



Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor

Water Resources Department

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Water Resources Commission

FROM: Thomas M. Byler, Director

SUBJECT: Agenda Item F, September 7, 2018
Water Resources Commission Meeting

Director's Report

I. Current Events:

New Staff & Staff Promotions

Since the June meeting the Department has promoted three staff members and one lateral transfer. Positions filled include a Flow Restoration Coordinator, a WR/TACS Support position, a WR Rules Coordinator and a Hydrotech.

II. Commission Follow Up

A. Umatilla Water Supply Project

The Department has an \$11 million grant agreement with the Port of Morrow to implement one or more infrastructure projects that will deliver water primarily to lands that are currently not irrigated or are under-irrigated. These funds come from a direct appropriation from the Legislature in 2015 to assist with financing water supply projects in the Umatilla Basin. The Port of Morrow is working with two project partners on two separate projects.

The first project is an irrigation pipeline referred to as "East Project." In mid-January, the Department received a project plan and budget for the East Project which requested \$7 million of grant funds to help construct a pump station on the Columbia River two miles northeast of Hermiston, and an approximately 9 mile long pipeline that would travel south from the Columbia River down into the Stage Gulch Critical Groundwater Area. The maximum capacity of the new pipeline will be 200 cfs, sufficient capacity to convey new water rights associated with this project as well as other existing rights. The Port of Morrow and East Improvement District are working to secure construction permits and hope to start construction in the fall of this year.

The second project (the "CID Project") proposes to use \$4 million in grant funds to construct a new irrigation pipeline parallel to Columbia Improvement District's (CID) existing pipeline as well as perform other infrastructure upgrades to the system booster stations and canal. The Department received the project plan for the CID Project in late July. The Department's review determined that

additional information was needed before the project plan could be approved. Once the Department receives this information, reviews it, and approves the project plan it must then be reviewed by the Oregon Department of Justice and appended to the Port of Morrow grant agreement.

The Department is also processing eight new Columbia River surface water rights and their associated mitigation for the East Project and any other projects funded by this grant. Two of the eight permits have been issued. Another Final Order has been issued for a third water right application that recently secured mitigation and is working to demonstrate compliance with select permit conditions prior to permit issuance. The Department continues to process the five other applications and their mitigation. The permits cannot be issued until mitigation is secured.

B. Mosier Update

Mosier Commingling Well Repair and Replacement Program

Five comingling wells have been replaced by a drilling contractor retained by the Wasco County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD). The driller is contracted to permanently abandon 15 priority comingling wells and construct replacement wells in the Mosier area with \$1 million in cost-share funds made available by the Legislature in 2015. As of early August, the driller was working to abandon and replace a sixth well. The funding agreement with the SWCD has been extended until June 30, 2019, and the SWCD anticipates that 14 wells will be repaired or replaced during the contract period based on the budget trend for the first five wells.

Mosier Deep Supply Wells

Two deep supply wells were planned for construction utilizing Water Project Grant and Loans (SB 839) funds awarded by the Commission in May 2016. The goal of the project is to reduce demand on the upper and administratively withdrawn Columbia River Basalt aquifers near Mosier to improve long-term groundwater supply and streamflows in Mosier Creek. Well 1 was drilled to a depth of 1,223 feet below ground surface, where a high pressure water bearing zone was encountered. Several months of work were required before the driller sealed-off the upper water bearing zones and controlled the underlying high pressure zone in January, and complications with casing set depth during placement of the final well seal necessitated additional work before the well was completed in April. Well 1 has been operating since April, pumping at an average rate of approximately 400 gallons per minute.

The extraordinary and unique challenges of drilling and completing Well 1 resulted in a significant budget overrun. The SWCD applied to Water Project Grants and Loans during the 2018 grant cycle for an additional \$671,724 in funds necessary to drill and complete Well 2.

C. Walla Walla Subbasin Groundwater Update

Staff continue to collect water levels and assess well interference, aquifer hydraulics, and geologic structures in the Walla Walla Subbasin. Groundwater and field staff are working together to conduct down-hole geophysical surveys in several new basalt wells recently drilled in the subbasin, which are authorized by permits issued before the area was classified for exempt uses only.

