

# Integrated Water Resources Strategy Update

Water Resources Commission  
Agenda Item B

Crystal Grinnell

March 13, 2025

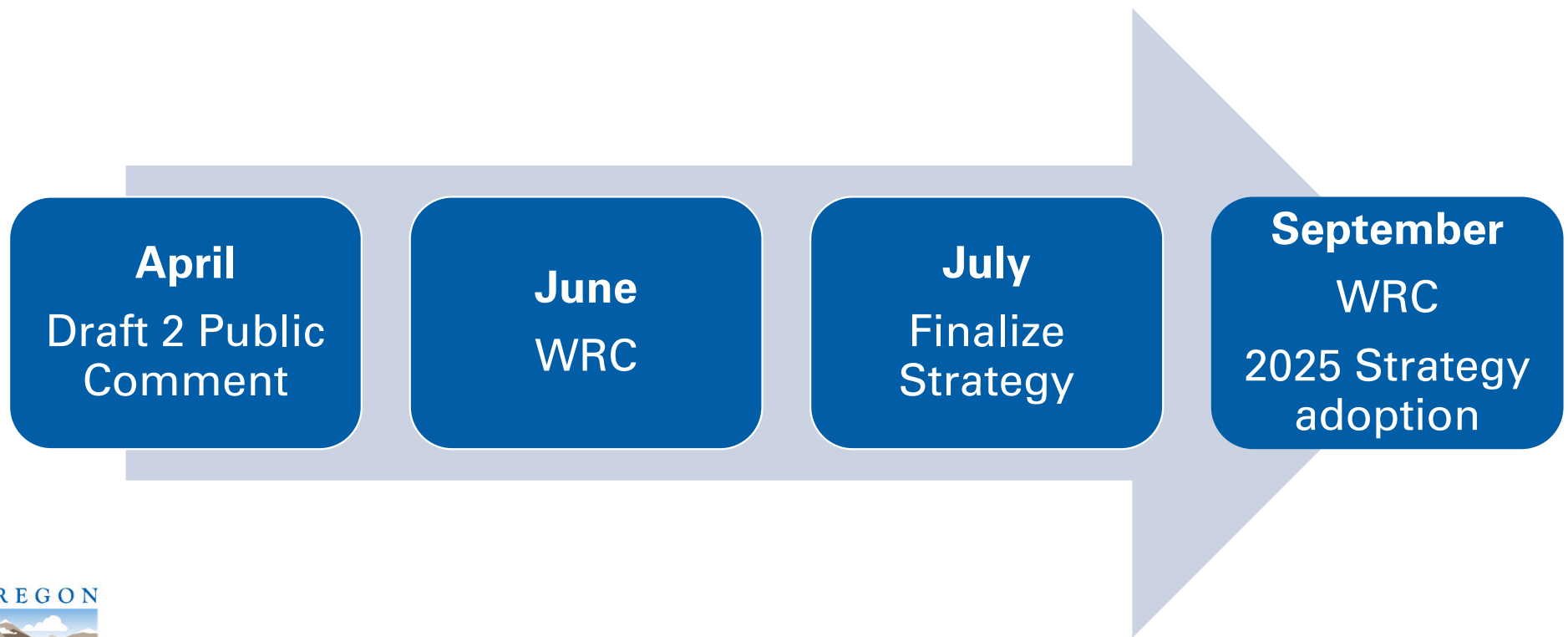


# Agenda

- Strategy Schedule
- Changes for Draft 2
  - Priorities
  - Framework
  - Document narrative



# Revised 2025 Strategy Schedule



## Slide 3

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**GW0** from Kim: slide 3 - increase font size in figure  
GONZALEZ Danielle L \* WRD, 2025-03-06T21:31:43.217

# Changes for Draft 2

- **Action Priorities**
- **Framework**
- **Narrative**



# State Action Priorities



## Act with Urgency

Prevent things from getting worse: protect water quantity and quality, and ecosystem needs



