



Staff Report

TO: Water Resources Commission
FROM: Ivan Gall, Director
DATE: September 10, 2026
SUBJECT: Agenda Item E

EO 25-26 DISCUSSION AND WORKPLAN

I. Introduction

On October 21, 2025, the Governor issued Executive Order (EO) 25-26, directing state agencies to take urgent action to promote the resilience of our communities and natural and working lands. EO 25-26 requires agencies to develop workplans to carry out its' directives. The Department has developed a draft workplan and is seeking input from the Commission and the public with a goal of finalizing the workplan by the end of the year.

II. Integrated Water Resources Strategy Recommended Action

- 9D – Improve State Interagency Coordination

III. Background

The EO includes a broad range of initiatives, many of which reflect work already planned by the agency and in alignment with the Department's Strategic Plan and the Integrated Water Resources Strategy (IWRS). The Department has prepared a draft EO workplan, Attachment 1. The draft EO workplan includes the most relevant actions from the IWRS workplan, reflecting the alignment across these interagency efforts.

Since the release of the EO, agencies have formed sub-groups to advance coordination and implementation. The Department has contributed to groups regarding Mitigation, Plan for a Resilient Oregon, and the Technical Team helping to define the metrics that will be used to measure state progress in implementing the EO.

IV. Conclusion

The Department will accept public comment on the draft EO workplan until October 16, 2026. All comments should be sent to WRD_DL_waterstrategy@water.oregon.gov. The Department will finalize the workplan and share with the Commission at the December Commission meeting.

Attachments:

1. OWRD EO 25-26 Draft Workplan

EO 25-26
STATE AGENCY WORKPLAN TEMPLATE

April 9, 2026

1. Identify Relevant Executive Order Directive and Subpart

- a. Define Key Resilience Attributes for Lands and Waters
 - i. Interagency Team Shall Develop Resilience Attributes
 - ii. Interagency Team Shall Develop Baseline Conditions
 - iii. Lead Agencies Shall Coordinate with ODOE re Natural and Working Lands work
- b. Keep Oregon’s Working Lands and Waters Working
 - i. Identify and Improve Programs, Tools, and Incentives that Support Stewardship and Co-Benefits
 - ii. Improve Permitting Processes for Restoration Projects on Working Lands and Waters
 - iii. Improve Application and Grant Review Processes
 - iv. Evaluate Opportunities to Support Long-term Resilience of Near-Shore Resources
- c. Conserve Natural Lands and Waters
 - i. Protect, Conserve, Connect or Restore 10% of Lands and Waters within 10 years
 - ii. Develop Innovative Mitigation Solutions
- d. Lead by Example
 - i. Develop and Implement Strategies to Enhance Climate Resiliency as a Co-benefit of Existing Management Objectives
- e. Community and Wildfire Resilience
 - i. Support Efforts to Create a Plan for Resilient Oregon
 - ii. Implement 20-year Landscape-Resiliency Plan
 - iii. Create Fire-Adapted Communities

2. Identify Anticipated Agency Action

- a. Summary of Agency Action (including whether it is additive to work being done now, an adjustment or elevation of work being done now or new work not currently being done)
- b. Connection to EO Directives Noted Above; note any factors that make the action particularly timely, relevant etc.
- c. Identification of any interagency collaboration and/or collaboration with external partners (e.g. community-based organizations, conservation non-profits, Tribes, others) planned as part of the work.

3. Describe Alignments with Resiliency Attributes/Indicators: Explain how the proposed work will help secure desired resiliency attributes. Note the attributes are *draft* for now but we will use them for the purposes of this exercise with expectation that workplans will adjust as needed to accommodate revisions. Refer to resiliency report for example indicators to help guide development of workplans.

- a. Resilient lands and waters in Oregon have the following attributes:
 - i. Connectivity within and across land, sea, water, and sky
 - ii. Diverse and complex habitats, species, landscapes, and aquatic systems that provide options for responding to change and disturbance
 - iii. Space, time, and capacity for ecological processes to support and reinforce ecosystem function
 - iv. Capacity to sustain communities, lifeways, and livelihoods

4. Describe Relevant Metrics/Anticipated Outcomes: Describe with as much specificity as possible, what is hoped to be accomplished over the course of the biennium. For multi-year projects, identify, if possible, a few key interim milestones. Note that you will provide information on implementation as part of semi-regular reports that will be prepared for submittal to the Governor’s Office for distribution and discussion with relevant Boards/Commissions.

OWRD Draft Workplan – August 2026

DEFINE KEY RESILIENCY ATTRIBUTES FOR LANDS AND WATERS			
Subpart	Interagency team shall develop resilience attributes	Interagency Team shall develop baseline conditions	Lead Agencies shall coordinate with ODOE re NWL
Anticipated Agency Action	ODFW/OWEB		ODFW/OWEB/ODOE
ID relevant Indicator/metrics		Agencies are still developing 10x10 Baseline information	ODFW/OWEB/ODOE
Anticipated actions/outcomes			ODFW/OWEB/ODOE
Identify Inter-Agency Collaborations/External Party Collaborations (Are we leveraging?)			ODFW/OWEB/ODOE

Note: The EO Draft Workplan includes the most relevant items from the 2025-27 and 2027-29 IWRS Workplans.