The Department has taken on an OSU master's degree candidate as a summer intern and contracted with the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) to collect and analyze groundwater samples from up to 25 basalt wells for stable isotope and other geochemical parameters. This work will provide relative age dating of groundwater from basalt wells and identify chemical similarities and differences in basalt groundwater across the subbasin. This will improve the Department's understanding of the basalt groundwater flow system and support determination of hydraulically connected groundwater subareas. These subareas may be the basis of future management units and/or areas within which basalt groundwater users may propose voluntary agreements for local aquifer management.

The Department has not received any additional measurement cost share applications since early June 2018. We have agreements in place with 21 basalt well owners affected by the Serious Water Management Problem Area (SWMPA) designation totaling approximately \$29,000.

The SWMPA designation goes into effect January 1, 2019. After this date all permitted basalt well users are required by SWMPA provisions in the basin rules to have a flow meter in place before they are authorized to use groundwater for irrigation or other permitted uses. Field staff plan to perform compliance checks at all permitted basalt wellheads in January and February 2019 to ensure compliance, and will "post" any wellheads without meters indicating they are not authorized to pump until they come into compliance with basin rules. Department staff plan to hold a series of public meetings in the basin in November or December 2018 to review the SWMPA requirements and deadlines, communicate the Department's plans for compliance checks, and answer any remaining questions from the community.

D. Place Based Planning Update

All four planning groups continue to make progress in their place-based planning efforts. See Attachment 2 for the Place-Based Planning Semi-Annual Update. The Department entered into a new partnership with the Climate Impacts Research Consortium (CIRC). Through this partnership CIRC will support the four planning groups as they analyze climate change impacts to water supply and demand and develop adaptation strategies.

The Ford Family Foundation, the planning group conveners, and the Department initiated an ongoing Learning Partnership that held its first meeting in Burns on July 17 to 19. The Ford Family Foundation is also granting each planning group \$10,000 towards their place-based planning efforts. The next Learning Partnership event will be hosted by the Upper Grande Ronde planning group in Union County on November 7 to 9, which will focus on peer-to-peer learning, securing financial and technical resources, and informing the future of place-based planning.

