Integrated Water Resources Strategy (IWRS) Update & Workshop

OREGON
WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT

Water Resources Commission

Crystal Grinnell, IWRS Specialist

Item C, December 12, 2024

Agenda

- Project Timeline
- Draft 1 Comments
- 2024 IWRS Development
- 2024 Framework
- Break
- Agency Priorities

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Timeline

2022

Hire Limited Duration position → 2017-22 Progress Report

2023

Agency Survey → Public Engagement → 10+ Agency Edits

2024

10+ Agency Edits → March 2024 Draft 1 → Agency Priorities

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Draft 1 Comments

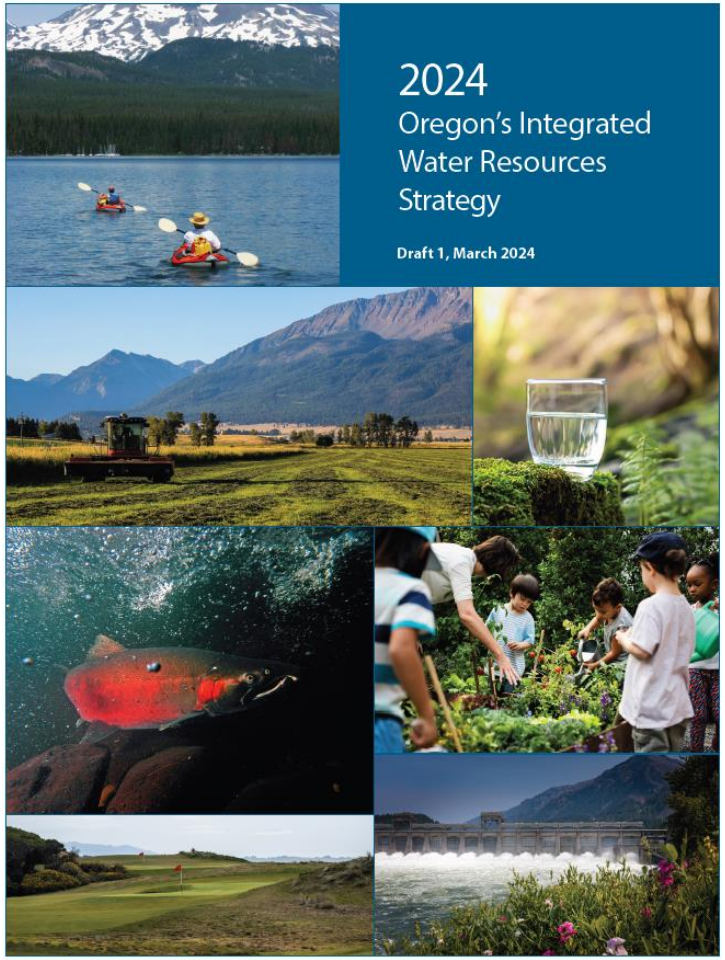
2024 IWRS Draft 1

Draft 1

Public review

March 5 – April 5, 2024

www.oregon.gov/owrd/programs/Planning/IWRS



2024 Draft 1 IWRS

Draft 1 Comments

- Received 45 sets of comments
- Combination of individuals, governmental entities, and organizations
- Email and survey submittals

2024 Draft 1 IWRS

Organizations / Governmental Entities

- Applegate Partnership & Watershed Council
- Baker County
- Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, Department of Natural Resources
- Lincoln County Water Systems Alliance
- Metropolitan Wastewater Management Commission
- Oregon Association of Conservation Districts
- Oregon Association of Clean Water Agencies
- Oregon Council of Trout Unlimited
- Oregon Department of Environmental Quality, Water Program
- Oregon Water Partnership
- Oregon Wild
- Portland Water Bureau
- U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
- Water League
- WaterWatch

2024 IWRS Draft 1 Comments

Support For:

- Increased attention on funding
- New actions that advance instream, ecosystem, water quality, climate change, and equity initiatives
- Interagency scope of the document
- Inclusion of climate adaptation strategies amongst many actions
- Comprehensive nature of the document
- Planning

2024 IWRS Draft 1 Comments

Changes Requested:

- Restore standalone section for climate change
- Address affordability throughout
- Additional attention on place-based planning
- Address “in-ground” water as well as “instream”
- More emphasis on water management (including monitoring, regulation, and enforcement)
- Balance instream needs with out-of-stream interests
- Call for further engagement
- Address climate mitigation

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2024 IWRS Draft 1 Comments

Opposing Viewpoints:

- Document structure: new structure vs. 2017 structure
- Importance of voluntary actions vs. voluntary actions won't result in action
- Importance of planning vs. unnecessary elevation of planning
- Opposition to dam removal and increase in reservoirs/storage vs. calling for review of dams regarding environmental harm

2024 IWRS Draft 1 Comments

Additional Requests

- Prioritization
- Cost to implement the IWRS
- Progress dates
- Reference Oregon Revised Statutes (ORS) and Oregon Administrative Rule (OAR) on all action summaries
- Incorporate “Adaptive Planning”
- Modify 2017 “Guiding Principles”
- Minor edits, additional descriptions, modify wording, etc.

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2024 IWRS Development

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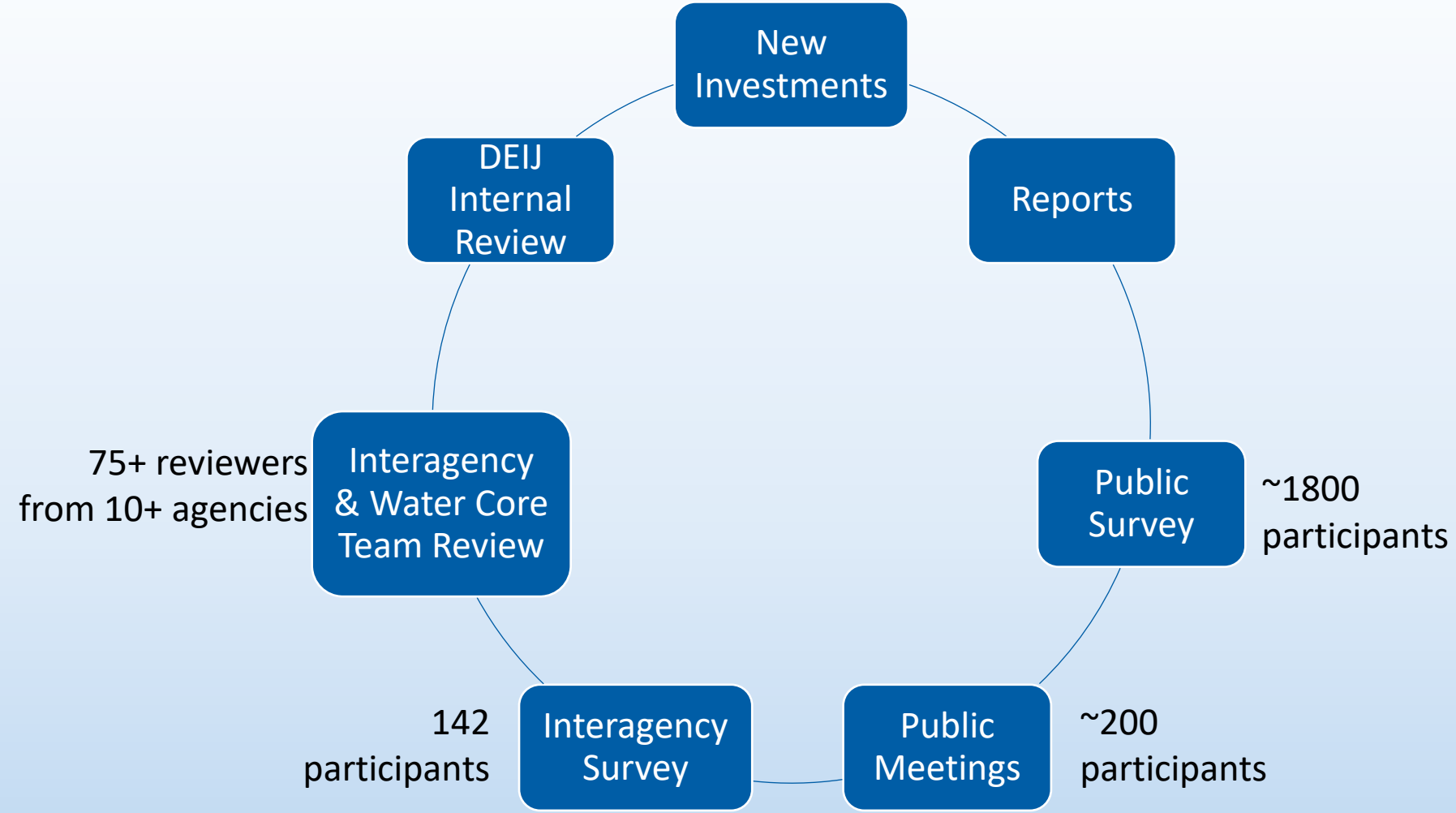
Changes for 2024 IWRS



