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## Integrated Water Resources Strategy Comments

February 4, 2010 – May 26, 2010

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Audrey Eldridge (Citizen)
February 18, 2010 (email)
Subject: Quick comment on Goal 1 Objective 2, etc

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**From the Preliminary Workplan** http://www1.wrd.state.or.us/pdfs/2_12_10_Briefer.pdf

- Objective #2: Improve understanding of Oregon's *out-of stream* (consumptive) needs: Economic development, public health and safety, cultural needs

  This seems to indicate that only surface water provides water for these 'needs'. I highly recommend that an more 'integrated' approach would allow for an improved understanding of Oregon consumptive needs relying on both groundwater and surface water.

- Another comment: One could read the intent of using *in-stream* several times in this document to define 'needs' indicates that the main purpose of groundwater is to supply baseflow to surface water. I do not believe this is the Committee's intent. When more than 400,000 Oregonians get their drinking water from private wells, and approximately 70% of Oregon's population relies on groundwater for drinking water, I think the groundwater resource needs to be recognized for all of its uses. I recommend the term 'in-stream' and 'out-of stream' be replaced or eliminated.

Thanks for this opportunity to comment!
Audrey Eldridge
DEQ
541-776-6029

Cyndi Karp (Citizen)
February 22, 2010 (email)
Subject: Water Quality 85,000 Chemicals

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When is the State of Oregon going to Start a Comprehensive Water Testing Program for the 85,000 Chemicals currently in use?

When is a Joint Partnership of Cooperation to Understand the Human Affects of Man Made Chemicals on the Earth and All of Earth's Inhabitants going to happen?

When is a Permanent Funding Source for Water Quality Research going to be found? Most Everything Drinks Water. There has to be a way to make this issue important enough find a Funding Source somewhere. Water should be a high priority.

How much Taxpayer money has been spent to save Fish?

How do we know what is causing the decline in Fish, if there isn't Comprehensive Water Quality Testing by Sub-Watershed for Chemicals?

Gravity works and all Sub-Watershed's End at a Nearshore and Flow into One Watershed called the Ocean. Everything Affects the Whole.

What happens in all Columbia River Sub-Watershed's in Oregon, Canada, Washington, Idaho, Utah, and California affects the immediate Oregon/Washington Columbia River Nearshore Plume. Does it effect the whole Ocean system? The Answer is Yes. The effects are accumulative. Then you add all of the other Stress Factors on Fish. I am amazed that there are any fish to eat.

What does the 85,000 Chemicals in the Environment Do to the Earths' Ecosystem?

Are Migrating Fish eating Plastic in the Ocean Ecosystem?

Is there anybody cutting fish guts open to see what is inside?

Can Man Kind Save Themselves From Themselves?

How can the Exponential Human Population Explosion be Averted Kindly? See it is this Scientific Math Thing.

These are the kind of Scientific Questions that keep me up at Night thinking. But, I am not the only one.

Thank you for your consideration of this important Earth Issues.

Cyndi Karp

Janice Green (Citizen)
March 3, 2010 (email)
Subject: Fostering Beavers—WRD Strategy

---

Dear Ms. Bateman:

This is the e-mail that I promised so that you would have something written to remind you that we conversed about the importance of Oregon's beaver to our future water strategy. Our understanding is that you are drafting up a document that may eventually underpin a formal state policy approved by the WRD's board.

We just wanted to point out that there is much research concluding that healthy beaver populations in headwaters improve the water harvest from a drainage. So we are hoping that a state water policy will address the advisability of investing in healthy beaver populations, both through protection and through direct action by establishing habitat for such populations where they have declined from historical levels and could be restored.

Our watershed council (Partnership for the Umpqua Rivers), along with ODFW and many other agencies, recently hosted an extensive conference on beavers with many experts drawn in to survey aspects of "The State of the Beaver." It seemed obvious to the participants that everybody realizes that we need to increase beaver to have more productive watersheds. However, it was also obvious to many that this is a knowledge which is not leading to sufficient action. "What is holding us up?" was the question enunciated openly at the conference. Good question.

We would like to ask that you consider directly addressing the issue of beaver in your plan. Strategies might be better protection through legislation, grant programs to fund habitat restoration specifically directed to beaver, and assistance with the cost of professional personnel to work on the problems of restoration. (ODFW apparently cannot afford a beaver biologist, for instance. The funds for one small dam would pay for a beaver biologist into perpetuity, and probably yield more water for the state per dollar spent.) And I am sure there would be many other suggestions if the right people were asked.

If you have questions about the technical literature or contacts within the beaver world, I would point you to DeWaine Jackson, a biologist at the SW Oregon ODFW offices in Roseburg, or Stan Petrowski, President of PUR, who could direct you to scientific participants in the conference.

Thank you.

Janice Green

Roger Bachman (Citizen)
March 23, 2010 (email)
Subject: Need vs. Demand

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The initial planning for this strategy used demand interchangeably with need. It began by asking major water users to forecast their demand. That was a terrible mistake. We should take the time to figure out how much water we will need in the future, considering conservation and the limited opportunities for additional storage.

