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# Columbia River Initiative (CRI)

## Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)

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Office of Columbia River, Department of Ecology

CBDL Conference – November 14, 2023



# Columbia River Initiative MOU

**December 2004**

## ▷ Columbia River Initiative Memorandum of Understanding

**December 2014**

## ▷ CRI MOU extended through Dec 2024



### **Memorandum of Understanding Concerning the State of Washington's Columbia River Initiative**

#### **PARTIES**

This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is entered into between the State of Washington (State), acting through the state agencies which are signatories hereto; the Pacific Northwest Region of the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation); and the South Columbia Basin Irrigation District, the East Columbia Basin Irrigation District, and the Quincy-Columbia Basin Irrigation District (collectively, the Districts). The State, Reclamation, and the Districts are collectively referred to as the "parties" herein.

#### **EFFECT**

**Section 1.** This MOU is intended only to coordinate and facilitate cooperation between the parties to advance the actions described in this MOU and is not intended to and does not create a legally binding contract or any right or benefit, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law or in equity by any party against another party, its directors, officers, employees or other persons. This MOU does not constitute an explicit or implicit agreement by the parties to subject any of the parties to the jurisdiction of any federal or state court over and above any rights or procedures presently available to the parties. This MOU does not create any right or benefit, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law or in equity, by any person or entity against the parties. This MOU shall not be construed to create any right to judicial review involving the compliance or noncompliance of the parties with this MOU.

**Section 2.** Nothing in this MOU shall (a) result in any impairment to the existing water supplies or water rights for the Columbia Basin Project (Project), (b) result in an amendment or modification of the rights and obligations of the Districts and Reclamation under the existing Project repayment contracts, (c) affect the priority dates of any existing water rights, (d) impair the current operations of the Project, (e) impair or interfere with eventual completion of the Project as congressionally authorized, or (f) result in an increase in the Districts' construction cost obligations and operation and maintenance obligations under the existing Project repayment contracts.

#### **PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES**

**Section 3.** The parties will use their best efforts in working collaboratively and in good faith to secure economic and environmental benefits from improved water management both within the federal Project and along the mainstem of the Columbia River by advancing the actions described in this MOU.

**Section 4.** Through the Columbia River Initiative (CRI), the State is developing a program for the mainstem of the Columbia River that will allow access to the river's water resources while