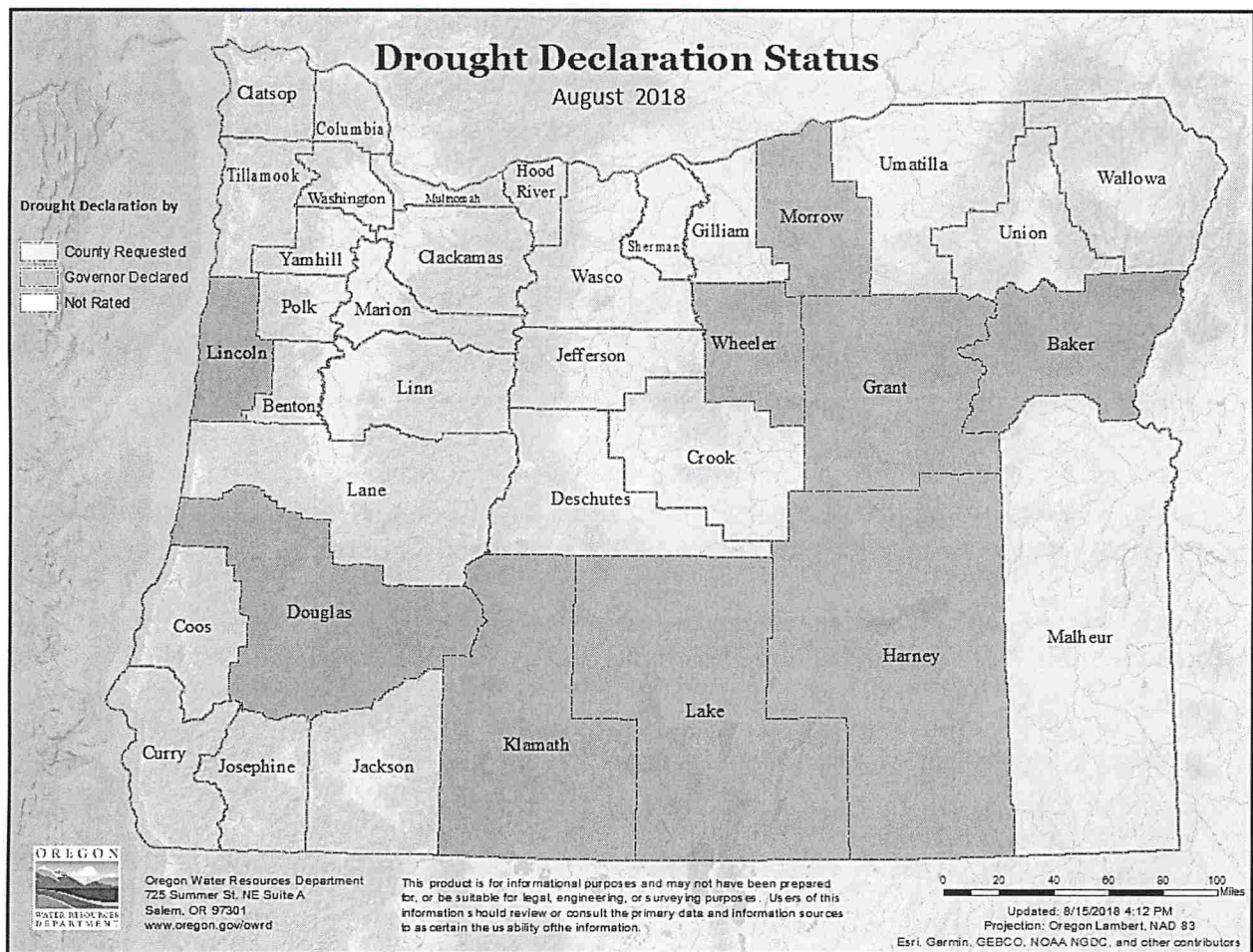
E. Drought Update

While water supply conditions this summer are cause for concern, they are not as widespread as those seen in 2015. Most of the state's water supply reservoirs started out the season with good carry over of stored water from last year and a few were able to benefit from rain and snow events late in the season.

Unfortunately, due to higher than normal temperatures and lower than normal precipitation in the past month, many reservoirs have already released this year's accumulation as well as water that was carried over from last year. While this may be enough to satisfy water demands this year, many reservoirs will finish the season at minimum levels with no reserves for next year.

Statewide, current streamflow conditions are about half of what is normally seen for this time of year. In some areas, flows are as low as those observed in 2015. Temperatures for July were the ninth warmest on record and precipitation across large areas of western and central Oregon were only 5 percent of normal.

As of August, Governor Brown had issued drought emergency orders for seven Oregon counties. Refer to the map for the most recent status.



F. Klamath Update

Watermaster staff have focused more regulation and distribution time on the Wood River system during the 2018 irrigation season. The instream determined claim values change monthly during the irrigation season, which requires staff to continuously monitor stream flow, and make timely regulation adjustments to junior users. Senior water users on the Wood River system are sharing water and some irrigation is continuing. As time has allowed, watermaster staff evaluated water use in the Sprague and Williamson River systems, including over several weekends, and largely found compliance with regulation orders. Staff floated portions of the Upper Sprague River to evaluate for compliance, resulting in one Notice of Violation being issued to one landowner. Four requests for human consumption preference have been received, and eight requests for stock water preference were submitted, along with a comparable interest in the Wood River valley.

G. Legislative and Agency Request Budget Update

As reported at previous meetings, the Department has been working to develop its three Legislative Concepts and Agency Request Budget in preparation for the 2019 Legislative Session.

The Department’s Legislative Concepts are currently being drafted by Legislative Counsel. The Legislative Concepts address the following three topics: (1) Extending Place-Based Planning; (2) Modernizing the Dam Safety Statutes; and (3) Transfers of the Purpose of Stored Water. If approved by the Governor’s office to move forward, these concepts will be pre-session filed in December.