Roger Bachman
Former member, Water Resources Commission

Tammie Murray (Citizen)
March 26, 2010 (email)
Subject: Remove Junk/Human caused Silt from Streams

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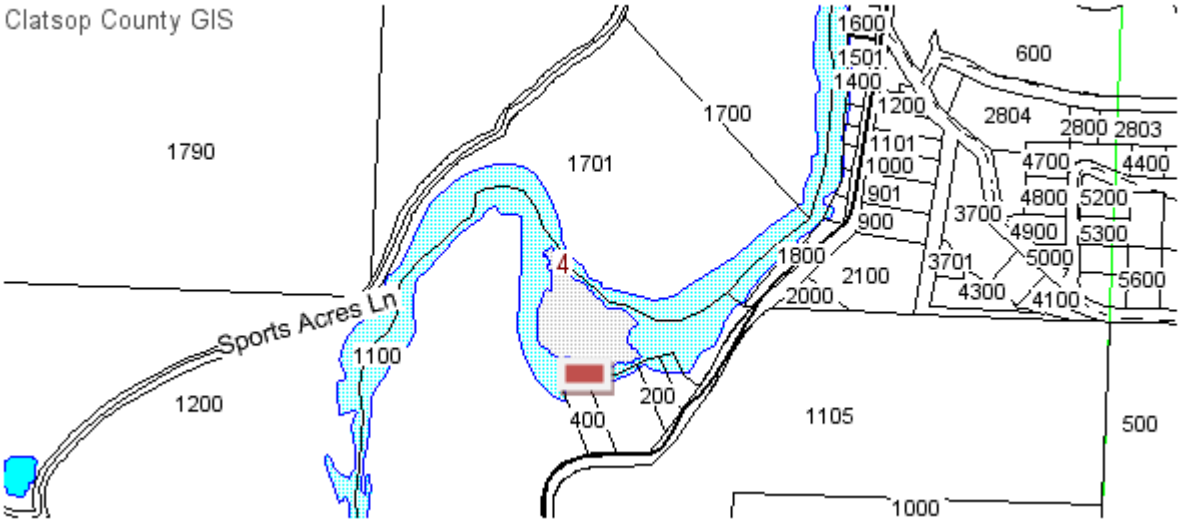
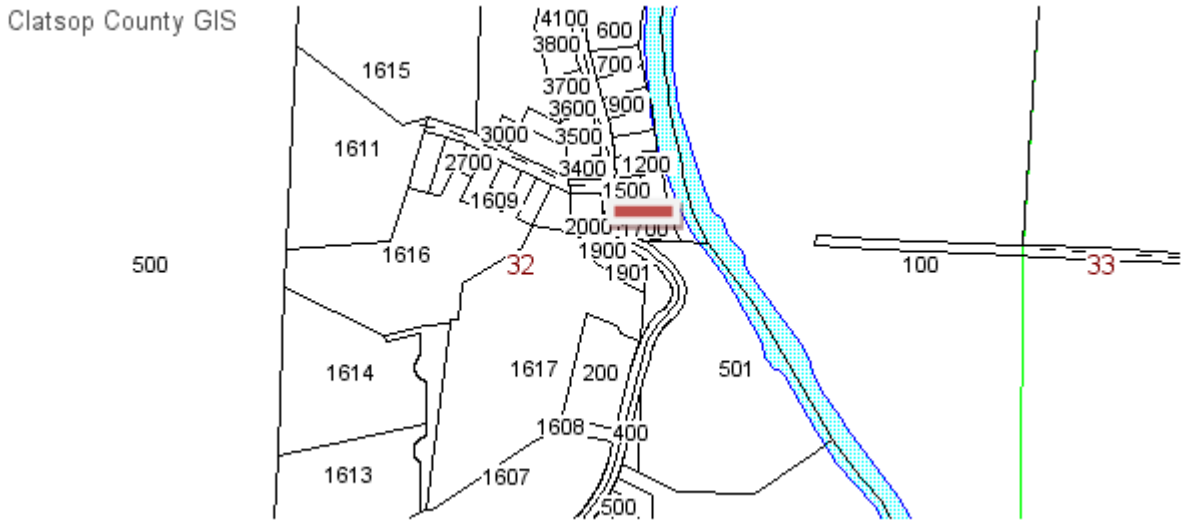
TO: Brenda Bateman, Project Manager
Christine Svetkovich, DEQ
Bruce McIntosh & Rick Kepler, ODFW
Ray Jaindl & Brent Searle, ODA
Alyssa Mucken, Policy Coordinator
Ken Stahr, Science Coordinator
Ryan Vanden Brink, Policy Intern

RE: Integrated Water Resources Strategy
Plan to remove visual junk from streams & require unauthorized road construction operator to clean up creek stream




Red square <u>above</u> indicates junk car in the Nehalem River. This car floated into the river during the 1996 flood and no agencies have abated as yet.
Are problems such as these going to be addressed during the planning stages?

Red square <u>below</u> indicates unauthorized road construction runoff from upstream property owner that has filled this creek bed with feet of clay slit which is clogging the natural flow of creek water. In turn this creek empties into the Nehalem River carrying that slit into the confluence of the river.




T.L. Murray
Nehalem River Valley
Jewell/Elsie, Oregon

David S. Davies (Citizen)
March 31, 2010 (email)
Subject: Water Strategy for Oregon

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I would urge the State:

To adopt instream water rights on all stream reaches in the state.

To protect peak and ecological stream flows before allowing new storage projects.

