



Oregon

Tina Kotek, Governor

Department of Land Conservation and Development
Water Resources Department



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To: Land Conservation and Development Commission and the Water Resources Commission

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Subject: **Agenda Item 2B, February 26, 2026, LCDC and WRC Meeting**

Water and Land Use: State Agency Coordination

I. Agenda Item Summary

Staff from the Department of Land Conservation and Development (DLCD) and the Water Resources Department (OWRD) will provide an overview of Oregon's State Agency Coordination (SAC) program agreements for programs affecting land use and will describe the pilot efforts to update these agreements for various agencies.

This agenda item will also update both Commissions on the development of workplans to implement the 2025 Integrated Water Resources Strategy (IWRS).

a. Purpose

This briefing will provide foundational information to both the Water Resources Commission and Land Conservation and Development Commission about Oregon's land use planning system, state agency coordination (SAC) program agreements, and the IWRS. Staff will provide a summary of the final 2025-27 IWRS Workplan and timeline for developing the 2027-29 IWRS Workplan.

b. Objective

This is an informational report. Commissioners will receive status reports and a briefing on next steps regarding two major inter-agency initiatives. At the conclusion of these discussions, commissioners should have a working knowledge of both efforts.

For further information about this staff report, please contact:

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II. Background

Oregon is unique from other states in that legislators chose an inventory-based land use system that respects and builds upon ecological functions that cross property and jurisdictional lines.

Oregon has a comprehensive planning system administered at the local level rather than a permit-based, development-driven system such as the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) in Washington or the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). Spatial planning of social, economic, and ecological benefits at scale, coupled with strong policies to concentrate urban development, has helped the state preserve valuable working lands and wildlife habitat and prioritize resource connectivity for ecological function and ecosystem services (wetlands, riparian areas, and estuaries). Oregon continues to modernize this system, while staying true to the statutory responsibilities and the values that Oregonians continue to share – and that continue to draw new residents and investors to Oregon today. By requiring all 241 cities and 36 counties to plan for a 20-year supply of housing and employment land, Oregon has chosen to be a managed growth state.

Each county and city has a comprehensive plan in place that spells out how each jurisdiction intends to meet its land use needs for employment and housing. These plans include details about water rights and infrastructure finance, among other considerations.

All state agencies are required to coordinate with these local government partners. Agencies are also required to comply with the state's 19 land use goals, which include a mix of community engagement processes, economic development requirements, and protections for natural resources, including wetlands, riparian areas, groundwater resources, and estuaries.

a. State Agency Coordination (SAC) Program Agreements

Oregon's State Agency Coordination (SAC) program, established in Oregon Revised Statute (ORS) 197.180, is an important component of Oregon's land use planning program, as the location of key infrastructure, businesses, schools, homes, and natural resources occurs on finite parcels of land and must be carefully coordinated.

SAC Program Agreements are not memoranda of understanding between state agencies; instead, they are a public commitment by each agency to ensure that all actions and programs affecting land use comply with the Statewide Planning Goals and are compatible with local

comprehensive plans. Each state board or commission adopts a SAC program agreement as part of a public process and then submits it to the Land Conservation and Development Commission for review and certification. LCDC evaluates whether the SAC adequately addresses coordination with local governments and compliance with statewide planning goals. ORS 197.180 can be broken down into agency requirements, the coordination process, certification, dispute resolution, and exceptions. The coordination process requires state agencies with programs that affect land use to develop detailed programs that outline how they will coordinate with local governments on land use matters. The programs should include a system to identify which agency actions might affect land use, processes for working with local governments, and methods for sharing information with local planners.

The Oregon Land Conservation and Development Commission (LCDC) has further defined these requirements in Oregon Administrative Rules (OAR) Chapter 660, Divisions 30 and 31. These rules outline the necessary components of SAC programs, including procedures for ensuring goal compliance and plan compatibility, coordination with other agencies, and providing technical assistance to local governments. ORS 197.180 and OAR Chapter 660, Divisions 30 and 31, work together to create the SAC agreement program and its requirements.

History of SAC Program Agreements

The SAC agreements have been integral to Oregon's land use planning system since its inception in the 1970s. The first generation of SAC programs was developed and certified in the late 1970s and early 1980s as local governments developed their initial comprehensive plans. In the early 1990s, following amendments to ORS 197.180 and adopting new administrative rules, state agencies were required to update their SAC programs. Most agencies completed this process between 1990 and 1995, resulting in SAC agreements that many agencies still operate under today.

Current Status of SAC Program Agreements

While a few agencies have updated their SAC agreements, many are still working with 25 to 30-year-old agreements. In the intervening years, significant changes have occurred:

- Agency organizational structures have evolved, including entirely new agencies like the Department of Aviation; programs like the Climate Friendly and Equitable Communities program; initiatives like the Integrated Water Resources Strategy; and networks such as the Oregon Coastal Management Program.
- New land use opportunities and challenges have emerged, such as climate change, wildfire, and sage grouse protections.
- Updates to statewide planning goals and rules have created new land-use planning considerations, including new methodologies to quantify and produce needed housing.
- Advances in technology have changed how agencies interact with local governments and the public.
- The state has made a commitment to government-to-government relations, including Tribal Consultation.
- Acknowledgement of all local comprehensive plans has shifted the focus from initial adoption to ongoing coordination and voluntary periodic review.

These changes underscore the need for a comprehensive update of SAC agreements across state agencies. The Water Resources Department and several additional agencies are working with the Department of Land Conservation and Development in a pilot project to modernize these agreements during 2026. DLCD is preparing new, streamlined templates to help update these agreements, coupled with technical support.

