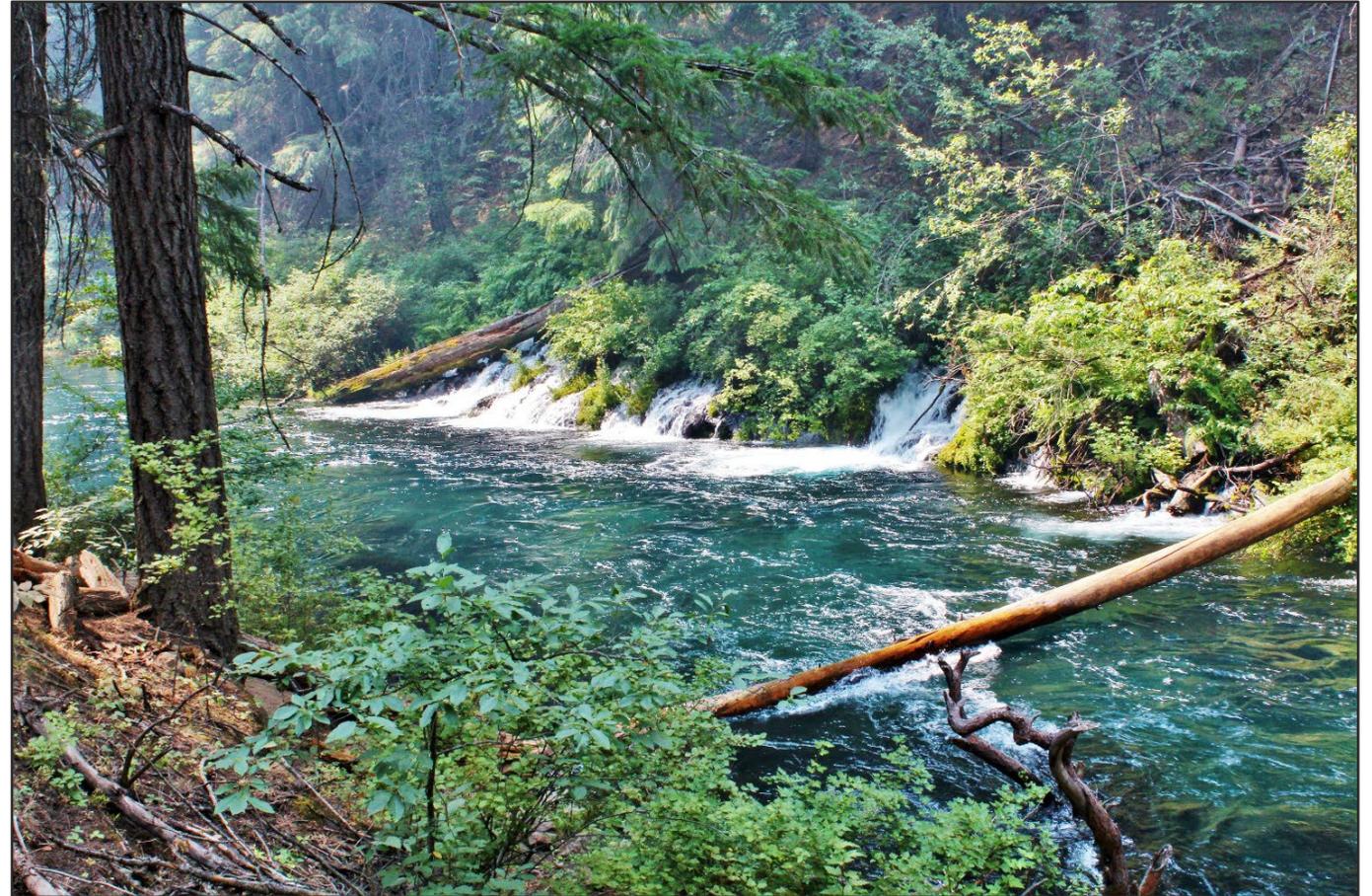


# 2021 Water Quality Standards Triennial Review

## EQC Presentation

