

# Water Use Measurement in Oregon

OREGON



WATER RESOURCES  
DEPARTMENT



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**March 15, 2018**

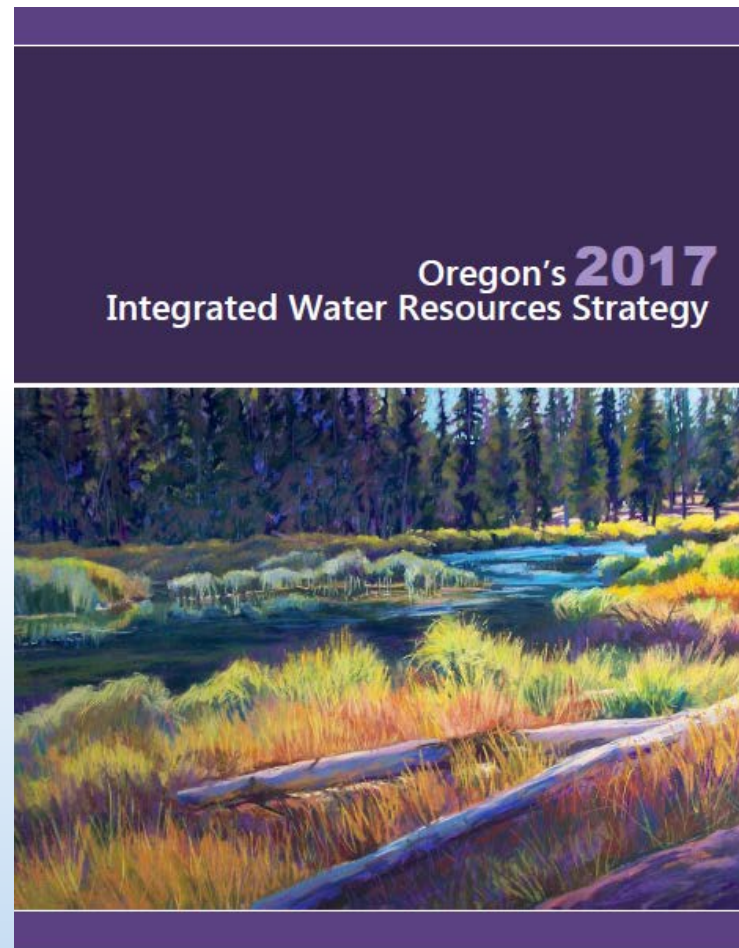
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# Today's Discussion

- **Current measurement programs**
- **Measurement challenges**
- **Strategies and improvements for future discussion**

# Integrated Water Resources Strategy

- Oregon's IWRS adopted in 2012; updated 2017
- Recommended actions include the need for better data and information
- Recommended Action 2.B calls for improving water-use measurement and reporting



# Current Measurement Programs

- **Water Use Reporting Program**
- **Commission's 2000 Strategic Measurement Plan**
- **Miscellaneous water use data**



