

Table of Contents

Integrated Water Resources Strategy Media Packet

January 18, 2010 – May 13, 2010

PortlandOnline.com: <i>A New Water Strategy for Oregon</i>	3
Sustainable Business Oregon: <i>Getting Water on Your Brain</i>	4
Network of Oregon Watershed Councils: <i>Oregon’s Integrated Water Resources Strategy 2010</i> <i>Open Houses</i>	6
Oregon Insider: <i>Oregon’s Integrated Water Resources Strategy</i>	8
East Oregonian: <i>Region’s Only Water Strategy Meeting on Tap in April</i>	13
WaterWatch of Oregon: <i>Action Alert – Oregon’s Water Future is in Your Hands</i>	14
Capital Press: <i>Oregon Plots New Water Strategy</i>	18
OregonLive.com: <i>Oregon Needs a Water Strategy – you can help</i>	19
Burns Times Herald: <i>Water Resources Meeting will be Critical in Developing State Strategy</i>	21
Oregon Association of Nurseries: <i>First Integrated Water Strategy Meeting will be held</i> <i>March 31 in Gresham</i>	23
OregonLive.com: <i>State Water Resources Strategies Open House</i>	24
Argus Observer: <i>Water Resources Open House Set Today</i>	25
Argus Observer: <i>Talking Water Issues</i>	26
Hermiston Herald: <i>Public Weighs in on Water Resources</i>	28
Hermiston Herald: <i>Oregon Integrated Water Resource Strategy Swayed by Modern Politics</i>	29
KlamathBasinCrisis.org: <i>Oregon Integrated Water Resources Strategy</i>	30
Tualatin Riverkeepers: <i>Action Alert – Speak Up on Oregon’s Integrated Water Resources</i> <i>Strategy</i>	34
Capital Press: <i>State Water Strategy Plan Draws Fire</i>	35
BendBulletin.com: <i>Local Water Strategy Meeting Set for Today</i>	37

This page left intentionally blank.

A New Water Strategy for Oregon

A project team comprised of senior staff from the Oregon Water Resources Department, Oregon Department of Environmental Quality, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, and the Oregon Department of Agriculture is asking for the public's help in developing a new integrated water resources strategy for the entire state. The strategy will be a roadmap for meeting Oregon's water needs now and in the future and will integrate water quantity and quality needs and ecosystem services.

Water management has important implications for the Willamette Basin, home to 70 percent of Oregon's population, including the state's largest city, Portland. Portland is located along the last 17 miles of the 186-long Willamette River, which starts in the mountains beyond Eugene and flows into the Columbia at Portland's Kelley Point Park.

Much of the river's character in Portland is determined by its journey through upstream forests, farms, and cities. The Willamette is a working river along its entire length—farmers, water crops and a growing number of cities depend on it for municipal water supply. The river is also used by cities and industries as a key element in their waste disposal operations. The river is literally a home, as well—for salmon, sturgeon, lamprey, trout, river otters, beaver, herons, and many more of Oregon's signature species.

The Willamette is one river basin system, but it is managed by many different government agencies. A key issue for all Oregon streams, including the Willamette and its tributaries, is determining how much water is allowed to be diverted and for which uses, how much can be stored behind reservoirs, how much is provided to users such as agriculture and municipal, and how much is maintained for fish and wildlife. (The Oregon Water Resources Department has recently developed new demand forecasts for the state, including the Willamette Basin—see *Find Out More About the Willamette's Water Supply Needs*, below.)

Almost all the streams and rivers are now fully appropriated (that is, the state's has stopped issuing new water rights)—there's very little water available for new uses, especially during summer. Groundwater is declining in many areas. Nearly 2,000 water bodies are listed by the state as "water quality impaired." Twenty-four fish species have been identified as Threatened or Endangered under the Federal Endangered Species Act, while another 31 are listed as state sensitive species. In addition, Oregon will feel the effects of continued population growth and a changing climate.

In 2009 the state legislature directed the Oregon Water Resources Department to develop a statewide, integrated water resources strategy in close cooperation with the Departments of Environmental Quality and Fish and Wildlife.

The Water Resources Department is in the beginning stages of developing the strategy and is very interested in citizens' ideas about how to design a thoughtful and inclusive process. The Department's strategy website includes:

- issue papers (including an ecology paper), and
- a preliminary work plan

that help describe the need for a new strategy and a timeline to complete the project.

The Strategy site also includes:

- a survey;
- an opportunity to sign up for an email listserve to receive regular updates; and,
- an email address for asking questions or for more information.

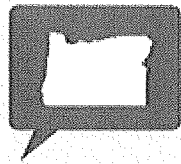
There will be open houses in the Portland area and throughout the state over the next several months where the public will have an opportunity to share concerns, ideas and suggestions about the strategy with the Project Team. The Strategy website will include those dates and locations when they are determined.

Find Out More About the Willamette's Water Supply Needs

The Oregon Water Resources Department recently completed a number of analyses for its Water Supply and Conservation Initiative, including demand forecasts, storage site inventories, and conservation opportunities. The Willamette Basin is expected to see an 18 percent increase in water demand over the next 40 years (click here to see the report, or to view specific demand forecasts, click here and pull down to "Willamette Basin" in the Geographical Area box.)

In addition, Portland is a member of the Regional Water Providers Consortium whose website also contains information on regional water supply planning, conservation, and emergency preparedness. The Consortium Board will be having a workshop on the Statewide Integrated Strategy with WRD and DEQ staff on the evening of February 3, 2010 at the Metro Council Chambers. Visit the Consortium website (<http://www.conserveh2o.org/>), to view the Regional Water Supply Plan and Update, found in the About Us section.

For more river-related news and information, visit www.portlandonline.com/river

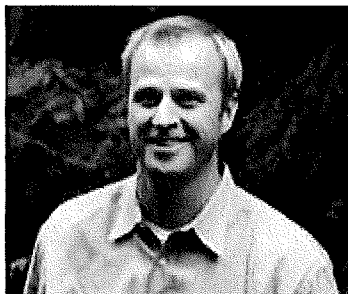


Monday, January 18, 2010, 9:24am PST | Modified: January 18, 2010, 11:03 AM

Getting water on your brain

by Joe Whitworth

[✉ Email](#) [📄 Reprints](#) [📡 RSS Feeds](#) [🔗 Share](#) [💬 0 Comments](#)



Business as usual will run out of water this century.

Oregon's soggy image gives a misleading impression about our freshwater resources, but consider the following: State records show that 18 of the state's 19 river basins have more water rights than our streams can deliver in dry periods, and the pressures grow each day. The Cascades have lost half of their April 1st snowpack since 1955 and researchers predict the range will lose half again in a generation. The U.S. Census Bureau predicts our state will absorb a million new residents by 2025. From power costs to water bills to building permits

to consumer demand for product transparency, this resource will bear on your business in the years ahead, as even slight changes in water availability or demand mean the difference between "enough" and "not enough."

Whether building houses, fabricating computer chips, making sportswear, running a nursery, or brewing beer, you need water. Our changing world means business needs to understand this resource, both upstream and downstream. Think through how your business interacts with water. Not just how you use water operationally, but how it infuses supply chains and how it is used by consumers. Where does it come from and go to? Do you know?

Historically, this resource has been quietly but fiercely managed by the biggest water users (agriculture, hydropower, municipalities, etc.) and has been largely invisible to the rest of us. As the limits of our natural resources come into view, this must change, and rightly so. Water represents a singular case: It is a public trust resource and the necessary ingredient for life on the planet, with no substitute. When push comes to shove, people will have a deep commitment to its health.

Whether driven by consumer adopting green purchasing habits or clear requirements for water long term, many businesses leaders have begun thinking about water in a serious way. In San Francisco in December 2008, a corporate conference explored "water footprints", looking at everything from direct withdrawals, processing, shipping, retailing and consuming. In 2007, Coca-Cola famously pledged to go water neutral, popularizing a concept that will no doubt carry for them a significant cost, but will also determine the long-term viability of their business.

As is typical with resources managed by the few and entrenched, Oregon's track record in managing the resource ranges from the sublime to the ridiculous. We pioneered an in-stream water right law that allows willing buyers and willing sellers to find a price that puts excess irrigation water back in stream to improve water quality, but we still have basins that are unresolved as to who owns water rights — Klamath Basin being the poster-child on that front. We created groundwater mitigation banking that keeps streams full and development happening, but we also have planning silos and permitting exemptions that run neighboring wells dry. We have invested millions in ecosystem resilience — likely the smartest way to get environmental results, and yet for cultural reasons, we largely do not measure use, leaving much of this scarce resource unmanaged.

The stakes are high and time is short. The water systems and practices in play today were designed for last century's understanding of climate, economy, and society — not the coming one. The challenge will be to weave these components into a durable balance. The Oregon Water Resources Department was recently tasked by the Legislature to formulate an integrated water resources strategy for the state, our first. But rather than simply scheming for new supplies of water, we must look to smart use: rethinking old methods for harvesting and reuse; understanding the interplay of surface and groundwater; choosing efficiencies over traditions. These types of measures can help us derive the benefits of water without using it all up. But to do so, we must adapt and engage new thinking — and thinkers.

Congratulations. You just got the job.

~Joe Whitworth is president of The Freshwater Trust, co-chairs the Water Subcommittee of the Oregon Global Warming Commission Natural Resources Committee and serves on the Oregon Agricultural Water Quality Advisory Committee as well as the Policy Advisory Committee for the State's Integrated Water Resources Strategy. He can be reached at joe@thefreshwatertrust.org.

Tags: [Water](#)

Companies: [Coca-Cola](#), [Oregon Water Resources Department](#), [U.S. Census Bureau](#)

People: [Joe Whitworth](#)

Oregon's Integrated Water Resources Strategy 2010 Open Houses

Oregon's Integrated Water Resources Strategy February 12, 2010 Briefer

2010 Open Houses

Four state agencies have been given responsibility for developing an integrated water resources strategy for Oregon by 2012, with 5-year updates thereafter. This spring, these agencies, along with commissioners and local partners, will host a series of evening open houses throughout Oregon communities, serving three purposes: 1. To ensure that participants receive information about the statewide strategy, the project timeline, and the many opportunities to participate. 2010 Schedule

2. To gather input from community members, in terms of water resource challenges, opportunities, and recommended actions. 3. To highlight successful, local examples of water resource solutions currently underway in Oregon communities. Various stations will allow participants to engage in individual conversations and facilitated discussions, listen to presentations, and to ask questions about current issues and local projects. A “kid’s center” will allow younger attendees to participate in water-related activities.

