Oregon
Kate Brown, Governor

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Water Resources Commission

FROM: Thomas M. Byler, Director

SUBJECT: Agenda Item B, May 1, 2020
Water Resources Commission Meeting

Director's Report

I. Current Events

A. Staffing Updates

Since the November meeting, the Department has filled eleven positions The positions include four promotional transfers in from another agency, three lateral moves and six new to state service employees. Positions filled include an Executive Support Specialist, a Payroll Specialist, two Water Policy Analysts, a Human Resources Business Partner, a Well Inspector, a Technical Analyst/Coordinator and six Assistant Watermasters.

B. COVID-19

The COVID-19 pandemic has significantly impacted many Oregonians, including those that the Department serves. The Department recognizes that the challenges posed by COVID-19 have created significant uncertainty for all Oregonians, and in particular the economy. The Department will continue to seek to hear from Oregonians how we can be supportive and still carry out our mission.

As with all of state government, the agency has modified its operations over the past two months. Consistent with the Governor's Executive Orders, most staff are teleworking and our offices have been closed to the public, except by appointment. Prior to COVID-19, the Department had little experience with teleworking and was not equipped to do so. Information Services staff stepped up to the challenge, helping staff to be able to have the tools to work from home. Many staff come in to drop off and pickup work, but have very limited hours in the office. In addition, to the maximum extent possible, all meetings are being conducted by phone, email, teleconference, or virtually. Commission meetings into the near-future will be conducted by teleconference or virtually.

Due to the need to modify operations and the significant amount of management coordination on COVID-19, some projects have been delayed such as the dam safety rulemaking and work on legislative concepts. The Department cancelled public hearings on its dam safety rules that had previously been scheduled in March. In addition, to accommodate potential grant applicants, the Department extended the deadline to apply for Water Project Grants and Loans to May 28, 2020.

The Department will continue to evaluate whether other changes to operations are needed.

II. Commission Follow Up

A. Umatilla Water Supply Project Update

The Department has an $11 million grant agreement with the Port of Morrow to implement one or more infrastructure projects to deliver water primarily to lands that are currently not irrigated or are under-irrigated. These funds come from a 2015 direct appropriation from the Legislature 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 "East Project," is using $7 million of the grant funds to help construct a pump station on the Columbia River and a nine-mile long pipeline that would travel south down into the Stage Gulch Critical Groundwater Area (CGWA). The maximum capacity of the new pipeline will be 200 cfs. The Port of Morrow and East Improvement District are working to secure various permits and private financing as the estimated total project cost is approximately $53.7 million. The second project (the "CID Project") is using $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 total cost of the CID project is approximately $28.9 million. Both projects have encountered unforeseen challenges and delays as they have progressed, but both have made significant progress in securing matching funds and permits, and construction. The CID Project recently completed construction and started delivering Columbia River water. The East Project is expected to be completed in mid-2020.

The Department is also processing eight new Columbia River surface water rights and associated mitigation for the projects funded by this grant. Seven of the eight permits have been issued. The Department continues to process the final application, which is awaiting mitigation prior to permit issuance.

B. Walla Walla Subbasin Groundwater Update

In January 2020, groundwater staff paired with watermaster staff visited 125 permitted basalt wells affected by the Serious Water Management Problem Area rules. Each team collected water-level data, read flowmeters, documented which wells lacked flowmeters, and posted wells with a Notice of Violation (NOV) where appropriate. Permitted groundwater pumping from the basalt aquifers in the Oregon portion of the Walla Walla subbasin totaled approximately 12,900 acre-feet in 2019.

In late 2019, the Department entered into a 1-year cost share agreement with the United States Geological Survey (USGS) to begin to collect data in the Walla Walla subbasin, review existing data and reports on the basin, and develop a multi-year groundwater basin study scope of work. The groundwater basin study will address the entire Walla Walla Basin and will be conducted in cooperation with the Washington Department of Ecology, the Oregon and Washington Water Science Centers of the USGS, and in coordination with the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation. These five entities have met in person on three occasions since last October to discuss study objectives, initial data collection, and overall project scope. The group connects monthly on shorter teleconferences to maintain coordination and provide progress updates.

C. 2018 Deschutes Basin Groundwater Mitigation Program Annual Report

The Department is required to provide annual evaluations of the Deschutes Basin Groundwater Mitigation Program. The annual evaluation is done in coordination with the Oregon Departments of Fish and Wildlife, Environmental Quality, State Lands, and Parks and Recreation. The primary goal of this evaluation is to identify how streamflows are responding to additional groundwater use and implementation of the mitigation program. The 2018 annual report is included in Attachment 1. The Department will be presenting the 2019 annual review to the WRC later this year.

D. Klamath Basin Update

On February 25, Klamath County requested a state drought declaration. On March 2, 2020, Governor Brown issued Executive Order 20-02 declaring a drought emergency in Klamath County. The Department has been receiving and processing applications for emergency drought permits.

In March, a court ruled that the Water Resources Department cannot enforce the Division 25 rules. The ruling means that the Department will not be regulating groundwater rights in the Klamath Basin to meet the call of a senior surface water right holder. The ruling also suggests that a critical groundwater designation is necessary in order to manage groundwater rights for senior surface water rights within the Klamath basin. The Department believes that working with the community to establish a critical groundwater area is an appropriate path. The Department does not have a schedule at this time for establishing a critical groundwater area, which will require rulemaking.

The Commission was briefed on the dispute between the Bureau of Reclamation and Klamath Irrigation District regarding the distribution of water stored in Upper Klamath Lake at its April 24 meeting. Issues in the Klamath Basin have been evolving on a daily basis. The Commission will be briefed during the meeting on other emerging issues.

E. Greater Harney Valley Groundwater Area of Concern Update

The Malheur Lake Basin Program was amended by the Commission in April of 2016. This created the Greater Harney Valley Groundwater Area of Concern (GHVGAC). Part of the rules require an annual report to the Commission on new groundwater permits issued within the GHVGAC, information on groundwater level data and an update on the groundwater study, as well as staff recommendations, if any, on amending or repealing the rules.

New groundwater permits issued within the GHVGAC

Since April 15, 2016, six permits have been issued within the GHVGAC (Table 1). No new permits have been issued since the Department's 2019 report.

Table 1: Summary of recent water right permits issued within the GHVGAC

	App #	Priority Date	Permit#	Issue Date	Name	Acres
G	17575	8/22/2012	18086	9/12/2018	JAMES AND SUE GILMOUR	40.7
G	17799	3/19/2014	17765	6/8/2017	BO THORENFELDT	693.0
G	17916	9/2/2014	17918	12/7/2017	PHILLIP W. SINGHOSE	900.0
G	17940	9/23/2014	17745	8/30/2017	PATRICIA M. JAGER	101.95
G	18000	2/17/2015	17667	10/13/2016	RIDDLE RANCH INC.	125.6
G	18129	8/11/2015	17647	8/30/2016	OTLEY BROTHERS INC.	426.0

Information on groundwater level data and an update on the groundwater study

Consistent with the rules, the Department has been working on a groundwater basin study in cooperation with the USGS. As shown in Table 2, Groundwater Section staff have significantly increased the amount of data collected in the Harney Basin since the study began, though the amount of new water level data collected annually was reduced in 2018 as the study began to focus on data analysis and reporting. Additional water level data is available from the permit condition water level reporting program and from the community groundwater monitoring program initiated by the Harney County Watershed Council..

Table 2: Summary of Water Level Monitoring Activities in the Harney Basin

As of:	1/2020	1/2014
Total Wells Field-Located	685	51
Total Water-Level Quarterly Measurement Wells	110	23
Total Water Levels Measured 2015 (by OWRD staff)	400	-
Total Water Levels Measured 2016 (by OWRD staff)	672	-
Total Water Levels Measured 2017 (by OWRD staff)	688	-
Total Water Levels Measured 2018 (by OWRD staff)	555	-
Total Water Levels Measured 2019 (by OWRD staff)	437	-
Continuous Recorder Instruments Installed	25	2
New Observation Wells Constructed	12	-

The data analysis and reporting stage of the study began in 2019 and the peer-review and publication process will occur throughout 2020. The Department anticipates that the study will be published at the end of 2020.