# MOU Partners

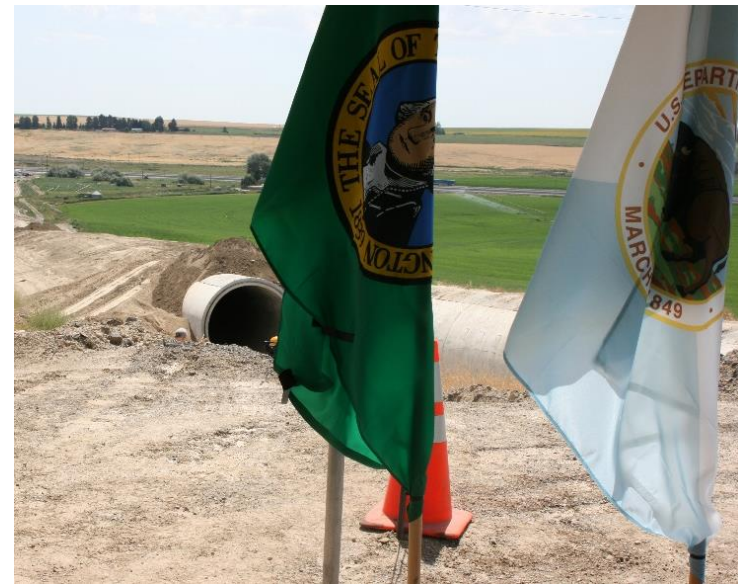
## ▷ State of Washington

- Dept of Ecology – OCR
- Dept of Fish & Wildlife

## ▷ US Bureau of Reclamation

## ▷ 3 Columbia Basin Irrigation Districts

- East CBID, Quincy CBID, South CBID



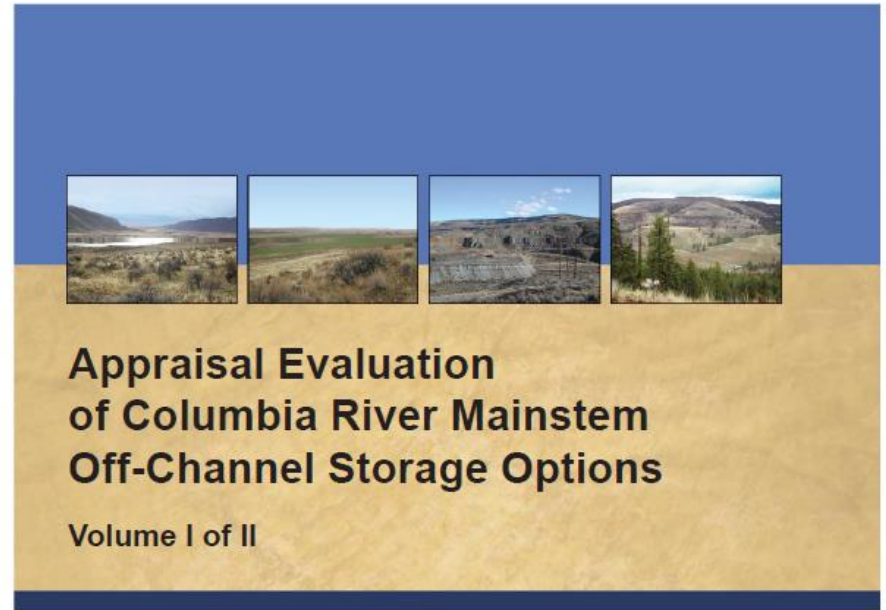
# Columbia River Initiative MOU

- ▷ Columbia River Mainstem Storage
  - Sections 5-8
- ▷ Lake Roosevelt Incremental Storage and Releases Program
  - Sections 9-13
- ▷ Odessa Groundwater Replacement Program
  - Sections 14-16
- ▷ Potholes Supplemental Feedroute
  - Sections 14-16
- ▷ CBIDs Coordinated Conservation
  - LRISRP & OGWRP sections
- ▷ Water from Canada
  - Section 20



# Columbia River Mainstem Storage

MOU sections 5 – 8



U.S. Department of the Interior  
Bureau of Reclamation  
Pacific Northwest Region



Washington State Department of Ecology

May 2007

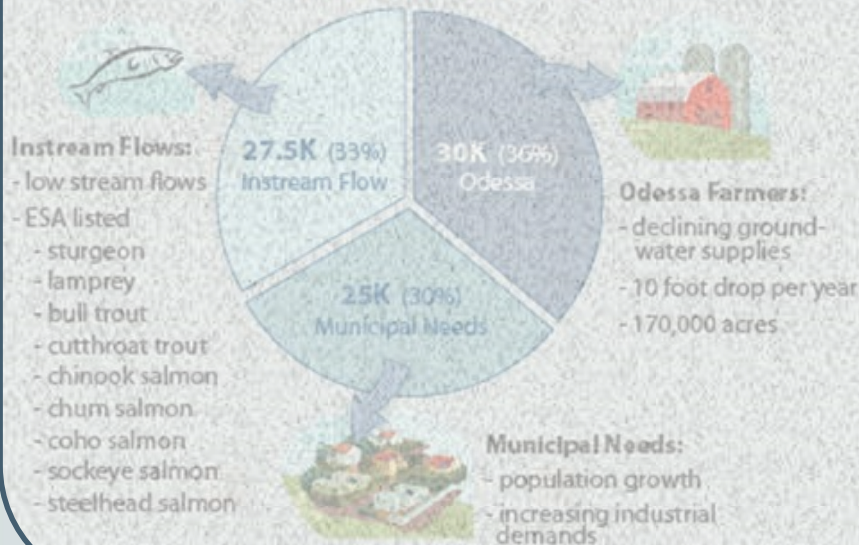
# Lake Roosevelt Incremental Storage and Releases Program (LRISRP)