Gresham City Hall

Ontario – April 7
The Holiday Inn Hotel

Umatilla – April 8
Umatilla City Hall

Bandon – April 22
Conference and Community Center, “The Barn”

Tillamook – April 28
Tillamook County Library

Medford – May 11
Medford Library

Klamath Falls – May 12
Oregon Institute of Technology

Redmond – May 13
Redmond Fire and Rescue

Salem – June 8
Oregon Dept. of Fish & Wildlife Office

Eugene – June 10
Eugene Public Library

4 p.m. to 7 p.m.

2

Another Way to Participate

If you are unable to attend these public events, you can still participate in the discussion by providing your responses to the following questions. We are eager to hear from a wide variety of disciplines and perspectives. Please send responses to waterstrategy@wrд.state.or.us.

- 1. Vision:** As we embark on a long-term, integrated water resources strategy, what are some broad objectives you have, with regard to water in Oregon? Describe your hopes and goals for the state, in terms of water quantity, water quality, and other water-related issues.
- 2. Challenges:** As we sketch out "scenarios" that depict what the future of Oregon's water resources may look like, what do you see as some factors that may hinder our ability to meet Oregon's water needs in the future?
- 3. Solutions:** Do you have water resource solutions (policies, projects, or approaches) that you would like to see as part of this Integrated Strategy? Worded differently, what are some successful models from your organization, community, or elsewhere that we should encourage or develop further?
- 4. Education/Outreach:** Do you feel that you have access to adequate information about water resource issues? What water resource issues are you and your community facing today? Do you have any suggestions or ideas that could help us provide better education and outreach to your community members about these issues?

Project Links



Visit our website to find background information, meeting announcements and materials.
Stay informed of project activity by joining the IWRS listserv.
Contact the Project Team directly to ask questions, offer suggestions, or submit comments.
Read the Issue Papers, including the Ecology and Ecosystems Paper, to understand why it is important to start planning now. Check out the Preliminary Workplan for process-related information.

Project Timeline & Progress Bar

Phase I: Setting the Stage (Fall 2009) Phase II: Identifying Phase III: Developing Recommended Water Resource Needs Actions (2010-2011) (Spring 2010) www.wrд.state.or.us Phase IV: Producing the 1st Strategy (2012) Phase V: Implementation and Evaluation (2012)

OREGON'S INTEGRATED WATER RESOURCES STRATEGY

ACTION AGENDA FOR THE NEXT FIVE YEARS

Edited/condensed from Oregon Water Resources Department documents

Water Strategy

HB 3369

ORS Guidelines

Involved Agencies

Project Phases

Challenges

Action Agenda

Strategy Purposes

INTRODUCTION

During 2009, the 75th Oregon Legislative Assembly passed House Bill (HB) 3369, directing the Oregon Water Resources Department (WRD) to develop a state-wide, integrated water resources strategy to help Oregon meet its future water needs in terms of water quantity, water quality, and ecosystem functions.

HB 3369 states that WRD shall develop a strategy to implement Oregon Revised Statute (ORS) 536.220(2), which calls for the state to:

“formulate a coordinated, integrated state water resources policy and provide means for its enforcement, that plans and programs for the development and enlargement of the water resources of this state be devised and promoted and that other activities designed to encourage, promote and secure the maximum beneficial use and control of such water resources and the development of additional water supplies be carried out by a single state agency...”

HB 3369 directs WRD to work in close cooperation with the Department of Environmental Quality and Department of Fish and Wildlife, to develop the Integrated Water Resources Strategy (Strategy) and to develop data on an ongoing basis to forecast these needs. The bill also adds the Department of Agriculture to the key agencies responsible for reporting progress on the Strategy in 2011 and receiving notice prior to adoption of the Strategy.

HB 3369 requires the Strategy to include objectives as well as actions designed to meet these objectives. It also requires: a description of relevant factors such as population growth and land-use change; plans and recommendations related to the challenges presented by climate change; provisions to ensure communications and partnerships with key stakeholders; a description of functions and roles to be played by other agencies; and finally, public policy options and recommendations.

During “Phase I” of the Strategy development process, which ran through December 2009, several dozen briefing meetings for involved state agencies and stakeholders were held throughout the state. Issue papers were developed and a Preliminary Work Plan was released for public comment.

The process is now entering Phase II. This phase will run through August 2010 and will focus on a series of open houses, advisory group meetings, and workshops with stakeholder organizations (see Meeting Calendar, below).

STRATEGY OVERVIEW

Water resource management in Oregon is facing a number of significant challenges. Surface water is nearly fully allocated during the summer months and groundwater is showing declines in many areas. More than 1,861 water bodies are impaired and not meeting water quality standards. Twenty-four fish species have been identified as Threatened or Endangered under the federal Endangered Species Act, while another 31 are listed as state sensitive species.

The Strategy is intended to provide an action agenda for the state to follow as it prepares to meet Oregon’s water needs: instream and out-of-stream; above ground and below ground; now and in the future.

The Strategy will recognize the inextricable link between water quantity and water quality by addressing economic, environmental, and social needs. Water is an important element in Oregon’s economy. The state’s industrial and commercial sectors, agriculture, recreation, tourism, electric power, and residential development are all dependent on reliable, clean water. Oregon’s ecological needs come from the fish and wildlife that depend on clean abundant water and healthy habitat found in watersheds, rivers and their tributaries, wetlands, floodplains, aquifers, lakes, estuaries, and the ocean.

SERVING SEVERAL PURPOSES, THE STRATEGY WILL:

- Encourage planning at a watershed or basin level
- Address issues through a dynamic process that adapts to changing conditions
- Balance competing uses of water, by paying attention to environmental costs and benefits, economic impact, and societal values
- Promote water conservation, water re-use, source protection, and supply development to enhance water quality and quantity
- Encourage participation of all units of government, stakeholders, tribes, and the public
- Provide a framework for local communities to facilitate and complete their own integrated water management planning
- Foster public health, safety, and community goodwill
- Address existing institutional barriers that reduce the ability to effectively manage water resources

Water Strategy

Vision

Goals & Objectives

STRATEGY VISION & OBJECTIVES

The Water Resources Commission’s Water Planning Committee has offered the following process vision statement for the Strategy:

A statewide integrated water resources strategy will bring various sectors and interests together to work toward the common purpose of maintaining healthy water resources to meet the needs of Oregonians and Oregon’s environment for generations to come.

THIS VISION HAS BEEN TRANSLATED INTO THE FOLLOWING GOALS AND OBJECTIVES:

Goal #1: Improve Understanding of Oregon’s Water Resource Needs

OBJECTIVE #1: Improve Understanding of Instream Needs (non-consumptive)

- Ecological needs ~ watershed, forest, estuary, flood plains, wetlands, rivers
- Transportation, hydropower, recreation, and scenic waterways

OBJECTIVE #2: Improve Understanding of Oregon’s Out-of-Stream Needs (consumptive)

- Economic development, public health and safety, social/cultural needs

OBJECTIVE #3: Improve Understanding of Oregon’s water resources today

- Surface water quantity and quality
- Groundwater quantity and quality
- Interaction between surface water and groundwater.

OBJECTIVE #4: Improve Understanding of Pressures That Could Affect Needs

- Population growth, land-use changes, economic development goals
- (More ideas to be collected throughout project’s workshops and open houses)

OBJECTIVE #5: Better Understand What Pressures Could Affect Access to Clean & Reliable Water

- Climate change, land-use changes
 - Drought, flood, seismic events and other natural disasters
 - Federal regulations
- (More ideas to be collected throughout project’s workshops and open houses)

Goal #2: Meet Oregon’s Water Resource Needs

OBJECTIVE #6: Meet Instream Needs (non-consumptive)

- Improve water resources by striving for healthy watersheds, forests, estuaries, floodplains, aquifers
- Address transportation, hydropower, recreation, and scenic waterways

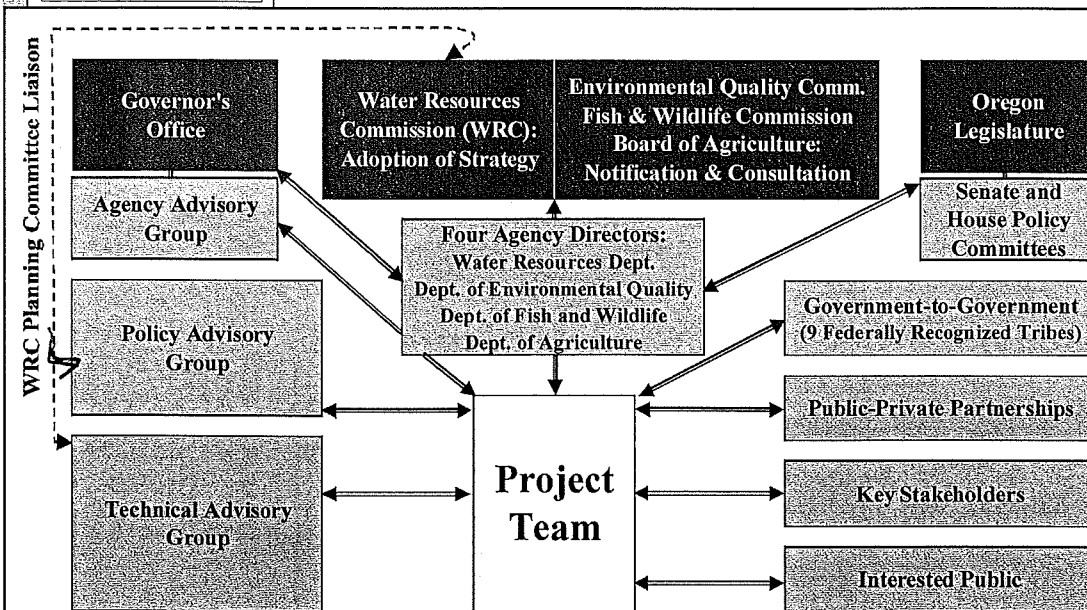
OBJECTIVE #7: Meet Out-of-Stream Needs (consumptive)

- Improve access and economic certainty through clean and reliable water supplies and infrastructure

As noted, HB 3369 requires this work to include “objectives of the strategy” and “actions that are designed to achieve the objectives of the strategy.” “Recommendations for action” will come from the collective work of advisory groups and public involvement process, and will follow each objective. These recommendations for action may be statewide or local in nature. They may include: information/data; planning; policy; statutes or rules; funding; and/or outreach and education tools.

