ODF-DEQ MOU on Water Quality

Joint meeting of EQC and Board of Forestry Nov. 17, 2021

Presented by: DEQ Director Richard Whitman, State Forester Cal Mukumoto, Jennifer Wigal, DEQ, and Kyle Abraham, ODF





DEQ-ODF Collaboration on Water Quality

1998: Current Memorandum of Understanding

2019: Initiated joint effort to update MOU

- Essential for DEQ and ODF to be coordinated in their efforts related to water quality
 - Climate change exacerbating impacts on fisheries, wildfire, drinking water





MOU Public Process Sought public input Sep 1 – Oct 7 (extended 1 week)

621 comments received:

- 27 unique letters/emails
- 577 copies of an organized email

Comments From:

- Environmental advocacy community
- Advocacy organizations
- Agencies
- Landowners/forest operator community
- Coquille Tribe





MOU Public Comments

- Broad support for updating MOU
- Clarifications needed on terms, processes and urgency of action
- More detail requested on roles, timelines, history and specific concepts
- Concerns with data use, agency interactions and authorities
- Certainty on compliance with cultural resource protection laws
- Some issues raised associated with processes and authorities outside the MOU scope





Revisions to MOU

- Clarified terminology and removed redundancies
- Clarifications to the Agencies' authorities as informed by March 2021 DOJ Memo
- Added accountability and transparency through regular evaluation and reporting on progress to EQC and Board of Forestry
- Committed to documenting implementation processes and amending MOU, as needed





Revisions to MOU (cont.)

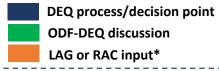
- Acknowledged overlaps with other work by the agencies on climate change, wildfires and drinking water
- Added a collaboration principle on adherence to all relevant laws, including cultural resource protections





Every 2 years, DEQ reports TMDL priorities to EPA

Discuss TMDL development priorities



Determine geographic scope and evaluate existing data

Provide existing data and collect additional info

Provide existing data and collect additional info

Model setup and scenarios

Initial results and scenarios

Initial results and scenarios



Evaluate technical analyses to assemble TMDL elements

Including allocations

Including allocations



Develop WQMP

Identify implementation strategies and priorities

Identify implementation strategies and priorities

Establish TMDL/WQMP

ODF Collaboration in TMDL Process

* larger groups that include ODF = Local Advisory Group [LAG] or Rule Advisory Committee [RAC]

Adaptive Management Feedback Loop

Conduct periodic reviews

Participate in periodic reviews



Basin-wide implementation and effectiveness evaluation

Implement Plan actions, monitor and report annually



Review and approve Implementation Plan



Create Implementation Plan using resources, data and experience

Develop monitoring strategy

Participate in Monitoring Plan development and implementation

MOU Next Steps

- Signatures by State Forester and DEQ Director
- Implementation and resourcing
 - ODF new position will enable engagement specifically in this work
 - DEQ commitment to engaging external partners, in part embodied in recently filled Watershed Program Analyst position
- Progress evaluation and reporting
 - Proposed regular check-in with EQC and Board of Forestry





Questions and Discussion



