### Oregon's Pilot Place-Based Integrated Water Planning Program: An Overview

Rebecca McLain with insights from Sadie Boyers

April 5, 2022

Prepared for the Regional Water Planning Work Group







### Pilot Place-Based Planning Areas and Planning Groups



### **Evaluation Topics**



### The Five-Step Framework: The Core of the Pilot Place-Based Planning Program



### Challenges Associated With The Five-Step Framework



### Proposed Revisions to the Step Framework



### **Outcomes of Place-Based Planning**

UPPER GRANDE RONDE RIVER WATERSHED PARTNERSHI

UNION COUNTY, OREGON

PLACE-BASED INTEGRATED WATER RESOURCES PLAN

January 2022

This project is funded through the Oregon Water Resources Department Place-Based Integrated Water Resources Planning Grant



Developed pathways forward to achieve water resources goals

Leveraged funding for implementation of action plans Brought together diverse water interests that previously had not worked together

Gained local support and buy-in for implementation



STEP 5 Draft Report The Lower John Day Basin Integrated Water Resource Plan



OREGON'S MID-COAST WATER PLANNING PARTNERSHIP DRAFT WATER ACTION PLAN

December 2021

Identified data gaps that need to be filled

Collected data to fill some key data gaps

Created a broad network of individuals and groups knowledgeable and active in water planning

Improved agency understandings of local needs and local understanding of agency constraints

> Harney Basin Groundwater Portion of Integrated Water Plan \*DRAFT 2\* Harey Communic Read Ware Planice Collaborative



March 2022 DRAFT

#### Enthusiasts

"Place-based planning is a great start. This is the first step to making a collaborative, cooperative community approach to a pretty serious issue. Everyone has different opinions and viewpoints. Not everyone will agree. The first part is getting to the table. It's a great first step in the right direction."

#### Qualified Success

"DEQ concluded that placebased planning is an effective approach or "tool" to implement the Integrated Water Resources Strategy. However, the State and planning partnerships must recognize early on the potential complexity and scaledependency of the approach."

#### Skeptics

"Place-based planning can help address some of the shortages in instream and out-of-stream use. But this work won't have much impact on them due to regulatory processes needing reform."

Spectrum of Perspectives on the Value of Place-Based Planning





### Final Take-Away



Integrated water planning is important, but it is complex and hard to do.

- Place-based planning is one alternative to the top-down model.
- Planning groups and agencies have learned a lot about what works well and what doesn't work well.
- Many of the weaknesses are either already being addressed or can be addressed in future.

#### *Key take-away:*

State agencies and communities need a longer time horizon to prepare for this type of program. The time to prepare for the next phase of place-based planning is now.

# Thank you!

Acknowledgements: We thank the place-based planning program staff at OWRD for making the participatory evaluation program possible. We also extend our thanks and appreciation to the planning group members and state agency staff who gave so generously of their time, and for sharing their insights on what worked well and what didn't work well, and their advice for future planning efforts.









## **MID-COAST WATER PLANNING PARTNERSHIP**



#### **ADAM DENLINGER**

GENERAL MANAGER, SEAL ROCK WATER DISTRICT CONVENER, MID-COAST WATER PLANNING PARTNERSHIP



ALEXANDRIA SCOTT PLANNING COORDINATOR, MID-COAST WATER PLANNING PARTNERSHIP

### OUR BASIN

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- The Lincoln County administrative boundary comprised the original geographic scope of this initiative in 2016 when the Partnership was first formed. Since then, the geographic scope was refined to include the following two USGS cataloging units: 17100204 Siletz-Yaquina subbasin (Salmon River, Siletz Bay-Ocean Tributaries, Siletz River, Depoe Bay-Ocean Tributaries, and Yaquina River) and 17100205 Alsea subbasin (Beaver Creek-Ocean Tributaries, Alsea River, and Yachats River).
- The Coast Range averages 1,500 feet in elevation. Steep slopes and high rainfall increase the potential for soil erosion. The region has been uplifted by tectonic plates converging. The geology does not support large quantities of groundwater. Aquifers have low water yields and poor water storage capacity.
- The region has one of the wettest and mildest climates in Oregon. High precipitation (>97 inches) occurs in the NE portions of the Siletz and Alsea watersheds. Most precipitation is rain that falls between November and March. Dry conditions, including drought, occur during the summer.
  Weather is influenced by ocean currents and atmospheric conditions.



