

Update on the Willamette Basin WaterSMART Plan of Study

Water Resources Commission Meeting November 15, 2013

Outline

- Introduction
 - What is WaterSMART and why are we pursuing it?
- Background
- September Stakeholder Workshop
- Next Steps/Conclusion

Introduction to WaterSMART

What are WaterSMART Basin Studies?

- Bureau of Reclamation cost-share program
- Comprehensive, collaborative approach
- Competitive process
- Flexible to meet needs of individual basin
- Two year completion requirement
- Climate change a major study component

Introduction to WaterSMART

WaterSMART Basin Studies address the following four objectives:

- Develop projections of water supply and demand, including climate change risks, such as changes in snowpack, timing and quantity of runoff, impacts to groundwater, and increase in demand for water.
- 2) Examine how climate change and other pressures could affect existing infrastructure, operations, and facilities.
- 3) Develop options for meeting future water needs.
- 4) Identify trade-offs and analyze possible alternatives.

Background

Refresher on the Willamette Basin Reservoir Study

- OWRD/USACE effort to manage stored water in the Willamette Project for a <u>full</u> range of beneficial uses
- Placed on hold in 2000
- Willamette BiOp issued in 2008; renewed interest among agencies & stakeholders; IWRS Recommended Action 10b
- Initiated small-scale work in FY13
- If USACE receives authority & resources, 3-year study will kick off in October 2014

Background

- In March 2013, OWRD submitted a WaterSMART Basin Study proposal
- Primary purpose: To Support the Willamette Basin Reservoir Study goals (help fulfill some data needs)
- Awarded a "Plan of Study" in May 2013
- Held our first workshop with Willamette stakeholders in late September

Stakeholder Workshop

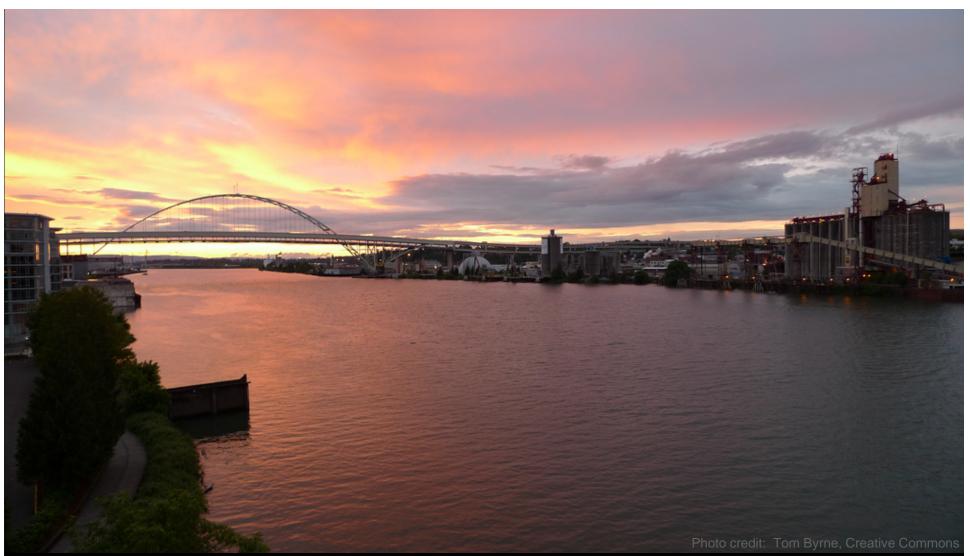
- Draft Plan of Study shared with stakeholders
- Outlines previous work, available data, and current activities
- Willamette Water 2100 participated
- HDR Engineering outlined agricultural demand methodology used in the 2008 OWSCI Statewide Assessment
- Stakeholders suggested doing a "side-by-side" comparison of the Reservoir Study and WaterSMART requirements

Conclusion/Next Steps

 Stakeholders will make recommendation to OWRD on whether or not to pursue a full Basin Study

- If "No"...can we fulfill data needs some other way?

- Basin Study letter of interest likely due January 2014
- If selected, submit new proposal & plan of study by March 2014
- Awards announced most likely in May



Thank You - Any Questions?

Willamette Study Listserv: http://listsmart.osl.state.or.us/mailman/listinfo/will_res_study