

October 7, 2026 • 11 a.m.–12:30 p.m.

Hybrid Meeting • MS Teams or Public Works Headquarters Building Roundabout Room

Water Advisory Group

Elisabeth O'Keefe, Stormwater Program Manager • Austin Somhegyi, Senior Project Engineer • Dan Denning, Water Conservation Program Manager • Julie Lowy, Communications Coordinator • Aubrie Koenig, Facilitator

Purpose & Agenda

Provide a brief overview of the Outback Facility Expansion project and get input on information needs and future communication.

1. Welcome and Introductions
2. 100 Years of Water
3. Outback Facility Expansion
 - Facility and expansion purpose
 - Background planning
 - Key project elements
 - What's next
4. Discussion and Feedback
5. Summary and Closing



September meeting reflections

Water conservation program feedback:

- Challenges/opportunities:
 - Helpful to have early season irrigation guidance for plant health (common to overwater early in year)
 - Lots of people think the aquifer is never ending
 - Many homeowners seem to take irrigation cues from large users (when to start, water in the street)
 - Consider customer-specific cost of service (i.e., pumping to higher elevation areas)
 - Appreciate access to individualized data and actions
- Effective messages:
 - Humor (e.g., got a pool guy?)
 - An element of urgency
 - Neighbor-to-neighbor
 - Quantified personal impact
 - Positive reinforcement
 - More routine frequency

100 Years of Water Campaign Update



100 Years of Water update

New video: "The People Behind Bend's Water System"



