



# Oregon

John A. Kitzhaber, MD, Governor

## Water Resources Department

North Mall Office Building  
725 Summer Street NE, Suite A  
Salem, OR 97301-1266  
503-986-0900  
FAX 503-986-0904

### MEMORANDUM

**TO:** The Water Resources Commission

**FROM:** Phillip C. Ward, Director

**SUBJECT:** Agenda Item A, August 2, 2012  
Water Resources Work Session

### **Consideration for Adoption: Integrated Water Resources Strategy**

#### **I. Introduction**

During this agenda item, Commission members will consider the Integrated Water Resources Strategy (IWRS) for adoption. Formally begun in 2009, the IWRS is an inter-agency effort launched by the Oregon Legislature to better understand and to meet Oregon's water needs.

These efforts have included significant input from the public and from stakeholders. Project staff will provide a review of this three-year effort and will highlight some of the key components of the IWRS.

Topics to be covered include:

- Retrospective of the process
- Presentation of the June 2012 IWRS
- Letters of support from state and federal partners
- Next steps (reserved until Agenda Item B)
- Consideration for adoption

Staff recommends that the Commission reserve time for observations from the public and Commission discussion. This is an action item, in which the Water Resources Commission will be asked to consider the Integrated Water Resources Strategy for adoption.

#### **II. Retrospective of the Process**

Members of the Water Resources Commission have been preparing for the adoption of a state water strategy since 2008, when Commissioners volunteered to sketch out issue papers on a number of water-related topics, to demonstrate the need for strategic thinking in Oregon on water issues.

With resources and direction provided by the Oregon Legislature in 2009, the state agencies, led by the Oregon Water Resources Department, began formal efforts to develop such a Strategy.

<p>Phase I: Setting the Stage (2009)</p>	<p>Phase II: Identifying Water Resource Needs (Spring &amp; Summer 2010)</p>	<p>Phase III: Developing Recommended Actions (2010-2011)</p>	<p>Phase IV: Producing Oregon's 1st Integrated Water Resources Strategy (2012)</p>	<p>Phase V: Implementation and Evaluation (2012-17)</p>
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*Phase I: Setting the Stage.* This Phase, which extended through December 2009, included fundamental activities that continued to be built upon throughout the entire process. This phase involved the development of issue papers, formulation of IWRS objectives, design of the overall process, and organization of a Project Team and three Advisory Groups.

*Phase II: Identifying Water Resource Needs.* This phase ran from January through August 2010 and focused heavily on public input, using a series of 11 Open Houses throughout Oregon and numerous stakeholder and partner meetings, to identify and describe critical issues and potential solutions.

*Phase III: Developing Recommended Actions.* During Phase III, the Oregon Water Resources Department, Oregon Department of Environmental Quality, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, and the Oregon Department of Agriculture provided a progress report to the 76th Legislative Assembly in February 2011. During this Phase, the Project Team also developed draft Recommended Actions with the help of the advisory groups and public comment.

In June 2011 the Project Team released a document describing an initial set of draft recommended actions designed to address the most critical water-related challenges facing Oregon's communities. The document consisted of a series of 12 bulletins that included brief background information and a list of online resources. The Project Team accepted comments on the bulletins through August 31, 2011.

During Fall 2011, the advisory groups continued to work, based in part on public comments received, on identifying and scoping potential recommended actions to address the critical issues. The Project Team produced a December 2011 Discussion Draft for public review and comment.

*Phase IV: Producing Oregon's First Integrated Water Resources Strategy.* Work under Phase IV focused on preparing and submitting Oregon's first Integrated Water Resources Strategy for consideration by the Water Resources Commission. The State's boards and commissions and Federal partners provided letters of endorsement to assist in this effort. Following review and adoption by the Water Resources Commission, the Strategy will be delivered to the Oregon Legislature in time for the 2013 Legislative Session.

*Phase V: Implementation and Evaluation.* This is an iterative process and successfully meeting Oregon's water needs will mean constantly asking "what if" questions and preparing to adapt to changing circumstances and environments. Upon adoption of Oregon's first Integrated Water Resources Strategy, the Project Team plans to embark on a process to implement the recommended actions. The Strategy is due to the Oregon Legislature by December 31, 2012, with five-year updates occurring thereafter.

