Water Project Grants and Loans Applications

Project Summaries – 2023 Funding Cycle

August 31, 2023

Background

In 2013, the Oregon Legislature passed Senate Bill 839, establishing the Water Supply Development Account to provide grants and loans for water projects that have economic, environmental, and social/cultural benefits. The 2023 application deadline was April 26, 2023. The Oregon Water Resources Department (OWRD) received 10 complete applications requesting a total of $28,987,945 in grant funding.

Document Description

The following are evaluation summaries for complete grant applications received for the 2023 Water Project Grants and Loans funding cycle. The multi-agency Technical Review Team (TRT) provided comments on each application, scored applications based on the criteria identified within the Scoring Criteria document, and made a funding recommendation to the Water Resources Commission (Commission) based on that evaluation and available funds. The following evaluation summaries highlight TRT comments gathered by OWRD during the application evaluation process and are prepared for the Commission's consideration and review. Applicants are encouraged to contact the Grant Coordinator to request a review meeting and receive additional evaluation feedback. The evaluation summaries are listed in order of the TRT ranking.

The evaluation summary includes a combined public benefit score, which the TRT used to rank proposed projects. A table is also provided that shows a breakdown of the application score by category. An application could score up to 72 points in each of the economic, environmental, and social/cultural public benefit categories. A proposed project could receive up to 24 additional preference points; up to 12 points for legally protecting water instream and up to 12 points for collaboration (these are listed in the "Other" category). There is a maximum public benefit score of 240 points.

Next Steps

OWRD is soliciting public comment on the TRT ranking and funding recommendation through 5:00 pm on October 2, 2023. Information on how to submit a public comment is available here. Public comments submitted on the TRT ranking and funding recommendation will be presented to the Commission who will make a funding decision. The tentative date for the Commission to make its funding decision is November 16-17, 2023.

More Information

If you have questions please contact the Grant Coordinator, Adair Muth, at 971-301-0718 or OWRD.Grants@water.oregon.gov.

2023 Applications

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McKay Creek Water Rights Switch Project

TRT Recommendation: Recommended for Funding

Project Information (adapted from application)

Applicant Name: Ochoco Irrigation District & Deschutes River Conservancy

County: Crook

Funding Requested: $4,063,000 Grant

Total Project Cost: $45,131,286

Project Summary: The goal of the proposed project is to permanently protect the natural hydrograph of McKay Creek from river miles 6-12, providing more early summer streamflow for steelhead fry to transition to juveniles and migrate to suitable summer rearing habitats, lowering stream temperatures, and eliminating the need for diversion structures that create passage barriers for migrating fish. The project would construct a pump station, 6-mile pipeline, and associated District and on-farm infrastructure to deliver reliable irrigation water to 17 farms and ranches and approximately 685 acres adjacent to McKay Creek. As part of the project, irrigators along McKay Creek would trade their privately held water rights, sourced from McKay Creek, for water rights held by Ochoco Irrigation District, sourced from Prineville Reservoir. In exchange for reliable stored water, these irrigators would transfer 11.2 cfs of McKay Creek water rights instream. The project supports Crook County's agricultural economy and supports a long-term effort to restore the natural hydrograph in McKay Creek and benefit steelhead populations in the Crooked River and its tributaries.

Technical Review Team Score and Comments

Combined Public Benefit Score: 111.5

Public Benefit Category Score Breakdown

Economic	Environmental	Social/Cultural	Other
33	36.5	30	12

Economic: The proposed project would likely result in increased economic activity from construction for three years, while also increasing long-term irrigation reliability and agricultural viability in the region. The application provided clear information regarding the increase in productivity that would result from landowners receiving reliable water longer into the irrigation season. The project's innovative use of source switching, coupled with pressurized deliveries and on-farm efficiency upgrades would increase agricultural efficiencies in the system and potentially increase property values. The review team noted the ongoing and increased energy costs associated with water pumping.

Environmental: The project proposes to legally protect 100 percent of the transferred McKay Creek water rights instream, which would preserve critical flows to McKay Creek and help restore the natural hydrograph. The instream protection would result in increased resiliency to climate change impacts. The proposed project would also address the limiting factor of impaired fish passed by removing all diversions from the middle reach of McKay Creek. The review team noted that McKay Creek is a snowmelt-driven system that naturally goes dry in the late summer so the instream benefits would be limited to the natural ecological threshold that exists on McKay Creek.

