

*Implementation* of  
**Oregon's Integrated Water Resources Strategy**



**Water Resources Commission Meeting**  
**February 8, 2013**

# Outline

- **Mapping Water-Related Institutions in Oregon** (Action 1C)
- **Re-launching the Willamette Basin Reservoir Study** (Action 2A, 3B, 9A, 10B)
- **Undertake Place-Based Planning** (Action 9A)
- **Authorizing/Funding a Water Supply Development Program** (Action 10E)
- **Developing Additional Instream Protections** (Action 3A, 11B)
- **Fund Water Resources Management at the State Level** (Action 13B)

# Mapping Water-Related Institutions

## ■ Two Goals

- Document public and private roles in water management (both quantity and quality)
- Identify opportunities to improve collaboration and gain efficiencies

## ■ Two Phases

- Phase I: information gathering on data, programs, responsibilities, etc. (Spring 2013)
- Phase II: identifying new opportunities, and documenting successes. (extending into early 2014)

# Mapping Water-Related Institutions

## Phase 1: Mapping the Data, Programs, etc...

### Example table from the "Mapping Document"

| Primary Agency     | Program                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | Type |
|--------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------|
| <b>Water Reuse</b> |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |      |
| DCBS               | Regulates non-potable use of graywater for toilet and urinal flushing under the state building code. Added Statewide Alternative Methods to the building code for commercial industrial wastewater, and rainwater harvesting. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Oregon Smart Guides</i> - Guide for consumers on water conservation systems and rainwater harvesting.</li> </ul> |      |
| OWRD               | Registers recycled water use. Requires Recycled Water Use Plan.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |      |
| DEQ                | Prescribes methods, procedures, restrictions, treatment, and monitoring requirements for the beneficial use of reclaimed water. Regulates graywater reuse to protect water quality. Issues NPDES or WPCF permit. See Water Quality                                                                                                                                                         |      |
| OHA                | Reviews recycled water use plans as necessary to protect public health.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |      |
| BOR                | <i>Water Reclamation and Reuse Title XVII Program</i> - Develops water reclamation and reuse projects. Includes groundwater recharge and recovery projects.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |      |
| USEPA              | <i>Guidelines on water reuse</i> - Discusses types of reuse applications, technical issues, regulations and guidelines, legal and institutional issues, funding, and public involvement.                                                                                                                                                                                                   |      |

## Phase 2: Enhancing Coordination

- **Questions posed to state and federal agency staff:**
  - Improving coordination between agencies?
  - Improve sharing of information (data, monitoring, etc.)?
  - How to reconcile plans/requirements to support place-based efforts?
  - What's working already?

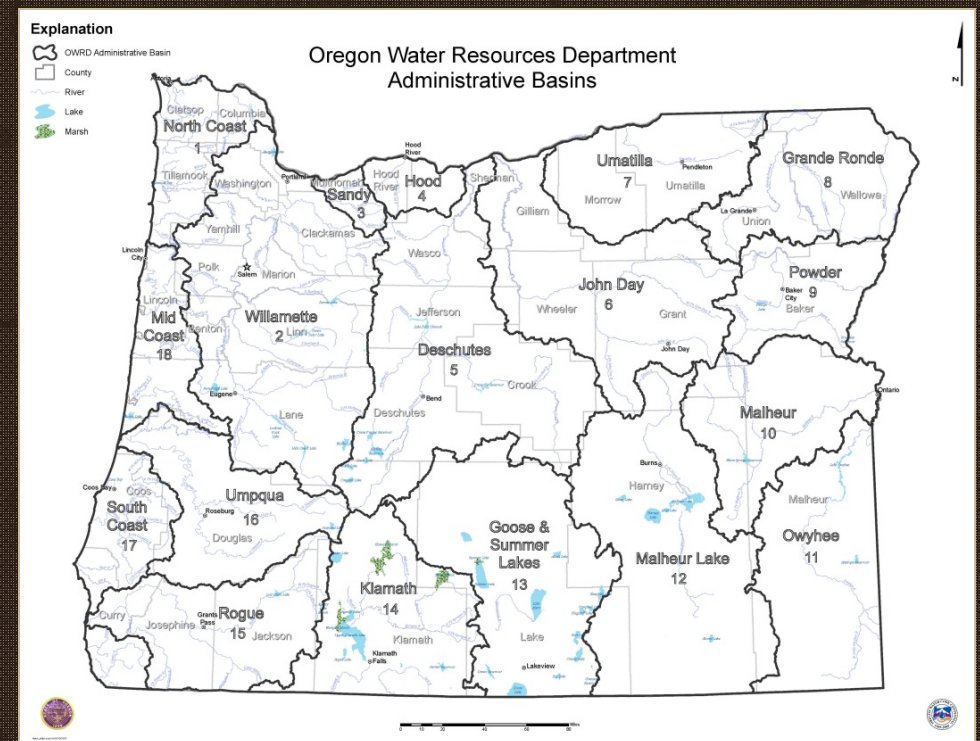
# Willamette Basin Reservoir Study

- **More discussion under next agenda item**
- **Re-launching Study (on hold since 2000)**
- **BOR's WaterSMART program could help develop water demands/needs projections**
- **Department, Corps, and stakeholders moving forward on tasks**

