

# Integrated Water Resources Strategy Proposed Adoption

Water Resources Commission  
Agenda Item A

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September 11, 2025



# Agenda

- Review Engagement Efforts
- Changes for Final Draft
- Consider Adoption
- Adoption Resolution



**2023**

Progress  
Report

Engagement

Begin Draft

**2024**

Multiagency  
Priorities

New  
Leadership

Draft 1 Public  
Review

**2025**

Draft 2 Public  
Review

Final 2025  
IWRS

Adoption

# Engagement Efforts



- **Tribes**
- **Public**
- **Interagency Survey**
- **Organizations**
- **Boards, Commissions, Committees**

# Tribal Engagement Efforts

- 2022-2025 - 5 letters to Tribal leadership providing an opportunity to engage through consultation and/or coordination
- 2022-2025 - Multiple updates, presentations provided to the Natural Resources Working Group and Cultural Resources Cluster
- 2023 – Formal Consultation with 1 Tribe before Draft 1
- 2023 - Presentation at Changing Currents Tribal Water Summit
- 2024 - Agency priority listening sessions
- 2025 - Comments from 3 Tribes on Draft 2; changes incorporated into final draft

# Oregon's Kitchen Table

- Facilitated Engagement
  - 7 In-person Community Conversations
  - 1 Virtual Community Conversation
  - Culturally-specific conversations
  - 3 Youth-specific events
- Self-led Conversations
- Public Survey (9 languages)
- Almost 2,000 people participated



## Oregon's Kitchen Table – Community Engagement on Oregon's Integrated Water Resources Strategy

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Oregon's Integrated Water Resources Strategy (IWRs) provides a statewide inter-agency framework for better understanding and meeting Oregon's instream and out-of-stream water needs. Oregon's Water Resources Commission adopted the first IWRs in 2012 and updated it in 2017. Oregon Revised Statute (536.220) requires that the IWRs be updated every five years. The current (2017) version of the IWRs includes 51 different strategies that the 14 state agencies who are involved in water issues can implement across four broad objectives.

During the winter and spring of 2023, Oregon Water Resources Department (OWRD) worked with Oregon's Kitchen Table (OKT), to conduct a public engagement process to hear from people throughout Oregon about what they want to see in the next version of the IWRs. Approximately 1900 people from every county in Oregon participated in the different forms of engagement activities. People participated in seven languages.

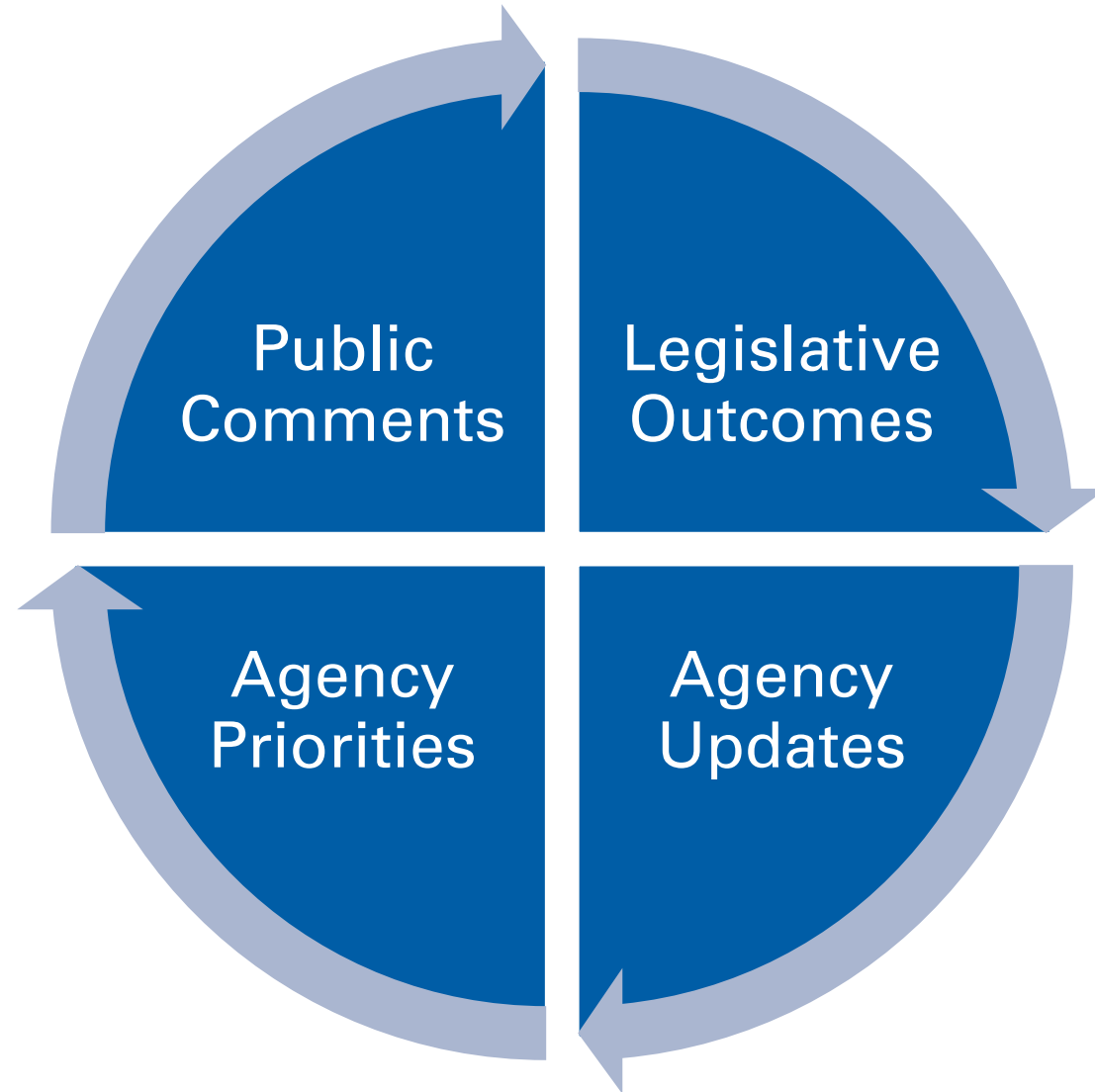
This Executive Summary provides an overview of the engagement process as well as high level findings. The attached report contains nine sections in addition to the Executive Summary:

