

Countdown starts for irrigation district to identify route for Pilot Butte Canal pipe

BY MICHAEL KOHN
CO Media Group

The countdown has begun for residents of northeast Bend to learn the future route of the Pilot Butte piping project, a plan that will end more than a century of use for the canal that runs through the area.

In the third quarter of 2023, Central Oregon Irrigation District will identify a preferred route for its proposed piping project, said ShanRae Hawkins, a spokesperson for the district. The piping route is to be included with the project's draft environmental impact statement.

One option includes piping along the existing canal and two other options have the pipe buried underneath city streets.

The irrigation district uses the canal to convey water from the Deschutes River to farms and ranches on the High Desert. In Bend, the canal also forms a bucolic backdrop to more than 100 homes in the northeast part of town. If the district moves ahead with its plans to pipe, the canal will still be a backyard feature, albeit one without water.

Conveying water through canals is considered outdated due to the porous nature of their rocky bottom. The leaky Pilot Butte Canal experiences 156 cubic feet per second of water loss. Switching to pipes allows the district to conserve water for both farmers and the river.

One of the street options has the pipe traveling north along 18th Street, starting where it intersects with Yeoman Road, and then east along Cooley Road. That route is approximately 1.9 miles in length. Selecting this route would require a portion of 18th Street to be opened up so the pipe could be



A portion of the Pilot Butte Canal.

Ryan Brennecke/Bulletin file

buried before the road is restored.

A second route sees the pipe going north along Old Deschutes Road from Yeoman Road, and then east on Cooley Road, a route of approximately 1.4 miles. This route also requires some of Old Deschutes Road to be excavated so the pipe can be buried.

There is also a "no action" alternative that retains the current situation of water flowing through the open canal.

The final option has the pipe following the current canal route. This option must comply with a 2016 decision that placed a 1.5-mile section of the canal in Bend on the National Regis-

ter of Historic Places. The placement was made at the request of local residents, many of whom have homes that back up to the canal, which was built in 1905.

The historic designation requires that the "historic integrity" of the canal be protected, but it does not require that water actually flow through the canal.

"This is the scoping period, so we don't know how we will handle the historic section," said Craig Horrell, the district manager for Central Oregon Irrigation District. "That is the process, to figure out what we can and can't do.

We are exploring all the options under the historic rules and guidelines but if this option is chosen (the pipe) would be buried."

A public comment period about the various options left a few local residents frustrated by technical problems associated with the submission process.

"The process was not user-friendly," said northeast Bend resident Don LeBar. "There is no telling how many submissions were not made because people became frustrated and gave up."

The irrigation district said the email system problems have been resolved and due to the technical error, the

deadline to submit comments was extended to Aug. 2. As of Wednesday, the district had received around 60 comments. Horrell said more periods to comment will be available within the next year.

Public comments will be used by the district as it further develops its draft environmental impact statement. If the current schedule can be maintained, construction of the pipe in Bend will start in late 2025 and will take six to 12 months to complete, said Hawkins.

The piping project through Bend is just one part of a larger plan to pipe the entire Pilot Butte Canal between Bend and Smith Rock. A 7.9-mile section from Redmond to Smith Rock was completed earlier this year at a cost of \$32 million. That project saves the district 30 cubic feet of water per second.

The 21 miles of canal between Bend to Redmond are expected to cost \$250 million to pipe and could be completed as early as 2028.

Around \$188 million of the cost is expected to be sourced from the Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act. The act was originally passed in 1954 to prevent flooding and sedimentation but has been since amended to address a broad range of natural resource and environmental issues, including water conservation.

The remaining \$62.5 million is to be sourced from required matching funds. Sources of funding include the Oregon Legislature and the Special Public Works Fund program.

People interested in commenting on the proposed plans can do so until Aug. 2 by emailing the irrigation district at: EISComments@coid.org.

Reporter: 541-617-7818, mkohn@bendbulletin.com

Two more cases of bird flu confirmed in Central Oregon

Cases found in non-commercial backyard flocks bringing total case count to 6

BY SIERRA DAWN MCCLAIN
Capital Press

USDA's Animal Plant Health Inspection Service has confirmed cases of highly pathogenic avian influenza, also known as HPAI, in two non-commercial backyard flocks in Central Oregon's Deschutes County.

According to officials, each property had 70 to 80 birds — a mix of chickens, ducks and Pea fowl. All birds at the two sites were humanely euthanized on July 24, according to the state Department of Agriculture.

Because the flocks' owners did not sell eggs or poultry products commercially, federal guidelines did not require officials to expand the existing regional quarantine area.

Deschutes County has now confirmed six total cases of



Sierra Dawn McClain/Capital Press File

Two more cases of bird flu have been found in Deschutes County, Ore.

HPAI. State veterinarian Ryan Scholz said he expects more cases to pop up statewide moving closer to the fall, when wild birds begin their winter migration.

The state Department of Agriculture advises commercial and backyard flock owners to be vigilant with biosecurity measures and to prevent contact between wild and domesticated birds whenever possible.

