IWRS Conclusion: Next Steps

Oregon's Integrated Water Resources Strategy contains a number of Recommended Actions, which, taken together, provide a blueprint for the State of Oregon to follow in order to understand and meet its water resource needs. The reality of our national, state, and local economic situation means that implementation of these Recommended Actions may not be as robust or aggressive as desired.

However, the current economy cannot curb Oregon's commitment to meeting current and future water needs, which include economic growth and environmental protection. Oregon's goal is to secure successful outcomes in both of these areas, and the Integrated Water Resources Strategy offers a series of "next steps" to get us there.

This Strategy offers an opportunity to take a long-term approach to water resource management, setting forth a workplan and budget according to five- and ten-year outcomes.

Five-Year Outcome:
Provide essential services and conduct in-basin work,
improving Oregon's ability to understand and meet its water needs.

Ten-Year Outcome (2017-22):
Strengthen essential services and in-basin work, positioning Oregon
to address emerging issues that affect our water needs and supplies.

The "Next Steps," enumerated below, require attention during the implementation phase (2012-17). Some steps are already underway, either as part of ongoing efforts, or because they do not require additional funding or authorizations from the Oregon Legislature. Some steps require assistance from the Oregon Legislature, which meets next in 2013. Other steps have been deferred until 2015, in order to implement in stages. All Recommended Actions described in the IWRS are reflected in the workplan.

These Next Steps operationalize the Recommended Actions noted throughout the IWRS, providing further detail about the likely lead agency, staffing and budget requirements. Several draw upon more than one Recommended Action, as noted.

How Oregon goes about implementing these steps is important as well. The State has made commitments on a number of fronts, including accountability, a balanced approach, collaboration, an open public process, reasonable cost, science-based approaches, streamlining, and other principles memorialized in the IWRS framework. Policy-makers responsible for implementation have a duty to conduct the next phase as carefully as they did in the development of the IWRS.

Essential Services (focus state-wide, not a particular basin):
Steps Already Underway in 2012

Step	Contributing Recommended Actions	Staff Required per 2 yrs	Total Cost Estimates per 2 yrs	Lead Agency(ies)	Requires Legislative Concept?
• Update Oregon's Inter-Agency Permitting Guide. In Oregon, protecting natural resources means a variety of local, state, and federal permits are required for residential, industrial, commercial, and public works projects in or near water and wetlands. The primary goals of these requirements are to avoid, reduce, or compensate for impacts to the state's natural resources. The state has developed a permitting resource for developers, planners, and economic development officers. The guide needs to be updated with new contact information, web links, and requirements.	2D	Intern	0	DSL, state & federal ptnrs	No
• Water Conservation and Efficiency. Revise informational materials supporting the agricultural and municipal Water Management and Conservation Plans programs and Allocation of Conserved Water program, to help make the business case to water users and to provide clearer guidance about how to participate in and use these programs. Improve partnerships with energy efficiency programs; cross reference to Oregon's 10-year Energy Plan.	4C, 10A	Intern	0	WRD, DOE ODA,OWEB	No
• Down-scale Climate Change Models to the Basin Level, characterizing potential local changes in surface water and groundwater resources, as well as the effects of climate change on instream and out-of-stream demands and their associated water rights. Use peer-reviewed results to inform Oregon's water resource management decisions.	5A	Existing	Existing	OCCRI WRD	No
• Continue investment in the development and upgrade of water and wastewater infrastructure. The IFA makes resources available to finance water and wastewater systems through Community Development Block Grants, the Water Fund, and the Safe Drinking Water Revolving Loan Fund.	7B	Existing	Existing	IFA, DEQ, OHA	No

DEQ – Dept. of Environmental Quality
DOE- Dept. of Energy
DOGAMI – Dept. of Geology & Mineral Indus.
DSL – Dept. of State Lands
IFA – Infrastructure Finance Authority
INR – OSU Institute for Natural Resources
OCCRI –OR Climate Change Research Institute
ODA – Oregon Dept. of Agriculture
ODF – Oregon Dept. of Forestry
ODFW OR Dept. of Fish & Wildlife
OHA – Oregon Health Authority
OWEB – Oregon Watershed Enhancement Bd.
WRD – Water Resources Dept.

