



# Harney Community Based Water Planning Collaborative

## Planning Update

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Place-Based Planning Conveners Mark  
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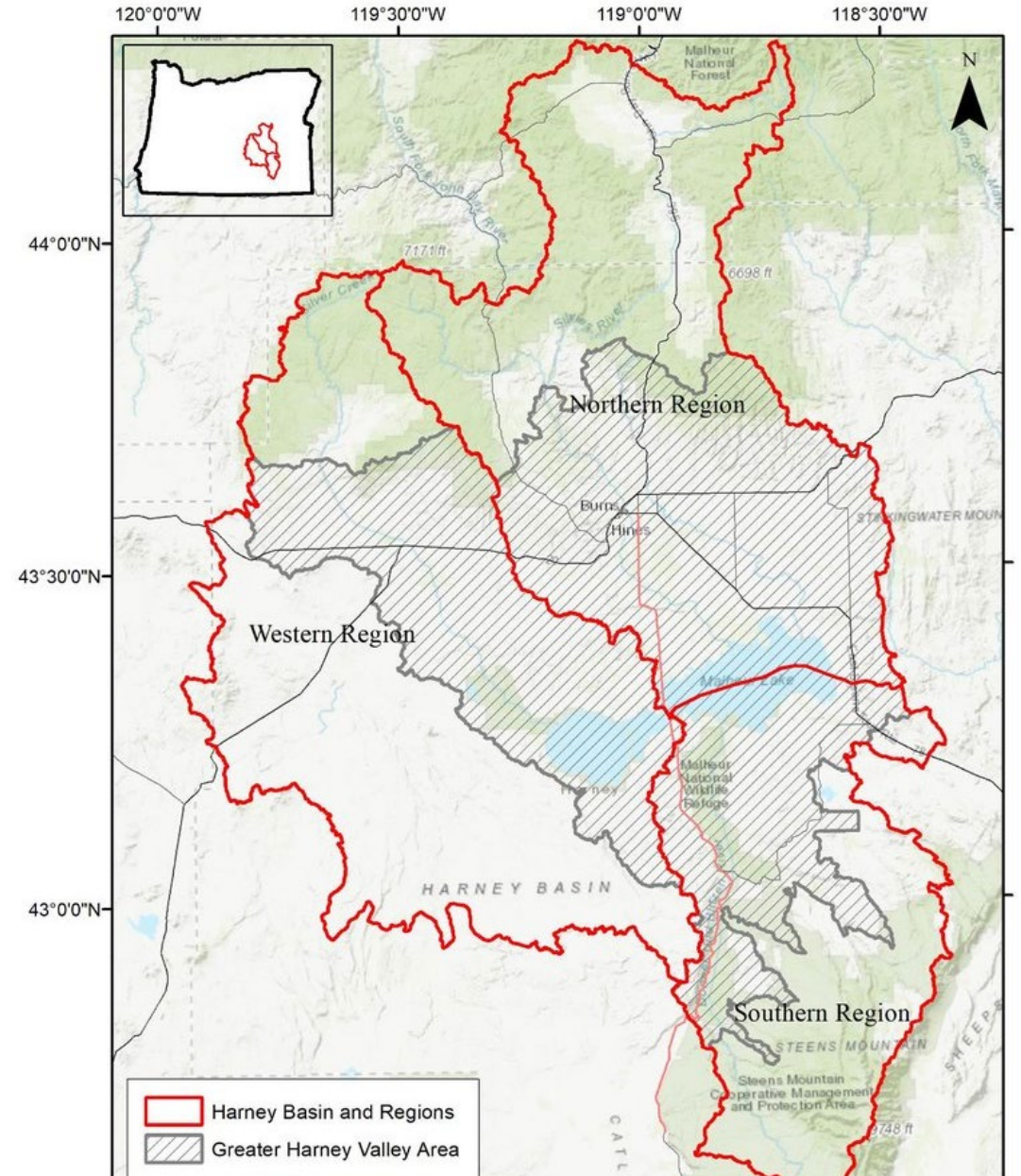


# Topics for Today

- Harney Basin & the Communities
- The Harney-CBWP Collaborative
- Interagency Review – CBWP Groundwater Plan
- Groundwater Strategies
- Impact to Community
- Conversation to Approve the Groundwater Plan

# The Harney Basin

- Southeastern Oregon
- Closed basin
- GHVGAC Designation



# The Harney Communities

- This is Harney County...
- Land
- Water
- Sky
- Soul
- ..... [Link to film \(3 minutes\)](#)

# **The Harney- CBWP Collaborative**

- Conveners: Harney County Watershed Council and Harney County Court
- Diverse Collaborative Partners
- Doubled OWRD Funding Investment
- Since 2016 - 13,000 hours collaborative partners have spent volunteering on this important issue

2016

2017-  
2018

2019-  
2020

2021-  
2022

2023



2019-  
2022



2022-  
2023



2024



Build a  
Collaborative  
Process

Build System  
Understanding

Phase 1  
Groundwater  
Resources

Phase 2  
Surface Water  
Resources

Integrated  
Water Resource  
Plan

Build Local and Statewide Support for Sustainable Water Resource Management

# **The Harney CWMP Plan**

- Initial focus on groundwater over allocation
- USGS-OWRD Groundwater Study was central to the plan
- Groundwater Study Advisory Committee members were also collaborative partners
- Completed Groundwater Plan in 2022
- Submitted the Groundwater Plan for Interagency Review

# Interagency Plan Review Team – Addressing Required Improvements

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The plan review team requested that the Collaborative make 6 improvements to the Groundwater Plan



All required improvements were addressed and satisfied the team's expectations



# Interagency Plan Review Team (PRT) – Addressing Considerations to Implementation

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- The PRT listed 10 Considerations to Implementation regarding plan development, content, and adoption and implementation strategy
- During a final meeting with the PRT, the project manager described how these considerations would be addressed during integration of the groundwater and surface water plans – the PRT accepted this approach.

