



# A FLOOD OF OPPORTUNITY.

When Farmers Irrigation District (FID) of Hood River, Oregon, lost its irrigation infrastructure to a severe flood in 1996, they were unable to deliver water to their farmers or generate revenue with hydroelectricity plants. Such a setback might have stopped some in their tracks, but FID saw it as an opportunity. Rebuilding from the ground up, they brainstormed ways to not just replace but also enhance their infrastructure, including improved fish screens.

After ten years of research and testing, FID created the Farmers Screen: a self-cleaning, horizontal screen that protects fish and manages debris. Sensing the impact that invention could have in other communities, FID patented the technology, and Farmers Conservation Alliance (FCA) was formed to take the screen to market and protect the interests of the common good.

But trying to install modern fish screens on diversions that were often a century old was no easy task. FCA realized there was a need for comprehensive support to assist irrigators in upgrading their entire systems, and in 2015 launched the Irrigation Modernization Program.

Today FCA works with farmers, agencies, and organizations to design, finance, and implement large-scale solutions that improve water supplies, reduce operation and maintenance costs, generate fish-friendly hydropower, and benefit the environment. Leading the charge are many of the original team members behind the Farmers Screen – a testimony to their commitment to finding solutions for both agriculture and the environment, despite the obstacles.

# GREAT THINGS ARE HAPPENING.

## Farmers Irrigation District (FID) and FCA

Hood River, Oregon

*Pictured are members of the teams that developed the Farmers Screen and continue to grow FCA. The installation of 42 Farmers Screens has opened hundreds of river miles.*

PHOTO KATE SCHWAGER



Irrigation modernization for agriculture and the environment. Supported by Energy Trust of Oregon.