

Deschutes Basin Habitat Conservation Plan

The Deschutes Basin Habitat Conservation Plan (DBHCP) includes adaptive management to provide long-term certainty for irrigators, fish and frogs alike.



The Deschutes Basin Habitation Conservation Plan addresses the effects of eight irrigation districts and the City of Prineville, Oregon on over 480 miles of rivers and creeks.

Irrigation reservoirs and diversion dams will be managed to improve:



Winter flows for fish in the Deschutes River.	Year-round flows for fish in Ochoco Creek.	Year-round habitat for Oregon spotted frogs in Crane Prairie Reservoir, upper Deschutes River, Crescent Creek, and the Little Deschutes River.
Winter flows, smolt migration flows and summer flows for fish in the Crooked River.	Summer flows for fish in McKay Creek and Whychus Creek.	

The activities covered by the DBHCP modify the timing and magnitude of flow in the Deschutes River and a number of its tributaries through the storage, release, diversion and return of irrigation water.

These changes in surface hydrology alter the quantity and/or quality of aquatic habitats for listed species in both positive and negative ways.

The changes to surface hydrology will be phased over time, for two reasons:

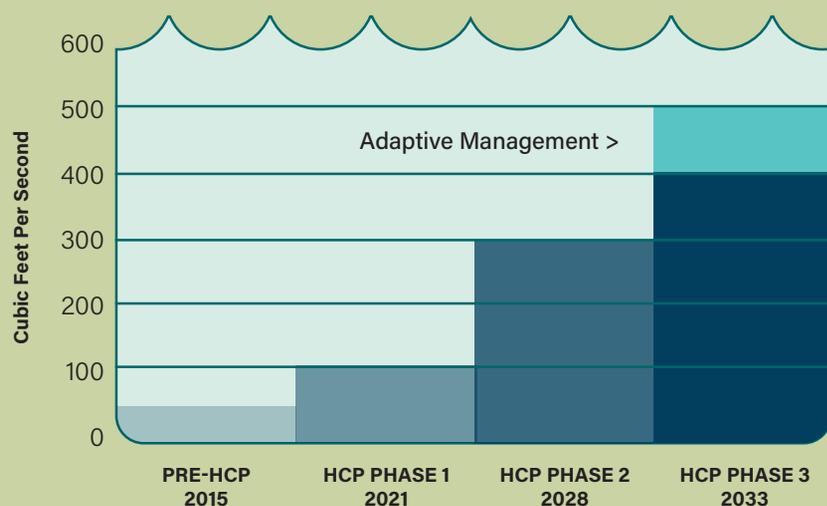
1. Restoration

First, many of the stream channels and floodplains in the basin have been altered from their natural conditions by several decades of irrigation storage and release. The increases in winter flows and corresponding decreases in summer flows under the DBHCP will be phased to accommodate channel restoration activities.

2. Economics

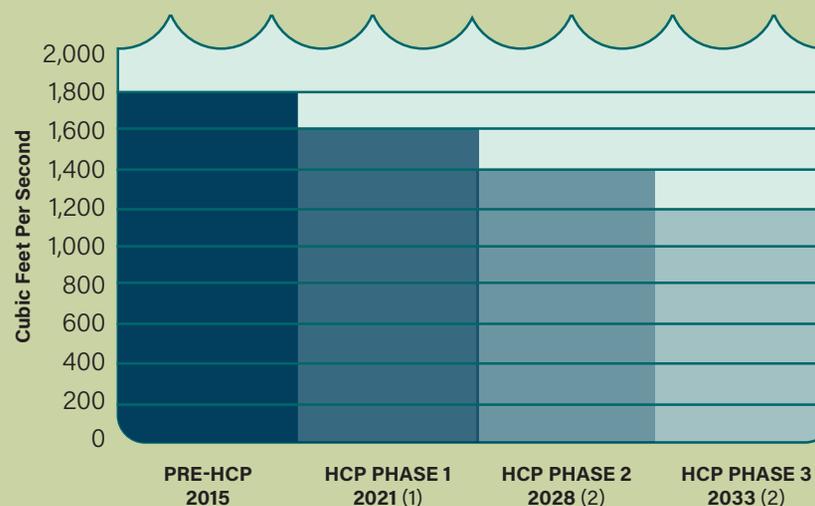
The conservation and movement of water will require several years and several hundred million dollars to complete. Phasing of the conservation measures under the DBHCP will allow time for the irrigation districts and City of Prineville to accomplish the conservation projects and water movements, so that they aren't faced with the risk of having insufficient water to support agriculture.

**Winter Minimum Flow
in the Upper Deschutes River**



* Adaptive management is a systematic approach for improving resource management by learning from management outcomes.

**Summer Maximum Flow
in the Upper Deschutes River**



(1) Predicted Maximum (2) Required Maximum