

# Oregon's Integrated Water Resources Strategy

**2027-29 Draft IWRS Workplan**

**Agenda Item B**

**Crystal Grinnell**

**June 11, 2025**



## Agenda:

- IWRS & Workplan Introduction
- Draft 2027-29 Workplan (Attachment 1)
- Next Steps





# What is the IWRS?

A roadmap for understanding and meeting Oregon's instream and out-of-stream water needs

## 4 Objectives:

1

Understand Oregon's Water Resources

2

Understand Instream & Out-of-Stream Needs

3

Understand Pressures that Affect Needs & Supplies

4

Meet Oregon's Instream & Out-of-Stream Needs

# Oregon's 2025 Integrated Water Resources Strategy

A framework 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



IWRS "Framework"

Goal 1: Improve Our Understanding of Oregon's Water Resources

**(1) Understand Oregon's Water Resources**

**Further Understand Limited Water Supplies and Systems**  
(groundwater, surface water, and their interaction)

**Improve Water Quality and Quantity Information**      **Further Understand Our Water Management Institutions**

**Water Resource / Supply Information**

- 1A Improve Water Resource Data Collection and Monitoring
- 1B Conduct Additional Groundwater Basin Investigations
- 1C Enhance Interagency Data Coordination
- 1D Support Basin-Scale Climate Change Research

Goal 1 (continued)

**(2) Understand Instream and Out-of-Stream Needs**

**Further Define Instream Needs**  
(i.e., left-in-place water)

**Further Define Out-of-Stream Needs / Demands**  
(i.e. diverted water)

**Instream & Ecosystem Water Needs**

- 2A Determine Instream Flow Needs (Quality and Quantity)
- 2B Determine Needs of Groundwater-Dependent Ecosystems
- 2C Develop Instream and Ecosystem Water Need Forecasts

**Out of Stream Water Needs**

- 3A Improve Water-Use Measurement and Reporting
- 3B Regularly Update Out-of-Stream Water Demand Forecasts
- 3C Determine Unadjudicated Water Right Claims
- 3D Authorize the Update of Water Right Records with Contact Information

Goal 1 (continued)

**(3) Understand the Pressures that Affect Our Needs and Supplies**

**Climate Change**      **Economic Development**      **Population Change**      **Water and Energy**

**Natural Hazards**      **Land Use Planning**      **Water Infrastructure**      **Education and Outreach**

**Climate Change**  
Actions are included throughout the Strategy

**Economic Development and Population Change**  
See Actions 2C and 3B

**Water and Energy**

- 4A Analyze the Effects on Water from Energy Development Projects and Policies
- 4B Develop Non-Traditional Hydroelectric Power
- 4C Promote Strategies that Increase/Integrate Energy and Water Savings

**Natural Hazards**

- 5A Plan and Prepare for Drought and Wildfire Resiliency
- 5B Plan and Prepare for Flood Events
- 5C Plan and Prepare for a Cascadia Earthquake and Tsunami Event

**Land Use Planning**

- 6A Improve Integration of Water Information and Land Use Planning
- 6B Encourage Low Impact Development Practices and Green Infrastructure

**Water Infrastructure**

- 7A Maintain, Upgrade, Decommission Water and Wastewater Infrastructure
- 7B Encourage Regional (Sub-Basin) Water and Wastewater Systems
- 7C Support Dam and Levee Safety

**Education and Outreach**

- 8A Support Implementation of K-12 Environmental Literacy Plan
- 8B Provide Career Training for the Next Generation of Water Professionals
- 8C Promote Community Education and Outreach
- 8D Identify Water Research Needs and Partnerships

Goal 2: Meet Oregon's Water Resource Needs

**(4) Meet Oregon's Instream and Out-of-Stream Needs**

**Water Planning**      **Water Use and Management**      **Public Health**

**Healthy Ecosystems**      **Clean Water**      **Funding**

**Water Planning**

- 9A Support Place-Based Integrated Planning and Other Water Planning Efforts
- 9B Coordinate Implementation of Natural Resource Plans
- 9C Partner with Tribes, Federal Agencies, and Neighboring States in Long-Term Water Resources Management
- 9D Improve State Interagency Coordination
- 9E Lead Meaningful Community Engagement