Strategy Information Flow Chart

STRATEGY DEVELOPMENT PROCESS: ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES



This chart demonstrates how information will flow and decisions will be made during the development of the Strategy. All information needing to be documented and part of the Strategy project will pass through a “Project Team” for distribution. All comments will be posted to the project website (see below) and, at any time, interested parties are invited to comment either verbally or in writing to the agencies, their commissions and boards, and the advisory groups.

**Water
Strategy****ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES (CONTINUED)****Project Team**

The Project Team, led by WRD, will manage the development of the Strategy as directed in HB 3369. The Project Team is comprised of senior staff from four natural resources state agencies.

PROJECT TEAM MEMBERS INCLUDE:

BRENDA BATEMAN, Project Manager, (WRD)
 CHRISTINE SVETKOVICH, Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)
 BRUCE MCINTOSH AND RICK KEPLER, Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW)
 RAY JAINDL and BRENT SEARLE, Department of Agriculture (ODA)
 ALYSSA MUCKEN, Policy Coordinator (WRD)
 KEN STAHR, Science Coordinator (WRD)
 RYAN VANDEN BRINK, Policy Intern (WRD)

**Project Team
Duties**

The Project Team meets regularly to prepare materials and agendas for three kinds of advisory groups—the Agency Advisory Group, the Policy Advisory Group, and Technical Advisory Groups. The Team is working with partners to host open houses during 2010, and with academic institutions to conduct related research on a variety of fronts. In addition to developing the website, listserv, briefing materials, and meetings, the Team collects and documents recommendations that come from advisory groups, partners, stakeholders, and other interested parties, and makes recommendations to the Water Resources Commission for discussion and adoption. Throughout the process, the Project Team will provide project updates to the Governor's Office, Oregon Legislature, advisory groups, stakeholders, partners, and the public, as well as: the Water Resources Commission, the Environmental Quality Commission, the Fish and Wildlife Commission, and the Board of Agriculture.

Agency Advisory Group

A group of 15 state agencies representing natural resources and economic development — and the Governor's Office — are assisting with the development of the Strategy. The goal of this group is to ensure a balance of technical considerations at each stage of the process.

The Advisory Group includes directors or their designees from WRD, DEQ, ODFW, ODA and the following Oregon agencies: Business Development; Geology and Mineral Industries; Energy; Forestry; Housing & Community Services; Human Services-Drinking Water Program; Land Conservation & Development; Parks & Recreation; State Lands; Transportation; and Watershed Enhancement Board. The Governor's Office — through its Economic Revitalization Team, Environmental Justice Task Force, and Oregon Plan for Salmon & Watersheds — is also represented.

Policy Advisory Group

The Directors of WRD, DEQ, ODFW and ODA jointly appointed this group during December 2009. These individuals were chosen for their experience in the water arena and their commitment to leadership in this process. Responsibilities of this group include: receiving updates; providing feedback and recommendations; providing options and opinions for the Project Team and Water Resources Commission to consider; and helping the Project Team identify areas of broad agreement. This is a diverse group of 18 citizen members, with an ability to represent a wide variety of Oregon interests and geography.

THE POLICY ADVISORY GROUP INCLUDES:

GLENN BARRETT, Rancher, Barrett Livestock, Bonanza
 DENNIS DOHERTY, County Commissioner, Umatilla County
 MICHAEL CAMPBELL, Member, Stoel Rives LLP Attorneys at Law
 JOHN DEVOE, Executive Director, WaterWatch of Oregon
 BILL GAFFI, General Manager, Clean Water Services
 JAY CHAMBERLIN, District Manager, Owhyee Irrigation District
 PATRICK GRIFFITHS, Water Resources Coordinator, City of Bend
 TODD HEIDGERKEN, Manager, Community & Intergov. Relations, Tualatin Valley Water District
 TOD HEISLER, Executive Director, Deschutes River Conservancy
 TERESA HUNTSINGER, Program Director, Clean & Healthy Rivers, Oregon Environmental Council
 TRACEY LISKEY, Co-Owner, Liskey Farms, Klamath Falls
 PEGGY LYNCH, Natural Resources Coordinator League of Women Voters of Oregon
 JANET NEUMAN, Water Law Professor, Lewis & Clark Law School
 ERIC QUAEEMPTS, Director, Dept of Natural Resources, Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation
 MIKE SEPPA, Retired Dairy Farmer, Seppa Dairy Co, Astoria, Oregon
 LORNA STICKEL, Water Resources Planning Manager, Portland Water Bureau & Regional Water Providers
 RICHARD WELLS, Vice President and General Manager of Monrovia Growers
 JOE WHITWORTH, Executive Director, The Freshwater Trust

**Multiple
Agencies
Involved****Policy
Leadership**

Water Strategy

Technical Oversight

Phased Approach

Current Phase

Report to Legislature

2012 Adoption

Iterative Process

Technical Advisory Groups

The Directors of WRD, DEQ, ODFW and ODA will jointly appoint members to these groups — including scientists and technical experts from local, state, and federal agencies, and private and non-profit sectors. These groups will be convened as needed to address specific scientific, funding, or other technical issues that arise during the course of the process. Formal techniques, such as holding workshops of white papers or conducting literature reviews, will be used to ensure that relevant and up-to-date information is brought into the process for review and consideration.

PROJECT TIMELINE

FIVE PHASES: 2009 ONSET THROUGH 2013 IMPLEMENTATION

PHASE I: SETTING THE STAGE.

This Phase, which extended through December 2009, included institutional capacity building and production of background issue papers

PHASE II: IDENTIFYING WATER RESOURCE NEEDS.

This phase will run through August 2010 and will focus on information gathering through a series of open houses, advisory group meetings, and workshops with stakeholder organizations.

PHASE III: DEVELOPING RECOMMENDED ACTIONS.

During Phase III, WRD, DEQ, ODFW and ODA will provide a progress report to the 76th Legislative Assembly. In addition, the advisory groups will continue the work begun above, systematically identifying conflicts and gaps in water-related information/data, planning efforts, public policy, statute/rule, funding, and outreach/education. The advisory groups and Project Team will begin to prioritize recommended actions in each of these areas, identifying potential obstacles, and drafting an initial Strategy for public review and comment. The Project Team plans a second round of public meetings during Fall 2011, to vet these recommended actions with Oregon communities.

PHASE IV: PRODUCING OREGON’S FIRST INTEGRATED WATER RESOURCES STRATEGY.

Phase IV focuses on preparing, adopting and submitting the Strategy during 2012. During Phase IV, the Project Team will focus on addressing public comments solicited during public meetings and stakeholder meetings. The advisory groups will have an opportunity to review and suggest revisions to the Strategy. In 2012, the Project Team will first take the Strategy to the Water Resources Commission (WRC) for notification of other Boards and Commissions, followed by review and adoption by the WRC, with distribution and presentation of the final Strategy to the Oregon Legislature prior to the 2013 Legislative Session.

PHASE V: PROJECT REVIEW.

This is an iterative process and successfully meeting Oregon’s water resource needs will mean constantly asking “what if” questions and preparing to adapt to changing circumstances and environments. Upon adoption of the Strategy, the Project Team will set about identifying the lessons learned and improvements needed for the next iteration. During Phase V, the Project Team will also have an opportunity to present recommended actions, legislative and budget requests to the 77th Legislative Assembly in 2013 for implementation. Agencies and partners may also have opportunities during this phase to measure the implementation and effectiveness of the recommended actions contained in the Strategy.

Project Timeline & Progress Bar				
Phase I: Setting the Stage (Fall 2009)	Phase II: Identifying Water Resource Needs (Spring 2010)	Phase III: Developing Recommended Actions (2010-2011)	Phase IV: Producing the 1 st Strategy (2012)	Phase V: Implementation and Evaluation (2012)

**Water
Strategy**

**Open House
Schedule**

**Open
Meetings**

2010 OPEN HOUSES

Beginning in March, the four state agencies with responsibility for developing the Strategy, along with commissioners and local partners, will host a series of evening open houses throughout Oregon. All open houses will be held from 4pm to 7pm.

OPEN HOUSE PURPOSES INCLUDE:

- 1) Ensuring that participants receive information about the Strategy, the project timeline, and the many opportunities for further participation
- 2) Gathering input from community members in terms of water resource challenges, opportunities, and recommended actions
- 3) Highlighting successful, local examples of water resource solutions currently underway in Oregon

OPEN HOUSE MEETING DATES AND LOCATIONS INCLUDE:

- March 31 Gresham – Gresham City Hall, 1333 Northwest Eastman Parkway
- April 7: Ontario – The Holiday Inn Hotel, 1249 Tapadera Avenue
- April 8: Umatilla – Umatilla City Hall, 700 6th Street
- April 22: Bandon – Conference and Community Center (“The Barn”), 1200 Eleventh Street
- April 28: Tillamook – Tillamook County Library, 1716 Third Street
- May 11: Medford – Medford Library, 205 South Central Avenue
- May 12: Klamath Falls – Oregon Institute of Technology, 3201 Campus Drive
- May 13: Redmond – Redmond Fire and Rescue, 341 NW Dogwood Avenue
- May TBD: Burns – Location also to be determined (TBD)
- June 8: Salem – Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife Office, 3406 Cherry Avenue, N.E.
- June 10: Eugene – Eugene Public Library, 100 West 10th Avenue

UPCOMING PUBLIC MEETINGS IN 2010

CURRENTLY SCHEDULED PROJECT MEETINGS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC IN 2010 INCLUDE:

2010	City	Organization	Meeting Type
April 14	Salem	Meeting of the Policy Advisory Group	MEETING
April 22-23	Salem	Oregon Board of Forestry	Briefing
June 3	TBA	Water Resources Commission	MEETING
July 29 (Tentative)	Salem	3rd Meeting of the Policy Advisory Group	MEETING
August 6	TBA	Water Resources Commission	MEETING
October 6	Salem	4th Meeting of the Policy Advisory Group	MEETING
November 18	TBA	Water Resources Commission	MEETING

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION,

BRENDA BATEMAN, WRD, 503/ 986-0879 or brenda.o.bateman@wrd.state.or.us
 ALYSSA MUCKEN, WRD, 503-986-0911 or alyssa.m.mucken@wrd.state.or.us

PROJECT WEBSITE: Visit www.wrd.state.or.us and click on “Project Page”

Those interested in receiving information about the strategy can visit the website to find background documents, briefers, and a link to the strategy listserv. The website also allows the public the opportunity to provide instant feedback on the Strategy, using online surveys and direct email access to the Project Team (waterstrategy@wrd.state.or.us).