To protect more Oregon streams through scenic waterway designation.

To require measurement of all diversions in the state.

To require water use efficiency standards for all municipalities.

To protect groundwater resources that feed Oregon's rivers and steams.

To require permitting of exempt wells in groundwater limited areas.

Thanks for your consideration.

David S Davies

As one of only two western states without an explicit water supply strategy Oregon has the opportunity to learn from others and develop a nimble strategy that can evolve over time. With climate change and population growth, Oregon's seemingly abundant water resources and quality, both above ground and below ground, will be under increasing stress. Water quality and scarcity present real challenges not only to our natural environment but also to the health, welfare and quality of life that our citizens have come to expect and demand. As a result, OAWU fully supports the development of a Statewide Integrated Water Resources Strategy that recognizes the important roles that we play as stewards of the environment, as catalysts for economic development, as providers of drinking water to a large percentage of our state's citizens and businesses, and as water treatment providers.

- In order to pull together a meaningful and comprehensive integrated water resources strategy that is nimble and adaptive, state agencies need to review their existing data, determine whether that data is relevant and accurate and identify existing data gaps that will give a better picture of Oregon's water status as it stands today. Decisions in the future about Oregon's water resources need to be based on solid data-based evidence rather than on policy whims and political score-cards.
- We don't know how much water currently exists in each basin, or for that matter, many sub-basins. It will be critical for the state, in order to develop a truly comprehensive water strategy, to begin measuring how much each basin produces, how much of that water is currently being used (whether in-stream or out-of-stream) and determine how much water is needed to meet those sometimes competing needs.
- An integrated water resource strategy should recognize the importance water has to the economic well-being of the state. It should provide policy makers and the public quantifiable and reliable data on how water impacts, not just agriculture and forestry, but also high tech, manufacturing and other important economic clusters that the state's economic well-being is reliant upon.
- Clean and reliable drinking water must be considered a public health matter. Furthermore, municipal water suppliers have to plan for water demands decades into the future and secure the necessary access to meet those demands in the future. We do not have the ability to refuse service to those who demand water in our service areas. The strategy MUST recognize this.
- The strategy should look to the development of additional water supplies and that maximum beneficial use be promoted in a manner that best protects and promotes the public welfare.
- With global climate change and population growth, Oregon will need to develop greater storage capacity in the future to capture altered precipitation patterns and timing.
- New and creative solutions need to be encouraged to assist everyone in addressing water quality and quantity. Water providers should be given some flexibility in meeting their citizen's water demands for the future. For example, entities within a region should be encouraged to work together to find solutions to commonly shared water resource challenges.
- Oppose efforts to apply ecological flow protections beyond existing state funded storage projects. Until we know what those protections will be, this could severely limit or even eliminate the ability of water providers to use some winter flows for storage purposes.

Cyndi Karp (Citizen)
April 12, 2010 (email)
Subject: IWRS Advisory Meeting 4.14.2010

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Hi Brenda,

I am sorry that I will not be able to attend the meeting on April 14, 2010.

I would like to encourage the IWRS Policy Advisory Group to include in the discussion on April 14, 2010 the Lack of Data about Oregon Water Quality.

There are 85,000 plus chemicals that can contaminate Oregon Water Resources.

Does any Oregon Agency currently test Oregon waters for the presents of all known chemicals in water samples around Oregon?

What is in the water Oregon Citizen's are drinking or expelling from the sewer systems for down stream users to drink?

What is the current quality of the water that Human's Drink and Fish live in?

Are there prescription drugs in Oregon's drinking water and watersheds? If there is, what can Oregon do about the problem?

What affect are chemicals having on Human's, Fish and Wildlife?

Oregon must achieve a Comprehensive Understanding of Human's Affects to all Oregon Watershed's and Inhabitants. Only through extensive testing of many sources of Oregon waters is a comprehensive picture of the True Environmental Conditions going to become Scientifically Apparent.

All waters lead to Oregon's Estuaries, Nearshore and Ocean, what is the accumulated affect to them?.

What are the full impacts of Human's to Oregon Water Resources?

What are the most important issues and lack of data within Oregon Water Resources?

The Policy Advisory Group has very important work to get done. The Groups work is going to be critical to the future of all Oregonians.

Thank you for your time and consideration of these important issues to Oregon.

Cyndi Karp
Waldport, Oregon

April 23, 2010

RECEIVED
APR 27 2010
WATER RESOURCES DEPT
SALEM, OREGON

Oregon Water Resources Department
Integrated Water Resources Strategy
725 Summer St., NE, Suite A
Salem, OR 97301-1266

Subject: Composting Toilets

Gentlemen:

Yesterday I attended the earlier of the two public meetings you folks held in Bandon in your effort to identify over-arching concerns re Oregon's water resources. But between my own shyness and the cranberry growers' issues dominating the meeting, I hesitated to offer what I see as embodying a Problem, a Solution, and a Vision. It's definitely not a real glamorous subject but, over time, I think my suggestion would benefit ALL users of Oregon's water, from high inland deserts to the ocean fishing grounds.