The Department submitted its 2019-21 Agency Request Budget (ARB) in early August. The ARB proposes investments in water that will further implementation of the state’s 2015 Integrated Water Resources Strategy and help the state understand and meet water needs now and into the future. Table 1 below shows policy option packages proposed in the 2019-2021 ARB. The full ARB, including detailed descriptions of each package, is available online at: www.oregon.gov/owrd/LAW/docs/Legislative_Updates/2019-21%20WRDRRequestBudgetWeb.pdf.

Table 1. Final 2019-21 Agency Request Budget Policy Option Packages

<i>Budget Packages</i>	<i>FTE</i>	<i>General Fund</i>	<i>Lottery Bonds / Other Funds</i>
Place-Based Planning Community Support	0.88	\$979,950	-
Groundwater Data, Management & Protection	11.44	\$3,558,247	(\$235,608)
Resolving Complex Water Issues	2.64	\$1,362,009	-
Protecting the Public through Dam Safety	0.88	\$1,278,485	-
Addressing Increasing Legal Expenses	-	\$1,000,000	-
Supporting Water Management in the Field	7.04	\$1,502,450	-
Investing in Projects to Meet Water Needs	0.88	\$1,433,962	\$32,738,356

<i>Budget Packages</i>	<i>FTE</i>	<i>General Fund</i>	<i>Lottery Bonds / Other Funds</i>
Improving Water Use Measurement & Reporting	6.16	\$1,428,313	-
Increase Access to Data for Decision Making	4.40	\$1,579,508	-
Increasing Understanding of Water Law and Tools	0.88	196,623	-
Marijuana & Compliance with Water Laws	4.40	\$901,525	-
Continuing Payroll Shared Services	1.00	-	\$146,808
Supporting Agency Functions	3.52	\$1,314,904	(\$156,965)
Mitigation to Allow for New Water Uses	0.88	\$215,531	-
Updating the IWRS	-	\$50,000	-

The next step in the budget process is for the Governor to release her proposed budget on December 1. Thereafter, the Oregon Legislature will consider agency budgets during the 2019 Legislative Session. The final budget for the Department is set and approved by the Oregon Legislature.

H. Deschutes Water Summit Update

The Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs and the State of Oregon are hosting a Deschutes Basin Water Summit, October 21 and 22, 2018, in Redmond. The Summit will be a time to reconnect those of us who are working on water-related issues in the basin to review the collaborative history of the region, share information and examine the challenges ahead, identify mutual concerns and needs, and begin charting a path towards a new water governance. Invitees include representatives of local municipality and county governments, state and federal agencies, irrigation districts, conservation organizations, and industry.

III. Litigation Update

2018 U.S. District Court Filings

Schrock, Duane Michael et al v. Water Resources Department, United State District Court Case No. 2:18-CV-01264-SU

A complaint for declaratory judgment and preliminary and permanent injunction was filed on July 16, 2018

2018 Circuit Court Filings

Topham Family Trust v Oregon Water Resources Department, Marion County Circuit Court Case No. 18CV18092

A petition for judicial review of final orders in other than contested case was filed on May 3, 2018 for the regulation of groundwater use for senior surface water rights in the Klamath Basin.

Klamath Irrigation District v Oregon Water Resources Department, Marion County Circuit Court Case No. 18CV18112

A petition to compel agency action was filed on May 6, 2018 regarding the purpose of dividing or distributing the water of various users.

Mallams, Thomas et al v. Water Resources Department, Klamath County Circuit Court Case No. 18CV19777

A petition for judicial review of final orders in other than contested case was filed on May 16, 2018 for the regulation of groundwater use for senior surface water rights in the Klamath Basin.

Plaintiffs filed a notice of dismissal without prejudice on July 13, 2018. On July 23, 2018, Judge Wogan signed the dismissal.

George Stroemple v. Oregon Water Resources Department, Marion Circuit Court Case. No. 18CV20093

A petition for judicial review of final order in other than contested case was filed on May 16, 2018 for the regulation of water from surface water for irrigation.

George Stroemple v. Oregon Water Resources Department, Marion Circuit Court Case. No. 18CV33351

A petition for judicial review of final order in other than contested case was filed on July 31, 2018 for the Order Denying Stay issued by the Department on June 1, 2018.