PROJECT LISTSERVE: <http://listsmart.osl.state.or.us/mailman/listinfo/iwrs>

The Project’s listserv functions as an electronic means to broadcast information, including upcoming meetings and recent activity. Sign up to receive Project updates.

UMATILLA

Region's only water strategy meeting on tap in April

Event also will showcase water projects in region

By DEAN BRICKEY
East Oregonian

One of 11 statewide open houses to share information about the state's new water resources strategy will be in Umatilla next month.

The session will be April 8 at Umatilla City Hall from 4-7 p.m. It will be the only such meeting in Northeast Oregon. Others are scheduled around the state, beginning with Gresham on March 31 and ending in Eugene on June 10.

The Oregon Water Resources Department, the Department of Environmental Quality, Department of Fish and Wildlife and the Department of Agriculture, along with their stakeholders and partners are developing the state's first Integrated Water Resources Strategy.

Mike Ladd of Pendleton, regional OWRD manager, said agency leaders have scheduled the open houses to receive comments from area residents about water resource challenges, opportunities and recommendations.

Phil Ward, OWRD director, said his and the other departments want to de-

velop a strategy that reflects Oregonians' opinions.

"We think it's really important to talk to Oregonians at the beginning of the process," Ward said.

Ladd added the managers intend to provide information about the statewide strategy, the project timeline and the opportunities to participate. They also want to highlight successful local examples of water resource solutions.

Ward said the state will highlight the Umatilla Aquifer Recovery Project as a local success story. Also, he said, area irrigators have developed far more efficient methods in the past two decades.

"Umatilla Basin water users have been very innovative in coming up with water supply solutions," Ladd said.

Fred Ziari of Hermiston will showcase the Umatilla Aquifer Recovery Project, Ladd added. The regional OWRD office will have a display depicting the Umatilla Basin Project Exchange and its history and a map of major improvements. And Bob Patterson, Pendleton's public works director, will describe the city's aquifer storage and recovery project.

Project team members began setting the stage for the strategy last fall. They

"Umatilla Basin water users have been very innovative in coming up with water supply solutions."

— Mike Ladd,
regional OWRD manager

are in Phase II, which involves identifying water resource needs. Phase III, developing recommended actions, is scheduled to begin later this year and continue into 2011. Phases IV and V, producing and implementing the first strategy, are planned in 2012.

The state plans a series

of public hearings before developing the final strategy, Ward said.

The open houses will feature various stations where participants may talk with project leaders. Facilitated discussions also are planned along with a "kid's center to allow the younger set to participate in water-related activities.

Those unable to attend may participate online. The Oregon Water Resources Department offers seven question on its Web page to assess respondents' interests in the project and possibly helping with it.

Broad categories the state is covering are vision, challenges, solutions and education-outreach. Specifically, the state wants to learn from participants:

•What are your broad

objectives regarding water in Oregon? Describe your hopes and goals in terms of water quantity, quality and other related issues.

•What are some factors that hinder our ability to meet Oregon's future water needs?

•Have you solutions or successful models that should be part of the strategy?

•Have you access to adequate information about water resource issues? What water resource issues are you facing? How can the state provide better education-outreach?

The project's Web page contains information, a survey, and opportunities to participate.

To learn more, go to: <http://egov.oregon.gov/OWRD/>



WATERWATCH

PROTECTING NATURAL FLOWS IN OREGON RIVERS

Action Alert - Oregon's Water Future Is In Your Hands

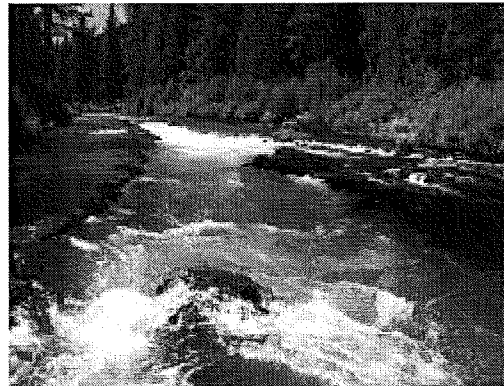
**TAKE
ACTION!**

[Forward to a friend](#)

Visit the [Water Resources website](#) for more information

Help Oregon's Rivers! Weigh in on the State's Integrated Water Resources Strategy!

This is your chance to make your voice heard about how Oregon manages water! To help gather information about what is important to Oregonians, the Oregon Water Resources Department is holding open house hearings across the state regarding its development of an Integrated Water Resources Strategy. Written comments are also being received (see below for details).



The Integrated Water Resources Strategy will govern how Oregon meets both instream (fish and wildlife, recreation, and water quality) and out of stream (agricultural, municipal, and industrial) water needs in the future. Please weigh in on the importance of protecting and restoring Oregon's rivers and streams in this planning process! See below for a list of comments to consider including.

PLEASE ATTEND AN OPEN HOUSE HEARING NEAR YOU

The first hearing will be held in Gresham:

Date: Wednesday, March 31

Time: 4 pm to 7 pm

Location:

Gresham City Hall

1333 NW Eastman Parkway

To get the state's flyer on the Gresham hearing, [click here](#).

Ten more hearings will follow across the state over the next two months. For a full list of locations and dates, and background information on the Strategy, [click here](#).

HOW TO SUBMIT WRITTEN COMMENTS

Email your written comments to waterstrategy at wrd.or.state.us

BACKGROUND INFORMATION FROM THE OREGON WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT

Visit the Water Resources Department website for more information on the strategy [here](#).

To view the Oregon Water Resource Department's one-page briefing paper, [click here](#).

If you have any questions please feel free to contact WaterWatch at info at waterwatch.org.

Thank you for helping Oregon's rivers!

Key points to consider making

1. Oregon rivers need more protection.

- Urge the state to adopt instream water rights on all streams across the state. Over 1400 stream reaches in Oregon are protected by "instream water rights," but hundreds of others are not.
- Urge the state to protect peak and ecological flows before allowing new storage projects. In recent years Oregon has seen a land rush mentality with regard to building new water storage projects. These storage projects which would grab the last of Oregon's unallocated winter water. Currently the state does not protect "peak and ecological flows" when issuing new storage permits. Urge the state to both identify peak and ecological flows needed by fish and rivers, and to protect those flows before allowing new storage.

- Urge the state to protect more of Oregon's beloved streams through scenic waterway designation. State scenic waterway designation protects rivers and streams from being drained dry and also from the building of new dams. The state has not issued any new scenic waterways in nearly two decades.

2. The state needs to better manage Oregon's rivers.

Oregon is lucky to have many good river and stream protection laws on the books. However, the state does not utilize these tools to the full advantage of Oregon's waterways. Please urge the state to use its existing authorities to:

- Require measurement of all diversions in the state. Unless the state knows how much water is being diverted, and when, it cannot adequately manage our water resources.
- Require water use efficiency standards for municipal and irrigation uses. Oregon's water rules call on the state to establish basin efficiency standards for water use, but the state has never done so. Oregon's streams and rivers are already over-tapped; requiring efficient water use is one step to meeting new demand without putting further strain on our rivers.
- Protect the groundwater resources that feed Oregon's rivers and streams. The state should place a priority on the designation of new groundwater limited areas to help manage groundwater use in areas where groundwater declines are hurting water users and streams.
- Urge the state to aggressively analyze demand forecasts for new water right permits. Municipal and other water right applicants often times apply for far more water than they could possibly use in a reasonable planning period. Urge the state to take a closer look at applications and stop issuing speculative water rights.

3. Legal Reform

The Integrated Water Strategy offers a unique opportunity to move forward to better our state's water laws. Please urge the state to:

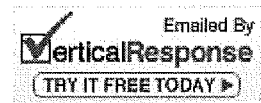
- Require permitting of "exempt wells" in groundwater limited areas and areas where groundwater feeds river flows. Currently exempt wells, even in areas where groundwater and river flow shortages are rampant, do not have to go through a permitting process or environmental review.

- Require the state to do a "public interest review" of a transfer of a water right to ensure that when a water right holder is changing it's place of use or type of use, that the state considers the effect of that change on Oregon's rivers and fish.

Thank you!

If you no longer wish to receive these emails, please reply to this message with "Unsubscribe" in the subject line or simply click on the following link: [Unsubscribe](#)

WaterWatch of Oregon
213 SW Ash, Suite 208
Portland, Oregon 97204
US



[Read](#) the VerticalResponse marketing policy.

e in the num-
nd ranchers
as into a sig-
n the number
n rural Amer-
d that there

VISION rights on may be the
worst possible way to get to
the bottom of these — or any
other — issues. It makes them
look inept and dilutes what-
ever hope farmers and ranch-
ers have that any issues will

shops without any preconcep-
tions and cannot promise any
particular answers or results,”
Christine Varney, assistant at-
torney general with the Jus-
tice Department’s antitrust di-

of hearings. They are booked
and loaded and headed for
court.

As it stands, though, the
main product of these and oth-
er “hearings” will be hot air.

crease production per unit of
land, water and nutrient re-
sources to meet global food
demand. Principal drivers of
demand are world population
growth, expectations for a high-
er standard of living, increas-
es in disposable income and
greater energy needs.

Farmers also face uncer-
tainties about global climate
change and government poli-
cies to address it, and the de-
sire of the public for ecosys-
tem services that enhance the
environment.

Dealing with all this is a tall
order. According to the CAST
authors, “The convergence of
so many challenges (in agri-
culture) at one time is unprece-
dented.” This is a sobering
comment, especially when one
recalls the history of Ameri-
can agriculture. To say that the
future is going to be even more
demanding of producers is a
big statement.