- A description of the project's outreach and engagement activities;
- Awareness of the IWRs and water issues in Oregon;
- Concerns people have around water;

Oregon's Kitchen Table – Integrated Water Resources Strategy Update | Spring 2023



# Changes for Final Draft





# Key Changes from Draft 2



- **20 sets of comments**
  - Tribes
  - Organizations
  - Individuals
- **State and federal agency review**



# Key Changes

- Introduction, updated objective descriptions and revised agency priorities
- New – Letter from OWRD's Director
- Federal updates



# Key Changes – Tribe Requests

- Action 3C, modified narrative to clarify US v Oregon applies specifically to Klamath Basin
- Action 4A, added narrative to acknowledge reservoirs contribute methane emissions and Willamette Valley dams are Columbia River dams
- Climate Change, new text describing Figure 3-3 for reported dry wells

# Key Changes – Tribe Requests

- Action 6B, added paragraph about 6PPD-quinone
- Action 9C, added paragraph about Tribes and EPA-granted Water Quality Standards (also to Action 12C)
- Action 10E, new example action “OWRD to provide guidance to field personnel on administering instream water rights”
- Action 11A, example action modified from “collaborate with Tribes...” to “collaborate and/or consult with Tribes...”

# Key Changes – Tribe Requests

- Action 11B, new example action “improve process for resolving instream water rights protests”
- Action 12C, added potential for rescission of federal Tribal Reserved Rights Rule
- Appendix A, modified description of Tribes’ historic presence in Oregon

# Key Legislative Outcomes

- Action 9C Partner with Tribes, Federal Agencies, and Neighboring States in Long-Term Water Resources Management
  - HB 2069 Tribal consultation task force
- Action 10B Encourage Water Reuse Projects
  - HB 2169 Interagency water reuse coordination and improvement

# Key Legislative Outcomes

- Action 10D Reach Environmental Outcomes with Non-Regulatory Alternatives
  - HB 3806 Deschutes basin water banking
- Action 11E Develop Additional Groundwater Protections
  - SB 1154 Groundwater quality management
- Action 12A Ensure the Safety of Oregon's Drinking Water
  - HB 3525 Landlord water quality reporting for drinking water wells

