

Place-Based Integrated Water Resource Planning

Pilot Project Updates:

Harney Basin, Upper Grande Ronde River, Mid-Coast,
Lower John Day River

Roadmap

- Updates from each pilot group
 - Harney Basin
 - Upper Grande Ronde River
 - Mid-Coast
 - Lower John Day River
- Common Issues + Opportunities Identified during Planning Efforts
- Proposed Legislation + State Agency Budgets

Harney Basin

Harney Basin

Conveners since beginning the effort in 2016: *Harney County Watershed Council & Harney County*

Project Manager: *Holly Mondo since 2019*

Facilitator: *Jack Southworth since 2019*

Full Collaborative: *Over 40 signatories on governance agreement, including irrigators, residents, conversation groups, agencies, Burns Paiute tribe and more. If you are interested in collaborating we have a process for all to participate.*

Coordinating Committee: *Collaborative partners interested in guiding only the process of the full collaborative meetings*

Strategy Team: *Works with project manager and facilitator to ensure we have best participation at the collaborative*

Working Groups: *Agricultural; Rural Domestic Wells; Vegetation Management; Ecological*



New outreach campaign
<https://harneyswaterfuture.com/>

What have you learned about your water situation?

- *The basin groundwater is over allocated between 120-160,000 acre feet*
- *Depth and extent of cones of depression are influenced by the rate and volume of groundwater pumping as well as the surrounding geology.*
- *Water being accessed is “paleowater” and not recharging*
- *Over 170 domestic well users reported decline in the yield and rate of their wells in the last 10 years.*

Critical Issues

- *Developing incentive-based programs for agricultural producers to reduce groundwater use*
- *Securing safe water supply for domestic well users*
- *Completing a plan that can be implemented*
- *Developing the surface water portion of the plan.*



What solutions/strategies are you considering?

- *Over 70 strategies have been suggested and worked on by the collaborative.*
 - *Currently working on:*
 - *Water Market Feasibility Study*
 - *Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program*
 - *Securing water supply for rural domestic wells (HB 3092)*

How can the state agencies support you in finishing and implementing your plans?

- *Communicate how over-allocation will be addressed*
- *Provide data & report from groundwater study*
- *Support incentive-based programs to reduce groundwater use*
- *Encourage cooperative approaches to management*

What has gone well/not so well in the planning?

- *The entire process is being challenged by uncertainty from how water resources is going to respond to the significant groundwater decline issues in the basin and uncertainty since the groundwater study report has not been released.*
- *We must figure out a path to work in partnership with OWRD*



Upper Grande Ronde River

Upper Grande Ronde River Watershed Partnership

Convener - *Union County*

Steering Committee - *Administrative Team (Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, OWRD, Union County Farm Bureau, City of La Grande)*

Over 25 Partners:

- **Agencies** (*OWRD, DEQ, ODFW, ODA*)
- **Agricultural Groups** (*NRCS, UCFB, UC seed growers, UC mint growers*)
- **Municipalities** (*La Grande, Union, Cove, Island City*)
- **In-stream Groups** (*GRMW, Union SWCD, TFWT, CTUIR*)
- **Individuals** (*politicians, funders, landowners, citizens*)



What have you learned about your water situation?

Critical Issues

- Groundwater Uncertainty
- Surface Water Quality
- Surface Water Deficit
- Natural Hazards/Climate Change
- Data Gaps



What solutions/strategies are you considering?

9 Major Strategies to address group identified critical issues

Of the nine strategies the top 5 are considered priority (shown in bold).

- 1) **Built Storage - Aboveground Storage and Underground Storage**
- 2) **Land Management - Agricultural Land**
- 3) **Data Collection, Monitoring, and Research**
- 4) **Non-structural Water Storage and Habitat Management**
- 5) **Land Management - Public Land**
- 6) Infrastructure/Land Modification
- 7) Administrative Actions
- 8) Land Management - Municipal Land
- 9) Outreach and Education

How can the state agencies support you in finishing and implementing your plans?

- Support (technical and funding) for implementation of projects

What has gone well/not so well in the planning?

- Learning, collaboration, and community awareness of water issues has gone well
- Ability to obtain data and analysis support from state agencies has been a challenge
- Ability to develop strategies has been limited by data gaps



Mid-Coast

Mid-Coast Water Planning Partnership

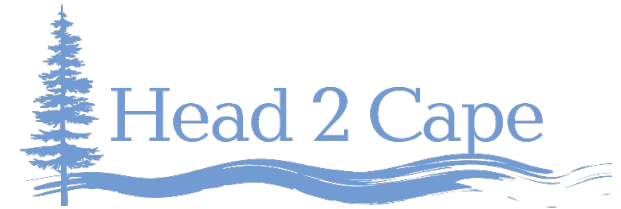
Conveners – Seal Rock Water District & Oregon Water Resources Department (OWRD)

MCWPP Coordinating Committee -12-14 volunteers representing a range of Partnership perspectives whose primary purpose is to coordinate and support the efforts of the Partnership.