Several student interns from Portland State University and Willamette University have been helping with these pilot efforts, gathering supporting documents into one place, hosting peer-to-peer workshops and drop-in office hours, and providing technical support to agencies who are updating program and process narratives. They are Silas Carr (2024-25), Elliot Earles (2025-26), Reed Johnson (2025-26), and Steven Yee (2025-26). DLCD staff, including regional representatives, resource specialists, and division manager Gordon Howard have provided technical expertise to support these efforts.

The Water Resources Department's SAC Program

The Department's State Agency Coordination Program Agreement consists of:

- Chapter 690, Division 5 administrative rules (Compliance with Statewide Planning Goals, Compatibility with Comprehensive Plans, and Coordination on Land Use Matters)
- Applicable land use programs identified in Division 5 (OAR 690-005-0025) and any future Department program or activity which may reasonably be expected to significantly affect land use as prescribed by ORS 197.180 and DLCD's administrative rules
- Land Use Planning Procedures Guide, adopted in August 1990

The SAC provides compatibility strategies for various OWRD land use programs, including but not limited to the land use programs encapsulated in the Chapter 690 rule divisions for new water right permit and transfer applications (Divisions 310 and 380 respectively). For these land use programs, the primary authority for compliance is OAR 690-005-0035, although OWRD's Land Use Planning Procedures Guide also provides additional helpful explanations and context.

The Guide notes that OWRD relies on "land use information supplied by applicants and confirmed by local planning officials." When an applicant supplies land use information following OAR 690-005-0035(4)(a), the rule requires sufficient information to substantiate that the land use served by the proposed water use is compatible with the comprehensive plan. OWRD requires that this information be provided on its Land Use Information Form. This form helps determine whether the land use to be served by the proposed water use is allowed outright or involves discretionary approvals.

If land use approval is required, the local government states the type of approval needed, citing the applicable parts of the zoning and land division ordinances (code), and then indicates if the land use approval has been obtained, is being pursued, has been denied, or is not being pursued by the applicant.

If the use is allowed outright or the land use approval has been obtained, OWRD typically has sufficient information to know that, if the agency approves the water right transaction, OWRD is approving an action that is allowed under the acknowledged comprehensive plan.

If the land use approval is being pursued, OWRD will typically require that the land use approval be obtained prior to approving a water right transaction. If the land use approval has been

denied, OWRD is likely to deny the requested water right transaction, because the local government has presumably found that the land use to be served by the proposed water use is not compatible with the acknowledged comprehensive plan.

If the land use approval is not being pursued, the Land Use Information Form will typically not contain sufficient information to show that the land use to be served by the proposed water use is compatible with the acknowledged comprehensive plan. In accordance with the Water Resources Commission's previous interpretation of OAR 690-005-0035(4), as upheld by the Oregon Court of Appeals, OWRD does not have a pathway for approving a water right permit or transfer application if an applicant has not begun the process for obtaining required discretionary land use approvals.¹

Other examples of OWRD's land use programs include instream water rights, water reservations, allocation of conserved water, basin planning, scenic waterway coordination, and several others. Compatibility strategies vary across land use programs, but all are rooted in the State Agency Coordination agreement. With assistance from DLCD and student interns, OWRD is currently reviewing its SAC Program Agreement, identifying areas in need of updates and exploring potential changes to the Division 5 administrative rules. OWRD anticipates completion of updates to the 1990 Land Use Planning Procedures Guide in 2026, however, if administrative rule amendments are also needed, this project will likely involve another phase of additional work, continuing beyond this current year.

b. Oregon's 2025 Integrated Water Resources Strategy

Water is a public resource, essential to our communities, ecosystems, and economic activities. Protection and management of this shared public resource and responsible use of public funds requires an integrated strategy based on rigorous data and analyses. In 2009, the passing of House Bill 3369 identified the need and direction to develop a statewide Integrated Water Resources Strategy (IWRS) 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. The first IWRS was adopted in 2012, the second in 2017, and the most recent version in 2025. The IWRS provides a roadmap to coordinate water management efforts by many agencies and partners.

The IWRS addresses several critical issues at the intersection of land and water. The document identifies actions to better plan and prepare for natural hazards like drought, wildfire, and floods. The IWRS also provides an overview of Oregon's land use planning system and the importance of integrating state water data into local planning. Issues surrounding water infrastructure are also described, including considerations for upgrading infrastructure, dam safety, well construction, and the potential need for regional water systems, where appropriate.

2025-27 IWRS Workplan

The authorizing statute (ORS 536.220) for the IWRS was updated in 2023 to require the development of biennial workplans to guide implementation. The statute revisions became effective following the adoption of the 2025 IWRS on September 11, 2025. ORS 536.220 does

¹ *Willamette Water Co. v. WaterWatch of Oregon*, 288 Or App 778 (Nov. 15, 2017).

not specify any formal adoption or approval process for the workplan by the Water Resources Commission.

In December 2025, OWRD coordinated with 13 other agencies to develop and finalize the 2025-27 IWRS Workplan. Please refer to Attachment A. The 2025-27 IWRS Workplan is divided into two parts. The first part identifies tasks agencies expect to accomplish related to the IWRS Priorities. The second part identifies agency actions to address the broader IWRS, all four objectives and the related 48 actions.

2027-29 IWRS Workplan

Agencies began the development of 2027-29 IWRS Workplan in early 2026, in coordination with agency budget and legislative development processes to maximize the opportunity to acquire resources or legislation, as needed, to support IWRS implementation.