October 7, 2026

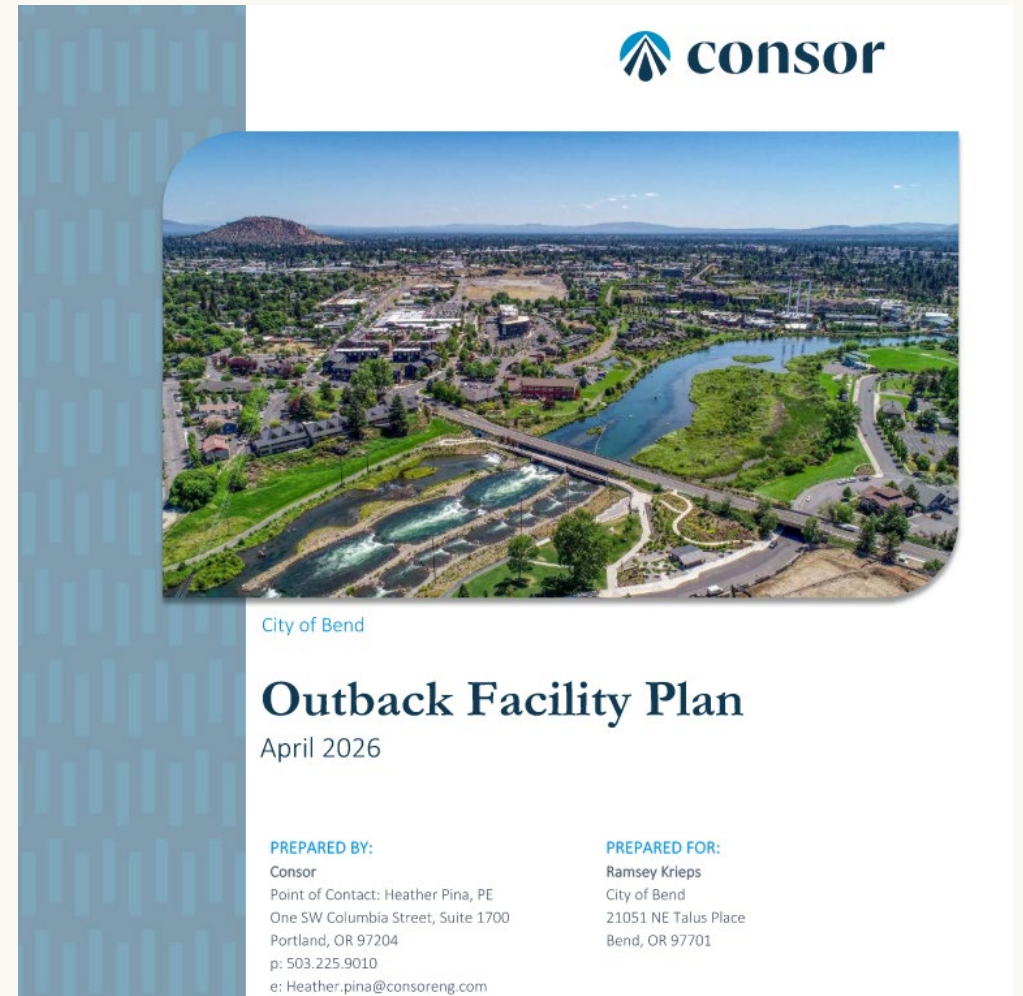
Outback Facility Improvements Update

Austin Somhegyi, P.E., Senior Project Engineer

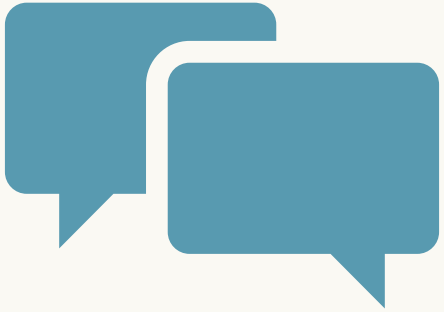


Agenda

- Project Background
 - Water System Overview
 - Preceding Studies
 - Significance of Outback
 - Water System Risks and Issues Addressed with the Facility Plan
- Outback Facility Plan Summary
- Project Update
- Questions

