Agenda Item I – Informational Report

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DEPARTMENT

State Recognition of Place-Based Plans

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August 25, 2021

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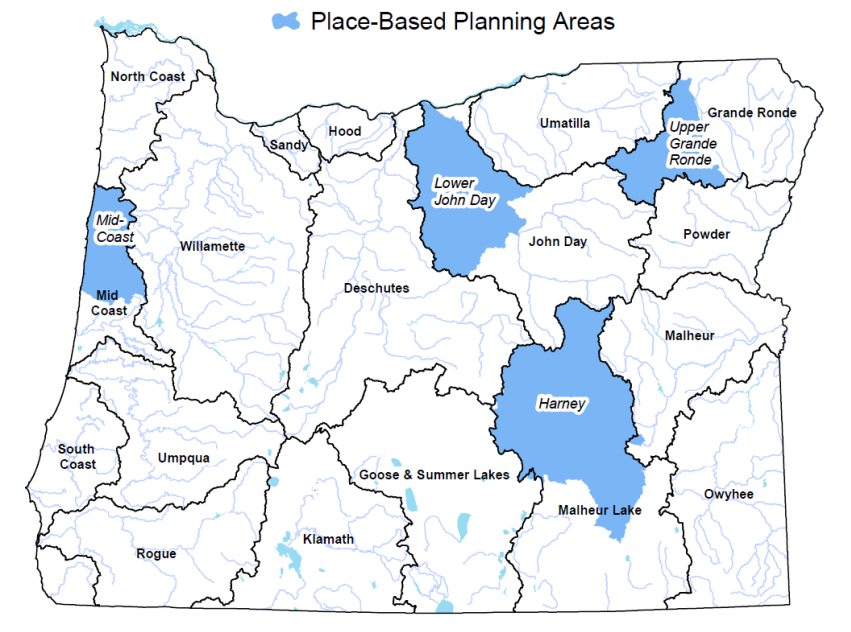
Central Question(s)



- What is the value of state-recognition of a place-based water plan?
- What does recognition mean?
- What does it "get you?"
- What can we do to make that recognition valuable?

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Two Emergent Areas

Commission Resolution

- Officially documents that places followed guidelines – valuable in funding efforts
- Memorializes the work done

State Support for Implementation

- Continues the state-local partnership towards meeting instream and out-of-stream needs
- Place-based plans are local implementation of the IWRS

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Why this conversation is vital

- Why do we need clarity about plan implementation support?
- What can support for plan implementation achieve?
- What are the likely outcomes without state support?

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Implementation Support

- We want to provide:
  - High value to the planning groups (practical, meaningful)
  - What fits with the authorities and resources of the agency (feasible)

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Implementation Support

Staff identified seven categories of potential support

Leadership

Communication and Coordination

Technical Assistance

General

Policy Assistance

Partnership

Financial Assistance

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Challenges

- Making long(er) term commitments in a world of 2-year budget cycles
- Limited resources dedicated to planning
- Need to support other places in their efforts to secure their water future as well

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Past Discussions

- Discussion paper and public workshops in 2014
- Commission discussions in 2014
- Planning guidelines and statute (SB 266) in 2015
- Letters of Interest in 2016
- Roles memo in 2017
- Learning Partnership gatherings (2017, 2018, 2019, 2020)
- Step 5 guidance in 2019
- Element B of the Planning Assessment (2020-2021)
- Call with conveners in May 2021
- Commission discussion in February and June 2021
- Planning coordinator conversations with planning groups, other collaborative groups, and stakeholders (2015-present)