Drought Relief - MOU sections 9-11

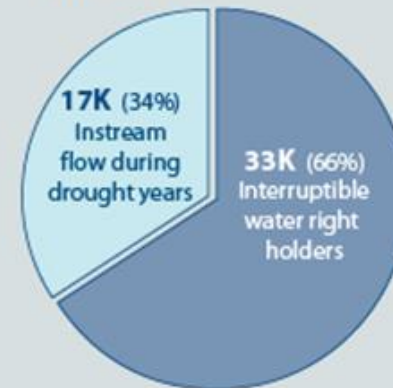
## Lake Roosevelt Incremental Storage Releases

Operational change of 1 foot annually and 1.8 feet during drought

The Lake Roosevelt storage release would divert up to 82.5K ac-ft of water for:



In a drought year an additional 50K ac-ft of water for:





# LRISRP – Drought Relief



## **Washington State Drought Contingency Plan**

September 2018  
Publication 18-11-005

▷ Ecology received USBR drought contingency funds in FY15 to complete a Statewide Drought Plan

▷ State Drought Plan filed with Congress in 2020



# Lake Roosevelt Incremental Storage and Releases Program (LRISRP)

M&I - MOU sections 12 – 13

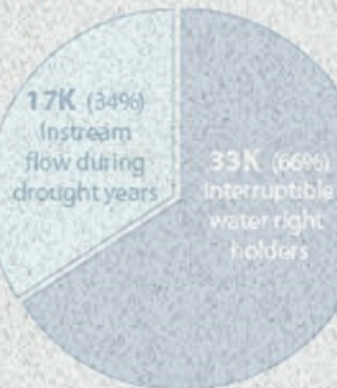
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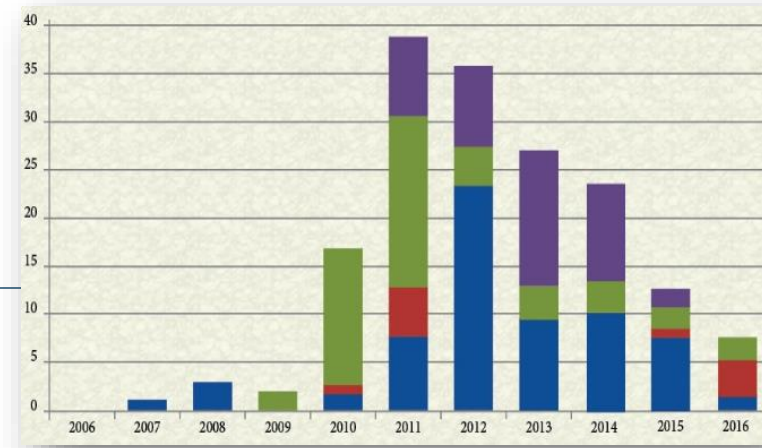


In a drought year an additional 50K ac-ft of water for:





# LRISRP – M & I

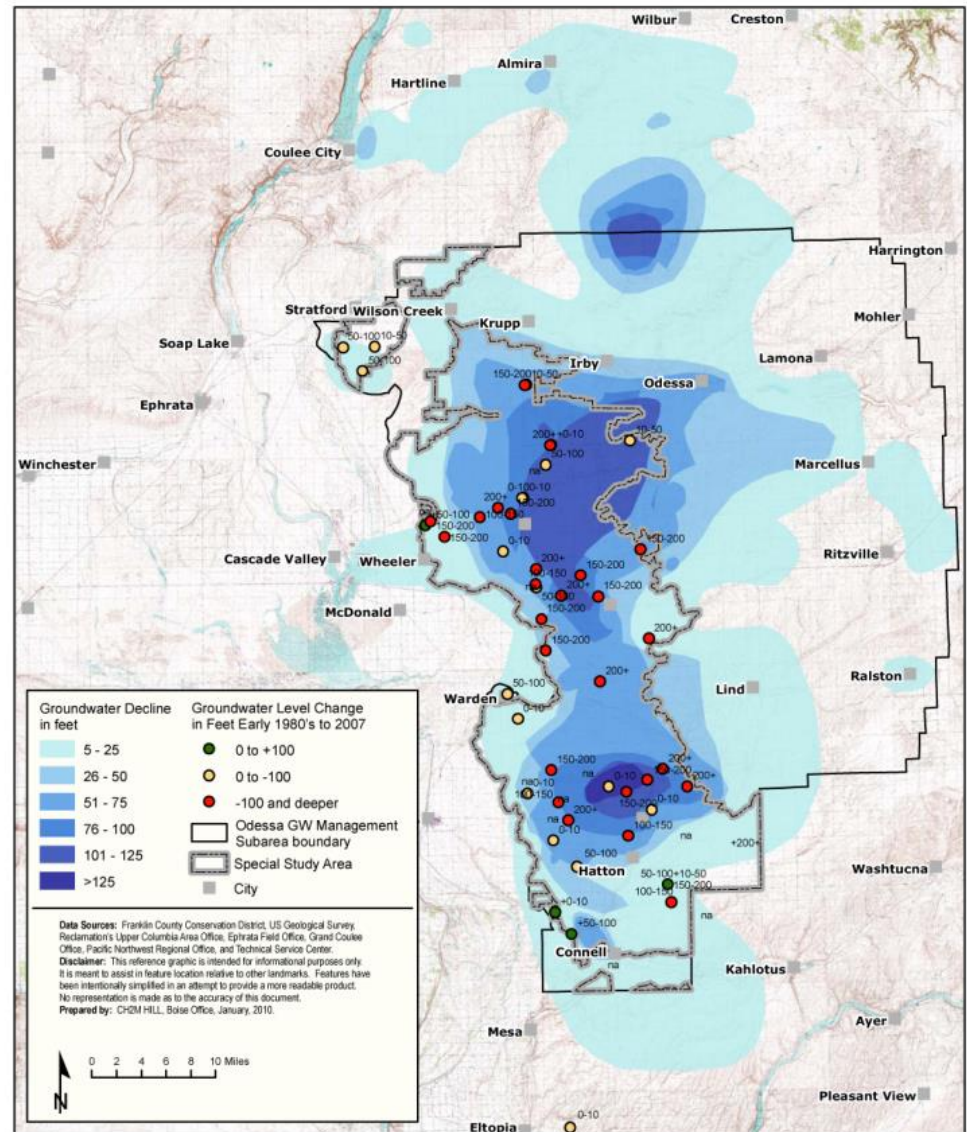


- ▷ Ecology has issued **50** permits totaling approx. 21,000 ac-ft of water.
- ▷ Ecology has requested annually release of:
  - 22,000 ac-ft of M&I water
  - 11,000 ac-ft of Instream flow water
- ▷ Future Permitting



# Odessa Groundwater Replacement Program (OGWRP)

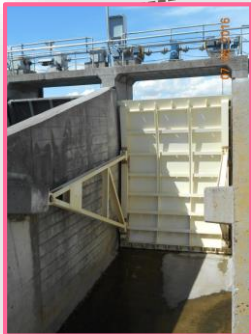
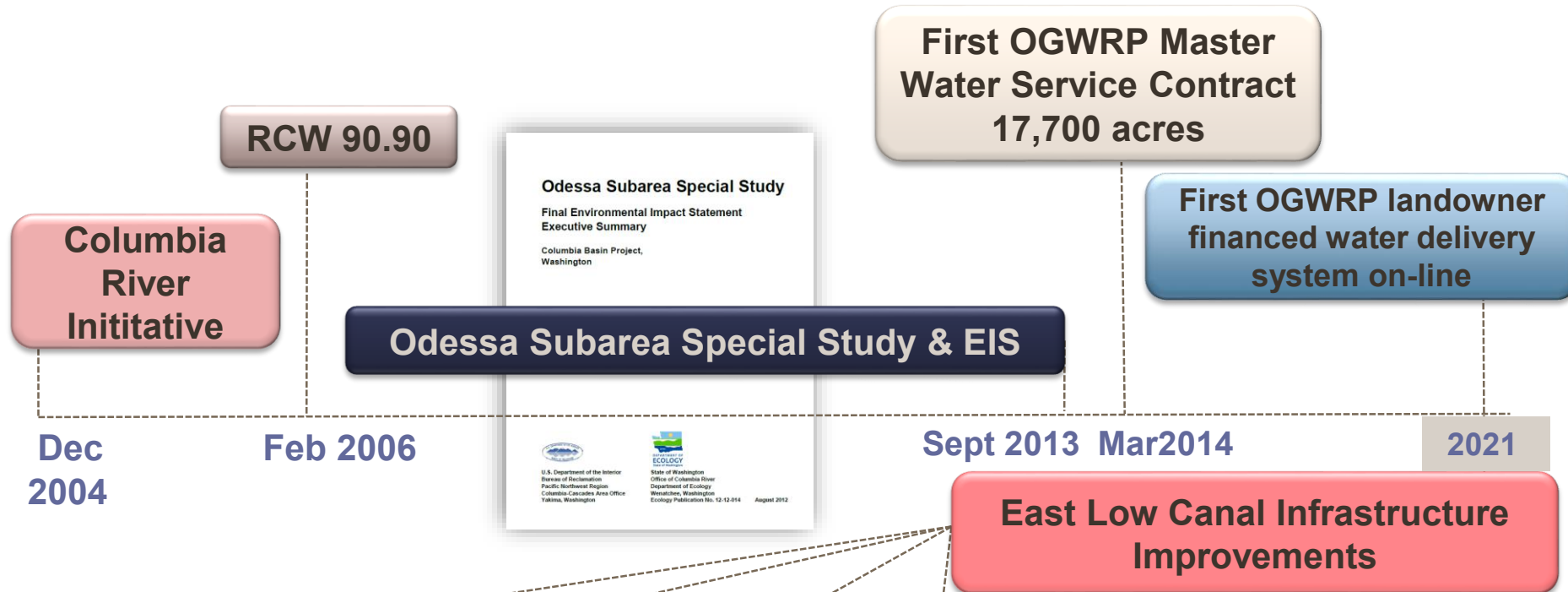
MOU sections 14 – 16