Krueger, David et al. v. Water Resources Department, Marion County Circuit Court Case No. 18CV20167

A petition for judicial review of final orders in other than contested case, and complaint for declaratory judgment and injunction was filed on May 17, 2018 for the regulation of groundwater use for senior surface water rights in the Klamath Basin.

Newman, Kevin et al v. Water Resources Department, Marion County Circuit Court Case No. 18CV26124

A petition for judicial review of final orders in other than contested case, and complaint for declaratory judgment and injunction was filed on June 25, 2018 for the regulation of groundwater use for senior surface water rights in the Klamath Basin.

Brooks, Lon et al v. Water Resources Department, Marion County Circuit Court Case No. 18CV26126

A petition for judicial review of final orders in other than contested case, and complaint for declaratory judgment and injunction was filed on June 25, 2018 for the regulation of groundwater use for senior surface water rights in the Klamath Basin.

Wilks Ranch Oregon Ltd v. Water Resources Department, Marion County Circuit Court Case No. 18CV26122

A petition for judicial review of final orders in other than contested case, and complaint for declaratory judgment and injunction was filed on June 25, 2018 for the regulation of groundwater use for senior surface water rights in the Klamath Basin.

Jacobs, Margaret v. Water Resources Department, Marion County Circuit Court Case No. 18CV26118

A petition for judicial review of final orders in other than contested case, and complaint for declaratory judgment and injunction was filed on June 25, 2018 for the regulation of groundwater use for senior surface water rights in the Klamath Basin.

Melsness, Frank et al v. Water Resources Department, Marion County Circuit Court Case No. 18CV26153

A petition for judicial review of final orders in other than contested case, and complaint for declaratory judgment and injunction was filed on June 25, 2018 for the regulation of groundwater use for senior surface water rights in the Klamath Basin.

Duarte, Barbara et al v. Water Resources Department, Marion County Circuit Court Case No. 18CV26125

A petition for judicial review of final orders in other than contested case, and complaint for declaratory judgment and injunction was filed on June 25, 2018 for the regulation of groundwater use for senior surface water rights in the Klamath Basin.

Miller, Casey et al v. Water Resources Department, Marion County Circuit Court Case No. 18CV26130

A petition for judicial review of final orders in other than contested case, and complaint for declaratory judgment and injunction was filed on June 25, 2018 for the regulation of groundwater use for senior surface water rights in the Klamath Basin.

Edwards, Anthony et al. v. Water Resources Department, Marion County Circuit Court Case No. 18CV28865

A petition for judicial review of final orders in other than contested case, and complaint for declaratory judgment and injunction was filed on July 10, 2018 for the regulation of groundwater use for senior surface water rights in the Klamath Basin.

Emery, Bruce and Penny v. Water Resources Department, Marion County Circuit Court Case No. 18CV34039

A petition for judicial review of final orders in other than contested case, and complaint for declaratory judgment and injunction was filed on August 3, 2018 for the regulation of groundwater use for senior surface water rights in the Klamath Basin.

Kalkhoven, Allen and June v. Oregon Water Resources Department, Marion Circuit Court Case. No. 18CV34480

A petition for judicial review of final order in other than contested case was filed on August 7, 2018 for the regulation of water from surface water for irrigation.

Court of Appeals Filings

Blue Mountain Angus, LLC. v. Oregon Water Resources Department, Oregon Court of Appeals Case No. A156669

This case is a petition to the Oregon Court of Appeals for review of a final order denying a transfer (T-10898). Blue Mountain Angus filed a water right transfer application to change the point of diversion and place of use under Water Right Certificate 25844. The Department denied the transfer because the Department was unable to make findings of no injury or enlargement.

Staff continue to work with Blue Mountain Angus's Counsel exploring possible solutions to their stock water needs.

On May 11, 2018, the Court ordered that this case be reactivated. On June 22, 2018, the Court of Appeals granted a motion to hold the appeal in abeyance through July 23, 2018.