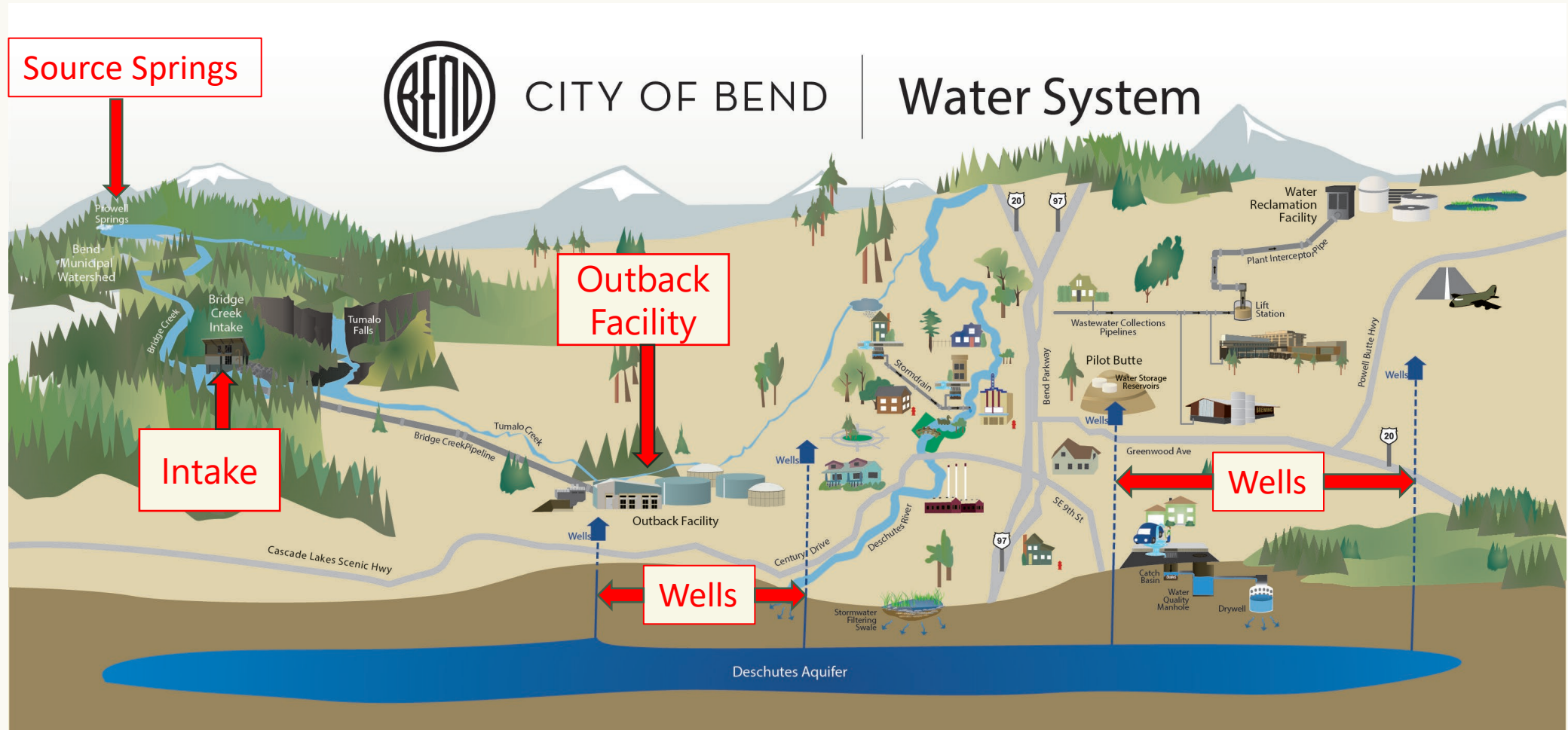


WAG Discussion Questions



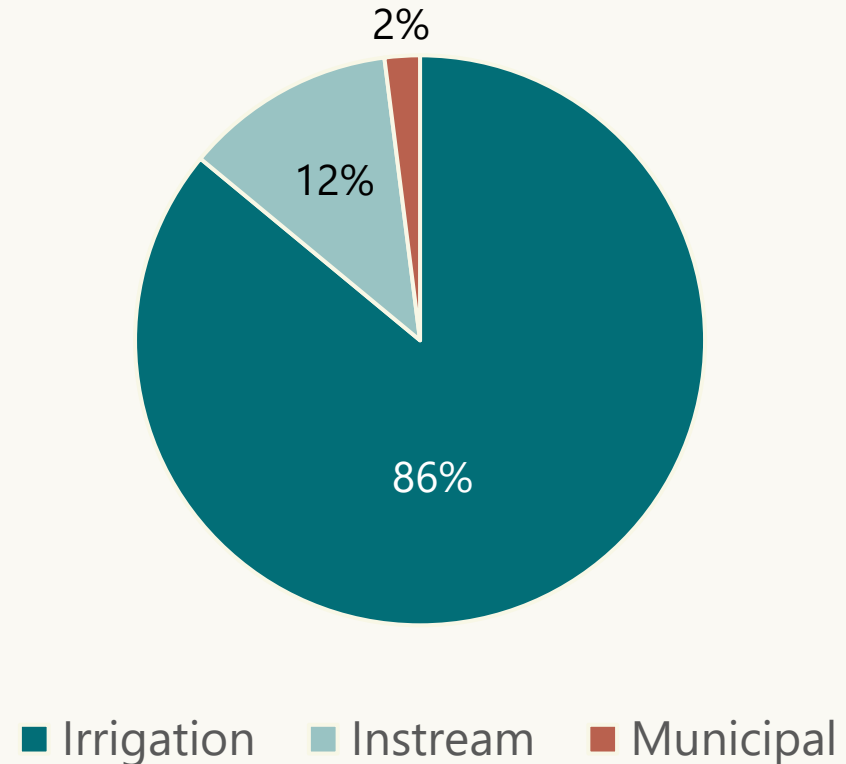
- *What information is most interesting and beneficial as a community member?*
- *What do you feel is most important for community members to know about this project?*
- *What benefits do you think should be emphasized? What suggestions do you have for clarifying key messages?*
- *What questions are community members likely to have as the work moves forward?*

Project Background – Bend’s Drinking Water System



Deschutes Basin Water Rights Distribution

- The Upper Deschutes Basin serves all the water needs of Central Oregon
- Municipal users include the cities of Bend, Sisters, Redmond, La Pine, and Prineville