Odessa Subarea Special Study  
Columbia Basin Project, Washington

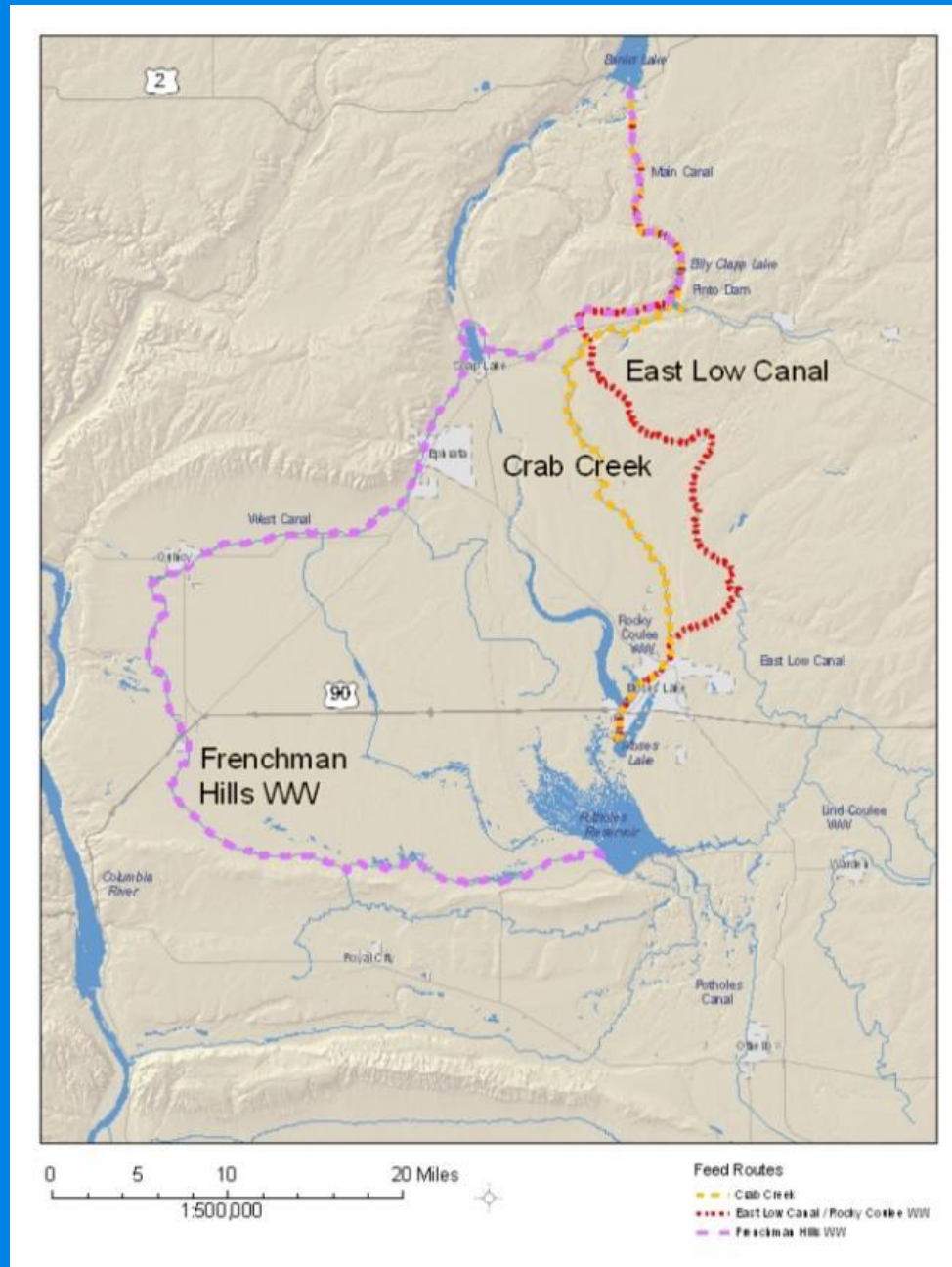
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# Odessa Ground Water Replacement Program