Changes for 2024 IWRS

Interagency Project Team

- Department of Agriculture
- Department of Environmental Quality
- Department of Fish & Wildlife
- Department of Land Conservation and Development*
- Oregon Water Resources Department

*2012 and 2017 IWRS Teams did not include DLCD

Water Core Team

- BizOR, DoGaMI, DLCD, DSL, ODA, DEQ, ODF, ODFW, ODOE, OHA, OPRD, OSMB, OWEB, OWRD

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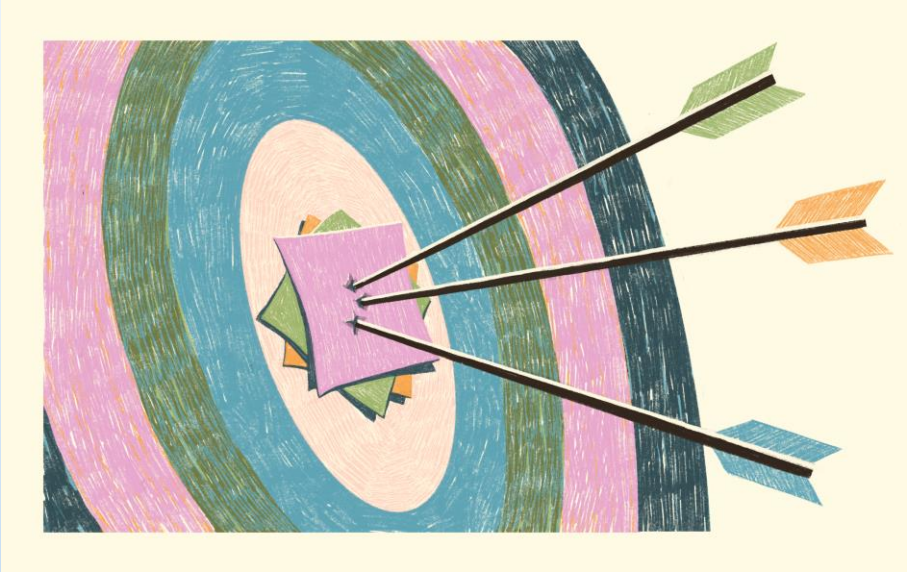
Changes for 2024 IWRS

Early Focus - Reflect Changes Since 2017

- Apply an Equity lens
- Address climate change throughout
- Incorporate the 100-Year Water Vision



Changes for 2024 IWRS

Equity Lens

- Collaboration with tribes
  - Discuss sooner in the Strategy
- Equity and Environmental Justice
  - Incorporate community engagement
  - New action to reflect Climate Equity Blueprint (2020) and HB 3293 (2021)
  - Public health impacts beyond drinking water
  - Affordability
- New example actions throughout

Changes for 2024 IWRS

Climate Change

- Reflect current experience, public acceptance, and integration across actions
- Many actions already address adaption and resiliency, call it out
- Convey urgency

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Changes for 2024 IWRS

100-Year Water Vision

- Not moving forward as a separate planning process
- Participants wanted input included in the next IWRS
- Consistent themes from 2023 IWRS engagement
  - Inadequate funding for water
  - More coordination and collaboration
  - More inclusive engagement
  - More education, awareness about water issues
  - More attention on green/natural infrastructure
  - Urgency to act

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Changes for 2024 IWRS

Reports Supporting the Need for Change…

- Secretary of State Water Advisory Report (2023)
- Tribal Water Task Force Report (2023)
- The Business Case for Investing in Water in Oregon (2023)
- State of Water Justice in Oregon (2022)
- Oregon Water Justice Framework (2022)
- 100-Year Water Vision (2021)
- Oregon DEI Action Plan (2021)
- Oregon Water Futures Report (2021)

*Many more reports were referenced for program and topic specific information to update the IWRS narrative

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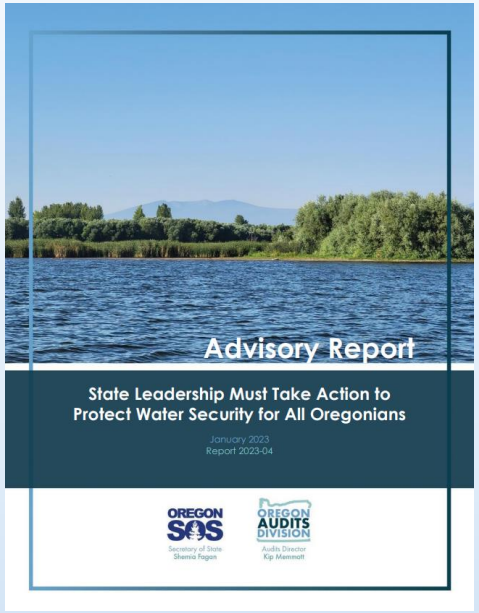
Changes for 2024 IWRS

Secretary of State Water Advisory Report

- Lacking an “actionable water plan”
- Enhance public awareness and understanding of urgent water challenges
- Increase public engagement in state and regional water management decisions
- Define and clearly establish roles and responsibilities in state and regional water plan development and implementation
- Address water equity and affordability issues
- Improve water data
- Integrate tribes as full and equal partners



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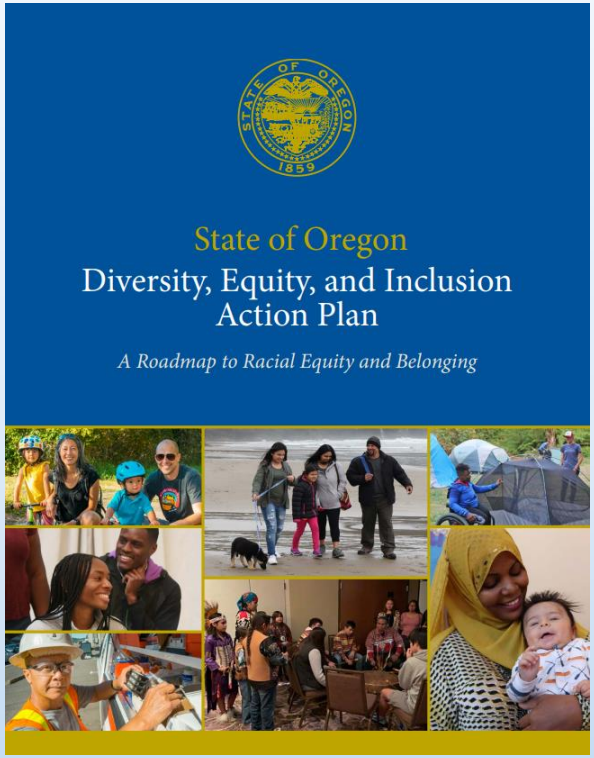
Changes for 2024 IWRS