Sept. 30, 2021



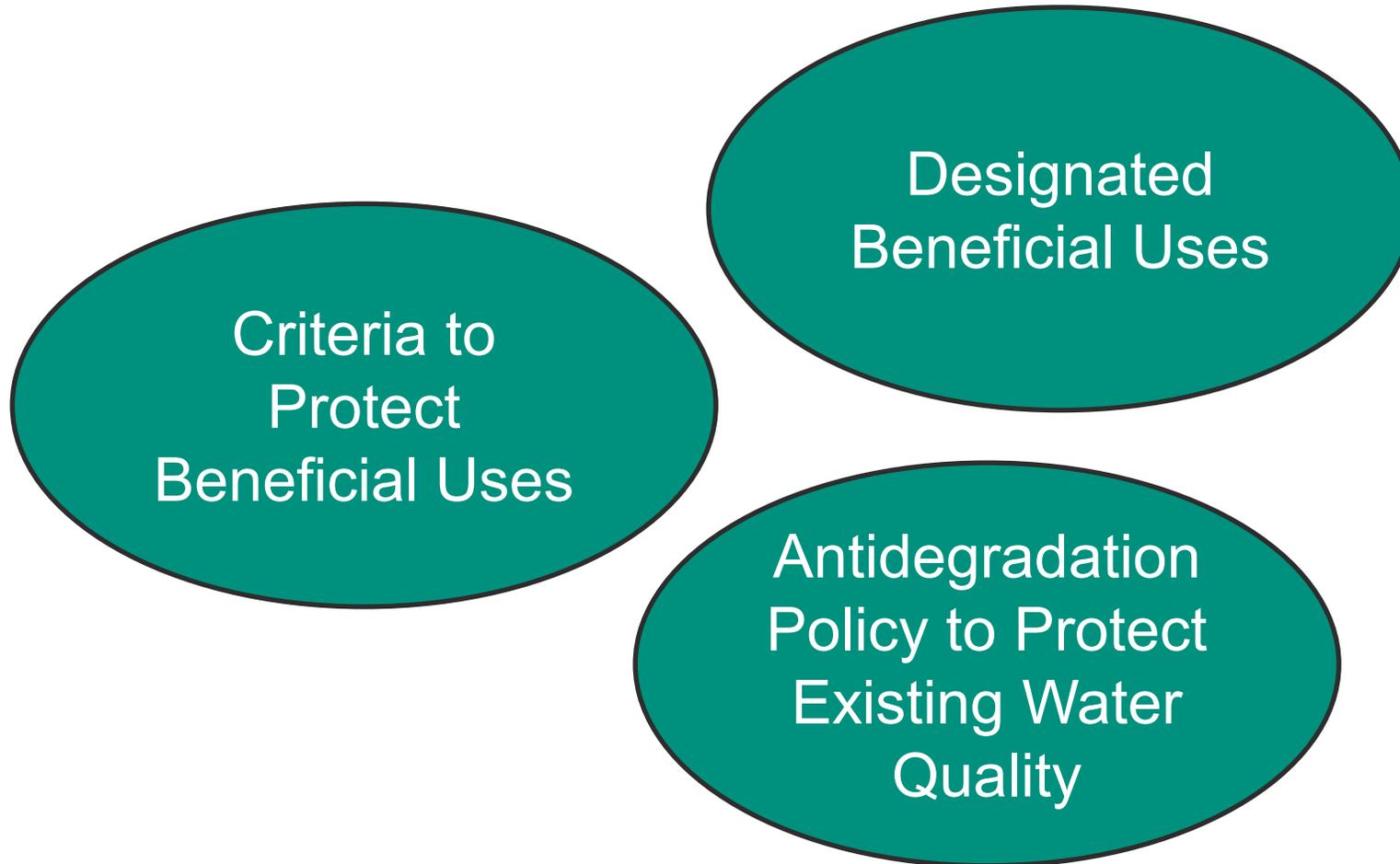
# 2021 Water Quality Standards Triennial Review

