

**Eastern Oregon FY2026 Community-Initiated Project Quotes:**

"This \$4.5 million federal investment for the construction of our wastewater treatment plant is a powerful affirmation of trust and shared vision," **said Mayor Sherrie Rininger, City of John Day.** "Thanks to this support, we can safeguard public health, protect our river, and ensure reliable cost-effective service for every family in John Day and Canyon City. I'm deeply grateful to Senators Merkley and Wyden for championing our request and for investing in rural communities like ours; and to the entire John Day community for partnering in this huge investment."

"We are thrilled to learn that our Multi-Purpose Machine Gun Range project in Boardman, Oregon, was funded by Congress. This range is critical to readiness and will be the only Crew Served Weapons range in Oregon to fulfill training and qualification requirements for the Oregon National Guard," **said Jim Arnold, Director of Installations for the Oregon Military Department.** "The range will also provide economic benefits through the initial military construction work as well as subsequent future use and training activity by service members in the region."

"We thank U.S. Senators Merkley and Wyden for their dedication and ongoing support to address groundwater data gaps in the Lower Umatilla Basin Groundwater Management Area (LUBGWMA). The funding secured here, along with other federal and state activities, are necessary components to make meaningful progress for people who live and work in the region," **said Ivan Gall, Director of the Oregon Water Resources Department.**

"The City of Hermiston is thrilled that Senators Merkley and Wyden were able to secure funding for a project that provides a critical layer of protection against natural and man-made disasters which result in power outages," **said Mark Morgan, Assistant City Manager.** "These backup generators will ensure that clean drinking water continues to flow to more than 20,000 Oregonians in the Hermiston area, and that process water continues to flow to power producers who supply more than 1 Gigawatt of electricity to the Pacific Northwest power grid."

"Wallowa County Emergency Communications Infrastructure Upgrade will enhance and drastically improve communications throughout the Wallowa County and into surrounding counties," **said Ryan Moody, Wallowa County Sheriff.** "Senator Merkley and Senator Wyden have been instrumental in supporting this project, which will upgrade a very old and outdated communications infrastructure throughout Wallowa County. It will drastically improve not only Public Safety and First Responders efficiency in responding to emergencies, but all the services throughout Wallowa County to make it safer for everyone for many years."