Larry J. Sees and Joan A. Sees, Garret J. Duncan and Cameron M. Duncan, and Stanley S. Stonier and Dolores E. Stonier v. Oregon Water Resources Department and Water Resources Commission, Oregon Court of Appeals Case No. A165952

These cases involve petitions for judicial review of final orders issued to regulate junior groundwater users in response to a call by a senior user in the Klamath Basin in 2015 and notices spanning a two-year period. Each petition resulted in different court case numbers. All of these cases are similar and have been consolidated into case No. 15CV18272.

The Department, working with the Attorney General's Office, presented testimony on the consolidated case during the Marion County Circuit Court trial which began on March 13, 2017. The Court heard this matter over a six day period. The Court issued an Opinion Letter on July 10, 2017. The Court found that the State followed the process required by the rules and relied on the best information available at the time and the State's findings of hydraulic connection and its stream relief calculations are supported by substantial evidence. Accordingly, the Court affirmed the Department's orders.

Counsel for the Sees filed objections to the Court's findings. A hearing was scheduled for August 22, 2017 to hear the objections. Marion County Circuit Court affirmed the State's decision and a General Judgment was entered on August 24, 2017.

Sees filed an appeal on September 19, 2017.

WaterWatch v Oregon Water Resources Department, Oregon Court of Appeals Case No. A165160

This case involves an order in an other-than-contested case issued by the Department, specifically the renewal of an instream lease of a water right held by Warm Springs Hydro LLC. WaterWatch asked the Court to require that the right be converted to an instream water right. A hearing on motions was held on April 11, 2017. The Court issued an order dismissing the case on May 18, 2017.

WaterWatch filed a notice of appeal with the Oregon Court of Appeals on June 14, 2017.

Dan and Nina Micke v Oregon Water Resources Department and Commission, Oregon Court of Appeals Case No. A164638

Dan and Nina Micke were issued a regulation notice to release waters stored in two reservoirs in the course of water distribution to satisfy the call of a senior water right holder. The Micke's filed a petition for judicial review. Various motions were filed by both the Petitioner and the State. The court entered a Judgment of General Dismissal on March 17, 2017.

On April 14, 2017, petitioners filed a notice of appeal with the Oregon Court of Appeals.

Harrington v Oregon Water Resources Department and others, US Federal District Court, Case 1:16-CV-00200-CL, Judge Michael J. McShane

This issue began several years ago. It involves the illegal storage of water and the subsequent notching of the dams by the State. This is the second filing in US Federal District Court.

The court adopted the findings and recommendations of Magistrate Judge Clark. The recommendations included: (1) Motions to dismiss presented by state and federal defendants should be granted; and, (2) Mr. Harrington should be given an opportunity to amend and refile his Complaint as it pertains to those Oregon state defendants entitled to qualified immunity. The court allowed until January 1, 2017 for Mr. Harrington to file an amended complaint. Harrington filed a motion for an extension of time until February 1, 2017. The State filed a motion requesting dismissal. Harrington filed a motion to deny the State's motion to dismiss and the State replied in support of the motion to dismiss. The court dismissed this appeal because it was filed from a non-appealable order on June 7, 2017. Judgment has been entered.

Harrington has filed an appeal. On May 24, 2018, the Court of Appeals affirmed dismissal of the case.

TPC, LLC, and Taylor and John Hyde v Oregon Water Resources Department, Oregon Court of Appeals Case No. A167380

On March 21, 2018, the State of Oregon filed a motion for stay of judgment pending appeal on TPC and Hyde Case Nos. 16CV27427 and 17CV26962. The petitioners requested attorney fees and a request for findings and conclusions. The State opposed the request for fees and findings and conclusions. The petitioners opposed the state's response on May 7, 2018.

Hyde's filed an appeal on June 5, 2018. On August 17, 2018, the Appellate Commissioner issued an order granting a motion to stay the trial court's judgment for the duration of the appeal.