The authors of the report
believe the United States has the
land resources and science ca-
pacity to equip agriculture to
meet a large portion of the com-
ing challenges, but time is run-
ning out. The typical lead time
for investments in science and
technology to raise agricultural
productivity is 10 to 20 years.

The report cites a number of
areas of scientific research,
which, if successful, would im-
prove agricultural productiv-
ity worldwide and lead to an-
other Green Revolution, but
the growth in U.S. public spend-
ing for agricultural research
was a paltry 1 percent per year
in the last decade. Clearly that’s
not enough.

Developing the informa-
tion, knowledge and technol-
ogy needed by agriculture is
one mission we can’t put off.

*Stewart Truelsen is a regular
contributor to the Focus on
Agriculture series and is author of
a new book marking the
American Farm Bureau
Federation’s 90th anniversary,
“Forward Farm Bureau.”*

Oregon plots new water strategy

By JOHN JACKSON, BILL
BLOSSER, MARLA RAE and
BOB LEVY

For the Capital Press

Guest comment

John Jackson, Bill Blosser,
Marla Rae and Bob Levy

Most Oregonians be-
lieve we are blessed
with a clean and abun-
dant water supply because of
our world-renowned rainfall
and snowpack. The reality is
this luxury is not enjoyed by all
Oregonians. It is time for Ore-
gon to develop and adopt an in-
tegrated water strategy that se-
cures Oregon’s water future.

In fact, we are facing water
scarcity in Oregon today. The lev-
el of scarcity may depend on
whether you live on the east or
west side of the state, the time
of year, precipitation levels, and
the source of your water. In
many places, surface water is
fully spoken for during the sum-
mer time; groundwater levels
have dropped to unsustainable
levels, and our rivers and streams
have suffered tremendously
from habitat and species loss-
es.

A large portion of the state
does not have enough clean wa-
ter or adequate flows to sup-
port uses such as recreation,
drinking water, agricultural, in-
dustrial or instream uses for fish
and wildlife. It is time to put
our efforts into long-term strate-
gic planning and action for Ore-
gon’s water future.

This planning process has
already begun. In 2009, the Ore-
gon Legislature supported the
state’s efforts to develop a long-
term, integrated strategy for se-
curing Oregon’s water future. It
tasked four natural resource
agencies, together with their
partners, stakeholders and the
public, to set out a course of ac-

tion for Oregon. Taking into ac-
count changes in population,
land-use and climate, this strat-
egy will need to anticipate the
future and plan in a way that
helps us better understand and
meet Oregon’s water quantity,
water quality and ecosystem
needs.

In terms of potential options,
the field is wide open. This strat-
egy could encourage policy-
makers to pursue recycled wa-
ter or stormwater solutions. It
could outline requirements for
greater water conservation for
all users (agricultural, industri-
al, municipal, household and
others). It could place an em-
phasis on multi-purpose water
storage solutions, including un-
derground storage. It could iden-
tify additional instream water
needs for fish and wildlife, along
with floodplain and wetland
restoration. The strategy could
recommend funding of new wa-
ter treatment technologies and
infrastructure.

In the end, it is likely to be
some combination of the above.
The ultimate goal, however, is
to meet Oregon’s water needs
into the future by ensuring that
clean water is available when
and where it is needed. We are
at the beginning of a process
where the potential solutions
are many.

This is no small undertak-
ing. We know that every Ore-
gonian has a stake in Oregon’s
water, and in true Oregon spir-
it will offer creative and inno-

Open house schedule

Open houses will take
place in the following
locations:

March 31: Gresham City
Hall

April 7: Holiday Inn Ontario

April 8: Umatilla City Hall

April 22: “The Barn” in

Bandon

April 28: Tillamook County
Library

May 11: Medford Library

May 12: Oregon Institute
of Technology in Klamath

Falls

May 13: Redmond Fire
and Rescue

May 25: Harney County
Community Center

June 8: Oregon
Department of Fish and
Wildlife in Salem

June 10: Eugene Public
Library

For more information
about the strategy or open
house events, or to
participate electronically,
please visit
www.wrd.state.or.us and
click on “Project Page.”

vative ideas to this process. We
want you to be a part of this ef-
fort. This spring, the agencies will
be hosting open houses through-
out Oregon and we invite you
to come share your views.

Please join us.

*John Jackson chairs the Oregon
Water Resources Commission,
Bill Blosser chairs the Oregon
Environmental Quality
Commission, Marla Rae chairs
the Oregon Fish and Wildlife
Commission and Bob Levy chairs
the Oregon Board of Agriculture.*

Policy

Capital
letters to
ues of
rs,
e
mmunity.
y: Please
00 words
r home
daytime
ber with
in. Longer
0 words,
ered as
tary pieces
opinion
commentary
ould also
ograph of the

s via e-mail

italpress.com.
rs are
I require less
ss, which
n quicker
letters may
to P.O. Box
1, OR 97308; or
1-370-4383.

efit analyses of
sed regulations.
illions of dollars
pent with little
ieving any tern-
luction. Ironically
ntly learned that
en no statistical-
nt global warm-
95. It would seem
e more certain of
re devastating our
ak economy for a
le cause that may
10ax.

*Chuck Land,
Blodgett, Ore.*

...\$89
...\$275
...\$49
...\$30
...\$25
shed
be or
you
n or
ptial
es
re-
re-
or
o/
d be
he:
B
E.
II
m
A
ex
AT
I
X
A
11
O
5
1
15
14
7
6
10
16
1
s
pc
Du
O
D
4
s
N



OregonLive.com

Everything Oregon

Oregon needs a water strategy -- you can help

By Guest Columnist

March 22, 2010, 11:32PM

By JOHN JACKSON

Chairman, Oregon Water Resources Commission

Most Oregonians believe we are blessed with a clean and abundant water supply because of our world-renowned rainfall and snowpack.

The reality is this luxury is not enjoyed by all Oregonians. It is time for Oregon to develop and adopt an integrated water strategy that secures Oregon's water future.

In fact, we are facing water scarcity in Oregon today. The level of scarcity may depend on whether you live on the east or west side of the state, the time of year, precipitation levels, and the source of your water.

In many places, surface water is fully spoken for during the summertime; groundwater levels have dropped to unsustainable levels, and our rivers and streams have suffered tremendously from habitat and species losses.

A large portion of the state does not have enough clean water or adequate flows to support uses such as recreation, drinking water, agricultural, industrial, or instream uses for fish and wildlife. It is time to put our efforts into long-term strategic planning and action for Oregon's water future.

This planning process has already begun.

In 2009, the Oregon Legislature supported the state's efforts to develop a long-term, integrated strategy for securing Oregon's water future. It tasked four natural resource agencies, together with their partners, stakeholders, and the public, to set out a course of action for Oregon.

Taking into account changes in population, land-use, and climate, this strategy will need to anticipate the future and plan in a way that helps us better understand and meet Oregon's water quantity, water quality, and ecosystem needs.

In terms of potential options, the field is wide open. This strategy could encourage policymakers to pursue recycled water or stormwater solutions. It could outline requirements for greater water conservation for all users (agricultural, industrial, municipal, household, and others). It could place an emphasis on multi-purpose water storage solutions, including underground storage. It could identify additional instream water needs for fish and wildlife, along with floodplain and wetland restoration.

The strategy could recommend funding of new water treatment technologies and infrastructure.

In the end, it is likely to be some combination of the above. The ultimate goal, however, is to meet Oregon's water needs into the future by ensuring that clean water is available when and where it is needed. We are at the beginning of a process where the potential solutions are many.

This is no small undertaking.

We know that every Oregonian has a stake in Oregon's water, and in true Oregon spirit will offer creative and innovative ideas to this process. We want you to be a part of this effort. This spring, the agencies will be hosting open houses throughout Oregon and we invite you to come share your views.

Please join us.

Open Houses will take place in the following locations:

March 31 – Gresham City Hall

April 7 – Holiday Inn Ontario

April 8 – Umatilla City Hall

April 22 – "The Barn" in Bandon

April 28 – Tillamook County Library

May 11 – Medford Library

May 12 – Oregon Institute of Technology in Klamath Falls

May 13 – Redmond Fire and Rescue

May 25 – Harney County Community Center

June 8 – Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife in Salem

June 10 – Eugene Public Library

John Jackson is Chair of the Oregon Water Resources Commission. The other chairpersons involved are: Bill Blosser, Chair, Oregon Environmental Quality Commission, Marla Rae, Chair, Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission and Bob Levy, Chair, Oregon Board of Agriculture

For more information about the strategy or open house events, or to participate electronically, please visit www.wrd.state.or.us



© 2010 OregonLive.com. All rights reserved.

Water resources meeting will be critical in developing state strategy

Posted on March 24th in [Feature Story](#), [News](#)

Open house will be one of several held around the state

*By Randy Parks
Burns Times-Herald*

An open house to discuss Oregon's Integrated Water Resources Strategy will be held Tuesday, May 25, from 4 to 7 p.m. at the Community Center in Burns.

The open house is one in a series being held around the state this spring to receive public input on water quality, water quantity and other water-related topics.

Ivan Gall with the Water Resources Department told the county court at their meeting on Wednesday, March 17, "This is a big deal. There hasn't been anything like this in recent decades."

Gall said it was critical to get local involvement in the strategy process and people shouldn't be shy about stepping forward with their concerns. "In Baker County, some people are scared of this. It's being sold as a grab on water rights, and it's not our intention to gut Oregon water laws," Gall said. "There are those who are scared or skeptical of the process, and I don't want that to happen. We want to know what people see as issues and what are the solutions. What it could turn into, I don't know. Depends on the input we receive."

Judge Steve Grasty said he would like to see things stay flexible, but it seems that rules and regulations keep getting tighter.

Grasty added that he had concerns about the "anti's" having better strategies to present their side of the discussion. "How do you integrate those that make less of a presentation to be heard?" Grasty asked. "How do we tell our story better?"

Commissioner Jack Drinkwater said some people he had talked to were concerned with measuring water. "If it's measured off to what their water right says, they're afraid they won't get what they need," he said.