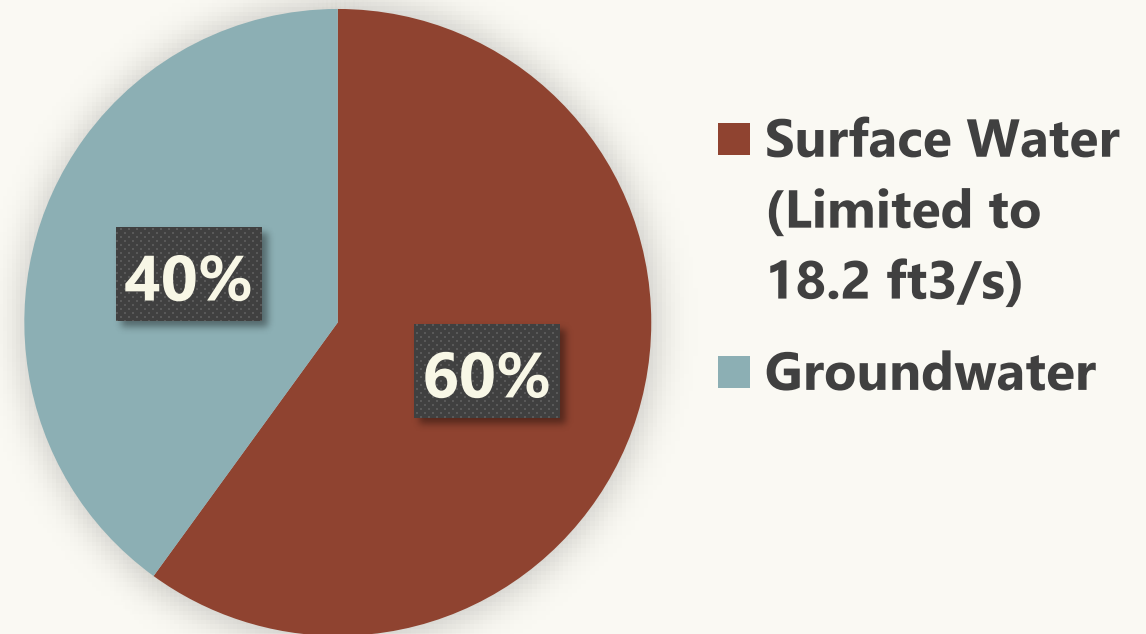


Source: Upper Deschutes Basin Study
<https://www.usbr.gov/pn/studies/deschutes/>

Water Production by Source

- City of Bend surface water limited to the demands of the city up to 18.2 cubic feet per second
 - Forest Service Special Use Permit
 - City Code
 - Surface water production infrastructure planned and designed to 18.2 cubic feet per second

Annual Use by Water Source



Surface Water

Bend Municipal Watershed

- Established in 1926
- Special Use Permit with Forest Service
- Limits diversion rate to demand or up to 18.2 ft³/s
- Monitoring Required for Fish, Flow and Temperature
- Gravity Fed – 1,000' elevation drop from intake to Outback