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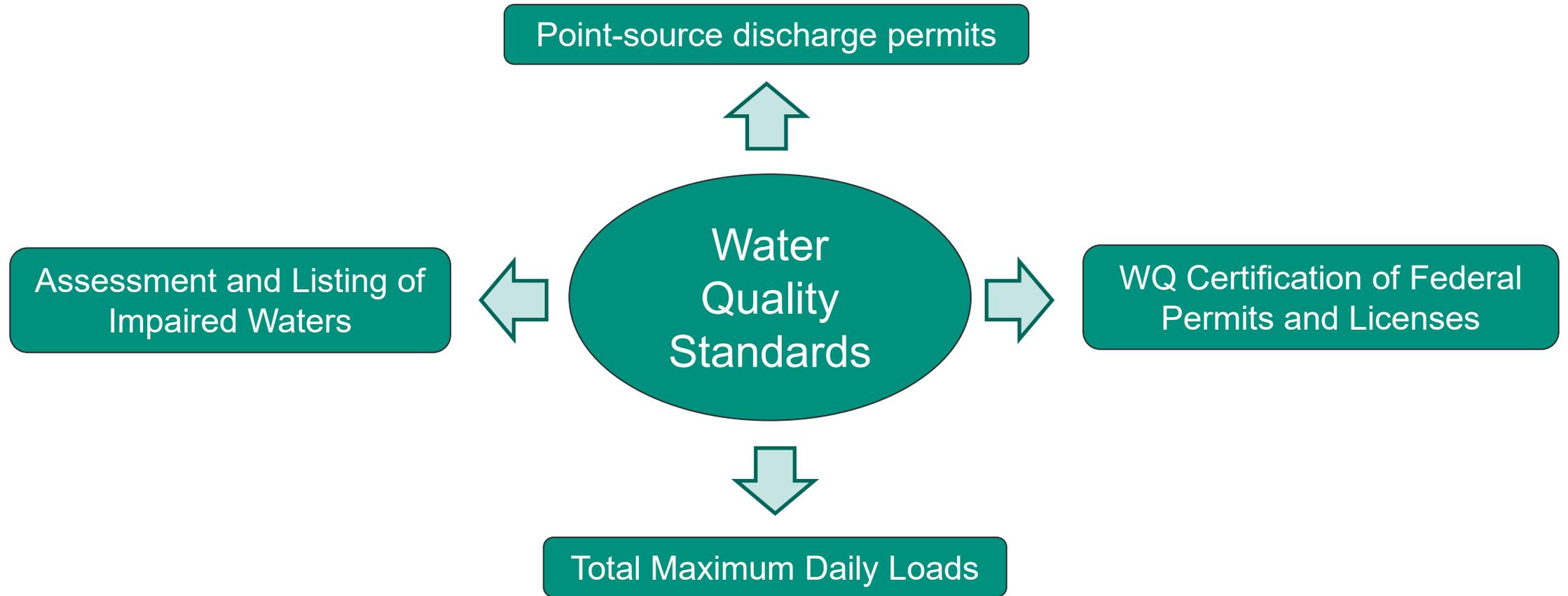
- Required by Clean Water Act
- Hold public hearing, update water quality standards
- At least once every three years
- Result: Triennial Review Workplan
  - priority projects
  - complete or initiate July 2021 – June 2024

