Deschutes Water Planning Initiative

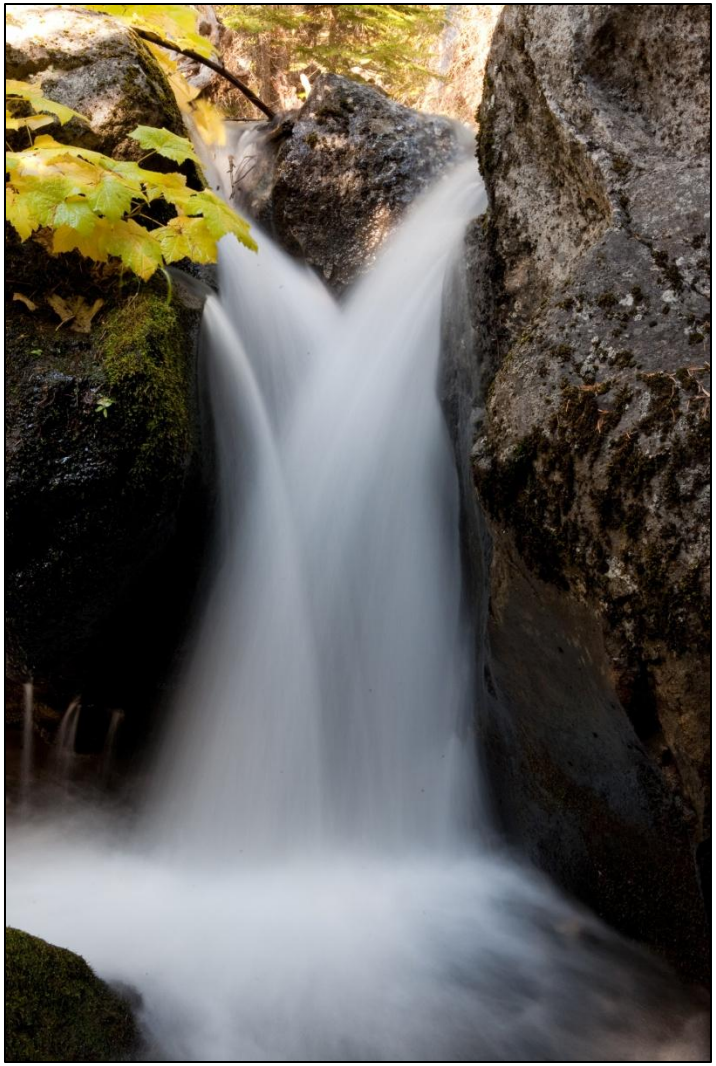
DESCHUTES RIVER CONSERVANCY

Tod Heisler, Executive Director

December 4, 2012

Mission of the DRC

- To restore streamflow & improve water quality in the Deschutes Basin
- Formed in 1996
- Multi-stakeholder Board of Directors



DRC Board of Directors

Consensus Decision-making

Private Interests

- 2 Irrigated Ag
- 2 Environmental
- 1 Timber
- 1 Ranching
- 1 Real Estate Development
- 1 Recreation/Tourism
- 1 Hydroelectric

Public Interests

2 Tribal

2 State – OWRD & ODFW

2 Federal – Interior, Ag

4 Local County

Whychus Creek

Barely There (1997)

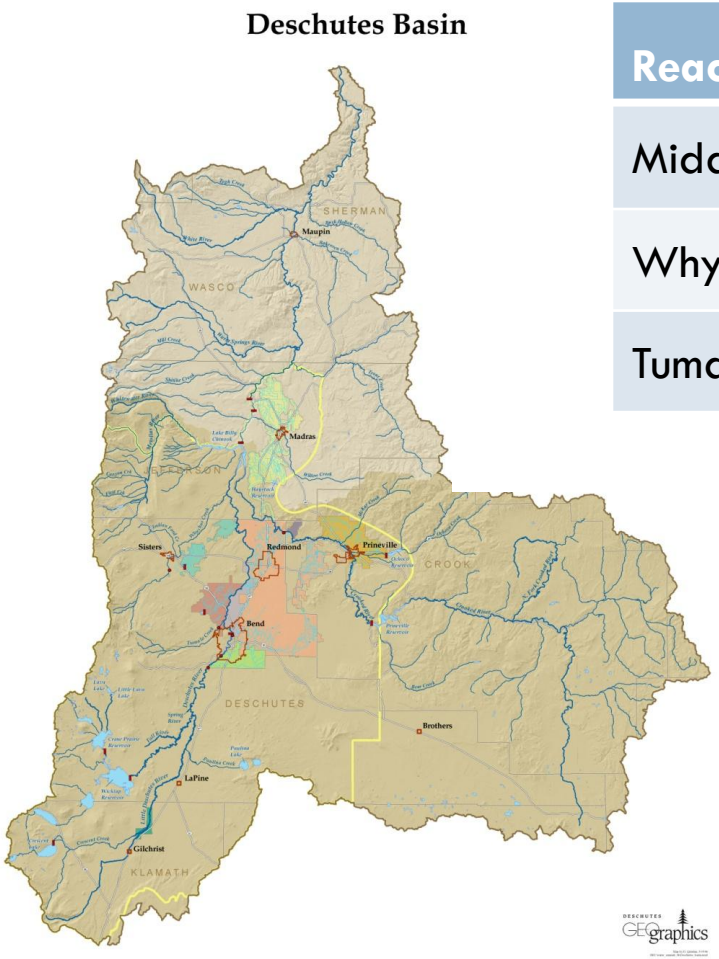
20 cfs (2012)

