

McKay Creek Water Rights Switch

Jacob Kimiecik, Program Manager



DESCHUTES RIVER
CONSERVANCY





McKay Creek Water Rights Switch

- Restore up to 11.2 cfs to the middle reach of McKay, returning the hydrograph to its natural, fish supporting state
- Increase economic output of agriculture in the McKay valley
- Expand Ochoco Irrigation District's patron base

McKay Creek flows from the Ochoco Mountains **north of Prineville** and joins the Crooked River immediately west of the city.

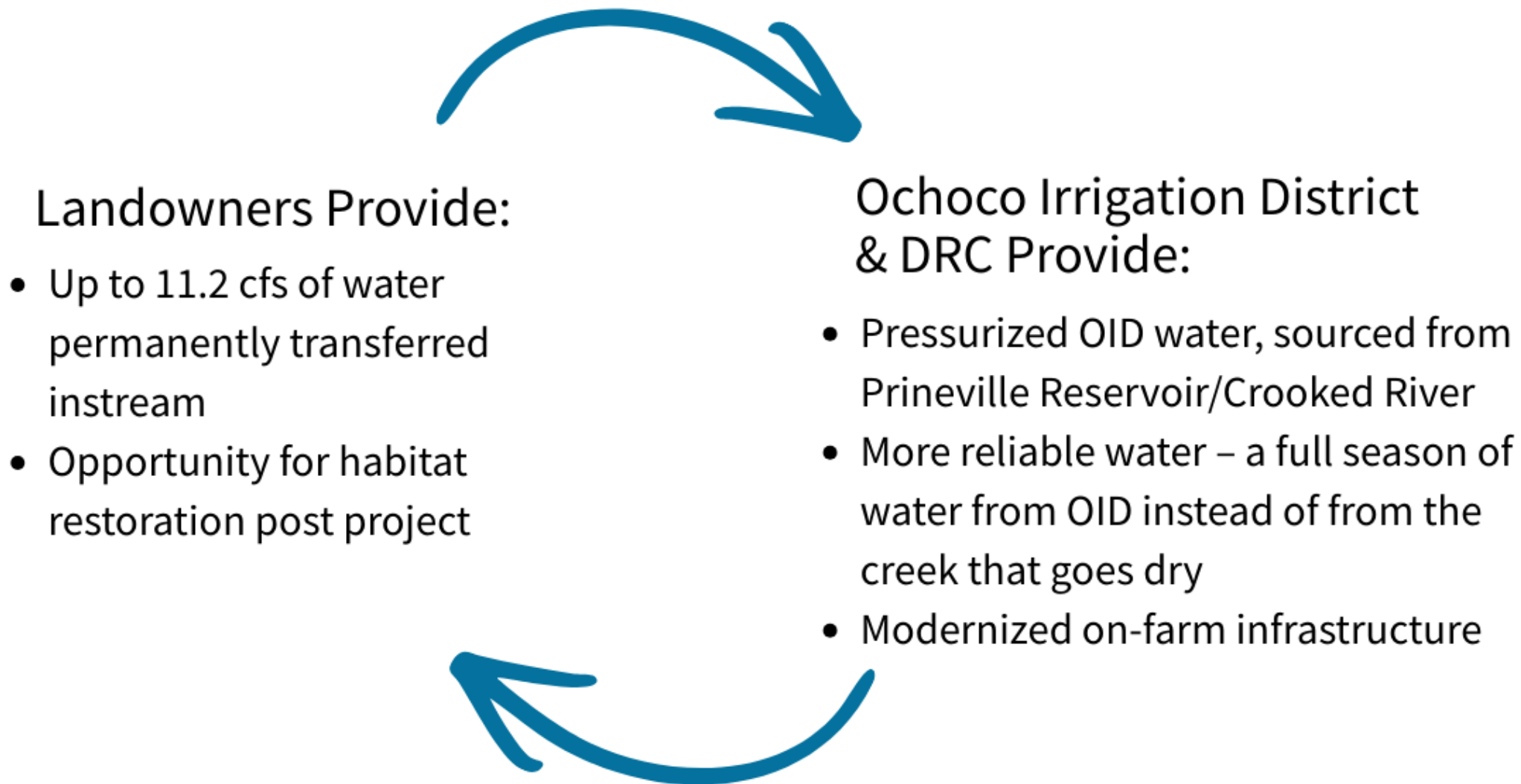
McKay has been identified as **critical habitat for steelhead, salmon**, and other fish species native to the region.

McKay Creek **will go dry each summer**, often by July at latest, and sometimes as early as May. This combined with irrigation diversions impacts fish habitat, as well as severely limits agricultural production.



McKay Creek Switch

McKay Switch: How it Works



Challenges



Funding
and Costs

Timing

Landowner
Trust

Project Timeline and Elements

Current Timeline:
April 2027 completion

- Requires multiple infrastructure upgrades, including pipeline installation/replacements and new pumpstations in the OID system
 - ~\$15 million in funding

Instream transfers completed simultaneously, with diversions shut off upon access to pressurized OID water
~\$75k in funding

On-farm improvements installed simultaneously with switch –
~\$3.0 million in funding

Monitoring ongoing since 2018, currently to be continued through 2028 at minimum to assess impacts

- Groundwater levels, surface flows, surface temperatures, macroinvertebrate studies, riparian vegetation
- ~\$300k in funding

Additional restoration work to be conducted following full implementation of switch

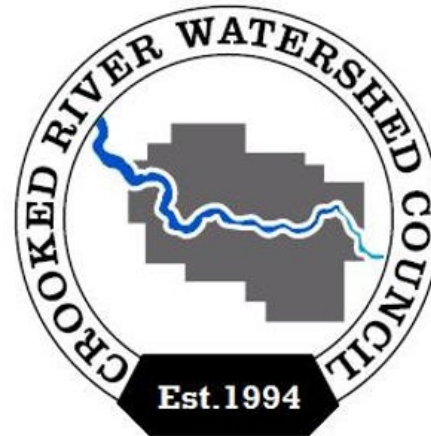
Monitoring

- Surface flows
- Temperature
- Groundwater Levels
- Riparian Vegetation
- Macroinvertebrates



McKay Partners

- Ochoco Irrigation District
- Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs
- Portland General Electric
- Crooked River Watershed Council
- Deschutes Land Trust
- Natural Resource Conservation Service (USDA)
- Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
- Oregon Water Resources Department
- Bonneville Environmental Foundation



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