Gall explained the measuring might actually allow people to receive more water. "Some aren't getting what they deserve," Gall said.

Commissioner Dan Nichols felt the state should be working on some sort of statewide water storage.

Gall and Tony Rutherford, Harney County Watermaster, discussed the Silvies River-Foley Slough issues, and said they are moving toward a solution. "Our goal is to take a limited resource and spread it as far as it will go," Gall said.

Rutherford also reported on the snow pack for this yea. There is about 91 percent of average for the Harney basin. "We should have more water than last year," he said.

State Representative Cliff Bentz was in attendance to visit with the court about the state legislature as well as county issues.

Bentz told the court he would like them to come up with a list of issues they would like him to work on in the legislature.

Grasty wondered why the state isn't on board with some of the issues the county has to deal with.

Nichols stated the legislation continues to raise the angst of citizens over and over again. "When is the legislature going to look at the business of running the state?" Nichols asked. "There are always more fees, increased taxation and more regulations. Every six months or so, something else comes up."

As for the state's economy, Bentz said at this time it looks like the state will face a \$2.5 to \$3 billion shortfall in the next biennium.

In other business:

- Economic Development Coordinator Mark Maliwauki told the court he had submitted his resignation, effective May 31. Maliwauki also presented a proposal from World Economic Development Alliance (WEDA) and discussed how WEDA had benefitted the county in the past.

The court agreed to a 12-month proposal from WEDA at a cost of \$4,950 and directed Maliwauki to pursue it further;

- Joan Suther and Christi Courtemanche of the BLM were in attendance to give an update on the Steens Mountain Advisory Council (SMAC). They discussed the current vacancy on the council and the upcoming nominations. The court would like to stay involved with SMAC and asked to be kept informed;

- the court passed a motion to keep moving forward with a new computer system for the clerk's and tax assessor's offices.

- the court opened two bids received for a new pick-up truck to be used for community corrections. Burns Ford submitted a bid for \$26,237.65 and Teague Motor Co. a bid of \$28,450. The bids were turned over to the sheriff to see if they met specifications, and a decision would be made later;

- the court opened five bids received for the window and door replacement project at the Harney County Library. Bid amounts are: 2L Construction \$77,952, Cole Wensenk \$77,375. Philip Sitz Construction \$84,535, Lyle Stratton \$49,973 and Rise & Run Construction \$89,158. The court instructed the bids to be turned over to Anderson-Perry & Associates to make sure they met specifications, and the court would award the bid at their next meeting on April 7.

[0 Comments \(Leave A Comment\)](#)

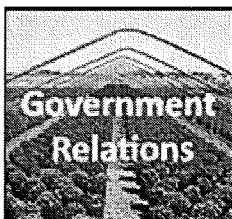
Community welcomes writer-in-residence

Posted on March 24th in [Feature Story](#), [News](#)

Kristy Athens, the 2010 Harney County Writer-in-Residence, along with the 2009 Writer-in-Residence, Angela Allen, will participate in the March 27 SWAN (Support Women Artists Now) Day at the Harney County Library by reading from their published works.

Share Report Abuse Next Blog»

Create Blog Sign In



OAN Government Relations

THURSDAY, MARCH 25, 2010

First integrated water strategy meeting will be March 31 in Gresham

The Oregon Water Resources Department is planning an upcoming series of workshops in connection with the forthcoming Oregon's Integrated Water Strategy, which is due by 2012 and will be updated every five years thereafter. The first of these meetings will be held from 4-7 p.m. next Wednesday, March 31, at Gresham City Hall, 1333 NW Eastman Parkway, Gresham, Ore. Overview presentations will be given at 4 p.m. and 5:30 p.m. A copy of the event flier can be downloaded [here](#) (PDF).

Participants will have the chance to view displays, talk to state officials and other participants, listen to presentations, and ask questions. Other workshop dates include April 7 in Ontario, April 8 in Umatilla, April 22 in Bandon, April 28 in Tillamook, May 11 in Medford, May 12 in Klamath Falls, May 13 in Redmond, June 8 in Salem and June 10 in Eugene. Details and background info can be found [here](#).

» [Oregon's Integrated Water Strategy](#)

Posted by Jeff Stone at 11:36 AM

Labels: [Oregon](#), [Regulations](#), [Water](#)

0 comments:

Post a Comment

Comment as:

Post Comment

Preview



**PREP
BASEBALL:**

*Fruitland,
Payette battle in
SRV action*

A8

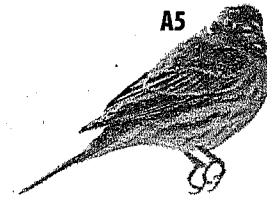
Argus

O B S E R V E R

LIFE SHOTS:

*See today's photographer
contributions*

A5



WEDNESDAY

APRIL 7, 2010 114th YEAR, NO. 69

www.argusobserver.com

18 PAGES | 2 SECTIONS 50 cents

Fruitland voters approve supplemental levy

LARRY HURRLE
ARGUS OBSERVER

FRUITLAND

Supporters of the Fruitland School District turned out in strong numbers Tuesday.

A total of 860 voters showed up to decide whether the district should be allowed a \$475,000 one-time supplemental

levy, which would help the school district offset expenses in the wake of a budget shortfall for the 2010-11 school year. In the end, 60 percent of voters favored the levy, securing the money for the district.

"We had a good turnout and good support," Fruitland School District Superintendent Alan Felgenhauer said. "We

knew we were asking for something we didn't want to. People are hurting, just like we are. The district didn't have a choice."

Of the 860 votes cast, 516 voters chose to approve the levy, while 344 voters said no.

Felgenhauer said money from the levy will go toward general operations of the three

Fruitland School District buildings that will remain open. The Fruitland School Board voted earlier this year to close the Fruitland Intermediate School, which houses the fourth and fifth grades, for at least the 2010-11 school year. Students from the fourth grades will be transferred to the new Fruitland

Elementary School, while fifth-grade students will be housed at the Fruitland Middle School.

The \$425,000 levy makes up less than half of \$1.2 million that was trimmed by the Idaho Legislature during its 2010 session. The remaining shortfall will be made up through cuts

SEE LEVY | PAGE A2

Preparing for fire season

SRV firefighter program starts to take shape for 2010 season

LARRY MEYER
ARGUS OBSERVER

VALE

As summer nears, the Bureau of Land Management's Snake River Valley firefighting program is ramping up for the coming fire season, and officials plan to hire 100 new firefighters this year. The BLM is also signing up private emergency incident support equip-



Water resources open house set today

ONTARIO

An open house to discuss concerns and priorities for Oregon's water future will take place from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. today at the Holiday Inn, Sawtooth Banquet Room, 1249 Tapadera Ave., Ontario.

For more information, contact Alyssa Mucken, (503) 986-0911, Alyssa.M.Mucken@wrdd.state.or.us, or visit www.wrdd.state.or.us.

Body found in Boise pond

Argus O B S E R V E R

Print Page

MONDAY MAY 17, 2010 Last modified: Thursday, April 8, 2010 10:14 AM PDT

Talking water issues

By LARRY MEYER
ARGUS OBSERVER

ONTARIO — People in eastern Oregon want to be heard and have their issues considered and put into the Oregon Integrated Water Resources Strategy.

That was main message from public comments being taken Wednesday for the development of the strategy by the state agencies involved in the project.

Two public meetings to take input were held back to back in Ontario Wednesday at the Holiday Inn. People attended the meetings from as far away as Baker County to provide comment, much of it pointed at officials on the west side of the state.



A large crowd attended an Oregon Integrated Water Resources Strategy open house Wednesday at the Holiday Inn in Ontario. Residents of eastern Oregon said they would like their issues considered and included in the strategy.

The lead agency for developing the strategy is the Water Resources Department, along with the Department of Environmental Quality, the Department of Fish and Wildlife and the Department and Agriculture.

“Oregon is one of two states without an integrated water strategy,” Brenda Bateman, senior policy coordinator for the Water Resources Department, said while opening the early session.

Bateman went on to say the strategy would address ground water, surface water, water quality, water quantity and ecosystems.

“We have been asked to take an integrated approach,” Bateman said.

The project, which was authorized by the Oregon Legislature, has a target date of December 2012 to complete a strategy to present to lawmakers. The project is in the second of five phases, the public participation state, to be followed by determining recommended actions, development of strategies and implementation.

Among the over-riding principles were recognizing that solutions may differ by basin and beneficial uses will be maintained and base strategies developed on best available science and local input, allowing for learning curve time, Bateman said.

The public input period was facilitated by Linda Rowe, manager for the Malheur County Soil and Water Conservation District. Challenges listed for water uses included a “lack of water” according to Gary Faw, conservation district technician. Curtis Martin, Baker County, said another challenge was how to manage water use during a drought.

Later in the session, Martin complained that eastern Oregon and agriculture are not being represented on panels addressing ecology and ecosystem issues.

A lack of funding for modernization of irrigation systems is part of the challenge, Malheur Experiment Station Superintendent Clint Shock said.

Shock later said Oregon State University has been a leader on this side of the state in developing integrated

policies and strategies but complained that it has received little support or recognition for its efforts.

“Part of the solution is cooperation,” Shock said.

Another issue he touched on was, while the aquifers on the wetter, west side of the state are charged by rain, shallow aquifers, which have made it feasible for drilling in Malheur County and other areas in the east, have been created and are recharged by irrigation systems. Shock said state agencies have not recognized that.

Besides challenges, participants were asked to propose solutions, education and vision.

Pat Sullivan, Baker County, warned that too aggressive conservation measures could have a negative affect and, in his area, could leaves his valley a dust bowl.

Tom McElroy, Vale rancher, said the return water from irrigation projects have provided fall water in the Malheur River.

“You can’t stop that,” McElroy said.

Rudolf Trenkel, Vale area farmer, said there had been plans to put a dam in the area of Vines Canyon to capture additional runoff water to hold for irrigation, but were stopped by state regulations. Providing for more storage of water was mentioned several times during the meeting.

State officials need to recognize that water on the east side has much higher value than water on the coast, state Rep. Cliff Bentz said.

Karen Riggin, Ironside, said sound science, “we can all believe in,” needs to be used in developing solutions.

Peggy Brown, Baker County, noted capturing the peak flows during runoff is what fills the reservoirs on the east side.