OWRD sent letters to Tribes in October 2025 to inform them of the opportunity to provide input on the workplan and followed up in January 2026 via email.

III. Conclusion

No action is required for this agenda item, although staff appreciate any guidance, feedback, or questions from Commission members.

IV. Attachments

Attachment A: 2025-27 IWRS Workplan

Oregon’s 2025 Integrated Water Resources Strategy 2025-27 Interagency Workplan

December 2025



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Oregon Revised Statute [536.220](#) was modified in 2023 to require the development of 2-year workplans to implement Oregon’s Integrated Water Resources Strategy (Strategy). This Workplan represents the ways in which 14 agencies anticipate contributing to Strategy implementation over the 2025-27 biennium.

Part 1 of the Workplan shows expected agency efforts on the Interagency Priorities outlined in [Appendix E of the 2025 Strategy](#). These priorities were identified by agency leadership and the Governor’s Office.

Part 2 of the Workplan shows the anticipated agency efforts that align more broadly with the Strategy and its two goals, four objectives, and 48 actions. These efforts include ongoing agency work that support better understanding and meeting Oregon’s instream and out-of-stream water needs. See [Appendix D of the 2025 Strategy](#) for more information about the goals, objectives, and actions.

Refer to individual agency workplans for additional detail.

DSL: [Strategic Plan 2022-2027](#)

ODEQ: [Water Quality Program Plan 2025-27](#)

OWRD: [Strategic and Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Justice Plan 2025-2030](#)

Agency Acronyms:

| | | | |
|--------|---|------|--|
| BIZOR | Business Oregon | ODOE | Oregon Department of Energy |
| DOGAMI | Department of Geology and Mineral Industries | OHA | Oregon Health Authority |
| DLCD | Department of Land Conservation and Development | OPRD | Oregon Parks and Recreation Department |
| DSL | Department of State Lands | OSMB | Oregon State Marine Board |
| ODA | Oregon Department of Agriculture | OWEB | Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board |
| ODEQ | Oregon Department of Environmental Quality | OWRD | Oregon Water Resources Department |
| ODF | Oregon Department of Forestry | USGS | U.S. Geological Survey |
| ODFW | Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife | USDA | U.S. Department of Agriculture |

Other Acronyms:

| | |
|---------|---|
| AR | Artificial Recharge |
| ASR | Aquifer Storage and Recovery |
| CAFO | Confined Animal Feeding Operation |
| CWSRF | Clean Water State Revolving Fund |
| EO | Oregon Executive Order |
| GIS | Geographic information system |
| HB | House Bill |
| ISWR | Instream Water Rights |
| LUBGWMA | Lower Umatilla Groundwater Management Area |
| NPDES | National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System |
| OCRF | Oregon Conservation and Recreation Fund |
| PFA | Private Forest Accord |
| POA | Point of Appropriation |
| POD | Point of Diversion |
| SB | Senate Bill |
| SIA | Strategic Implementation Area |
| SWCD | Soil and Water Conservation District |
| SWIMS | Surface Water Information Modeling System |



Part 1: Interagency Priorities and Tasks – Agency 2025-27 Activities

All Strategy actions are important; however, efforts must be prioritized in a resource constrained environment. Interagency leadership, with support from the Governor’s Office, identified specific priority areas in the 2025 Strategy where agencies can work together to make meaningful progress before the next Strategy update, due in eight years. These priorities will require focused resources and attention. Part 1 of the Workplan shows how agencies expect to contribute to priority tasks over the 2025-27 Biennium.