During 2019, the study team presented near-final data analysis products to the Groundwater Study Advisory Committee Committee and requested their feedback. The final meeting of the Advisory Committee was December 12-13, 2019. Meeting summaries and materials are online at www.oregon.gov/OWRD/programs/GWWL/GW/HarneyBasinStudy/Pages/default.aspx

Preliminary results from the groundwater basin study show that the current level of groundwater development exceeds available groundwater supply, resulting in a reduction of groundwater storage and declining groundwater levels across the basin. The Department is currently working to finalize outreach materials that communicate the preliminary findings. A more detailed staff report and presentation on the preliminary findings of the groundwater study will be provided later in 2020.

Staff Recommendations

The Department has been in communication with the Harney County Court, the members of the Groundwater Study Advisory Committee, the Place-Based Planning Collaborative and other interested stakeholders and members of the public about next steps in the basin, including future rulemaking. Rule changes will be needed to address over-allocation as well as areas of excessive decline in the basin. The Department is currently developing a proposed roadmap and timeline for next steps in the basin that will be discussed with the community beginning this summer as well as the Commission at a future meeting. There are no specific rule amendments or changes recommended at this time.

F. Dam Safety Update

Passage of House Bill 2085 in 2019 modernized Oregon's Dam Safety Program. These new statutes (ORS 540.443 to 540.991) become operative on July 1. Draft rules have been developed with the help of a Rules Advisory Committee. The 12 members of the dam safety RAC met with the Department four times to refine the rules and assess the impacts the draft rules. The rules were filed with the Secretary of State in late February. Public Hearings had been scheduled for March, with the public comment period open from March 1 to April 6. Due to COVID-19, the public hearings were cancelled.

The Department also noted that some rules were not included in the original notice, particularly rules that were supposed to be repealed. Staff are working on updating the notice and scheduling a teleconference public hearing. The Department is still targeting a June meeting adoption.

G. Place-Based Integrated Water Resources Planning – Status of Places and Planning Assessment

Two place-based planning groups anticipate completing integrated water resources plans in late 2020 or early 2021. See the current status of the planning groups in Attachment 2. Numerous stakeholders expressed the need for an evaluation of the pilot phase of place-based water planning. The Department also wants to ensure that any future planning efforts are informed by the lessons learned from place-based water planning, are responsive to the water planning needs across the state, account for agency capacity, and are designed to accomplish desired outcomes. In 2019, the legislature provided additional funding to support the four planning groups as well as funding to support an assessment.

During 2020-2021 the Department will conduct an assessment to inform future approaches to water planning as identified in the five elements outlined in Attachment 3.

The first four elements are focused on gathering information needed to understand past and current approaches to water planning in Oregon as well as to learn from others outside of Oregon. A cornerstone of the assessment is an evaluation of the pilot phase of place-based water planning (Element C).

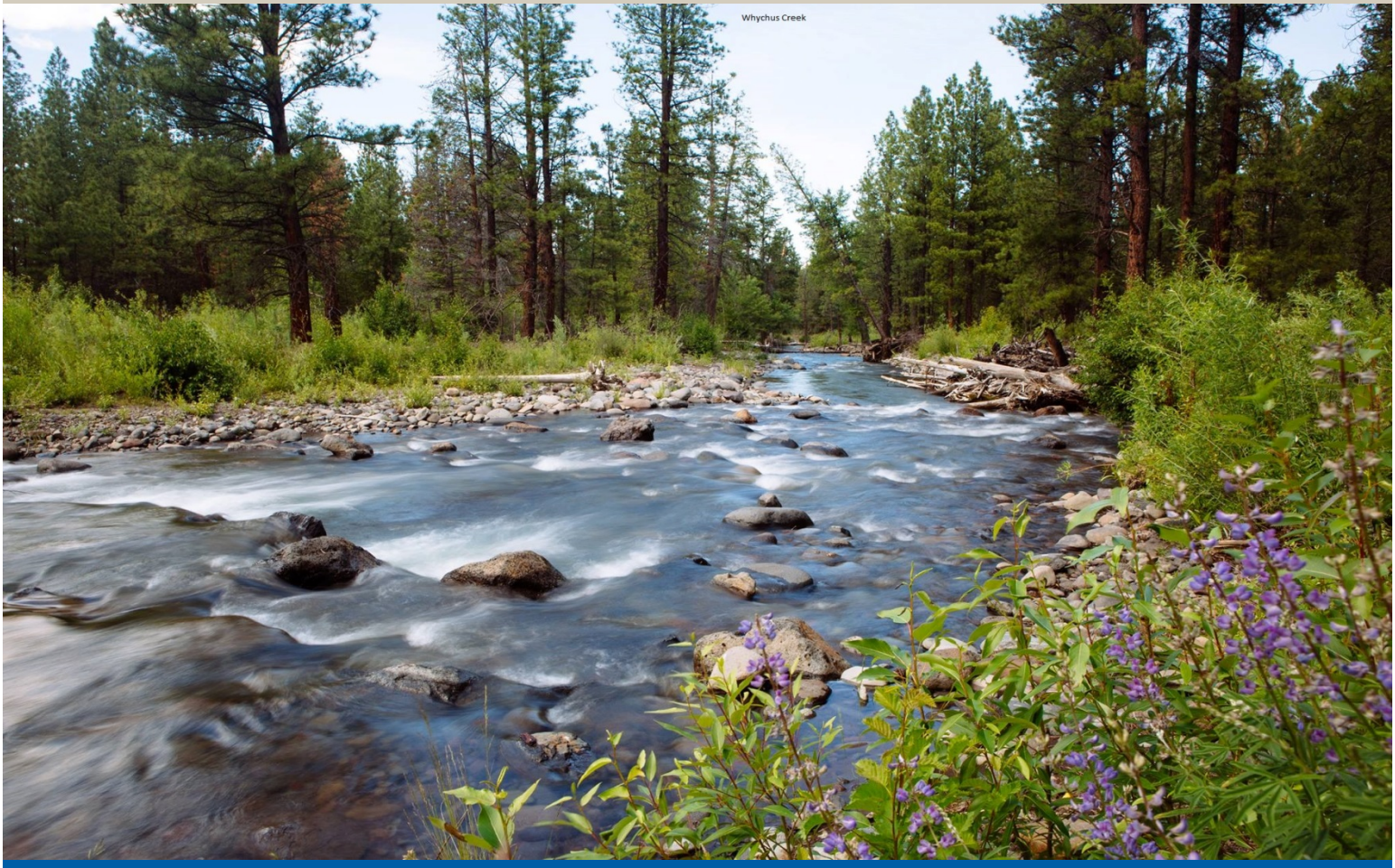
The fifth element, Element E, will take all the information and input gathered and employ an inclusive process to develop recommendations for the future. Element E will be scoped in late 2020 with input from Department staff, inter-agency partners, and statewide and place-based stakeholders. The Commission will be provided with a more detailed overview of the scope and approach of the assessment at a future meeting.

III. Upcoming Commission/Board Schedules

Commission/Board	***Location***	***Date***
Land Conservation and Development Commission	Salem	May 21-22
Parks and Recreation Commission	TBD	June TBD
Fish and Wildlife Commission	Salem	May 8
State Land Board	TBD	June 9
Environmental Quality Commission	TBD	May 7-8
Watershed Enhancement Board	TBD	June TBD
Board of Agriculture	Frenchglen	June 17-19

Attachments:
1. Deschutes Basin Groundwater Mitigation Program 2018 Annual Review and Evaluation
2. Place-Based Water Planning Updates Handout (July to December 2019)
3. Water Resources Planning Assessment One-Pager
4. Rulemaking Calendar

DESCHUTES BASIN GROUNDWATER MITIGATION PROGRAM



OREGON
WATER RESOURCES
DEPARTMENT

2018 ANNUAL REVIEW

PRESENTED BY DWIGHT FRENCH

WRITTEN BY SARAH HENDERSON

OREGON WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT

DESCHUTES BASIN GROUNDWATER MITIGATION PROGRAM

2018 ANNUAL REVIEW

OREGON WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT

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Introduction

The attached report provides the 2018 Annual Evaluation of the Deschutes Basin Groundwater Mitigation Rules (Oregon Administrative Rule (OAR) Chapter 690, Division 505) and the Deschutes Basin Mitigation Bank and Mitigation Credit Rules (OAR Chapter 690, Division 521).