I serve on both the Bandon Water Resources Committee and the current Langlois Drinking Water effort. Thus I am aware that many municipalities see their water service as a cash cow, and I hear a lot about septic systems and water treatment plants, but never do I hear anything about composting toilets. OK, even Oregonians probably aren't ready for the British slogan, "Pee in a bottle, shower with a friend," but the whole notion of composting is now so much a part of the American vocabulary that I really don't think it would be that much of a stretch to merge the two issues of water protection and human waste management.

You already know all the problems attendant to the handling of human waste, but I would ask you to please consider my argument that now is the time to start encouraging Oregonians to begin switching over to composting toilets.

Such a change would:

(1) Greatly and continually(!) reduce water extraction.
(2) Proportionately reduce both costly energy and chemicals needed for water treatment. (We do, after all, combine our toilet water with our drinking water.)
(3) Reduce the energy needed to deliver that water to the household.
(4) Reduce the energy needed to deliver the waste water to a waste treatment plant.
(5) Reduce the energy and expense of treating and then releasing that water.
(6) Improve local soil quality.
(7) Significantly mitigate a very real public health problem should peak oil turn out to be more than a bitterly argued theory.

In other words, we're talking about amazingly inexpensive water resource protection, health protection and soil improvement with very measurable cost and energy savings -- not to mention terrific press for Oregon. (That's the "Vision" part.)

Therefore may I suggest that the State of Oregon;

(1) Actually start talking out loud about human waste and its many coincident problems.
(2) To give folks an idea of what these things even are, start setting up a couple of

composting toilets of differing designs (along with literature and feedback cards) wherever people gather. Ex: athletic events, trade shows, environmental centers, county fairs, the "Welcome to Oregon" highway information centers and state highway rest stops, the larger campgrounds like Bullards Beach, etc. Some private businesses just might request either discounted toilets and/or plans for building one as a way of generating a word-of-mouth buzz for their businesses. (I'm thinking of food co-ops, restaurants, taverns and the like.)

(3) Announce a statewide contest in the high schools for the best composting toilet design. Cash prize, tons of publicity -- and limitless opportunities for high school humor!

(4) Provide tax incentives for replacing conventional toilets with composters.

(5) Provide tax incentives for designing them into new structures.

Once upon a time, recycling was considered "edgy," but now it's just part of everyday life. Well, it seems to me that composting toilets' day has come and that it's time to take advantage of the quiet, invisible miracles these things can accomplish. So if you're looking for a water resources campaign that really, truly does affect every region of the state, my vote goes to replacing as many as possible of our endlessly, incessantly, 24/7 water-guzzling conventional toilets with simple, cheap, eco-friendly composting toilets.

Thank you for listening.

Sincerely,

Patricia Armstrong

Clatsop Soil and Water Conservation District
Dave Ambrose
April 28, 2010 (email)
Subject: Comments for plan

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Hello Brenda:

Thanks for calling on Tuesday about the Water Resources Strategy Open House.

Below are some comments and observations for Clatsop County.

Competing interests-
Our second and third towns (population-wise) in Clatsop County utilize surface water from two different watersheds for their municipal supply. Because neither has ownership or control over the watershed lands from which surface water is drawn, water quality is an issue. Watershed ownership is largely in the hands of industrial timber companies focusing on timber production and secondarily on water quality concerns. This observation, of course, is an assumption I make. Perhaps spokespeople of the timber companies will also state their priorities.
The three largest towns draw surface water from three distinct watersheds. Summer flows in these watersheds is naturally much less than during the winter rainy season. Water demands because of increased summer residency puts more stress on the watersheds. All this leaves even less water for the fish species dependent on some flow through summer months for survival. One municipality, for instance, has water rights to more than 100% of the summer flow of its watershed supply. The municipalities have worked together on a look into the future. And, to their credit, they have been building storage capacity to take advantage of large winter flows to buffer summer usage.

Because of the devastating winter storm of December 2007, our forests have been heavily impacted. And the consequences of acres of downed trees has spread to the watercourses. Increased bedload means more flooding and a more actively erosive riverflow. Downed trees moving in the river system are creating new gravel bars and shifting river flow towards previously stable banks.

Another issue is the disposal of biosolids from wastewater treatment plants. A new initiative by one of the municipalities to spread biosolids in flood -prone areas of one watershed has gotten downstream landowners very concerned. There is a new organic produce enterprise starting up just downstream of the proposed disposal site. A big gray area is whether pharmaceuticals and home health care products are in the biosolids and if so what their effect might be.

Moving forward
I would hope that the Water Resources Strategy would include some assistance to water supply entities to build more storage. I hope that research will continue to determine where pharmaceuticals and home health care products are ending up in the wastewater stream.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Dave Ambrose
CSWCD
503-325-4571

Bruce Johnson
April 29, 2010 (email)
Subject: Inquiry

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4.29.2010

Regarding the proposed integrated water management strategy, would the implementation of this policy affect the permit application process for new wells and water right permits in terms of interagency reviews? Would the current timeframes for the issuance of new permits or amendments be shortened or extended under a new policy?

Thanks for your response.

Bruce Johnson

Hugh McMahon
May 26, 2010
RE: Integrated Water Resources Strategy (IWRS): Issue Paper Comments

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**Members of the IWRS Policy Advisory Group:**

Since I was unable to attend any of the open houses conveniently, please find below my thoughts and comments about the process and the issues.