### WHO IS INVOLVED IN THE PARTNERSHIP?







- CURRENT CONVENER: SEAL ROCK WATER DISTRICT (SRWD)
- 250 STAKEHOLDERS ON OUR MASTER LIST
- 84 PARTNERS HAVE SIGNED OUR CHARTER,
   37 ACTIVELY PARTICIPATING
- **17 LOCAL PARTNERSHIP MEETINGS** WITH AN AVERAGE ATTENDANCE OF 40+ PEOPLE
- 4 FIELD TOURS AVERAGING 35-40 ATTENDEES
- FUNDING PARTNERS: SRWD, OWRD, MEYER MEMORIAL TRUST, OREGON COMMUNITY FOUNDATION, COLLINS FOUNDATION, CITIES (NEWPORT, LINCOLN CITY, 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



# Place-Based Integrated Water Resources Planning Final Plan Recognition

Upper Grande Ronde River Watershed Partnership Union County, Oregon

Presentation to Oregon Water Resources Commission March 17, 2022





#### Grande Ronde PBP on Vimeo

- Thank you to all for this tremendous effort.
- Great working with individuals and agencies.
- We have a road map and are moving forward.
- We must wisely manage this precious, limited resource if we wish to meet the demands placed on it.
- Union County Farm Bureau introduction (Jed Hassinger)
- Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation (CTUIR) introduction (Anton Chiono)









- Upper Grande Ronde River Watershed (UGRRW) Partnership
- UGRRW Geography
- Critical Issues
- Instream and Out-of-Stream Demands
- Strategies
- Lessons Learned and Next Steps





## **Our Partnership**

Category from Planning Guidelines	Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)	Instream	Out-of- Stream	Government/ Other	Voted for Plan
Local governments and elected officials	Union County	inoti cum	otream	X	Х
Tribal governments	CTUIR	Х		Х	
Municipal water and wastewater utilities	City of La Grande, City of Imbler		Х		Х
Major industries or employers	Agriculture and government (major employers in Union County)				
Agriculture (see also private landowners below)	Union County Farm Bureau		Х		Х
Forestry	U.S. Forest Service (USFS)				Non-voting
Conservation/environmental groups	Grande Ronde Model Watershed (GRMW)	Х			Х
Power companies	Oregon Trail Electric Cooperative				
Private landowners (many of whom are also self-supplied water users and small business owners)	Eight individual landowners		Х		Х
Special districts	Union County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD)	Х	Х	Х	Х
State agencies	Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW)	Х		Х	х
	Oregon Water Resources Department (OWRD)	Х	Х	Х	Х
	Oregon Department of Agriculture		Х	Х	Х
Federal agencies	USFS, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)			Х	Non-voting



Must live or work in the watershed to be a voting member



**Convener** - Union County

**Steering Committee** - Administrative Team (ODFW, OWRD, Union County Farm Bureau, City of La Grande)

**Stakeholder Committee** - Local parties involved in planning who sign the MOU (voting)

**Interested Public** - Parties who are involved in the effort (non-voting)

Ad Hoc Subcommittees - Voluntary technical groups/work groups composed of the above four groups

All decisions through consensus vote



- Meeting for more than five years advertised via newspaper, County website, email listserv, occasionally radio, newspaper articles, phone calls, and presentations
- Approximately one stakeholder meeting per month and working group meetings
- More than 100 meetings to date; more than 3,000 volunteer hours contributed
- Ford Family Foundation Learning Partnership (four meetings)
- Sustainable Northwest Summits (two meetings)







The geographic boundaries of Union County very closely align with the boundaries of the UGRRW.

The UGRRW is a vital ecosystem that supports ranchers, farmers, urban residents, tribes, and fish and wildlife species.