Background

On September 13, 2002, the Commission adopted the Deschutes Basin Groundwater Mitigation Rules and the Deschutes Basin Mitigation Bank and Mitigation Credit Rules. The rules provide for mitigation of impacts to scenic waterway flows and senior water rights including instream water rights, while allowing additional appropriations of groundwater in the Deschutes Basin Groundwater Study Area (Appendix 1). The mitigation program, by rule, allows an additional 200 cubic feet per second (cfs) of new groundwater use, referred to as the allocation cap.

Evaluation Requirements

Under OAR 690-505-0500(3) and OAR 690-521-0600 of the Deschutes Basin Groundwater Mitigation Rules, the Department is required to annually evaluate and report on the Deschutes Basin Groundwater Mitigation Program, including the implementation and management of mitigation credits allocated through existing mitigation banks. This annual evaluation and report is to include information on new groundwater appropriations, streamflow monitoring, and mitigation activity to determine whether scenic waterway flows and instream water right flows in the Deschutes Basin continue to be met on at least an equivalent or more frequent basis as compared to long-term, representative base-period flows (1966 to 1995).

The annual review must address the following topics:

- New groundwater appropriations
- Mitigation activity
- Mitigation bank activity
- Streamflow monitoring
- Consultation with the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW), Oregon Parks and Recreation Department, Oregon Department of Environmental Quality, and Oregon Department of State Lands
- Determination of whether the scenic waterway and instream water right flows in the Deschutes Basin continue to be met on at least an equivalent or more frequent basis

Report Contents

This report incorporates all of the required elements outlined for the annual report required in OAR 690-505-0500(3) and OAR 690-521-0600.

Agency Comments

The Department provided a draft of the report for review by the agencies listed above on February 25, 2020. Comments were provided by ODFW (see Appendix 2) and are summarized below.

Issues of concern raised by ODFW include:

- Impacts of increased groundwater use under the Mitigation Program to local springs, which are an important source of cold water inputs to streams by providing

cold water refugia and other habitat benefits for fish.

- Reduction of seepage and loss of cold water recharge for springs resulting from conversion of area irrigation canals to piped delivery systems.
- The effect of the Mitigation Program on streamflows outside of the irrigation season.
- Potential impacts of the Mitigation Program on the ESA-listed Oregon Spotted Frog.

2018 Review Evaluation

New groundwater appropriations and mitigation activities as of the end of 2018

A. Permits Issued:

- 118 permits issued
- 20 have been issued certificates

B. Applications Pending with No Final Order:

- 25 applications, totaling 19.95 cfs

C. Allocation cap summary (Figure 1):

- 160.66 cfs – total cfs allocated under cap (permits and FO's)
- 19.95 cfs – pending applications not yet deducted from 200 cfs cap
- 19.39 cfs – remaining cfs if all pending application were approved

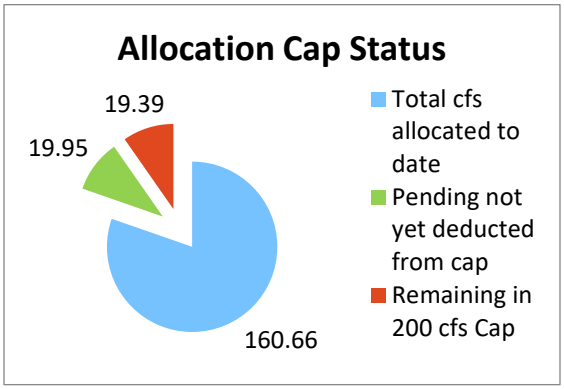


Figure 1 Allocation Cap Status

D. **Incremental Development Plans:** By rule, the Department may allow a municipal or quasi-municipal applicant to satisfy their mitigation obligation incrementally as the water use is developed, rather than requiring mitigation to be provided before the permit is issued. These applicants must report annually to the Department on the volume of water used and the source of mitigation. There are 18 permits that have incremental development plans.

A summary of water use for municipal and quasi-municipal permit holders with incremental development plans is provided in Figure 2. This figure is a comparison between the amount that these water users are authorized to use at full development, the amount of water they could use based on how much mitigation they have provided through 2018, and the amount of water they actually used during 2018. Overall, in 2018, more mitigation was provided by entities with incremental development plans than was needed to mitigate for actual use.

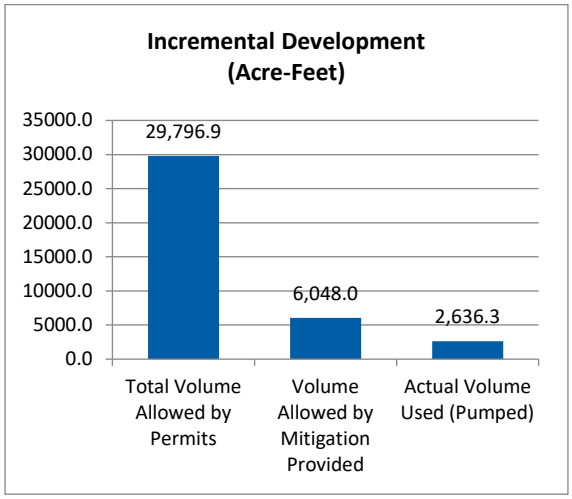


Figure 2 Incremental Development

E. **Mitigation Activity:** Mitigation for active groundwater permits and certificates issued by the Department under the Mitigation Program is provided through permanent instream transfers and temporary instream leases. The majority of mitigation continues to be primarily from instream transfers (Figure 3). Mitigation credits established by a Mitigation Project are considered used when assigned to a groundwater application or permit.

- There were 64 total active mitigation projects, including:
  - 45 permanent instream transfer projects; and
  - 19 temporary instream lease projects.

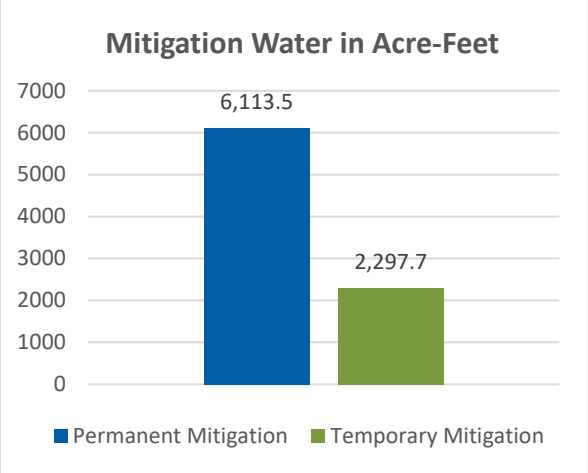


Figure 3 Mitigation Water

- Figure 4 shows the established mitigation broken out by zone of impact. The reason these amounts are more than the established amounts is because mitigation is sometimes established in multiple zones (i.e., 10 credits established in middle and general but they can be used in middle or general).

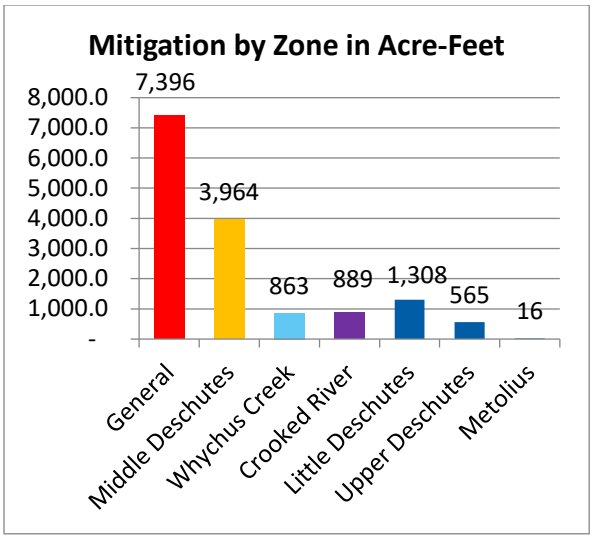


Figure 4 Mitigation by Zone

F. **Mitigation Banks:** Mitigation banks must submit an annual report detailing all of the credit transactions and activities for the preceding calendar year. To date, there are three:

- Deschutes River Conservancy Mitigation Bank (DRCMB);
- Deschutes Irrigation, LLC; and
- Arnold Irrigation District Mitigation Bank.

