

# Oregon's 100-Year Water Vision



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September 2019

Water Resources Commission Meeting



# Integrated Water Resources Strategy

“Oregon’s 2017 Integrated Water Resources Strategy continues to chart a long-term course to meet the state’s instream and out-of-stream water needs. All Oregonians need water to thrive—it supports our economies, our renowned wildlife and nature, bountiful agriculture products, and healthy and livable communities”

Governor Kate Brown (IWRS Foreword, 2017)

## Oregon’s **2017** Integrated Water Resources Strategy



# Oregon's 2017 Integrated Water Resources Strategy

A framework for improving our understanding of Oregon's water resources and meeting our instream and out-of-stream needs, including water quantity, water quality, and ecosystem needs



## ( 1 ) Understand Water Resources Today

**Further Understand Limited Water Supplies & Systems**  
(groundwater, surface water, and their interaction)

**Improve Water Quality & Quantity Information**

**Further Understand Our Water Management Institutions**

**Understanding Water Resources / Supplies / Institutions**

- 1.A Conduct additional groundwater investigations
- 1.B Improve water resource data collection & monitoring
- 1.C Coordinate inter-agency data collection, processing, and use in decision-making

← OBJECTIVES →

← CRITICAL ISSUES →

← RECOMMENDED ACTIONS →

## ( 2 ) Understand Instream and Out-of-Stream Needs

**Further Define Out-of-Stream Needs / Demands**  
(i.e., diverted water)

**Further Define Instream Needs / Demands**  
(i.e., left-in-place water)

**Understanding Oregon's Out-of-Stream Needs/Demands**

- 2.A Regularly update long-term water demand forecasts
- 2.B Improve water-use measurement & reporting
- 2.C Determine unadjudicated water right claims
- 2.D Authorize the update of water right records with contact information
- 2.E Regularly update Oregon's water-related permitting guide

**Understanding Oregon's Instream Needs/Demands**

- 3.A Determine flows needed (quality & quantity) to support instream needs
- 3.B Determine needs of groundwater dependent ecosystems

← OBJECTIVES →

← CRITICAL ISSUES →

← RECOMMENDED ACTIONS →

## ( 3 ) Understand the Coming Pressures That Affect Our Needs and Supplies

Economic Development

Water & Energy

Climate Change

Extreme Events

Population Growth

Water & Land Use

Water-Related Infrastructure

Education & Outreach

**Water & Energy**

- 4.A Analyze the effects on water from energy development projects & policies
- 4.B Take advantage of existing infrastructure to develop non-traditional hydroelectric power
- 4.C Promote strategies that increase/integrate energy & water savings

**Climate Change**

- 5.A Support continued basin-scale climate change research efforts
- 5.B Assist with climate change adaptation & resiliency strategies

**Extreme Events**

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

**Economic Development & Population Growth**  
*(See Actions 2A and 3A)*

**Water & Land Use**

- 6.A Improve integration of water information into land use planning (and vice versa)
- 6.B Improve state agency coordination
- 6.C Encourage low-impact development practices and green infrastructure

**Water-Related Infrastructure**

- 7.A Develop and upgrade water and wastewater infrastructure
- 7.B Encourage regional (sub-basin) approaches to water and wastewater systems
- 7.C Ensure public safety/dam safety

**Education and Outreach**

- 8.A Support Oregon's K-12 environmental literacy plan
- 8.B Provide education and training for Oregon's next generation of water experts
- 8.C Promote community education and training opportunities
- 8.D Identify ongoing water-related research needs

## ( 4 ) Meet Oregon's Instream and Out-of-Stream Needs

Place-Based Efforts

Water Management & Development

Healthy Ecosystems

Public Health

Funding

**Place-Based Efforts**

- 9.A Continue to undertake place-based integrated, water resources planning
- 9.B Coordinate implementation of existing natural resource plans
- 9.C Partner with federal agencies, tribes, and neighboring states in long-term water resources management