# Potholes Supplemental Feedroute

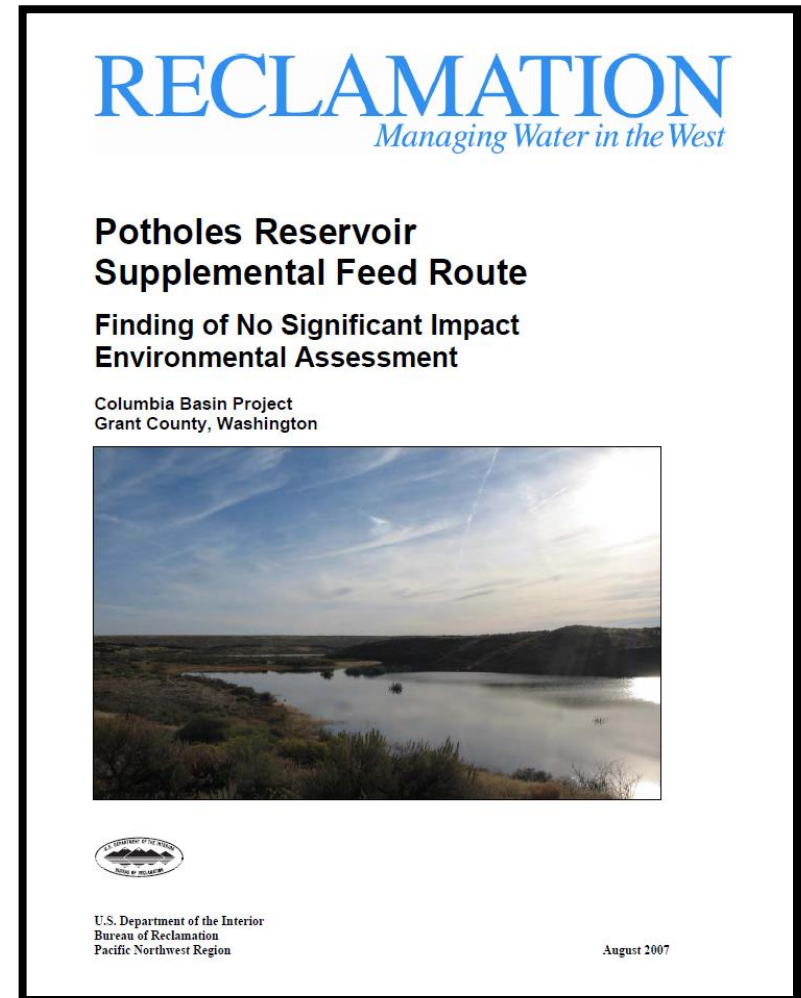
MOU sections 17 – 19





# Feedroute

- 2015 Operations
- Realty and property transactions
- Additional groundwater modeling needs
- Derringer Dairy
- Grant Co. Airport
- Trout Lodge Fish Hatchery