Social/Cultural: The application described a high level of collaborative planning and the proposed project's role in supporting state, local, federal, and tribal priorities. In addition, the application clearly described how the proposed project would conduct extensive project monitoring and contribute to the body of data publicly available in the state.

Summary: The proposed project outcomes were evaluated as likely to achieve high economic, environmental, and social/cultural benefits.

Oanna & Yasui Sublateral Efficiency Project

TRT Recommendation: Recommended for Funding

Project Information (adapted from application)

Applicant Name: East Fork Irrigation District

County: Hood River

Funding Requested: $1,499,875 Grant

Total Project Cost: $3,800,000

Project Summary: The primary goals of the proposed project are to increase summer stream flows for threatened salmon and steelhead and increase long-term irrigation water reliability. These goals would be achieved by replacing 15,700 feet of non-pressure rated pipe (primarily wood and unreinforced concrete) and eight open concrete water boxes along the East Fork Irrigation District's Oanna and Yasui sublateral lines with 11,700 feet of HDPE pipe, three large pressure reducing stations, plus six smaller pressure reducing stations. The project would eliminate overflows at the existing water boxes that currently lose an estimated average of 2 cfs of flow, which would have a significant positive impact on spawning and rearing habitat availability for ESA-listed spring Chinook and winter steelhead. During drought years, having the ability to deliver water more efficiently would increase reliability and the resiliency of local agriculture to a changing climate. The project would legally protect a portion of the conserved water instream through the Oregon Water Resource Department's Allocation of Conserved Water Program.

Technical Review Team Score and Comments

Combined Public Benefit Score: 104

Public Benefit Category Score Breakdown

Economic	Environmental	Social/Cultural	Other
24	29.5	32.5	18

Economic: The proposed project would result in high economic benefits primarily resulting from reducing operating costs and increasing staff efficiencies. The project would also increase the reliability of irrigation for high value agriculture in the region and contribute to an overall strategy of improving critical habitat for steelhead and associated recreational and tribal fishing opportunities.

Environmental: The project proposes to legally protect 75 percent of the conserved water instream. The proposed project would eliminate overflows from the project's sublaterals, likely improving water quality through reduced temperature, turbidity, and contaminant loading. By improving water conservation and increasing instream flows, the proposed project would benefit ecosystem resiliency to climate change impacts.

Social/Cultural: The application does an excellent job describing outreach to the local community, the work with local partners, and how the proposed project supports collaborative basin planning efforts, including the state's Integrated Water Resources Strategy. The proposed project would benefit the local food system in the Hood River Valley and the associated recreational fruit picking. The Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs offered support to the proposed project as important to the Tribe's Hood River fish habitat program through streamflow and water quality enhancements.

Summary: The proposed project is likely to achieve high economic, environmental, and social/cultural benefits. The review team commended the collaboration that went into planning and engaging the community on this project.

Arnold Irrigation District Deschutes Basin Flow Restoration Project - Phase 2

TRT Recommendation: Recommended for Funding

Project Information (adapted from application)

Applicant Name: Arnold Irrigation District

County: Deschutes

Funding Requested: $2,903,667 Grant

Total Project Cost: $12,458,667

Project Summary: The proposed project would enclose over four miles (23,175 linear feet) of open canal into leak-free HDPE piping with the goal of restoring 12.6 cubic feet per second (cfs) of streamflow to the Deschutes Basin. The conserved water would be protected instream for the Deschutes Basin immediately after the construction concludes. Specifically, the conserved water would be legally protected instream from the Arnold diversion flowing to North Unit Irrigation District (NUID) through the Oregon Water Resource Department's Allocation of Conserved Water Program. The proposed project is part of a four-phase system improvement plan that will eventually restore and protect 32.5 cfs to the basin by enclosing the Arnold Main Canal into piping. The proposed project, phase 2, would improve conditions for native and ESA-listed species, improve public safety, and provide a resilient solution for water supply reliability in the Deschutes Basin.

Technical Review Team Score and Comments

Combined Public Benefit Score: 89

Public Benefit Category Score Breakdown

Economic	Environmental	Social/Cultural	Other
23	28	26	12

Economic: The proposed piping project would significantly enhance the district's infrastructure, resulting in substantial reductions in water seepage loss, reduced maintenance costs, reduced pumping costs, and increased water system efficiencies overall. The proposed project would also benefit agriculture viability in the region by providing conserved water to the junior water right holder, North Unit Irrigation District, through a legal agreement, although this benefit is not guaranteed in perpetuity.