**Water Management & Development**

- 10.A Improve water-use efficiency and water conservation
- 10.B Improve access to built storage
- 10.C Encourage additional water reuse projects
- 10.D Reach environmental outcomes with non-regulatory alternatives
- 10.E Continue the water resources development program
- 10.F Provide an adequate presence in the field
- 10.G Strengthen water quantity & water quality permitting programs

**Healthy Ecosystems**

- 11.A Improve watershed health, resiliency, and capacity for natural storage
- 11.B Develop additional instream protections
- 11.C Prevent and eradicate invasive species
- 11.D Protect and restore instream habitat and habitat access for fish and wildlife
- 11.E Develop additional groundwater protections

**Public Health**

- 12.A Ensure the safety of Oregon's drinking water
- 12.B Reduce the use of and exposure to toxics and other pollutants
- 12.C Implement water quality pollution control plans

**Funding**

- 13.A Fund development and implementation of Oregon's IWRS
- 13.B Fund water resources management activities at state agencies
- 13.C Invest in local or regional water planning efforts
- 13.D Invest in feasibility studies for water resources projects
- 13.E Invest in implementation of water resources projects

To address changes in climate and population dynamics, Oregon will steward its water resources to ensure clean and abundant water for our people, our economy and our environment, now and for future generations.

Strategic investments will result in resilient natural and built water systems across the state to support safe and healthy communities, vibrant local economies and a healthy environment.

## 100-Year Water Vision

- Preparing a Secure, Safe and Resilient Water Future for All Oregonians
- Develop broad coalition to assess current status, evaluate need, develop funding and investment strategies for built and natural infrastructure
- Build on existing plans

## Example IWRS Recommended actions (2017)

- Plan and prepare for drought resiliency, flood events, Cascadia
- Ensure public safety/dam safety
- Provide an adequate presence in the field
- Strengthen water quantity/quality permitting programs
- Develop additional groundwater protections
- Invest in local/regional water planning
- Invest in implementation of water resources projects

## 100-Year Vision Goals

**Health:** Secure, safe, accessible, and healthy water for current and future Oregonians.

**Economy:** Adequate and clean ground and surface water to support economic vitality for all Oregonians.

**Environment:** Adequate cool, clean water for native fish and wildlife to thrive, and healthy watersheds that can store and filter water naturally.

**Safety:** Resilient water supply and flood protection systems that can face natural hazards like earthquakes, floods and drought.

# Draft Water Vision Problem Statements

The background features a stylized illustration of a water infrastructure system. A winding river flows through a landscape. On the left, there are several water storage tanks and a building. In the center, a residential area with several houses is shown. On the right, there are industrial buildings with smokestacks. A person is walking a dog near the river. The overall scene is set against a backdrop of green hills and a blue sky.

Oregon's water infrastructure has served us well, but is showing its age.

We have underinvested in the new natural and built systems to meet the needs of a vibrant 21st century Oregon.

# Draft Water Vision Problem Statements

- Without modern water supply systems and water conservation approaches that combine to provide reliable access to water, including in emergencies, Oregonians risk not having water available when it's needed for healthy people and communities, food production, and a thriving economy.
- Without coordinated built and natural water infrastructure investments, Oregonians –including those in disproportionately impacted and rural communities – may be unable to access adequate clean water and return it to our rivers for downstream users, fish, and wildlife.

# Draft Water Vision Problem Statements

- Without resilient built and natural infrastructure that provides cool and clean water across all Oregon watersheds, our people – and our fish and wildlife – are increasingly vulnerable to the health risks associated with lack of access to adequate, clean water.
- Without strong capacity across all Oregon communities to plan for their water future, and effective ways to ensure strategic water investment decisions are coordinated across and between local, regional, state, and federal agencies, communities will not be prepared to take advantage of large-scale water infrastructure funding opportunities or collaborative and innovative partnerships.



# Draft Water Vision Problem Statements

- Without upgraded levees, dams, stormwater systems, tide gates, and the natural protection of wetlands and estuaries, our communities will be less safe and at increased risk of damage and economic hardship from localized and catastrophic flooding.
- Without access to relevant water data for effective decision-making, cross-agency coordination, and intentional approaches to test new ideas, built and natural water systems will perennially fall short of providing for Oregon's in-stream and out-of-stream water needs.