Oregon DEI Action Plan
Strategies Relevant to the IWRS

- Inclusive communications
- Community engagement
- Disaggregated data as lever for change
- Equitable budget, inclusive budget process, and investing in target communities
- Urgency, transparency, and accountability in all operations

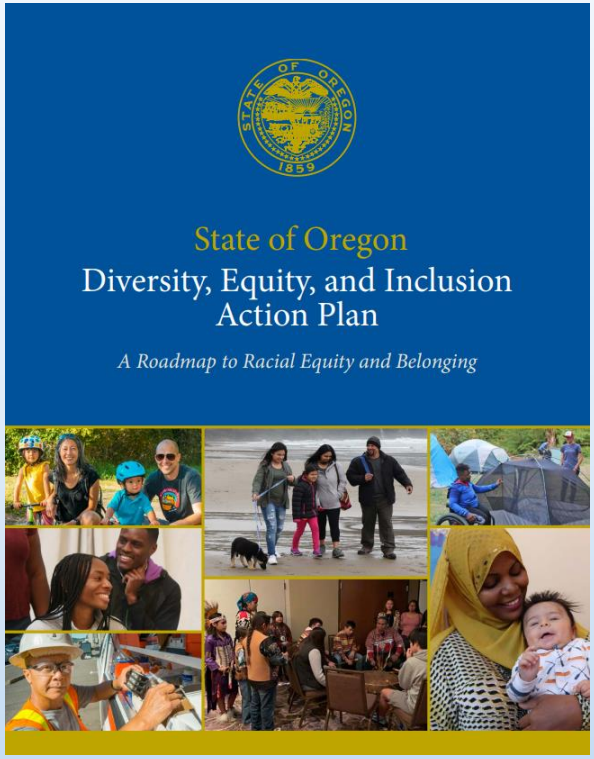


Changes for 2024 IWRS

Oregon DEI Action Plan

Page 19:

"Data is an entry point into a larger picture and set of actions. Trust building often must precede our efforts to collect, communicate, and use data. That's why it is so important to be in conversation with communities to interpret data, and not use data to interpret and define people, because data tells us about the systems we are working with"



Changes for 2024 IWRS

April 2023 Interagency Survey

- “Making it more interpretable and accessible”
- “Be more specific as it currently has a strange, vague, unapproachable, and broad language. You get lost in the document.”
- “It isn't known about to the public. It isn't provided in a way that is easy to read and understand by people of different learning levels.”
- “I'm sure there's a wealth of information in there, but I don't have time to read it.”
- “Carefully crafted, succinct, and targeted information”

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Bringing it Together

Changes for 2024 IWRS

Key Changes to Increase Implementation

Expand Accessibility

- New headings above objectives (not replacing objectives)
- Headings relate to legislative investments, public engagement findings, and agency roles
- Some re-location of critical issues to different objective (e.g., infrastructure)

Changes for 2024 IWRS

Key Changes to Increase Implementation

Elevate Role of Funding

- Funding is needed to accomplish all IWRS objectives
- Locate funding at the beginning
- 2017 IWRS placed funding in objective 4

Elevate Coordination and Engagement to Support DEIJ

- Describe vital tribal – state relationship early in the Strategy
- New critical issue “Coordination & Collaboration”
- Co-locate planning actions
- Describe climate change early in the Strategy

Changes for 2024 IWRS

Key Changes to Increase Implementation

Increase Emphasis on Data

- Group data actions in one chapter for legislature, cross agency work
- Extensive awareness we need more data (tribes, public, agencies, legislature)

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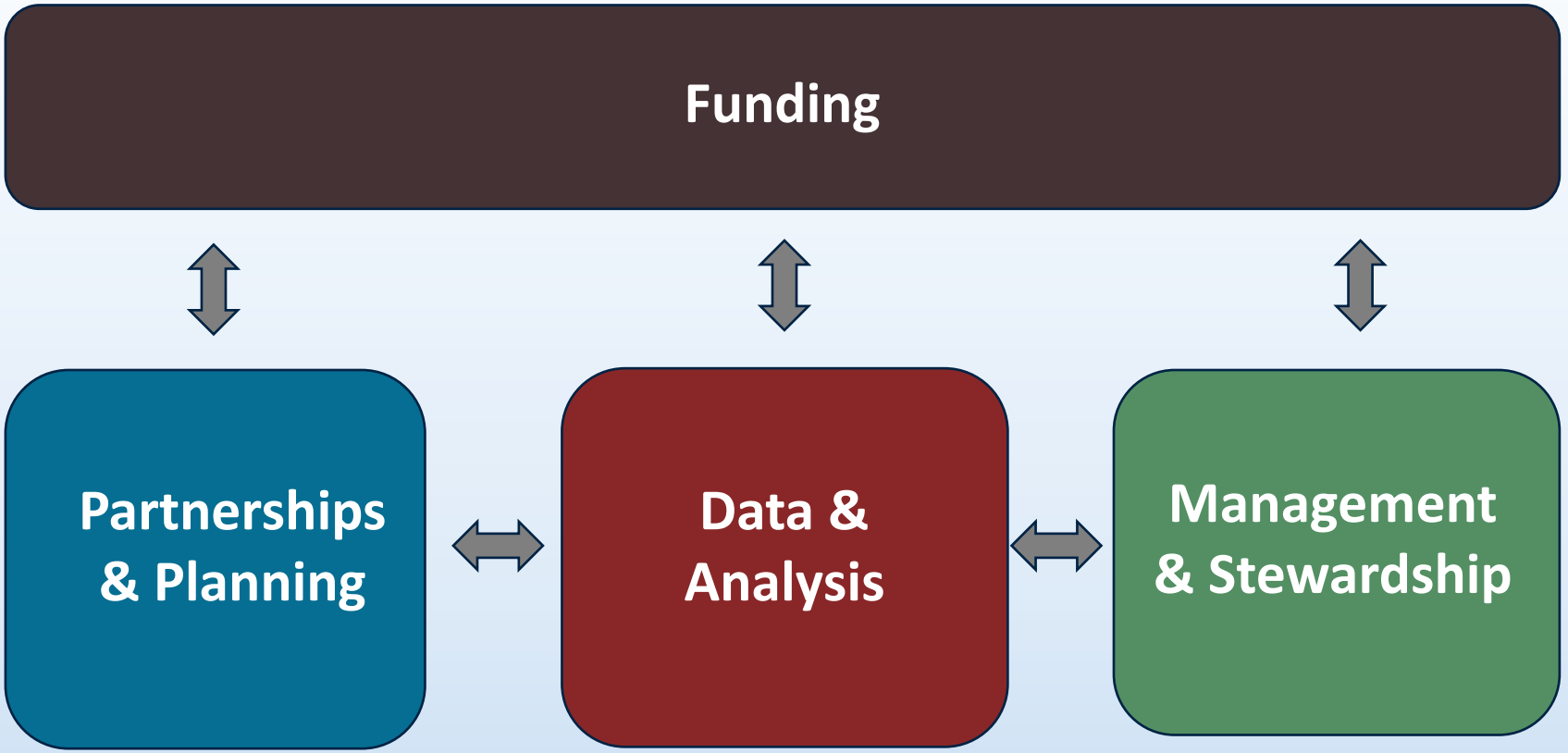
Changes for 2024 IWRS