Middle Deschutes River

45 cfs

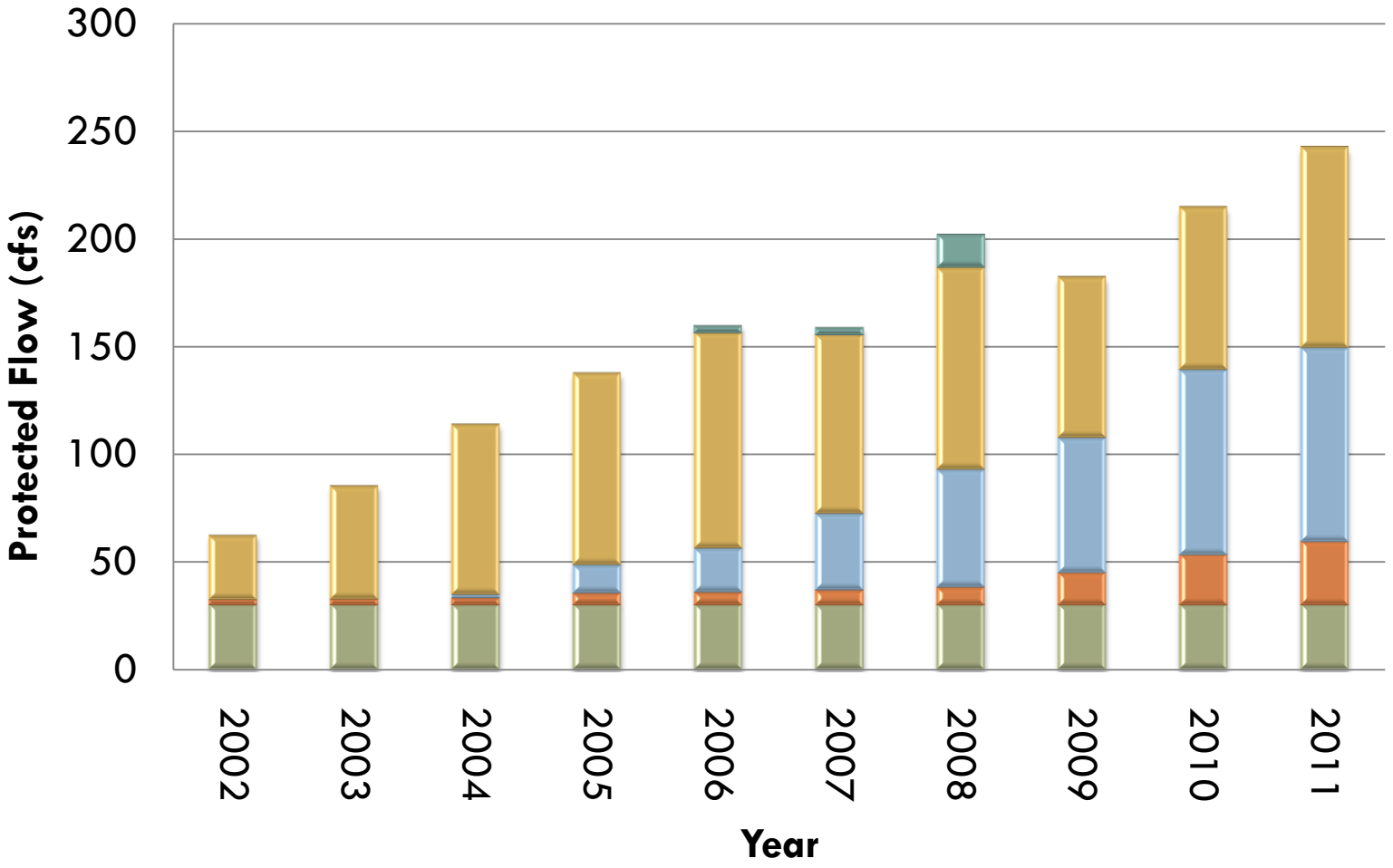
160 cfs

Streamflow Restoration Accomplishments



Reach	Target	Progress	%
Middle Deschutes	250 cfs	160 cfs	64%
Whychus Creek	33 cfs	20 cfs	60%
Tumalo Creek	32 cfs	10 cfs	31%