The Project Team has done an amazing job of scoping out the process for getting to a final IWRS to present to the Water Resources Commission in 2012! I am commenting from the perspective of an unaffiliated citizen (i.e. not a member of a stakeholder group), and as such, I have a concern about **Public Input.** I found out about the IWRS from an incidental e-mail from a fellow member of the Hood River County Water Resources Steering Committee. (I am an at-large member. The views in this commentary are my own personal views and in no way represent or speak, in any capacity, for Hood River County's WRSC.) It is clear from the IWRS website documents that stakeholders with a specific interest in water, for example, in stream flow (FreshWater Trust) and advocating/protecting agricultural water rights (Water for Life), are engaged and involved in the process. However, I am concerned that the general, unaffiliated public will be under-represented and I believe that the more input from the general public the better. From your e-mails, I am aware of the open houses that have been held and are being held around the state, however, I have seen nothing in the papers or other news media informing Oregonians that this process is going on. My comment does not mean that efforts have not been made to inform the public at large of this effort, only that I am not aware of them. I hope my concerns are unwarranted and that the general public has been well-represented at the open houses and by the online surveys.

The 2009 Legislature is to be congratulated for initiating the IWRS! The Project Team and associated staff have done an incredible job of documenting the mind-boggling scope of the inter-relationships and challenges of this project. The Issue Papers are awesome! They are well-written, thoughtful and encompassing. I was particularly pleased to see Water Quality, Climate Change, and Social Issues included and was ecstatic to find **Ecology and Ecosystems**! Of them all, in my opinion, this issue should be the "guiding light" for the IRWS.

An expansion: "**Integrated**" has been defined in this project as "taking into consideration water quantity, water quality, and ecological needs during the formation of water resource policy and scientific work." However, I think this basic definition should be expanded to consider and foster "integration" between 1) all user groups, 2) all uses, and 3) all agencies (county, inter and intra state, federal and tribes). In reading the Issue Papers, I think this was certainly implied but not articulated. This conceptual expansion is important for the success of the IWRS and is reflected in some of my comments below.

In keeping with the critical concept of "Integration," and if we are to survive, it is time for Oregonians (and the rest of the planet for that matter) to change our paradigm from

economics to **ecology: making economics secondary to ecology and making decisions on the basis of what is best for the entire ecosystem**. The writers of the "Ecology and Ecosystems Issue Paper" clearly recognize this, but do not state it emphatically enough! I have been encouraged over the years to see ecology being actually incorporated into policy, for example "instream" water rights. In the "Benefits of Integrating Ecology into Water Resources Planning," only flow and salmon protection are mentioned. There is another major item that needs to be dealt with here by the IWRS (WRD and ODF): For the water purification and carbon sink capabilities of our forests (just to mention two of their "ecological services"), the Oregon Forest Practices Act should be amended to make clear-cutting illegal on all forest lands! Clear-cutting is a perfect example of NOT putting ecology ahead of economics: a short-term economic gain for a logging company vs. the long-term sustainability of us all! As hard as it is to quantify in dollars at the present time, as part of the IWRS, research should be done to establish a reasonable dollar value for the water purification services provided by our forests, so that these numbers can be included in any and all EISs, land appraisals, transactions and decisions over land uses and water supplies. This line item will give the forests their due and heighten awareness of this critical function. Hopefully someday these line-items for environmental services will be automatically included. Additionally, ecological consequences should be just as strong a driver of policy as federal and state regulations.

Under the Key Challenges section of Issue 2, Water Quality, I would add ASAP clean-up of the **Hanford Nuclear Reservation**. This will, obviously, involve integration with federal and Washington state agencies. You can't pump Columbia River water into the Umatilla Basin Aquifer for replenishment if the water is radioactive!

I would give three subjects mentioned in the Issue Papers their own **Issue status: Water Law, Conservation, and Funding**. Given the role and importance of these topics in the overall effort and challenge, I believe this emphasis is necessary for a successful IWRS:

**"Issue 8": Oregon Water Law.** Water law (by which I mean the ORS, the OAR, and the WRD policies) is a very complex and contentious subject and there are hundreds of people who, by necessity and profession, are more knowledgeable than I. However, from my perspective, I have the following comments:

Attachment 1, Preliminary Work Plan, B, Intention: "The intention is not to overhaul Oregon water law or water quality laws. Nor is the intention to lay out a plan that re-allocates water." I certainly understand the political expediency of this statement, however, given the seriousness of the challenge, **I would emphatically assert that a thorough review of Oregon's water laws, with the possibility of change, must be a part of this process.** If not, the IWRS's chance of success in the long run will be considerably handicapped, or, at worst, necessary substantive change will be prevented and inequities and inefficiencies perpetuated. "…if incremental statutory modifications are identified… the Department will forward such recommendations to the Legislature." To me, this seems to open the door for the IWRS project to include Oregon water laws within its purview. Below I have discussed some areas in which I think water law might be changed:

Water belongs to all Oregonians, BUT granting a water right solely for a generic "beneficial purpose without waste" means the holder "owner" of the water right can do whatever they want with the water, including selling it to a for-profit entity. This amounts to privatization of a public resource. It would seem logical that "beneficial use" should be defined based on how the individual or municipality with the water right is themselves using the water for their actual direct "beneficial use," i.e. irrigation of crops, drinking water, etc. A case in point is the current proposal for a Nestlé's bottling plant in Cascade Locks: If the trial raising trout on city well water is successful, and after a transfer of an ODFW spring water right, the City of Cascade Locks may sell "their" municipal water to Nestlé for a minimal amount - "no more than they charge any commercial local account." Nestlé in turn will sell the water far afield for a huge profit – an extractive, consumptive use that does not return to the local water table or basin or economy its true worth. Is this appropriate or fair with a resource that belongs to the people of Oregon? It would seem that our water law should deal with this inequity.

