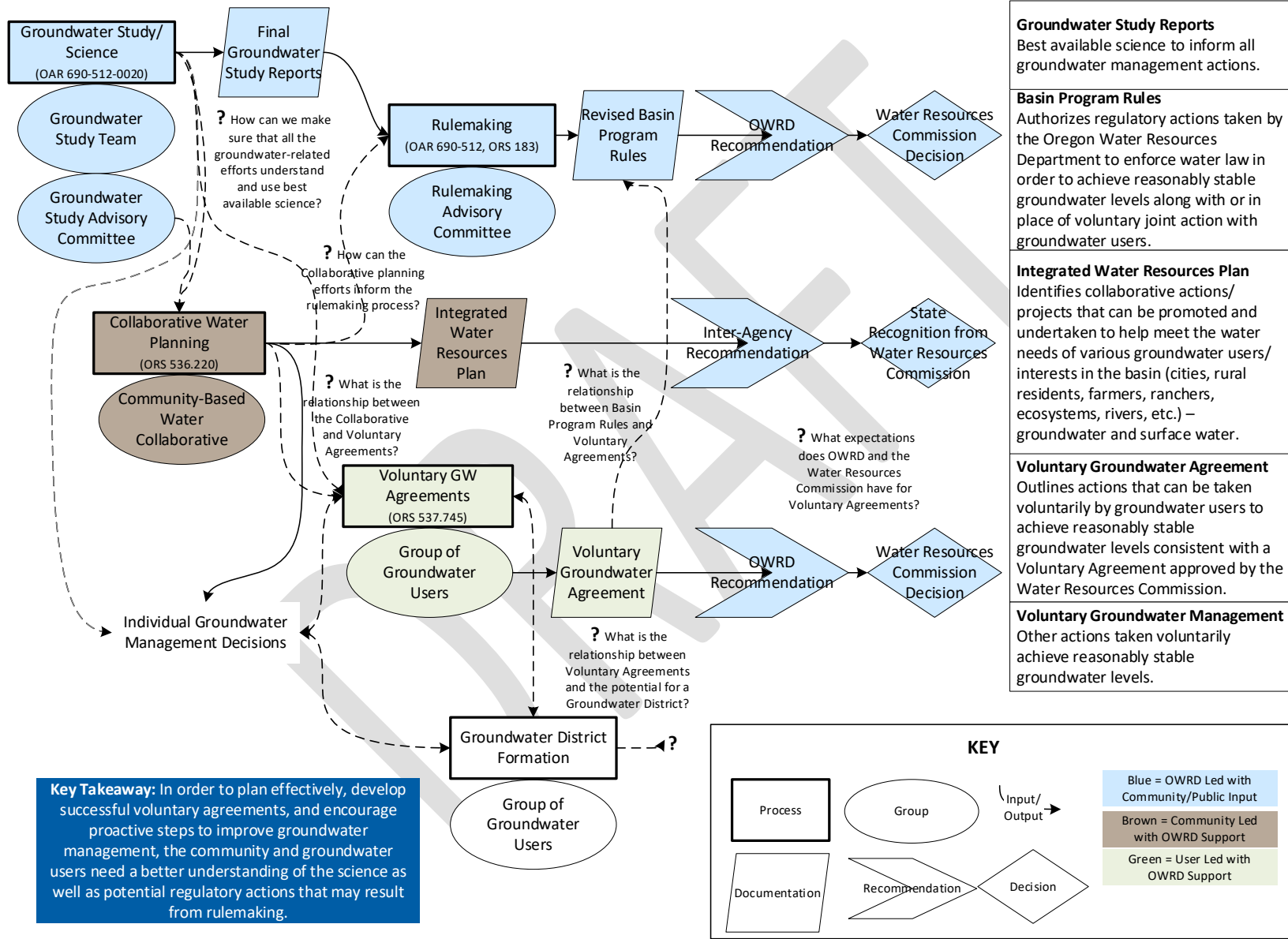


Groundwater Management Related Processes in the Harney Basin



Potential Timeline of Processes + Documentation

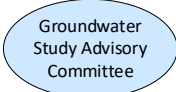
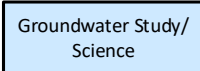
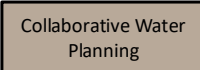
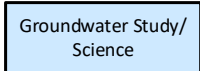
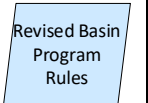
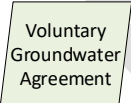