Changes for 2024 IWRS

- Call for better coordination (tribes, state agencies, public)
- Co-locate existing planning programs
- Proactive management requires engagement, partnership
- New action for community engagement
- Places climate change at the beginning

Partnerships & Planning

Objective:
Understand the pressures that affect our needs and supplies

Changes for 2024 IWRS

- Data continues to be a critical need since the 2012 IWRS
- Co-locate data and analysis needs in one chapter
- New action to develop instream forecasts

Objective: Understand water resources

Data & Analysis

Objective: Understand instream and out-of-stream needs

Changes for 2024 IWRS

- Projects or “solutions”
- Call for management, importance of stewardship
- Planning and data help inform management and stewardship actions

Objective:
Meet Oregon’s instream and out-of-stream needs

Management & Stewardship

Changes for 2024 IWRS

- Funding is needed to meet IWRS goals, objectives, carry out actions
  - Capacity and resources for state water agencies
  - Pass-through funding (grants) for planning, studies, and projects

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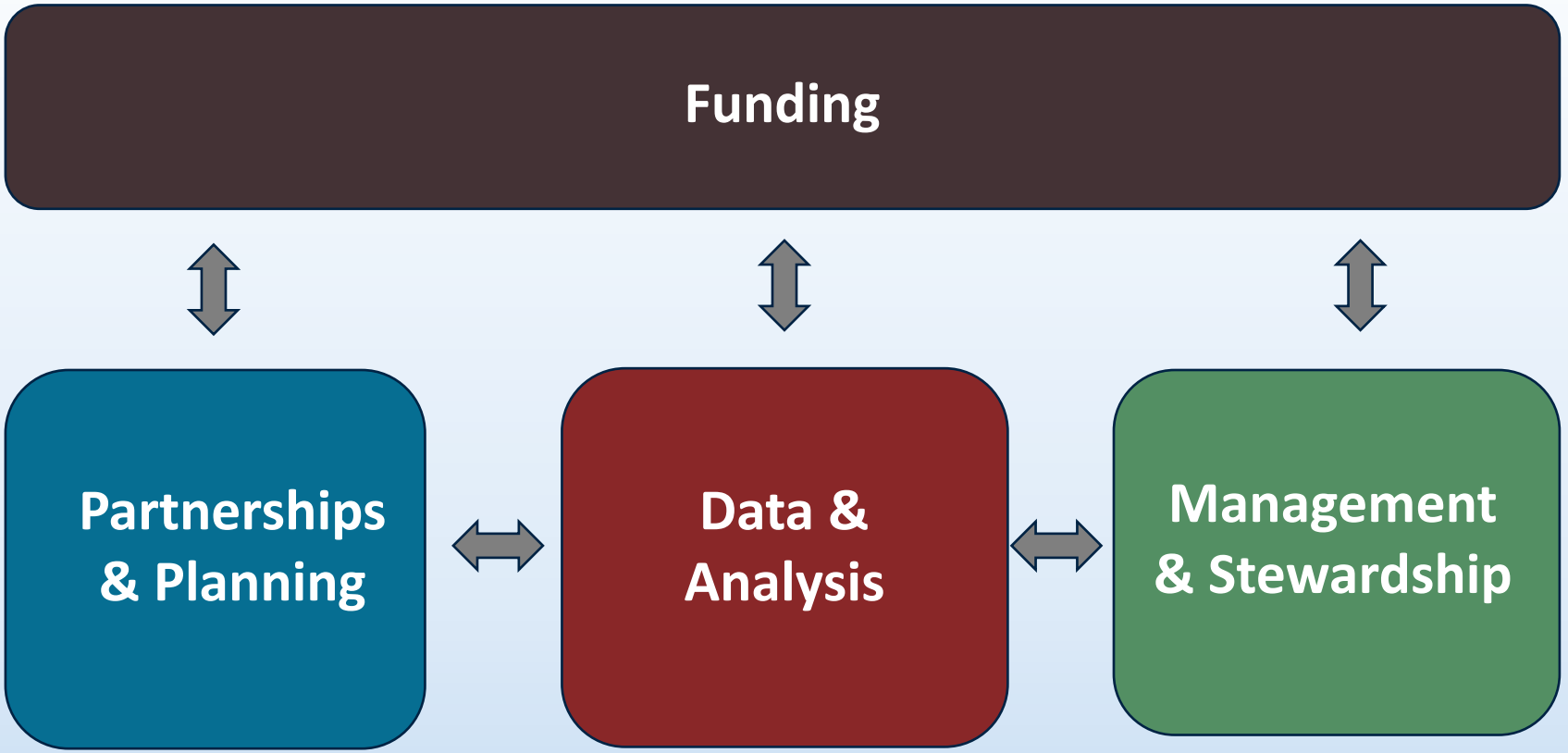
Changes for 2024 IWRS



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Proposed Revisions to the Framework

Changes for 2024 IWRS

IWRS Terminology

- Goals
  - Objectives
    - Critical Issues
      - Recommended Actions → "Actions" for 2024
        - Example Actions

Oregon's 2017 Integrated Water Resources Strategy

A framework 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

(1) Understand Water Resources Today

Further Understand Limited Water Supplies & Systems
(groundwater, surface water, and their interaction)

Improve Water Quality & Quantity Information

Further Understand Our Water Management Institutions

Understanding Water Resources / Supplies / Institutions

- 1.A Conduct additional groundwater investigations
- 1.B Improve water resource data collection & monitoring
- 1.C Coordinate inter-agency data collection, processing, and use in decision-making

OBJECTIVES

CRITICAL ISSUES

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

(2) Understand Instream and Out-of-Stream Needs

Further Define Out-of-Stream Needs / Demands
(i.e., diverted water)

Further Define Instream Needs / Demands
(i.e., left-in-place water)

Understanding Oregon's Out-of-Stream Needs/Demands

- 2.A Regularly update long-term water demand forecasts
- 2.B Improve water-use measurement & reporting
- 2.C Determine unadjudicated water right claims
- 2.D Authorize the update of water right records with contact information
- 2.E Regularly update Oregon's water-related permitting guide

Understanding Oregon's Instream Needs/Demands

- 3.A Determine flows needed (quality & quantity) to support instream needs
- 3.B Determine needs of groundwater dependent ecosystems

(3) Understand the Coming Pressures That Affect Our Needs and Supplies

Economic Development | **Water & Energy** | **Climate Change** | **Extreme Events**

Population Growth | **Water & Land Use** | **Water-Related Infrastructure** | **Education & Outreach**

OBJECTIVES

CRITICAL ISSUES

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

Water & Energy

- 4.A Analyze the effects on water from energy development projects & policies
- 4.B Take advantage of existing infrastructure to develop non-traditional hydroelectric power
- 4.C Promote strategies that increase/integrate energy & water savings

Climate Change

- 5.A Support continued basin-scale climate change research efforts
- 5.B Assist with climate change adaptation & resiliency strategies

Extreme Events

- 5.5A Plan and prepare for drought resiliency
- 5.5B Plan and prepare for flood events
- 5.5C Plan and prepare for a Cascadia subduction earthquake event