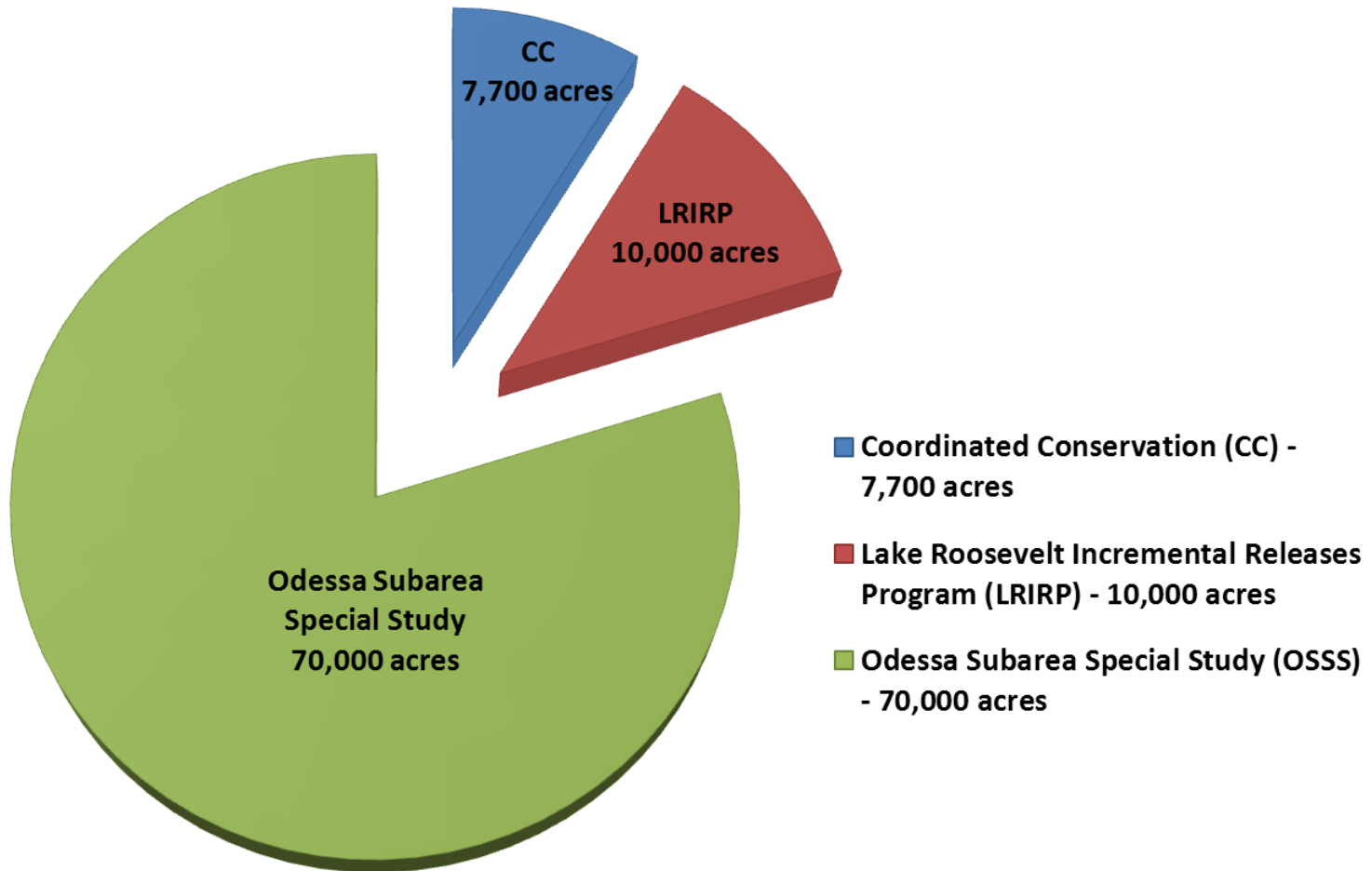
# CBIDs Coordinated Conservation Program (CCP)