**Water Use and Management**

- 10A Improve Water-Use Efficiency and Water Conservation
- 10B Encourage Water Reuse Projects
- 10C Improve Access to Storage
- 10D Reach Environmental Outcomes with Non-Regulatory Alternatives
- 10E Provide an Adequate Field Presence
- 10F Strengthen & Improve Water Quantity and Water Quality Permitting Programs

**Public Health**  
See Actions 12A through 12C

**Healthy Ecosystems**

- 11A Improve Watershed Health, Resiliency, and Capacity for Natural Storage
- 11B Develop Additional Instream Protections
- 11C Prevent and Eradicate Invasive Species
- 11D Protect, Restore, and Provide Access to Instream Habitat for Fish and Wildlife
- 11E Develop Additional Groundwater Protections

**Clean Water**

- 12A Ensure the Safety of Oregon's Drinking Water
- 12B Reduce the Use of and Exposure to Toxics and Other Pollutants
- 12C Implement Water Quality Pollution Controls

**Funding**

- 13A Fund Development and Implementation of Oregon's Integrated Water Resources Strategy
- 13B Fund Water Resources Management Activities by State Agencies
- 13C Invest in Planning, Feasibility Studies, and Water Resource Project Implementation

# Timeline of 2025 IWRS Development



# Oregon Revised Statute (536.220)

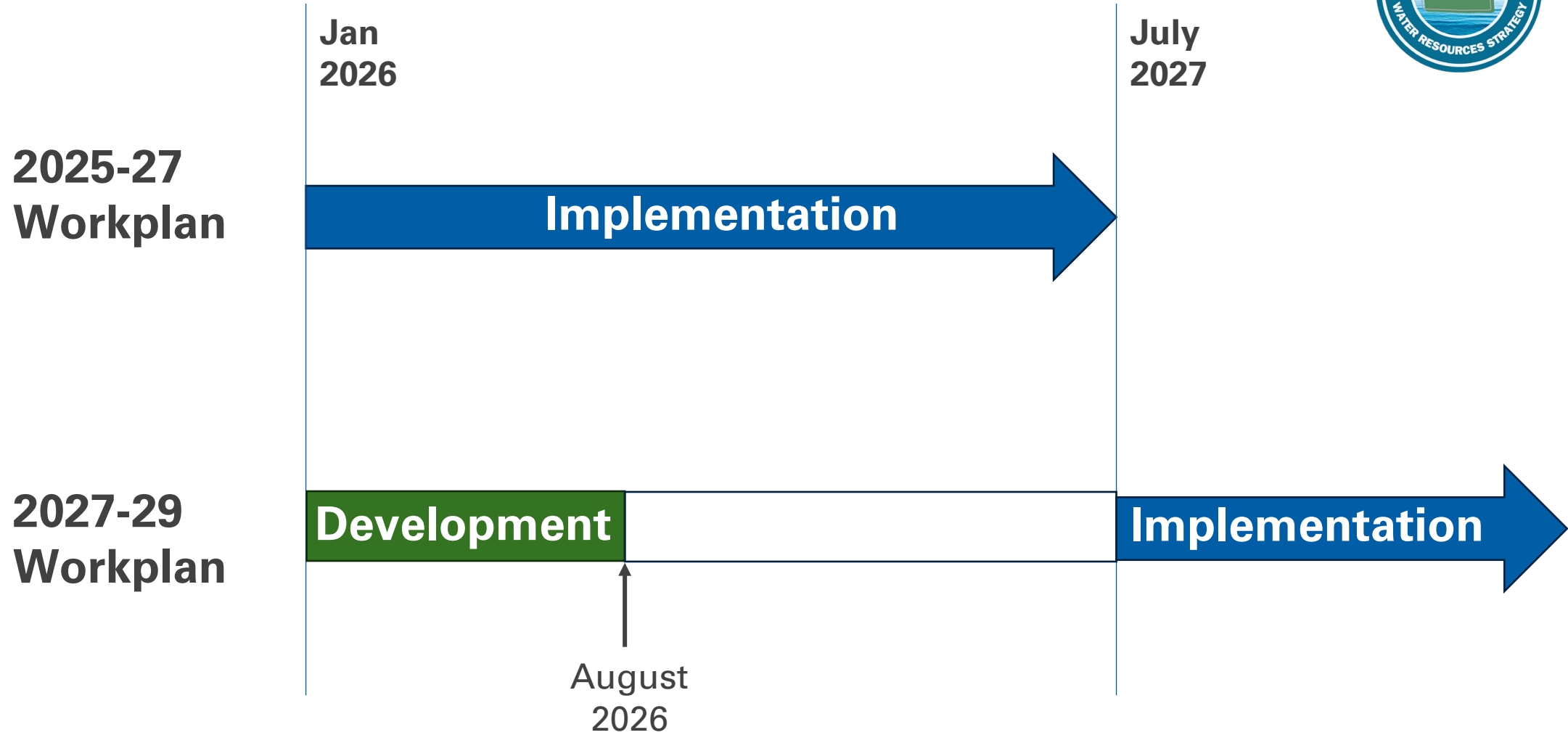
- Updated in 2023
  - IWRS updates from 5 to 8 years
  - Requires 2-year Workplan