G. Mitigation Bank Activity:

<u>DRCMB</u>

- Filed the required report
- Submitted 19 instream leases
- Has maintained sufficient "reserve" credits to cover temporary mitigation credits used by groundwater permit holders in each zone of impact. For each temporary mitigation credit used to satisfy all or part of the mitigation obligation of a groundwater permit, the Mitigation Bank is required to keep a matching credit in reserve.

<u>Deschutes Irrigation LLC</u>

- No activity to date

Arnold Irrigation District

- No activity to date

Mitigation and Streamflow Monitoring

To monitor the impact of new groundwater permits and mitigation on scenic waterway flows and instream water right flows, the Department uses a streamflow model. The model was constructed using a base-period of flows from 1966 to 1995 at selected gaging stations around the basin. This base-period represents streamflows during a period of time after the dams in the basin were constructed and before the Scenic Waterway Act was amended to include consideration of groundwater impacts. The model then applies the effect of the estimated hydrologic impact of mitigation credits and debits to this historical flow data. It should be noted that the model is designed to reflect the theoretical, steady-state response of streamflow to mitigation-related activities only. In some cases, the actual hydrologic response to mitigation activities, such as new groundwater pumping, may take years or decades to be reflected as changes in actual streamflow. In addition, climate variability and the resulting natural response in streamflow generally mask the actual streamflow response to mitigation activities at most locations. This does not reflect other activities affecting streamflow outside of the mitigation program, such as other canal piping/lining (conserved water projects) instream transfers, riparian enhancement activities completed for restoration purposes only, or water management changes such as those related to higher winter releases designed to protect the ESA-listed spotted frog.

Analysis of the 2018 data demonstrates that, on an annual basis, the change in percent of time the instream flow requirements are met at the evaluation points ranges from -1.10% to +1.41% . Similarly, the overall annual change in streamflow ranges from +19.5 cfs to -0.708 cfs (see Appendix 3).

Consistent with previous evaluations of the mitigation program, the absolute change in streamflow on a seasonal basis continues to be negative at all evaluation points during the non-irrigation season and positive at all evaluation points during the summer. This is expected given the timing difference between the effects of new groundwater withdrawals (debits) and mitigation projects (credits; instream transfers and leases of irrigation rights) on streamflow. New groundwater uses produce a decrease in streamflow that is uniformly distributed over the year, while mitigation projects generally increase streamflow only during the irrigation season (see Appendix 3), benefitting instream flows during the seasonal, low-flow period.

The seasonal changes in percent of time the instream flow requirements (ISFR) are met at each evaluation site follows the seasonal impacts in terms of streamflow. During the non-irrigation season, the impact to the percent of time the ISFR is met is generally negative, while the percent of the impact during the irrigation season is predominantly positive. The relative change in percent of time the ISFR is met varies by month and site, depending on how close the historical flows were to the ISFR prior to the mitigation program. If the historical flows were close to the ISFR for a given evaluation site, then a small change in flows can relate to a relatively large change in percent of time the ISFR is met (see summer flows for the Deschutes River at Lower Bridge, Appendix 3). The opposite is true if the historical flows differed

greatly from the ISFR (see summer flows for the Deschutes River at Lake Billy Chinook, Appendix 3).

Summary

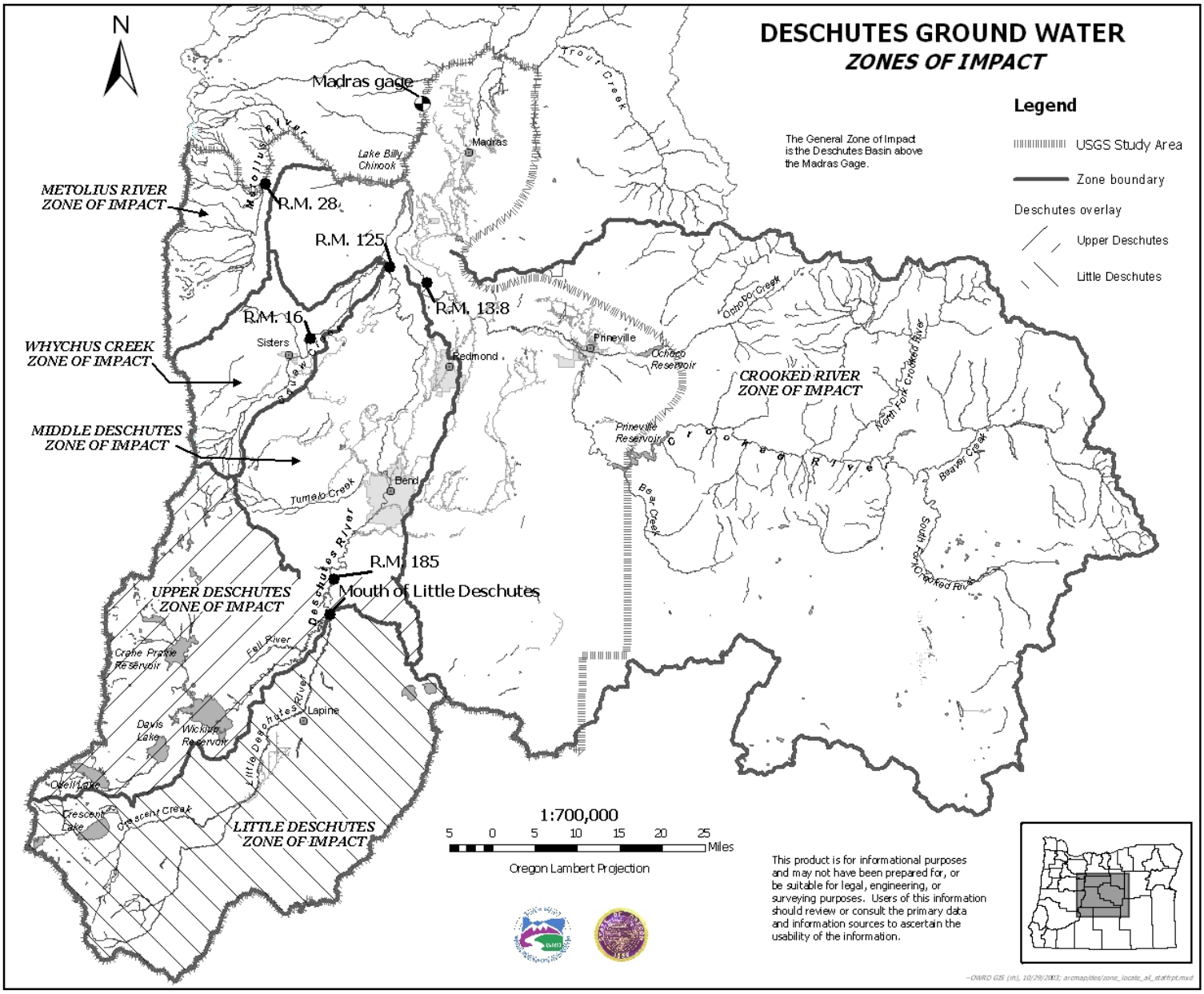
The Department continues working to effectively implement the Deschutes Groundwater Mitigation Program. Groundwater permit applications and mitigation projects are moving through the required processes. Overall, the program continues to produce positive benefits as more mitigation water has been approved and protected instream than is required for active groundwater permits and certificates.

The Department does not believe that modifying the allocation cap is necessary at this time. There is water available under the cap, and it will be evaluated annually.

Appendices

1. Deschutes Basin Groundwater Study Area Zone of Impact Map
2. Comments from ODFW
3. Summary of Modeled Streamflow for Water Year Ending September 2018

Appendix 1


DESCHUTES GROUND WATER
ZONES OF IMPACT
N
Legend
USGS Study Area
Zone boundary
Deschutes overlay
Upper Deschutes
Little Deschutes
The General Zone of Impact is the Deschutes Basin above the Madras Gage.
Madras gage
METOLIUS RIVER ZONE OF IMPACT
R.M. 28
R.M. 125
R.M. 13.8
R.M. 16
WHYCHUS CREEK ZONE OF IMPACT
MIDDLE DESCHUTES ZONE OF IMPACT
CROOKED RIVER ZONE OF IMPACT
R.M. 185
Mouth of Little Deschutes
UPPER DESCHUTES ZONE OF IMPACT
LITTLE DESCHUTES ZONE OF IMPACT
Madras
Lake Billy Chinook
Trout Creek
Metolius River
Sisters
Whychus Creek
Redmond
Prineville
Ochoco Reservoir
Ochoco Creek
North Fork Crooked River
Prineville Reservoir
Crooked River
Beaver Creek
South Fork Crooked River
Bear Creek
Bend
Tumalo Creek
Deschutes River
Crane Prairie Reservoir
Fall River
Davis Lake
Wickiup Reservoir
Little Deschutes River
Lapine
Odell Lake
Crescent Lake
Crescent Creek
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Oregon Lambert Projection
This product is for informational purposes and may not have been prepared for, or be suitable for legal, engineering, or surveying purposes. Users of this information should review or consult the primary data and information sources to ascertain the usability of the information.