# Components of Water Quality Standards

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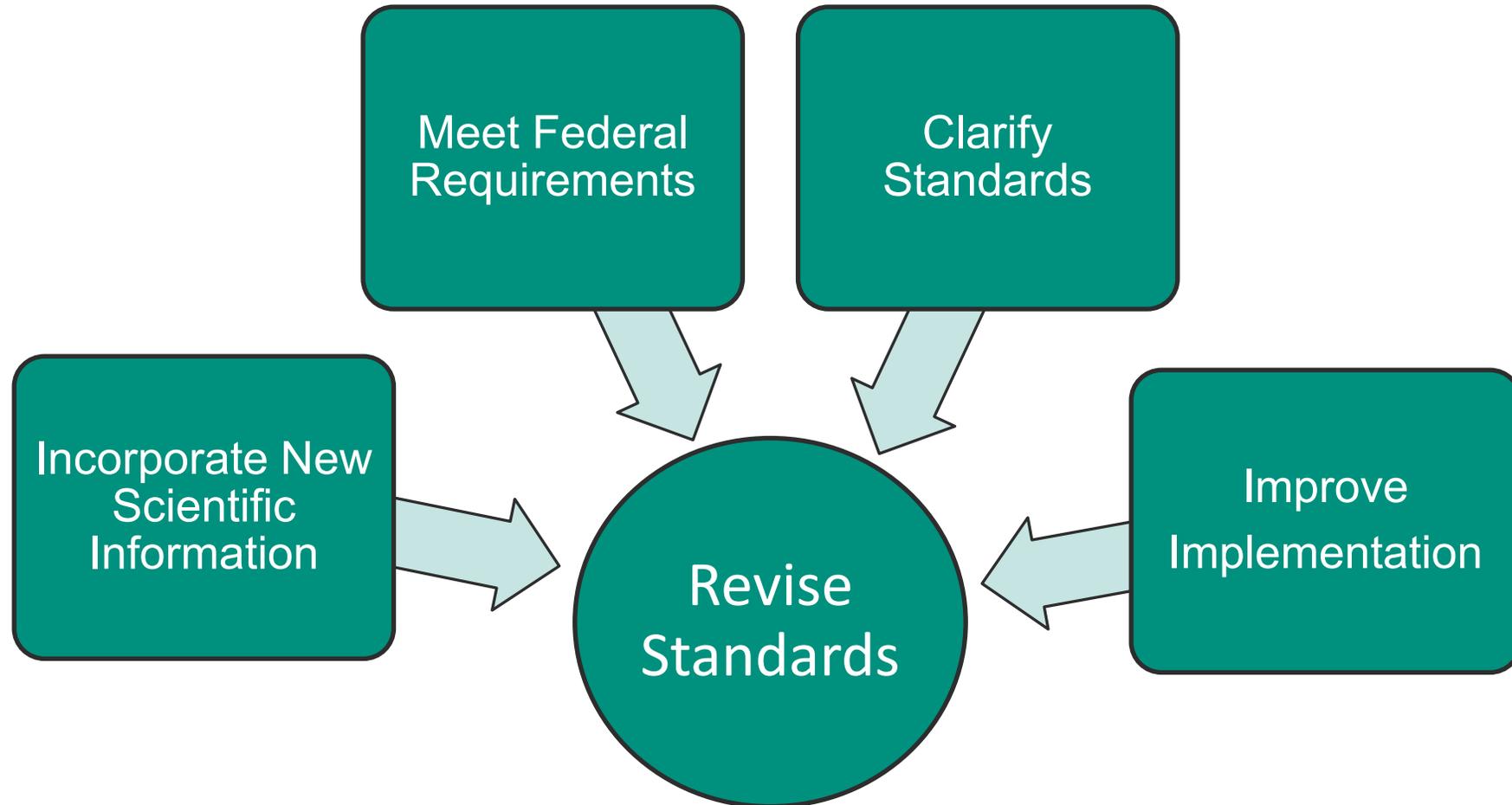