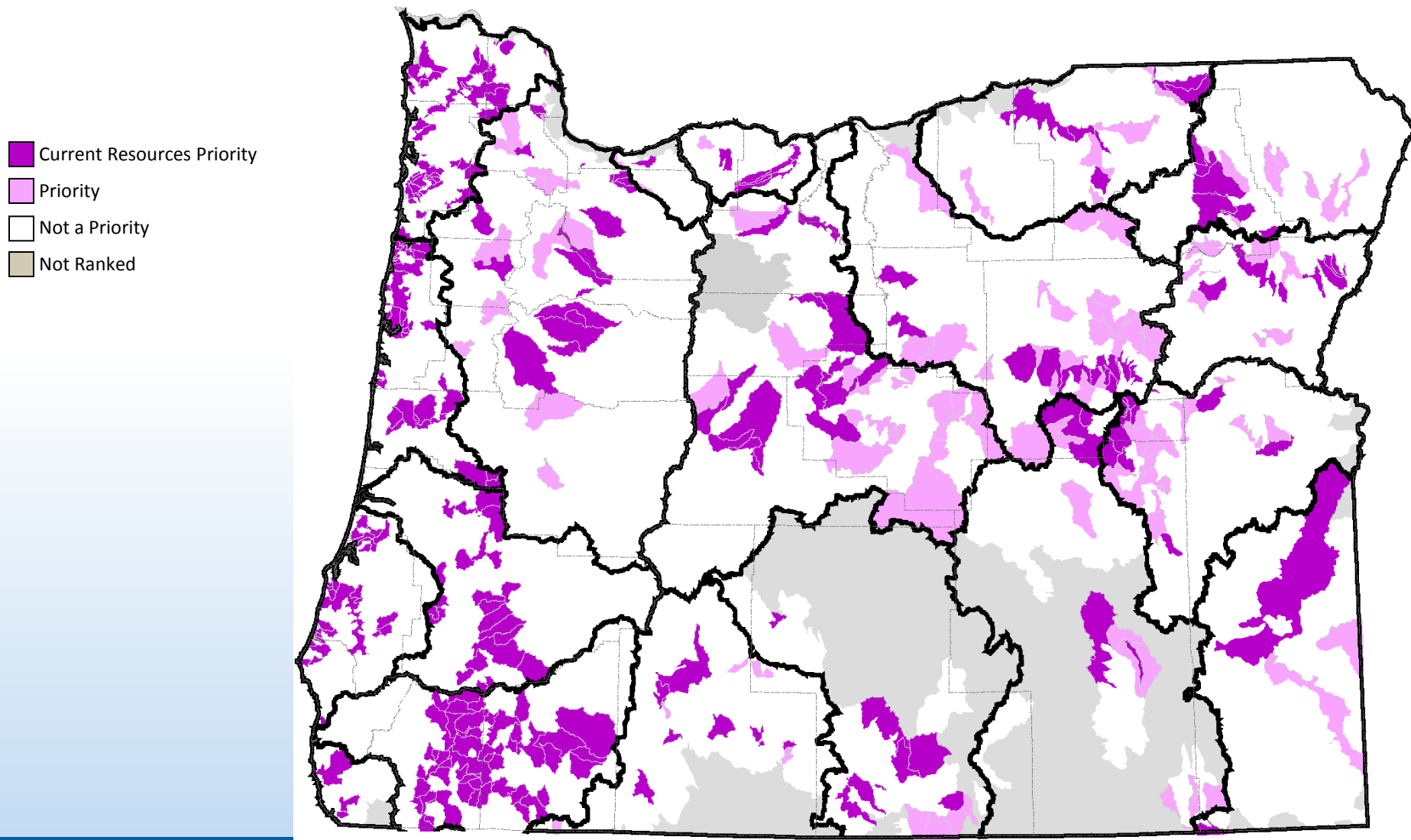
- **Water Use Reporting Program**
  - Close to 89,000 water rights issued in Oregon (surface water, groundwater, and storage)
  - 14,800 (17%) are required to measure and report water use
  - In 2016, the Department received water use data for ~10,200 water rights (11% of total water rights)

# Water Use Reporting Program

- **Water rights with permit conditions (early 1990s)**
- **Water rights held by a governmental entity (ORS 537.099), including state, federal, local, irrigation districts and water control districts**
- **Water rights in Serious Water Management Problem Area**

- **2000 Strategic Measurement Plan**
  - Strategy developed in 2000 for improving surface water measurement
  - Aligned with Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds (1997)
  - Worked with ODFW to focus on high priority stream basins
  - No additional resources provided

# Streamflow Restoration Priorities





- **A SigPOD is:**

- **Diversion required to measure through a water right condition; or**
- **Divert more than 5 cfs; or**
- **Divert more than 10% of lowest monthly 50% exceedance flow as per water availability model, and greater than 0.25 cfs**

## • **2000 Strategic Measurement Plan**

- **Developed preliminary list of 2,385 significant points of diversion (SigPODs)**
- **The 2,385 SigPODs are located in high priority water availability basins**
- **SigPODs in other basins not yet evaluated**

## • **2000 Strategic Measurement Plan**

- **Watermasters assessed the SigPODs**
- **Water right research and field visits**
- **Database built to support program; improved in 2008**