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Kate Brown, Governor

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March 16, 2020

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Oregon Water Resources Department
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RE: DRAFT 2018 Annual Review of the Deschutes Groundwater Mitigation Program

Dear Ms. Henderson,

The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) appreciates the opportunity to comment on the DRAFT 2018 Annual Review of the Deschutes Groundwater Mitigation Program. Overall, ODFW agrees that the program has been successful in maintaining and improving flows in the Middle and Lower Deschutes River during the irrigation season, but we have continued concerns about the impacts to springs and decreases in flow during the non-irrigation season. ODFW has consistently submitted comments for many years that address ongoing concerns with the Program, and urges the Oregon Water Resources Department (OWRD) to convene a Work Group to revisit the rules and strengthen the efficacy of the Program (an outstanding action item listed in the 2016 Annual Report).

As this Work Group has not yet been convened and no progress has been made to date, ODFW will again reiterate our concerns here. Many of these concerns are now pressing, as impacts continue and water users are currently moving ahead with innovative means to secure future mitigation credits that may not fully meet the needs of fish and wildlife in the basin (e.g., proposed winter reservoir releases with unclear mitigation intent). Specifically, ODFW continues to request tangible improvements to the Program in the following areas:

Impacts to Springs

ODFW continues to express concerns with the localized impacts of groundwater pumping on local springs. Springs provide very important cold water inputs to streams by providing cold water refugia and other habitat benefits for fish and by helping cool stream temperatures during the summer in streams with depleted flows. Over time, ODFW assumes that continued and increased groundwater withdrawal for agricultural, residential,

and municipal needs will further affect springs when there is a surface/groundwater connection. Impacts to springs from current and future groundwater withdrawals are exacerbated by the increasing trend to convert area irrigation canals to piped delivery systems. While this is positive in that it generates conserved water that results in improved instream flows in the middle Deschutes River, it also eliminates seepage, which recharges the aquifer and contributes to spring recharge of cold water. The result is an exchange (loss) of cold spring water for warmer water upstream. The fisheries impacts of this inconsistency are likely to become more pronounced in future years as climate change continues to be increasingly more influential. Cold water refugia could likely become critical to long-term persistence of many fish species and populations.

As noted as an action in the 2016 Annual Report and topic for the proposed Work Group (neither of which has been referenced in this 2018 review), ODFW requests that OWRD consider implementing a program to monitor key springs/spring complexes in the basin to determine ecological impacts to spring flow, including temperature and nutrient changes resulting from groundwater pumping. ODFW is willing to work with other agencies to seek funding, coordinate efforts for research, and develop and implement a strategy to address these concerns.

Impacts During the Non-Irrigation Season

As currently designed, the Deschutes Groundwater Mitigation Program mitigates year-round groundwater withdrawals with irrigation season water and reports changes to streamflow on an annual basis. This type of mitigation does provide for more instream water during the irrigation season, as reported again in this current review, but is also reported to reduce flows in the lower river during the non-irrigation season. Critical fish life history components occur outside of the irrigation season, particularly during "shoulder months" at the beginning and end of the irrigation season (March/April and October/November).

In addition, current implementation of the Mitigation Program poses potential impacts to the ESA-listed Oregon Spotted Frog (OSF) outside of the irrigation season. Improving winter flows on the upper Deschutes River below Wickiup Reservoir and on Crescent Creek is essential to the survival of the OSF, and freshwater spring habitats in the upper Deschutes Basin have been identified as critical to overwinter survival.

The continual detrimental impact to streamflow during the non-irrigation season is now a greater concern for more than just the "shoulder months." Most stakeholders recognize that non-irrigation flow concerns still need to be addressed for the Deschutes basin as a whole. In the past, OWRD recognized this concern as well. One option, which is currently being sought by water users in the basin, would be to release stored water in Wickiup, Crane Prairie, Crescent and other reservoirs instream during the winter and shoulder months. ODFW recognizes the release of stored water during the non-irrigation season as a

valuable tool for supplementing the existing mitigation credits that are currently limited to the irrigation season. Winter releases would aide in offsetting impacts of groundwater withdrawal on a true 1:1, year round basis, but only if utilized as mitigation for winter impacts and in partnership with other mitigation applied to the irrigation season. ODFW would like OWRD and program partners to work with us to seek clear options for year-round mitigation to offset year-round impacts.

Thank you for the chance to comment. We look forward to pursuing solutions to our concerns and encourage OWRD to schedule dates for the Work Group as soon as possible so we can revisit the streamflow model and rule language and plan for Program updates. If you have any questions in the meantime, please contact me (503-947-6092) in Salem or Brett Hodgson (541-388-6363) in Bend.

Sincerely,

Danette Faucera
Water Policy Coordinator

Brett Hodgson
Deschutes District Fish Biologist

Streamflow Model Data

The data presented in the following tables are from the Department's Deschutes Mitigation model. The "before mitigation" or baseline condition of streams in the Deschutes Basin has been determined from streamflows measured during water years 1966 to 1995. The model has been developed to mathematically estimate the change in streamflow expected due to mitigation (credits) and groundwater allocation (debits). The model is designed to reflect the theoretical, steady-state response of streamflow to mitigation-related activities only. In some cases, the actual hydrologic response to mitigation activities, such as new groundwater pumping, may take years or decades to be reflected as changes in streamflow.

Appendix 3

CHANGE IN PERCENT OF TIME INSTREAM REQUIREMENTS ARE MET
IN THE DESCHUTES BASIN AS A RESULT OF MITIGATED GROUNDWATER USE

Effective Date: 9/30/2018

Deschutes River at Mouth
Time: 10:43 Date: 12/16/2019

Month	Base Line %	Mitigated %	Change in Percentage %	Percent Change %
JAN	93.20	93.10	-0.11	-0.12
FEB	90.80	90.40	-0.35	-0.39
MAR	95.30	95.10	-0.22	-0.23
APR	99.90	99.90	0.00	0.00
MAY	99.10	99.50	0.32	0.32
JUN	98.00	98.80	0.78	0.79
JUL	91.00	92.70	1.72	1.86
AUG	100.00	100.00	0.00	0.00
SEP	98.10	98.10	0.00	0.00
OCT	97.40	97.40	0.00	0.00
NOV	99.90	99.90	0.00	0.00
DEC	91.70	91.10	-0.64	-0.71
ANNUAL	96.20	96.30	0.13	0.13

CHANGE IN MEAN STREAM FLOW (CFS)
IN THE DESCHUTES BASIN AS A RESULT OF MITIGATED GROUNDWATER USE

Effective Date: 9/30/2018

Deschutes River at Mouth
Time: 10:45 Date: 12/16/2019

Month	Base Line cfs	Mitigated cfs	Change in cfs cfs	Percent Change %
JAN	6910.0	6890.0	-24.3	-0.35
FEB	7080.0	7050.0	-24.3	-0.34
MAR	7250.0	7220.0	-24.2	-0.34
APR	6640.0	6640.0	0.281	0.00
MAY	5800.0	5820.0	18.9	0.32
JUN	5200.0	5230.0	33.1	0.63
JUL	4590.0	4620.0	34.2	0.74
AUG	4380.0	4410.0	32.4	0.73
SEP	4430.0	4450.0	21.3	0.48
OCT	4710.0	4710.0	2.70	0.06
NOV	5390.0	5370.0	-24.0	-0.45
DEC	6190.0	6160.0	-24.3	-0.40
ANNUAL	5710.0	5710.0	1.95	0.03