Groundwater

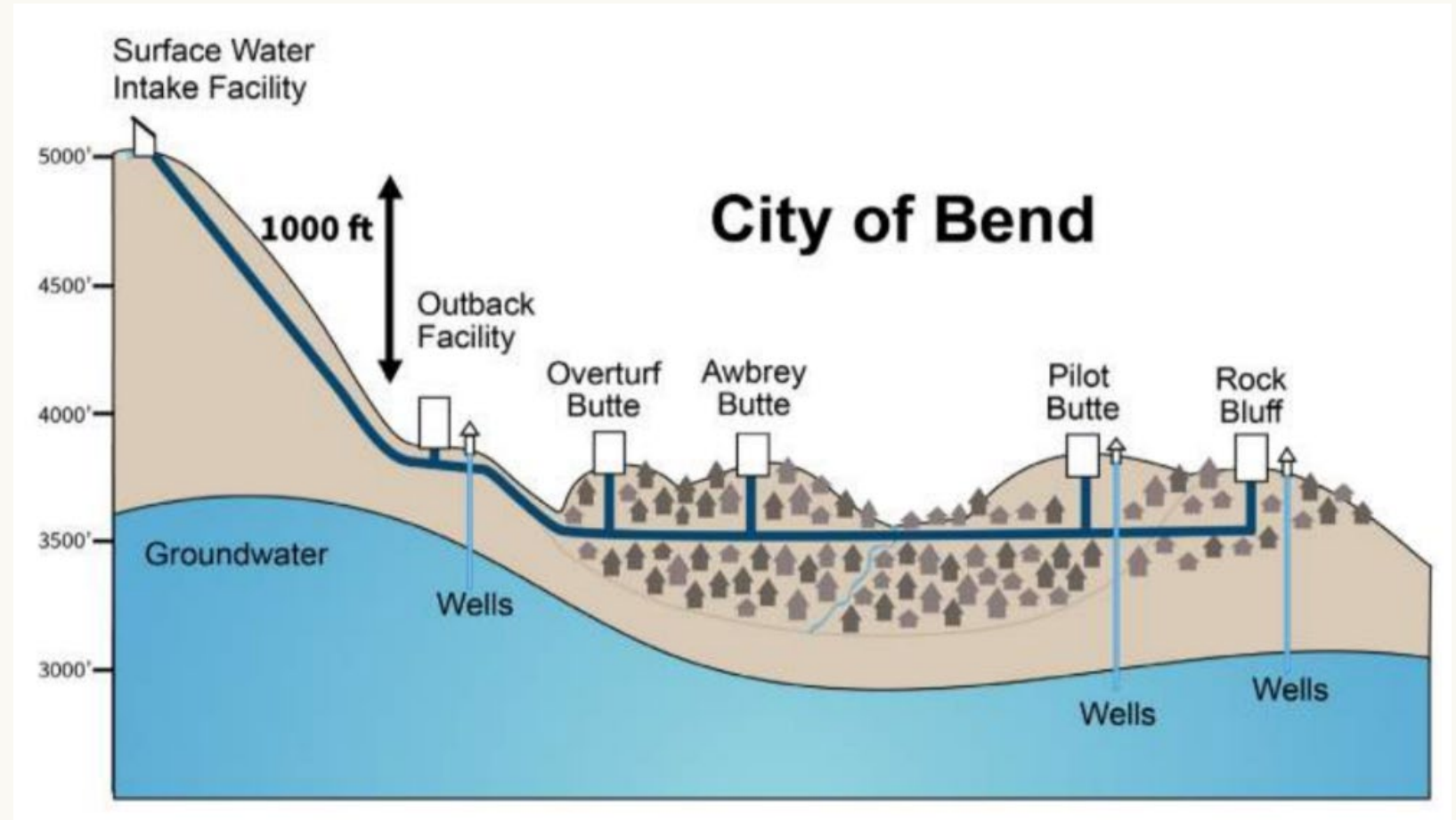
Peak Season Water Demands

- Total of 19 wells over 8 sites
- Initial wells installed in 1980's
- High energy use / carbon footprint (2x cost)
- Mitigation requirements and aquifer constraints limit additional future supply
- Continues to be a critical source to meet peak demands



The Significance of Outback

- Location of 100 years of significant City infrastructure investments
- Proximity to water sources and the City
- Elevation for low cost, low carbon delivery by gravity
- Ideal location for potential in-conduit hydro



Studies Preceding the Outback Facility Plan

- 2021 Integrated Water System Master Plan (iWSMP)
- 2021 Outback Siting Study
- 2024 In-Conduit Hydropower Feasibility Study

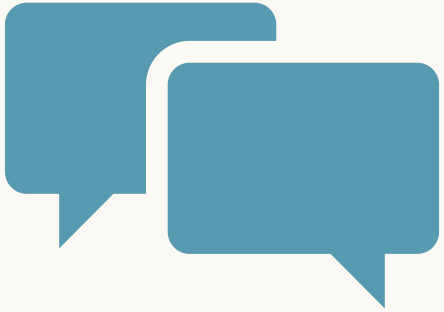


Key Risks and Issues



- Wildfire & Fuels
- Water Quality, Turbidity
- Power Supply Resiliency
- Operational Space for Serving Future Water Needs

