

# Summary

The Westland Irrigation District (Westland) has requested that the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) adjust its federally recognized irrigation district boundaries. This adjustment would include lands that Westland has irrigated in past years under a series of temporary water service contracts (TWSC) with Reclamation. The lands proposed for inclusion are all currently farmed and irrigated. The requested boundary adjustment would not increase the amount of irrigated land in the basin, nor the water quantity diverted by Westland. Westland is located in north-central Oregon, predominantly in Umatilla County.

## **Purpose of and Need for Action**

Reclamation proposes to respond to Westland's request to adjust its federally recognized boundaries to include up to 10,338 acres of currently irrigated land. This action would eliminate the need for future TWSCs.

## **Authorization**

A standard paragraph of Westland's 1949 Repayment Contract (Contract No. Ilr-1550, dated November 18, 1949) with Reclamation provided that the boundaries of the irrigation district may be modified upon approval of the Secretary of the Interior.

## **Alternatives**

### ***No Action Alternative***

The irrigation district boundaries would remain as they are, and Reclamation would not provide federally allocated Umatilla Project (Project) water to lands outside the currently recognized irrigation district boundaries. Temporary water service contracts for Project water deliveries to out-of-boundary lands would no longer be issued.

### ***Partial Adjustment Alternative***

Under this alternative, Westland's boundaries would be adjusted to include category I and category II lands, which would increase Westland's size by 1,482.3 acres. Category I lands are lands with primary (decreed or permitted) and secondary (McKay Reservoir certificate 79439) water rights which are being assessed, but which were inadvertently omitted from the district boundaries. Category II lands are lands outside the district boundaries to which water rights were transferred, pursuant to Oregon law, from lands which were included within the district boundaries. The full water supply would be used on the current and adjusted boundaries. To adjust Westland's boundaries under this alternative would require a supplement to their 1949 Amendatory Contract with the United States. Water use would need to comply with the terms of the amended contract and State water law.

### ***Full Adjustment Alternative***

Under this alternative, Reclamation would fully implement a district boundary adjustment for category I, II, and III irrigated lands. Category III lands are lands that lie outside Westland's boundaries, and consist of 8,855.5 acres of which 5,759 would be irrigated in any given year. The total adjustment under this alternative would be up to 10,338 acres. To adjust Westland's boundaries under this alternative would require a supplement to their 1949 Amendatory Contract with the United States. Water use would need to comply with the terms of the amended contract and State water law. The alternatives are summarized in table S-1 on the next page.

## **Summary Comparison of the Environmental Impacts of the Alternatives**

For this evaluation, a hydrologic model was developed for the lower Umatilla River. The model was used to estimate the hydrologic impacts of using a portion of Westland's McKay Reservoir storage on lands currently outside of its federally recognized boundary. The estimated flows for the lower Umatilla River, generated by the model, formed the basis for the analysis.

Adjustment of the existing federally recognized boundaries for Westland Irrigation District has been shown by this modeling effort to potentially reduce flows, during certain periods of the year, in the Umatilla River. These impacts are in several locations along the Umatilla River and in McKay Creek below McKay Reservoir:

**Upstream of the Westland diversion:** Impacts to the Umatilla River are due to differences in the timing and magnitude of storage water releases from McKay Reservoir. These differences reflect the different management scenarios of the modeled alternatives.

Table S-1.—Features of the alternatives

Description (irrigated acreage)	Alternatives			
	No Action	Partial Adjustment	Full Adjustment Irrigated	Total
Current Westland boundary (acres)	7,437	7,437	7,437	7,437.0
Category I		398.4		398.4
Category II		<u>1,083.9</u> 1,482.3	1,482.3	<u>1,083.9</u> 1,482.3
Category III (total acres) (irrigated acres from storage)			5,759 <sup>1/</sup>	8,855.5
Total additional acres		1,482.3	7,241.3	10,337.8
Total irrigated acres from storage	7,437	8,919.3	14,680	
Total Westland acres	7,437	8,919.3		17,774.8
Water use	Not outside current Federal boundary; no temporary water contracts	Full water use on current and adjusted lands	Full water use on current and adjusted lands	
Description of change	Cease issuance of temporary contracts for Project water delivery to out-of-district lands	Would correct past ad- ministrative oversights of lands not included that district claimed were transferred and inadvertently omitted	Includes all lands that currently have a temporary water service contract to receive Project water	

<sup>1/</sup> Of 8,855.5 acres of category III lands, 5,759 acres are to be provided storage water and included in the adjustment in any given year.

The impacts are monthly variations that occur during the irrigation season. Diversions are higher in July and August and lower in June, September, and October for the boundary adjustment alternatives. It is important to note there is no difference in annual diversion volumes; the annual amount of water being diverted is equivalent for all of the modeled alternatives.

**Downstream of Dillon diversion:** Impacts to the Umatilla River are a result of differences in the timing and magnitude of return flows from Westland. The impacts, estimated by the model, to flows below the Dillon diversion are smaller than the errors in the actual streamflow measurements used as input for the model. Average annual modeled return flow impacts were 895 acre-feet for the Full Adjustment Alternative. However, full mitigation is provided for the impact to reduced return flows.

The model identified an effect on West Extension Irrigation District (West Extension) because West Extension's irrigation water is, in part, based on return flows from upstream irrigators. Based on the hydrologic modeling done for the EA, the preferred alternative would reduce flows at Threemile Falls Dam during the irrigation season. This would reduce the amount of water available for diversion at Threemile Falls Dam by West Extension in July, August, and the first half of September by 450 acre-feet. It should

be noted that the impacts estimated by the model are smaller than the errors in the actual streamflow measurements used as input of the model. Because Westland will address this concern by obligating 500 acre-feet of McKay water as part of the proposed action for use by West Extension, any potential impact to West Extension is alleviated. The 500 acre-feet accounts for conveyance losses from McKay to Threemile Falls Dam. Allocation and distribution of this water will comply with Oregon State Water laws.

Therefore, the analysis of the hydrology has determined that no major impacts would occur from implementation of either the Partial Adjustment or Full Adjustment Alternatives. Because the hydrology impacts are minor, any other resource that depends upon hydrology also would be minor.