Legislators, agencies, and partners will also have opportunities during this phase to evaluate the implementation and effectiveness of the Recommended Actions included in the Strategy. Evaluation includes identifying both the lessons learned and potential modifications to the next iteration.

### **III. Presentation of the June 2012 IWRS**

The June 2012 version of the Integrated Water Resources Strategy was provided to the Water Resources Commission and the public in preparation for this meeting. The full text is available on-line at: [http://www.wrd.state.or.us/owrd/LAW/docs/2012\\_06\\_22\\_draft\\_IWRS.pdf](http://www.wrd.state.or.us/owrd/LAW/docs/2012_06_22_draft_IWRS.pdf).

An Executive Summary is also available:

[http://www.wrd.state.or.us/owrd/LAW/docs/2012\\_06\\_22\\_draft\\_Executive\\_Summary.pdf](http://www.wrd.state.or.us/owrd/LAW/docs/2012_06_22_draft_Executive_Summary.pdf).

The June draft features a number of improvements since the December 2011 Discussion Draft. These improvements are the result of public comments and discussions with the Policy Advisory Group and the Water Resources Commission.

Examples of modifications include:

- Re-organized text along the lines of the four objectives, so that the "strategy" is easier to find
- Removed extraneous background information to get to recommended actions more quickly
- Beefed up the Executive Summary
- Added a Conclusion
- Set a better context and tone, documenting existing Oregon successes in water resources
- Set a better context and tone, starting the discussion with "total water in Oregon," rather than "total water diverted."
- Discussed the valuable contribution agriculture makes to Oregon's economy and the environment
- Discussed the existing conservation successes of Oregon agriculture
- Discussed in more detail the role of federal agencies
- Discussed in more detail the need for storage, water supply development, and instream flows.

### **IV. Letters of Support from State and Federal Partners**

Throughout Spring 2012, Project Staff and Water Resources Commission Chair John Jackson have spent time with Oregon's boards and commissions to notify them of plans to adopt the IWRS in August. The meetings were also designed to present the content and process used in the IWRS and to ask for a letter of endorsement from each entity. These discussions were very

well received. While a number of Boards and Commissions offered additional suggestions for future work, they were also appreciative of the inter-agency collaboration on this project and opportunities for future partnership related to water issues.

Attachment #1 includes letters of endorsement from the following:

State Boards and Commissions:

Board of Agriculture  
Board of Forestry  
Board of Geology  
Drinking Water Advisory Committee (OHA)  
Environmental Quality Commission  
Fish and Wildlife Commission  
Land Conservation & Development Commission  
Parks and Recreation Department  
State Marine Board  
Sustainability Board  
Watershed Enhancement Board

Federal Agencies:

U.S. Bureau of Reclamation  
U.S. Dept. of Energy, Bonneville Power Administration  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
U.S. Geological Survey  
U.S. Forest Service

**V. Next Steps**

Agenda Item B continues this conversation into the implementation phase, with topics that include:

- The role of IWRS discussions in future WRC meetings.
- Development of an IWRS Workplan for 2012-17, and
- Preparation for the 2013 Legislative Session and subsequent Legislative Sessions.

**VI. Consideration for Adoption**

The authorizing legislation for this effort, HB 3369 (2009), places responsibility for adoption of the Integrated Water Resources Strategy with the Water Resources Commission, after notification of partner boards and commissions. The work of the Strategy has been completed on time and within budget, meeting the specifications set forth in the bill.

The Water Resources Commission has a number of options at this juncture:

- Option 1. Adopt Oregon's first Integrated Water Resources Strategy.
- Option 2. Adopt the Integrated Water Resources Strategy with modifications.
- Option 3. Direct staff to re-visit the document and return in November with a modified Strategy for consideration.

Staff recommends that the Water Resources Commission choose Option 1 and adopt Oregon's first Integrated Water Resources Strategy.

WRC Agenda Item A  
August 2, 2012  
Page 5

Brenda Bateman  
503-986-0879

Attachment 1: Letters of Endorsement



# Letters of Endorsement

## FROM STATE AND FEDERAL PARTNERS

BOARD OF AGRICULTURE  
BOARD OF FORESTRY  
BOARD OF GEOLOGY  
DRINKING WATER ADVISORY COMMITTEE (OREGON HEALTH AUTHORITY)  
ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COMMISSION  
FISH AND WILDLIFE COMMISSION  
LAND CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION  
PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT  
STATE MARINE BOARD  
SUSTAINABILITY BOARD  
WATERSHED ENHANCEMENT BOARD  
U.S. BUREAU OF RECLAMATION  
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY, BONNEVILLE POWER ADMINISTRATION  
U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY  
U.S. FOREST SERVICE

The Oregon Board of Agriculture approved a letter endorsing the Integrated Water Resources Strategy on Thursday, July 12, 2012.