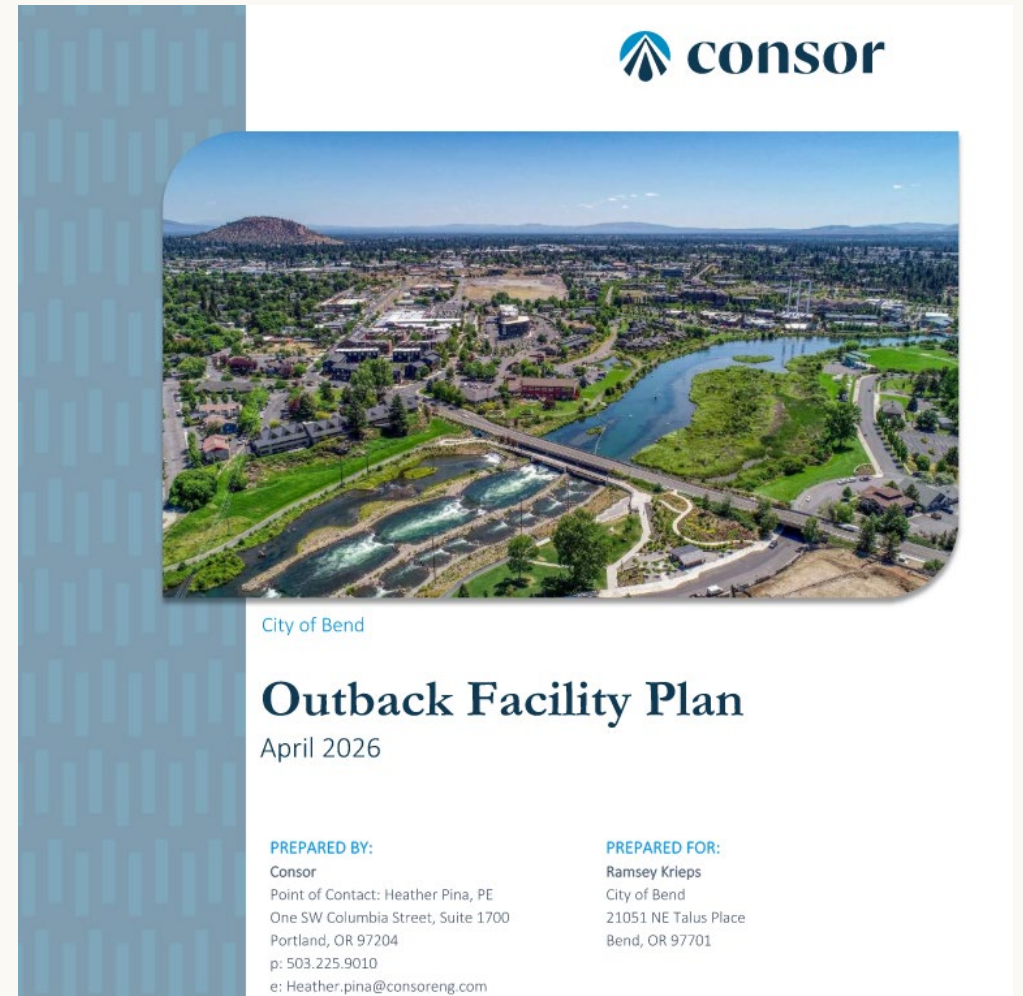
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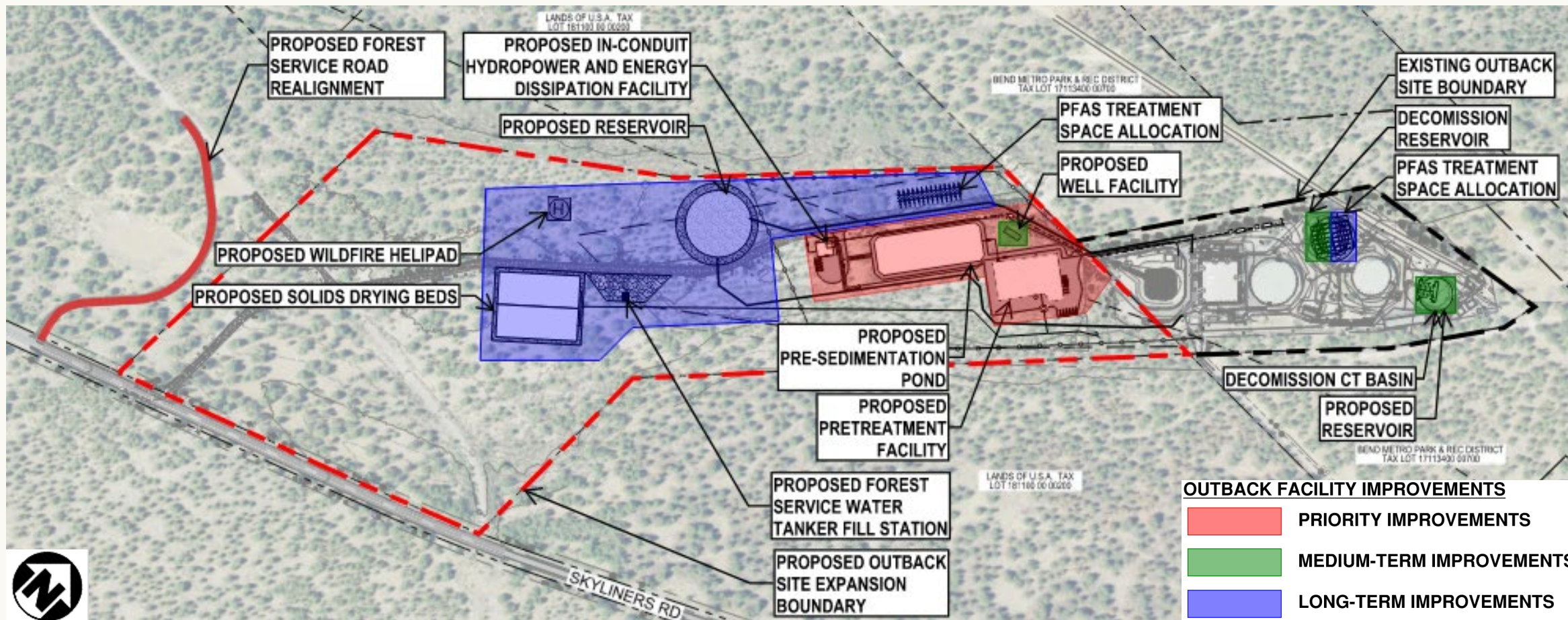
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Outback Facility Plan

