



Oregon

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Water Resources Commission

FROM: Crystal Grinnell, Integrated Water Resources Strategy Specialist

SUBJECT: Agenda Item F, March 21, 2024
Water Resources Commission

Oregon's Integrated Water Resources Strategy (IWRS) – Draft for Public Review

I. Introduction

During this agenda item, staff will describe features of the 2024 IWRS Draft 1 that was released for public review and comment on March 4, 2024. Commissioners and staff will discuss changes made to the public review draft.

II. Integrated Water Resources Strategy Recommended Action

- 13.A – Fund Development and Implementation of Oregon's IWRS

III. Background

The Department has discussed the IWRS at previous Commission meetings since November 2022. Materials from these meetings can be found on the Department website for the Commission: www.oregon.gov/owrd/aboutus/Commission.

The public comment period for the first public review draft of the IWRS is open from March 4 to April 5. A second public review draft is anticipated to be released for public comment in mid-May. The Department anticipates adoption by the Commission at the September meeting.

IV. 2024 IWRS Proposed Vision and Call to Action

Feedback from the Commission provided during the November meeting on the IWRS Vision & Call to Action (Attachment 1) and the draft Framework (Attachment 2) has been incorporated into the current drafts as outlined in brief below.

Vision & Call to Action:

- Keep “Water Challenges” but re-order to begin with there is “too much demand for too little water...”

- Remove the “importance of water” text
- Revise the Call to Action to include “infrastructure”
- Revise the Call to Action to reflect interagency efforts

Framework:

- Consider different colors to improve readability
- Change the name of the last chapter from “Management & Stewardship” to “Stewardship”
- Delete the proposed new Action 13D regarding natural infrastructure and incorporate into the existing infrastructure action 13A

V. 2024 IWRS Draft 1

The first draft of the 2024 IWRS is currently open for public review and comment through April 5, 2024 (see www.oregon.gov/owrd/programs/Planning/IWRS). The 2024 IWRS Draft 1 reflects input from state and federal agencies, the Commission, and input received from public outreach and engagement efforts in 2023. The IWRS project team will evaluate comments and incorporate changes. The team plans to release a second draft for public review and comment in mid-May.

A summary of some of the key changes to the 2024 IWRS Draft 1 as compared to the 2017 IWRS are outlined below:

Critical Issues

- One new critical issue has been added, “Coordination and Collaboration.” This was added to reflect what the IWRS Project Team heard during public engagement: a call for more coordination regarding water challenges across state agencies and between government and communities.
- The critical issue “Climate Change” has been deleted because climate-related actions are integrated throughout the IWRS.
- The following critical issues have been changed to better reflect the content of the actions under the critical issue: “Water & Land Use” changed to “Land Use Planning;” “Place-Based Efforts” changed to “Water Planning;” “Extreme Events” changed to “Natural Hazard Mitigation Planning & Extreme Events;” “Public Health” changed to “Clean Water;” and “Further Define Instream Needs/Demands” changed to “Instream and Ecosystem Water Needs.”
- Some critical issues have been slightly modified to exclude verbs, making them consistent with most of the other critical issues. For example, “Further Define Out-of-Stream Needs/Demands” has been modified to “Out-of-Stream Needs.”

Proposed New IWRS Actions

- Proposed Action 3C “Lead Meaningful Community Engagement” has been added to reflect public engagement input and ongoing agency efforts to increase engagement with communities impacted by water planning and/or projects.

- Proposed Action 8D “Develop Instream & Ecosystem Demand Forecasts” was added to elevate the need for long-term forecasts that reflect instream needs. The 2017 IWRS included the need for an instream forecast as an example action (under 2017 IWRS Action 3A) and the IWRS has always had an action to “develop long-term forecasts for out-of-stream demands;” adding an action to forecast instream needs supports the equal consideration of these two statutorily identified demands.

Deleted IWRS Actions

- “Assist with Climate Change Adaptation & Resiliency Strategies (2017 IWRS Action 5B) has been deleted because the action was redundant. Many 2024 IWRS Draft 1 Actions are adaptation or resiliency strategies. Climate adaptation and resiliency is specifically mentioned in “example actions” throughout 2024 IWRS Draft 1.