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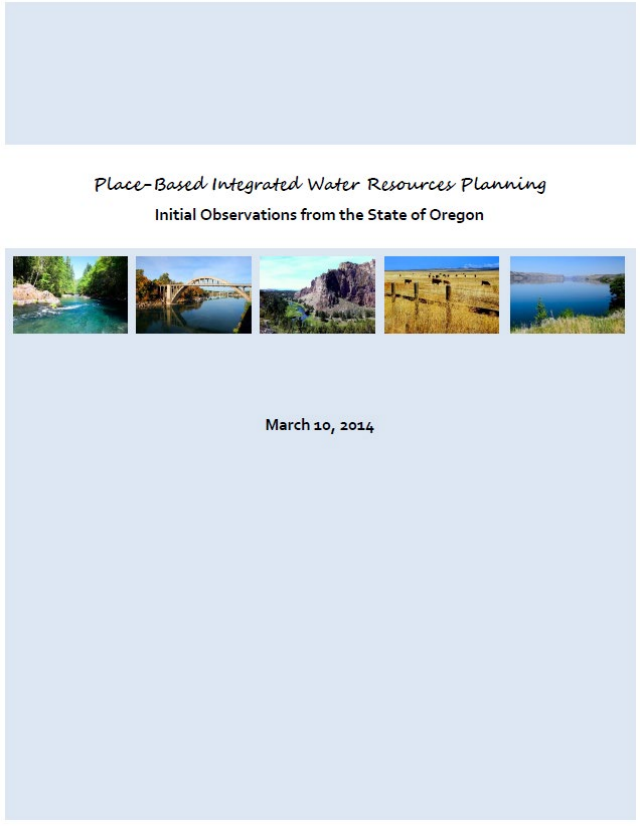
2014 Discussion Paper



"Potential incentives could include:

- access to state and federal technical resources, including hydrologic modeling;
- state and federal water-resources funds to facilitate implementation of plans;
- a long-term commitment by the State to coordinate/implement other plans;
- recognition of plans by multiple state agencies;
- and facilitated permitting."

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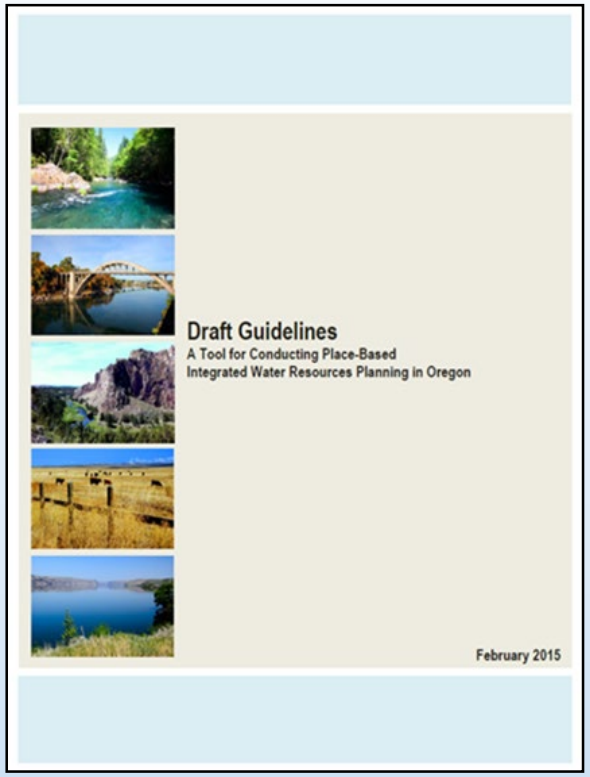
2015 Planning Guidelines



"Place-based integrated water resources planning will allow communities to identify their water resources needs and then **partner** with the state to develop solutions and a suite of projects that will help meet those needs now and into the future."

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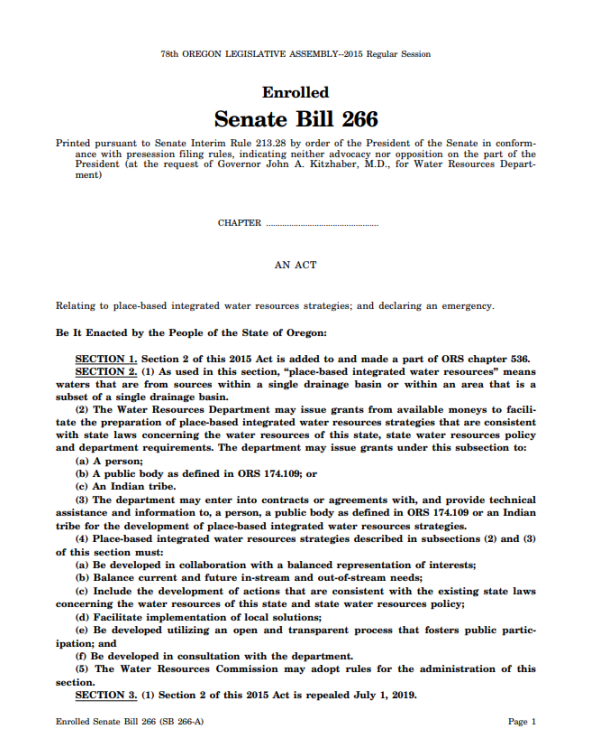
Senate Bill 266



78th OREGON LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY--2015 Regular Session

Enrolled

Senate Bill 266

Printed pursuant to Senate Interim Rule 213.28 by order of the President of the Senate in conformance with presession filing rules, indicating neither advocacy nor opposition on the part of the President (at the request of Governor John A. Kitzhaber, M.D., for Water Resources Department)

CHAPTER .....