After 101 years, I raise a heretical question: is "Senior Right," "first come, first served" a valid concept in today's complex, over-populated, climate-challenged Oregon? I am referring to extreme cases where the senior upstream water right holder has an abundance while the downstream holder is starving. Rather than a system that looks only at a generic "beneficial use" of withdrawal, should we not be looking at the impact of a withdrawal on the entire system? The hydrologic cycle and distribution of water is a function of climate and geology/geography; who owns the land or got there first is irrelevant to the cycle. However, what one does on their property can alter the cycle: improperly cased wells creating flows from one aquifer to another, drying up streams, a neighbor's well, etc. Our water law should deal with water in toto.

There are some very generous exemptions in our water law that do not require a water right. These should be reviewed and made more appropriate for our current situation and into the future. For example, the 15,000 gallon per day exemption for a domestic well is way more generous than actually needed. Given what is happening in the Willamette Valley, perhaps domestic wells should not be exempt.

Perhaps there are areas of water law that should be rewritten to reflect multi-level integration (water, uses, users, agencies) and if amended or changed would foster and make possible easier interaction and help remove "institutional, legal, and policy barriers" and "coordination difficulties and conflicts."

It would seem appropriate to remove, for conflict-of-interest, the Dept. of Agriculture and the Dept. of Forestry from the responsibility for water quality protection on their respective lands and return it to the DEQ.

To foster the "Foundation of Data," other considerations for water law might include increased requirements for actual meter measurement of water usage rather than the current essentially unmonitored "honor system." If they don't now, well construction standards might include the requirement for a water level monitoring port on all wells so that in the future if it were determined that GW levels and quality at that location needed to be monitored, they easily could. The purview of the WRD might be expanded to include mandates regarding dispersal technology.

Reading Rick Bastasch's Waters of Oregon (c.1998), raised in my mind some other areas of water law that might be considered for change, if not already done:

- A "beneficial use" is one of the tenets of water law to determine if a water right is necessary. If a quarry just wants to pump groundwater out, there is no beneficial use, therefore no water right is required. This in spite of the fact that removing water from the quarry may lower levels in nearby streams and wells. Water law should encompass all man-made movement of water, whether a "beneficial use" is involved or not.
- More specifically define in Oregon's water law exactly what the "public interest/public welfare/public benefit" is so that it can have a more definitive role in making decisions.
- There is a public trust doctrine in Oregon law, but no court has apparently defined its relationship to Oregon water rights.

**"Issue 9": Conservation.** I found the word "conservation" mentioned only three times in the Issues Papers. To me this issue should be a very critical component for a successful IWRS and warrants a chapter of its own describing a task force, etc., dedicated to finding and implementing, by law if necessary, ways of conserving in all areas: agriculture, business, domestic, municipal, etc.

**"Issue 10": Funding.** Almost all of the issue papers mentioned underfunding or getting funded as a problem for accomplishing their goals, which will be especially difficult in this economy. The key "strategy" of the IWRS should be how to obtain adequate funding from the legislature for these ultra critical tasks, thus its own status as an Issue! Given "Building on a Foundation of Data," the following come especially to my mind for being fully funded: 1) a statewide, on-going groundwater quality and quantity monitoring program (not just in the GWMAs), 2) the Climate Change Research Institute, and 3) hiring more hydrogeologists to do more hydrogeology research, especially GW. Funding for enforcement and compliance monitoring will be important.

It is relatively easy to provide comments and ideas and I thank you for the opportunity to share them. Real kudos go to the Project Team and the Advisory Groups who have the tough job of putting it all together so that it will work! I will be following the progress of the IWRS with great interest and enthusiasm. Keep up the excellent work!

Hugh B. McMahan

Anne MacDonald (Citizen)
February 22, 2010

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1. Describe the organization you represent and its interest in an Integrated Water Resources Strategy for Oregon.

> I work for an environmental consulting firm that provides a wide range of water resources analyses and solutions for government and private clients, including stream restoration, permitting, water supply evaluation, ASR, impoundment design.

2. We are seeking the widest possible input on this strategy from all interested parties throughout the State. How do you think we can best do this?

> This should be of interest to every Oregonian. Continue to publicize the work through trade/industry/government/environmental organizations, prepare op-ed pieces for the major newspapers. Resist the temptation to cloak this in climate change language so as not to get the climate change naysayers immediately opposed. (You can't fight the irrational with rational arguments.)

3. Are there particular approaches that you have used or seen in planning processes that we should use as well? (e.g., use of a SWOT strength-weakness-opportunities-threats assessment, or other specific process). Which, in your view, are processes that work well and which are not?