*(Endorsement letter forthcoming)*



# Oregon

John A. Kitzhaber, MD, Governor

Board of Forestry  
State Forester's Office  
2600 State Street  
Salem, OR 97310-1336  
503-945-7200  
Fax 503-945-7212  
[www.oregonforestry.gov](http://www.oregonforestry.gov)



STATE FORESTER'S OFFICE

April 26, 2012

John Jackson, Chair  
Oregon Water Resources Commission  
725 Summer Street NE, Suite A  
Salem, OR 97301

Re: Oregon's Integrated Water Resources Strategy

Dear Chair Jackson,

Thank you for attending the March 2012 Board of Forestry meeting to discuss Oregon's Integrated Water Resources Strategy. The Board appreciates the Commission's leadership on the strategy, and supports the effort to develop a statewide, integrated water resources strategy to meet current and future water needs.

The Board of Forestry has long supported protecting and improving water resources as part of our *Forestry Program for Oregon*, a strategy for sustainable management of Oregon's Forests. The Board articulates our goals and objectives for water resources in Goal D: *Protect and improve the physical and biological quality of the soil and water resources of Oregon's forests*. The Board recognizes that this goal is important because clean water is critical to our quality of life; more than half of Oregon's population depends on drinking water supplies that originate on or are protected in part by forestlands. Oregonians also depend on high-quality water for fisheries, industry, recreation, and agriculture.

The Board's goals and objectives are consistent with the Integrated Water Resources Strategy, and provide policy direction for the development of the strategy related to forestry. The Board has directed the Department of Forestry to continue to collaborate on the strategy work to ensure consistency between our strategies for protecting and improving water resources on Oregon's forests. The Board was pleased to see that one of the next steps includes cross-agency implementation of existing ecological plans. The Board's goals and objectives can inform the implementation of the strategy as it applies of Oregon's Forests.

Best wishes,



John Blackwell, Chair  
Oregon Board of Forestry

Cc: Board of Forestry Members

Doug Decker, State Forester

Phillip C. Ward, Director, Water Resources Department

Brenda Bateman, Senior Policy Coordinator, Water Resources Department

Peter Daugherty, Private Forests Division Chief





Oregon  
John A. Kitzhaber, MD, Governor

Department of Geology and Mineral Industries  
Administrative Office  
800 NE Oregon St., #28, Suite 965  
Portland, OR 97232-2162  
(971) 673-1555  
Fax: (971) 673-1562  
[www.oregongeology.org](http://www.oregongeology.org)

April 24, 2012

John Jackson, Chair  
Oregon Water Resources Commission  
Water Resources Department  
725 Summer Street NE, Suite A  
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Chair Jackson,

The Governing Board of the Oregon Department of Geology & Mineral Industries (DOGAMI) fully supports Oregon's Integrated Water Resources Strategy as presented to us in the Discussion Draft during our March 2012 Board meeting. This is a timely and sensible plan that strives to provide a balanced understanding of present and future water needs for the state and lays out strategies for sustaining a sufficient water supply into the future. We would like to re-affirm DOGAMI's ability to become a committed partner in this effort. The agency is willing provide data to help fill in any gaps in geoscientific understanding and assist OWRD with the science-based approach principle mentioned in the Framework document.

The Integrated Water Resources Strategy will help to set the course for the future sustainability of Oregon's citizens' quality of life and protection of its natural environment and resources. It is our hope that our Natural Resource agencies work even more closely together in the future to implement this strategy. We feel the framework offers an opportunity for DOGAMI to collaborate with Oregon Water Resources to research geologic solutions to Oregon's water resource goals.

If you have any questions about this endorsement, please contact me at [larry.givens@co.umatilla.or.us](mailto:larry.givens@co.umatilla.or.us) or at (541) 278 6203.