- Homeland of the Cayuse, Umatilla, and Walla Walla tribes
- La Grande 13,229
- Island City 1,016
- Elgin 1,756
- Union 2,142
- Cove 625
- Summerville 136
- Imbler 310



# Streams and Endangered Species Act Distribution









- Snowmelt dominated
- Low fall flows
- Only 7,231 acre-feet (AF) of surface reservoir storage



State	e Dams	Non-State Dams			
Storage in acre feet		Storage in acre fe			
0	< 100	0	< 100		
0	100-1,000	0	100-1,000		
0	1,000 - 10,000	$\bigcirc$	1,000 - 10,000		
$\bigcirc$	> 10,000	$\bigcirc$	> 10,000		

Description:

The Oregon Water Resources Department maintains an inventory of Oregon dams. Information available includes dam height, storage capacity, dam name, location, permit number and hazard classification. Large dams are defined by a dam height >= 10 feet and a storage capacity of >= 0.2 acre feet. These larger dams are within the juristiction of Oregon Water Resource Department.

Source: Dams, Oregon Water Resources Department, 2016

Map produced by: Oregon Water Resources Department 725 Summer St. NE Suite A Salem, OR 97301

Map date: October 24, 2016



Municipal demand - Actual use calculation is that cities, unincorporated users, and selfsupplied industrial users use approximately 2,060 AF per year of surface water and 8,190 AF per year of groundwater.

Agricultural demand - Total annual agricultural water use per year was estimated to be 193,730 AF (surface water) and 77,970 AF (groundwater) via evapotranspiration.

Instream demand - Existing instream water rights are 173,750 AF per year, but instream water rights do not cover all waterways in the UGRRW. Goal to improve this calculation.

#### Total Biweekly SW Budget and GW Demands (Current)





**Municipal demand** - Future use estimated at 6 percent increase over next 50 years.

Agricultural demand - Future use estimated with Representative Concentration Pathways 8.5 climate model and estimated conservation measures.

Instream demand - Changes in future demand need to be calculated.



#### Total Biweekly SW Budget and GW Demands (Future)







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





Four critical issues

Nine major strategies to address group-identified critical issues





### **Strategies - Built Storage**

No.	Strategy (Implementation Lead) [Primary Beneficiaries] {IWRS Corresponding Strategy}	Description/Purpose		Selected Milestones
1	Built Storage - Aboveground Storage and Underground Storage (Union County) [Agriculture, Instream]	Address specific instream and out-of-stream water supply deficits in each subwatershed through advancing possible	•	Conduct aboveground storage and instream flow study (applied for state funds). Develop next steps for
	{10.B Improve access to built storage}	built storage projects.		Catherine Creek underground storage (to benefit instream flows).

*IWRS* = *Integrated Water Resources Strategies* 





No.	Strategy (Implementation Lead) [Primary Beneficiaries] {IWRS corresponding strategy}	Description/Purpose		Selected Milestones
2	Land Management -	Conduct research and provide	•	Convene a pilot group of
	Agricultural Land	subsequent educational		landowners for on-farm
	(NRCS) [Agriculture,	outreach to support water		conservation activities.
	Instream] {10.A Improve	management actions that	•	Create a shared resources list.
	water-use efficiency and	maintain water quality and	•	Strategize funding for
	water conservation}	increase water use efficiency.		irrigation water management
				projects.





# Strategies - Data Collection, Monitoring, and Research

No	Strategy (Implementation Lead) [Primary Beneficiaries] {IWRS	Description/Purpose	Selected Milestones
3	Data Collection Monitoring	Coordinate data collection to	Prioritize data gans
	and Research (GRMW) [Agriculture, Instream] {1.A Improve water resource	fill data gaps, support working groups, and inform water management in the	<ul> <li>Study groundwater.</li> <li>Study water quality.</li> <li>Update assessment of</li> </ul>
	data collection and monitoring}	UGRRW.	instream flow needs.





### Strategies - Non-structural Water Storage and Habitat Management

No.	Strategy (Implementation Lead) [Primary Beneficiaries] {IWRS corresponding strategy}	Description/Purpose	Selected Milestones
4	Non-structural Water Storage and Habitat Management (Union SWCD) [Instream]	Raise awareness of work being done and how this work addresses goals of the UGRRW Partnership;	<ul> <li>Plan field tour.</li> <li>Prioritize areas and projects (using the Ecological Atlas geomorphic potential</li> </ul>
	{11.A Improve watershed health, resiliency, and capacity for natural storage}	prioritize and pursue nonstructural storage projects in strategic locations.	information).