# Introduction and Appendix E Agency Priorities 2025-2033



Act with  
Urgency



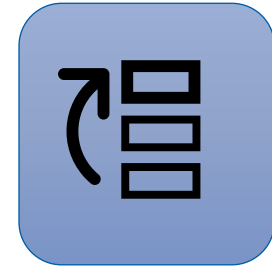
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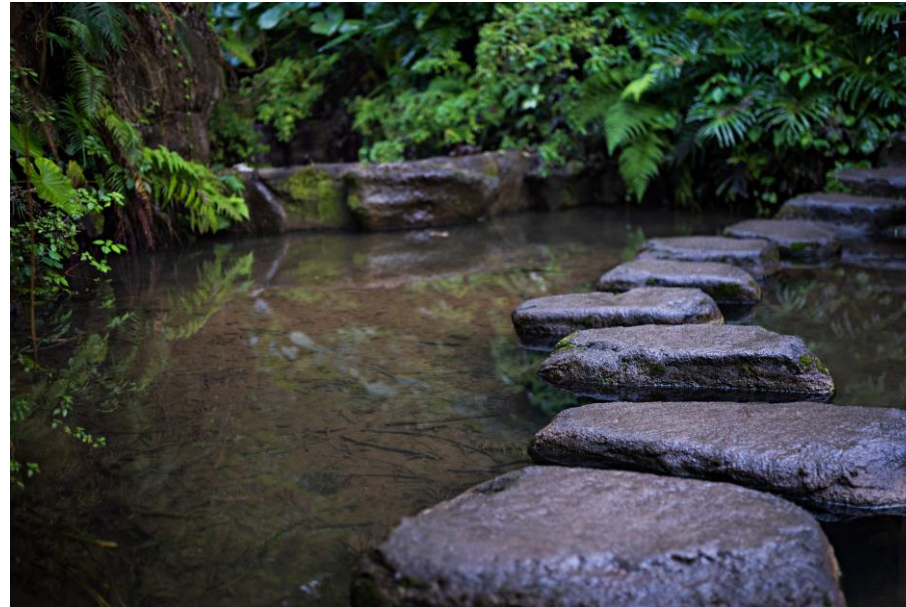
Adapt



# Agency Priorities 2025-33



- Direction to include “measurable outcomes”
- Multi-agency leadership
- Informs newly required biennial workplan



## Priority Area 1: Act with Urgency to Protect Instream and Out-of-Stream Uses

**P1.1** Reduce unauthorized water use and **gain compliance** with other water laws

**P1.2** Provide guidance for what constitutes reasonable use of water

**P1.3** Increase the use of existing programs and tools and develop new programs and tools that **protect priority waters and/or watersheds** that support instream needs and promote resiliency

**P1.4** Expand efforts to **protect** the quality of surface and groundwater **sources that provide drinking water** to Oregonians

**P1.5** Implement **improvements to water permitting processes** to improve transparency, efficiency, and effectiveness of decisions

## Priority Area 2: Assist the State and Communities to Prepare for Water Scarcity

**P2.1** Increase quality and **accessibility of water availability, water use, and water demand information**

**P2.2 Modernize water data systems** and website user interfaces to facilitate wider data sharing amongst agencies and the public and enhanced customer service

**P2.3** Improve understanding of instream and out-of-stream needs through increased numbers of completed **basin assessments, instream flow studies, and clean water plans**

**P2.4** Increase the number of communities and Tribes that have completed or are participating in **water planning efforts** to meet instream and out-of-stream water needs, protect drinking water sources, improve water quality and promote drought resiliency

**P2.5** Increase the involvement of OWRD in advisory committees for Economic Opportunity Analyses (EOAs) and implement other actions to better align **land use planning and actions with water resource goals**

## Priority Area 3: Adapt to Water Scarcity by Stretching Our Water Supplies

**P3.1** Increase the pace and scale of completion of **water reuse and aquifer storage, recovery and recharge projects** that support resilience and protect the environment

**P3.2** Increase the number of water users that are planning for or implementing **water conservation, efficiency, or modernization** efforts that support resilience or improve instream flows

**P3.3** Align existing and future agency funding and incentives programs to further **instream flow restoration, groundwater recharge, source water protection, and water quality and habitat improvement** efforts in priority basins/watersheds

**P3.4** Identify priority areas and/or guidance for new **above and below ground storage** that would support resilience and protect public health and the environment

**P3.5 Improve water right transfer processing times** for lower risk transfers to facilitate the movement of water to high-priority use

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# 2025-27 Workplan Development

- Multi-agency
- Reflect 2025-27 Legislatively Adopted Budget
- October Draft
- Public Comment



# 2027-29 Workplan Development

**2026**



**2027**



# Consider Adoption

- **Option 1: Adopt the 2025 Strategy as proposed in Attachment 1**
- **Option 2: Adopt the 2025 Strategy as proposed in Attachment 1, with modifications**
- **Option 3: Do not adopt the 2025 Strategy, directing staff to return with a revised 2025 Strategy for the Commissions' consideration**



# Adoption Resolution

- **Provided in Attachment 3**

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WATER RESOURCES  
DEPARTMENT

# Thank you!

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



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