| Priority Area 1: Act with Urgency to Protect Instream and Out-of-Stream Uses | | | | | |
|---|--|--|--|--|--|
| Task | 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 |
| IWRS Actions | 8C, 10E, 10F, 13B | 8C, 10F, 13B | 10F, 11A-11E, 13B, 13C | 11A-11E, 12A-12C, 13B, 13C | 10F, 13B |
| Agencies* | DSL, ODA, ODEQ, ODFW, OWRD | OWRD, ODA | DSL, ODEQ, ODFW, OPRD, OWEB, OWRD | BizOR, DLCD, ODA, ODEQ, OWEB, OWRD | DOGAMI, DSL, ODEQ, ODFW, OWRD |
| Anticipated Agency Efforts | <p>DSL: Be responsive to complaints and compliance issues with the Removal/Fill Law.</p> <p>ODA: Facilitate timely rule making processes: LUBGWMA Rules. Continue to expand the SIA (Strategic Implementation Area) footprint across the state. Facilitate Area Rules Updates. Maintain schedule for biennial reviews of Water Quality area plans. CAFO Requirements for new and renewing permittees to submit water supply plans.</p> <p>ODEQ: Issue and renew water quality protection permits and certifications and ensure compliance through monitoring, reporting and inspections. Promote public outreach and education regarding residential onsite program.</p> <p>ODFW: Gain fish passage and fish screening compliance, where applicable.</p> <p>OWRD: Update Division 250, 260 & 300 rules. Outreach & enforcement for static water level permit condition reporting. Update Field Operations Manual.</p> | <p>OWRD: Implement HB 3372 (2025) regarding exempt use and update Division 340.</p> | <p>DSL: Expand the Statewide Wetlands Inventory online map to include compensatory mitigation sites and wetland delineations. Rulemaking to better protect aquatic resources of special concern. Rulemaking for improved stream and wetland protection. Investigate ways to improve resiliency of Oregon’s wetlands, waterways, and the territorial sea.</p> <p>ODEQ: Pursue designation of waters identified as priority candidates for Outstanding Resource Waters; Develop Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) and Water Quality Management Plans (WQMPs) in collaboration with responsible parties.</p> <p>ODFW: Apply for instream water rights; seek conversion of Willamette minimum perennial streamflows to instream water rights; promote instream flow restoration through water right acquisition and instream transfers/leases; continue cold water program; continue the Aquatic Invasive Species Program.</p> <p>OPRD: Review all OPRD water rights to ensure proper utilization and opportunities for conservation.</p> <p>OWEB: Continue offering the Water Acquisition grant program for instream needs and Land Acquisitions for habitat protection and ecosystem processes, including resiliency.</p> <p>OWRD: Update Division 2 and 77 (ISWR Transactions) rules. Scoping for Deschutes Water Bank, HB 3806 (2025).</p> | <p>All Agencies: Implement Action Plan for LUBGWMA. Implement SB 1154 (2025) including interagency team participation.</p> <p>BizOR: Continue to manage projects for drinking water source protection funded through the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund in coordination with OHA and ODEQ.</p> <p>DLCD: Administer new Wetland Technical Assistance Grant Program to support new and updated local wetlands protection programs.</p> <p>ODA: Work with SWCD’s to provide Technical Assistance to landowners. Continue with SIA development/monitoring to address Ag water quality concerns. Include drinking water source protection within the SIA selection/development process.</p> <p>ODEQ: Implement interagency agreement with Oregon Health Authority (OHA) to support drinking water protection in Oregon by providing technical assistance to public water systems and communities. Develop and implement TMDLs in priority watersheds.</p> <p>OWEB: Continue offering the Water Acquisition grant program. If new funding is made available, offer future grant cycles for Drinking Water Source Protection.</p> <p>OWRD: Implement LUBGWMA Action Plan: conduct backflow inspections, publish conceptual model, seek federal funding for additional observation wells, investigate well construction.</p> | <p>DOGAMI: Develop and implement an electronic permitting system for the Mineral Land Regulation and Reclamation program.</p> <p>DSL: Improvements to Stream Mitigation Program, incorporate regulatory streamlining for habitat improvement. Create forum to pursue opportunities with interested parties, including developing memorandums of understanding or other agreements, joint funding for projects for multiple benefits, and improved data sharing.</p> <p>ODEQ: Conduct inspections, issue new water quality permits, reduce the backlog of administratively extended WQ permits, and transition to Your DEQ Online (YDO) for all water quality permits. Follow up on WQ violations and enforcement actions and monitor compliance. Update DEQ’s Water Right Review form, implement process improvements, and continue partnership on the Division 33 Interagency [water right] Review Team.</p> <p>ODFW: Complete ODFW water right review guidance documents and update review forms; improve external understanding of ODFW’s Fish and Wildlife Habitat Mitigation Policy; continue participation in the Division 33 Interagency Review Team.</p> <p>OWRD: Rulemaking (approx. 18 Divisions) to implement HB 3342 and HB 3544 (2025). Track and report water rights process timelines.</p> |
| *Achieving outcomes for many of these tasks may require coordination and/or partnership with Tribes, federal, state, and local agencies, districts, community-based and non-governmental organizations, and private entities, among others. | | | | | |

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

| Priority Area 2: Assist the State and Communities to Prepare for Water Scarcity | | | | | |
|---|--|---|---|--|--|
| Task | 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 |
| IWRS Actions | 1A, 3A, 13B | 1C, 13B | 1A-1D, 2A-2C, 13B | 9A, 9E, 13B | 6A, 13B |
| Agencies* | OWRD | DLCD, DSL, ODA, ODEQ, ODFW, OWEB, OWRD | ODEQ, ODFW, OWRD | DLCD, ODA, ODEQ, ODFW, OWEB, OWRD | DLCD, OWRD |
| Anticipated Agency Efforts | <p>OWRD: Identify IT staffing and resource gaps and develop strategy to address gaps. Continue SWIMS development. Install stream gages for SWIMS. Partner with USGS on developing conceptual statewide water budgets. Statewide Recharge Study sample collection. Update groundwater concerns map and supporting documentation. Continue measurement device installation at Significant Points of Diversion. Increase installation of measurement devices at PODs/POAs using the new processes for the Water Measurement and Cost Share Fund. Install measurement devices on all surface water PODs on mainstem John Day River.</p> | <p>All Agencies: Support Oregon Water Data Portal development.</p> <p>ODA: Identify data gaps that IT could help fill. Engage in Ag. Water Quality Hub Data collection/development. Facilitate SIA remote monitoring data being electronically reported. Launch "One ODA" to facilitate inter-departmental collaboration of data resources.</p> <p>ODEQ: Transition to Your DEQ Online for all water quality permits. Update and maintain the Ambient Water Quality Monitoring System (AQWMS). Improve accessibility of reports and data-centric applications (e.g., Integrated Report) on DEQ's website.</p> <p>ODFW: Scope instream water right tracking dashboard.</p> <p>OWEB: Support the inter-agency development of the Oregon Water Data Portal, including QA/QC.</p> <p>OWRD: Identify IT staffing and resource gaps and develop strategy to address gaps.</p> | <p>ODEQ: Develop, issue, and implement TMDLs and water quality management plans; work with designated management agencies (DMAs) on their implementation responsibilities. Prepare the Oregon Nonpoint Source Pollution Program Annual Report. Produce annual statewide surface water quality Status and Trends Report.</p> <p>ODFW: Continue cold water data collection and instream flow studies; Expand studies to larger systems in collaboration with other agencies.</p> <p>OWRD: Complete Walla Walla Basin Study. Initiate Fifteenmile Sub-Basin Study. Provide Technical Assistance Packages (base-level data) for Place-Based Water Planning groups.</p> | <p>DLCD: Continue convening Coastal Resilience Workshops to support peer-learning in coastal communities.</p> <p>ODA: Utilize SIA and Ag Water Quality Grants. Identify and prioritize implementation strategies for priority projects/technical assistance areas. Work with SWCD's to implement projects with landowners. Engage in Placed Based Water Planning workgroups across the state.</p> <p>ODEQ: Develop, issue, and implement TMDLs and water quality management plans. Serve as lead agency in coordinating drinking water source protection activities with other state and federal agencies. Provide outreach, technical support, and trainings to promote and leverage funding opportunities for communities to address water quality improvement projects. Support launch of Place-Based Water Planning and help communities plan their water future.</p> <p>ODFW: Provide technical assistance to Water Planning Groups.</p> <p>OWEB: Provide Focused Investment Partnership, Monitoring, and Capacity funding that allows local partners to collect water related data and participate in water planning efforts. Tribal Project Development grants can also support capacity for Tribal staff to participate in planning efforts when there is a connection to salmon/steelhead recovery.</p> <p>OWRD: Launch Place-Based Water Planning grants, complete PBP Handbook, and participate in planning including technical assistance.</p> | <p>DLCD & OWRD: Joint Land Conservation and Development Commission and Water Resources Commission meeting in 2026. Initiate pilot update to the OWRD State Agency Coordination agreement to reflect new programs and emerging issues to ensure that OWRD's actions continue to be consistent with the state's planning goals and compatible with local comprehensive plans.</p> <p>OWRD: Participate in advisory committees as needed.</p> |
| *Achieving outcomes for many of these tasks may require coordination and/or partnership with Tribes, federal, state, and local agencies, districts, community-based and non-governmental organizations, and private entities, among others. | | | | | |