No.	Strategy (Implementation Lead) [Primary Beneficiaries] {IWRS corresponding strategy}	Description/Purpose		Selected Milestones
5	Land Management - Public Land (USFS) [Instream] {9.C Partner with federal agencies, tribes, and neighbor states in long-term water resources management}	Information sharing and communication between public land management agencies and stakeholders to identify potential areas of mutual support.	•	Update UGRRW Partnership on USFS projects. Plan field tours.





No.	Strategy (Implementation Lead) [Primary Beneficiaries] {IWRS corresponding strategy}	Description/Purpose	Selected Milestones
6	Infrastructure - Land Modification (Union County) [Municipal, Agriculture, Instream] {6.A Improve integration of water information into land use planning}	Reduce the frequency and severity of damage due to flooding now and in the future.	<ul> <li>Review U.S. Bureau of Reclamation hydraulics study.</li> <li>Study sedimentation.</li> <li>Hold ditch-opening meeting.</li> <li>Draft hazards mitigation plan.</li> </ul>





# **Strategies - Administrative Actions**

	Strategy (Implementation Lead) [Primary Beneficiaries] {IWRS			
No.	corresponding strategy}	Description/Purpose		Selected Milestones
7	Administrative Actions	Increase awareness of how	•	Create outreach material for
	(CTUIR) [Instream] {10.D	administrative actions can		landowners and legislators.
	Reach environmental	improve water quality and	•	Survey interest in
	outcomes with non-	quantity.		administrative actions.
	regulatory alternatives}			





No.	Strategy (Implementation Lead) [Primary Beneficiaries] {IWRS corresponding strategy}	Description/Purpose		Selected Milestones
8	Land Management -	Improve city-to-city	•	Develop shared resources
	Municipal Land (City of	coordination to respond to		agreement.
	La Grande) [Municipal] {7.A	natural hazards, increase	•	Update/develop hazard
	Develop and upgrade water	water conservation, and		mitigation plans.
	and wastewater	support water infrastructure		
	infrastructure}	efficiency improvements.		





# **Strategies - Outreach and Education**

	Strategy (Implementation Lead) [Primary Beneficiaries] {IWRS			
No.	corresponding strategy}	Description/Purpose		Selected Milestones
9	Outreach and Education	Inform the public about water	•	Distribute water quality and
	(Union County) [Municipal]	quality issues and UGRRW		lawn care outreach materials.
	{8.C Promote community	Partnership activities.	•	Complete digital storytelling
	education and training			project.
	opportunities}		•	Update outreach plan.





- Quarterly implementation meetings to update group on individual member/strategy group process
- Update plan every five years as needed
- Strategy Groups will meet more frequently. Top items we are working on currently:
  - Reinitiating strategy group meetings
  - Developing Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB) Strategic Action Plan
  - OWEB/OWRD-funded Aboveground Storage
     Feasibility Study and Instream Flow Study
  - Catherine Creek underground storage study for instream flow restoration - reinitiating work
  - O Union County Integrated with the cities' Federal Emergency Management Agency Natural Hazards Update Plan
  - Data gap work Focus on instream flow calculation improvement





- Side meetings between those who disagreed were efficient in resolving differences.
- Value of a diverse steering committee.
- Strength of diverse interests working together on a common vision (it is possible to have a positive experience when those with competing interests work together).
- Value of completing work through technical working groups.
- Using local talent to come to conclusions for local basin.





- Local individuals with competing interests have stronger relationships that help work through difficult issues.
- Each interest group had to compromise and learn about other water issues to come to consensus.
- Consistent leadership: convener, facilitators, and stakeholder/agency representatives.
- Hybrid meetings are helpful for attendance.
- Need more accessibility to agency-level data and staff resources.
- Having planning guidance available to future planning groups at the outset will be tremendously helpful.





- To maintain engagement with local stakeholders and be responsive to local needs, planning must be place-based and locally led. Place-based planning is most effective when all entities (local, regional, state, tribal, and federal) all work together as partners.
- Need for more input/state-level interest in each step, rather than at the end.
   Agencies were all represented at the local level throughout the process; some conflicting input was received from state and local staff.
- Transparency on review team and first review should include the local planning group to answer questions. Clarity on final agency review expectations and communication from the review team throughout the process will greatly streamline the review of future plans.