## Assist Communities Preparedness Efforts

Help communities and ecosystems prepare for water and climate changes



## Adapt to Doing More with Less

Optimize how we share scarce water resources among different instream and out-of-stream uses

# Refine Priorities

- Multi-agency efforts identified in 2024
- Action priorities for the next 5-7 years
- November 2024 meetings
  - Feedback from Tribes, partners, and public
- Quantify outcomes
  - Direction from the Governor
- Biennial Interagency Workplan



## Slide 6

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**GW0** From Kim: Slide 6 - recommend a different image

GONZALEZ Danielle L \* WRD, 2025-03-06T21:32:15.780

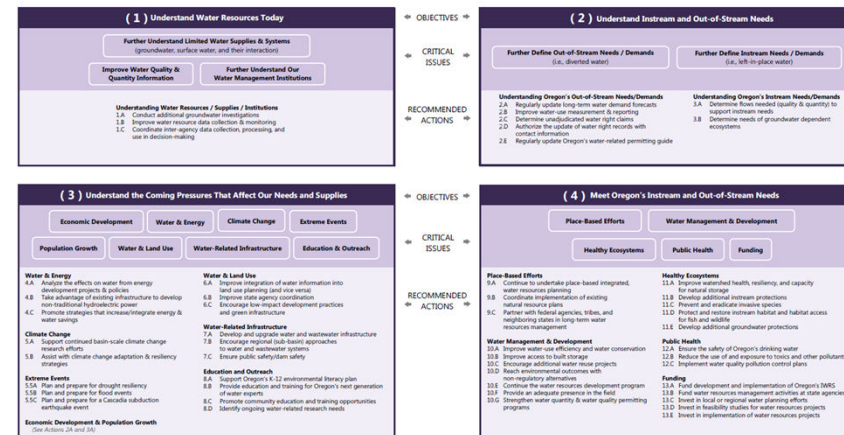


# Framework

- Public comment
- Return to 2017 order, with modifications
- Original four objectives
- Retain two new actions
- Move two actions to “example actions”
- Redistribute climate change actions

