Oregon's 100-Year Water Vision

OREGON
WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT

Tom Byler, Director
Doug Woodcock, Deputy Director
Racquel Rancier, Senior Policy Coordinator

November 2019
Water Resources Commission Meeting

Integrated Water Resources Strategy (IWRS)

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

(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

OBJECTIVES

CRITICAL ISSUES

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

(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

Oregon's 100-Year Water Vision

Preparing a Secure, Safe and Resilient Water Future for All Oregonians

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.

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

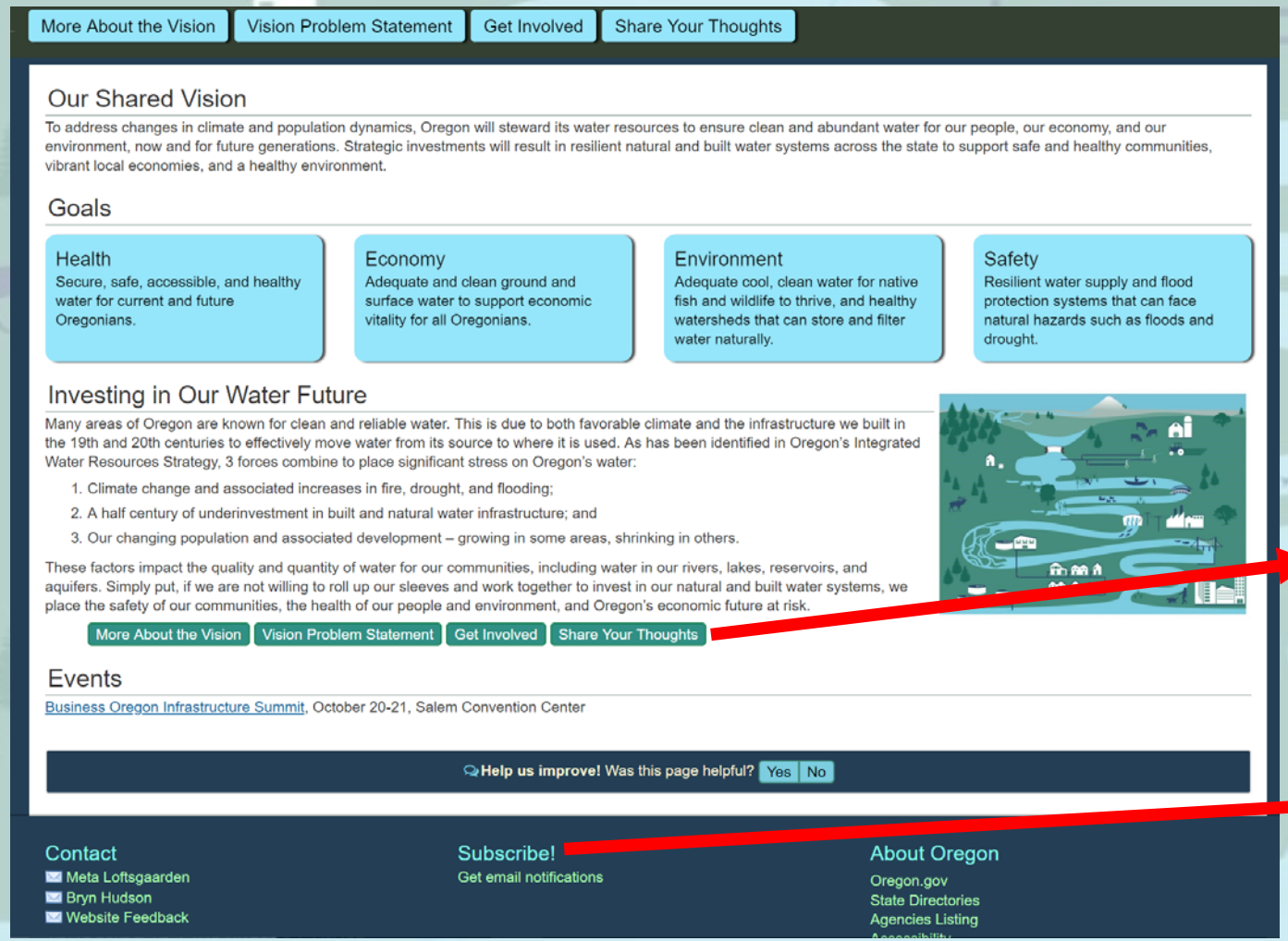
Objectives:

- Building on the 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 Recap: Outreach by the Numbers

- 7 in-person conversations in communities across the state:
  - Gresham
  - Tillamook
  - Bend
  - Ontario
  - La Grande
  - Albany
  - Medford/Central Point
- 1 virtual community conversation
- 1 technical workshop
- 80 in-person interviews
- 135 online survey responses
- More than 600 Oregonians engaged!

Website, Feedback, and Listserve



Visit:
ww.OregonWaterVision.org

Share Your Thoughts

Subscribe!
Get email notifications

2020 Funding Requests

2020 Funding Request	Agency
Water Vision Coordination & Implementation	OWEB
Water Vision Decision Support Tool Development	DEQ
Water Vision Business Case	OWRD

Commission Discussion

- Do the goals represent your relationship to and usage of water? If not, what goals are missing, or what change do you recommend?
- Do the identified problems reflect the concerns you have surrounding the future of Oregon's water security? If not, what is missing, or what changes do you recommend?

Next Steps

The State agencies will compile and analyze all of the feedback received and will report to the Governor and Legislature in early 2020 in order to determine a path forward for the 100-Year Water Vision.

Thank You!

Water 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

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

We have underinvested in natural and built infrastructure to meet current challenges and have not adapted systems to meet the needs of a vibrant Oregon for the next 100 years.

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 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.

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.

Draft Water Vision Problem Statements

- 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.
- 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.