Sincerely,

W. Lawrence Givens  
Governing Board Chair  
Oregon Department of Geology & Mineral Industries

cc: Board File  
Vicki S. McConnell, DOGAMI Director

# OREGON DRINKING WATER ADVISORY COMMITTEE

**Represented Organizations:** June 6, 2012

*American Council of  
Engineering Companies  
of Oregon*

*Conference of Local  
Health Officials*

*Environmental Advocacy  
Groups*

*League of Oregon Cities*

*League of Women Voters  
of Oregon*

*Oregon Association of  
Water Utilities*

*Oregon Environmental  
Health Association*

*Oregon Environmental  
Laboratory Association*

*Pacific Northwest Section  
of the American Water  
Works Association*

*Special Districts Association  
of Oregon*

*Public Water Systems  
Greater than 100,000*

*Privately Owned Water  
Systems*

*Plumbers/ Backflow  
Testers*

*Water Consumers*

*Watershed Councils*

Mr. Phillip C. Ward, Director  
Oregon Water Resources Fund  
725 Summer Street NE, Suite A  
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Director Ward,

The Drinking Water Advisory Committee for the OHA, Center for Health Protection, Drinking Water Section, would like to express our sincere appreciation and support for the Agency's efforts in the development of an Integrated Water Resources Strategy for the State.

The Center for Health Protection Drinking Water Section is charged with the protection of the public health and the safety and viability of drinking water supplies for our communities. We appreciate the global approach the Strategy lays out to maintain the livability of our State and address the critical nature of adequate, safe water resources. The Strategy provides a roadmap towards the recognition that water resources of the State contribute to that quality of life and are critical to the State's economic vitality and future.

Within the Strategy, it is imperative that programs supporting basic life services, such as drinking water, be funded at levels appropriate to the critical mission such services play in the success and livability in Oregon. Without such recognition and funding priority, the success of the Strategy will be hampered as critical pieces of the water puzzle cannot provide the resources necessary to ensure success.

The Strategy is an important first step in the recognition of the important, critical role adequate and safe water resources, in particular drinking water, plays in the future growth and opportunities for Oregon. We look forward to continuing to be an important partner in the Strategy's development and implementation.

Sincerely,



Brian R. Stahl, Chair  
Drinking Water Advisory Committee

July 5, 2012

John Jackson, Water Resources Commission Chair  
Water Resources Department  
725 Summer Street NE, Suite A  
Salem, OR 97301

Chair Jackson,

At its April 25-27, 2012, regular meeting, the Oregon Environmental Quality Commission formally endorsed the Oregon Integrated Water Resource Strategy. In its endorsement, EQC unanimously approved the 2012 final draft of the Oregon Integrated Water Resource Strategy and affirmed five statements:

1. We have appreciated having an integral role on the project team.
2. The water quality challenges in Oregon are significant, but we have good tools and people to work with.
3. The Integrated Water Resource Strategy presents real opportunities to manage water more efficiently and collaboratively than ever before, and to ensure future needs for water will be met.
4. We applaud the work completed thus far on the strategy
5. We look forward to continued partnership in the implementation and further development of Oregon's water strategy.

This letter is to confirm the endorsement and the Environmental Quality Commission's support for the 2012 final draft of the Oregon Integrated Water Resource Strategy. I look forward to working with you, and the Oregon Water Resources Department, on this and other projects.

Sincerely,



William Blosser, Oregon Environmental Quality Commission Chair

CC:

Phillip C. Ward, Oregon Water Resources Department Director  
Dick Pedersen, Oregon Department of Environmental Quality Director  
Brenda Bateman, Oregon Water Resources Department, senior policy coordinator



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811 SW Sixth Avenue  
Portland, OR 97204-1390  
(503) 229-5696



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# Oregon

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DEPARTMENT OF  
FISH AND  
WILDLIFE

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OREGON FISH AND  
WILDLIFE  
COMMISSION

July 10, 2012

John Jackson, Chair  
Oregon Water Resources Commission  
725 Summer Street NE, Suite A  
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Chair Jackson:

On behalf of the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission (OFWC), I applaud the Water Resources Commission (WRC) and the Water Resources Department (WRD) for their efforts at leading the development of Oregon's first Integrated Water Resources Strategy (IWRS). The OFWC supports the IWRS and recommends that the WRC endorse the final draft of the strategy as submitted to the WRC.