## Oregon's 2017 Integrated Water Resources Strategy

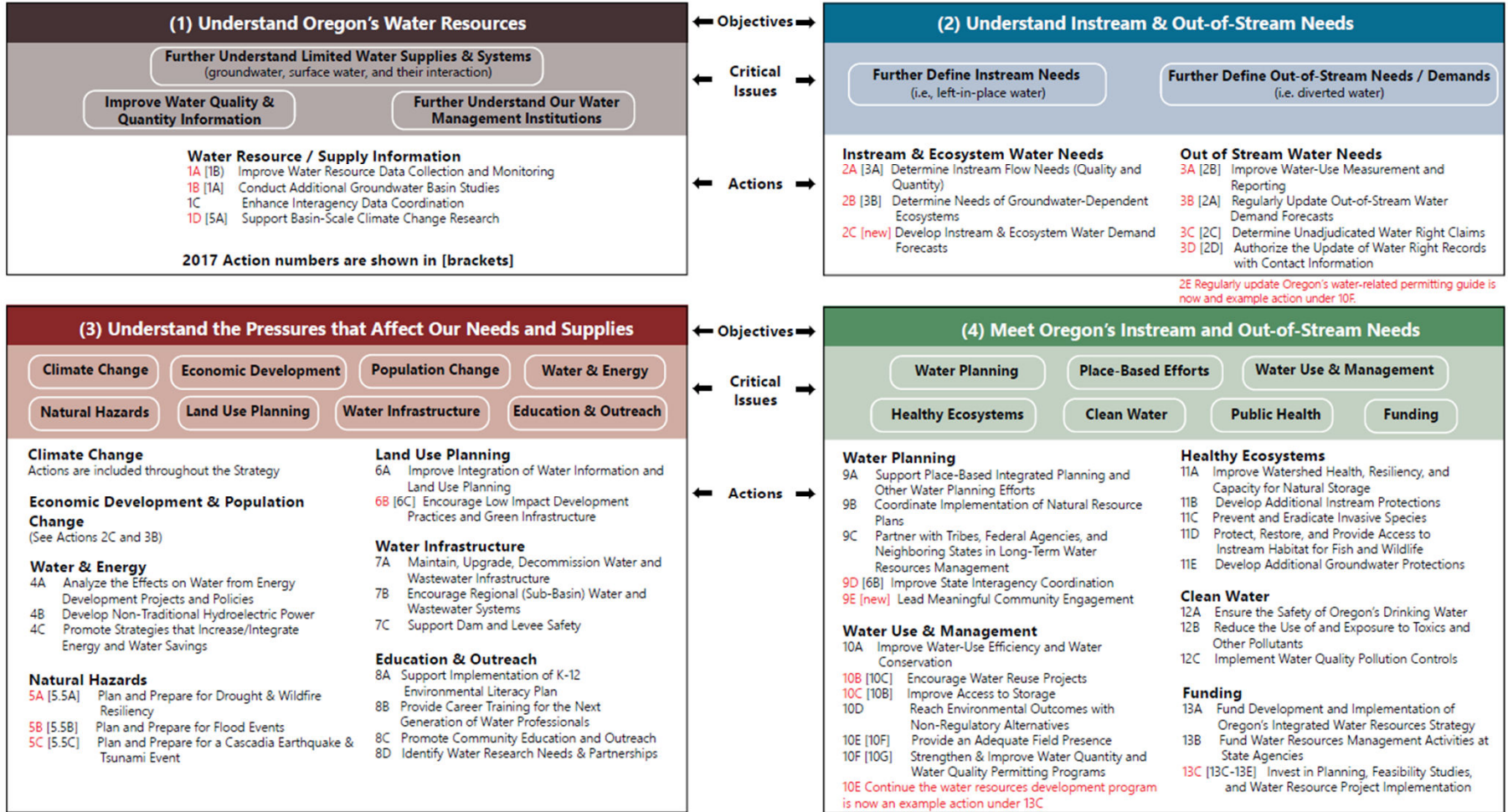
A framework for improving our understanding of Oregon's water resources and meeting our instream and out-of-stream needs, including water quantity, water quality, and ecosystem needs





# Oregon's 2025 Integrated Water Resources Strategy - Draft 2

A framework for improving our understanding of Oregon's water resources and meeting our instream and out-of-stream needs, including water quantity, water quality, and ecosystem needs



## Slide 8

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**GW0** from Kim:  
GONZALEZ Danielle L \* WRD, 2025-03-06T21:33:34.671

**GW0 0** Printouts needed  
GONZALEZ Danielle L \* WRD, 2025-03-06T21:33:44.968

**GW0 1** from Kim: yes, but this meeting is also held virtually and there won't have the printout  
GONZALEZ Danielle L \* WRD, 2025-03-06T21:35:13.875

## **(1) Understand Oregon's Water Resources**

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

**Improve Water Quality &  
Quantity Information**

**Further Understand Our Water  
Management Institutions**

### **Water Resource / Supply Information**

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

**2017 Action numbers are shown in [brackets]**

## (2) Understand Instream & Out-of-Stream Needs

### Further Define Instream Needs

(i.e., left-in-place water)

#### Instream & Ecosystem Water Needs

- 2A [3A] Determine Instream Flow Needs (Quality and Quantity)
- 2B [3B] Determine Needs of Groundwater-Dependent Ecosystems
- 2C [new] Develop Instream & Ecosystem Water Demand Forecasts

### Further Define Out-of-Stream Needs / Demands

(i.e. diverted water)

#### Out of Stream Water Needs

- 3A [2B] Improve Water-Use Measurement and Reporting
- 3B [2A] Regularly Update Out-of-Stream Water Demand Forecasts
- 3C [2C] Determine Unadjudicated Water Right Claims
- 3D [2D] Authorize the Update of Water Right Records with Contact Information

2E Regularly update Oregon's water-related permitting guide is now and example action under 10F.