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

| | Task | Task | Task | Task | Task |
|-----------------------------------|--|--|---|--|--|
| Task | 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 |
| IWRS Actions | 10B, 10C, 10F, 13B, 13C | 7A, 9A, 10A, 13B, 13C | 11A-11E, 12A, 13B, 13C | 10C | 10F, 13B |
| Agencies* | BizOR, ODA, ODEQ, ODFW, OHA, OWEB, OWRD | OWEB, OWRD, ODA | ODEQ, ODFW, OWEB, OWRD | ODEQ, ODFW, OWRD | ODEQ, ODFW, OWRD |
| Anticipated Agency Efforts | <p>BizOR: Administer the Aquifer Recharge Funding Program including disbursement and project management (6 projects).</p> <p>ODA: Participate in the Interagency Water Reuse Team per HB 2169 (2025) and provide technical assistance for ag management practices and reuse opportunities which protect public health and the environment.</p> <p>ODEQ: Establish and coordinate the Interagency Water Reuse Team. Engage with interested parties to identify policy change priorities and technical assistance needs to support reuse projects. Summarize and analyze permitting and regulatory process improvement opportunities for water reuse projects (HB 2169). Coordinate with OWRD to establish transparent permitting pathways for Artificial Recharge (AR) and Aquifer Storage and Recovery (ASR) projects and finalize Internal Management Directives (IMD) for AR/ASR projects.</p> <p>ODFW: Participate in the Interagency Water Reuse Team.</p> <p>OHA: Participate in the Interagency Water Reuse Team.</p> <p>OWEB: Continue offering Technical Assistance, Monitoring, and Restoration grant programs to assist with assessing and implementing water reuse and aquifer recharge projects that benefit streamflow.</p> <p>OWRD: Provide technical assistance. Participate in the Interagency Reuse Team. Identify resource gaps to address AR/ASR program needs and improvements.</p> | <p>ODA: Expand efforts for informational public meetings and outreach events, focusing on SIA development and Area Plan reviews. Utilize SWCD partners to assist with Technical Assistance to landowners for Water Quality projects.</p> <p>OWEB: Continue offering Restoration, Monitoring, and Water Acquisition grants to fund irrigation efficiency and instream flow improvements.</p> <p>OWRD: Implement expanded Feasibility Study and Water Projects Grants and Loans programs (HB 3364, 2025). Launch Place-Based Water Planning grants.</p> | <p>ODEQ: Assist communities seeking funding for water quality projects by maximizing shared outreach efforts and materials about the funding opportunities (WQ Grants and CWSRF). Develop and implement policies, procedures, and process improvements to efficiently administer funding programs and coordinate water quality funding programs (e.g., CWSRF) within DEQ. Assist OHA in updating and enhancing source water assessments for public water systems using groundwater sources and evaluate risks to all drinking water source areas. Serve as lead agency in coordinating drinking water source protection activities with other state and federal agencies.</p> <p>ODFW: Finalize and publish updated flow restoration priorities; Oversee PFA and OCRF grant programs to provide an alternative funding source for flow restoration; continue implementation of the Wildlife Habitat Conservation and Management Program; Assist with standing-up the Oregon Environmental Restoration Council and Fund.</p> <p>OWEB: Continue offering Water Acquisition, Monitoring, and Restoration grants to improve stream flows. If new funding is made available, offer future grant cycles for Drinking Water Source Protection program.</p> <p>OWRD: Continue to support and increase participation in the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP). Administer grants to implement the Walla Walla Water 2050 Plan.</p> | <p>ODEQ: Improve permitting pathways and coordination for aquifer storage and recovery.</p> <p>ODFW: Improve external understanding of ODFW’s Fish and Wildlife Habitat Mitigation Policy.</p> <p>OWRD: Identify resource gaps to evaluate and increase effectiveness of AR/ASR</p> | <p>ODEQ: Continue to provide technical assistance and water quality expertise review for water rights under Division 33, review Consent to Injury Applications, and provide technical assistance input for any efforts to improve processing of water rights transfers.</p> <p>ODFW: Update ODFW guidance regarding the Consent to Injury recommendation process.</p> <p>OWRD: Evaluate water rights transactions using Lean Six Sigma principles. Implement transfer process improvements.</p> |