Modified IWRS Actions

- The wording of many of the 2017 IWRS Actions has been slightly modified for the 2024 IWRS Draft 1 to clarify the action intent.

Actions moved to “Example Actions”

- “Authorize the Update of Water Right Records with Contact Information” (2017 IWRS 2D) was moved to example action under 12G.
- “Regularly Update Oregon’s Water Related Permitting Guide” (2017 IWRS 2E) has been moved to example action under 12G.
- “Continue the Water Resources Development Program” (2017 IWRS 10E) has been moved to example action under 1C.

VI. Discussion

During the work session, the Commission and staff will engage in a discussion on changes made to Attachments 1 and 2, as well as the 2024 IWRS Draft 1 (available online at: www.oregon.gov/owrd/programs/Planning/IWRS).

VII. Conclusion

The 2024 IWRS Draft 1 is the first of two drafts that will be available for public review and comment. The Department will consider input from the Commission received during this meeting for inclusion in the second public review draft.

Attachments:

1. 2024 Draft IWRS Vision & Call to Action
2. 2024 Draft IWRS Framework



Oregon's 2024 Integrated Water Resources Strategy - Draft 1, March 2024

Water Challenges Across Oregon

Oregon faces a number of water challenges that impact the quality and quantity of water for instream and out-of-stream needs, including:

- Too much demand for too little water for in-stream and out-of-stream uses;
- A half century of underinvestment in our water resources and infrastructure;
- Our changing population and associated development – growing in some areas, shrinking in others; and
- Climate change and associated increases in temperature, wildfire, drought, damaging floods, and harmful algal blooms.

Vision

To address changes in climate and population dynamics, Oregonians will take care of our surface water, groundwater, and built and natural infrastructure to ensure we have enough clean water for our people, our economy, and our environment now and for future generations. Oregonians will invest strategically in partnerships and planning, data and analysis, and water stewardship for instream and out-of-stream needs across all regions to support resilient communities, vibrant local economies, and a healthy environment for all who live here.

Call to Action

We must both act now and plan for the long term, otherwise we will place the safety of our communities, the health of our people and environment, and Oregon's economic future at risk. How we choose to care for our surface and groundwater and our built and natural infrastructure, will determine if we pass a legacy of clean and sustainable water to future generations. A coordinated effort of immediate actions and thoughtful planning for the future are needed. The Strategy outlines the inter-agency actions and public-private partnerships needed to understand and meet Oregon's instream and out-of-stream water needs, to create a foundation for coordinated action and funding.

The 2024 Integrated Water Resources Strategy proposes actions for improving our understanding of Oregon's water resources and meeting our instream and out-of-stream needs, including water quantity, water quality, and ecosystem needs, in the following categories:

Funding

Oregon must invest now to secure our water future

- **Funding**

Partnerships and Planning

All Oregonians must work together and plan for our water future

- **Education & Outreach**
- **Land Use Planning**
- **Coordination & Collaboration**
- **Natural Hazard Mitigation Planning & Extreme Events**
- **Water Planning**

Data and Analysis

Oregon needs foundational information to make wise decisions and pursue innovation

- **Water Resource/Supply Information**
- **Out-of-Stream Water Needs**
- **Instream & Ecosystem Water Needs**

Stewardship

Oregon must secure its water future through active management and stewardship of its resources

- **Healthy Ecosystems**
- **Water Infrastructure**
- **Clean Water**
- **Water & Energy**
- **Water Use & Management**



Oregon's 2024 Integrated Water Resources Strategy Framework and Actions - Draft 1, March 2024

Focusing on: Climate change, population growth, land use change, economic impacts, and energy demand

Goal 1: Improve Understanding of Oregon's Water Resources

- Objective 1: Understand Water Resources
- Objective 2: Understand Instream and Out-of-Stream Needs
- Objective 3: Understand the Pressures that Affect Our Needs and Supplies