MOU sections LRISRP & OGWRP





# CBID Coordinated Conservation



# CBID Coordinated Conservation



Piping



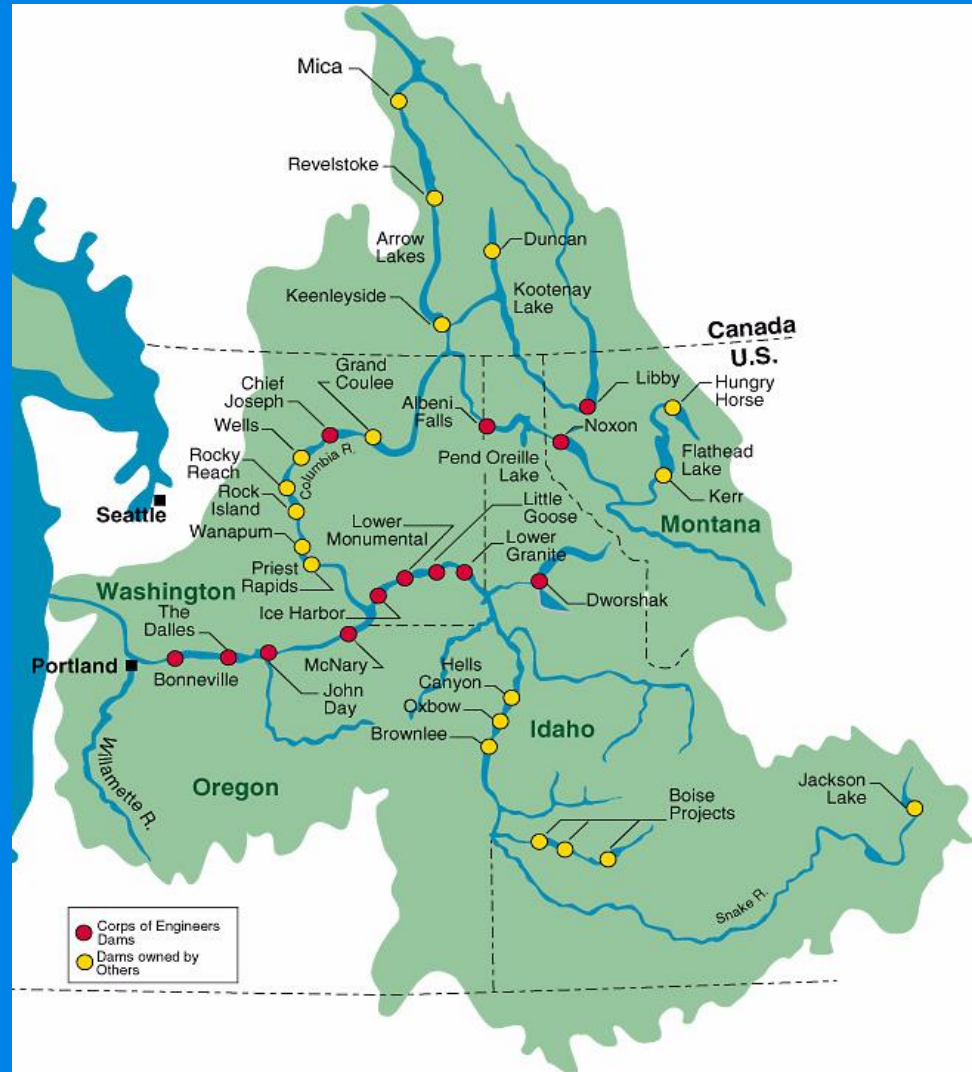
Crack Sealing

Liner



# Water From Canada

MOU section 20



# Columbia River Basin Drainage Map





# Next Steps



# Challenges that Lie Ahead

- ▷ Supreme Court decisions & Legal Uncertainties
- ▷ Columbia River Treaty negotiations
- ▷ Long-term funding uncertainties
  - Federal, State and Local
- ▷ Projects that span multiple biennia (funding)
- ▷ Investing in aging water supply infrastructure
- ▷ Climate change, shifting water supplies & drought
- ▷ Federal Columbia River Power System Biological Opinion (FCRPS BiOP) Uncertainties
- ▷ Keep the Momentum going!







# Questions or Discussion ?

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