

OREGON



WATER RESOURCES
DEPARTMENT

Deschutes Basin Situational Assessment & Workplan

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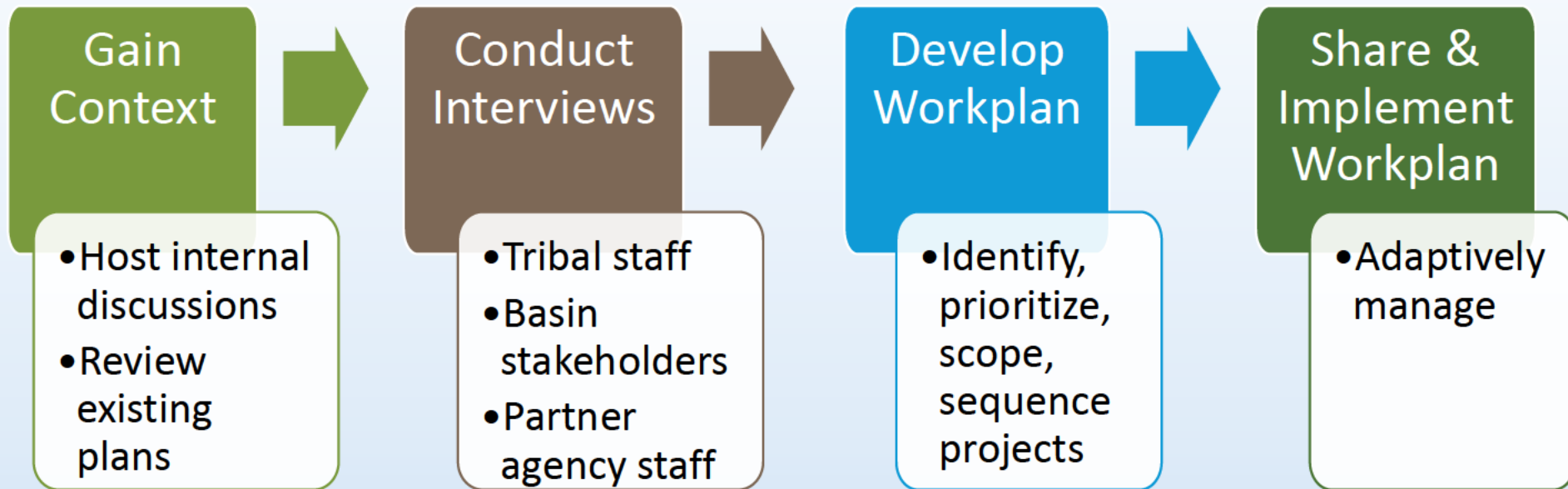
2/23/2023

Context & Need

- New basin coordinator positions
- Increase understanding of local challenges & opportunities
- Develop forward looking basin workplan for Department



Process



Organizations Interviewed

Engagement

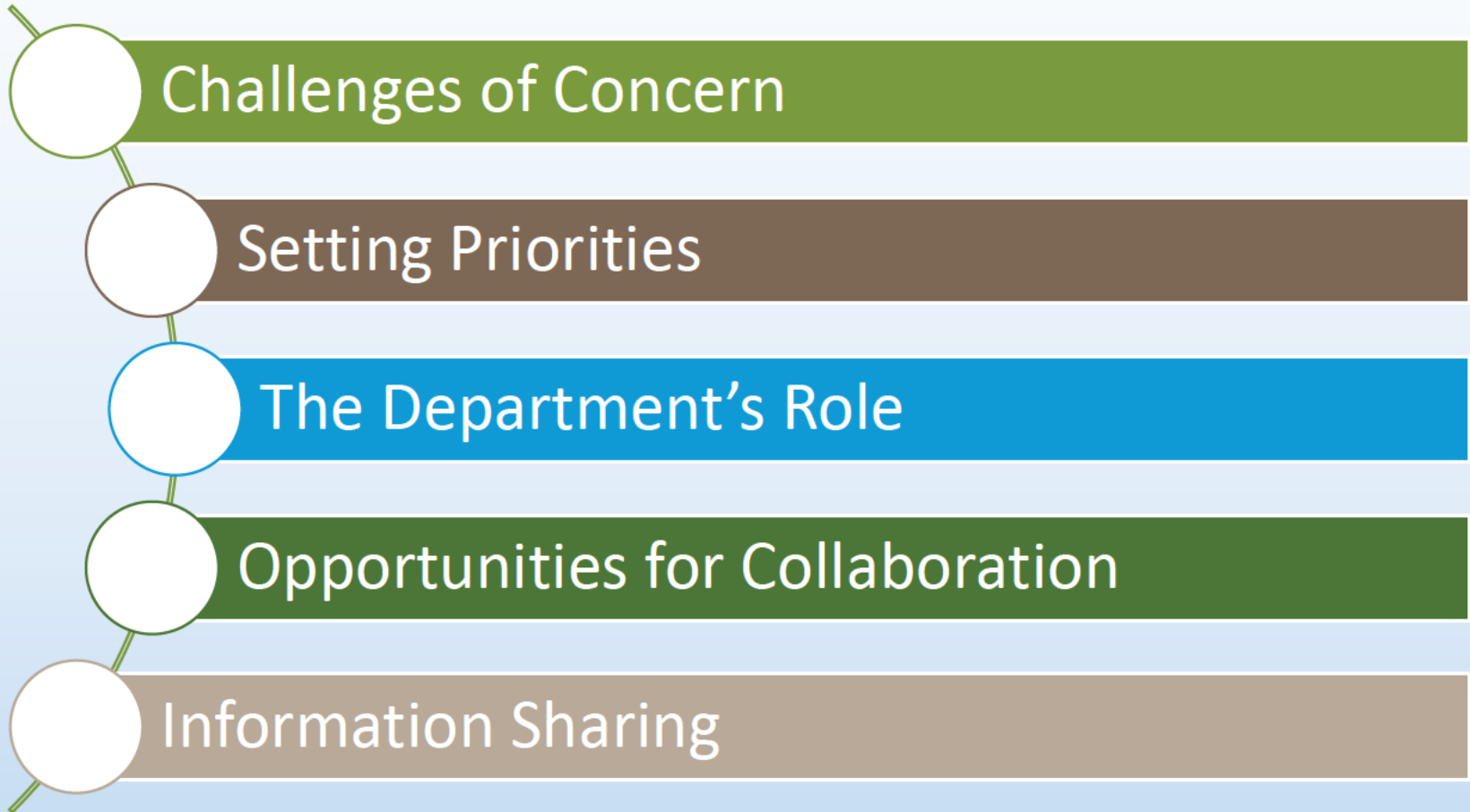
- 45+ contacted, 36+ interviewed
 - Limited capacity at smaller or volunteer-based organizations
 - Differing levels included at larger organizations