The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW), along with the Oregon Departments of Environmental Quality and Agriculture, have appreciated the opportunity to play an integral role on the Project Team, led by WRD, which has overseen the development of this policy. This strategy lays out the steps Oregon must take to ensure that water resources are managed, developed, and conserved to ensure the long-term sustainability of our human culture, as well as our abundant natural resources. With the adoption of the Oregon Conservation Strategy in 2006, the OFWC re-affirmed the role of water in conserving Oregon's fish and wildlife resources, by recognizing water quality and quantity as one of six "key conservation issues" that affect species and habitats statewide. Adoption of the Integrated Water Strategy will further our collective efforts to ensure the sustainability of fish and wildlife for all Oregonians, present and future.

While the water quality and quantity challenges in Oregon are significant, we have many of the tools and people to address these challenges. By truly embracing the "integration" as spelled out in the IWRS, real opportunities emerge to manage water more effectively and collaboratively, ensuring the future needs for water will be met.

The OFWC and ODFW commend the work that has been done to date on the strategy. We look forward to building on the partnerships we have collectively developed as we move into the implementation phase of the strategy, as it is in the implementation phase that Oregonians and our natural resource heritage will see the fruits of our efforts.



Letter to Chair John Jackson  
Oregon Water Resources Commission  
Re: Oregon's Integrated Water Resources Strategy  
July 10, 2012  
Page 2

Please don't hesitate to call on the OFWC or Director Elicker and his great staff in moving the IWRS forward to success.

Best Wishes,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bobby Levy". The signature is fluid and includes a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Bobby Levy, Chair  
Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission

Cc: Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission Members  
Roy Elicker, Director, ODFW  
Curt Melcher, Deputy Director Fish and Wildlife Programs, ODFW  
Bruce McIntosh, Deputy Fish Division Administrator, ODFW  
Rick Kepler, Water Program Manager, ODFW  
Phil Ward, Director, WRD  
Brenda Bateman, Senior Policy Coordinator, WRD



# Oregon

John A. Kitzhaber, M.D., Governor

## Land Conservation and Development Commission

635 Capitol Street NE, Suite 150

Salem, Oregon 97301-2540

Phone: (503) 373-0050

Fax: (503) 378-5518

[www.oregon.gov/LCD](http://www.oregon.gov/LCD)

May 11, 2012



Phillip C. Ward, Director  
Oregon Water Resources Department  
725 Summer Street NE, Suite A  
Salem, OR 97301

Re: Integrated Water Resources Strategy

Dear Director Ward:

The Oregon Land Conservation and Development Commission would like to express its appreciation of and support for your agency's efforts on Oregon's Integrated Water Resources Strategy. LCDC's mission includes protecting significant natural resources and promoting livable, sustainable communities. The comprehensive look at water resources you are undertaking advances these interests and we are glad to see that the materials we were presented recognize this link. We also appreciate that the strategy emphasizes the need to maintain Oregon's economy and protect and restore the environment.

LCDC agrees there is a need for the strategy and endorses its process and goals. The draft strategy is an important step for Oregon and we look forward to future collaboration and coordination on these important issues.

Sincerely,

Marilyn Worrix  
Chair



# Oregon

John A. Kitzhaber, MD, Governor

## Parks and Recreation Department

725 Summer St NE, Ste C

Salem, OR 97301-1266

(503) 986-0707

Fax (503) 986-0794

[www.oregonstateparks.org](http://www.oregonstateparks.org)



Mr. John Jackson, Chair  
Oregon Water Resources Commission  
725 Summer Street, NE  
Suite A  
Salem, OR 97301-1266

Dear Chair Jackson,

The Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (OPRD) has been pleased to be a partner in the development of the state's Integrated Water Resources Strategy (IWRS). We believe this comprehensive and integrated approach to development of a blueprint for identifying and managing the water related issues facing Oregon will provide a valuable guide for future management actions, policy development, and possibly statutory changes.

Specifically, the IWRS acknowledges the need to protect the public's interests in the Oregon's state scenic waterways, the role OPRD's Water Trails program engages the public in both recreation and education related to water resources, and the role that OPRD plays in identifying and acquiring in-stream rights to ensure healthy ecosystems and water for recreation.

This strategy provides a comprehensive approach to managing the state's water resources in a manner not heretofore compiled. We look forward to playing an ongoing role as this strategy unfolds and provide our endorsement for adoption of the IWRS.