## Needs (1/2)

- State investment in more and better data on groundwater and surface water quality and quantity.
- Local coordination/ involvement with every state agency; emphasis on state investment in agency capacity, availability, and support for local process.
- Help to engage federal partners (especially for larger studies, permitting, and funding assistance).





# Needs (2/2)

- Prioritize state funding for projects in basins that have undergone a collaborative, place-based planning process and adopted that plan.
- Build on the success of our effort and expand state funding for place-based planning beyond just the four pilot basins.
- Find ways to integrate place-based planning efforts into OWRD's budget process, 100-year Water Vision, and the state's utilization of federal infrastructure funding.







# Region, background, sideboards, progress



### Collaborative Water Planning & Management in the Deschutes



#### State Regional Working Group, April 5, 2022





### **Upper Deschutes Basin**







## Tualatin River Basin Regional Water Supply Partnerships and Flow Management Technical Committee

Niki Iverson Hillsboro Water Director Joint Water Commission General Manager Barney Reservoir Joint Ownership Commission General Manager

April 5, 2022

**Joint Water Commission** 



Cities of Hillsboro, Forest Grove, Beaverton, and Tualatin Valley Water District





**Joint Water Commission** 



123°22'30"

123°15'







### Lower Tualatin River – Historic Woes (1960's)





#### Barney Reservoir

- 20,000 acre-feet capacity
- Barney Reservoir Joint Ownership Commission
  - Cities of Hillsboro, Beaverton, Forest Grove, Tualatin Valley Water District, Clean Water Services

#### Scoggins Dam and Hagg Lake

- 53,640 acre-feet capacity
- Bureau of Reclamation
  - Irrigation, Municipal, Industrial, Recreation, and Water Quality Uses
  - Operated by Tualatin Valley Irrigation District







### **Regional Water Supply Partnerships**



Southside Transmission Line



### **Tualatin River Flow Management Committee**





### **Tualatin River Flow Management Committee**

- Founded in 1987
- Monthly meetings during the release season (April – November)
  - Reservoir & River Data
  - Water Quality and Quantity Issues
  - Partner Projects





• Different Agencies, Different Goals

Flow Management Goals

- Managing and monitoring flow in the Tualatin to...
  - Augment streamflow through reservoir releases
  - Control or prevent harmful algal blooms (HABs)
  - Improve water quality
  - Ensure access to water rights throughout the basin
  - Maintain adequate flow for aquatic habitats
  - Plan for climate change impacts and population growth

Joint Water Commission

Cities of Hillsboro, Forest Grove, Beaverton, and Tualatin Valley Water District







#### Data through Interagency Cooperation

- Monitoring sites throughout the basin; most in real-time
- Monitored, funded, and maintained by many organizations: Bureau of Reclamation, USGS, OWRD, CWS, JWC, LOC, and TVID
- Reservoir releases and reservoir status updates are shared among stakeholders via daily emails



![](_page_66_Picture_1.jpeg)

#### How are station data used?

- Decision making, water rights compliance, storage agreements, TMDLs, and water quality monitoring
- 17 stations help OWRD
   Watermaster manage and
   regulate water rights in District 18
- Analyses of long-term changes in water quality and availability

![](_page_67_Picture_0.jpeg)

![](_page_67_Picture_2.jpeg)

### Publicly Accessible Annual Flow Report

• Flow Management Technical Committee annual report includes

 $\checkmark$  River releases and diversions by agency

✓ Agency operations and projects

✓ Comparisons to previous years

 $\checkmark$  Weather and stream gage raw data

✓ Agency Water Rights

✓ Major weather events

Available online at:

co.washington.or.us/Watermaster/SurfaceWater

![](_page_67_Picture_13.jpeg)

![](_page_68_Picture_0.jpeg)

![](_page_68_Picture_2.jpeg)

### **Lessons Learned**

- Economies of Scale
- Constant Care and Feeding
- Other perspectives
- We are stronger and better together
- Alternatives Analysis

![](_page_68_Picture_9.jpeg)

#### **Lower Tualatin River - Today**

![](_page_69_Picture_0.jpeg)

### New Supply and New Partnerships - Willamette

![](_page_69_Figure_3.jpeg)

![](_page_70_Picture_0.jpeg)

### **Questions?**

![](_page_70_Picture_3.jpeg)

![](_page_70_Picture_4.jpeg)