

**Amendment to Finding of No Significant Impact
Willamette Basin Water Marketing Program
Greenberry Irrigation District's Water Service Contract Request**

PN FONSI 07-02

In February of 2007, Reclamation prepared an Environmental Assessment (EA) to analyze the impacts of a water service contract requested by the Greenberry Irrigation District (GID). The preferred action was to enter into a contractual agreement allowing GID to withdraw up to 7,500 acre feet of Willamette Basin Project water for use as both primary and supplemental water on 6,300 acres of private agricultural land. The proposed action was considered in the context of the local watersheds including Muddy Creek, Marys River, and the Willamette River. The EA indicated that potential impacts that may occur during the construction of facilities could have minor effects, but they would not significantly affect the quality of the human environment. These construction activities have been completed, and no further construction will occur with this amended action. The EA determined that the use of stored Willamette Basin Project water will not have significant impacts.

In June of 2007 a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) was signed by Reclamation for the GID Water Service Contract Request. The FONSI was signed after analysis of the environmental impacts, review of comments received, Section 7 consultation under ESA, Section 106 consultation under NHPA, coordination with various agencies, and implementation of all environmental commitments identified in the EA and FONSI determined that issuing a water service contract to GID will have no significant impacts on the quality of the human environment or natural resources.

Under this amendment, GID has now modified their request for a water service contract, increasing the amount of water to be diverted and the number of acres to which the water could be applied. The action addressed in the 2007 EA would have allowed GID to divert 7,500 acre-feet of Project water to irrigate up to 6,300 acres per year. With their modified proposal GID would be able to irrigate up to 12,500 acres with up to 14,000 acre-feet of water. This would allow GID to deliver water from the contract to any lands within the district and to some lands not currently within the district boundaries (Fig 1). The maximum rate of withdrawal would remain the same; 60 cubic feet per second.

Current district boundaries will be expanded to include lands that are currently farmed and have requested district water. Since GID is not a federal irrigation district, these boundary changes would not involve an action on the part of Reclamation.

The following information was considered to determine any potential impacts:

- No additional facilities would be constructed beyond those considered in the 2007 EA. Pipelines and pump stations remain as outlined in 2007.
- Amount of water to be contracted with Reclamation will increase to 14,000 acre-feet. This is within the limits established for the Willamette Basin Water Marketing Program.

- No additional pumping or delivery capacity is required. The district will use conservation and scheduling to deliver the additional diversions through existing or previously planned facilities.
- No return flows occur in GID's system which is 100% piped.
- No groundwater level increases, as all application systems are sprinklers, most are automated.
- Land to be irrigated is currently farmed.
- Additional water requested from the Willamette Project is within the current allocation in the Willamette Project Biological Opinion for irrigation.

Many of the impacts addressed in the 2007 EA dealt with impacts associated with the construction of the river pumping station and associated conveyance pipelines and outfalls. Since no additional construction is anticipated with this proposed modification additional construction related impacts, beyond those considered in the 2007 EA, are not anticipated. A few potential impacts associated with the volume and rate of the proposed diversion were also considered. These dealt primarily with hydrology and water quality.

With respect to hydrology, the maximum rate of withdrawal will remain 60 cfs so impacts to instream flows in the Willamette River would not be different than those considered in the 2007 EA. The proposed modification would change the total amount of water withdrawn from 7,500 acre-feet to 14,000 acre-feet. The 2007 EA concluded that removing 7,500 acre-feet from upstream reservoirs would have little effect as it was less than 1 percent of the 1.04 million acre-feet of usable summer conservation storage space in the nine upstream reservoirs that is available for joint use, which includes irrigation supply (ACOE 2001). This conclusion remains valid although the total amount to be withdrawn would now be slightly more than 1 percent. In Muddy Creek the analysis focused on potential inflows to Muddy Creek. Since no additional infrastructure is planned those flows and their timing won't be affected by this modification.

Impacts to water quality generally concerned impacts associated with facility construction. Those impacts would be unchanged under this modification as no additional construction is proposed. Potential impacts to Muddy Creek were also addressed but as outlined above flows into Muddy Creek would not change from those considered in the 2007 EA.

Impacts to listed threatened and endangered species were also considered in the 2007 EA. As with many other resources the analysis focused on impacts associated with the construction of facilities and, in some cases on the actual facility itself e.g. screens on the river pumping station. This proposed modification to increase the total volume to be diverted and the potential application land base would not involve any new facility construction so impacts associated with construction on the threatened and endangered species would not change. The facilities themselves would also be unchanged. Since all of the additional lands to be serviced are currently farmed no additional impacts from development of lands would occur. Consultations were completed on the action described in the 2007 BA. No additional effects to listed threatened or endangered species have been identified relative to the actions covered by this modification. Consequently the conclusions reached in the 2007 BA and consultations remain valid relative to effects to listed species.

