

# WALLOWA RESOURCES COMMUNITY SOLUTIONS, INC.

## Wallowa County Micro Hydro Outreach & Scoping Project



### KEY INFORMATION

Hydropower uses the kinetic energy of flowing/falling water to produce electricity. "Micro" describes those projects producing 100 Kilowatts (kW) or less.

Over the summer/fall of 2020, Wallowa Resources' Community Solution, Inc (CSI) is creating an expanded inventory of potential small hydro projects which could be tied to the existing electric grid and lower landowner power costs. We are now seeking to connect with landowners who have streams, ditches, canals or piped water moving over their property.

### SOME BACKGROUND:

The use of hydro power dates back to Roman times and in Wallowa County goes back more than 100 years.

Various County hydro water rights date back to the 1920s, when much of the area was without electricity.

Wallowa Falls Hydro, constructed in 1921, replaced numerous smaller generating projects to ultimately power four different valley towns.

The topography and water flows that allowed those *early* hydro projects are still here—and we believe that *locally owned* micro hydro can once again benefit our communities, especially as we look at:

The economic development value of keeping energy dollars *local*.

Community resilience.

Maintaining essential services during emergencies or natural disaster when the power grid goes down or is shut off.

Using our natural resources in ways that sustain the community.

### MORE RECENT BACKGROUND:

In 2010 Wallowa Resources, with funding from Energy Trust of Oregon, did a small hydro-electric scoping study for the county.

It identified 22 potential hydro project sites in the existing irrigation systems using a basic evaluation method.

Since then:

Three projects have been developed and come on line, including two projects at Vern Spaur's property between Lostine and Wallowa, and the Wallowa Lake County Service District Project. Development activity at more than 10 sites is currently underway.

There is an increasing awareness of the value of local hydropower resources.

## SINCE THAT STUDY, 10 YEARS AGO:

Regulations on hydro development have become more streamlined for small and micro sized projects and new proposed legislation looks even more favorable, speeding development time and lowering costs.

Net-metering changes are creating new markets for that energy.

New, more affordable, and more efficient hydropower technology is available.

Costs have come down overall.

We are understanding that small hydro can also help us:

Better manage streams flows to improve fish habitat.

Provide educational opportunities for youth.

Bring in NEW dollars to improve local irrigation infrastructure.

## THIS HAS ALL CREATED A WHOLE NEW HYDRO LANDSCAPE--WITH OPPORTUNITIES WAY BEYOND THAT ORIGINAL STUDY:

Community Solutions, again with funding from Energy Trust of Oregon, is now *re-doing* and *expanding* that original scoping study to:

Re-consider original sites *plus new* sites.

Look at *future* sites within *new* piping systems.

Build a data base of prioritized projects to better determine development order.

And, we're doing this in such a way that the process can be replicated in other areas.

**FIND OUT MORE...**including how to access the new Hydro Intake Questionnaire, get fact sheets on in-conduit and in-stream hydro, and possible technical and financial assistance, contact Matt or Joe, below. Watch for public programs in summer/fall of 2020.



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### -- THE PEOPLE PERFORMING AND GUIDING THIS WORK --

Community Solutions Inc, (CSI) Hydro Project Team:

Matt King, Renewable Energy Program Manager, 650.387.7194, matt@wallowaresources.org

Joe Basile, Renewable Energy Project Manager, 541.561.4426, joe@wallowaresources.org

Tara Porter, Program Analyst, 541.962.5083, trpcreativeresources@gmail.com

Susan Badger-Jones, Communications Advisor, 541.263.1103, sbadgerjones@eoni.com

Cole Lathrop, Engineer, available as needed

Community Hydro Opportunities Team:

We have assembled a small group of savvy local people representing landowner, water, government, business, environmental, tribal and other interests who bring different perspectives and thinking. They supplement the project team work with:

One-on-one or small group conversations needed to connect with community members, make key decisions, set up informational meetings, etc.

Meet as a full team two to three times over project year.

Receive brief, periodic updates with chances to comment.



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