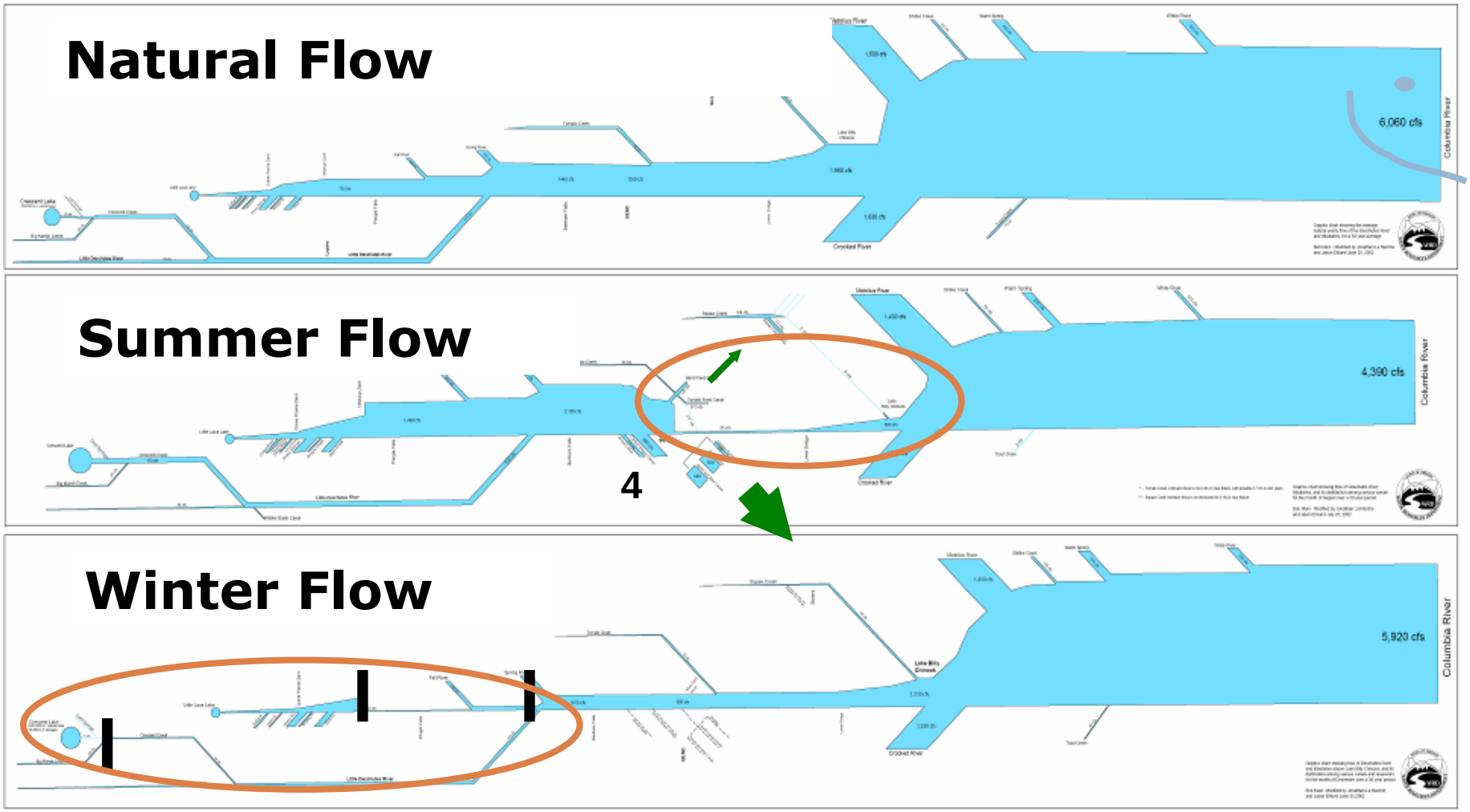
DRC's Flow Results

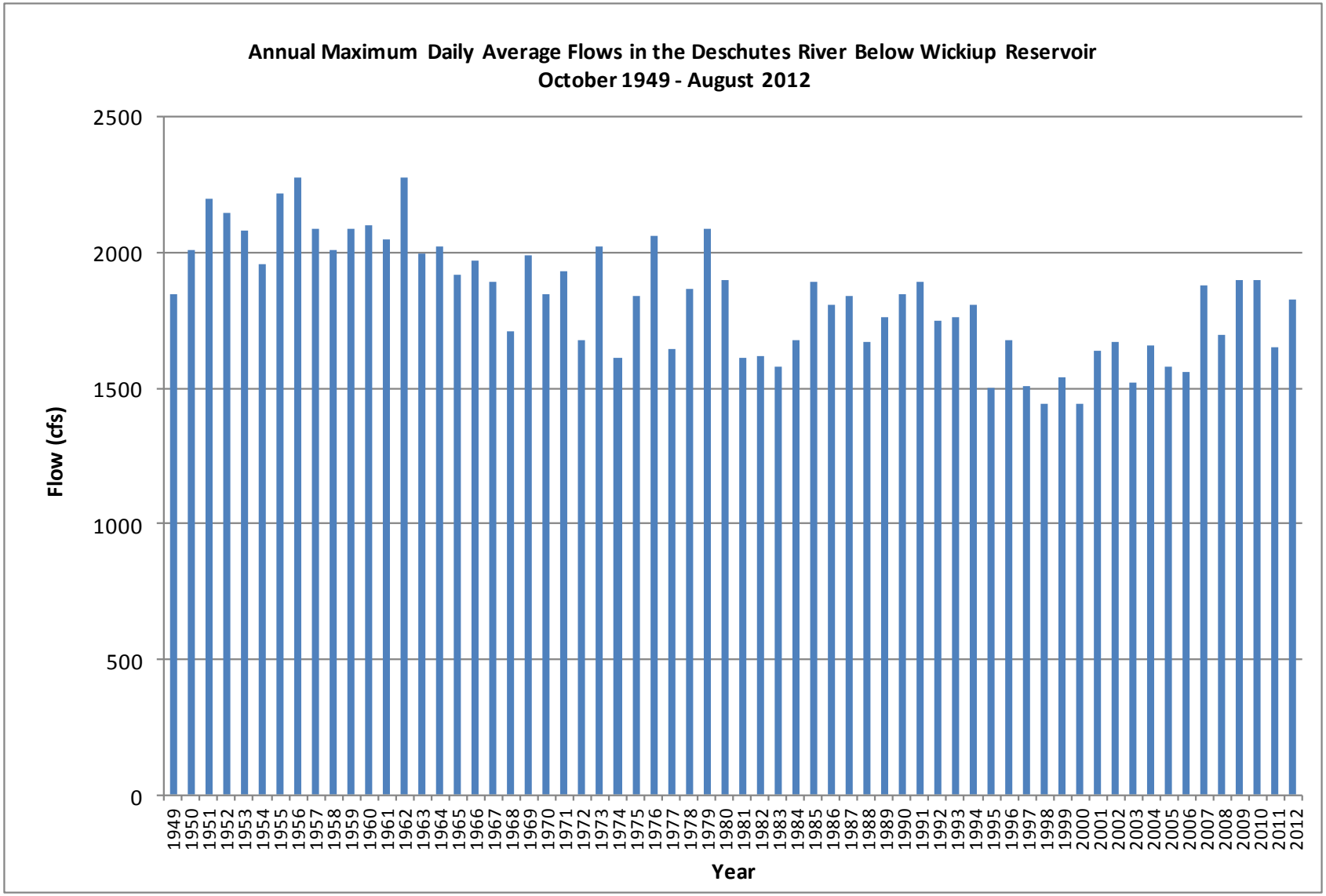


Upper Deschutes River
Low Winter Flows

Upper Deschutes River
High Summer Flows

The Deschutes: A Tale of Three Rivers