Based on the above information, Reclamation has determined that the request will have no significant impacts, and the FONSI will cover the increase in volume to be diverted and acreage to be served.

RECOMMENDED:

Columbia-Cascades Area Environmental Manager

Date

APPROVED:

Columbia-Cascades Office Area Manager

Date

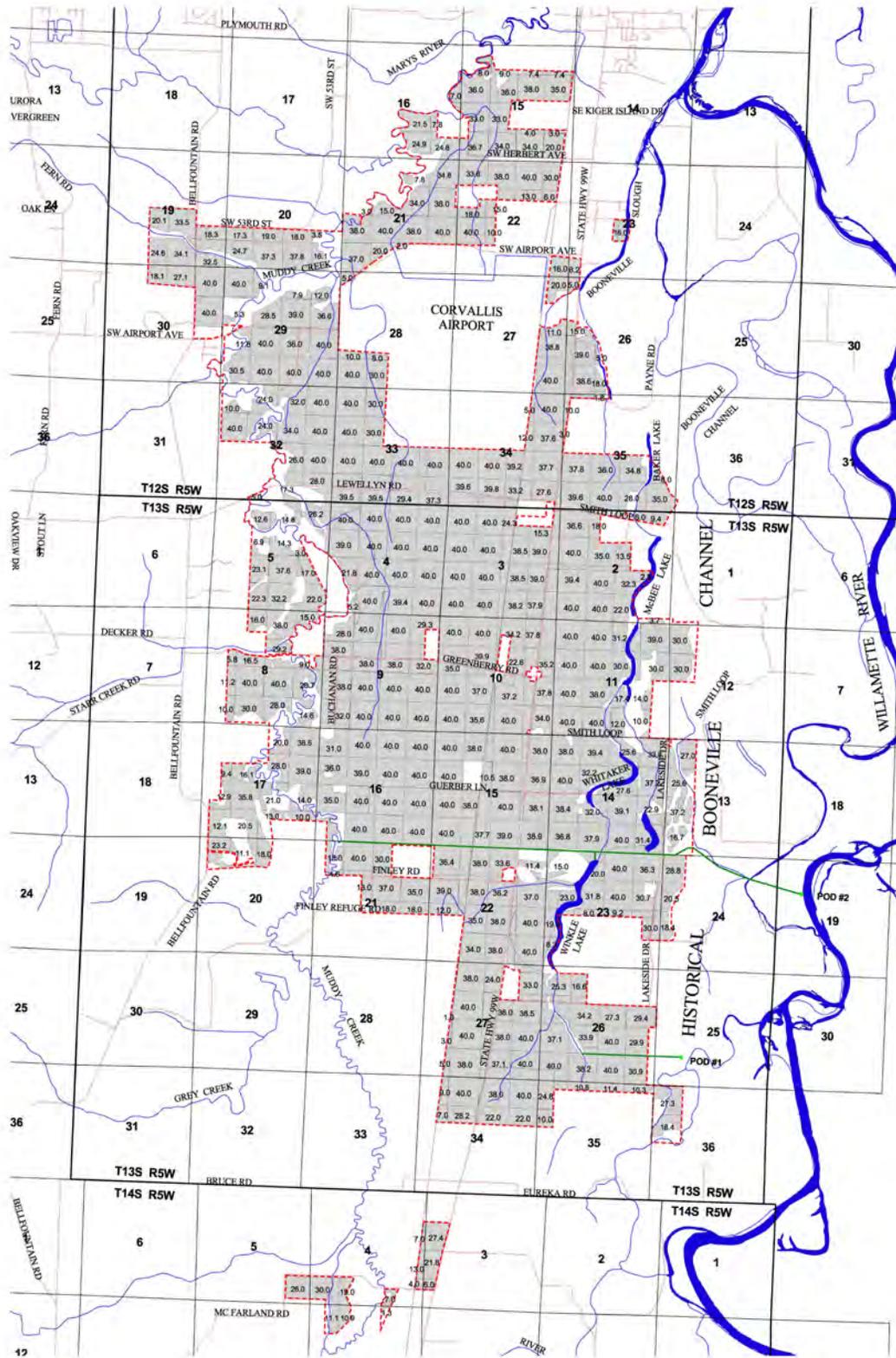


Figure 1. Lands eligible to be served under the proposed contract.