## •SigPOD Progress

- 1067 diversions have devices installed
- 672 diversions are inactive, leased or transferred instream
- 646 diversions need devices installed
- Key Performance Measure #8 tracks progress

## • SigPOD Challenges

- Definition misses large diversions made up of many small water rights
- Water right transactions create moving target in water right database (POD identifiers can change)
- Small PODs on ephemeral/seasonal streams
- PODs on streams with minimal watermaster presence

## • **Miscellaneous Measurements**

- **Staff read and record hundreds of flow meter readings on wells and pumps around the state each year**
- **Captured in various databases**
- **Not tracked by Water Use Reporting Program or SigPOD program**

## Future Discussion Topics

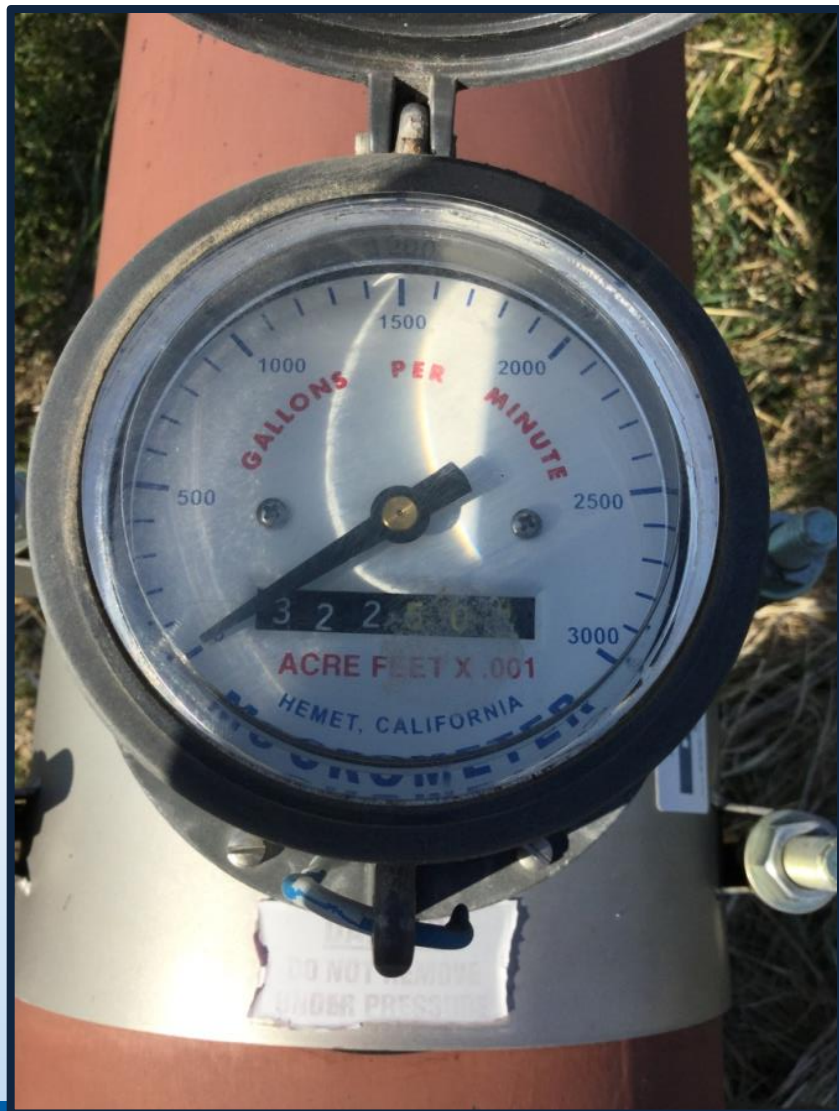
- **Focus watermaster time on devices needed for management**
- **Coordinate among data sets**
- **Authority to require water use reporting where needed**

## Future Discussion Topics

- **Allow SigPODs to be removed from list**
- **Verify that SigPOD devices are still installed and operational; staff record and report water use**
- **Measure groundwater use in vulnerable aquifer systems**



# Questions



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