Thank you for the opportunity to be a partner in this undertaking.

Sincerely,

Tim Wood  
Director





# Oregon

John A. Kitzhaber, MD, Governor

## State Marine Board

435 Commercial St NE, Suite #400

PO Box 14145

Salem, OR 97309-5065

(503) 378-8587

Fax (503) 378-4597

July 13, 2012



John Jackson, Chair  
Oregon Water Resources Commission  
725 Summer Street NE, Suite A  
Salem OR 97301

Dear Chair Jackson,

On behalf of the Oregon State Marine Board, we appreciate the opportunity to be a partner in the Integrated Water Resources Strategy to create this important plan to manage Oregon's water resources. Even in Oregon, water is a limited resource and managing in-stream and out-of-stream needs is critical for Oregon's environment, livability, and economy.

Boating, simply put, needs clean and abundant water. The Oregon State Marine Board is dedicated to preserving boating access and encouraging safe, legal and sustainable boating on Oregon's waterways. In the last 20 years, more than \$85 million has been invested in building launch ramps, parking lots and restrooms to access Oregon waterways. We have also advanced the reduction of pollution and maintaining clean waterways to minimize boater impacts on water quality by forming and managing the Aquatic Invasive Species and Clean Marina/ Clean Boater programs, both of which are aimed at keeping hazardous substances and organisms out of the water. The Marine Board also apportions the Abandoned Boat fund to remove abandoned vessels so that they no longer pollute or congest our waterways. Since 2002, we have invested more than \$ 2.8 million of Clean Vessel Act funds to build pump stations to remove onboard sewage from boats and floating restrooms. To date, we have collected more than 15 million gallons of sewage, some of which likely would have ended up in our waterways. Most recently, the Marine Board has partnered with Oregon Sea Grant to provide a focused educational effort to encourage boaters to properly dispose of their sewage.

The Integrated Water Resources Strategy is an excellent first step in managing this important natural resource. We look forward to viewing proposed implementation strategies and how they may or may not affect recreational boating.

Sincerely,

George Tinker, Chair







# Oregon

John A. Kitzhaber, M.D., Governor

**Oregon Sustainability Board**  
**Secretary of State Kate Brown, Chair**  
Governor's Sustainability Office  
900 Court St. NE, Ste. 160  
Salem, OR 97301  
503-378-6460

July 6, 2012

Ruben Ochoa, Water Policy Analyst  
Water Resources Department  
725 Summer Street NE, Suite A  
Salem, OR 97301

Re: Draft Integrated Water Resource Strategy

Dear Mr. Ochoa:

Thank you for allowing the Oregon Sustainability Board the opportunity to review and comment upon the draft strategy of the Integrated Water Resource Strategy Commission. We commend the work done thus far. The Board was established pursuant to ORS 184.427, and is charged in part with the goal of enabling and encouraging local communities to achieve the objective of clean and sufficient water for all uses.

The sustainability of fresh water resources is both a challenge and a unique opportunity to ensure that our needs do not deprive future generations of this precious and finite resource. The draft report eloquently describes the complexities involved in requiring communities and businesses to satisfy their fresh water needs while staying within the limits of this resource.

As a first principle, therefore, we would urge that the conservation and efficient use of fresh water resources find expression early and prominently in your report. This recommendation is of such a fundamental nature to the achievement of all goals, that we would encourage you to configure it in all of your thinking and place it prominently among your principles to guide the IWRS. Thank you for the opportunity to comment and assist you in this important task.

Sincerely,

Kate Brown  
Chair, Oregon Sustainability Board  
Secretary of State



# Oregon

John A. Kitzhaber, MD, Governor

## Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

775 Summer St NE Ste 360

Salem, OR 97301-1290

(503) 986-0178

FAX (503) 986-0199

[www.oregon.gov/OWEB](http://www.oregon.gov/OWEB)



March 13, 2012

Phillip C. Ward, Director  
Oregon Water Resources Department  
725 Summer Street NE, Suite A  
Salem, OR 97301

Re: Integrated Water Resources Strategy

Dear Director Ward:

The Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB) would like to express its appreciation of and support for the agency's efforts on Oregon's Integrated Water Resources Strategy and the December 2011 Discussion Draft.