Economic Development & Population Growth

(See Actions 2A and 3A)

Water & Land Use

- 6.A Improve integration of water information into land use planning (and vice versa)
- 6.B Improve state agency coordination
- 6.C Encourage low-impact development practices and green infrastructure

Water-Related Infrastructure

- 7.A Develop and upgrade water and wastewater infrastructure
- 7.B Encourage regional (sub-basin) approaches to water and wastewater systems
- 7.C Ensure public safety/dam safety

Education and Outreach

- 8.A Support Oregon's K-12 environmental literacy plan
- 8.B Provide education and training for Oregon's next generation of water experts
- 8.C Promote community education and training opportunities
- 8.D Identify ongoing water-related research needs

(4) Meet Oregon's Instream and Out-of-Stream Needs

Place-Based Efforts | **Water Management & Development**

Healthy Ecosystems | **Public Health** | **Funding**

Place-Based Efforts

- 9.A Continue to undertake place-based integrated, water resources planning
- 9.B Coordinate implementation of existing natural resource plans
- 9.C Partner with federal agencies, tribes, and neighboring states in long-term water resources management

Water Management & Development

- 10.A Improve water-use efficiency and water conservation
- 10.B Improve access to built storage
- 10.C Encourage additional water reuse projects
- 10.D Reach environmental outcomes with non-regulatory alternatives
- 10.E Continue the water resources development program
- 10.F Provide an adequate presence in the field
- 10.G Strengthen water quantity & water quality permitting programs

Healthy Ecosystems

- 11.A Improve watershed health, resiliency, and capacity for natural storage
- 11.B Develop additional instream protections
- 11.C Prevent and eradicate invasive species
- 11.D Protect and restore instream habitat and habitat access for fish and wildlife
- 11.E Develop additional groundwater protections

Public Health

- 12.A Ensure the safety of Oregon's drinking water
- 12.B Reduce the use of and exposure to toxics and other pollutants
- 12.C Implement water quality pollution control plans

Funding

- 13.A Fund development and implementation of Oregon's IWRS
- 13.B Fund water resources management activities at state agencies
- 13.C Invest in local or regional water planning efforts
- 13.D Invest in feasibility studies for water resources projects
- 13.E Invest in implementation of water resources projects

Changes for 2024 IWRS

Critique of 2017 Framework

- How do objectives relate to one another? Is the "strategy" to complete them all sequentially?
- Lists "critical issues" twice
  - Most critical issues and action groups are 1:1
- Inconsistent language for critical issues (Objectives 1 & 2)
  - Are critical issues actions or topics?
- Outdated perspective for Objective 3 "Understand the Coming Pressures that Affect Needs & Supplies"
- Challenge finding topics/actions that go together
- Challenge for agencies to find relevant actions
- Funding applies to all objectives

Funding

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CRITICAL ISSUES

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OBJECTIVES

CRITICAL ISSUES

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

(4) Meet Oregon's Instream and Out-of-Stream Needs

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Healthy Ecosystems | **Public Health** | **Funding**

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Partnerships & Planning

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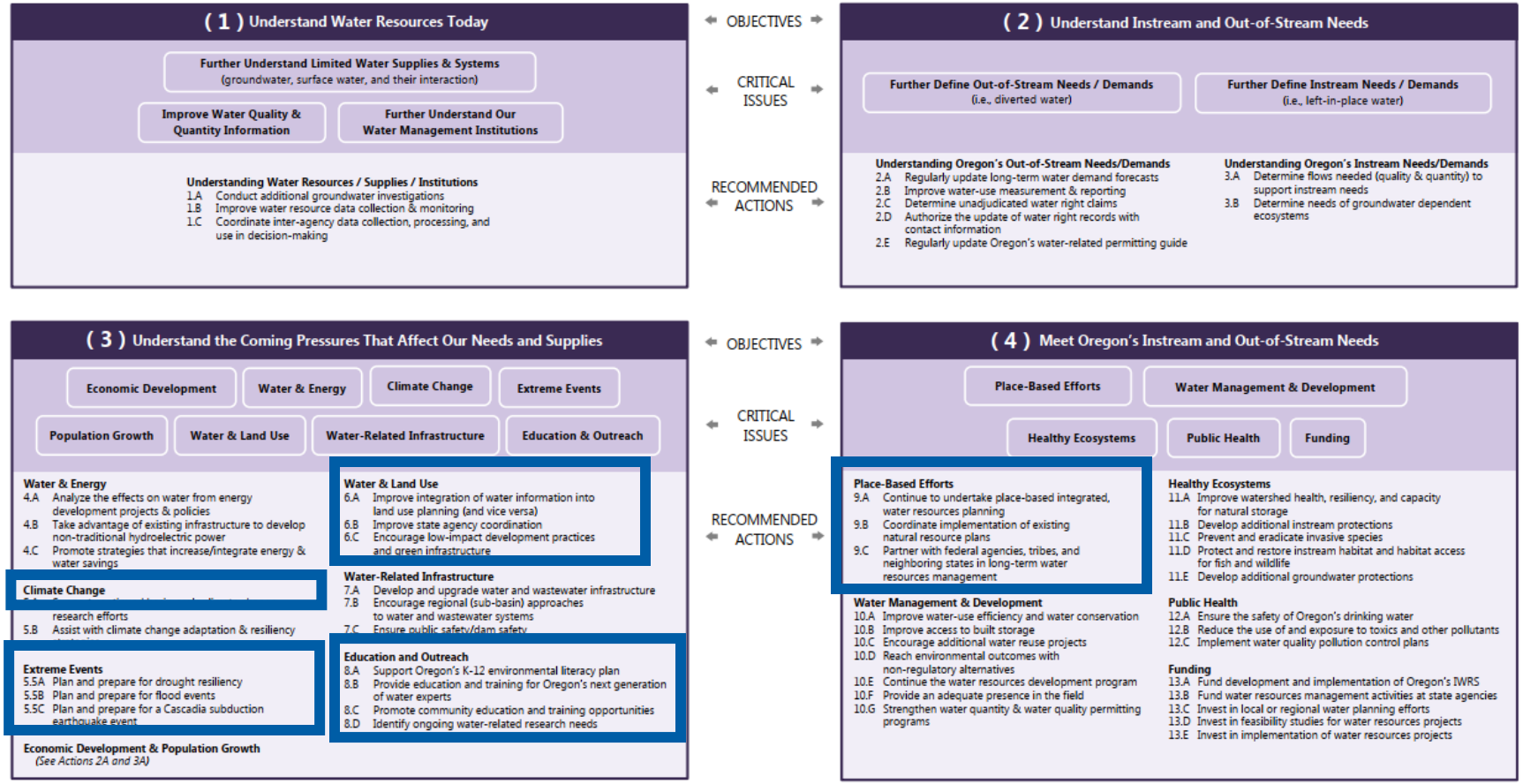