# Foundation for Water Quality Programs

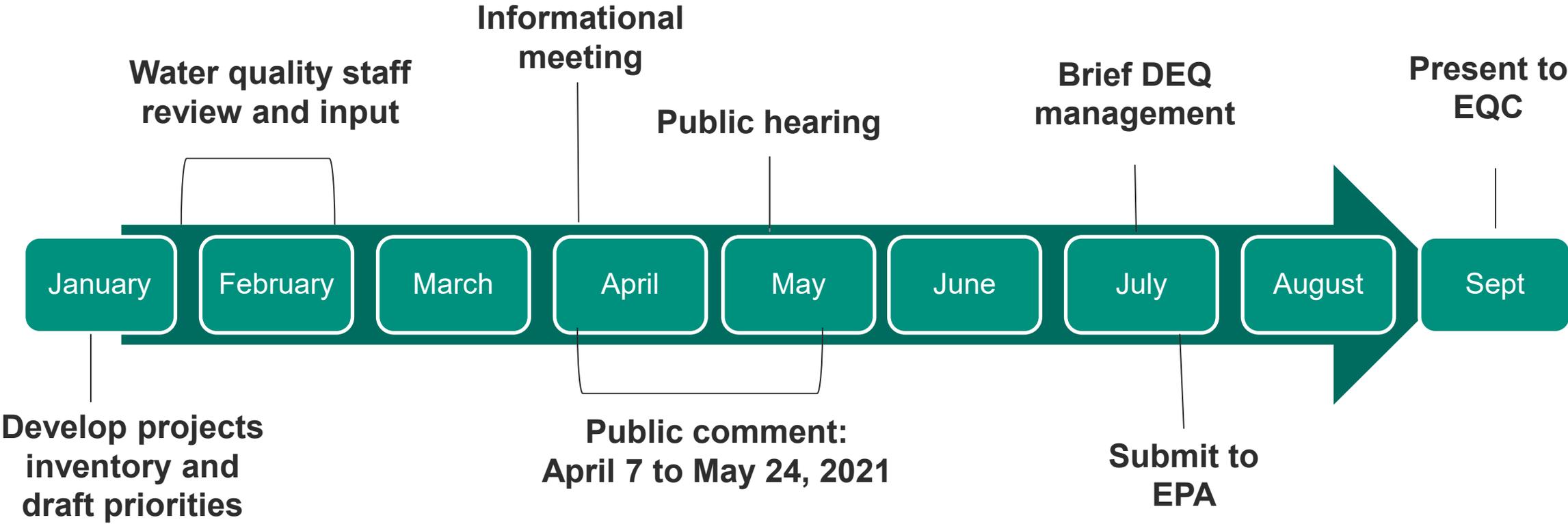


# Why revise standards?

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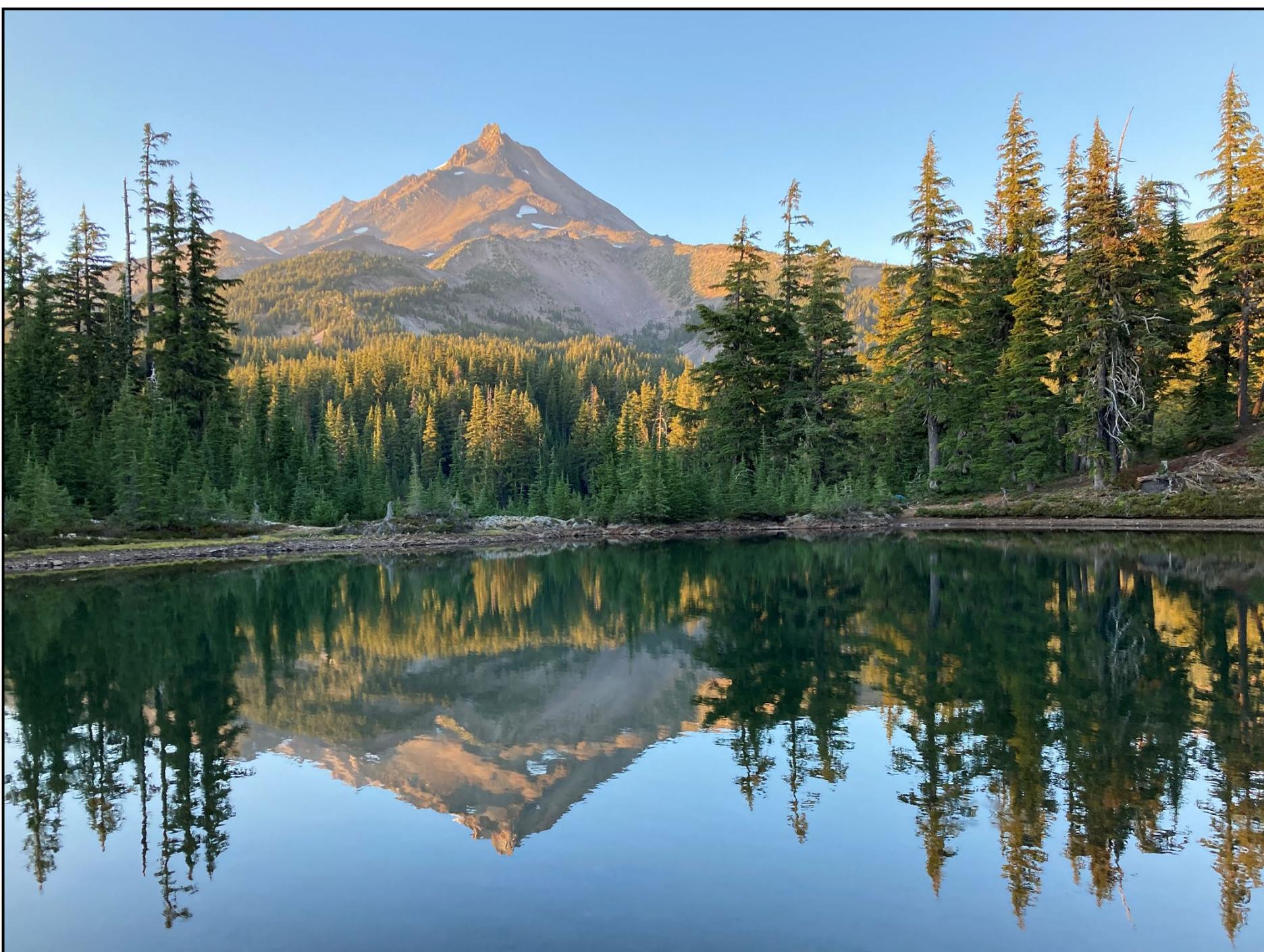