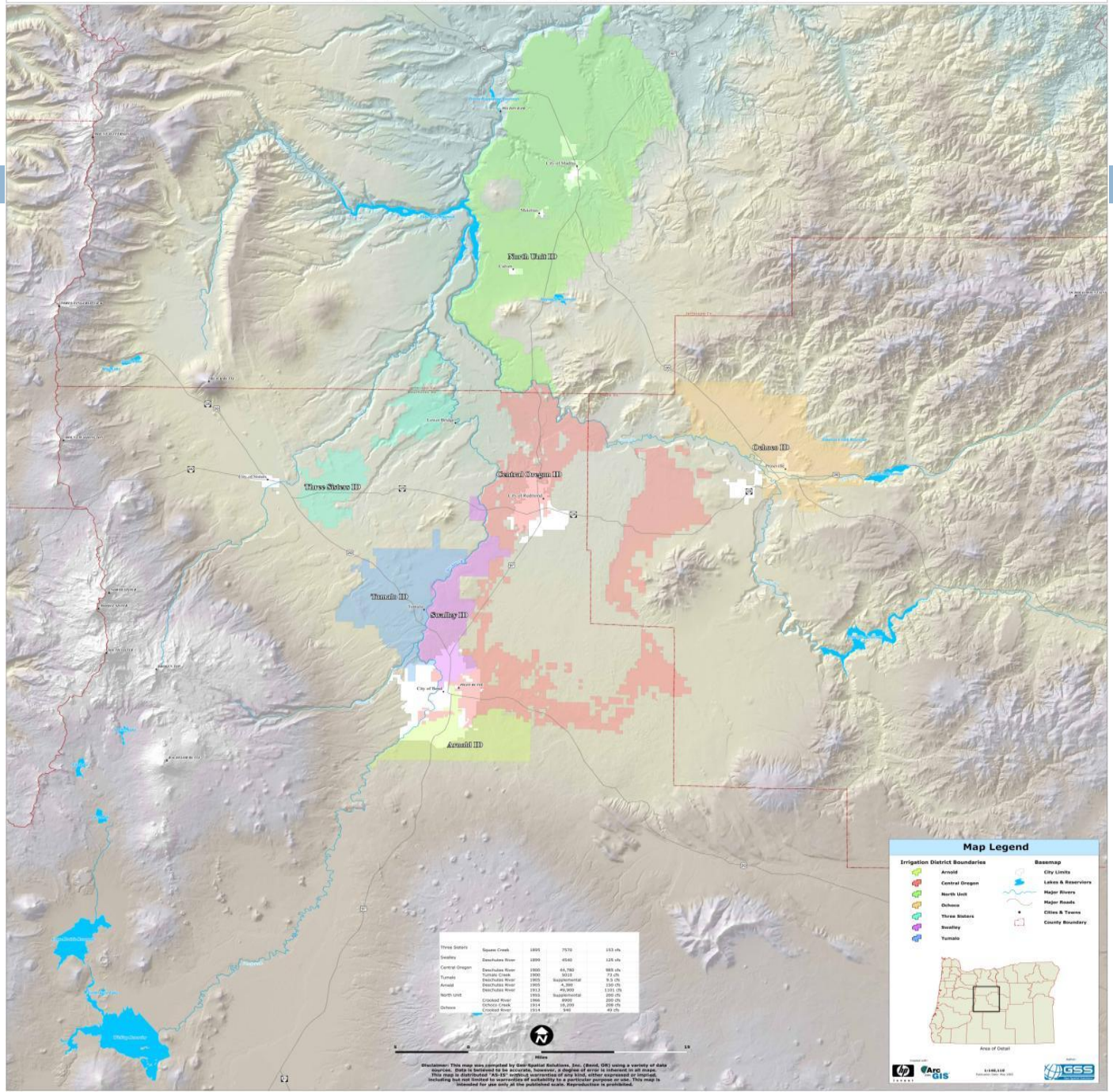
Source: WICO gage below Wickiup Reservoir, Oregon Water Resources Department
http://apps.wrd.state.or.us/apps/sw/hydro_near_real_time/display_hydro_graph.aspx?station_nbr=14056500

Strategic Approach

- Define streamflow target
- Collaborate with the right partners
- Employ the right tools
- Work incrementally towards the target
- Monitor outcomes and adapt strategy