Data & Analysis

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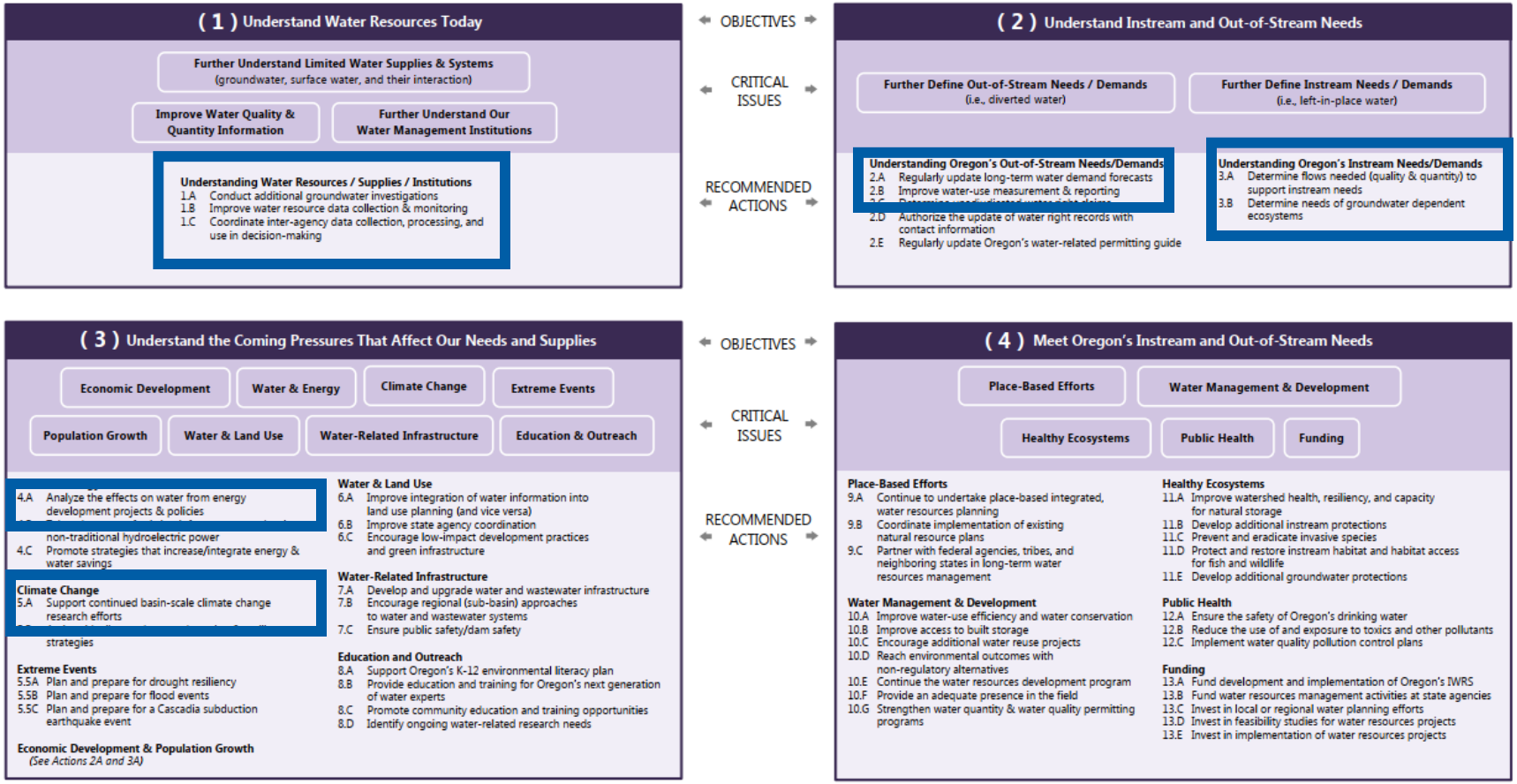

Management & Stewardship

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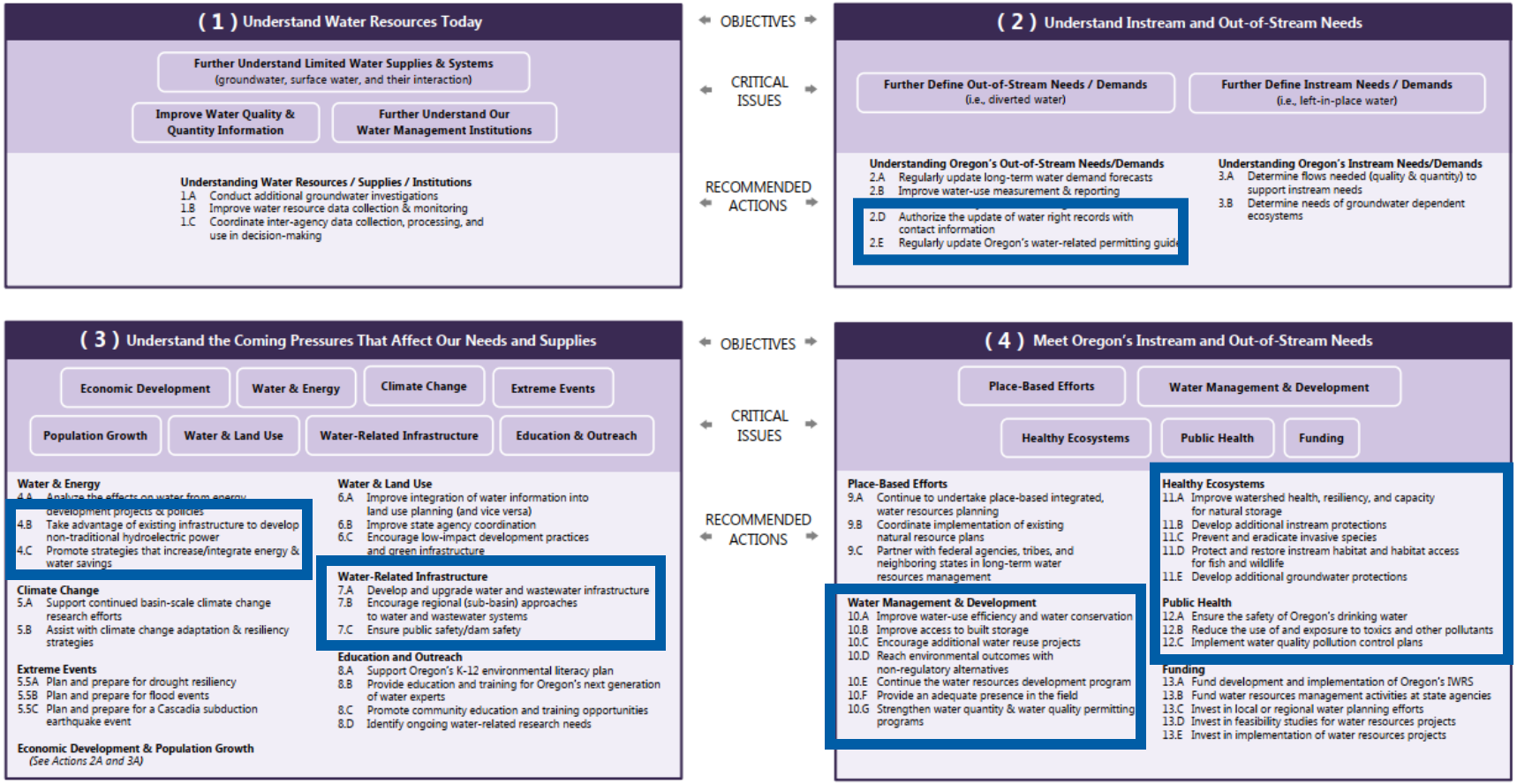

Oregon's 2024 Integrated Water Resources Strategy Framework and Actions - Draft 1, March 2024

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]**.

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Revisions to the Framework

Proposed Framework for Draft 2

- Restore 2017 title subheading (IWRS Goals)
- Restore “Management” into Chapter 4
- New objective for Funding
- Refine objective wording
- Refine critical issue titles
- Restore Climate Change critical issue header, without actions
- Add labels for objectives, critical issues, and actions
- Color code chapters to match narrative and action summary sheets
- Add diagram relating strategy actions to climate resilience

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Revisions to the Framework

Selection from current ORS 536.220:

(d) The integrated state water resources strategy shall describe the following:

(A) Oregon's in-stream and out-of-stream water needs, including but not limited to ecosystem services, water quality and water supply needs.