MCWPP Planning Partners - 70+ partners have signed the Charter & 180+ stakeholders have engaged with the Planning Process

Project Support – MCWPP Local Planning Coordinator & Consulting Team Composed of Creative Resource Strategies, LLC, OSU's Institute for Natural Resources, OSU Extension Services, and Oregon Sea Grant.

Funding partners - City of Newport, OWRD, Meyer Memorial Trust, Oregon Community Foundation, City of Lincoln City, City of Yachats, Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians, Lincoln County Farm Bureau, Gibson Farms, Ford Family Foundation, Lincoln County and thousands of contributed hours by Public & Private partners & participants.



We are working collaboratively to understand and meet the water needs of communities, the environment, and the economy in coastal watersheds from Cascade Head to Cape Perpetua.


Defining Key Water Issues



Source Water
Development
and Protection




Reliable Water
Infrastructure
and Operations



Water
Conservation
and Efficient Use



Ecosystem
Protection and
Enhancement



Enhanced
Regional
Collaboration

Developing Actions to Address Key Issues

Actions

Tier Actions (Priorities)

Define Implementation Components

- Who will implement?
- What will it cost?
- What are likely sources of funding to support action?
- What is the predicted timeline?
- How will we measure success?

Proposed actions address key water issues in the Mid-Coast.

How can state agencies support the MCWPP?

Support (technical & funding) for partnerships through implementation phase.

- Develop a fund for water partnerships to support basic staffing needs.
- Create statewide incentives for water conservation and efficient use.
- More capacity for state agency partners to support current and future Placed-Based Planning efforts.

Create & implement a long-term sustainable vision for a connected network of water partnerships statewide.

- Connect/convene water planning partnerships.
- Engage other state agencies that have connections to underrepresented water users and providers within each partnership.
- Create connections across industries to share information about water status and management.

Highlights & Areas Needing Improvement

What needs improvement in planning?

- Long-term support & funding for implementation.
- A quicker timeline to develop a water action plan.
- A coordinated statewide effort to develop interconnected water planning partnerships.
- Data availability (what data exists/how do we address the gap) and analysis (with limited resources, how can we use the data in a meaningful way).

What has gone well?

- Building a community centralized around water.
- Raised awareness of water issues in region.
- Outreach products that capture core elements of Mid-Coast water.
- The adaptability and willingness of our partners to move to a virtual platform to complete the plan on time and more efficiently.



Lower John Day River

Lower John Day River



Co-convenors: Gilliam Soil and Water Conservation District and Mid John Day-Bridge Creek Watershed Council

Lower John Day River Place-Based Integrated Water Resource Planning Pilot consists of:

- over 70 participants
- including 17 organizations

The **Lower John Day Working Group** acts as the Steering Committee of this process.



What have you learned about your water situation?

- Low summer flow (July to October)
- Instream Water Quality (Temperature)
- Fish Passage Barriers
- Unmet Water Demand
- Data Gaps



What solutions/strategies are you considering?

Top 5 critical issues (20) -

1. Poor riparian habitat
2. Elevated summer stream temps and oxygen
3. Insufficient instream flow
4. Storage needs
5. Degraded native plant communities

Strategies (46)

Top Strategies to address instream and out-of-stream water demands:

- Protect riparian areas from livestock
- Protect, enhance, and/or restore native riparian vegetation
- Reconnect floodplains (BDA's, beaver restoration)
- Restore upland function by improving plant and forest communities.

How can the state agencies support you in finishing and implementing your plans?

Funding and technical support for implementation of projects and feasibility studies.

What has gone well/not so well in the planning?

- Learning, collaboration, and community awareness of water issues have gone well.
- Received data and analysis from State Agencies.
- Continued struggles with landowner participation.



Common Issues + Opportunities Identified during Planning Efforts

Planning Effort:

- There is an uneven distribution of water resource data across the State
- There is uneven contribution to agency support both within agencies and between State agencies
- It is unclear whether information needs identified at the basin scale will effect State level priorities

Common Issues + Opportunities Identified during Planning Efforts

Implementation

- There is uncertainty about the commitment of agency resources to implement Place-Based plans

Issues with State Agency Budgets

- The place-based planning groups have great concerns about the budget proposal to remove \$165,000 General Fund dollars for gaging stations (all groups have identified the need and desire for additional gaging stations).
- The place-based planning groups have great concerns about the budget proposal to remove \$778,000 for observation wells (most of the groups have identified the need and desire for additional observation wells).

Proposed Legislation

- The PBP conveners support the spirit of the following bills, which provides for continuation of PBP efforts , but have not had the opportunity to discuss them in detail with their full group:
 - **HB 2251 and HB 3105**