# Harney CBWP Groundwater Plan Consensus Based Strategies

# Short Term Strategies

	Strategy	Status
★	Explore Long-Term Approaches to Assist Domestic Water Users	Ongoing
★	Conserve Groundwater Dependent Ecosystems	Ongoing
★	Protect Water Rights when Reducing Groundwater Use	Ongoing
★	Develop Alternative Crops	Ongoing
	Monitor and Inventory Groundwater Dependent Ecosystems	Not Started
★	Explore Remote Sensing of Groundwater Use	Ongoing
	Measure Groundwater Use	Not Started
★	Continue Groundwater Studies	Ongoing
★	Identify and Utilize Best Available Science	Ongoing
★	Use Less Water Through Technology	Ongoing
★	Support a Groundwater CREP Program	Ongoing
★	Develop a Domestic Well Remediation Fund	Completed
★	Advocate for Groundwater Permit Compliance	Ongoing
★	Ensure CBWP Representation in Rulemaking	Ongoing
	Improve Community Information about Groundwater Conditions	Not Started
★	Build Understanding of Voluntary Agreements	Ongoing
★	Improve Well Construction and Permit Standards	Ongoing

**Mid-Term  
Strategies-  
to be  
initiated  
within the  
next 4-10  
years**

	Strategy	Status
	Develop a Drought Plan	Not Started
★	Increase Understanding of Groundwater Rights	Ongoing
	Develop an Abandoned Well Safe Harbor Program	Not Started
	Assess the Economic Value of Groundwater in the Harney Basin	Not Started
	Establish a Groundwater Quality Monitoring Program	Not Started
	Expand Groundwater Quality Knowledge	Not Started
★	Develop Alternative Water Delivery for Rural Residents	Ongoing
	Evaluate Well Standards for the Harney Basin	Not Started
	Explore a Groundwater Market	Not Started
	Integrate Water Use in Land Use Decisions	Not Started
★	Improve Citizen Engagement in OWRD Decisions	Ongoing
★	Work with OWRD to Address Abandoned Wells	Ongoing

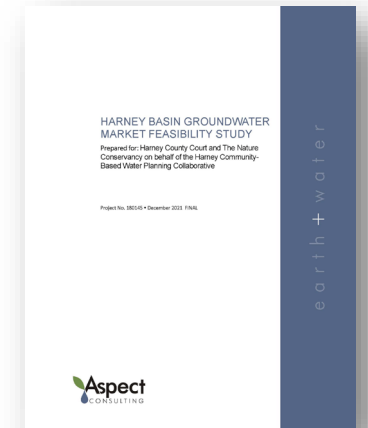
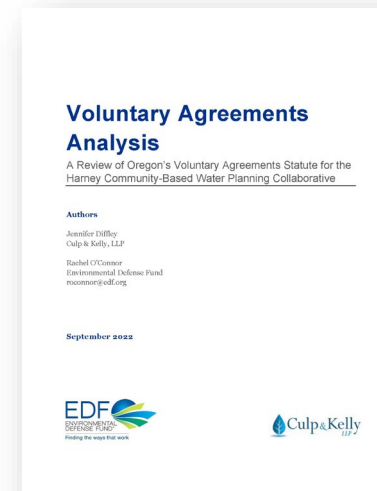
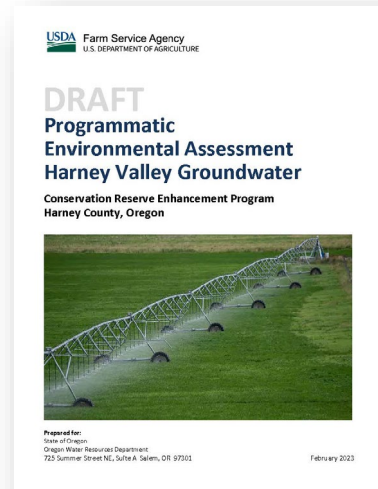
**Long-Term  
Strategies-  
to be  
initiated  
within the  
next 10  
years +  
beyond**

Strategy	Status
Ensure Conserved Water Remains in the Ground	Not Started
Explore Groundwater Use Fees	Not Started

# Implemented Strategies & Their Progress

Of those strategies that are ongoing, we want to highlight the following and their progress:

- Harney Valley Groundwater Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)
- Establish a Domestic Well Fund
- Build understanding of Voluntary Agreements
- Explore a Groundwater Market



# Community Impacts

- Critical Groundwater Area Rules – in development
- Basin Rules (Section 512) required to be amended after the Groundwater Study
- Incentives for cooperation – Voluntary Agreements
- Incentives to reduce use and allocation – Harney Valley Groundwater CREP
- Incentives to assist homeowners affected by groundwater declines – Domestic Well Fund

# Conversation

- Implementing groundwater strategies while also planning for surface water
- By approving the groundwater plan, where do we go next?
- Recognize that OWRD designation of Critical Groundwater Area rulemaking is delayed and a complex process. The potential designation raises community and collaborative concerns and uncertainty.
- Exploring what is required for voluntary agreement as authorized by ORS 537.745. To date we have not heard from OWRD staff on the draft report