Several more open houses are planned around the state through June. The documents can be viewed on the Department of Water Resources Web site and there are options to make comments.

Want to get breaking news right to your computer? Go online to www.argusobserver.com and sign up for our E-Newsletter.



Wednesday, April 14, 2010

Public weighs in on water resources

Residents say people need to be more aware of water shortage

JENNIFER COLTON
Reporter

Wednesday, April 14, 2010



Audience member Jerry Cheek shares his comments during the Oregon Department of Water Resources' open house, Thursday at Umatilla City Hall.

Jennifer Colton / The Hermiston Herald

From current population to forest ownership to annual precipitation, Oregon maps covered the walls of Umatilla City Hall on Thursday during the Integrated Water Resources Strategy 2010 Open House.

Hosted by the Oregon Water Resources Department, the meeting was the third segment of an 11-part series to introduce Oregonians to the challenges of an integrated water system - a project under development by the state - and to encourage feedback from area residents.

About 60 people attended the Umatilla meeting, and one of the audience's biggest concerns was educating people about the scarcity of water in this region

"If you're not into ranching or farming, the average citizen in Hermiston, Pendleton, Umatilla, isn't really aware of how scarce water is here. I think we really need to get that out," Umatilla County Critical Groundwater Taskforce member Lyle Smith said.

Health issues, the availability of water, discrepancies between neighboring state water policies and the value of water were also topics discussed, as well as the pros and cons of different water sources, such as well water, which can become contaminated but may not be tested.

"We need to prove somehow what's in the water, and we're certainly not doing it now," Sam Nobles, also a taskforce member, said. "I think we better educate people on what we're doing about water."

When dealing with a water system, residents also worried the systems are becoming so efficient and water is tracked so well that groundwater is declining and not being replaced.

Hermiston businessman Fred Ziari, owner of IRZ Consulting, said innovation will be key to developing a water system.

"I think the strength of our state and the strength of our nation is in innovation and the use of technology," Ziari said. "We have paid very little attention to water technology, but this is where technology is happening. We can really expand the use."

Brenda Ortigoza Bateman, senior policy coordinator for the Oregon Water Resources Department, said the open houses are designed to talk about water quality and quantity and the Umatilla meeting went very well.

"You can tell that the people in this basin have been thinking about this and working on this from the technology side for a very long time," she said after the open house. "This is exactly what we need. We need to get this down on paper as part of the strategy so we can share it with the rest of the state."

For more information on the open house forums or the Integrated Water Resources Strategy, visit www.wrd.state.or.us and click on "Project Page."

Content © 2010 The Hermiston Herald
Software © 1998-2010 1up! Software, All Rights Reserved



Wednesday, April 14, 2010

Guest Editorial

Oregon Integrated Water Resource Strategy swayed by modern politics

By CURTIS W. MARTIN

Wednesday, April 14, 2010

Oregon's Water Resource Department has embarked upon a project, mandated by the 2009 Legislature (House Bill 3369), to review the management of water as prescribed in our water code, in existence for over 100 years.

One of the key points to understand is that it is totally politically motivated. It was not initiated by the Water Resources Department from a known problem needing correction, nor requested from any other agency or organization.

The concept that the 1909 Water Code is outdated and immutable is incorrect. It is not a stagnant document. It has been modified numerous times, as evidenced by the inclusion of minimum stream flows (benefiting aquatic habitat), codifying storage and delivery systems and prioritization of societal needs for the quality and quantity of this precious resource.

Nevertheless, the Integrated Water Resource Strategy is statutory and is being promulgated by a project team, assembled by the Water Resources Department. To their compliment, they have established good information about the "strategy" on the OWRD Web site, which I would encourage everyone interested in production agriculture to visit, become informed about and then participate in the "open house" sessions currently being held around the state - most recently in Umatilla. (See story page 1A)

Oregon Cattlemen's Association has multiple concerns with the IWRS. Lead among these are possible major changes to adjudicated water rights, as are now contained within the 1909 Oregon Water Code. The Sept. 29, 2009, OWRD Briefer states that although the Integrated Water Resource Strategy project is not "intended to overhaul water law or reallocate, but if during this process, statutory modifications are deemed necessary, the Water Resource Commission will forward recommendations to the Legislature to achieve the objectives of the Water Strategy."

Make no mistake, this clearly could jeopardize how and where we currently prioritize water use and management. The economy of this state would suffer in that businesses (not only agricultural) could no longer be sure that their supply of water would not be threatened.

Another issue of concern contained within IWRS is defining "peak and ecological flows." At this time there is no scientific clarity to "ecological flow." The eight-member "Ecological Flow Technical Advisory Group" (EFTAG), which is charged with defining this, has no representation from water delivery, water management, irrigation districts or, more importantly, agricultural interests. It is heavily weighted to fisheries and in-stream use entities. Also this "ecological flow" component of HB3369 was intended for considering the funding of future water projects, but has morphed into being part of the Integrated Water Resource Strategy.

The excessive cost and use of resources this project requires of OWRD, when there is an existing backlog of work, means timely attention to valid water issues will suffer. Another problem is the elevating of three other agencies, Oregon Department of Environmental Quality, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife and Oregon Department of Agriculture along with Oregon Department of Water Resources in determining and administering water policy. Although these other agencies have always had and continue to have their role in advisement, it seems their influence is expanded into Water Resources authority.

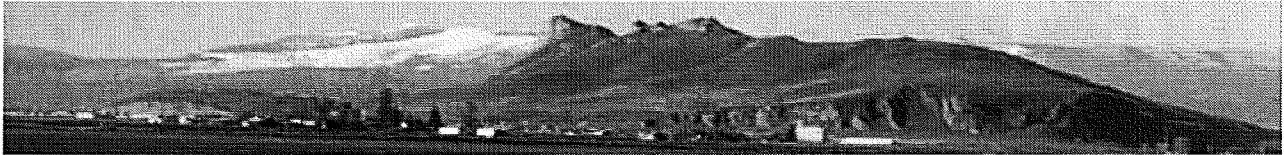
Once again I would remind you that this project is politically motivated, and is an outgrowth of the Water Roundtables conducted in 2008, initiated by the Senate Committee on Energy and Environment, chaired by Sen. Jackie Dingfelder.

In agreeing with the letter (Capital Press, March 19) from the four commission chairs, the Oregon Cattlemen's Association recognizes more demands will be put upon this limited supply of water and that participation from all affected is needed. We also know that there are opportunities to utilize more fully this precious resource, for both in-stream and out-of-stream uses.

At the same time, it is imperative that we do not threaten our economy, culture or the historical rights to the use of water that, for a large part, has made our standard of living the envy of the world. Please become informed and engaged in the Integrated Water Resource Strategy to make sure it benefits all of Oregon. Oregon Cattlemen's Association welcomes your comments.

Curtis W. Martin of North Powder, is the Water Resources Committee chair of the Oregon Cattlemen's Association.

Content © 2010 The Hermiston Herald
Software © 1998-2010 1up! Software, All Rights Reserved



Our Klamath Basin Water Crisis
 Upholding rural Americans' rights to grow food,
 own property, and caretake our wildlife and natural resources.

Oregon Integrated Water Resources Strategy

by Oregon Senator Doug Whitsett, District 28 4/16/10

<http://www.leg.state.or.us/whitsett>

The creation of an Oregon Integrated Water Resource Strategy was authorized in HB 3369 enacted by the 2009 Legislature. The bill requires the Oregon Water Resources Department (OWRD) to design a strategy to meet Oregon's in-stream and out-of-stream water needs. Moreover, it essentially elevates both the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (ODEQ) and the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODF&W) to co-equal status with the OWRD in determining what constitutes the best public benefits for the uses of the waters of the state. It also requires consultation with, and provides the specific functions and roles to be played by, the departments of State Lands, Human Services, Agriculture, Forestry, Economic and Community development, Land Conservation and Development, State parks and Recreation and the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board prior to making water allocation decisions. The strategy must include factors such as population growth, land use changes and water user actions that are necessary to address potential climate change.

I strongly opposed provisions of HB 3369 for a number of reasons.

First, it was unnecessary because existing state water law already address Oregon water strategy in detail. For instance, ORS 536.241 (2) notes that "it is the policy of the State of Oregon to ensure a water supply to meet the needs of existing and future beneficial uses of water to adequately manage the state's water resources". Further, ORS 536.310 states in part "proper utilization and control of the water resources of the state can be achieved only through a coordinated, integrated state water resources policy, through plans and programs for the development of such water resources." The existing statutes provide for the management of Oregon's water in a manner that equally protects all beneficial uses.

Second, it serves to reverse the specific provisions of current Oregon water law that delegates the management of the waters of the state to the OWRD. That provision was prudently adopted by previous Legislators to insure that a single agency would have the responsibility to smoothly and efficiently manage the waters of the state. I believe that a strategy developed and implemented by OWRD, ODEQ, ODF&W and other state agencies as a "water use committee" will create water use gridlock of biblical proportions.

Third, the bill had several particularly troubling provisions that I believe prevent any future Oregon funded water storage or conservation projects for irrigation.

It created the undefined terms “peak and ecological flows” as part of the loosely defined concept of “net environmental public benefits” as they must be applied to new state financed water storage and conservation projects. The legislation left it to the OWRD to define peak and ecological flows by rule. The committee established by OWRD to make that determination appears to be at best out of balance. While each committee member appears to be well qualified, each member appears to be either an academic or connected with an organization focused on protecting water in-stream for the primary benefit of fish and other aquatic species. Equally qualified individuals with agricultural backgrounds focused on sustainable water use for irrigation were not selected to participate. OWRD has confirmed that little if any public participation occurred in the selection of this panel.

Moreover the provisions of “net environmental public benefit” includes elimination of non-point source pollutant transport. The clean Water Act does not provide the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) authority to regulate non-point sources of nutrient transport such as agricultural irrigation return flows and storm water runoff. This requirement would give the ODEQ new and unfettered regulatory control over all non-point sources of water born nutrients and temperature. Another provision requires progress toward attainment of water quality standards. Virtually all Eastern and Southern Oregon streams and lakes are 303(d) listed for either temperature and or nutrients that allegedly exceed clean water standards. EPA has ignored the fact that most of these water bodies have exceeded those arbitrary standards for millennia. This provision would require the attainment of temperature and nutrient levels in 303(d) listed streams and lakes that exceed those natural background levels.