Environmental: The proposed project would protect a significant volume of water instream during the non-irrigation season which would improve habitat conditions for native and ESA-listed species, including the Oregon spotted frog. The increased streamflow during the winter would provide for a more natural hydrograph, increase streamflow, and potentially improve water quality, which would result in increased ecosystem resiliency to climate change impacts.

Social/Cultural: The application described how the proposed project would improve public safety by eliminating risks associated with open canals and preventing runoff contaminants from entering the water system. The application described how the proposed project aligns with various statewide initiatives and basin priorities, including the near-term goals of the Deschutes Basin Habitat Conservation Plan and specific recommendations from the state's Integrated Water Resources Strategy. The application would have been strengthened by adding information about strategies used to engage with Oregon's environmental justice communities.

Summary: Throughout the application current conditions and the anticipated public benefits were thoroughly described and detailed, which provided the review team with a clear understanding of the likely change in conditions. The proposed project outcomes were evaluated as likely to achieve high economic, environmental, and social/cultural benefits.

North Unit Irrigation District Irrigation Modernization and Winter Flow Augmentation Project – Segment 1-2

TRT Recommendation: Recommended for Funding

Project Information (adapted from application)

Applicant Name: North Unit Irrigation District

County: Deschutes

Funding Requested: $5,075,000 Grant

Total Project Cost: $20,300,000

Project Summary: The proposed project would enclose 34,040 linear feet (LF) of Lateral 43, a 113,167 LF open porous irrigation canal, into leak-free HDPE piping to conserve 5.3 cfs of water previously lost to seepage. One hundred percent of the conserved water would be legally protected instream through the Oregon Water Resource Department's Allocation of Conserved Water Program. The water conservation achieved by this project would (1) eliminate water delivery and operations inefficiencies; (2) improve water quality; (3) improve and stabilize agricultural production through water supply reliability; (4) improve conditions for ESA-listed species including the Oregon spotted frog.

Technical Review Team Score and Comments

Combined Public Benefit Score: 87

Public Benefit Category Score Breakdown

Economic	Environmental	Social/Cultural	Other
22.5	26.5	26	12

Economic: The proposed project would improve the irrigation district's infrastructure and result in a more efficient water delivery system that would reduce seepage loss. The application described how the proposed project would provide more reliable irrigation water for the district's patrons, which would slow the trend of needing to leave fallow high-value agricultural land.

Environmental: The proposed project would legally protect 100 percent of the conserved water in the Deschutes River during the winter months, supporting the natural hydrograph and benefiting native and listed species, including the Oregon spotted frog. The increased winter streamflow would improve habitat conditions and result in increased ecosystem resiliency to drought and climate change impacts.

Social/Cultural: The application described the potential benefits to the local agricultural food system and how the proposed project would improve public safety by eliminating risks associated with open canals. The proposed project would promote priorities identified by local collaborative groups working on water management in the basin. The application described how the project directly correlates to recommended actions in the state's Integrated Water Resources Strategy and supports the actions in the Deschutes Basin Habitat Conservation Plan.

Summary: The application provided sufficient information to demonstrate the likelihood of the proposed project achieving high economic, environmental, and social/cultural benefits. The application would have been strengthened if it had included letters of support.

Sarthou South Fork Little Butte Creek Irrigation Efficiency Project

TRT Recommendation: Recommended for Funding

Project Information (adapted from application)

Applicant Name: Trout Unlimited

County: Jackson

Funding Requested: $252,177 Grant

Total Project Cost: $315,238

Project Summary: The proposed project would improve irrigation efficiency by upgrading irrigation methods from flood-irrigation to a combination of center-pivot, wheel-lines, and k-pods on 34.7 acres and eliminating 2.26 miles of unlined irrigation ditch by moving the point of diversion 0.9 miles downstream and installing a pump system. The project would improve cattle production by 25% and hay production by 50% while enhancing instream flows for ESA-listed Coho Salmon and other native fishes and supporting recovery actions identified in NOAA's Final Recovery Plan for Southern Oregon/Northern California Coast Coho Salmon. The project would legally protect 100% of the conserved water instream (approximately 0.164 cfs, 27% of the current water right certificates) in South Fork Little Butte Creek through the Oregon Water Resource Department's Allocation of Conserved Water Program. The goal of the project is to improve irrigation efficiency and production for the irrigators by upgrading irrigation system infrastructure while supporting streamflow restoration through permanently dedicating 100% of the conserved water instream for the benefit of native fishes.