• Continue to develop and provide water-related education and outreach, to K-12, water industry vocational and professional training, community workshops, and identification of research needs.	8a-8c	Existing	Existing	Dept of Educ, ODA, WRD	No
• Continue to develop protocols that allow the state and its customers to reach their environmental goals, using non-traditional means.	10D	Existing	Existing	DEQ	No
• Continue to invest in the improvement of watershed health, resiliency, and capacity for natural storage.	11A	Existing	Existing	OWEB	No
• Continue efforts to prevent and eradicate invasive species. This program is funded with fees on motorized and non-motorized boats.	11C	Existing	Existing	ODA, ODFW, Marine Bd.	No
• Continue to ensure the safety of Oregon's drinking water.	12A	Existing	Existing	OHA	No
• Continue to reduce the use of and exposure to toxics and other pollutants.	12B	Existing	Existing	OHA, DEQ, ODA, ODF	No
• Continue to implement water quality pollution control plans.	12C	Existing	Existing	DEQ, ODA, ODF	No

Work In-Basin: Steps Already Underway in <u>2012</u>

Step	Contributing Recommended Actions	Staff Required per 2 yrs	Total Cost Estimates per 2 yrs	Lead Agency(ies)	Requires Legislative Concept?
• Implementation of the Umatilla Basin Aquifer Recovery Project, using aquifer recharge and aquifer storage and recovery techniques. At full build-out, this project could have capacity for 100,000 acre feet of water in the Umatilla Basin.	10B	Existing	TBD	WRD, DEQ, OHA	No

Essential Services (focus state-wide, not a particular basin):
New Steps Requiring Legislative Assistance in 2013

Step	Contributing Recommended Actions	Staff Required per 2 yrs	Total Cost Estimates per 2 yrs	Lead Agency(ies)	Requires Legislative Concept?
• Natural Resources Data Management. Upgrade data collection, monitoring, and processing to capture and share water resource data across local, state, federal, and tribal agencies. This requires completing a comprehensive, inter-agency assessment of data needs. The assessment would be used to develop a long-term data strategy for both surface water and groundwater.	1B	11	$2.3M	WRD, DEQ	No
• Modify Names on Water Right Certificates. Today, there are no statutory provisions that allow the name on a water right certificate to be changed, even if the holder of the certificate has passed away or sold off interests. There are approximately 85,000 water rights in Oregon today. The state needs the ability to respond to holders of water rights who are requesting to modify the names on these certificates, especially in light of recent court rulings, favoring the name written on a water right certificate over other factors. Such a change would facilitate other process efficiencies, such as communicating with water right holders, mapping water rights, updating the water right database, and improving compliance with measurement and reporting conditions.	2E	2	$430K	WRD	Yes
• Water-Use Measurement and Reporting. A significant input in the understanding of groundwater and surface water resources is measuring the amount of surface water and groundwater diverted for beneficial use. Oregon Administrative Rule requires governmental entities to measure and report water use. Other water users are also required to measure and report their use, in accordance with their water right permits. Measurement and reporting facilitates the state's ability to manage the water resource, and helps to monitor basins with water shortage concerns or groundwater level declines. Cost share dollars for measurement devices are critical to this program's success. This represents a re-instatement of the Water Resource Department's water-use reporting position, necessary to fulfill statutory responsibilities and technical assistance to water users.	2A, 2B, 2C	1	$240K	WRD	No
• Implementation of the state's 2012 IWRS and development of the state's 2017 IWRS. Responsibilities also include negotiations with potential partners for stored water (*). Responsibilities include the development and testing of a place-based planning template (**).	13A & D, 9A-B, 10B, 5B	1	$210K	WRD	No
• Secure stable funding for water resource management at the state level. The state's core scientific, field-based, and planning responsibilities related to water are underfunded and have been for years. Core responsibilities include water allocation, distribution, monitoring and protection, data collection/processing, permitting, enforcement, and technical assistance for Oregon communities. Shore up General Fund base where possible, and develop additional sources of funding to mitigate the loss of General Fund to the state's key water agencies.	13B	10	$10M	WRD	Yes

• Capitalize the SB 1069 (2008) feasibility study grant fund.					
	13C	1	$1M	WRD	No
• Secure authority and funding for the state to serve as a water contractor. Partner with federal agencies and interested stakeholders to gain access to existing stored water in basins such as the Columbia and Willamette. This concept would allow the Water Resources Department to contract with instream and out-of-stream interests, providing water secured through agreements with other states or the federal government. Establish a Water Procurement and Development Fund for the state to purchase water. Lead staff would be IWRS Coordinator (see * above), plus senior finance specialist					
	13D, 5B, 9B, 10B	1	$10.2M	WRD	Yes