4. How formal should this process be, in terms of advisory or technical groups?

> I think you've already got a fine technical panel (I know almost all of them well). Use them. Keep them engaged. Only thing you're missing is the riparian ecology (though all on the panel are pretty good at that, it won't be at the top of their mind). This is incredibly valuable habitat for the stream system, but made up of phreatophytic vegetation that "competes" for instream water.

5. What do you think about piggybacking this process onto already existing events, activities, or opportunities? For instance, when is your annual organization or association meeting and could a water resources discussion with interested members be held in conjunction with the event?

> The more (consistent) voices out there the better! It would be helpful to bring a slant to the discussion that fits with the mission of the organization. For instance, work with Janine Castro and me to get this to the River Restoration Northwest conference at Skamania Lodge next February -- but bring a slant on how our audience can use/assist with the development of technical information or policy. Bring this to ACWA (Oregon Association of Clean Water Agencies) with a slant of how WWTP effluent can be appropriately re-used to maintain streamflows/water quality, etc.

6. What are your main concerns about the process of water resource planning, or are there potential obstacles/deal breakers we should keep in mind?

> My primary concerns are how long it takes to get basins fully adjudicated, how great the associated transaction costs are, and how many opportunities may be lost waiting for this to happen. I would hope that the integrated strategy might be able to make this move more quickly.

7. Would the organization that you represent be willing to participate in the planning and development process of Oregon's Integrated Water Resources Strategy? In what way?

> Absolutely -- at a minimum, by helping to explain this to our clients. Potentially providing additional (pro bono) technical expertise in hydrogeology, fluvial geomorphology, water resources engineering, and aquatic and riparian ecology.

Cyndi Karp (Citizen)
February 22, 2010

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1. Describe the organization you represent and its interest in an Integrated Water Resources Strategy for Oregon.

> Community Economics, Watershed, Nearshore, Fishermen, Recreational, Scientific, Ocean, Wildlife and Citizen's.
>
> Helping All Parties to Work Together Finding Common Goals for the Benefit of All Citizen's and Species to have Clean Water to Drink and Live In. All Wildlife Species are Indicator Species for Humans.

2. We are seeking the widest possible input on this strategy from all interested parties throughout the State. How do you think we can best do this?

> The Best Strategy is Water Quality for the Whole Ecosystem. Almost All Life on Earth Depends on having Good Quality Water. When is the State of Oregon and the Federal Government going to do Comprehensive Water Analyze for the 85,000 Chemicals currently in the Environment? What are the 85,000 Chemicals doing to the Earth and all of the species? Could Chemical Contamination be any of the cause of Extreme Weather Events or Species Extinction?

3. Are there particular approaches that you have used or seen in planning processes that we should use as well? (e.g., use of a SWOT strength-weakness-opportunities-threats assessment, or other specific process). Which, in your view, are processes that work well and which are not?

> When Non-Profit Councils have meetings, All Attendees get a Voice, if on Agenda. If Old or New Business comes up, the Subject is allowed for a brief amount of time.
>
> If People have taken the time to come to a meeting, They should be allowed to be included in the Process. We Treat Our Invited Guests with Curiosity and Let Them Engage in the Process as the Process Happens. The Index Card System for all Participants, including Committee Members and All Attendees. One thing that I don't like about the Index Card System is the Cards are Easily Disposed in the Trash. How do the Participants know that the Hand Written Card is going to be Counted? Only through a Transparent Process. I was in a Governors' Task Force meeting last week and saw several cards discarded. I understand that many times emails are just Deleted Unread. How should a Data Collection Process Function? What is Done with the Data after collected? How is the Data Used in the Process? It is Scientifically Important to Collect Relevant Data. When People are Invited to Meeting, they expect to participate in the process or they would not come. Why would most People Waste Their Time to Come to a Meeting just to be told to Stand in Line to Participate Only at the End with only a few getting a voice. I believe in Democracy. I will Stand Strongly on the Civil Right to Participate Fully in the Process. We must find Strategies and Methods to Let Democracy Work. Every One Must Be Vested in the Strategy to have Clean Quality Water. That is the Only Strategy that will Work for the Next Seven Generations. Every One Working Cooperatively Together To Find Consensus on Common Goals in all Forms of Government.

The Public Process of Governing A Democracy is Still in the Developmental Stages. This is a Difficult Job. The Human Population of the World is on an Exponential Growth Factor. All one has to do is the Math.

4. How formal should this process be, in terms of advisory or technical groups?

Formal and Scientific, yet leave room for Input. Building a Water Quality and Resources Strategy is going to need the Best Known Science Now. But, What Does Science Know Now? What has Science been Allowed to Studied the Last 50 years. If Scientist Don't Know Now, What is the Reason that Science knows so little now? Could it be because Funding Science has been Controlled by a Few that want a certain outcome? That is Bad Science. How you Fund Science is as important what Projects are Funded. How do you Fund Good Blind Study Scientific Project? Good Science needs Fair Long Term Financing for Analyze, Monitoring, Restoration, Prevention, Education, and Preparing the Public to Begin a New Beginning.

5. What do you think about piggybacking this process onto already existing events, activities, or opportunities?

For instance, when is your annual organization or association meeting and could a water resources discussion with interested members be held in conjunction with the event? Communication with the Public is Critical. When Citizen's come to a meeting they expect all Oregon Agencies affected by the meeting to be at the meeting. The Public doesn't understand that each Government Agency has a separate Web Site and information Processing System.