# Milestones and Timeline



# How did DEQ prioritize projects?

Value	Urgency	Effort	Risk
Environmental Administrative	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Work in progress</li><li>• DEQ work impeded?</li><li>• External drivers</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Resources required</li><li>• Guidance available?</li><li>• Project scope</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Level of experience</li><li>• Availability of data/information</li><li>• Approvals needed</li></ul>



*Questions?*

# High priority projects

## *In Progress*

Aquatic Life Use Updates:  
Temperature

Aquatic Life Use Updates:  
Dissolved Oxygen

Variance Procedures

Temperature Variances

Toxics - aquatic life  
criteria

Toxics - narrative  
criterion

Sedimentation

Biocriteria

Excessive Aquatic Plant  
and Algal Growth

# High Priority Project: Use updates

## Fish & Aquatic Life Use Updates

Temperature  
Dissolved Oxygen

- Correct and update aquatic life use designations based on the best available data
- Accurate application of the temperature and dissolved oxygen standards
- *In progress*

# High Priority Projects: Variances

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## Variance Procedures

- Clear procedures to evaluate and grant variances
- DEQ anticipates need for variances
- *In progress*

## Temperature Variances

- For dischargers who cannot feasibly meet permit limits based on temperature criteria
- *In progress*

# High Priority Projects: Toxics

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## Aquatic Life Toxics

- Update Oregon's aquatic life criteria
- Aquatic life protection

## Narrative Criterion

- Procedures to apply narrative toxics criterion
- Human health and aquatic life protection

# High Priority Projects

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## Biocriteria

- Procedures to apply the narrative biocriteria
- Aquatic life protection

# High Priority Projects

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## Excessive Aquatic Plant and Algal Growth

- Procedures to apply narrative criterion, and
- the chlorophyll-a action value
- Protect waters from impacts of nutrient loading

# High Priority Projects

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## Sedimentation

- Procedures to apply the narrative criterion pertaining to suspended and bedded sediment
- Aquatic life protection

# Additional projects included

## Ocean acidification

- Assist with assessment methodology; background research

## Marine dissolved oxygen

- Assist with assessment methodology;
- background research

## pH

- Review the pH criteria for the Crooked River

# Projects to be included *as time allows*

Toxics –  
human health criteria

- Compare Oregon criteria with updated EPA recommendations

Designated Use -  
constructed waterways

- Update uses for irrigation canals and drainage ditches

Antidegradation  
implementation

- Update Antidegradation implementation procedures

# Public Comment

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- Comments from 22 people or organizations
- Many supportive of our high priorities, or most of them
- Sampling of other comments received:
  - Do not spend time on variances
  - Sedimentation work should be lower priority
  - Concerns about ocean conditions
  - Correcting uses for irrigation canals should be high priority

# 2021–2024 Water Quality Standards Workplan: *Estimated Schedule*

Project	2021		2022				2023				2024	
	Jul-Sep	Oct-Dec	Jan-Mar	Apr-Jun	Jul-Sep	Oct-Dec	Jan-Mar	Apr-Jun	Jul-Sep	Oct-Dec	Jan-Mar	Apr-Jun
Update Fish and Aquatic Life Uses												
Aquatic Life Use Definition Clarifications												
pH for Crooked River												
Variance Procedures												
Variances and UAAs: temperature, other												→
Revise Aquatic Life Toxics Criteria												
Update Antidegradation IMD		As	time	allows								
Biocriteria Application Procedures												
Ocean Acidification & Hypoxia: assessment												
Toxics Narrative Criterion Procedures												
Excessive Growth Narrative Procedures												
Sedimentation Application Procedures												→
Background Human Health Toxics Criteria									As	time	allows	
Revise Uses for Constructed Waterways							As	time	allows			→

# Where to find more information

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Triennial Review information can be found on our website:  
<https://www.oregon.gov/deq/wq/Pages/Triennial-Review.aspx>

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# Questions?