Appendix 3

CHANGE IN PERCENT OF TIME INSTREAM REQUIREMENTS ARE MET
IN THE DESCHUTES BASIN AS A RESULT OF MITIGATED GROUNDWATER USE

Effective Date: 9/30/2018

Deschutes River below Pelton Dam
Time: 10:45 Date: 12/16/2019

Month	Base Line	Mitigated	Change in Percentage	Percent Change
	%	%	%	%
JAN	64.70	64.10	-0.64	-1.01
FEB	63.00	62.20	-0.83	-1.33
MAR	67.80	66.90	-0.97	-1.45
APR	71.40	71.40	0.00	0.00
MAY	58.80	63.70	4.84	7.60
JUN	55.60	59.90	4.33	7.24
JUL	41.00	44.00	3.01	6.85
AUG	98.20	99.20	1.08	1.08
SEP	66.80	68.40	1.67	2.44
OCT	81.10	81.10	0.00	0.00
NOV	97.20	97.20	0.00	0.00
DEC	66.10	65.50	-0.64	-0.99
ANNUAL	69.30	70.30	1.00	1.41

CHANGE IN MEAN STREAM FLOW (CFS)
IN THE DESCHUTES BASIN AS A RESULT OF MITIGATED GROUNDWATER USE

Effective Date: 9/30/2018

Deschutes River below Pelton Dam
Time: 10:46 Date: 12/16/2019

Month	Base Line	Mitigated	Change in cfs	Percent Change
	cfs	cfs	cfs	%
JAN	5240.0	5220.0	-24.3	-0.47
FEB	5190.0	5170.0	-24.3	-0.47
MAR	5520.0	5500.0	-24.2	-0.44
APR	5130.0	5130.0	0.281	0.01
MAY	4420.0	4440.0	18.9	0.43
JUN	4230.0	4260.0	33.1	0.78
JUL	4020.0	4050.0	34.2	0.84
AUG	3940.0	3970.0	32.4	0.81
SEP	3980.0	4000.0	21.3	0.53
OCT	4190.0	4190.0	2.70	0.06
NOV	4680.0	4660.0	-24.0	-0.51
DEC	5030.0	5010.0	-24.3	-0.49
ANNUAL	4630.0	4630.0	1.95	0.04

CHANGE IN PERCENT OF TIME INSTREAM REQUIREMENTS ARE MET
IN THE DESCHUTES BASIN AS A RESULT OF MITIGATED GROUNDWATER USE

Effective Date: 9/30/2018

Metolius River at Lake Billy Chinook
Time: 11:43 Date: 12/16/2019

Month	Base Line %	Mitigated %	Change in Percentage %	Percent Change %
JAN	97.70	97.70	0.00	0.00
FEB	99.20	99.20	0.00	0.00
MAR	99.80	99.80	0.00	0.00
APR	100.00	100.00	0.00	0.00
MAY	100.00	100.00	0.00	0.00
JUN	100.00	100.00	0.00	0.00
JUL	100.00	100.00	0.00	0.00
AUG	100.00	100.00	0.00	0.00
SEP	100.00	100.00	0.00	0.00
OCT	100.00	100.00	0.00	0.00
NOV	100.00	100.00	0.00	0.00
DEC	100.00	100.00	0.00	0.00
ANNUAL	99.70	99.70	0.00	0.00

CHANGE IN MEAN STREAM FLOW (CFS)
IN THE DESCHUTES BASIN AS A RESULT OF MITIGATED GROUNDWATER USE

Effective Date: 9/30/2018

Metolius River at Lake Billy Chinook
Time: 11:45 Date: 12/16/2019

Month	Base Line cfs	Mitigated cfs	Change in cfs cfs	Percent Change %
JAN	1510.0	1510.0	-0.044	0.00
FEB	1560.0	1560.0	-0.044	0.00
MAR	1560.0	1560.0	-0.044	0.00
APR	1520.0	1520.0	-0.044	0.00
MAY	1560.0	1560.0	0.056	0.00
JUN	1590.0	1590.0	0.056	0.00
JUL	1490.0	1490.0	0.056	0.00
AUG	1400.0	1400.0	0.056	0.00
SEP	1350.0	1350.0	0.006	0.00
OCT	1330.0	1330.0	-0.044	0.00
NOV	1370.0	1370.0	-0.044	0.00
DEC	1450.0	1450.0	-0.044	0.00
ANNUAL	1470.0	1470.0	-0.006	0.00

Appendix 3

CHANGE IN PERCENT OF TIME INSTREAM REQUIREMENTS ARE MET
IN THE DESCHUTES BASIN AS A RESULT OF MITIGATED GROUNDWATER USE

Effective Date: 9/30/2018

Deschutes River at Lake Billy Chinook
Time: 10:47 Date: 12/16/2019

Month	Base Line %	Mitigated %	Change in Percentage %	Percent Change %
JAN	100.00	100.00	0.00	0.00
FEB	100.00	100.00	0.00	0.00
MAR	100.00	100.00	0.00	0.00
APR	97.10	100.00	2.89	2.89
MAY	100.00	100.00	0.00	0.00
JUN	100.00	100.00	0.00	0.00
JUL	100.00	100.00	0.00	0.00
AUG	100.00	100.00	0.00	0.00
SEP	100.00	100.00	0.00	0.00
OCT	94.40	99.10	4.73	4.77
NOV	100.00	100.00	0.00	0.00
DEC	100.00	100.00	0.00	0.00
ANNUAL	99.30	99.90	0.64	0.64

CHANGE IN MEAN STREAM FLOW (CFS)
IN THE DESCHUTES BASIN AS A RESULT OF MITIGATED GROUNDWATER USE

Effective Date: 9/30/2018

Deschutes River at Lake Billy Chinook
Time: 10:47 Date: 12/16/2019

Month	Base Line cfs	Mitigated cfs	Change in cfs cfs	Percent Change %
JAN	1300.0	1290.0	-9.96	-0.77
FEB	1320.0	1310.0	-9.96	-0.76
MAR	1300.0	1290.0	-9.82	-0.76
APR	843.0	857.0	14.6	1.71
MAY	552.0	585.0	32.7	5.60
JUN	606.0	650.0	43.8	6.74
JUL	550.0	594.0	44.3	7.46
AUG	519.0	562.0	42.5	7.56
SEP	537.0	569.0	31.7	5.57
OCT	725.0	739.0	13.9	1.88
NOV	1130.0	1120.0	-9.96	-0.89
DEC	1220.0	1210.0	-9.96	-0.82
ANNUAL	881.0	896.0	14.6	1.63

CHANGE IN PERCENT OF TIME INSTREAM REQUIREMENTS ARE MET
IN THE DESCHUTES BASIN AS A RESULT OF MITIGATED GROUNDWATER USE

Effective Date: 9/30/2018

Deschutes River at Lower Bridge
Time: 10:48 Date: 12/16/2019

Month	Base Line	Mitigated	Change in Percentage	Percent Change
	%	%	%	%
JAN	60.50	58.80	-1.72	-2.93
FEB	63.80	62.20	-1.53	-2.47
MAR	68.30	67.70	-0.54	-0.79
APR	23.60	24.30	0.78	3.20
MAY	1.29	1.40	0.11	7.69
JUN	2.11	3.22	1.11	34.50
JUL	0.11	0.64	0.54	83.30
AUG	0.86	1.51	0.64	42.90
SEP	3.67	4.11	0.44	10.80
OCT	13.00	14.10	1.08	7.63
NOV	52.20	50.60	-1.67	-3.30
DEC	56.30	54.60	-1.72	-3.15
ANNUAL	28.60	28.40	-0.20	-0.71

CHANGE IN MEAN STREAM FLOW (CFS)
IN THE DESCHUTES BASIN AS A RESULT OF MITIGATED GROUNDWATER USE

Effective Date: 9/30/2018

Deschutes River at Lower Bridge
Time: 10:48 Date: 12/16/2019

Month	Base Line	Mitigated	Change in cfs	Percent Change
	cfs	cfs	cfs	%
JAN	683.0	680.0	-2.71	-0.40
FEB	705.0	702.0	-2.71	-0.39
MAR	714.0	711.0	-2.71	-0.38
APR	299.0	316.0	16.9	5.36
MAY	51.2	85.5	34.3	40.20
JUN	50.5	95.3	44.8	47.00
JUL	42.6	90.1	47.5	52.70
AUG	46.2	93.0	46.9	50.40
SEP	61.0	97.3	36.3	37.30
OCT	222.0	241.0	19.6	8.13
NOV	551.0	548.0	-2.71	-0.50
DEC	614.0	611.0	-2.71	-0.44
ANNUAL	335.0	354.0	19.5	5.51