IV. Commission/Board Schedules for 2018

<i>Commission/Board</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Date</i>
Board of Forestry	Salem	Sept. 5
Land Conservation and Development Commission	Salem	Sept. 27-28
Parks and Recreation Commission	TBD	Sept. 18-19
Fish and Wildlife Commission	Bandon	Sept 13-14
State Land Board	Salem	Oct. 16
Environmental Quality Commission	Klamath Falls	Sept. 13-14
Watershed Enhancement Board	Gold Beach	Oct. 16-17
Board of Agriculture	North Bend	Sept. 27

Attachment:

1. Rulemaking Calendar
2. Place-Based Planning Semi-Annual Update Handout

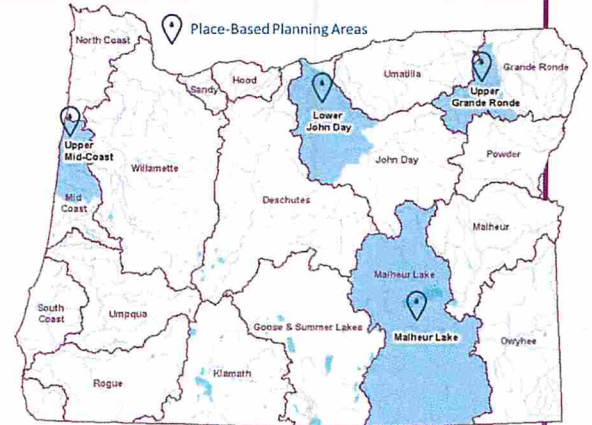
Oregon Water Resources Department Current/Anticipated Rulemaking

Rule Division	Topic	Lead Staff	RAC Planned or Convened?	GWAC Input Expected?	Target WRC Date	Status
Division 54 (New Rule Division)	Hydro conversion to instream	Mary Graine	Yes	No	2019	Underway
Division 77 Instream Water Rights	Consistency with SB 199 (2013) – allowing lease applications to be processed more efficiently	Dwight French, Lisa Jaramillo, Sarah Henderson	Yes	No	2019	Planning
Division 86 Water Management and Conservation Plans	Option for smaller municipal water suppliers	Dwight French, Chris Kowitz	Yes	No	Late 2018	Underway
Division 87 (New Rule Division)	Municipal Reclaimed Water Registrations	Dwight French, Kerri Cope	Yes	No	Late 2018 / Early 2019	Underway
Division 77	Instream Leases and Transfers of Stored Water	TBD	Yes	No	TBD	Planning
*Division 300 Definition	Definition updates					
*Division 310 Water Right Application Process	Conversion of memos to rules and clarify opportunity for settlement discussion after a protest has been filed	Dwight French	Yes	No	2019	Planning
*Division 500 Basin Program Preamble	Minor updates					

Place-Based Planning Updates January – June 2018

Program and Place-Based Updates

- Initiated a partnership with the Climate Impacts Research Consortium (CIRC) to assist places with assessing climate impacts to supply and demand and developing adaptation strategies.
- Initiated a learning partnership with the Ford Family Foundation to support ongoing community building and peer-to-peer learning between places.
- Second annual Collaborative Water Gathering brought places together to share lessons learned and best practices in May.
- Inter-agency meetings in February, March, April, and May.
- Convener coordination calls in January and April.



Harney - Malheur Lake Basin

Conveners: Harney County Court & Watershed Council
 OWRD Grant: \$150,000 Other Grants (to-date): \$163,000

- Meetings of the full Collaborative held January and April.
- Four working groups (domestic/municipal, ecological, vegetation management, agricultural [groundwater]) convened to gather and analyze water data/information – 17 meetings in total.
- Multiple presentations from content experts.
- Developing summaries of working group deliberations and findings for Steps 2/3.
- Recipient of grants from private foundations.

Planning
Step 2/3

More information: Contact Rianne BeCraft at 541-360-1695 or rianne@hcwatershedcouncil.com

WEB: www.hcwatershedcouncil.com/community-based-water-planning

Lower John Day Sub-Basin

Conveners: Gilliam SWCD & Wheeler SWCD
 OWRD Grant: \$220,000

- Partnership meetings held in January, February, March, April, May, and June.
- Finishing up and reviewing Step 2 State of Water Resources Report – a draft will be sent out for public review this summer.
- Continue work to assemble Step 3 information.
- Significant partner contributions to Step 2 and Step 3 through a partner RFP.
- Successful public outreach event held in April with 50+ attendees.