# State Agencies contributing to the IWRS Workplan



1. Business Oregon
2. Dept of Agriculture
3. Dept of Geology & Mineral Industries
4. Dept of Energy
5. Dept of Environmental Quality
6. Dept of Fish & Wildlife
7. Dept of Forestry
8. Dept of Land Conservation & Development
9. Dept of State Lands
10. Oregon Health Authority
11. Oregon State Marine Board
12. Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
13. Parks & Recreation Dept
14. Water Resources Dept



# Draft 2027-29 Workplan

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## Attachment 1

# Workplan Organization

- **Part 1: Priorities, IWRS Appendix E**
  - New for the 2025 IWRS
  - Developed by agency leadership and the Governor's Office
  - Includes many tasks that support resiliency
- **Part 2: "Full" IWRS, IWRS Appendix D**
  - Actions not captured in Part 1
  - Legislative mandates, ongoing program work

# Part 1: Priorities (IWRS Appendix E)

Priority Area 1: Act with Urgency to Protect Instream and Out-of-Stream Uses				
P1.1 Reduce unauthorized water use and gain compliance with other water laws	P1.2 Provide guidance for what constitutes reasonable use of water	P1.3 Increase the use of existing programs and tools and develop new programs and tools that protect priority waters and/or watersheds that support instream needs and promote resiliency	P1.4 Expand efforts to protect the quality of surface and groundwater sources that provide drinking water to Oregonians	P1.5 Implement improvements to water permitting processes to improve transparency, efficiency, and effectiveness of decisions
Priority Area 2: Assist the State and Communities to Prepare for Water Scarcity				
P2.1 Increase quality and accessibility of water availability, water use, and water demand information	P2.2 Modernize water data systems and website user interfaces to facilitate wider data sharing amongst agencies and the public and enhanced customer service	P2.3 Improve understanding of instream and out-of-stream needs through increased numbers of completed basin assessments, instream flow studies, and clean water plans	P2.4 Increase the number of communities and Tribes that have completed or are participating in water planning efforts to meet instream and out-of-stream water needs, protect drinking water sources, improve water quality and promote drought resiliency	P2.5 Increase the involvement of OWRD in advisory committees for Economic Opportunity Analyses (EOAs) and implement other actions to better align land use planning and actions with water resource goals
Priority Area 3: Adapt to Water Scarcity by Stretching Our Water Supplies				
P3.1 Increase the pace and scale of completion of water reuse and aquifer storage, recovery and recharge projects that support resilience and protect the environment	P3.2 Increase the number of water users that are planning for or implementing water conservation, efficiency, or modernization efforts that support resilience or improve instream flows	P3.3 Align existing and future agency funding and incentives programs to further instream flow restoration, groundwater recharge, source water protection, and water quality and habitat improvement efforts in priority basins/watersheds	P3.4 Identify priority areas and/or guidance for new above and below ground storage that would support resilience and protect public health and the environment	P3.5 Improve water right transfer processing times for lower risk transfers to facilitate the movement of water to high-priority use

