

Integrated Water Resources Strategy Draft 2 Public Review and Comment

**Water Resources Commission
Agenda Item C**

Crystal Grinnell and Chandra Ferrari

June 12, 2025



Agenda

- Schedule
- Draft 2 Public Comment
- Agency Priorities
- Steps to Final 2025 IWRS



2025 Strategy Schedule

Legislative Session Ends



Draft 2 Public Comment



- **20 sets of comments**
- **Tribes**
- **Organizations**
- **Individuals**

Public Comment – Tribal Nations

- Confederated Tribes of the Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw Indians
- Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde Community of Oregon
- Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation

Public Comment - Organizations

- American Rivers
- Consolidated Oregon Indivisible Network
- Oregon Association of Conservation Districts
- Oregon Association of Nurseries
- Oregon Environmental Council
- Oregon Farm Bureau
- Oregon Water Resources Congress
- Portland Bureau of Environmental Services
- WaterWatch of Oregon
- Wild Salmon Center

Public Comment - Individuals

- Daniel Elefant
- Gary Young
- Gordon Lyford
- Karen Loomis
- Ken Thompson
- Robin Lee
- Robin Vora
- Ursula Bechert

Public Comment – Common Themes

- Document is comprehensive
- Funding is critical
- Appreciate climate additions
- Groundwater concerns



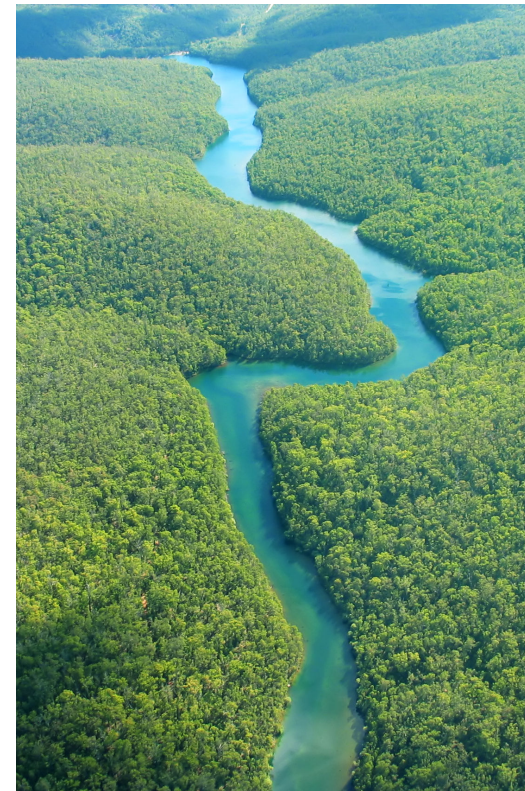
Public Comment – Specific Topics

- Domestic wells
 - Locate and map all exempt wells
 - Voluntary program to install water meters and report water use
- Instream Water Rights
 - Better measurement
 - Improved management, field staff training
 - Ineffective



Public Comment – Specific Topics

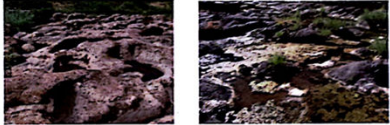
- Methane emissions from dams related to climate change
- Acknowledge connection between groundwater and surface water
- Storage (natural v. built) for climate change



Public Comment – Specific Topics

- Industrial water demands on the Siletz River
- Signs where water is unsafe (e.g., harmful algal blooms)
- Discuss 6PPD-Q threat to salmon

HEALTH ADVISORY
South Umpqua River
AVOID POOLS OF WATER IN BEDROCK ALONG THIS RIVER





Cyanobacteria (blue-green algae) can produce toxins that can cause serious illness in pets, animals and humans.

- Dogs have died after drinking water from these potholes. Autopsies showed they swallowed toxic algae.
- Stay out of rock formations along the shore.
- Avoid water contact. Do not drink the water.
- Children and pets are at greatest risk.

When in doubt, stay out: don't go in water that is scummy, thick like paint, pea-green or blue-green.

For more information contact Douglas County Health Department: 541-440-3574
OHA Public Health Division: 1-877-290-6767 or www.healthoregon.org/hab



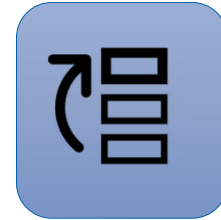
Public Comment - Priorities



- Support v. Oppose changes from fall 2024 Draft “post-its”
- Acknowledged comments from fall 2024 were addressed
- Want more opportunities for input
- Lopsided towards instream and ecosystem needs

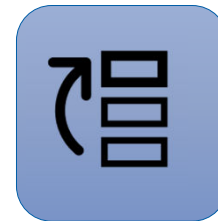


Public Comment - Priorities



- Support addressing GW Quality Act
- Support interagency cooperation throughout
- Request to add municipalities and counties as partners
- Add other state agencies (State Lands and Parks and Recreation Department)
- Identify “fully funded,” “partially funded,” “no new funding”

Public Comment - Priorities



- Lacking words “instream and out-of-stream” within tasks
- Critical of measurable outcomes and directing agency action
- Appreciate focus on “robust water planning, protection of critical habitats, water data...”