The Deschutes Basin Board of Control

Overview Map and Member Service Areas

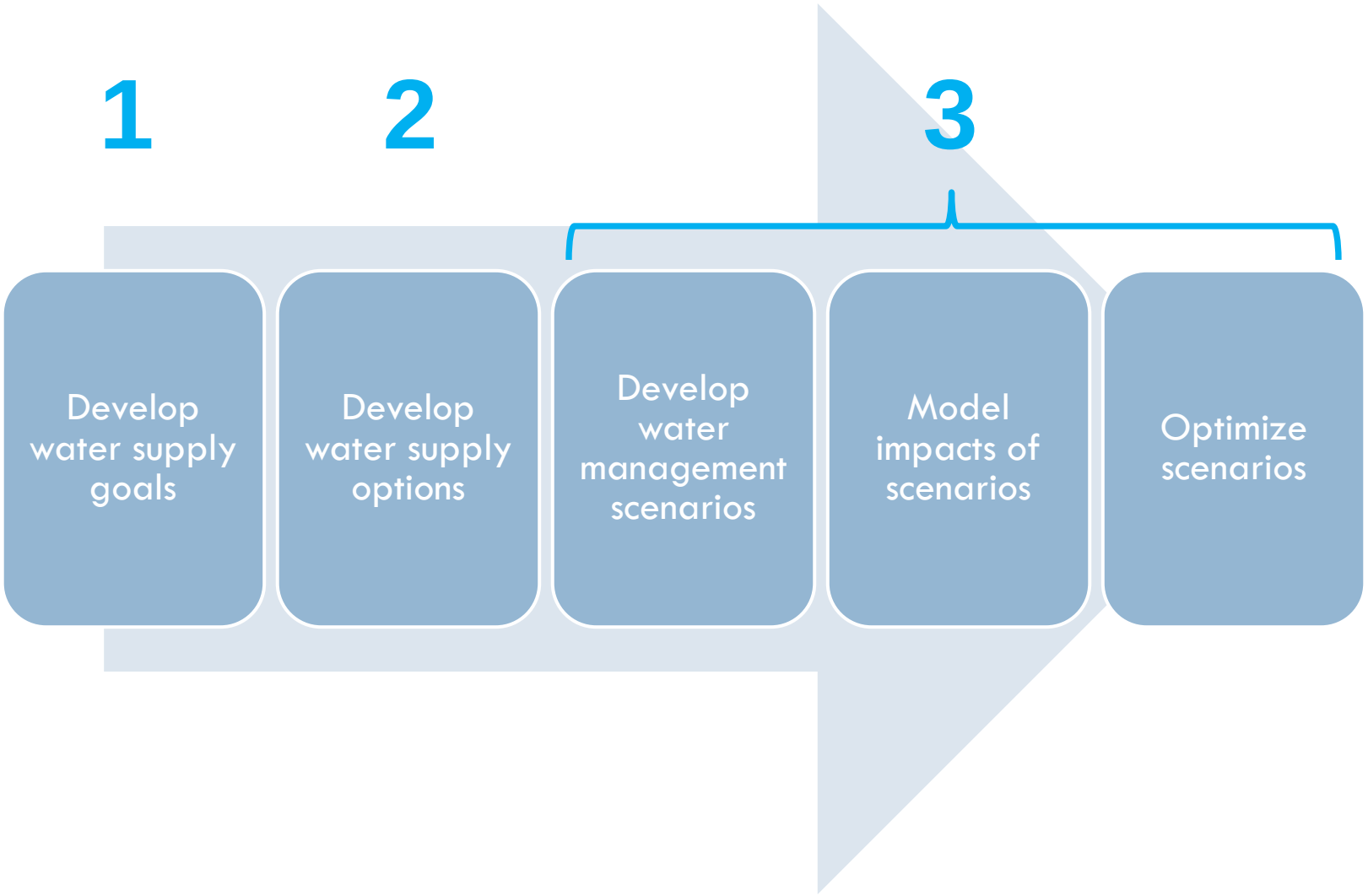


Stabilizing flows requires changing reservoir management

Deschutes Water Planning Initiative Goal

To engage partners in a process to develop a **voluntary water management agreement** that can be implemented to **improve streamflows** in the mainstem Deschutes River, Little Deschutes River, and Tumalo Creek, **while meeting the needs of irrigators, muncipal water providers, and other interests.**

Initiative Process



Partners

- Five irrigation districts
- Five municipalities
- Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife
- USDA Forest Service
- Department of Environmental Quality
- US Fish and Wildlife Service
- Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs
- Deschutes County
- Portland General Electric
- American Rivers
- Trout Unlimited
- WaterWatch
- Upper Deschutes Watershed Council
- Upper Deschutes River Coalition
- Sunriver Anglers
- Central Oregon Flyfishers
- Native Fish Society
- Bend Paddle Trail Alliance
- Oregon State Parks

The Future

A Restored Upper Deschutes River

Questions?