### (3) Understand the Pressures that Affect Our Needs and Supplies

Climate Change

Economic Development

Population Change

Water & Energy

Natural Hazards

Land Use Planning

Water Infrastructure

Education & Outreach

#### Climate Change

Actions are included throughout the Strategy

#### Economic Development & Population Change

(See Actions 2C and 3B)

#### Water & Energy

- 4A Analyze the Effects on Water from Energy Development Projects and Policies
- 4B Develop Non-Traditional Hydroelectric Power
- 4C Promote Strategies that Increase/Integrate Energy and Water Savings

#### Natural Hazards

- 5A [5.5A] Plan and Prepare for Drought & Wildfire Resiliency
- 5B [5.5B] Plan and Prepare for Flood Events
- 5C [5.5C] Plan and Prepare for a Cascadia Earthquake & Tsunami Event

#### Land Use Planning

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

#### Water Infrastructure

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

#### Education & Outreach

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

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

### Water Planning

### Place-Based Efforts

### Water Use & Management

### Healthy Ecosystems

### Clean Water

### Public Health

### Funding

#### Water Planning

- 9A Support Place-Based Integrated Planning and Other Water Planning Efforts
- 9B Coordinate Implementation of Natural Resource Plans
- 9C Partner with Tribes, Federal Agencies, and Neighboring States in Long-Term Water Resources Management
- 9D [6B] Improve State Interagency Coordination
- 9E [new] Lead Meaningful Community Engagement

#### Water Use & Management

- 10A Improve Water-Use Efficiency and Water Conservation
- 10B [10C] Encourage Water Reuse Projects
- 10C [10B] Improve Access to Storage
- 10D Reach Environmental Outcomes with Non-Regulatory Alternatives
- 10E [10F] Provide an Adequate Field Presence
- 10F [10G] Strengthen & Improve Water Quantity and Water Quality Permitting Programs
- 10E Continue the water resources development program is now an example action under 13C

#### Healthy Ecosystems

- 11A Improve Watershed Health, Resiliency, and Capacity for Natural Storage
- 11B Develop Additional Instream Protections
- 11C Prevent and Eradicate Invasive Species
- 11D Protect, Restore, and Provide Access to Instream Habitat for Fish and Wildlife
- 11E Develop Additional Groundwater Protections

#### Clean Water

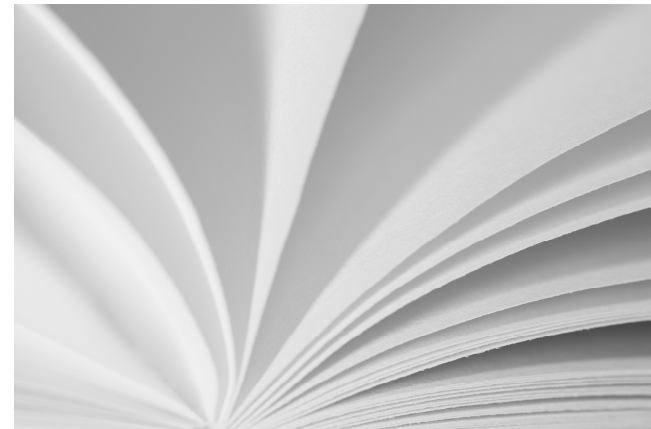
- 12A Ensure the Safety of Oregon's Drinking Water
- 12B Reduce the Use of and Exposure to Toxics and Other Pollutants
- 12C Implement Water Quality Pollution Controls

#### Funding

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

# Narrative for Draft 2

- New front section, Priorities
- Shortened introduction and context
- Multiple Appendices
- Example actions
  - Narrative
  - Action Summary Sheets (Appendix)





# Example Actions

## In Narrative:

**Groundwater Budgets for Major Hydrologic Basins**  
 The 2021 Legislature passed House Bill 2018 which directed the Water Resources Department to:

- Enter into a cost-sharing agreement with the U.S. Geological Survey to develop and publish groundwater budgets for all major hydrologic basins in the state;
- Contract with a qualified person to produce a peer-reviewed report on statewide consumptive water use;
- Expand the groundwater level monitoring network; and
- Help communities use the data collected under this bill to inform local water planning efforts.