Appendix 3

CHANGE IN PERCENT OF TIME INSTREAM REQUIREMENTS ARE MET
IN THE DESCHUTES BASIN AS A RESULT OF MITIGATED GROUNDWATER USE

Effective Date: 9/30/2018

Deschutes River above Diversion Dam at Bend
Time: 10:48 Date: 12/16/2019

Month	Base Line %	Mitigated %	Change in Percentage %	Percent Change %
JAN	37.30	37.10	-0.22	-0.58
FEB	40.00	39.30	-0.71	-1.80
MAR	42.90	42.20	-0.75	-1.79
APR	73.20	73.20	0.00	0.00
MAY	97.00	97.00	0.00	0.00
JUN	100.00	100.00	0.00	0.00
JUL	100.00	100.00	0.00	0.00
AUG	100.00	100.00	0.00	0.00
SEP	97.00	97.60	0.56	0.57
OCT	54.60	55.30	0.64	1.17
NOV	29.00	28.70	-0.33	-1.16
DEC	35.70	35.40	-0.32	-0.91
ANNUAL	67.40	67.30	-0.09	-0.14

CHANGE IN MEAN STREAM FLOW (CFS)
IN THE DESCHUTES BASIN AS A RESULT OF MITIGATED GROUNDWATER USE

Effective Date: 9/30/2018

Deschutes River above Diversion Dam at Bend
Time: 10:48 Date: 12/16/2019

Month	Base Line cfs	Mitigated cfs	Change in cfs cfs	Percent Change %
JAN	712.0	710.0	-2.68	-0.38
FEB	738.0	735.0	-2.68	-0.37
MAR	781.0	778.0	-2.68	-0.34
APR	877.0	877.0	0.273	0.03
MAY	1180.0	1180.0	2.67	0.23
JUN	1360.0	1360.0	4.29	0.31
JUL	1440.0	1440.0	7.06	0.49
AUG	1290.0	1290.0	6.50	0.50
SEP	1090.0	1100.0	5.06	0.46
OCT	721.0	724.0	3.39	0.47
NOV	590.0	587.0	-2.68	-0.46
DEC	650.0	647.0	-2.68	-0.41
ANNUAL	953.0	954.0	1.34	0.14

CHANGE IN PERCENT OF TIME INSTREAM REQUIREMENTS ARE MET
IN THE DESCHUTES BASIN AS A RESULT OF MITIGATED GROUNDWATER USE

Effective Date: 9/30/2018

Deschutes River at Benham Falls
Time: 10:49 Date: 12/16/2019

Month	Base Line %	Mitigated %	Change in Percentage %	Percent Change %
JAN	43.40	42.80	-0.64	-1.51
FEB	54.50	54.00	-0.59	-1.09
MAR	32.50	31.40	-1.08	-3.42
APR	69.60	69.30	-0.22	-0.32
MAY	78.10	78.10	0.00	0.00
JUN	92.60	92.60	0.00	0.00
JUL	96.80	96.80	0.00	0.00
AUG	94.50	94.60	0.11	0.11
SEP	67.80	67.90	0.11	0.16
OCT	54.00	54.00	0.00	0.00
NOV	35.90	35.20	-0.67	-1.89
DEC	44.60	44.40	-0.22	-0.48
ANNUAL	63.70	63.50	-0.26	-0.42

CHANGE IN MEAN STREAM FLOW (CFS)
IN THE DESCHUTES BASIN AS A RESULT OF MITIGATED GROUNDWATER USE

Effective Date: 9/30/2018

Deschutes River at Benham Falls
Time: 10:49 Date: 12/16/2019

Month	Base Line cfs	Mitigated cfs	Change in cfs cfs	Percent Change %
JAN	814.0	811.0	-2.66	-0.33
FEB	845.0	843.0	-2.66	-0.32
MAR	901.0	899.0	-2.66	-0.30
APR	1240.0	1240.0	-1.75	-0.14
MAY	1850.0	1850.0	-0.901	-0.05
JUN	2100.0	2100.0	-0.209	-0.01
JUL	2200.0	2200.0	2.56	0.12
AUG	2040.0	2040.0	2.01	0.10
SEP	1730.0	1730.0	1.53	0.09
OCT	1000.0	1010.0	1.40	0.14
NOV	685.0	682.0	-2.66	-0.39
DEC	752.0	749.0	-2.66	-0.36
ANNUAL	1350.0	1350.0	-0.708	-0.05

Appendix 3

CHANGE IN PERCENT OF TIME INSTREAM REQUIREMENTS ARE MET
IN THE DESCHUTES BASIN AS A RESULT OF MITIGATED GROUNDWATER USE

Effective Date: 9/30/2018

Little Deschutes River at mouth
Time: 10:49 Date: 12/16/2019

Month	Base Line %	Mitigated %	Change in Percentage %	Percent Change %
JAN	22.90	20.50	-2.37	-11.50
FEB	37.30	33.80	-3.54	-10.50
MAR	27.40	27.00	-0.43	-1.59
APR	45.20	44.90	-0.33	-0.74
MAY	55.90	55.50	-0.43	-0.77
JUN	56.60	56.60	0.00	0.00
JUL	85.10	85.70	0.64	0.75
AUG	93.90	94.20	0.32	0.34
SEP	72.00	72.60	0.56	0.77
OCT	11.60	12.50	0.86	6.90
NOV	14.70	14.00	-0.67	-4.76
DEC	20.30	19.60	-0.75	-3.85
ANNUAL	45.30	44.80	-0.49	-1.10

CHANGE IN MEAN STREAM FLOW (CFS)
IN THE DESCHUTES BASIN AS A RESULT OF MITIGATED GROUNDWATER USE

Effective Date: 9/30/2018

Little Deschutes River at mouth
Time: 10:50 Date: 12/16/2019

Month	Base Line cfs	Mitigated cfs	Change in cfs	Percent Change %
JAN	162.0	159.0	-2.63	-1.65
FEB	183.0	181.0	-2.63	-1.46
MAR	219.0	217.0	-2.63	-1.21
APR	262.0	260.0	-1.72	-0.66
MAY	329.0	328.0	-0.870	-0.26
JUN	298.0	298.0	-0.178	-0.06
JUL	230.0	233.0	2.59	1.11
AUG	200.0	202.0	2.04	1.01
SEP	144.0	145.0	1.56	1.08
OCT	76.7	78.1	1.43	1.83
NOV	108.0	106.0	-2.63	-2.49
DEC	142.0	140.0	-2.63	-1.88
ANNUAL	196.0	196.0	-0.677	-0.35

CHANGE IN PERCENT OF TIME INSTREAM REQUIREMENTS ARE MET
IN THE DESCHUTES BASIN AS A RESULT OF MITIGATED GROUNDWATER USE

Effective Date: 9/30/2018

Deschutes River above Little Deschutes River
Time: 10:50 Date: 12/16/2019

Month	Base Line %	Mitigated %	Change in Percentage %	Percent Change %
JAN	29.70	29.70	0.00	0.00
FEB	30.10	30.10	0.00	0.00
MAR	33.50	33.50	0.00	0.00
APR	68.40	68.40	0.00	0.00
MAY	97.80	97.80	0.00	0.00
JUN	98.80	98.80	0.00	0.00
JUL	100.00	100.00	0.00	0.00
AUG	100.00	100.00	0.00	0.00
SEP	99.80	99.80	0.00	0.00
OCT	56.80	56.80	0.00	0.00
NOV	20.90	20.90	0.00	0.00
DEC	24.70	24.70	0.00	0.00
ANNUAL	63.50	63.50	0.00	0.00

CHANGE IN MEAN STREAM FLOW (CFS)
IN THE DESCHUTES BASIN AS A RESULT OF MITIGATED GROUNDWATER USE

Effective Date: 9/30/2018

Deschutes River above Little Deschutes River
Time: 10:50 Date: 12/16/2019

Month	Base Line cfs	Mitigated cfs	Change in cfs cfs	Percent Change %
JAN	329.0	329.0	0.000	0.00
FEB	331.0	331.0	0.000	0.00
MAR	319.0	319.0	0.000	0.00
APR	654.0	654.0	0.000	0.00
MAY	1220.0	1220.0	0.000	0.00
JUN	1500.0	1500.0	0.000	0.00
JUL	1690.0	1690.0	0.000	0.00
AUG	1530.0	1530.0	0.000	0.00
SEP	1260.0	1260.0	0.000	0.00
OCT	561.0	561.0	0.000	0.00
NOV	246.0	246.0	0.000	0.00
DEC	280.0	280.0	0.000	0.00
ANNUAL	829.0	829.0	0.000	0.00

Place-Based Water Planning Updates July – December 2019

Program and Place-Based Updates

- OWRD began scoping a project to assess water planning needs across Oregon and evaluate the place-based planning approach
- Learning Partnership gathering, supported by the Ford Family Foundation, held in September in Newport to support peer-to-peer learning between the four planning groups.
- Planning Step 5 Guidance presented to the Water Resources Commission for their review.
- Second webinar on the Northwest Climate Toolbox hosted by the Climate Impacts Research Consortium (CIRC).
- Places invited to present at Water Vision community conversations and participate in interviews.

