Oregon's Integrated Water Resources Strategy



Water Resources Commission Meeting August 17-18 2017

Outline

- 2017 Update process
- Update on briefings with Boards and Commissions
- Overview of public comments received
- Engagement with agency partners
- Next steps

The Charge to Develop the Strategy

Oregon's House Bill 3369 (2009)

 Directed WRD to lead efforts to "understand and meet" Oregon's water needs" ——

 Partnered with water quality, fish & wildlife, agriculture, other agencies, tribes, stakeholders, & public

 Account for coming pressures



instream and out-of-stream ...quality, quantity & ecosystem needs ...today and in the future



2017 Update Process

- IWRS must be updated every five years
- Other boards and commissions must be notified
- This update was designed to focus on shoring up existing recommended actions or adding new ones
- Department continues to work closely with key partner agencies
- Governor Brown directed agencies to address drought resiliency

2017 Update Process

Public Review Draft:

- Goals and objectives remain the same:
 - Goal 1: Improve our understanding of Oregon's water resources
 - Goal 2: Meet Oregon's water resources needs
- Guiding principles unchanged
- Critical issues remain the same, with one new addition
- General structure and outline of the document also mirrors 2012 Strategy

2017 Update Process

Public Review Draft:

- New recommended actions are marked as "new"
- The numbered recommended actions that were revised are marked as "revised"
- Note that several revisions were made to narrative and implementation-related bullets



Continue to Undertake Place-Based Integrated Water Resources Planning

How to implement this action:

- Promote success by continuing to support the places currently following the draft planning guidelines
- Continue to provide financial and technical assistance to support collaborative water planning
- Promote peer-to-peer learning between communities pursuing collaborative water planning
- Solicit community input on place-based planning, refine the planning guidelines, and implement process improvements

Revised Recommended Actions at a Glance

- 2A. Regularly update long-term water demand forecasts
- 2D. Authorize the update of water right records with contact information
- 2E. Regularly update Oregon's water-related permitting guide
- 4B. Take advantage of existing infrastructure to develop non-traditional hydroelectric power
- 6B. Improve state agency coordination
- 6C. Encourage low-impact development practices and green infrastructure
- 9A. Continue to undertake place-based integrated, water resources planning
- 10E. Continue the water resources development program

13B. Fund water resources management <u>activities at state agencies</u>13D. Invest in feasibility studies for water resources projects

New Recommended Actions at a Glance

EXTREME EVENTS:

- 5.5A. Plan and prepare for drought resiliency
- 5.5B. Plan and prepare for flood events
- 5.5C. Plan and prepare for Cascadia subduction earthquake event

WATER-RELATED INFRASTRUCTURE:

7C. Ensure public safety/dam safety

WATER MANAGEMENT & DEVELOPMENT:

- 10F. Provide an adequate presence in the field
- 10G. Strengthen water quantity & water quality permitting programs

HEALTHY ECOSYSTEMS:

11E. Develop additional groundwater protections

FUNDING:

- 13C. Invest in local or regional water planning efforts
- 13E. Invest in implementation of water resources projects

What has informed updates or changes?

Policy Advisory Group

- An advisory body, offered recommendations
- Final memo of recommendations issued in January 2017

State Agency Input and Review

- Two rounds of review by agency partners
- New studies or publications

Public Comments

- Open houses and survey in mid-2016
- Formal public comment from April July 2017

Boards and Commissions

- Via regular meeting updates
- Briefings to other boards/commissions this past Spring

Briefings with Boards, Commissions, & Others

Boards & Commissions:

- April 24 Watershed Enhancement Board
- May 12 Board of Agriculture
- May 19 Land Conservation and Development Commission
- June 9 Fish and Wildlife Commission
- July 13 Environmental Quality Commission

Others:

- May 8 Assoc. of Oregon Counties Water Policy Committee
- May 31 Community Meeting in Bend
- June 30 Groundwater Advisory Committee
- Aug. 15 Federal Liaison Group

Summary of Public Comments

- 250 individuals provided comments (Attachment 1)
- 38 organizations provided comments (Attachment 2)
- Comments organized around IWRS topics (Attachment 3)
- Addendum to Staff Report Additional Comments (Attachment 4)
- Generally supportive of the draft IWRS
- Offered numerous suggested revisions
- Often stated support for issues or actions already contained in the draft

Comments from Individuals

- Several conservation organizations encouraged members to comment
 - Stronger pollution prevention
 - Better protections for fish and wildlife, during drought
 - Measurement of water use
 - Climate change strategies
- Approximately 200 individual comments came through external submission forms
- Several members of the 2016 Policy Advisory Group submitted comments
- Several place-based planning groups also submitted comments

Comments from Individuals



Note: not everyone provided their location

Comments from Stakeholder Organizations

- Conservation organizations
- Agricultural organizations
- Municipal organizations
- Consulting firms
- Tribal governments
- Local governments
- Non-profits and watershed councils
- Business

- Groundwater studies
- Improvement of data and monitoring
- Inter-agency data coordination
- Demand forecasts
- Water use measurement & reporting
- Adjudications, water right records, and permitting guide
- Instream flows
- Energy and water
- Climate change
- Extreme events (droughts, floods, earthquakes)
- Land-use and water
- Infrastructure
- Education and outreach
- Place-based planning, coordination, & partnerships

- Water-use efficiency & conservation
- Built storage
- Water reuse
- Non-traditional approaches
- Water resources development program
- Field presence
- Permitting
- Watershed health
- Instream protections
- Invasive species
- Instream habitat
- Groundwater protections
- Drinking water
- Water quality
- Funding

- Groundwater studies
- Improvement of data and monitoring
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- Energy and water
- Climate change frequent comment among submissions
- Extreme events generally supportive comments
- Land-use and water e.g., coordination beyond state agencies
- Infrastructure e.g., suggestion to add irrigation to drinking water and wastewater needs discussion
- Education and outreach

- Place-based planning, coordination, & partnerships
- Water-use efficiency & conservation
- Built storage
- Water reuse
- Non-traditional approaches
- Water resources development program
- Field presence
- Permitting

- Watershed health
- Instream protections
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- Funding

Other Themes

- Requests for more detail
 - Example: Add discussion of agricultural water quality authorities and programs
 - Example: Include analysis and summary of groundwater level trends
- Add topics to multiple sections
- Missing items
 - Example: Agricultural water use efficiency
 - Example: Quantifying the economic value of water (both instream and out-of-stream)

Other Themes

- Items added
 - Example: Lead in drinking water
- Basin-specific issues or topics
- Place-based planning
- Geared toward a public audience
- Workplan / implementation & the 2022 Strategy
 - Requests for setting budgets, and associated timelines
 - Request to tackle bigger issues, to a greater extent in the 10year update

Other Themes (cont.)

• Numbered Recommended Actions and the Implementation Bullets

Recommended Action 5.5A Plan and Prepare for Drought Resiliency

How to implement this action:

- Develop the appropriate set of indicators that signal differing stages of drought
- Document the economic, social, and environmental impacts of drought in Oregon, including the frequency, distribution, intensity and duration
- Prepare for, respond to, and mitigate for the impacts of water scarcity
- Assess and assist those communities most vulnerable to drought

- Examples of how to implement the action
- Short summary of concepts in body of IWRS
- Not exhaustive
- Not intended as firm commitments

Next Steps for August – November 2017

- Agencies are currently reviewing the IWRS and public comments
- Plan to wrap up review and develop final draft in August-September
- Staff plan to present a final draft for adoption at the November meeting
- 2017 IWRS will inform the Department's ongoing strategic planning initiative and implementation priorities

Comments or Questions?



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