Pre-2020	2020	2021	2022	2023
<p>Groundwater Study/ Science</p> <p>Groundwater Study Advisory Committee</p>	<p>Final Groundwater Study Reports</p>	<p>Ongoing data collection→</p>		
		<p>Rulemaking</p> <p>Rulemaking Advisory Committee</p> <p>Revised Basin Program Rules</p>	<p>Additional rulemaking (as needed and as resources are available)→</p>	
		<p>Collaborative Water Planning</p> <p>Community-Based Water Collaborative</p>		<p>Integrated Water Resources Plan</p>
		<p>Voluntary Groundwater Agreements</p> <p>Group of Groundwater Users</p>	<p>Voluntary Groundwater Agreement</p>	<p>→?</p>

Key takeaways regarding timing:

- The Groundwater Study Advisory Committee is no longer meeting. Advisory Committee members will be working to incorporate the science into the Collaborative and other basin processes.
- There will be a lot happening in 2020 and 2021 and we need to figure out how to stay coordinated as we integrate the science into other basin processes and prepare for future rulemaking.
- Going forward, the Collaborative will continue to be a “hub” for information dissemination and discussion about water issues in the basin, which will include science and policy.
- The Final Groundwater Study Reports will be the best available science used as the basis for rulemaking in 2021. Data collection will continue beyond the groundwater study and will be used to improve our understanding of the groundwater system and track progress in stabilizing groundwater levels.
- OWRD is working to outline a roadmap and timeline for future rulemaking and regulatory actions. OWRD expects to have an initial proposal in spring 2020 for discussion with the community and groundwater users.
- OWRD encourages the development of voluntary groundwater agreements. OWRD is not leading the effort to develop voluntary groundwater agreements, but can provide assistance.
- The timeline for developing and approving voluntary groundwater agreements has not been outlined but an initial roadmap and timeline will be provided by the Department this spring.

GW Study Advisory Committee – Groundwater Processes_2019DEC12-13MtgSummary

Annotations to Process Flow Diagram (Living)

Figure	Discussion
	<p>The Groundwater Study Advisory Committee had its final meeting on December 12-13, 2019 and is no longer being formally convened by the Oregon Water Resources Department.</p>
<p>? How can we make sure that all the groundwater-related efforts understand and use best available science?</p>	<p>The Advisory Committee discussed the need to share the findings from the groundwater study with the broader community while the reports are undergoing peer review so that the different groundwater related efforts are using the best available information. The Advisory Committee members will play an important role in this, but the process by which this happens still needs to be discussed and clarified.</p>
 	<p>The Groundwater Study and Collaborative had been parallel processes. There is an interest in having the Collaborative be the hub for information going forward, which includes information about the science and the path forward for rulemaking/regulation. OWRD will use the Collaborative as a forum to share information about Departmental activities, both current and planned, as it relates to science and policy.</p>
	<p>The Advisory Committee discussed the need and desire to continue collecting data to further improve our understanding of the groundwater system and monitor the effectiveness of groundwater actions. OWRD indicated that the majority of data collection going forward will be to monitor the effectiveness of groundwater actions. While our understanding of the basin will continue to incrementally improve, we likely won't make big advances in our understanding of the hydrogeology of the basin as a whole.</p>
<p>? How can the Collaborative planning efforts inform the rulemaking process?</p>	<p>The Collaborative would like to provide inputs to the rulemaking process. Members of the Collaborative are seeking clarity about what conversations the Collaborative can be having in 2020 to inform rulemaking in 2021.</p>
 	<p>OWRD discussed that rulemaking/regulation and development of voluntary groundwater agreements could be parallel processes that have the potential to inform each other.</p>
<p>? What is the relationship between Basin Program Rules and Voluntary Agreements?</p>	<p>The relationship between the Basin Program Rules and the Voluntary Groundwater Agreements needs to be explored and clarified.</p>
	<p>The Water Resources Commission is the decision-maker for updated Basin Program Rules, granting state recognition to the Integrated Water Resources Plan, and approving any Voluntary Groundwater Agreement(s).</p>
	<p>OWRD will develop recommendations for the Water Resources Commission to consider. These recommendations will take into account different information depending on the process.</p>
<p>? What expectations does OWRD and the Water Resources Commission have for Voluntary Agreements?</p>	<p>Groundwater Users are seeking additional information from OWRD regarding what a Voluntary Groundwater Agreement should contain. There are no current examples of Voluntary Groundwater Agreements in the state. At present, the only guidance available is what is in statute.</p>
<p>? What is the relationship between Voluntary Agreements and the potential for a Groundwater District?</p>	<p>The potential relationship between a Groundwater District and Voluntary groundwater agreements is not well understood. The process for forming a groundwater district is not led by OWRD.</p>
<p>Brown = Community Led with OWRD Support Green = User Led with OWRD Support White = Independent</p>	<p>All of the processes in brown, green or white are not led by OWRD though OWRD will generally play a role at some point in the process and may be able to provide limited assistance.</p>