The water use measurement component of this work is addressed in more detail under Action 3A.

**Improve Groundwater-Related Records**  
 The state collects and maintains a variety of groundwater-related records that well owners, consultants, and state agencies need to better understand Oregon's water wells, some examples are described below. Data specific to water users reporting their water use is called for in Action 3A.

**Well Location Data Gaps** – Wells were not required to be registered with the state until 1955. Since then, most well location information has been reported at a very coarse scale (within a 40-acre area). In 2009, requirements were put in place to obtain more precise location information for newly drilled exempt-use wells, which are most often used for domestic purposes. An estimated 230,000 such wells exist today, with several thousand more drilled each year. In 2014, the state updated its online mapping program to help well drillers and landowners record the location of new, existing, and unused water wells—including both exempt-use wells and permitted wells. On July 1, 2023, statutory changes require all well reports submitted to include the GPS coordinates of the well's location. Despite those efforts, Oregon has inadequate documentation of the number, location, and average water use of water wells.

**Water-Level Access** – Installation of measuring tubes help to ensure that accurate measurements or samples can be taken in water wells, without measurement equipment getting tangled in pumps or wires. This can be helpful particularly in deep wells. Several locations in Oregon, such as Eola Hills in Polk County, Pete's Mountain in Clackamas County, and Mosier in Wasco County have requirements to install measuring tubes during new well construction.

**Scheduled Measurements** – Agency scientists collect baseline information at the start of each irrigation season before any significant groundwater pumping begins. This activity is a high priority because it provides an annual snapshot of groundwater conditions that can be compared over time and contributes to Oregon's long-term understanding of the resource.

**Action 1B**  
 Conduct Additional Groundwater Basin Investigations

Examples of how to implement this action:

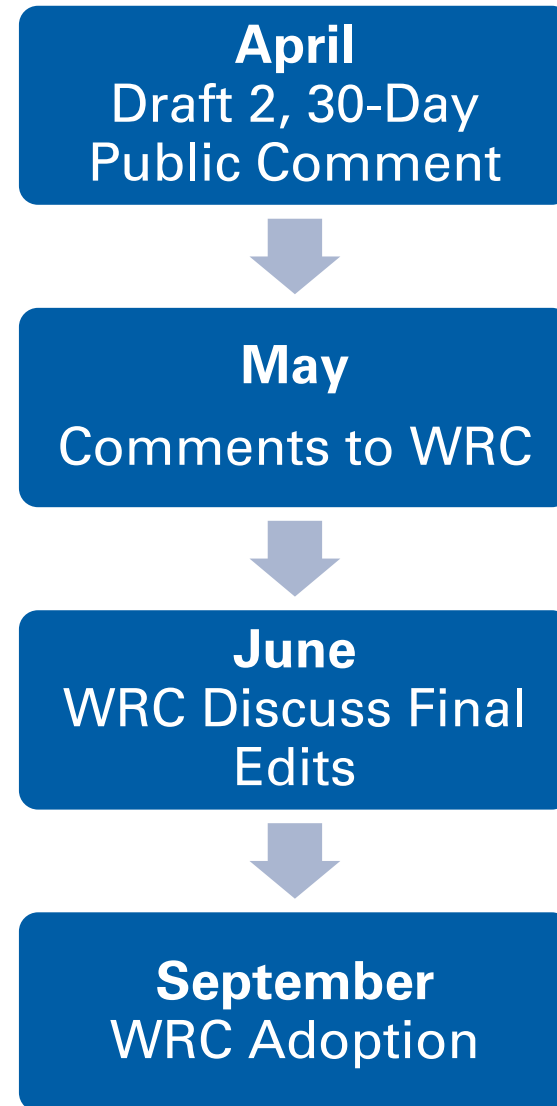
- Install and maintain dedicated state observation wells in priority basins
- Partner with U.S. Geological Survey to conduct and cost-share additional groundwater recharge studies and basin investigations
- Evaluate existing and potential establishment of new groundwater administrative areas; review time-limited permits more efficiently
- Locate and document water wells, including exempt use wells, permitted wells, and unused wells
- Ensure groundwater level measurements are high-quality; install measuring tubes and make scheduled measurements
- Investigate connections between groundwater and surface water, particularly where groundwater sustains summer low flows and/or discharges cold water
- Support and coordinate with ODEQ's Groundwater Monitoring Program (water quality)
- Incorporate groundwater quality and quantity information into Oregon's Environmental Justice Mapping Tool