Perspectives:

- Tribal
- Agencies
- Irrigation Districts
- Municipalities
- Environmentally focused organizations



Interview Questions

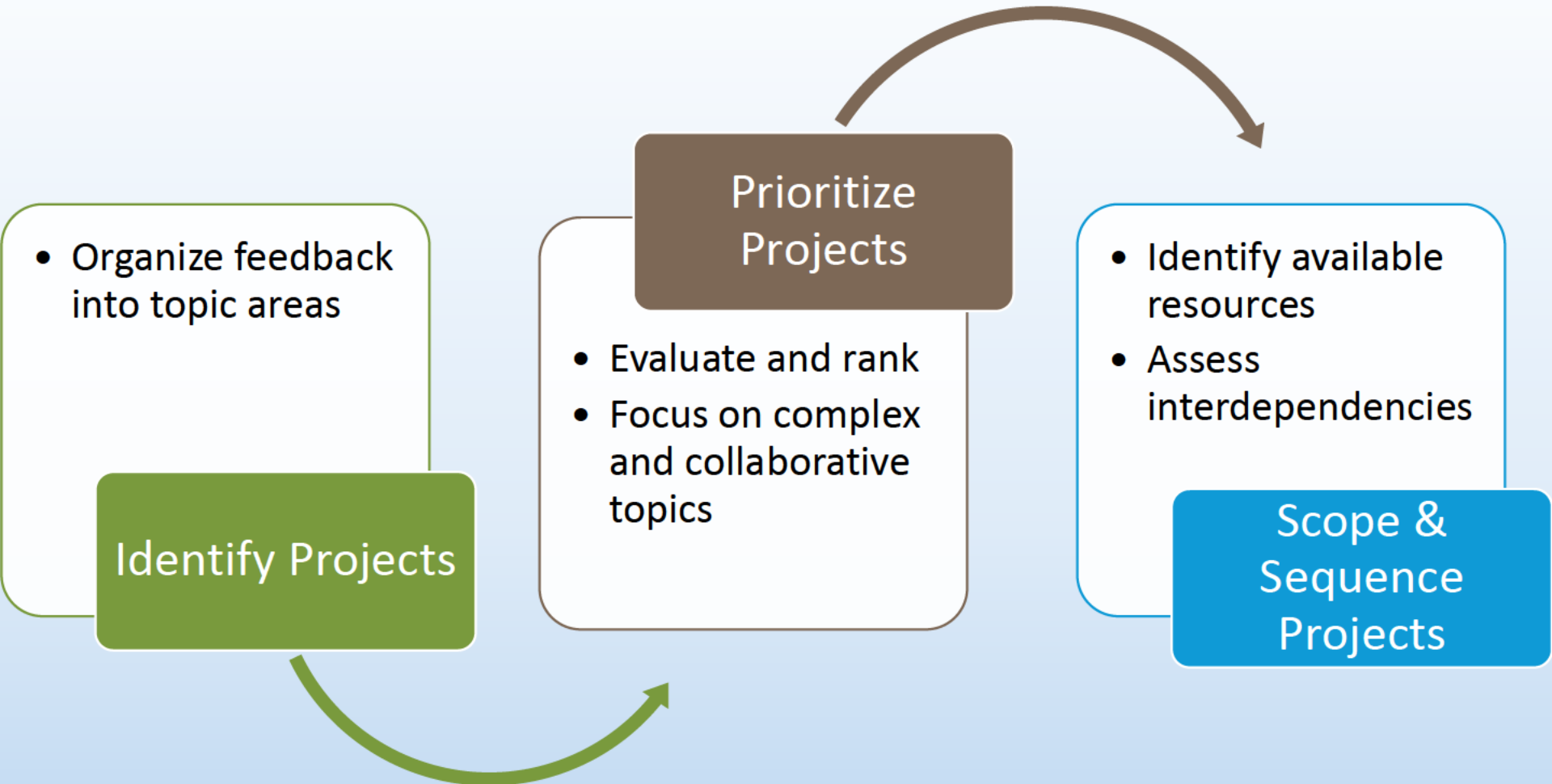


Interview Feedback



- Conservation strategies
- Groundwater mitigation program
- Place-based planning
- Water accounting & transparency
- Coordination
 - Interagency & Tribal
 - Land use planning
 - Community engagement
- Ecosystem health
 - Species viability
 - Habitat suitability

Workplan Development



Workplan Design

- 3-year basin roadmap for Department
- Coordinates staff capacity
- Communicates:
 - Department priorities
 - Project actions and anticipated outcomes
 - Timelines for project work
 - Opportunities to engage
- Adaptively managed



2023 – Quarter 1 Projects

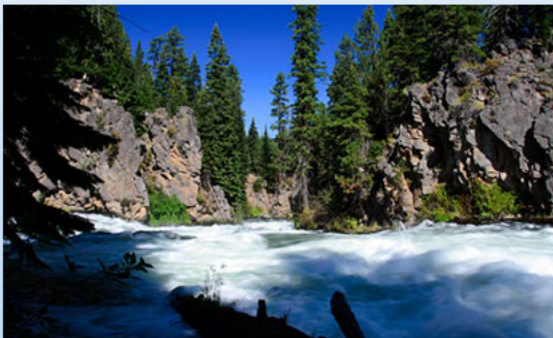
Project: *Coordinating Intersections between Groundwater Rulemaking & Deschutes Basin Groundwater Mitigation Program*

Purpose: Ensure operation of existing Deschutes Basin Groundwater Mitigation Program is considered when revising OWRD statewide groundwater allocation rules.

Estimated length: 6 months

2023 – Quarter 1 Projects

Project: *Modernizing
Water Movement
Tracking & Accounting
in the Deschutes Basin*



Purpose: Increase OWRD ability to track water transactions and water conservation project outcomes

Pilot project focused on the Deschutes Basin with a focus on Watermaster District 11.

Estimated length: 2+ years, with phased work products

2023 – Quarter 1 Projects

Project: *Increasing Agency & Tribal Coordination in the Deschutes Basin*

Purpose: Increase basin focused coordination between OWRD, state and federal agencies, and Tribes on water management topics.

Estimated length: 3 months, ongoing operations

2023 – Quarter 1 Projects