Technical Review Team Score and Comments

Combined Public Benefit Score: 85

Public Benefit Category Score Breakdown

Economic	Environmental	Social/Cultural	Other
21.5	28	23.5	12

Economic: The proposed project would enhance irrigation efficiency by switching from flood to sprinkler irrigation. The proposed project would enhance the farmland resource through the expected increase in production values of the land. The application described the proposed project's importance to a larger strategy to increase abundance and angler success of ESA-listed fish species on the mainstem Rogue River, which have important cultural, recreational, and commercial values.

Environmental: The project proposes to legally protect 100 percent of the conserved water instream which would increase critically low summer flows in the South Fork Little Butte Creek. The application described how an increase in flow and the elimination of flood irrigation runoff would benefit water quality parameters including temperature and sedimentation. The application clearly explained the likely benefits to multiple limiting ecological factors including streamflow, temperature, and habitat quantity and quality.

Social/Cultural: The proposed project would support local food systems through increased hay and cattle production. The application described how the proposed project would likely provide benefits to drinking water in the Medford area by improving the water quality in South Fork Little Butte Creek. The application described a high level of collaborative planning in the basin and the proposed project's role in supporting state and local priorities.

Summary: The application provided information to substantiate a high standard of economic, environmental, and social/cultural benefits anticipated as a result of the proposed project. The review team noted the high level of collaboration occurring in this region.

Deschutes Basin Flow Restoration - Group 6b

TRT Recommendation: Not Recommended for Funding at this time

Project Information (adapted from application)

Applicant Name: Tumalo Irrigation District

County: Deschutes

Funding Requested: $2,190,726 Grant

Total Project Cost: $5,465,625

Project Summary: The proposed project would restore 1.1 cfs of water to Tumalo Creek during the irrigation season and Crescent Creek in the winter by enclosing 11,261 linear feet of open canal and laterals. Approximately 0.85 cfs of the conserved water would be legally protected instream through the Oregon Water Resource Department's Allocation of Conserved Water Program and would result in improved temperature conditions and water quantity for ESA-listed species and native fish and wildlife. The proposed project encloses a portion of the open canal referred to as the Columbia Southern Canal. The pipe follows the existing canal alignment and would be installed in a compacted trench with 3 feet of cover to protect from freezing and damage. The surface would be restored with soil and seeding where appropriate.

Technical Review Team Score and Comments

Combined Public Benefit Score: 71

Public Benefit Category Score Breakdown

Economic	Environmental	Social/Cultural	Other
18	24	20	9

Economic: The application described how the proposed project would create efficiencies in water delivery by piping open canals, reduce energy consumption by decreasing pumping costs, and enhance the district's infrastructure. The proposed project would deliver pressurized water to the district's customers which would enhance farmland and potentially increase property values.

Environmental: The project proposes to legally protect 77 percent of the conserved water instream. The application described how increased summer flows in Tumalo Creek would provide important cold water to the Deschutes River in the summer months when temperature affects fish survival. Stream flow is a limiting ecological factor in the Upper Deschutes Subbasin and the proposed project would result in improvements to stream flow.

Social/Cultural: The proposed project is aligned with collaborative planning efforts in the basin and supports state and local priorities, including Oregon's Integrated Water Resources Strategy. The application described how the proposed project would improve public safety by eliminating risks associated with open canals in highly used recreation areas. The proposed project would also contribute to preventing runoff contaminants from entering the water system.

Summary: The application provided information to demonstrate moderate to high economic, environmental, and social/cultural benefits that would result from this project. The review team noted the application would have been improved with updated letters of support.

Mission Area Wastewater Treatment and Reuse

TRT Recommendation: Not Recommended for Funding at this time

Project Information (adapted from application)

Applicant Name: Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation

County: Umatilla

Funding Requested: $5,000,000 Grant

Total Project Cost: $41,250,000

Project Summary: The goal of the proposed project is to create an innovative and tribally sovereign wastewater reuse system that reduces withdrawal from the regional aquifer for irrigation purposes. This would be achieved by creating four wetland/storage pond structures to store recycled water for reuse. This recycled water would be used for the irrigation of the Wildhorse Resort and Casino's landscaping/golf course instead of using potable water withdrawn from the regional aquifer. Wildhorse Golf Course consumes approximately 300 acre-feet (ac-ft) of water annually, which is approximately 30 percent of the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation's total permitted consumptive use allowance. This proposed project would achieve this goal by allowing the capture of approximately 300 ac-ft of recycled water annually for reuse on the golf course and other landscaping areas, significantly reducing water withdrawn from the regional aquifer for irrigation purposes.