OWEB's mission is to help protect and restore healthy watersheds and natural habitats that support thriving communities and strong economies. We appreciate that the Strategy emphasizes the need to maintain Oregon's economy and protect and restore the environment. OWEB stands ready to provide investment, through grants, in the critical water needs that relate directly to OWEB's priorities, and would encourage further coordination between our agencies.

In summary, the draft strategy is an important first step for Oregon and we look forward to future collaboration and coordination on these important issues.

Sincerely,

Dan Thorndike  
Board Co-Chair

Eric Quaempts  
Board Co-Chair



# United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION  
Pacific Northwest Regional Office  
1150 North Curtis Road, Suite 100  
Boise, ID 83706-1234

IN REPLY REFER TO:

JUN 28 2012

SRA-1215  
WTR-1.00

Mr. Phillip C. Ward  
Director  
Oregon Water Resources Department  
725 Summer Street NE, Suite A  
Salem, OR 97301

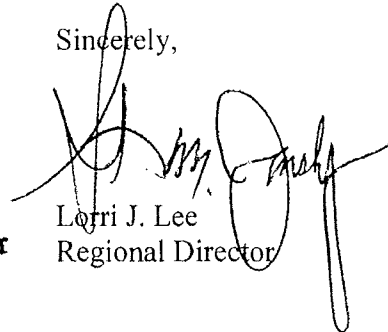
Subject: Integrated Water Resources Strategy

Dear Mr. Ward:

I appreciate the opportunity for the Bureau of Reclamation to have real and meaningful participation in development of Oregon's Integrated Water Resources Strategy (IWRS). Adoption of the IWRS by the Water Resources Commission is a positive first step forward in the state's efforts to achieve lasting change for the benefit of the citizens, the economy, and the ecosystems of Oregon.

Reclamation supports the consensus-building and cooperative process developed by the state to establish and maintain the network of agencies, organizations, and individuals needed to complete this document. Reclamation looks forward to continuing collaboration as the state takes the next steps necessary to implement the IWRS.

Sincerely,



Lorri J. Lee  
Regional Director

Acting for



## Department of Energy

Bonneville Power Administration  
P.O. Box 3621  
Portland, Oregon 97208-3621

EXECUTIVE OFFICE

July 10, 2012

In reply refer to: DKR-7

Phillip C. Ward, Director  
Oregon Water Resources Department  
725 Summer Street NE, Suite A  
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Director Ward:

The Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) appreciates the coordination and outreach that the Oregon State Water Resources Department has extended to BPA in the development of the Oregon Integrated Water Resources Strategy. BPA recognizes state and federal coordination leads to better management and administration of the region's shared resources.

BPA is the federal agency that markets the wholesale electrical power from the federal dams in the Columbia River Basin. The dams are operated by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Bureau of Reclamation. BPA markets about 30 percent of the electric power used in the Pacific Northwest. As part of its responsibilities, BPA funds regional efforts to protect and enhance fish and wildlife populations affected by the federal dams in the Columbia River Basin.

BPA reviewed and commented on the draft strategy to determine if the recommended actions could impact the regional hydropower system or be at cross purposes with our fish and wildlife mitigation efforts. Our involvement in this process highlighted both areas of shared interest and potential opportunities.

It will be critical to maintain open lines of communication, consistent policies, and careful coordination to ensure positive outcomes for all partners. We are strongly committed to this type of approach and look forward to working with the state to ensure that successful collaboration continues. Thank you again for your outreach and consideration of our comments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "F. Lorraine Bodi". To the right of the signature, the words "Acting for" are written in a similar cursive style.

F. Lorraine Bodi  
Vice President, Environment, Fish and Wildlife



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
REGION 10  
OREGON OPERATIONS OFFICE  
805 SW Broadway, Suite 500  
Portland, Oregon 97205

May 23, 2012

Phillip C. Ward, Director  
Oregon Water Resources Department  
725 Summer Street NE, Suite A  
Salem, Oregon 97301

Re: Integrated Water Resources Strategy

Dear Director Ward:

We appreciate the opportunity for the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to participate in the development of the Oregon Integrated Water Resource strategy (IWRS). The partnership and collaborative nature of this process is one of the fine examples of how the public sector can achieve important goals efficiently and effectively. The public and the environment benefit from various Federal and State government agencies coming together and consolidating efforts, sharing program information and indentifying data gaps.