# Example New Efforts for OWRD



P1.1 - Instream water right monitoring Memorandum of Understanding with ODFW

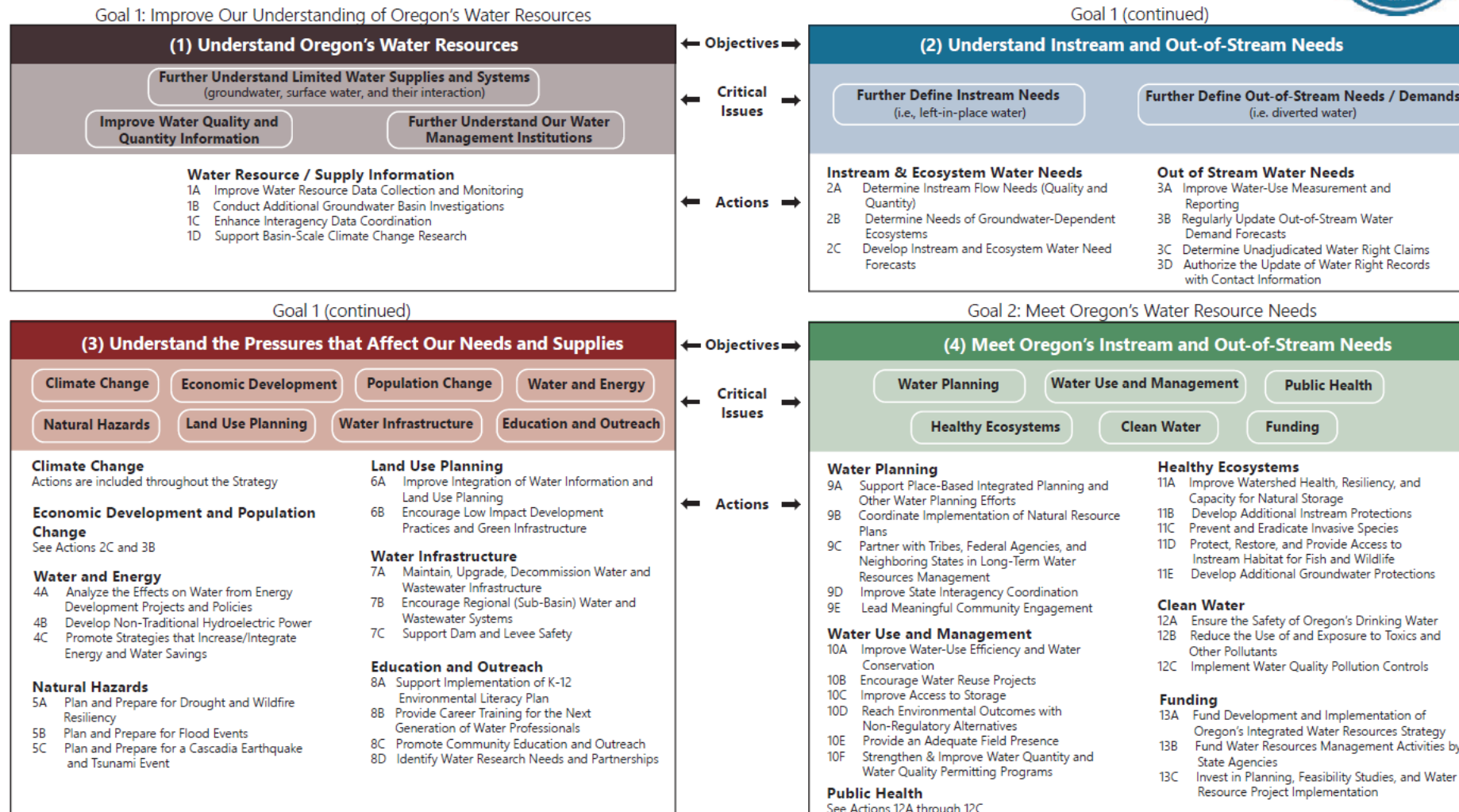
P1.3 - Deschutes Groundwater Mitigation Program improvements