(B) Objectives of the strategy.

(C) Actions that are designed to achieve the objectives of the strategy.

(D) Plans related to the challenges presented by climate change.

(E) Provisions to ensure communication and partnership with key stakeholders.

(F) Specific functions and roles to be played by state agencies, including but not limited to ODA, ODF, ODHS, BizOR, DLCD, OWEB, OPRD, DSL and other relevant state agencies.

(G) Public policy options and recommendations.

(H) Relevant strategy factors, including but not limited to population growth and land use change.

(I) Recommendations of the Water Resources Department regarding the continuous monitoring of climate change effects on Oregon's water supply and regarding water user actions that are necessary to address climate change.

Revisions to the Framework

Revisions to ORS 536.220, effective after 2024 IWRS adoption:

(6) The integrated state water resources strategy shall describe:

(a) Oregon's in-stream and out-of-stream water needs, including but not limited to ecosystem services, water quality and water supply needs.

(b) Critical water issues at the state level and within water basins across this state.

(c) Objectives of the strategy.

(d) Actions that are designed to achieve the objectives of the strategy.

(e) Plans and actions concerning water-related natural hazards and the challenges presented by climate change.

(f) Provisions to ensure communication and engagement with the public.

(g) Provisions to promote meaningful engagement with environmental justice communities , as defined in ORS 182.535, consistent with the requirements of ORS 182.545.

(h) Provisions to promote partnerships with Indian tribes, public bodies, as defined in ORS 174.109, and key stakeholders to implement recommended actions, as appropriate.

Revisions to the Framework

Revisions to ORS 536.220, effective after 2024 IWRS adoption:

(i) How the integrated state water resources strategy will be implemented at multiple scales in a balanced, equitable and integrated manner.

(j) How to support implementation of priority actions recommended in other relevant state-developed or state-recognized plans or strategies.

(k) Specific functions and roles to be played by state agencies, including but not limited to DEQ, ODFW, ODA, ODF, ODHS, BizOR, DLCD, OWEB, OPRD, OHA, DSL and other relevant state agencies, along with provisions to achieve interagency coordination.

(L) Provisions to achieve coordination with federal agencies and states that neighbor Oregon.

(m) Public policy options and recommendations.

(n) Relevant strategy factors, including but not limited to population growth and land use change.

(o) Recommendations regarding the continuous monitoring of climate change effects on Oregon's water supply and regarding water user actions that are necessary to address climate change.

(p) Processes by which a biennial work plan will be developed and by which implementation of the work plan will be coordinated.

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Revisions to the Framework

Revisions to Critical Issue Titles

2017	2024
Further Understand Limited Water Supplies & Systems, Improve Water Quality & Quantity Information, Further Understand Our Water Management Institutions Heading for Actions: Understanding Water Resources / Supplies / Institutions	Water Resources/Supplies
Further Define Out-of-Stream Needs/Demands Heading for Actions: Understanding Oregon's Out-of-Stream Needs/Demands	Out-of-Stream Water Needs
Further Define Instream Needs/Demands Heading for Actions: Understanding Oregon's Instream Needs/Demands	Instream & Ecosystem Water Needs

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Revisions to the Framework

Revisions to Critical Issue Titles

2017	2024
Extreme Events	Natural Hazard Mitigation Planning & Extreme Events
Water & Land Use	Land Use Planning
Water-Related Infrastructure	Water Infrastructure
Place-Based Efforts	Water Planning
Water Management & Development	Water Use & Management
Public Health	Clean Water

Oregon's 2024 Integrated Water Resources Strategy - Draft 1.5

A framework 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

Funding

Objectives

(1) Fund Oregon's Secure Water Future

Critical Issues

Funding

Actions

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

Note: 2017 IWRS numbering shown in [brackets]

Partnerships & Planning

Objectives

(2) Understand the ~~Coming~~ Pressures that Affect Our Needs and Supplies

Critical Issues

Climate Change
Resiliency actions are included throughout the Strategy

Education & Outreach

Actions

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

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 Implementation of 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

Economic Development & Population Change
See Actions 8D & 9B

Natural Hazard Mitigation Planning

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

Data & Analysis

Objectives

(3) Understand Water Resources ~~Today~~

(4) Understand Instream & Out-of-Stream Needs

Critical Issues

Water Resource / Supply Information

Actions

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

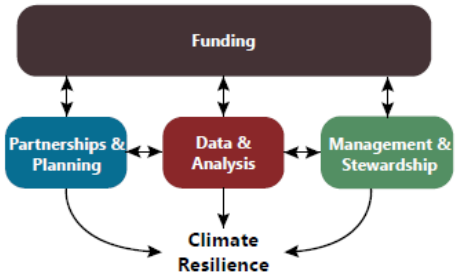
Instream & Ecosystem Water Needs

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

The Strategy includes actions that help Oregon achieve climate resilience



Management & Stewardship

Objectives

(5) Meet Oregon's Instream and Out-of-Stream Needs

Critical Issues

Healthy Ecosystems

Actions

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

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Revisions to the Framework

Commission Input

- Adopt or modify new objective for funding?

"Fund Oregon's Secure Water Future"

- Other changes needed?

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State Action Priorities

Leadership Meetings

Who?

- Governors Office and six agency directors
  - Department of Agriculture
  - Department of Environmental Quality
  - Department of Fish & Wildlife
  - Department of Land Conservation and Development
  - Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
  - Oregon Water Resources Department

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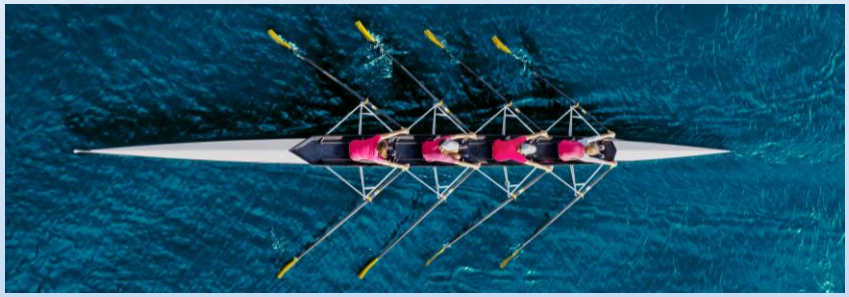
Draft Water Priorities

Why?