The water quality and quantity challenges today and into the future are significant. This planning and network of program implementers will be better equipped to prevent future problems and deal with the existing needs of today. A strategy that identifies a rich set of tools for meeting our future challenges is ultimately the strength of the strategy. An ability to share the work will allow needed flexibility in addressing specific water quality and quantity needs. This strategy significantly improves our ability to do just that.

We commend the work done to date. We look forward to continued collaboration. This established network of organizations and individuals will need to continue the conversations. The EPA will continue to support the State of Oregon in this effort through our suite of water focused policies, guidance, and regulations.

Sincerely,

Anthony Barber  
Director

Joel H. Salter  
Oregon Water Programs Coordinator



# United States Department of the Interior

U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

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June 13, 2012

Phillip C. Ward, Director  
Oregon Water Resources Department  
725 Summer Street NE, Suite A  
Salem, Oregon 97301

*PHIL*  
Dear Director Ward,

I am writing to voice U.S. Geological Survey support for the Oregon Integrated Water Resources Strategy. As a federal agency and a participant on the Federal Liaison Group, I have seen the IWRS evolve and improve with input from state and federal partners. The USGS Oregon Water Science Center fully supports the important "Key Recommended Actions" that constitute the framework for the IWRS. Many of these key actions dovetail with national and regional USGS Science Strategies that are being developed for each of our 7 Mission Areas. Our Mission areas include: Climate and Land Use Change, Ecosystems, Hazards, Environmental Health, and Water among others. I am sure it is no surprise that our USGS strategies and ongoing projects have significant crosscut with the IWRS. The IWRS strategy calls out Groundwater Resources, Climate Change, Funding, and Institutional Coordination as significant issues.

Both Oregon and the federal government are under unprecedented fiscal pressures, yet we at USGS are committed to continued collaboration with OWRD and other state partners to further our common goals. USGS has a long history with OWRD which includes numerous Cooperative Water Program studies directed at several of these key actions. The Cooperative Water Program, with its Federal matching funds, as an ideal way to work collaboratively with IWRS partners. The Northwest Climate Science Center is another USGS avenue for cooperation. Through the NWCSC, we can pool resources to address challenges to water resource management that will arise from predicted changes in climate during the coming decades. We strongly agree that "No entity is an island when it comes to water management and protection." We look forward to implementation of the Oregon IWRS and working collaboratively with your agency in the future.

Regards,

Dar Crammond  
Director, Oregon Water Science Center



United States  
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**Date:** July 12, 2012

Phil Ward  
Director  
Oregon Water Resources Department  
725 Summer St., NE  
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Mr. Ward:

We commend the completion of Oregon's June 2012 Draft Integrated Water Resources Strategy (IWRS) and fully support the IWRS as a comprehensive approach to understanding and addressing Oregon's water needs, now and into the future. We are pleased to have the opportunity for the USDA Forest Service (Forest Service) to be part of the federal liaison group over the past three years. The IWRS is indeed a blueprint for restoring and maintaining healthy water resources to meet the needs of Oregonians. As you are aware, the Forest Service manages about 25 percent of the land base in Oregon, mostly in headwater areas, and many of the objectives, issues and solutions identified in the IWRS are shared with those of the Forest Service. It has been rewarding to participate in this collaborative partnership between federal and state agencies and work together to leverage experience, programs and resources for the benefit the public and the environment. It is especially valuable in development of the IWRS to have the implementation component that embodies existing programs and tools and empowers local solutions.

We are optimistic that the IWRS will be adopted by the Water Resources Commission at the upcoming August meeting. I look forward to a continued partnership and enhanced coordination between our respective agencies as finalization and implementation of the IWRS advances.

Please contact Trish Carroll, Regional Water Rights-Uses and Groundwater Program Manager, at 503-808-2905 ([tcarroll@fs.fed.us](mailto:tcarroll@fs.fed.us)) or Brian Staab, Regional Hydrologist, at 503-808-2694 ([brianstaab@fs.fed.us](mailto:brianstaab@fs.fed.us)), to discuss our comments or set up future meetings.

Sincerely,

*/s/ Kent P. Connaughton*

KENT P. CONNAUGHTON  
Regional Forester

cc: Jose Linares, Peggy A Polichio, Richard N Rine, Dick Pedersen,  
Director of Oregon Department of Environmental Quality Roy Elicker  
Director of Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, Alyssa Mucken  
Policy Coordinator, Oregon Department of Water Resources