P2.5 - Complete the State Agency Coordination Agreement with DLCD and Division 5 rule updates

# Part 2: Full IWRS (Appendix D)

## Oregon's 2025 Integrated Water Resources Strategy

A framework 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



# Draft 2027-29 Workplan Highlights

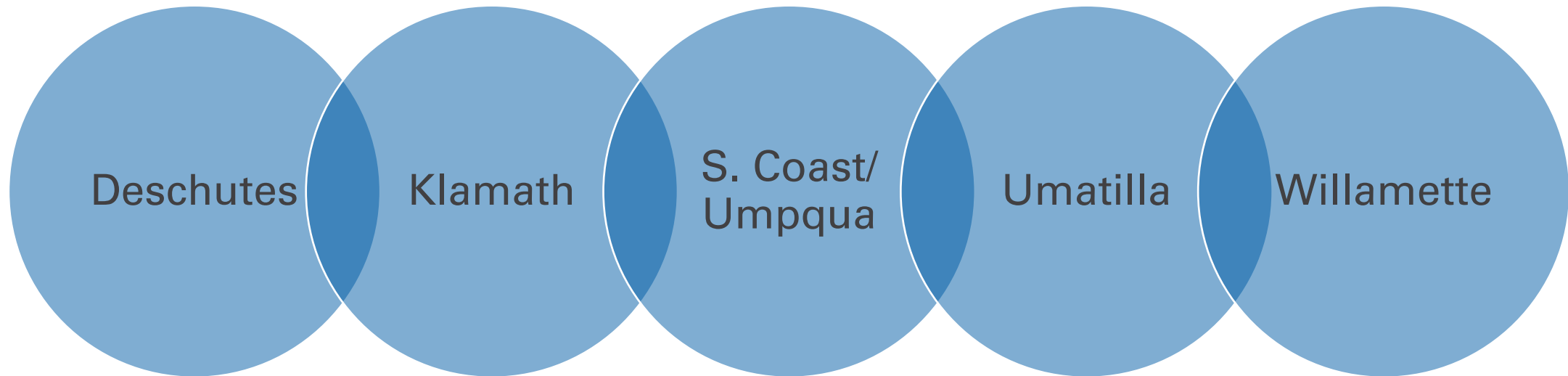
- Many carryover tasks from 2025-27 Workplan
- Public review/comment through June 26, 2026

## Next Draft...

- Agencies may consider
  - Executive Order 25-26 Workplan items
  - Oregon Environmental Restoration Fund projects
  - Agency Requested Budget
- Basin collaboration examples (new graphics)

# Workplan in Action – Basin Examples

- Several agencies are collaborating in certain basins
- Combined, focused efforts for targeted outcomes



# Tribal Engagement

- October 2025 letter to Tribes
- State-Tribal Water Policy Forum
- Coordination & Consultations
  - Burns Paiute Tribe
  - Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw Indians
  - Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde

# Next Steps

- **Public Comment Due June 26**
- **Engagement with Tribes**
- **Finalize August 2026**



OREGON



WATER RESOURCES  
DEPARTMENT

# Thank you!

**Crystal Grinnell**

Integrated Water Resources Strategy  
Specialist