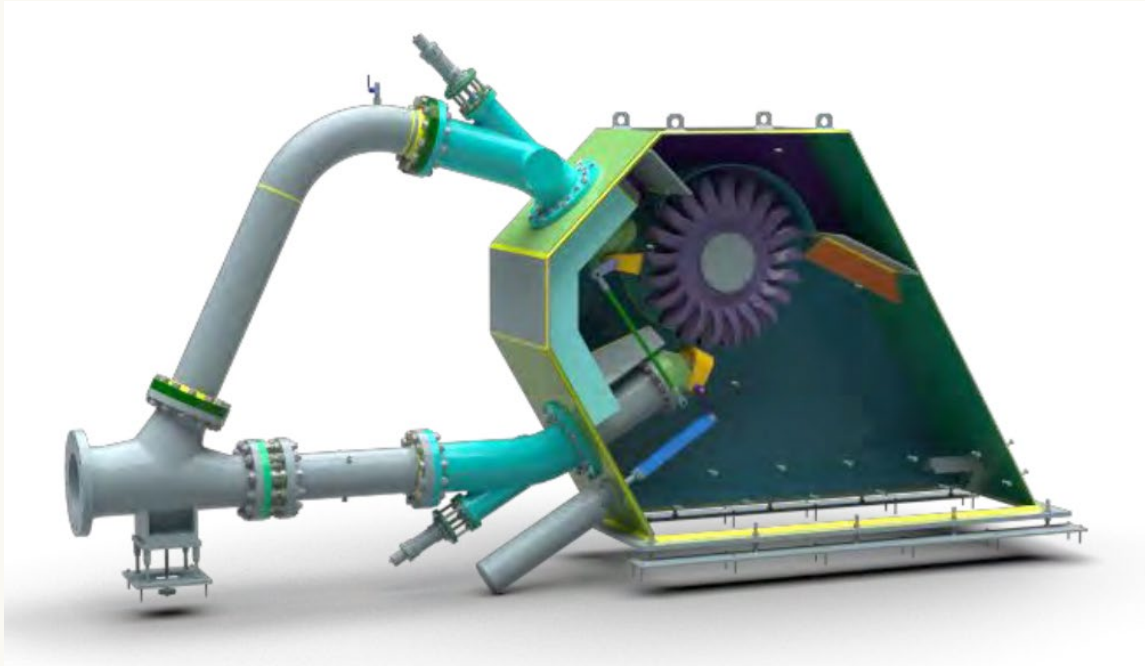
- Pretreatment Preliminary Design Development
- In-Conduit Hydropower & Energy Dissipation Preliminary Design Development
- Reservoir Siting and Integration
- Integrated Facility Site Plan
- Permitting
- Updated Class 5 Cost Estimates
- Implementation and Phasing Plan



Facility Improvements Overview



In-Conduit Hydropower / Energy Dissipation



- Provides power resiliency for Outback water system needs and excess power to put back into the grid
- Physical system constraints limit our water production to the demands of the system therefore no additional revenue could be generated
- No additional surface water will be taken beyond demand or up to 18.2 ft³/s
- Community Climate Action Plan Goals

Energy production estimate (kWh/year)	Historical annual energy use (kWh), rounded
8,100,000	3,500,000