OWRD Draft Workplan – August 2026

KEEP OREGON’S WORKING LANDS AND WATERS WORKING				
Subpart	Identify and improve programs, tools and incentives that support stewardship and co-benefits	Improve permitting processes for restoration projects on working lands and waters	Improve application and grant review processes	Evaluate opportunities to support long-term resilience of near-shore resources
Anticipated Agency Action	IWRS P1.3 Water Resources Commission to evaluate and improve Oregon’s drought response framework. IWRS P3.1 & P3.4 Identify resource gaps to evaluate and address AR/ASR program needs and improvements. IWRS P3.5 Evaluate transfers transactions using Lean Six Signma principles and implement process improvements.		IWRS P3.2 Rulemaking and program improvements relating to HB 3364 (2025) for the Feasibility Study and Water Projects Grants and Loans (expands eligible resilience project types).	
Affected Attribute/Indicator	Attribute #3 Processes Indicator: Water quality and quantity are sustained and enhanced over time Attribute #4 Capacity to sustain communities Indicator: Natural resource-based economies and activities can be supported sustainably		Attribute #4 Capacity to sustain communities Indicator: Natural resource-based economies and activities can be supported sustainably	
Identify metrics/anticipated outcomes	Drought framework: TBD AR/ASR: Identify resources needed for assessment and program improvements. Efficient transfer/temporary transfers (KPMs #10 and #13)		Expanded eligibility of resilience project types	
Identify Inter-Agency Collaborations/External Party Collaborations (Are we leveraging?)	Drought framework: TBD OWRD to collaborate with ODEQ & ODFW on AR/ASR program		OWRD grants utilize interagency review teams (typically ODA, ODEQ, ODFW, OWEB)	

Note: The EO Draft Workplan includes the most relevant items from the 2025-27 and 2027-29 IWRS Workplans.

CONSERVE NATURAL LANDS AND WATERS/LEAD BY EXAMPLE			
Subpart	Protect, Conserve, Connect or Restore 10% of Lands and Waters within 10 years	Develop Innovative Mitigation Solutions	Develop and Implement Strategies to Enhance Climate Resiliency as Co-Benefit of Management Objectives
Anticipated Agency Action	IWRS P1.1 Update rules for Divisions 250, 260, 300, & 340. IWRS P1.1 Outreach & enforcement for static water level (SWL) permit condition reporting. IWRS P1.1 Update Field Operations Manual. IWRS P1.1 Develop and implement ODFW & OWRD Monitoring and Enforcement MOU. IWRS P1.3 Continue resolution of instream water right protests. Support streamflow restoration through several programs (e.g., Allocation of Conserved Water, hydro conversions) (KPM #1). Protect instream water rights through monitoring and regulatory actions (KPM #2).	IWRS P1.3 Assess Deschutes Groundwater Mitigation Program to identify potential program improvements. IWRS P1.5 OWRD to work with DSL to explore pathways for water rights for wetland restoration or mitigation projects.	
Affected Attribute/Indicator	Attribute #3 Processes Indicator: Water quality and quantity are sustained and enhanced over time	Attribute #3 Processes Indicator: Water quality and quantity are sustained and enhanced over time	
Metrics/anticipated outcomes	Adopted rules (Div 250, 260, 300, 340) to update water distribution, civil penalties, and enforcement Increased SWL data, increased compliance with reporting requirements (KPM #11) Updated Field Operations Manual Streamflow restoration: Cubic feet per second (cfs) permanently protected instream # of state-filed instream water rights and # stream miles Protection of instream water rights: # of instream water rights monitored	Evaluate program and publish 5-year legislative report. Develop a legislative concept for 2027 legislative session including program improvements. Policy exploration for wetland mitigation and water rights. Explore MOU. Explore options for legislative concept.	
Identify Inter-Agency Collaborations/External Party Collaborations (Are we leveraging?)	Rulemaking process includes input from agencies and the public. Increasing instream flows requires a coordination of agencies, funding, and often third parties.	OWRD with support from ODEQ & ODFW identify needed program improvements. Collaborate with CTWS. Public input during LC development. OWRD to collaborate with DSL on wetland mitigation solutions.	

Note: The EO Draft Workplan includes the most relevant items from the 2025-27 and 2027-29 IWRS Workplans.

OWRD Draft Workplan – August 2026

COMMUNITY AND WILDFIRE RESILIENCE			
Subpart	Support Efforts to Create a Plan for a Resilient Oregon (PRO)	Implement 20-Year Landscape Resiliency Plan	Create Fire-Adapted Communities
Anticipated Agency Action	Participate in PRO survey and focus group (complete) Support implementation of the PRO		
Affected Attribute/Indicator			
metrics/anticipated outcomes			
Identify Inter-Agency Collaborations/External Party Collaborations (Are we leveraging?)			

Note: The EO Draft Workplan includes the most relevant items from the 2025-27 and 2027-29 IWRS Workplans.