

Place-Based Water Planning Updates July – December 2019

Program and Place-Based Updates

- OWRD began scoping a project to assess water planning needs across Oregon and evaluate the place-based planning approach
- Learning Partnership gathering, supported by the Ford Family Foundation, held in September in Newport to support peer-to-peer learning between the four planning groups.
- Planning Step 5 Guidance presented to the Water Resources Commission for their review.
- [Second webinar](#) on the Northwest Climate Toolbox hosted by the Climate Impacts Research Consortium (CIRC).
- Places invited to present at Water Vision community conversations and participate in interviews.



Harney Basin

Conveners: Harney County Court & Watershed Council
OWRD Grant: \$300,000 Other Funding (to-date): \$331,234

Planning Steps 2/3/4

- Meetings of the Collaborative held in July, August, September, October, November and December.
- New project manager hired.
- One consensus decision reached to pursue funding for smart meters.
- Results from OSU survey to domestic well owners (574 responses = 47% response rate) completed.
- Continued progress reviewing and refining proposed Step 4 strategies.
- Two work groups met to improve draft summaries of water data/information – 4 meetings in total.

More information: Contact Holly Mondo at 805-801-6013 || holly@hcwatershedcouncil.com

Upper Grande Ronde Sub-Basin

Convener: Union County
OWRD Grant: \$242,000 Other Funding (to-date): \$10,000

Planning Step 4

- Stakeholder meetings held in July, September, November, and December.
- Continued work to solicit input and feedback on Step 4 strategies and solutions.
- Outreach to the Union County Farm Bureau and the Grand Ronde Model Watershed at their annual meetings.

More information: Contact Scott Hartell at 541-963-1014 || shartell@union-county.org

WEB: <http://union-county.org/planning/place-based-integrated-water-resources-planning/>

Lower John Day Sub-Basin

Convener: Gilliam SWCD & Wheeler SWCD
OWRD Grant: \$239,000 Other Funding (to-date): \$10,000

Planning Step 3/4

- Meetings held in August, September, October, and December.
- Public comment opportunity for the draft of Step 3 *Integrated Water Resource Needs and Vulnerabilities Report*. Public comments reviewed and incorporated.
- Continued work to refine understanding of critical issues and goals from Steps 2 and 3.
- Initial brainstorming of strategies and solutions for Step 4.

More information: Contact Herb Winters at 541-384-2672 x110 || gilliamswcd@gmail.com

WEB: <https://www.lowerjohndaypbp.com/>

Mid-Coast Region

Conveners: City of Newport, OWRD, Seal Rock Water District, Gibson Farms
OWRD Grant: \$300,000 Other Funding (to-date): \$405,000

Planning Step 3

- Partnership meeting, hosted by the Confederated Tribes of the Siletz Indians, held in September.
- Field tour of the Beaver Creek watershed held in August. See the video [here](#).
- Local Planning Coordinator hired.
- Work by three working groups (municipal/district supplied, self-supplied, instream/ecology) to develop and refine problem/issue statements based on Steps 2 and 3.

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Helping Oregonians plan for their current and future instream and out-of-stream water needs

Place-based integrated water resources planning is one of the recommended actions from the 2012 and 2017 [Integrated Water Resources Strategy \(IWRS\)](#). It provides an opportunity for places to work collaboratively, in partnership with the state, to understand their water resources challenges and needs, and identify strategies and actions to meet those needs. The [DRAFT planning guidelines](#) describe the five steps and key planning principles central to any place-based integrated water resources planning effort.

Planning Step 1

Build a collaborative and inclusive process – Conveners assemble partners representing a balance of interests, including state agencies, and work with partners to: create a governance agreement that describes how the partners will collaborate and make decisions using consensus; develop a communication and outreach strategy to ensure an open and inclusive process that fosters public participation; and develop a work plan outlining how the group will execute Planning Steps 2-5.

Planning Step 2

Gather information to develop a shared understanding of current water resources and identify gaps – The planning group assesses and describes water resources in the planning area, looking at water quantity, quality, and ecology. This effort includes collecting and synthesizing existing information, identifying any gaps in knowledge, and developing strategies to fill these gaps.

Planning Step 3

Examine current and future water needs/demands and vulnerabilities for people, the economy, and the environment – The group identifies and prioritizes current and future instream and out-of-stream water needs/demands using an integrated approach. Groups also examine water challenges and vulnerabilities, such as how climate change may affect water resources and the ability to meet water needs.

Planning Step 4

Identify and prioritize strategic, integrated solutions to meet multiple instream and out-of-stream water needs – The group collaboratively identifies a long-term strategy and near-term recommended actions to address the instream and out-of-stream issues and needs identified in Steps 2-3. Consensus-based strategies and actions are captured in a plan.

Planning Step 5

Approve and implement a place-based integrated water resources plan – The group approves the plan and develops more detailed strategies to implement actions. The Water Resources Commission and other agencies will have an opportunity to formally recognize the plan, based on whether it is consistent with the IWRS, the guidelines, and state water policy.

Key Planning Principles

- Locally-initiated and led collaborative effort
- Voluntary, non-regulatory process
- Includes a balanced representation of water interests
- Conducted in partnership with the state
- Balances current and future instream and out-of-stream needs
- Looks at water quantity, quality and ecosystem needs in an integrated approach
- Utilizes an open and transparent process that fosters public participation
- Builds on and integrates existing studies and plans
- Does not infringe on existing water rights
- Adheres to IWRS principles and state laws

Learn More!

Visit the web page: <https://go.usa.gov/xV5f4> Email: wrd_dl_placebasedplanning@oregon.gov
Contact Planning Coordinators [Harmony Burrignt](#) (503-986-0913) or [Steven Parrett](#) (503-986-0914)