Technical Review Team Score and Comments

Combined Public Benefit Score: 55

Public Benefit Category Score Breakdown

Economic	Environmental	Social/Cultural	Other
22.5	11.5	18	3

Economic: The proposed project would create two permanent full-time operations jobs along with temporary construction-related jobs. The application provided a clear description of how the proposed project would accommodate future economic growth. The proposed project would result in significant enhancement of the Tribe's infrastructure. The application described an innovative wastewater treatment and reuse water conveyance system that would use water more efficiently and effectively.

Environmental: The application described how the proposed project would result in water conservation through the reuse of recycled water rather than groundwater to irrigate community and governmental facilities. The application would have been strengthened by clarifying if the claimed reduction in groundwater use would be permanent or if the groundwater would be used in the future for other uses. The proposed addition of wetland habitat would likely improve ecosystem resiliency to climate change impacts for migratory birds and resident species.

Social/Cultural: The application described how the proposed project would improve the living conditions and health of the Tribal community by improving water supply reliability and accommodating future economic growth. The proposed project would also contribute to recreation and scenic values through the addition of wetland ponds and public walking trails. The application would have benefited from more details regarding the project's public outreach activities and how the proposed project aligns with collaborative basin planning efforts.

Summary: The application provided sufficient information to demonstrate the likelihood of the proposed project achieving a high standard of economic public benefits. The review team anticipates moderate environmental and social/cultural benefits resulting from the proposed project.

Well 10 Drilling and Construction

TRT Recommendation: Not Recommended for Funding at this time

Project Information (adapted from application)

Applicant Name: City of Milton-Freewater

County: Umatilla

Funding Requested: $950,000 Grant

Total Project Cost: $2,655,000

Project Summary: The proposed project would drill a new approximately 1,200-foot-deep municipal water supply well, replacing a recently retired well, for the City of Milton-Freewater in the Walla Walla Subbasin in Umatilla County. The project would improve municipal supply for the City by directly filling the highest pressure zone, replacing an old open-borehole well with new sealed well which will protect the basalt aquifer and help ensure high quality drinking water for the City. The new well would help the City continue to utilize the basalt aquifer system instead of relying upon the over-allocated Walla Walla River during low-flow periods and provide high quality drinking water to over 7,100 users.

Technical Review Team Score and Comments

Combined Public Benefit Score: 42

Public Benefit Category Score Breakdown

Economic	Environmental	Social/Cultural	Other
18	4	17	3

Economic: The application described how the proposed project would result in increased economic activity by providing a necessary water source to support additional development in the area, including proposed housing and business park development projects. The proposed project would result in a significant enhancement of the City's infrastructure and the application described the increase in efficiency that would result from reduced pumping needs.

Environmental: The proposed project would create a potential improvement in the quality of groundwater by helping to prevent potential contamination of the aquifer. The application described potential improvements to groundwater levels if the City implements aquifer storage and recovery in the future, however, proposed projects cannot receive points for future plans. The project is anticipated to result in greater groundwater use, and the review team also commented that the application could be improved by considering the potential for water conservation measures.

Social/Cultural: The proposed project would promote public health in an economically distressed community by protecting and maintaining a high-quality water source for the City's drinking water system and increasing the ability of the water system to provide emergency and fire-flow water storage. The proposed project would contribute to the body of scientific data by creating a new well monitoring opportunity in the region. The application states the City has been involved in the Walla Walla Water 2050 planning process, but the application would have been strengthened by clearly describing how this project promotes state or local priorities.

Summary: The application provided sufficient information to support the likelihood of moderate economic and social/cultural benefits being achieved as a result of the proposed project. The review team's evaluation assessed minor environmental public benefits resulting from the proposed project. To be funded, projects must achieve a minimum score of seven in each category indicating public benefits beyond those of a minor quality would be achieved.