# WRD Basin Programs &

## *the connection to IWRS Place-Based Planning (9A)*

- HB 25 (1955) establishes authority for “basin programs”
- Basin-by-basin approach
- Basin program formed via three steps:
  - Conduct Studies
  - Develop Basin Report (Plan)
  - Adopt Basin Programs



# WRD Basin Programs &

*the connection to IWRS Place-Based Planning (9A)*

- **Three Review Efforts by:**
  - Strategic Water Management Group (1980's)
  - Oregon Water Resources Commission (1993)
  - Joint Task Force on Water Supply and Conservation (1999)
  
- **Common Conclusions:**
  - Basin programs need to expand beyond classifying/identifying allowable uses of water
  - They do not facilitate further actions (e.g., identifying projects or funding mechanisms)
  - "Inflexible" and "top-heavy"



# WRD Basin Programs &

*the connection to IWRS Place-Based Planning (9A)*

## Basin Program Highlights

## Benefits to IWRS Planning

- Formulated at the river-basin scale
- Required to take an integrated approach (quantity, quality, ecosystems)
- Plans considered unique conditions and socio-economic issues:
  - Physical features, resource limitations, development issues
  - Water use
  - Quantity and quality of surface water & groundwater supplies
  - Potential for water development projects
  - Sectors contributing to the basin's economy

# WRD Basin Programs &

*the connection to IWRS Place-Based Planning (9A)*

## Basin Program Highlights

## Weaknesses

- **Lack of resources & support to update and re-visit plans/programs**
- **Newly established rules/requirements need to be reconciled**
  - **Examples: Endangered Species Act, Clean Water Act, Safe Drinking Water Act, Oregon Forest Practices Act, etc.**
- **Do not address emerging needs of communities (modeling, financing, streamlining regulations)**

### **Action 9.A. Place-Based Planning Efforts**

**“The State, working primarily through the four agencies involved with development of the Strategy, will develop the template and seek further grant funding and other incentives to assist with local planning efforts.”**

## Our Commitment Thus Far

### A place-based plan must...

- Recognize the public interest in water
- Include a meaningful process for public involvement and balanced representation of all interests
- Comply with existing state laws and requirements
- Full participation from state and federal agencies, tribes, non-governmental organizations to guide stakeholders through the planning process

- **Looking at regional/local planning in other states**
  - **Texas' Regional Water Planning**
  - **Washington's Watershed Planning Process**
  - **California's Integrated Regional Water Management Planning**
  
- **How can their processes inform Oregon's approach to place-based planning?**
  - **Governance structure**
  - **Specific issues that must be considered**
  - **Funding for planning & project implementation**

## What other states are doing:

- **Some similarities:**
  - Identifying water resource management strategies
  - Identifying impacts of these strategies (environmental, social, economic)
- **Some differences**
  - Required content of regional reports
  - Governance: how regions are formed
  - How plans are adopted and used

# Water Supply Development Program

- **Oregon lacks a formal statewide water development program**
  
- **HB 2258 (2013) proposes statutory changes**
  - State serves as an investor, broker, banker, and funder of water supply projects
  - Governor's Budget proposes \$10 million in bonds
  
- **Agency team would be led by the Water Resources Dept. and would include the Dept. of Agriculture, Dept. of Fish & Wildlife, and the Infrastructure Finance Authority**
  
- **Umatilla Solutions recommendations would be an early action item**

# Water Supply Development Program

- **Water Policy Workgroup convened by WRD & Governor's Office**
- **Facilitated by Terry Bucholz, Integrated Water Solutions, LLC**
- **Participating organizations include:**
  - Conf. Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation
  - Governor's Office, OWRD, and ODFW
  - Jordan Ramis PC
  - League of Oregon Cities
  - Oregon Association of Nurseries
  - Oregon Farm Bureau
  - Oregon Environmental Council
  - Oregon Water Resources Congress
  - Oregon Water Utilities Council
  - Special Districts Association of Oregon
  - The Freshwater Trust
  - The Nature Conservancy
  - Umatilla Basin Commission
  - WaterWatch of Oregon
- **Goal = Craft language to guide the expenditure of public funds for water projects**



# Instream Protections

- IWRS calls for determining flows needed to support instream needs, and to develop additional instream protections
- ODFW could apply for an instream water right on 100 streams, with existing instream flow data
- Fish habitat studies needed for more than 300 streams
- OWRD requested: One hydrologist (water availability)  
One permit writer (new & protested applications)
- ODFW requested: Staff biologists to complete studies

# Funding Water Resources Management

- **Seeking a fee mechanism to stabilize the funding that allows WRD to accomplish its core mission**
- **Supporting field (watermasters) and technical (scientists, engineers, IT) work**
- **SB 217 would establish an annual water right management fee**
  - **Applies to all water right holders; \$100 per water right**
  - **\$1000 cap for all but municipalities, although working on amendments**
- **Estimated net revenues of \$12 million, beginning in second biennium**

# Funding Water Resources Management

- **Stakeholder group convened**
- **Proposed amendments:**
  - **Cap for municipalities**
  - **Exempt hydro, which already pays annual fees**
  - **Send unpaid bills to collections, instead of using liens**

# Questions and Discussion



*Thank You*