Harney Basin

Conveners: Harney County Court & Watershed Council
OWRD Grant: $300,000 Other Funding (to-date): $581,963

Planning Steps 2/3/4

- Meetings of the Collaborative held in July, August, September, October, November and December.
- New project manager hired.
- One consensus decision reached to pursue funding for smart meters.
- Results from OSU survey to domestic well owners (574 responses = 47% response rate) completed.
- Continued progress reviewing and refining proposed Step 4 strategies.
- Two work groups met to improve draft summaries of water data/information – 4 meetings in total.

More information: Contact Holly Mondo at 805-801-6013 || holly@hcwatershedcouncil.com

Upper Grande Ronde Sub-Basin

Convener: Union County
OWRD Grant: $242,000 Other Funding (to-date): $10,000

Planning Step 4

- Stakeholder meetings held in July, September, November, and December.
- Continued work to solicit input and feedback on Step 4 strategies and solutions.
- Outreach to the Union County Farm Bureau and the Grand Ronde Model Watershed at their annual meetings.

More information: Contact Scott Hartell at 541-963-1014 || shartell@union-county.org
WEB: http://union-county.org/planning/place-based-integrated-water-resources-planning/

Lower John Day Sub-Basin

Convener: Gilliam SWCD & Wheeler SWCD
OWRD Grant: $239,000 Other Funding (to-date): $10,000

Planning Step 3/4

- Meetings held in August, September, October, and December.
- Public comment opportunity for the draft of Step 3 *Integrated Water Resource Needs and Vulnerabilities Report*. Public comments reviewed and incorporated.
- Continued work to refine understanding of critical issues and goals from Steps 2 and 3.
- Initial brainstorming of strategies and solutions for Step 4.

More information: Contact Herb Winters at 541-384-2672 x110 || gilliamswcd@gmail.com
WEB: https://www.lowerjohndaypbp.com/

Mid-Coast Region

Conveners: City of Newport, OWRD, Seal Rock Water District, Gibson Farms
OWRD Grant: $300,000 Other Funding (to-date): $405,000

Planning Step 3

- Partnership meeting, hosted by the Confederated Tribes of the Siletz Indians, held in September.
- Field tour of the Beaver Creek watershed held in August. See the video here.
- Local Planning Coordinator hired.
- Work by three working groups (municipal/district supplied, self-supplied, instream/ecology) to develop and refine problem/issue statements based on Steps 2 and 3.

More information: Contact Alexandria Scott at 541-961-5313 || alexandria@midcoastwaterpartners.com
WEB: www.midcoastwaterpartners.com

OREGON WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT

Place-Based Integrated Water Resources Planning

Helping Oregonians plan for their current and future instream and out-of-stream water needs

Place-based integrated water resources planning is one of the recommended actions from the 2012 and 2017 Integrated Water Resources Strategy (IWRS). It provides an opportunity for places 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 DRAFT planning guidelines describe the five steps and key planning principles central to any place-based integrated water resources 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 that fosters public participation; and develop a work plan outlining how they will execute Planning Steps 2-5.

Planning Step 2

Gather information to develop a shared understanding of current water resources and identify gaps – The planning group assesses and describes water resources in the planning area, 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 and vulnerabilities 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 strategies to implement actions. The Water Resources Commission and other agencies will have an opportunity to formally recognize 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
- Balances current and future instream and out-of-stream needs
- Looks at water quantity, quality and ecosystem needs in an integrated approach
- Utilizes 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: https://go.usa.gov/xV5f4 Email: wrd_dl_placebasedplanning@oregon.gov

Contact Planning Coordinators Harmony Burright (503-986-0913) or Steven Parrett (503-986-0914)

OREGON WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT

Water Resources Planning Assessment

Guiding Future Approaches and Support for Water Resources Planning

The State of Oregon's Integrated Water Resources Strategy (IWRS) contains numerous recommended actions specific to water planning (5B, 5.5A-C, 6A, 9A, 9B, 13C) and the Oregon Water Resources Department (OWRD) 2019-2024 Strategic Plan prioritizes actions that will equip basins to plan for their water future. As recognized in the 100-Year Water Vision, planning is an essential step in developing, investing in, and implementing water projects. Since 2016, state agencies have partnered with four places in a pilot phase of Place-Based Integrated Water Resources Planning and many more places across the state are asking for help.

Given the importance of planning, how can we structure and support future planning efforts to meet instream and out-of-stream water needs and strategically guide investments?

To answer this question, OWRD will work with diverse water partners to conduct an assessment and develop recommendations for future water resources planning. In 2020-2021, we will focus on the following five areas of investigation:

A. Review the statewide framework and OWRD's role and responsibilities related to water resources planning.

B. Learn from others within and outside of Oregon with relevant water resources planning experience.

C. Evaluate OWRD's past and current approaches to water resources planning, including the pilot phase of place-based integrated water resources planning.

D. Assess the planning status, assets, and needs of the state and places across Oregon.

E. Together with partners, chart a path forward with specific recommended actions for future water resources planning in Oregon based on information gathered in elements A-D.

The assessment will provide the information needed by decision-makers to pursue the approaches and support needed for water planning that will lead to a more secure water future for Oregon's environment, communities, and economy.

To receive updates or share information relevant to the assessment, please contact Harmony Burright or Steve Parrett at wrd_dl_placebasedplanning@oregon.gov or 503-986-0913.

Planned Activities (Elements A-D)

- **Review guiding documents**, including statutes, rules, strategies, and plans.
- Conduct a **literature review** to identify factors that enable or limit successful water planning.
- Develop **case stories** with lessons learned from comparable efforts inside and outside of Oregon.
- Conduct a **comparative analysis** of past and current approaches to planning.
- Update the 2014 **discussion paper** with a compilation of lessons learned and best practices.
- Hire an external entity to do an **independent evaluation** of place-based water planning along with a **guided self-evaluation** with the state and places.
- Conduct a **rapid assessment** of the status, assets, interest, and needs of places and the state, including a **survey of places**.
- **Share progress and findings** with statewide and place-based stakeholders via emails, presentations, and conversations.

Last Revision: 4/22/2020

Oregon Water Resources Department
Current/Anticipated Rulemaking

Rule Division	Topic	Lead Staff	GWAC Input Expected?	Target WRC Date	Status
Division 54 (New Rule Division)	Hydro conversion to instream	Mary Grainey	No	TBD	On Hold
Division 77 Instream Water Rights	Consistency with SB 199 (2013) – allowing lease applications to be processed more efficiently	Dwight French, Lisa Jaramillo, Sarah Henderson	No	TBD	On Hold
TBD – Klamath Groundwater	Regulation of wells in the Klamath Basin	Ivan Gall	Yes	TBD	Not started
Division 87 (New Rule Division)	Municipal Reclaimed Water Registrations	Dwight French, Kerri Cope	No	2021	On Hold
Division 77	Instream Leases and Transfers of Stored Water	TBD	No	TBD	Not Started
Division 20 - Dam Safety	HB 2085 Implementation	Keith Mills	No	June 2020	Public Comment
Division 205 & 240 - Well Construction Licensing	HB3030 and SB 688 Implementation	Kris Byrd	Yes	2020	Rules Advisory Committee