Planning
Step 2/3

More information: Contact Christina Kirwan at 541-384-2672 x108 or gilliamswcd@gmail.com

WEB: Under development – see the group [DropBox](#)

Upper Grande Ronde Sub-Basin

Conveners: Union County
 OWRD Grant: \$207,000

- [Step 2 State of Water Resources Report](#) completed and approved by consensus.
- Stakeholder meetings held in January, February, March, April, and May.
- Four working groups (agricultural, municipal, instream, and natural hazards) met multiple times to assess current and future demands.
- Information exchange convened with other places to examine methods to estimate agricultural water use.
- Step 3 report anticipated Summer 2018.

Planning
Step 3

More information: Contact Scott Hartell at 541-963-1014 or shartell@union-county.org

WEB: <http://union-county.org/planning/place-based-integrated-water-resources-planning/>

Mid-Coast Region

Conveners: City of Newport, OWRD, Seal Rock Water District, Gibson Farms
 OWRD Grant: \$150,000 Other Grants (to-date): \$205,000

- [Step 2 Water Resources Report](#) completed.
- Technical assistance secured from the Army Corps of Engineers.
- Three working groups convened to assess instream and out-of-stream water needs/demands.
- Partnership meetings held in January and May.
- Public event held in June with 30+ attendees.
- Two additional local conveners approved by consensus of the Partnership.

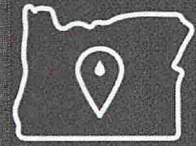
Planning
Step 3

More information: Contact Timothy Gross at 541-961-5313 or T.Gross@NewportOregon.gov

WEB: www.midcoastwaterpartners.com



Place-Based Integrated Water Resources Planning



Helping Oregon communities plan for their current and future water needs

Place-based planning is one of the recommended actions from the 2012 Integrated Water Resources Strategy (IWRS). It provides an opportunity for communities to work collaboratively, in partnership with the state, to understand their water resources challenges and needs, and identify potential solutions to meet those needs. The place-based planning [draft guidelines](#) describe the five steps and key planning principles central to any place-based planning effort.

Planning Step 1

Build a collaborative and inclusive process – Conveners assemble partners representing a balance of interests, including state agencies and work with partners to: create a governance agreement that describes how the partners will collaborate and make decisions using consensus; develop a communication and outreach strategy to ensure an open and inclusive process; and develop a work plan outlining how they will execute Planning Steps 2-5.

Planning Step 2

Gather information to understand current water resources and identify knowledge gaps – The planning group assesses and describes water resources in the basin, looking at water quantity, quality, and ecology. This effort includes collecting and synthesizing existing information, identifying any gaps in knowledge, and developing strategies to fill these gaps.

Planning Step 3

Examine current and future water needs/demands for people, the economy, and the environment – The group identifies and prioritizes current and future instream and out-of-stream water needs/demands using an integrated approach. Groups also examine water challenges and vulnerabilities, such as how climate change may affect water resources and the ability to meet water needs.

Planning Step 4

Identify and prioritize strategic, integrated solutions to meet multiple water needs – The group collaboratively identifies a long-term strategy and near-term recommended actions to address the instream and out-of-stream issues and needs identified in Steps 2-3. Consensus-based strategies and actions are captured in a plan.

Planning Step 5

Approve and implement a place-based integrated water resources plan – The group approves the plan and develops more detailed plans to implement actions. The Water Resources Commission and other agencies will have an opportunity to formally accept the plan, based on whether it is consistent with the IWRS, the guidelines, and state water policy.

Key Planning Principles

- Locally-initiated and led collaborative effort
- Voluntary, non-regulatory process
- Includes a balanced representation of water interests
- Conducted in partnership with the state
- Addresses instream and out-of-stream needs
- Looks at water quantity, quality and ecosystem needs in an integrated approach
- Creates an open and transparent process that fosters public participation
- Builds on and integrates existing studies and plans
- Does not infringe on existing water rights
- Adheres to IWRS principles and state laws

Learn More!

Visit the web page: <http://bit.ly/owrdplanning> Email: placebasedplanning@wrdd.state.or.us
Contact Planning Coordinators Harmony Burright (503-986-0913) or Steven Parrett (503-986-0914)