AN ACT

Relating to place-based integrated water resources strategies; and declaring an emergency.

Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:

SECTION 1. Section 2 of this 2015 Act is added to and made a part of ORS chapter 536.

SECTION 2. (1) As used in this section, "place-based integrated water resources" means waters that are from sources within a single drainage basin or within an area that is a subset of a single drainage basin.

(2) The Water Resources Department may issue grants from available moneys to facilitate the preparation of place-based integrated water resources strategies that are consistent with state laws concerning the water resources of this state, state water resources policy and department requirements. The department may issue grants under this subsection to:

(a) A person;

(b) A public body as defined in ORS 174.109; or

(c) An Indian tribe.

(3) The department may enter into contracts or agreements with, and provide technical assistance and information to, a person, a public body as defined in ORS 174.109 or an Indian tribe for the development of place-based integrated water resources strategies.

(4) Place-based integrated water resources strategies described in subsections (2) and (3) of this section must:

(a) Be developed in collaboration with a balanced representation of interests;

(b) Balance current and future in-stream and out-of-stream needs;

(c) Include the development of actions that are consistent with the existing state laws concerning the water resources of this state and state water resources policy;

(d) Facilitate implementation of local solutions;

(e) Be developed utilizing an open and transparent process that fosters public participation; and

(f) Be developed in consultation with the department.

(5) The Water Resources Commission may adopt rules for the administration of this section.

SECTION 3. (1) Section 2 of this 2015 Act is repealed July 1, 2019.

Enrolled Senate Bill 266 (SB 266-A) Page 1

- Balance current and future instream and out-of-stream water needs;
- Facilitate implementation of local solutions;
- Foster public participation.

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Step 5 Guidance

How Plans Will be Recognized

- Via the process in the Step 5 Guidance
- Through a formal, signed Commission resolution

What Recognition Means

- Plan produced following Draft Guidelines and IWRS principles
- Plan implementation has value to the state – implementing the IWRS
- Source of info for IWRS update

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2021 Informal Inquiry of Conveners:

What implementation support would help?

- Incentives to Keep Working Collaboratively…
- State Leadership and Vision…
- Dedicated Staff…
- Funding…
- Ongoing Technical Support…
- Connection and Coordination…
- Partnership…

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Planning Assessment

Learning from Other States (Element B)

Connection to State Water Plan?	• Inform, results published in, component of…
State approval process?	• Generally similar to Oregon – agency to Commission/Board, public review/participation varies
Approval and funding?	• Often tied to plan and project implementation funding

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Current Status

- Presentations on State Recognition in February and June 2021
- Desire expressed by the Commission to further discuss value of state recognition and agency support of implementation
- Conversations with Commissioners Baumgartner, Moll, and Quaempts

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What we heard…

- A need and desire to solidify “mutual accountability”
- A resolution and high-level statements of support are good but the Department should also convey practically what it will do
- The three types of support most frequently cited:
  - Support in the field to implement actions,
  - Support from technical staff to fill information/data gaps, and
  - Ongoing financial assistance to support coordination and implementation of projects.
- Near-term and long-term commitments
- An interest in seeing a specific recommendation from staff

What we heard…

- “There have to be people and resources committed to this work.”
- “I want the Commission recognition process to convey as much *practical* meaning as possible.”
- "What I'd like to see is how the information [the planning groups] developed can be used to influence how we approach our responsibilities. How will the Department use the information they produced to inform our work?“
- “I’d really like to see these plans operationalized within the basins.”

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Commission Discussion

- Other thoughts from Commissioners Moll, Quaempts, and Baumgartner?
- Thoughts from other Commissioners?

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Proposed Next Steps

- Amend grants to include $200k allocated by legislature to place-based planning
- Develop a spend plan to bring to the Commission for $1,000,000 ARPA funding
- Commission review of draft resolution language between now and November
- Continued work on practical commitments Department can make (potential future staff recommendation)


Thank you.