Table 5-1: Projected Energy Production at Outback

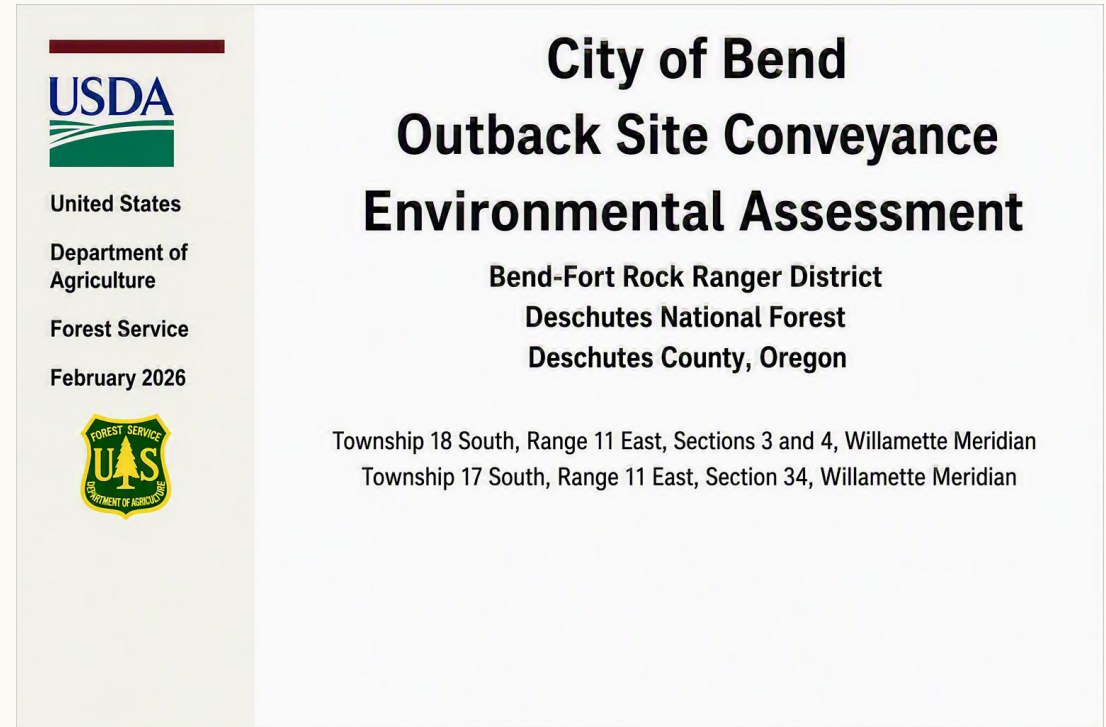
Pretreatment System



- Filters out sediment before reaching membrane filters.
- Fire risk is elevating every year. Hotter and drier summers expected.
- Increase our ability to keep Water Filtration Facility operational during wildfires and heavy rain/snow melt events.

Land Conveyance

- NEPA Completed
- Purchase and Sales Agreement Under Review
- Property Line Adjustment
- Zoning Changes

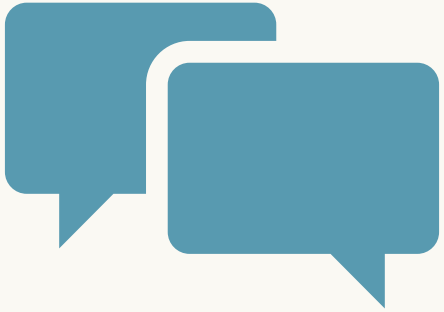


Land Use/Rezoning



- **Original plan:** Public Facility Zone for 48-acre expansion area and rezone existing 15-acre site
- Due to concerns from stakeholders, we explored other options with Deschutes County and the Oregon Department of Land Conservation & Development
- **Current plan:** Exploring an “umbrella” conditional use permit with Deschutes County

WAG Discussion Questions



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Funding the Urgent Needs

- Most critical resiliency projects:
 - Pretreatment - \$48M
 - In-Conduit Hydropower - \$7.5M
- FEMA Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities Grant (BRIC)
 - 2024 – Not Selected
 - 2025 – Program Terminated
 - **2026 – Program Reinstated**
- Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA)
 - Federal Loan Program
 - City currently exploring this avenue
- Critical projects are in the current 5-year Capital Improvement Program

Related:

- Energy Trust of Oregon supporting hydro studies and might be able to offset some Outback In-Conduit Hydro construction costs



Stakeholders

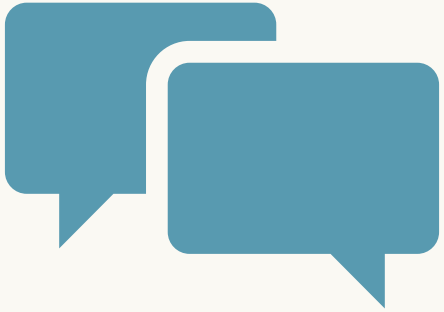
- Stakeholder engagement as early as February 2023
- In-person meetings held with email or virtual follow-up meetings
- Tours of watershed, intake facility, Water Filtration Facility, and/or expansion property boundary
- Topics included water rights, master planning, Townsite Act, watershed management, fire resiliency, trail access, Pretreatment, In-Conduit Hydropower



DESCHUTES RIVER
CONSERVANCY



WAG Discussion Questions

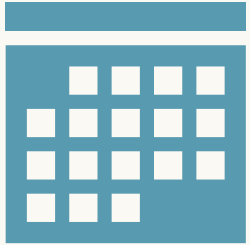


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Discussion & Feedback



Look ahead



November 4, 2026: Stormwater Management Program Update

December 2, 2026: 100-Years of Water Campaign and WAG Year in Review

Spring 2027 meeting topics to be determined!

- January 6, 2027
- February 3, 2027

Thank you!



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