Next Steps

Moving toward final 2025
Strategy adoption in
September



June-July

IWRS Team
incorporates public
comment



August

WRC Receives Final
Draft



September

WRC Target
Adoption

Narrative Revisions for Final IWRS

- Agency responses to public comments provided to WRC with Final IWRS in August

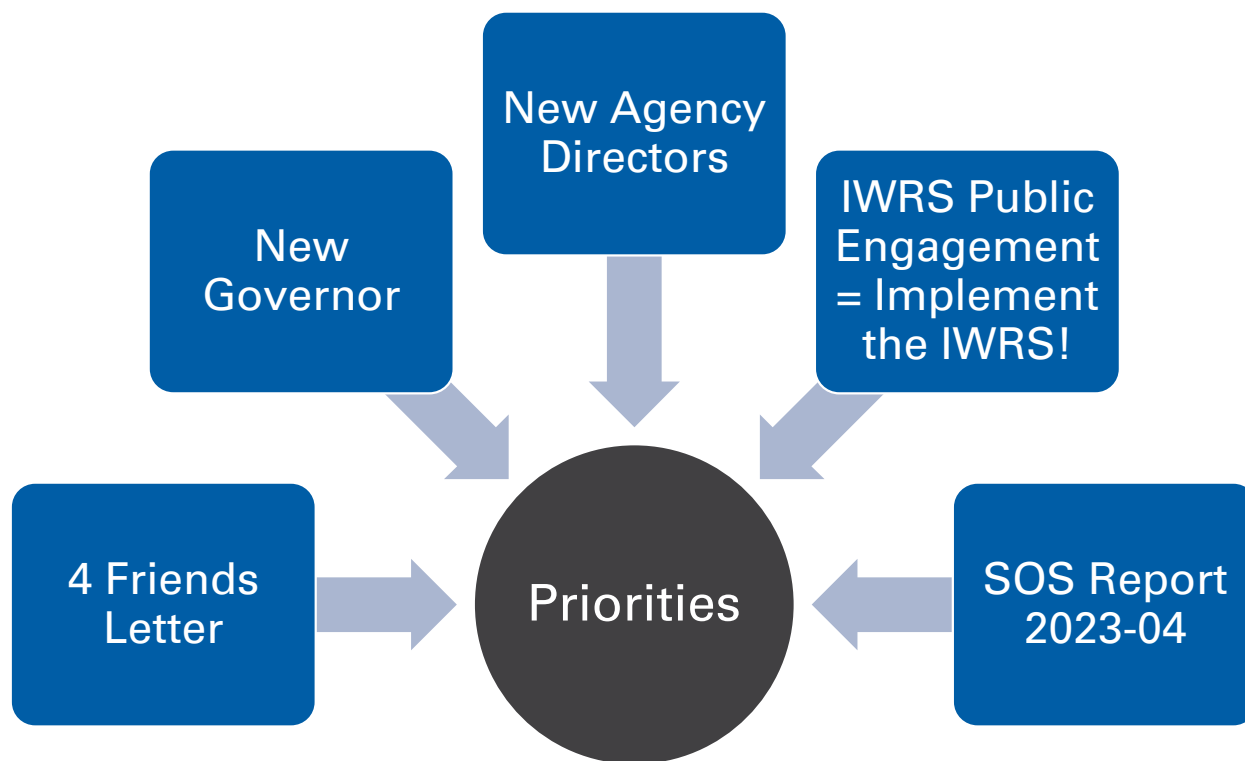


Agency Action Priorities

- **Context**
- **Process**
- **Review Priority Areas**



Agency Priority Areas - Context

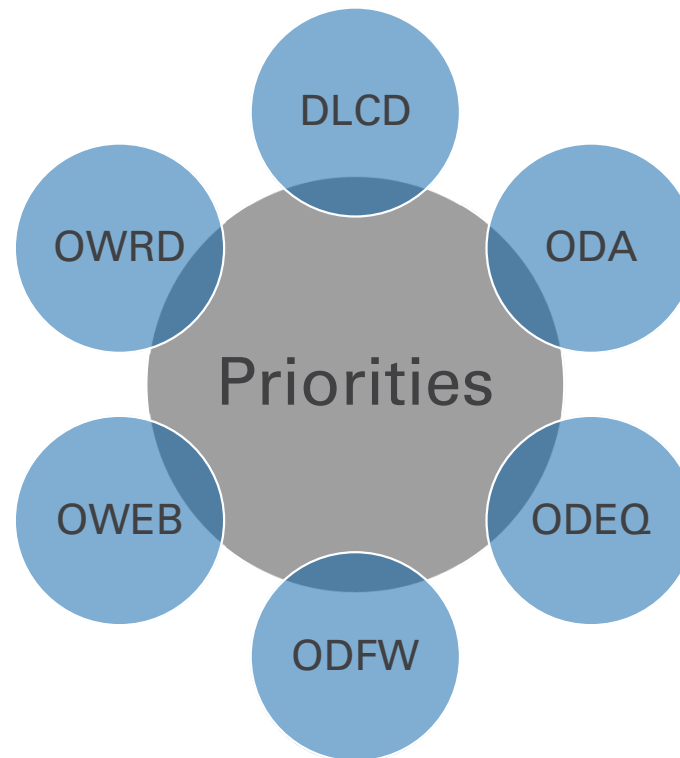


Agency Priority Areas

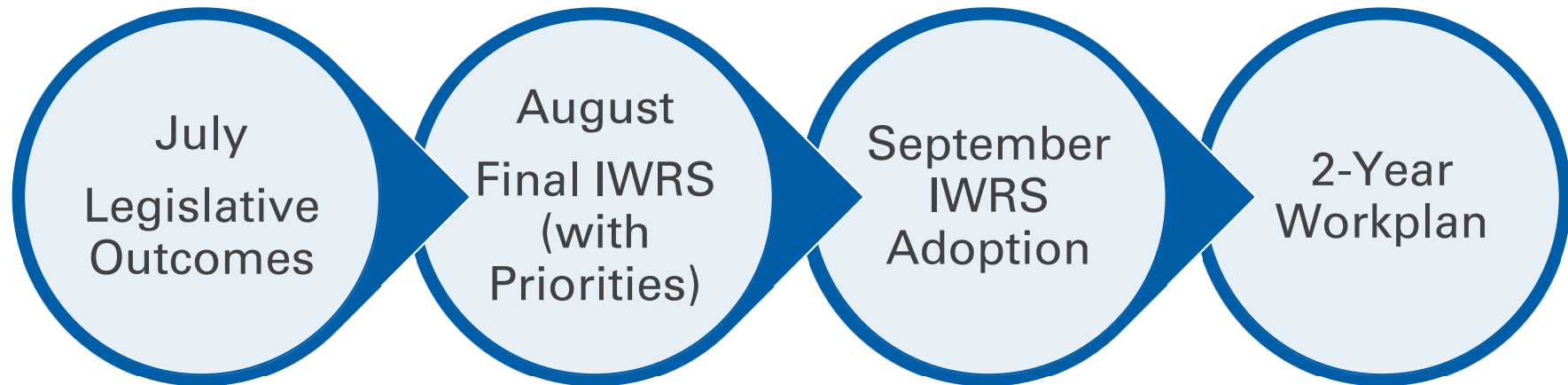
- Act with Urgency
- Assist Community's Preparedness Efforts
- Adapt to Doing More with Less



Measurable Outcomes



Priorities and 2-Year Workplan



Review Agency Priorities

Tasks for OWRD will be included in Strategic Plan

Priority 1
ACT

Priority 2
ASSIST

Priority 3
ADAPT

policy, regulations,
permitting,
compliance,
protection

communication,
data, planning,
technical assistance

incentives &
technical assistance
for project
implementation

Priority Area 1 – Act with Urgency

Tasks:

- Modernize Oregon's water laws
- Modernize permitting and reduce backlogs
- Update Oregon's Groundwater Quality Act
- Evaluate models to adequately fund agency work

Priority Area 1 – Act with Urgency

Tasks:

- Gain compliance
- Improve coordination with Memoranda of Understanding and State Agency Coordination Plans
- Protect cold water refugia
- Legal instream protections

Priority Area 2 – Assist Community Preparedness Efforts

Tasks:

- Communications & public awareness
- Water availability reporting system update
- Groundwater, surface water, and water use data
- Basin studies, assessments, and instream flow studies
- Oregon Water Data Portal
- Modernize IT systems

Priority Area 2 – Assist Community Preparedness Efforts

Tasks:

- Place-based & other water planning
- Technical assistance for public water systems
- Co-create Ag Water Quality Management Area and Total Maximum Daily Load plans
- Technical assistance for land use planning

Priority Area 3 – Adapt to Doing More with Less

Tasks:

- Ag innovation, modernization, and conservation
- Infrastructure projects including conservation, resilience
- Increased support for reuse
- Strategic funding for watershed restoration
- Instream flow restoration
- Protect existing resources on ag land
- Protect drinking water sources

OREGON



WATER RESOURCES
DEPARTMENT

Thank you!

Crystal Grinnell

Integrated Water Resources
Strategy Specialist



Oregon.gov/owrd



[@OregonGovWRD](https://www.youtube.com/@OregonGovWRD)



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