Work In-Basin: New Steps Requiring Legislative Assistance in 2013

Step	Contributing Recommended Actions	Staff Required per 2 yrs	Total Cost Estimates per 2 yrs	Lead Agency(ies)	Requires Legislative Concept?
• Conduct Additional Groundwater Investigations, characterizing the relationship between surface water and groundwater, determining characteristics of groundwater (location, volume, quality, etc.), studying the location and use of exempt use wells, and identifying the location of underground injection control systems (UICs). Evaluate and update Oregon's groundwater administrative areas, for both water quantity and quality. Use high resolution remote sensing where appropriate.	1A, 2B, 3B	1	$750K	WRD, DEQ	No
• Calculate and Protect Instream Flows. The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, Department of Environmental Quality, and Parks and Recreation Department are authorized to apply for instream water rights for specific purposes, such as protection of fish habitat, water quality, and scenic waterways. Such applications require scientific analysis and modeling to determine the instream needs for base and elevated flows. Much work remains to determine such needs. Apply for instream water rights as appropriate.	3A, 3B, 12B	3-5	$250K	ODFW, WRD	No
• Develop and test a template for place-based planning. Incent the local water resource planning process in Oregon, to help assess and meet water needs and to plan the state's water future. Voluntary, local efforts will "roll up" into and inform the State's Integrated Water Resources Strategy. Using a template provided by the state to guide the process, communities will address the unique hydrology and water needs (instream and out-of-stream) locally, optimizing outcomes. The state, through the four key IWRS agencies, will develop and test a template under the IWRS for place-based planning and will seek further grant funding and other incentives to assist with local planning efforts. This approach is meant to empower communities to conduct place-based planning in consultation with the state. Lead staff would be IWRS Coordinator (see ** above)	10A, 7A	See above	$500K in grants	WRD	No
• Collaborate cross-agency to implement existing ecological plans and recovery efforts (e.g., coordinate water quality-related restoration with Fish Recovery Plan habitat restoration). Convene key agencies, watershed councils, and stakeholders to as part of the place-based planning efforts described above, pool resources and achieve multiple goals simultaneously.	12E, 12D, 13C	TBD	TBD	ODFW, DEQ, OWEB, ODF, WRD	No

Essential Services (focus state-wide, not a particular basin):
Steps Requiring <u>No</u> Legislative Assistance in <u>2015</u>

Step	Contributing Recommended Actions	Staff Required per 2 yrs	Total Cost Estimates per 2 yrs	Lead Agency(ies)	Requires Legislative Concept?
• Mapping Water Resource Agency Responsibilities. Document Oregon's major water-related institutions and their involvement in water resource management at the local, state, federal, and tribal levels. This will strengthen the public's understanding of institutional linkages, and will help improve day-to-day collaboration, decision-making, and data coordination.	1C	Intern	0	WRD	No
• Update State Agency Coordination Plans. These Plans ensure that state rules and programs affecting land use are compatible with acknowledged city and county comprehensive plans. Changes to state rules and programs, and to comprehensive plans, may lead to incompatibilities that are detrimental to state, local, and private interests. Keeping coordination programs up-to-date will help ensure state and local permit actions can be completed efficiently.	6A, 6B	Intern	0	DLCD	NO

Essential Services (focus state-wide, not a particular basin):
Steps Requiring Legislative Assistance in <u>2015</u>

Step	Contributing Recommended Actions	Staff Required per 2 yrs	Total Cost Estimates per 2 yrs	Lead Agency(ies)	Requires Legislative Concept?
• Update Oregon's Long-Term Water Demand Forecast. Regular updates include identifying water-use trends in economic development, agriculture, urban-rural population growth/shift, per capita demands, and anticipated effects of conservation and efficiency improvements.	2A	TBD	TBD	WRD	No
• Determine pre-1909 Water Right Claims. These include completing unadjudicated areas of the state, as well as settling federal reserved claims and tribal claims, and establishing priorities for that work.	2C, 10B	TBD	TBD	WRD	No

Work In-Basin: Steps Requiring Legislative Assistance in 2015

Step	Contributing Recommended Actions	Staff Required per 2 yrs	Total Cost Estimates per 2 yrs	Lead Agency(ies)	Requires Legislative Concept?
• Evaluation of Critical Groundwater Areas (CGWA). Critical Groundwater Area data need to be updated to reflect groundwater level trends, with comparisons to precipitation, recharge, and water use data. These analyses provide the foundation to "allocation orders" issued to water users in those areas each year. An evaluation of one CGWS takes one year to complete.	1A	1	$250K	WRD	No
• Climate Change Adaption, based on results of downscaling / modeling of local effects. Use peer-reviewed results to inform Oregon's water resource management decisions. Communicate information and resulting options to local water users.	5B	1	$250K	WRD	No

Implementing the second edition of the Integrated Water Resources Strategy will involve maturing the into the programs initially laid out in 2012, as well as initiating work on Recommended Actions that were not funding in the first five years. It will also involve addressing critical issues that emerge after the adoption of the initial rendition Integrated Water Resources Strategy.