Project: *Place-Based Planning Support for the Deschutes Basin Water Collaborative*

Purpose: Support integrated water resources planning and implementation efforts.



Estimated length: 9 months, ongoing implementation support

2023 – Quarter 2 Projects

Project: *Deschutes Basin Groundwater Mitigation Program Updates*



Purpose: Evaluate and potentially update the existing Deschutes Basin Groundwater Mitigation Program to ensure relevance and alignment with OWRD mission.

Estimated length: 3+ years, with phased work products

2023 – Quarter 3 Projects

Project: *Piloting
Integrated Water
Conservation
Strategies*

Purpose: Increase OWRD's ability to support water conservation priorities by providing basin-focused pathways for water conservation project implementation.

Pilot project focused on the Deschutes Basin.

Estimated length: 1.75 years, with phased work products

2023 – Quarter 4 Projects

Project: *Exploring Opportunities to Advance Crooked River Water Management Challenges*



Purpose: Identify and implement opportunities for additional coordinated water management activities in the Crooked River.

Estimated length: 1+ years, with phased work products

2024 Projects

Project: Supporting OWRD Water Rights Processing Improvements

Purpose: Increase capacity to implement internally identified actions to improve OWRD Water Rights processing

Project: Increasing Water Project Funding Accessibility and Sustainability

Purpose: Increase accessibility of existing funding sources and coordinate funding opportunities with project planning and implementation timeline needs.

Next Steps

- Continue workplan outreach
- Initiate near term projects
- Monitor and adjust projects & timelines
- Communicate progress and learning

Questions

