated with streamgage site maintenance, operations and reporting have also generated a \$1M per year shortfall since 2022.

Cooperative Matching Funds (CMF) Program -- \$68M

The CMF program should be funded at \$68M to adequately support cooperative matching funds for streamgaging. Of that appropriation, \$33M for CMF-supported streamgages is needed to protect the approximately 5,275 CMF-supported streamgages that are already in place and functioning nationwide.

Justification: The USGS works with more than 1,400 partners nationwide (federal, state, tribal, local and non-governmental organizations) using CMF to jointly support streamgages. This matching program began as a 50/50 cost share but has seen the federal contribution decrease to less than 30 percent. When an increasing share of the streamgages must be funded by reimbursable and private parties, they become ever more susceptible to having the funding pulled, thus rendering the FPS program less stable overall.

Next Generation Water Observing System (NGWOS) - \$35M

Our coalition appreciates Congress' support of the Next Generation Water Observation System (NGWOS). We stand by last year's FY2023 request for \$35M to allow for further buildout of the NGWOS program. Funding at this level for FY2024 would complete rollout for the fifth Integrated Water Science (IWS) basin and ultimately move NGWOS toward the goal of 10 IWS basins nationwide.

Justification: The FY2023 appropriation of \$29.5M was only a \$500,000 increase over the FY2022 appropriation which allowed planning to begin in the fifth basin but with fewer resources than originally intended.

USGS Streamgage network data improve our resilience to extreme weather events

A fully funded and implemented streamgage network will augment our nation's resilience in response to extreme weather events. Without water data from this widespread system of sites, we are less equipped to make informed decision making, such as flood and hurricane risk predictions, drought determinations, and water supply forecasts.

The USGS recently completed an analysis of the USGS Streamflow Monitoring Network to determine priority areas to maintain or improve coverage, resolution, and representation throughout the United States.¹ This analysis identified network gaps in three important areas in context to building resilience to extreme weather events:

- Most coastal watersheds (83 percent) do not have streamgages. More gages are needed in coastal areas; a robust streamgage network implemented in coastal areas would <u>provide important data to reduce flood risk</u> in context to sea level rise through improved flood forecasting and warning.
- 2) Thirty-nine states lack streamflow information in areas to assess how local climate is affecting floods and droughts. More streamgages are needed to <u>understand how</u> <u>climate variability affects different parts of the Nation</u>. The findings indicate that more gages are needed in 30 percent of NOAA Climate Divisions.
- 3) The USGS network has streamgages in many areas where water supply is vulnerable to reduced snowpack because of climate warming. Some of these areas may require additional gages because they are <u>particularly vulnerable</u> to changes in snowpack.

With your help and continued support, Congress can enable the USGS to fulfill its Water Resources Mission Area goals by adequately funding the Federal Priority Streamgages network, Cooperative Matching Funds program, and NGWOS to move water science into the 21st century.

We are happy to answer your questions or provide any additional information. Please contact any of us or Beth Callaway at the Interstate Council on Water Policy at: <u>beth@icwp.org</u> or (307) 772-1999.

<u>CC:</u> Appropriations Subcommittee Members Secretary of the Interior Director, Office of Management and Budget Director, US Geological Survey

¹ Konrad, C.P., Anderson, S.W., Restivo, D.E., and David, J.E., 2022, Network Analysis of USGS Streamflow Gages: U.S. Geological Survey data release, <u>https://doi.org/10.5066/P9C8NYTO</u>.

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To-date, Congressional streamgage funding priorities have not lined up to meet this goal. The USGS is unable to complete its development for a fully implemented network as directed by Congress in 2009 without additional funding.

Why are Federal Priority Streamgage (FPS) gage data important?

Authorized by Congress in the SECURE Water Act as the National Streamflow Information Program, the FPS is meant to comprise a stable "federal backbone" network of streamgages. Data provided by FPS inform critical life and property saving information. They augment research management decisions, maintain water dependent infrastructure and provide essential public health and environmental condition information. Insufficient funding seriously compromises our national ability to address federal, state, tribal, local socioeconomic issues, including international treaty obligations.

Who uses the data and for what purpose?

State/local/tribal stakeholders: The members of our undersigned organizations rely on these streamgaging networks to ensure our national ability to address critical environmental and socio-economic issues such as:

- Forecasting extreme stream flow and water level events such as floods, droughts, and hurricanes;
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The utility of the network is not singular to USGS -- a recent survey conducted by the agency of 28 sister federal agencies solicited input on the importance and prioritization needs of streamgage information. The results from this survey will be shared this spring; USGS will adapt the FPS program to federal priorities to meet the responses of the survey.

Why is there a current FPS funding shortfall?

Federal Priority Streamgages: Historically, FPS cost increases have previously been covered by USGS partners, including state and other federal agencies (where gages are jointly funded) or by delaying planned network enhancements. Enhancements include, but are not limited to, cyclical upgrades to equipment and activities to flood-harden existing FPS sites.

Unfortunately, after multiple years of flat funding, the USGS reached a breaking where network enhancements could no longer be delayed and operational costs continue to increase. Operations at some streamgages have already been discontinued and more shutdowns will continue into the future unless funding shortages are addressed resulting in losses to long-term data that cannot be re-created.