- Achieve outcomes and increase and accountability
- GO request to include input from new agency leadership
- Promote collaboration across agencies
- Resource limitations make it impractical to implement all IWRS actions with equal attention
  - Action priorities will be an area of focus for the next 5-7 years (the next IWRS is due in 8 years)



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Draft Water Priorities

Prevent Things from Getting Worse

Optimize: Highest & Best Use

Help Communities Prepare & Adapt

1. Prevent Things From Getting Worse

Most important thing the state should do

- Refine our understanding of what water is available in new climate conditions with the WARS update to avoid harm to other users or ecosystems
- Classify basins where water is unavailable for greater transparency
- Address factors contributing to nutrient pollution in surface & groundwater; identify risks and prevent pollution in surface & groundwaters
- Ensure usability (quality) of water we do have – don't expand or allow practices that contaminate
- Don't allow development in places where it can't be managed sustainably (water supply, wastewater, etc)
- Engage with Tribes to better understand their water priorities

Biggest thing your agency can contribute

- DEQ: pursue reduction in nutrient and other contaminant loading to aquifers and streams
- DLCD: Provide tech assistance and $ to help cities and counties modify their local codes to: 1) confirm water availability w/ OWRD before approving development, and 2) involve OWRD in public facilities planning.
- ODA: reduce nutrient & contaminant loading into surface water and groundwater from ag practices
- ODFW: update instream flow targets on large rivers, including storage season, and apply for associated instream water rights
- OWEB: Funds restoration and protection projects, monitoring of conditions/trends, tech assistance and engagement
- OWRD: Classify streams & aquifers, permit condition enforcement, basin assessments & studies, WARS update, increase awareness of water scarcity

What you need to make that happen

- DEQ: modernize and adequately resource GW Quality Act activities; develop MOUs where appropriate involving agencies with applicable authorities/responsibilities
- DLCD: grant funds and FTE to provide technical assistance. Policy question: disallow exempt use wells where water is not available?
- ODA: agency staff resources for proactive engagement with partners and ag operators; increased capacity for proactive compliance and technical assistance; capacity funding for SWCDs to assist in outreach and restoration efforts.
- ODFW: Develop data collection and analysis partnerships with other state agencies and Tribes to quantify instream needs
- OWEB: Funds restoration and protection projects, monitoring of conditions/trends, tech assistance and engagement
- OWRD: support to modernize IT systems, conduct basin assessments & studies, update basin rules, complete WARS update, and increase comms capacity

Bonus: Language to describe the bucket

- Urgent actions
- Protect quality and quantity for instream and out-of-stream uses
- Actions that can "move the needle," have an impact

2. Optimize: Highest & Best Use

Most important thing the state should do

- Incentivize water reuse, conservation, and other opportunities to preserve potable water
- Increase pace and scale of innovative multi-benefit solutions
- Identify and address policy, funding, & capacity barriers across agency boundaries
- Enterprise data modernization and management
- Engage and incentivize communities to implement practical solutions and solve local issues
- Optimize at the right geographic scale for trade-offs, data, innovative solutions, & tailored rules

Biggest thing your agency can contribute

- DEQ: Create predictable and transparent processes that reduce barriers to implementing water reuse efforts; share data modernization approaches with other agencies
- DLCD: make involving OWRD one of the conditions for Economic Opportunity grants to local jurisdictions.
- ODA: Support ag innovation and water conservation on farm; protect existing resources on ag lands; co-create plans; optimize partnerships to serve farms of all sizes
- ODFW: finalize flow restoration prioritization project; refine instream targets; partner on flow restoration efforts in priority basins
- OWEB: increase & strategically target water right acquisition and habitat improvement projects in priority areas
- OWRD: Modernize transfer process, evaluate water use fee models, clean up unused rights, expand data collection and data systems

What you need to make that happen

- DEQ: leverage existing data systems for centralized capture/sharing of water quality data (e.g. AWQMS); implement recs from Reuse Report
- DLCD: local jurisdictions include OWRD in Economic Opportunities Analysis (EOA), so it can comment on water availability for different EcDev options
- ODA: Elevate ag project funding; increase capacity for innovation, planning, and proactive coordination with OSU, USDA and other entities providing support to ag operators
- ODFW: funding for additional instream studies, flow restoration capacity building (NGO's, ODFW, etc.) and for water transaction payments
- OWEB: coordination with other agencies on shared priorities – geographic, resource
- OWRD: Leg support for water right and IT modernization; resources for fee evaluation

Bonus: Language to describe the bucket

- Don't let perfection be the enemy of good
- Data to support decision-making
- Interagency Collaboration
- Be smart with what we have
- Better share a scarce resource
- Do more with less

3. Help communities prepare and adapt

Most important thing the state should do

- Leverage co-benefits across water sectors ("win-win")
- Help people understand what the water future looks like, provide information
- Technical assistance to navigate regulatory and permitting issues
- Protect & Restore ecosystem functions
- Provide funding and technical resources to get big projects done
- Help natural resource economies prepare/adapt
- Support infrastructure projects where it provides climate adaptation and sustainable growth
- Increase incentives, payments, voluntary approaches

Biggest thing your agency can contribute

- DEQ: pursue funding & tech support to increase water reuse
- DLCD: grants, tech assistance, circuit riders for cities, counties, and tribes
- ODA: leverage partnerships (OSU, UDSA, and others) to provide climate resilient resources that keep farms farming
- ODFW: assess best options for mitigation; prioritize basins for restoration; provide technical assistance
- OWEB: Increase use of incentives approach based on targeted priorities
- OWRD: support voluntary actions & tools (e.g., grant programs), share information & data, support local planning and implementation

What you need to make that happen

- DEQ: Support interagency coordination needed to address infrastructure upgrades , investments in landscape/riparian resilience, and other planning/funding needs.
- DLCD: pass through grant $, additional regional representatives
- ODA: resources to consistently engage partners and develop materials that assist producers adapt to and adopt new climate friendly agricultural practices.
- ODFW: fund more real-time water and temperature data; funding for local ODFW flow restoration engagement
- OWEB: Identify NR enterprise-wide priorities that we can target available funding to [more money, more investment]
- OWRD: Funding for grant and CREP programs, increase community engagement & comms capacity, funds to modernize IT/data systems, seek Tribal TEK

Bonus: Language to describe the bucket

- We are all in this together, let's work it out together
- Start early on projects!
- Address economic impacts of climate change, water scarcity

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Feedback on Draft Priorities

Overall Comments

- Support for agency collaboration and prioritization effort
- General support for the actions
- Concern about “missing” agencies (e.g., OHA, ODF)
- Enforce regulations, ensure accountability, act urgently
- Voluntary actions have not worked, should not be included
- Need to prioritize public health
- Concern about how priorities will be summarized for use to the legislature
- Tension regarding urgency to act and outstanding data needs
- Tie to IWRS statute, structure, format for legislature

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Feedback on Draft Priorities

Priority Area #1
Prevent Things from Getting Worse

- Consider including making things better
- Add directives to protect ecosystems
  - Modify rules re: instream flows for species recovery
- Nutrient reduction is specifically called out – does that mean other water quality parameters are not priorities? (e.g., DEQ 303(d) priorities, temperature, forestry impacts to water supplies)
- Add improvements to reuse / recycled water program multi-benefit green infrastructure solutions to reduce nutrient and temperature inputs to streams

Feedback on Draft Priorities

Priority Area #2
Optimize: Highest & Best Use

- Priority title is polarizing
- Alternative language to consider
  - "instream and out-of-stream uses"
  - "Expand and Enhance our Tools for Management of our Water Resources"
- Include basin planning here (as well as in #1)
- Support for revisiting beneficial use and active prioritization
- Enforce the law, higher fines (already in #1)
- Flows to support Tribal beneficial use, important environmental justice

Feedback on Draft Priorities

Priority Area #3
Help Communities Prepare and Adapt

- Highlight funding as overarching issue for all the priorities
- Soil and Water Conservation Districts important for technical assistance
- Add action to review/update regulatory processes to accomplish stated objectives
- Replace “communities” with “Oregon” to be more inclusive
- Replace “local planning” with “place-based planning”
- Add natural/green infrastructure under water quality trading or other tool programs
- Add better working relationships with Tribes
- Ensure water efficiencies go back into the environment

Priorities in Draft 2

Commission Input

- Feedback on priorities?
  - What is missing?
  - Are there bold outcomes we could/should identify?

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Next Steps

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Next Steps

2025

- **January** Draft 2 Public Review
- **March** WRC Workshop
- **May** Final Draft
- **June** WRC Adoption?

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