Fourth, I was very concerned that once these undefined terms had been introduced into Oregon statute their use would be expanded into other aspects of Oregon water law. The approach that the OWRD appears to be taking in implementing those new statutory provisions is validating my concerns. Foremost is the current effort by OWRD to define peak and ecological flows and their apparent intent to expand their application to apply to the Integrated Water Resources Strategy. Although the application of that terminology is statutorily restricted to the “net environmental public benefits” analysis for future state funded water storage or conservation projects (HB 3369, Section 18), I have seen multiple examples of recent OWRD issue papers and memoranda that indicate the agency’s intent to include “peak and ecological flow” determinations and other provisions of “net environmental public benefit’ into the Integrated Water Resources Strategy. That inclusion is clearly not authorized by HB 3369. The bill makes no reference to “peak and ecological flows” in the provisions creating the Integrated Water Resources Strategy. In fact, those terms do not exist in current Oregon water law.

The extension of that terminology to existing Oregon water law would have

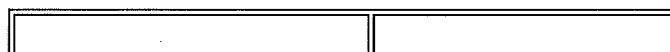
significant negative effects on irrigated agriculture. The in-stream water right provisions of Oregon water law determine the minimum amount of water needed to be left in the stream to meet the identified in-stream requirements such as habitat for fish and other aquatic species. The concept of “peak and ecological flows” appears to conflict, if not contravene, those current provisions because they speak to maximum seasonal flows such as seasonal flooding. Further, HB 3369 appears to provide for the legal protection of the yet to be defined peak and ecological in-stream flows, regardless of whether the flows are the minimum amount necessary, and regardless of the relative priority dates of other water right claimants. Providing OWRD, ODEQ, ODF&W and other state agencies authority to force elimination of non-point source nutrient transport would effectively eliminate all flood irrigation. Requiring progress toward meeting impossible water quality standards would have the same result.

Incorporation of those concepts into Oregon water law through their inclusion in the Integrated Water Resources Strategy would almost certainly preclude any future water storage projects. Further, it would likely threaten the historical and current practices of storing winter runoff in reservoirs for seasonal summer use. Finally, it would likely threaten historical and current diversions of water for out of stream irrigation use.

The statutory language of HB 3369 clearly confines those “net environmental public benefit” requirements to eligibility for the grant and loan programs established by the bill. In my opinion, most existing agricultural water users will be unable to comply with these requirements if OWRD is successful in expanding the statutory intent of HB 3369 to include the provisions of “net environmental public benefits” into the new Integrated Water Resources Strategy.

The Integrated Water Resources Strategy management team is currently holding a series of open house meetings in eleven Oregon towns to obtain public input and public support for their intended program. That team is made up entirely of upper level agency leaders. The meetings will be facilitated to keep the subjects for discussion focused on the issues that these agency employees want you to discuss. Local Integrated Water Resources Strategy meetings will be held from four to seven p.m. at the Medford Library on May 11th, again at from four to seven p.m. at OIT in Klamath Falls on May 12th, and again at four to seven p.m. at the Redmond Fire and Rescue on May 13th. Other meetings are scheduled April 22nd in Bandon, April 28th in Tillamook, June 8th in Salem and June 10th in Eugene.

The “enrolled” version of HB3369 is available on-line at Google by entering 2009 Oregon HB 3369. I encourage all Oregon water users to become familiar with the provisions of that bill. I believe that it is imperative that Oregon’s irrigators attend these meetings. They must be prepared to defend themselves against “yet another assault” on their right to use their vested irrigation water to farm.

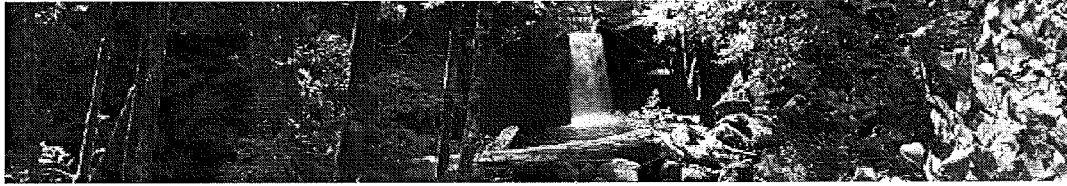


Home	Contact
----------------------	-------------------------

Page Updated: Saturday April 17, 2010 12:14 AM Pacific

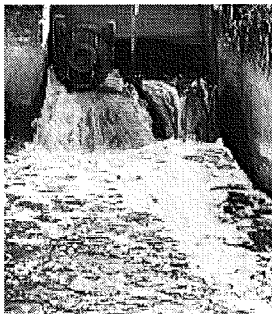
Copyright © klamathbasincrisis.org, 2010, All Rights Reserved

Tualatin Riverkeepers Action Alert



Speak Up on Oregon's Integrated Water Resources Strategy

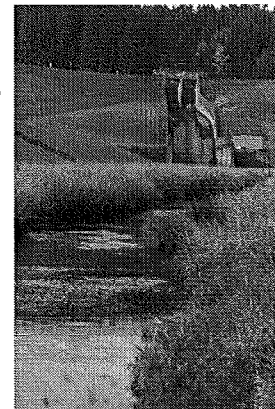
Oregon's Water Resources Department is traveling around the state to get citizen input on planning for Oregon's future water needs. Tualatin Riverkeepers urges you to use this opportunity to speak up on issues of concern:



- Is our drinking water safe?
- Will there be enough clean water for our native fish?
- How will we address pollution from stormwater runoff?
- Are we doing enough to conserve water?
- How will land use planning reduce water demand?
- Can we restore fish passage at dams?
- How will we pay for this plan?

Tualatin Riverkeepers Citizen Action Committee and the Tualatin River Watershed Council are hosting a Water Resources Department workshop for anyone interested in the future of Oregon's precious water resources. Staff from Oregon's Water Resources Department will lead a 1.5 to 2 hour workshop starting at 7 pm on Wed. April 21 at the Washington County Public Services Building in Hillsboro.

This will be a brainstorming session for us to voice what we think the developing Integrated Water Resources Strategy should address.



Oregon Integrated Water Resources Strategy Workshop
Wednesday April 21, 2010
7:00pm - 9:00pm
Washington County Public Services Building Cafeteria
155 N. First Ave in Hillsboro

RSVP to brian@tualatinriverkeepers.org

Read the League of Women Voters Report
[Water in Oregon: Not a Drop to Waste](#)

For further information on the strategy--
[the WRD link](#)



State water strategy plan draws fire

Updated: Thursday, May 06, 2010 9:08 AM

Critics question need, direction of statewide effort

By MITCH LIES
Capital Press

From concerns over the state misusing time and money to worries over the loss of water rights, complaints are surfacing over Oregon's integrated water resources strategy.

Some critics even question whether a need exists to create a long-term plan for addressing Oregon's future water needs.

"We have existing strategy contained within Oregon's 1909 Water Code," Curtis Martin, chairman of the Oregon Cattlemen's Association's water resources committee, wrote in a letter to the state.

Martin said the association "is very concerned with Oregon Water Resources Department's project."

In a letter to the editor of the Capital Press, Martin also said the process is politically motivated and not the result of a "problem needing correction."

He said the process is distracting the department from a backlog of water-use permit applications.

Brenda Bateman, senior policy coordinator with the OWRD, said the state is "very sensitive" to most of Martin's concerns. But, she said, Martin is incorrect to label the strategy a political process.

"The department and the governor's office for a long time now have been working to get in place the funding, resources and support for long-term planning of an integrated water resources strategy," Bateman said.

Bateman said the Legislature provided the department with funding for two full-time positions to work on the strategy. The department is not shifting duties away from permitting, she said.

Also, Bateman said, officials hope the strategy will better equip the department to process permits in a more timely fashion.

Other water users are also leery of a strategy.

"There are potential benefits for agriculture in the strategy through an interest in water-storage development, but there also are potential pitfalls for agriculture," said Katie Fast, government affairs director for the Oregon Farm Bureau.

Helen Moore of Water For Life said the water-user group is concerned on several levels.

"We believe that the department is going beyond what the legislation required," she said.

She also questions whether the ecological flow technical advisory committee is balanced.

"There is representation from an environmental organization, but no scientist from any water-user group," she said.

The committee includes a hydrologist from the Nature Conservancy. The committee was formed to define "peak and ecological flows," a phrase lawmakers included in a 2009 bill that allocated grant funds for water-storage project studies. Under the bill, grant applicants are required to address a project's impact on peak and ecological flows.

"Our concern is as they expand the use of those definitions, there will never be increased storage of water for out-of-stream uses," Moore said. "And there are a number of industries in this state that depend on the ability to use water."

Bateman countered that the committee's work will be peer-reviewed before it is adopted. And, she said, the state intends for the peak and ecological flow requirement to be considered only in regard to water-storage grant applicants.

"I can tell you from the multiple agencies involved and the governor's office that it is not the intent at all to remove or jeopardize water rights," Bateman said.

Ultimately, Fast said, "There is always potential when you're doing planning that it could have an impact on how water is managed.

"But hopefully, by staying involved, we can steer it in the right direction," Fast said.

Open houses set

The Oregon Water Resources Department is hosting six open houses in coming weeks on its Integrated Water Resources Strategy, beginning with three next week. Up next week are the following:

- * May 11: Medford Library, 205 S. Central Ave., Medford.
- * May 12: Oregon Institute of Technology, 3201 Campus Drive, Klamath Falls.
- * May 13: Redmond Fire and Rescue, 341 NW Dogwood Ave., Redmond.

All meetings begin at 4 p.m.

bendbulletin.com

The Bulletin

Local water strategy meeting set for today

Published: May 13, 2010 4:00AM PST



Oregon is developing an Integrated Water Resources

Strategy to look at water use and resource issues in the state, and is holding a series of open houses to find out what residents think are the challenges and potential solutions when it comes to water resources.

The Central Oregon open house will be held from 4 to 7 p.m. today at Redmond Fire and Rescue, 341 Dogwood Ave. in Redmond. Officials will give a presentation at 4 and 5:30 p.m.

Published Daily in Bend Oregon by Western Communications, Inc. © 2010

www.bendbulletin.com