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Coalition Support for USGS Streamgage Networks and Modernization

Congressman Mike Simpson, Chair Congresswoman Chellie Pingree, Ranking Member House Appropriations Subcommittee on Interior, Environment & Related Agencies 2363 Rayburn House Office Building Washington, D.C. 20515

February 28, 2023

RE: WATER DATA & SCIENCE PROGRAM FUNDING Interior Department Appropriations for FY2024

Summary of Coalition's Requests for FY2024:

Federal Priorities Streamgages = \$32.0 M Cooperative Matching Funds Program = \$68M (includes \$33M streamgage support and studies) NGWOS/data modernization = \$35M

Dear Chairman Simpson and Ranking Member Pingree:

Our coalition of 96 water management and use stakeholders urges your support to sufficiently fund the United States Geological Survey's Federal Priorities Streamgage network and supportive programs for the upcoming Fiscal Year 2024 budget appropriation.

A fully funded streamgage network – one that keeps pace with inflationary and routine maintenance overhead – is critical to ensuring the nation's socioeconomic and cultural wellbeing. These streamgages are crucial as we embark on new efforts to understand, plan for, and build our collective capacity to improve the nation's resilience to extreme weather events. A summary of our funding request is detailed below. The final section of this letter explains in more detail why we as a nation simply cannot risk an inadequately funded network of streamgages.

Summary of funding request

Our broad coalition of state agencies, interstate commissions, associations, universities, non-governmental organizations, and private industry request a total USGS Fiscal Year 2024 budget appropriation. This request consists of **\$32M** dedicated to Federal Priorities Streamgages, **\$68M** for the Cooperative Matching Funds Program (including \$33M for streamgage support) and **\$35M** for Next Generation Water Observing System and data delivery modernization.

Supporting details

Federal Priority Streamgages (FPS) -- \$32M

We envision the need for a \$2M increase over our FY2023 \$30M funding request which was designed to cover the costs of existing gages and preclude any loss of sites. This request does not include a cost-share takeover for any FPS gages; it is just to keep the current gages going.

Justification: Funding for FPS has been flat since 2016, yet operational costs have grown by approximately one to three percent per year due to increases in salary, travel, equipment and communication costs. Inflationary costs associated with streamgage site maintenance, operations and reporting have also generated a \$1M per year shortfall since 2022.

Cooperative Matching Funds (CMF) Program -- \$68M

The CMF program should be funded at \$68M to adequately support cooperative matching funds for streamgaging. Of that appropriation, \$33M for CMF-supported streamgages is needed to protect the approximately 5,275 CMF-supported streamgages that are already in place and functioning nationwide.

Justification: The USGS works with more than 1,400 partners nationwide (federal, state, tribal, local and non-governmental organizations) using CMF to jointly support streamgages. This matching program began as a 50/50 cost share but has seen the federal contribution decrease to less than 30 percent. When an increasing share of the streamgages must be funded by reimbursable and private parties, they become ever more susceptible to having the funding pulled, thus rendering the FPS program less stable overall.

Next Generation Water Observing System (NGWOS) - \$35M

Our coalition appreciates Congress' support of the Next Generation Water Observation System (NGWOS). We stand by last year's FY2023 request for \$35M to allow for further buildout of the NGWOS program. Funding at this level for FY2024 would complete rollout for the fifth Integrated Water Science (IWS) basin and ultimately move NGWOS toward the goal of 10 IWS basins nationwide.

Justification: The FY2023 appropriation of \$29.5M was only a \$500,000 increase over the FY2022 appropriation which allowed planning to begin in the fifth basin but with fewer resources than originally intended.

USGS Streamgage network data improve our resilience to extreme weather events

A fully funded and implemented streamgage network will augment our nation's resilience in response to extreme weather events. Without water data from this widespread system of sites, we are less equipped to make informed decision making, such as flood and hurricane risk predictions, drought determinations, and water supply forecasts.

The USGS recently completed an analysis of the USGS Streamflow Monitoring Network to determine priority areas to maintain or improve coverage, resolution, and representation throughout the United States.¹ This analysis identified network gaps in three important areas in context to building resilience to extreme weather events:

- Most coastal watersheds (83 percent) do not have streamgages. More gages are needed in coastal areas; a robust streamgage network implemented in coastal areas would <u>provide important data to reduce flood risk</u> in context to sea level rise through improved flood forecasting and warning.
- 2) Thirty-nine states lack streamflow information in areas to assess how local climate is affecting floods and droughts. More streamgages are needed to <u>understand how</u> <u>climate variability affects different parts of the Nation</u>. The findings indicate that more gages are needed in 30 percent of NOAA Climate Divisions.
- 3) The USGS network has streamgages in many areas where water supply is vulnerable to reduced snowpack because of climate warming. Some of these areas may require additional gages because they are <u>particularly vulnerable</u> to changes in snowpack.

With your help and continued support, Congress can enable the USGS to fulfill its Water Resources Mission Area goals by adequately funding the Federal Priority Streamgages network, Cooperative Matching Funds program, and NGWOS to move water science into the 21st century.

We are happy to answer your questions or provide any additional information. Please contact any of us or Beth Callaway at the Interstate Council on Water Policy at: <u>beth@icwp.org</u> or (307) 772-1999.

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