# Phase I: Listen, learn and gather information from across Oregon

## Objectives:

- ✓ Refine the draft vision document, problem statement, and goals as appropriate from feedback received.
- ✓ Increase awareness by water leaders of the context around the 100-Year Water Vision and its goals, including examples.



# Phase I: Listen, learn and gather information from across Oregon

## Objectives:

- ✓ Building on the Integrated Water Resources Strategy (IWRS), increase understanding of available data and gaps in data related to current surface and groundwater condition, as well as built and natural water infrastructure conditions and needs.
- ✓ Building on the IWRS, increase identification of priority data needs for effective built and natural water infrastructure decision-making.
- ✓ Increase knowledge of current state and federal funding available for water system investments and funding gaps.



# Phase I Fall Actions

Interviews and Online Feedback

Water Academies

Technical Workshops

Presentations at organizational meetings, with boards and commissions, tribes and other partners

# Website, Feedback, and Listserve

The screenshot shows the Oregon Water Vision website. At the top, there are navigation buttons: "More About the Vision", "Vision Problem Statement", "Get Involved", and "Share Your Thoughts". The main content area includes "Our Shared Vision", "Goals" (Health, Economy, Environment, Safety), "Investing in Our Water Future", and "Events". A feedback form at the bottom asks "Help us improve! Was this page helpful?" with "Yes" and "No" buttons. A red arrow points from the "Share Your Thoughts" button on the website to a callout box. Another red arrow points from the "Subscribe!" button on the website to another callout box.

More About the Vision | Vision Problem Statement | Get Involved | Share Your Thoughts

## Our Shared Vision

To address changes in climate and population dynamics, Oregon will steward its water resources to ensure clean and abundant water for our people, our economy, and our environment, now and for future generations. Strategic investments will result in resilient natural and built water systems across the state to support safe and healthy communities, vibrant local economies, and a healthy environment.

## Goals

- Health**  
Secure, safe, accessible, and healthy water for current and future Oregonians.
- Economy**  
Adequate and clean ground and surface water to support economic vitality for all Oregonians.
- Environment**  
Adequate cool, clean water for native fish and wildlife to thrive, and healthy watersheds that can store and filter water naturally.
- Safety**  
Resilient water supply and flood protection systems that can face natural hazards such as floods and drought.

## Investing in Our Water Future

Many areas of Oregon are known for clean and reliable water. This is due to both favorable climate and the infrastructure we built in the 19th and 20th centuries to effectively move water from its source to where it is used. As has been identified in Oregon's Integrated Water Resources Strategy, 3 forces combine to place significant stress on Oregon's water:

1. Climate change and associated increases in fire, drought, and flooding;
2. A half century of underinvestment in built and natural water infrastructure; and
3. Our changing population and associated development – growing in some areas, shrinking in others.

These factors impact the quality and quantity of water for our communities, including water in our rivers, lakes, reservoirs, and aquifers. Simply put, if we are not willing to roll up our sleeves and work together to invest in our natural and built water systems, we place the safety of our communities, the health of our people and environment, and Oregon's economic future at risk.

More About the Vision | Vision Problem Statement | Get Involved | Share Your Thoughts

## Events

[Business Oregon Infrastructure Summit](#), October 20-21, Salem Convention Center

Help us improve! Was this page helpful?  Yes  No

## Contact

- Meta Loftsgaarden
- Bryn Hudson
- Website Feedback

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## About Oregon

- Oregon.gov
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- Agencies Listing
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- Visit

[www.OregonWaterVision.org](http://www.OregonWaterVision.org)

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# Points of Contact

- Water Directors – Jason Miner (GNRO), Tom Byler (WRD), Meta Loftsgaarden (OWEB – Gov’s office lead), Richard Whitman (DEQ)
- Water Core Team – Bruce McIntosh (ODFW) & Renee Davis (OWEB) – co-chairs; Doug Woodcock (WRD lead); other agencies
- Vision Implementation Team – Meta Loftsgaarden & Renee Davis (OWEB), Racquel Rancier (WRD), Bobby Cochran & Peter Harkema (NPCC)

Thank You!