Water Resiliency Phase 3a - Highway 101 Backbone

TRT Recommendation: Not Recommended for Funding at this time

Project Information (adapted from application)

Applicant Name: City of Cannon Beach

County: Clatsop

Funding Requested: $5,053,500 Grant

Total Project Cost: $6,738,000

Project Summary: The proposed project would culminate a multiphasic resiliency project through the construction of a redundant water transmission line ("backbone") along US Highway 101 in Cannon Beach, in the West Fork Elk Creek water basin. This backbone, when combined with the isolation valves and the more resilient water reservoir constructed during earlier phases of this Water Resiliency project, would mitigate seismic damage, and accelerate recovery of the City's water service after seismic events. The proposed project includes a north section, which would provide water transmission to the north side of the city, and a south section, which would serve the south side of the city and connect to the Tolovana Reservoir. The water transmission lines would be constructed using HDPE pipe, and isolation valves, which were installed during Phase 1, would confine ruptures and minimize interruptions.

Technical Review Team Score and Comments

Combined Public Benefit Score: 40.5

Public Benefit Category Score Breakdown

Economic	Environmental	Social/Cultural	Other
17	3	17.5	3

Economic: The application provided a clear understanding of the economic value of the proposed project's ability to provide a reliable water supply in the case of a catastrophic event. The application described increases in water use efficiency that would result from the proposed project through leak reduction and system modernization. The proposed project would provide a significant enhancement of the City's infrastructure. As described in the application, job retention and other economic benefits would largely be realized following a seismic event, which are more difficult to quantify.

Environmental: The proposed project would likely have a low to moderate increase to ecosystem resiliency to climate change impacts by reducing impacts to the Ecola Creek watershed. The application would have been improved by providing information to support claims of water conservation and improvements to groundwater levels.

Social/Cultural: The proposed project provides significant benefit to public health and safety by providing a reliable drinking water source in the case of a catastrophic event. The application provided a clear description of how the proposed project would promote recommended actions in Oregon's Integrated Water Resources Strategy, and help the City meet a goal of the state's 2013 Oregon Resilience Plan.

Summary: The application provided sufficient information to support the likelihood of moderate overall economic and social/cultural benefits being achieved as a result of the proposed project. However, the review team assessed minor environmental benefits resulting from the proposed project. To be funded, projects must achieve a minimum score of seven in each category indicating public benefits beyond those of a minor quality would be achieved.

Kingman Lateral First Mile Piping

TRT Recommendation: Not Recommended for Funding at this time

Project Information (adapted from application)

Applicant Name: Owyhee Irrigation District

County: Malheur

Funding Requested: $2,000,000 Grant

Total Project Cost: $5,100,000

Project Summary: The proposed project would pipe at least the first 5,900 feet of the King Lateral canal from the head gates to the tunnel of the canal. The Kingman Lateral has a 130 cfs maximum canal flow and the canal losses are approximately 10 cfs in the first five miles. The proposed project would focus on the first segment of the canal because of slope instability in this area and much of the water losses are associated with this segment of the canal. The goals of the project are to conclusively address water loss, address water quality concerns, and maintain deliveries to agricultural producers. Proposed activities include final design, piping 5,900 feet of canal, and installing a new headworks structure.

Technical Review Team Score and Comments

Combined Public Benefit Score: 33

Public Benefit Category Score Breakdown

Economic	Environmental	Social/Cultural	Other
12	10	10	1

Economic: The proposed project would improve the irrigation district's infrastructure and protect against catastrophic canal failure. The proposed project would also result in a more efficient water delivery system that would reduce seepage loss. The application would have been improved with more detail and quantification to describe current conditions and the how the proposed project is likely to achieve economic benefits.

Environmental: The proposed project would potentially improve water quality by decreasing erosion and sedimentation. The proposed project would also provide a moderate increase for ecosystem resiliency to climate change impacts by providing additional water for late season reservoir releases. The application would have been improved with more detail and quantification to describe current conditions and the how the proposed project is likely to achieve environmental benefits.

Social/Cultural: The proposed project would promote safety of local food systems by protecting the water source for agricultural in a community that is identified as overburdened and underserved. The proposed project aligns with state priorities for maintaining the cold-water fishery downstream of the Owyhee Dam, but the application would have been strengthened with a description of how the project aligns with other state and local priorities. The application would have been improved with more detail and quantification to describe current conditions and how the proposed project is likely to achieve social/cultural benefits.

Summary: The review team determined the proposed project would likely achieve moderate economic, environmental, and social/cultural benefits. The review team observed that in general, the application lacked details and supporting documentation to explain how the claimed benefits would be achieved as a result of the project.