Starting Aug. 8, the state ag-

riculture department will provide weekly HPAI summaries and post all confirmed Oregon HPAI cases online. Those interesting in tracking the spread of the bird flu can sign up to receive email updates from ODA.

According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the latest strain of H5N1 bird flu has infected more than 40 million domesticated poultry in 38 states nationwide, in addition to 1,890 wild birds in 44 states.

Public invited to join Aug. 17 seminar on water rights in Central Oregon

Spokesman staff report

As water becomes scarcer in Central Oregon — and debate rages over how to conserve water and share it among a variety of stakeholders — the Deschutes River Conservancy is taking a closer look at some of the more divisive issues with a new, year-long series of public seminars.

The conservancy's series of free monthly seminars, Raise the Deschutes, is designed to help educate the public about water management in Central Oregon. The series provides opportunities for the public to engage with water experts who will discuss water supply, river hydrology, climate change, canal piping, and water conservation options.

The next seminar, scheduled for Aug. 17, is titled *Whose Water is it Anyway? Water Rights 101* and will focus on water rights in the Deschutes Basin.

The seminar will be held in person between 6-8 p.m. at the Open Space Event Studios at 220 NE Lafayette Ave. in Bend.

WORSHIP DIRECTORY

Adventist	Roman Catholic
Seventh Day Adventist 945 W. Glacier Ave., Redmond, OR 541-923-0301 Sabbath School 9:30 am Worship 10:45 am	St Thomas Roman Catholic Church 1720 NW 19th Street Redmond, Oregon 97756 541-923-3390 Father Todd Unger, Pastor Mass Schedule: Weekdays 8:00 am Saturday Vigil 5:00 pm First Saturday 8:00 am (English) Sunday 8:00 am, 10:00 am (English) 12:00 noon (Spanish) Confessions on Wednesdays From 4:00 to 5:45 pm and on Saturdays From 3:00 to 4:30 pm
Baptist	
Highland Baptist Church 3100 SW Highland Ave., Redmond 541-548-4161 Lead Pastor: Lance Logue Sunday Worship Services: Blended – 8 & 9:30 AM Contemporary – 11 AM (Worship Center) hbc Español - 10:30 am (Youth Room) *9:30 AM & 11 AM live-stream at: www.hbcredmond.org	
How can hbc pray for you? prayer@hbcredmond.org	Advertise your worship listing today! New advertisers get 2 weeks free. Call The Bulletin at 541-617-7823 to place your ad today!

SPOKESMAN Classifieds

Classified Hours: Monday - Friday, 10:00 am to 3:00 pm
541-385-5809 • classified@redmondspokesman.com

400 GARAGE SALES

401 Garage/Yard Sales

August 12 and 13, 9am - 4pm, Downsizing and crafts, 2125 NW 37th St, Redmond

CLASSIFIEDS WHERE BUYERS & SELLERS MEET

650 HELP WANTED

651 Help Wanted

Exciting Job Fighting Forest Fires! We have crews Nationwide working hard. Join our Team, Travel, and help us make a difference! Apply online at: https://patrick.hiringplatform.com/list/careers

700 LIVESTOCK/ANIMALS/PETS

Purebred Australian Shepherd puppies. 10 wks old. One red merle male and one blue merle female left both with blue eyes. Tails, dewclaws, wormed and shots. \$450.00 call or text 541-4907145
Dexter, OR (541)490-7145

660 SERVICES

664 Services

Advanced Commercial Cleaning
We clean offices, schools, restaurants, retail stores, buildings, bathrooms, floors, construction sites, VRBO check in and outs
We have available cleaners in Bend, Redmond, Sisters and Sunriver.
Please call us for a FREE quote.
Bend, Oregon (541)749-8974

728 Dogs, Cats, Pets

Purebred Australian Shepherd puppies. 10 wks old. One red merle male and one blue merle female left both with blue eyes. Tails, dewclaws, wormed and shots. \$450.00 call or text 541-4907145
Dexter, OR (541)490-7145

800 FARM MISC./GENERAL MISC.

810 Furniture & HH Goods

For Sale: Single Size Temp-Pedic Luxury Supreme Air Mattress, w/ pump, legs and headboard, \$1000 Call 541-548-6642

DID YOU KNOW

Newspaper-generated content is so valuable it's taken and repeated, condensed, broadcast, tweeted, discussed, posted, copied, edited, and emailed countless times throughout the day by others? Discover the Power of Newspaper Advertising in FIVE STATES with just one phone call. For free Pacific Northwest Newspaper Association Network brochures call 916-288-6011 or email cecelia@cnpa.com (PNDC)

Puzzle Solutions

Guess Who? Answer: Tom Brady

WORD SCRAMBLE Answer: Youth

SUDOKU

2	7	6	9	3	5	4	1	8
3	8	5	4	2	1	9	6	7
1	4	9	8	6	7	3	5	2
8	6	2	1	9	3	5	7	4
7	1	3	5	4	6	2	8	9
9	5	4	7	8	2	6	3	1
4	2	1	3	5	8	7	9	6
6	3	7	2	1	9	8	4	5
5	9	8	6	7	4	1	2	3

WORD SEARCH

Answers: A. classroom B. five C. teacher D. school