



Introduction

The 75th Legislative Assembly passed HB 3369 in 2009, directing the Oregon Water Resources Department to develop a statewide, integrated water resources strategy in consultation with the Departments of Environmental Quality and Fish and Wildlife. The Water Resources Commission will provide notice of the strategy to the Environmental Quality Commission, Oregon Department of Agriculture, and Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife. The strategy will become effective upon adoption by the Water Resources Commission.

What Is a Statewide Integrated Water Resources Strategy?

The strategy, when finished, will be a roadmap for the state to follow as it prepares to meet Oregon's water needs now and in the future for both instream and out-of-stream uses from surface water and groundwater. The approach will be *integrated*, taking into consideration water quantity, water quality and ecological needs. The intent is to develop a framework, consisting of a set of tools, data, and resources with *statewide* relevance that communities can use to develop their water resource needs. The intention is not to overhaul Oregon water law as it relates to quantity and quality. Nor is the intention to lay out a plan that re-allocates water. If, during the process, statutory modifications are needed to achieve the objectives of the strategy, the Department will forward recommendations to the Legislature as part of its 2012 report.

Why Do We Need an Integrated Water Resources Strategy?

Surface water is nearly fully allocated during the summer months and groundwater is declining in many areas. More than 1,861 water bodies are impaired and not meeting water quality standards. There are also twenty-four fish species that have been identified as Threatened or Endangered under the Federal Endangered Species Act, while another 31 are listed as state sensitive species. These pressures, along with the potential challenges presented by climate change, population growth and changes to land use, highlight the urgency for an integrated strategy that meets Oregon's water needs.

Vision Statement

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.

Draft Preliminary Workplan and Issue Papers

In an effort to convey the urgency of planning for the future of Oregon's water resources, the Project Team, with help from other commissions and stakeholders, has developed a set of draft Issue Papers. A draft Preliminary Workplan has also been developed to define the strategy, outline the project timeline (Phases I through V), and describe the ways in which information will flow. The

Issue Papers and Preliminary Workplan are available on our website and can be accessed through the links below. The Project Team seeks your input and comments on these documents, both of which are still in development. Your suggestions will be shared at the next Water Resources Commission meeting scheduled for November 19 & 20, 2009, in Salem, Oregon.

http://www1.wrd.state.or.us/pdfs/Issue_Papers.pdf

http://www1.wrd.state.or.us/pdfs/Preliminary_Workplan.pdf

Get Involved

We want your help in shaping the strategy! Any comments, suggestions, or input we receive from you are important components of this process. Here are some ways you can get involved and receive new updates:

Fill out our kick-off survey, post a comment, or contact the project team.

Visit: http://www.wrd.state.or.us/OWRD/LAW/Integrated_Water_Supply_Strategy.shtml.

Sign up to receive news and notices about the Integrated Water Resources Strategy.

Visit: <http://listsmart.osl.state.or.us/mailman/listinfo/owsci>.

Host a workshop for your board or association members.

E-mail: waterstrategy@wrd.state.or.us or call: 503-986-0911.

Recent Activity

In August and September 2009, the project team met with the following groups to provide updates and solicit feedback on the strategy:

- Farm Bureau Water Committee
- Water Resources Commission
- Environmental Quality Commission
- Council of State Governments (OR, WA, ID, MT)
- Governor's Economic Revitalization Team
- Legislative Commission on Indian Services
- Oregon Planning Institute

Upcoming Events

- Oregon Water Resources Congress' 2009 Water Law Seminar
- Oregon Association of Nurseries' 2009 Annual Membership Convention
- Oregon Water Utility Council's September 2009 Meeting
- Senate Environment and Natural Resources Interim Committee's September Hearing
- House Environment and Water Interim Committee's October Hearing

Project Timeline & Progress Bar

Phase I: Setting the Stage (Fall 2009)	Phase II: Identifying Water Resource Needs (Spring 2010)	Phase III: Developing a Toolbox (2010-2011)	Phase IV: Producing the 1 st Strategy (2012)	Phase V: Project Review (2012)