Goal 2: Meet Oregon's Water Resources Needs

- Objective 4: Meet Oregon's Instream and Out-of-Stream Needs

Chapter 1: Funding

Funding

- 1A [13A] – Fund Development and Implementation of Oregon's Integrated Water Resources Strategy
- 1B [13B] – Fund Water Resources Management Activities at State Agencies
- 1C [13C-13E] – Invest in Planning, Feasibility Studies, and Water Resource Project Implementation

Chapter 2: Partnerships and Planning

Education & Outreach

- 2A [8C] – Promote Community Education and Outreach
- 2B [8A] – Support Implementation of K-12 Environmental Literacy Plan
- 2C [8B] – Provide Career Training for the Next Generation of Water Professionals
- 2D [8D] – Identify Water Research Needs & Partnerships

Coordination & Collaboration [new]

- 3A [9C] – Partner with Tribes, Federal Agencies, and Neighboring States in Long-Term Water Resources Management
- 3B [6B] – Improve State Interagency Coordination
- 3C [new] – Lead Meaningful Community Engagement

Water Planning

- 4A [9A] – Support Integrated Place-Based Planning and Other Water Planning Efforts
- 4B [9B] – Coordinate State and Local Natural Resource Plans

Land Use Planning

- 5A [6A] – Improve Integration of Water Information and Land Use Planning
- 5B [6C] – Encourage Low Impact Development Practices and Green Infrastructure

Natural Hazard Mitigation Planning & Extreme Events

- 6A [5.5A] – Plan and Prepare for Drought & Wildfire Resiliency
- 6B [5.5B] – Plan and Prepare for Flood Events
- 6C [5.5C] – Plan and Prepare for a Cascadia Earthquake & Tsunami Event

Chapter 3: Data and Analysis

Water Resource/Supply Information

- 7A [1B] – Improve Water Resource Data Collection and Monitoring
- 7B [1A] – Conduct Additional Groundwater Basin Studies
- 7C [1C] – Enhance Interagency Data Coordination
- 7D [5A] – Support Basin-Scale Climate Change Research

Instream & Ecosystem Water Needs

- 8A [4A] – Analyze the Effects on Water from Energy Development Projects and Policies
- 8B [3A] – Determine Instream Flow Needs (Quality and Quantity)
- 8C [3B] – Determine Needs of Groundwater-Dependent Ecosystems
- 8D [new] – Develop Instream & Ecosystem Water Demand Forecasts

Out-of-Stream Water Needs

- 9A [2B] – Improve Water-Use Measurement and Reporting
- 9B [2A] – Regularly Update Out-of-Stream Water Demand Forecasts

Chapter 4: Stewardship

Healthy Ecosystems

- 10A [11A] – Improve Watershed Health, Resiliency, and Capacity for Natural Storage
- 10B [11D] – Protect and Restore Instream Habitat and Fish Passage/Screening
- 10C [11B] – Develop Additional Instream Protections
- 10D [11C] – Prevent and Eradicate Invasive Species
- 10E [11E] – Develop Additional Groundwater Protections

Clean Water

- 11A [12A] – Ensure the Safety of Oregon's Drinking Water
- 11B [12B] – Reduce the Use of and Exposure to Toxics and Other Pollutants
- 11C [12C] – Implement Water Quality Pollution Controls

Water Use & Management

- 12A [2C] – Determine Unadjudicated Water Right Claims
- 12B [10A] – Improve Water-Use Efficiency and Water Conservation
- 12C [10C] – Encourage Water Reuse Projects
- 12D [10B] – Improve Access to Storage
- 12E [10D] – Reach Environmental Outcomes with Non-Regulatory Alternatives
- 12F [10F] – Provide an Adequate Field Presence
- 12G [10G] – Strengthen Water Quantity and Water Quality Permitting Programs

Water Infrastructure

- 13A [7A] – Maintain, Upgrade, Decommission Water and Wastewater Infrastructure
- 13B [7B] – Encourage Regional (Sub-Basin) Water and Wastewater Systems
- 13C [7C] – Support Dam and Levee Safety

Water & Energy

- 14A [4B] – Develop Non-Traditional Hydroelectric Power
- 14B [4C] – Promote Strategies that Increase/Integrate Energy and Water Savings

Note: 2017 IWRS numbering is shown in **[brackets]**.