*Achieving outcomes for many of these tasks may require coordination and/or partnership with Tribes, federal, state, and local agencies, districts, community-based and non-governmental organizations, and private entities, among others.



Part 2: Implementing the Strategy's Four Objectives – Agency 2025-27 Activities

Agencies may make progress on Strategy Implementation outside of the Interagency Priorities (Part 1), as resources allow. Many of the Strategy's four objectives and associated actions ([2025 Strategy Framework](#)) represent ongoing agency work through existing programs or new legislative initiatives that support Strategy implementation.

Objective 1: Understand Oregon's Water Resources

Strategy Actions 1A-1D

Multi-Agency Efforts:

- Agency staff continue to engage in the Oregon STREAM Team to coordinate planning, monitoring, and communication of water related data and information among Oregon's state natural resource agencies (ODA, ODEQ, ODFW, OWEB, OWRD, Actions 1A, 1C)
- Oregon STREAM Team to develop an annual interagency water monitoring map and monitoring calendar to show where state agencies are actively engaged in monitoring activities for the current calendar year (ODA, ODEQ, ODFW, OWEB, OWRD, Actions 1A, 1C)
- Site and install additional stream gages (ODFW, OWRD, Actions 1A, 2A)
- Initiate developing instream Water Right Monitoring and Enforcement MOU between ODFW and OWRD (Action 1A)

DOGAMI

- Publish new geologic maps that constrain hydrogeologic models (Actions 1A, 1B, 1C)
- Coordinate the collection and publication of lidar and geophysical data (Actions 1A, 1B, 1C)

DSL

- Ongoing improvements in the Statewide Wetlands Inventory (Actions 1A, 1C)
- Continue long-term monitoring at South Slough Reserve (Actions 1A, 1D)
- Continue eel grass monitoring and research at Coos Bay (Actions 1A, 1D)

ODA

- Conduct Ag Water Quality Compliance Investigations (Action 1A)
- Utilize the Pesticide Stewardship Program to identify potential concerns to water quality as affected by pesticide use (Actions 1A, 1C)

ODEQ

- Conduct WQ Standards reviews and rule revisions to establish and update scientifically based water quality standards based on the most up to date scientific data and information to develop the Integrated Report (Action 1A)
- Collect and analyze water quality data for the development of TMDLs and produce the annual Statewide [Surface Water Quality] Status and Trends Report to support implementation of the TMDL and nonpoint source programs (Action 1A)
- Continue monitoring efforts to collect water quality samples which are stored and accessed through the Ambient Water Quality Monitoring System (AWQMS) (Action 1A)
- Coordinate and collaborate with stakeholders, state, federal, and local agencies during water quality standard development (Action 1C)
- Work with partner agencies to provide data and analyses for Place Based Water Planning efforts across the state (Action 1C)
- Continue data collection for the Groundwater Protection Program and Groundwater Monitoring Program (Action 1A, 1B)

ODFW

- Work with USGS to identify priority locations for and install additional stream gages (Action 1A)
- Finalize and implement the Aquatic Habitat Prioritization assessment (Action 1D)

OWEB

- Annually convene and facilitate the Oregon Plan Monitoring Team (OPMT) to review OWEB monitoring grant applications (Actions 1A, 1C) and continue involvement with the Pacific Northwest Aquatic Monitoring Partnership (PNAMP) Steering Committee (Actions 1A, 1C)
- Maintain the Oregon Watershed Restoration Inventory (OWRI) for grantee submissions (Actions 11A, 11D)

OWRD

- Continue surface water and groundwater data collection (Action 1A, 1B, 1C)

Objective 2: Understand Instream and Out-of-Stream Needs

Strategy Actions 2A-3D

Multi-Agency Efforts:

- Support OWRD's Water Project Grants and Loans program including irrigation modernization and associated water use measurement and reporting (ODEQ, OWRD, Action 3A)

DSL

- Ongoing Essential Salmonid Habitat mapping (Action 2A)

ODA

- Develop, issue, and implement TMDLs and water quality implementation plans (Actions 2A, 12A, 12B, 12C)

ODEQ

- Review water right applications subject to OAR 690-033 rules (Action 2A)
- Provide technical assistance and data management for volunteer monitoring partners (Action 3A)
- Develop, issue, and implement TMDLs and Water Quality Management Plans (WQMPs) (Action 2A)
- Assess capacity limitations for Instream Water Right Applications (Action 2A)

ODFW

- Continue assessing relationships between instream flow and water quality (Action 2A)
- Continue assessing channel maintenance flow needs (Action 2A)

OWEB

- Continue offering Technical Assistance and Monitoring grants for instream flow needs. Monitoring grantees collect local water quality and quantity data, and report results through a number of data systems. (Action 2A)

OWRD

- Map instream water rights (Action 2A)

Objective 3: Understand the Pressures that Affect Our Needs and Supplies

Strategy Actions 4A-8D

Multi-Agency Efforts:

- Continue participation in multi-agency Hydroelectric Application Review Team (ODEQ, ODFW, ODOE, OWRD, Action 4A)
- Agency participation in the Outdoor School to teach the next generation about water stewardship (ODEQ, OWRD, Action 8A)
- Integrate water resource issues in the Plan for a Resilient Oregon, [Governor of Oregon : Plan for a Resilient Oregon : Policies : State of Oregon](#) (Agencies TBD, Actions 5A, 5B, 5C, 6B, 9E, 13C)

BIZOR

- Administer the Housing Infrastructure Financing Program (HB 3031, 2025) to fund technical assistance for water infrastructure needed for housing development (Actions 6A, 7A, 13C)
- Administer the Housing Infrastructure Support Fund (SB 1537, 2024) to support planning and financing for water infrastructure (Actions 6A, 7A, 13C)

DOGAMI

- Ensure that the permitting of wells for energy resource extraction considers water quality and quantity needs and impacts (Action 4A)
- Map geologic hazard areas (seismic, tsunami flood, channel migration, landslide, post-fire debris flow, coastal erosion, and more) and perform risk assessments to identify populations, buildings, transportation routes, utility lines, levees, and other infrastructure at risk (Actions 5A, 5B, 5C, 7C, 8D)
- Assist communities in preparing for a Cascadia earthquake and tsunami event by producing supplementary maps, such as evacuation maps, and participating in Cascadia Region Earthquake Science Center working groups and research (Actions 5C, 8C)
- Provide best available scientific information to inform state and local Natural Hazard Mitigation, Emergency, Land Use, Transportation, Comprehensive Plans, and more (Action 6A)
- Produce GIS databases that compile historical flood information and flood datasets (Actions 5B, 6A)
- Manage an internship program that provides research experience for undergraduate, graduate, and recently graduated students (Action 8B)
- Conduct public outreach and education on geology and natural hazards (Action 8C)
- Coordinate and collaborate with state, federal, industry, tribal partners to develop research projects (Action 8D)

DLCD

- Administer the Community Green Infrastructure Grant Program, award over \$3 million in grants and manage grant agreements (Action 6B)
- Complete a statewide Hazards Risk Assessment that includes drought, wildfire, and floods to support preparation of local natural hazard mitigation plans (Actions 5A, 5B)
- Ongoing technical support to local governments to develop water supply interties in areas at risk for saltwater intrusion, drought, sedimentation post wildfire (Actions 5A, 6A, 7A, 7B)

DSL

- Continue work on statewide Local Wetland Inventory database (Actions 2B, 6A)
- Increase education and outreach regarding Removal/Fill Wetland Program (see DSL Strategic Plan)(Action 8C)

ODA

- Utilize CAFO Program for dam and impounded water safety concerns (Actions 5B, 7C, 8C)
- Utilize SIA process, Area Plans, and Area Rules to promote community education for agricultural landowners (Action 8C)

ODEQ

- Issue Permits (NPDES, WPCF, and general permits) and review discharge monitoring reports to ensure adherence to individual and general permit requirements that protect and/or improve the quality of receiving waters and protect the beneficial uses of those waters (Action 7A)
- Take action on residential and WPCF onsite site evaluation, authorization, permit and repair applications (Action 7A)
- Promote wastewater operation as a career and perform education and outreach to current and potential wastewater operators (Actions 8B, 8C)
- Support communities seeking funding for water quality projects by maximizing shared outreach efforts and materials about funding opportunities, increase staff training and coordination regarding funding programs, and seek opportunities to leverage funding sources. Fund various projects, including wastewater infrastructure, utilizing the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (Actions 7A, 9E)
- Support state and local community planning efforts through technical assistance (Actions 8C, 8D, 9A, 9B, 9C, 9D)

ODF

- Implement Small Forestland Grant Program – Focus on grants that reduce wildfire risk and creating resiliency on landscape (Actions 5A, 13C)

ODFW

- Seek Sea Grant or other interns for the Water Program, when available (Action 8B)
- Host public meetings regarding instream water right applications (Action 8C)

ODOE

- Complete Oregon's first Energy Strategy (Action 4A, 4C)
- Provide ongoing support for the Oregon Climate Action Commission (Action 4C)
- Work with data centers to develop water and energy savings efficiencies (Actions 4C, 10A)

OHA

- Continue to provide community education through the Domestic Well Safety Program (Action 8C)

OPRD

- Continue outreach and education regarding the Scenic Waterways Program (Actions 8C, 11B)

OSMB

- Continue to provide outreach and education through Clean Marinas Program and Boating Safety Advocates (Action 8C)

OWEB

- Collaborate with ODFW and other natural resource agencies to develop resilience attributes as directed in EO 25-26 (Actions 5A, 5B, 6A)

OWRD

- Program improvements for the Water Well Abandonment, Repair, and Replacement Fund (WARRF) (Actions 7A, 13C)
- Conduct dam safety inspections, design reviews, and Emergency Planning & Response exercises (Actions 5B, 7A, 7C)
- School Team provides support and resources for agency staff for outreach and engagement with elementary to middle-school aged children (Action 8A)
- Develop public engagement tools for OWRD to engage the public around technical information (Actions 8C, 9E)

Objective 4: Meet Oregon's Instream and Out-of-Stream Needs**Strategy Actions 9A-13C**

Multi-Agency Efforts:

- Support water planning in the Chewaucan, Deschutes, and Walla Walla Basins (OWRD, ODEQ, ODFW, Actions 9A, 9B, 9C, 9D, 9E)
- Support water planning implementation efforts in the Upper Grande Ronde, Lower John Day, Harney Basin, and Mid-Coast (OWRD, ODEQ, ODFW, Actions 9A, 9B, 9C, 9D, 9E)
- Continue resolution of instream water right protests (ODFW, OWRD, Action 11B)
- Continue the Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention Program (ODFW, OSMB, Action 11C)
- Implement HB 2982 (2025) to increase funding for Aquatic invasive Species Prevention Funds (ODFW, OSMB, Action 11C)
- Implement HB 2170 (2025), to expand authority for Tribal and Local Government entities to operate boat inspection station locations across Oregon (ODFW, OSMB, Action 11C)
- Continue participation in the interagency Water Quality Pesticide Management Team (WQPMT) (ODA, ODEQ, ODF, OHA, Actions 12A, 12B)
- Continue to support Strategy implementation (All agencies, Action 13A)

BIZOR

- Continue funding for planning, feasibility, and water infrastructure projects (Action 13C)

DOGAMI

- Participate in interagency coordination meetings including State Interagency Hazard Mitigation Team, Oregon Silver Jackets, Water Core Team, and those with Tribal partners (Action 9C)
- Within existing capacity, prioritize field inspections and increase the number of mine site inspections that occur each year (Actions 10E, 10F)
- Seek regulatory compliance in surface mining, exploration, drilling, and site reclamation with permittees (Action 10F)

DLCD

- Lead updates for State Agency Coordination (SAC) Programs (Action 9D)
- Continue provision of Technical Assistance and Housing Planning Assistance grants in support of public facilities planning to address housing production (Action 13C)
- Continue funding of Estuary Management Plan updates (Action 13C)

DSL

- Continue Essential Salmonid Habitat mapping annual updates (Action 11B)

ODA

- Utilize the IPPM, Plant Conservation Program and the Noxious Weed Control Program to manage and control invasive plant species across Oregon's landscape (Action 11C)
- Continue implementation of the Pesticide Stewardship Partnership Program (Action 12B)
- Continue to utilize the CAFO program to address water quality through permitting and monitoring appropriate animal agriculture operations (Actions 12A-12C)
- Implement TMDLs to address water quality issues associated with agricultural lands (Actions 9B, 12A-12C)

ODEQ

- Collect water samples and analyze water quality and biological data to develop water quality standards, TMDLs, contact indicators for cyanotoxins, and monitor approximately 60 sites for toxics annually (Action 10E)
- Develop, issue, and implement TMDLs and WQMPs (Actions 12B, 12C)
- Work with designated management agencies, ODF, and ODA on water quality implementation plans for TMDLs and WQMPs (Action 9D, 10D, 11B, 12C)

- Develop the Oregon Nutrient Reduction Strategy with the goal of achieving anthropogenic nutrient reductions and preventing nutrient pollution (Actions 12A-12C)
- Begin strategic planning for the GW Protection Program to develop a long-term vision for the program with goal of building enhanced processes and resources for GW protection across Oregon (Action 11E)
- Review Aquifer Storage and Recovery applications for water quality effects and develop procedures for review (Actions 9D, 10C)
- Summarize and analyze the permitting and regulatory barriers to reuse projects (HB 2169, 2025) (Actions 9D, 10B)
- Implement SB 830 (2025) for onsite septic fund expansion (Actions 12A-12C, 13C)

ODF

- Private Forest Accord Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) development – submission and formal process to receive approval and subsequent incidental take permits for selected aquatic and amphibian species for the covered activities in the Forest Practices Act (Action 9C)
- Continue monitoring for invasive forest species – emphasis on Emerald Ash Borer efforts to monitor and implement multi-agency efforts to detect and minimize spread. Forest Health Unit monitors other potential threats to Oregon Forests. (Actions 11A, 11C)
- Continue to implement applicable water quality TMDL plans through the Forest Practices Act and rules and through the other ODF programs: including compliance monitoring, adaptive management, small forest incentives, and educational/outreach programs (Actions 1A, 8C, 9B, 11D, 12B, 12C, 13C)

ODFW

- Complete the 10-year update to the State Wildlife Action Plan (Actions 11A-11D)
- Implement 3-Year Action Plan for Beaver-Modified Landscapes 2022-2025 (Action 11A)
- Complete update for statewide streamflow restoration prioritization (Action 11B)
- Support efforts to expand fish screening in the Klamath basin in newly accessible anadromous salmonid habitats (Action 11D)

ODOE

- Administer the USDA REDA Grant Program to conduct energy and water efficiency assessments (Actions 4C, 10A, 13C)

OHA

- Implement HB 3525 (2025) to require landlords to test and report well water quality in specific situations (Action 12A)

OPRD

- Evaluate park operations including irrigation for water conservation opportunities (Action 10A)
- Pursue sustainable funding model for water resources management including OPRD properties and State Scenic Waterways (Action 13B)

OWEB

- Fulfill Oregon's responsibilities to the Oregon Environmental Restoration Council to administer the Oregon Environmental Restoration Fund (Actions 12A-12B, 13C)
- Continue to administer the Natural and Working Lands grant program to implement projects focused on natural climate solutions and environmental justice (Actions 11A, 11C, 11D)
- Support ODOE's study on workforce needs to implement natural climate solutions (Action 8B)

OWRD

- Begin updating the municipal Water Management and Conservation Plan guidebook (Action 10A)
- Continue administering grant programs that fund feasibility, planning, and project implementation (Actions 7A, 7C, 9A, 10A, 13C)