## In Appendix:

Critical Issue: Water Resource/Supply Information	Action 1B Conduct Additional Groundwater Basin Investigations
<p><b>Lead Agencies</b> ODEQ, OWRD, USGS</p> <p><b>Supporting Agencies</b> DOGAMI, ODA, ODFW, OHA, USEPA, USFS</p> <p><b>Possible Partners</b> Tribes, local governments, OSU Extension Service, public and private research institutions</p>	<p><b>Purpose</b>                      Accurate well location and use information, aquifer water-level data, and water quality data are critical for assessing groundwater resources. Oregon has a need for additional basin-scale investigations to further understand the relationship between groundwater and surface water, and their availability. Conducting basin studies is a priority for the state, which typically evaluates groundwater resources through cooperative, cost-share programs with federal agencies.</p> <p>OWRD needs adequate data to evaluate and assess whether groundwater administrative areas are meeting the goals of groundwater stabilization, groundwater recovery, and protection of existing water rights. The state needs to dedicate resources to determine whether additional areas require groundwater designations. Additionally, ODEQ needs additional resources to support the Statewide Groundwater Monitoring Program, which has seen funding and staffing reductions since 2017.</p> <p><b>Example Actions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Install and maintain dedicated state observation wells in priority basins</li> <li>• Partner with U.S. Geological Survey to conduct and cost-share additional groundwater basin investigations.</li> <li>• Evaluate existing and potential establishment of new groundwater administrative areas; review time-limited permits more efficiently</li> <li>• Locate and document water wells, including exempt use wells, permitted wells, and unused wells</li> <li>• Ensure groundwater level measurements are high-quality; install measuring tubes and make scheduled measurements</li> <li>• Investigate connections between groundwater and surface water, particularly where groundwater sustains summer low flows and/or discharges cold water</li> <li>• Support and coordinate with ODEQ's Groundwater Monitoring Program (water quality)</li> <li>• Incorporate groundwater quality and quantity information into Oregon's Environmental Justice Mapping Tool</li> </ul> <p><b>Resources</b></p> <p><i>Agency Programs</i>                      ODEQ Groundwater Protection Program and Groundwater Monitoring Program, OWRD Groundwater Monitoring Program, Deschutes Groundwater Mitigation Program</p> <p><i>Workgroups</i>                      ODEQ &amp; OWRD Groundwater Technical Advisory Team</p> <p><i>Documents</i>                      2021 Oregon Groundwater Resource Concerns Assessment                      2021 Review of Deschutes Groundwater Mitigation Program Report                      2021 DOGAMI Bulletin 108 - Geology of the North Half of the Lower Crooked River Basin, Crook, Deschutes, Jefferson, and Wheeler Counties, Oregon</p> <p><i>Data</i>                      OWRD Groundwater Information System (GWIS)</p>

# Next Steps

Moving toward final 2025  
Strategy adoption in  
September



OREGON



WATER RESOURCES  
DEPARTMENT

Thank you!

 [Oregon.gov/owrd](https://Oregon.gov/owrd)

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