The State of Oregon needs to find ways for the Public to feel Confident that Government knows what it is doing. When ODFW has a Fish meeting, the Public assumes that the EPA, DEQ, Etc, State and Federal are on the same page at the same time at the same meeting. The Public in general understands the complexity of issues, but not the Government System.

There are several solutions that I see. Educate the Public to be Better Stewards of the Earth. The Public have to felt vested in the process or change will not happen. There are many avenues to Education. Remember that Education Begins at Birth and Ends at Death. There are no age limits on Education. It is the Constitutional Responsibility to Govern the People of the State of Oregon for the Benefit of All Citizen's and Species. A Clean Quality Water Strategy will go a long way towards Protecting the Next Seven Generations Future. Open Sourcing Information is critical to this process. Having a system to collect the Data and Information into a Use Able Format consistently through the Oregon Government System will help to create Trust with the Public. Oregonians Think about Oregon Government as One Unit. All parts knowing what other parts are doing. Is this concept of Government True?

6. What are your main concerns about the process of water resource planning, or are there potential obstacles/deal breakers we should keep in mind?

The Biggest Deal Maker or Breaker will be whether the State of Oregon can get the Public Vested in the Process. The Process must build confidence in the Government. Oregonians can own a share of what happens in the Future of Oregon. The General Public Must be Invited to Comment. The Web Site would be a good source of information. Thank you for having the Open Comment Period on Oregon's Water Resource Strategy.

7. Would the organization that you represent be willing to participate in the planning and development process of Oregon's Integrated Water Resources Strategy? In what way?

I have already began the participation. I sent out an email to inform others about the Survey Questions. I will continue to do so. There are many ways to ask for input. Water is one of the most important issues currently facing the future of Oregonians Next Seven Generations. What will the exponential population of Oregon be by then?

Rehm Geological
John Rehm
March 3, 2010

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1. Describe the organization you represent and its interest in an Integrated Water Resources Strategy for Oregon.

> Local consultant in Ground Water resources in Salem. Registered Geologist and Registered CWRE.

2. We are seeking the widest possible input on this strategy from all interested parties throughout the State. How do you think we can best do this?

> I saw your Information Flow Chart. You should send it to Jay Leno. Seriously, I cannot recommend other people other than consultants and perhaps some academics. OWRD legal staff has experience worth tapping.

3. Are there particular approaches that you have used or seen in planning processes that we should use as well? (e.g., use of a SWOT strength-weakness-opportunities-threats assessment, or other specific process). Which, in your view, are processes that work well and which are not?

> Sit downs with water right owners (mainly irrigators) in key areas (K Falls comes to mind, easily)

4. How formal should this process be, in terms of advisory or technical groups?

> Just have good people who have good reputations in relevant academic and water use fields.

5. What do you think about piggybacking this process onto already existing events, activities, or opportunities? For instance, when is your annual organization or association meeting and could a water resources discussion with interested members be held in conjunction with the event?

> Person to person contact, as in Question 3, would be best.

6. What are your main concerns about the process of water resource planning, or are there potential obstacles/deal breakers we should keep in mind?

> Your information route may not make way with water users who have been antagonized or politicized. Meeting with them (aka hard-bitten Republicans and head gate destroyers) in groups may invite confrontation. I think that the main resistance to cooperation is where interest-group interactions are easier.

7. Would the organization that you represent be willing to participate in the planning and development process of Oregon's Integrated Water Resources Strategy? In what way?

> I don't see a lot of hope for your process. Certain social elements fear change (see Question 6). I could see a flow chart process developed whereby you balance instream flow and quality needs versus irrigation requirements (and that is just looking at the problem simply). So far, I see talk vis-a-vis your handouts. I imagine that your first few meetings are going to be boring, at least to me. Keep me informed.

Cyndi Karp (Citizen)
March 13, 2010

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1. Describe the organization you represent and its interest in an Integrated Water Resources Strategy for Oregon.

I Represent Myself, Cyndi Karp. I have many interests in many fields of Science. All Citizen's should be interested in Water Resources. But, the Average Citizen Does Not Understand How Humans Affect the Watershed's. Education is the Answer.

2. We are seeking the widest possible input on this strategy from all interested parties throughout the State. How do you think we can best do this?

Developing a System of Open Communication with All Citizens'. When you invite People to a Public Meeting, the People that took the time to come, should be Received by a system that Listens and Addresses their concerns.

Collect History of the Watershed. The challenge is collecting History with Integrity and Transparency. All sides of the story must be collected and included.

Only by understanding History, can People learn from the Successes, Failures, and Mistakes Humans have made in Watershed's and Water Resources in the past. The way Roads and Agriculture were originally built in the last 150 years has caused Great Harm to Fish. Are you asking yourself, "What has that got to do with Integrated Water Resources?" Everything. I have sat and listened to many Old Time Stories that Caused Unintentional Consequences to Watershed's.

What have we learned? What is currently happening? What needs to happen to fix the mistakes of the Past? How much is it going to Cost? Too Much. It always costs more to fix a mistake, that to do it right in the first place.

Do we know what path to Follow? Maybe Not. Oregonians have always been Pioneers. Pioneers are Smart. They have to Be to Survive.

Finding a Bicameral Solutions is going to Lead Us into the next Seven Generation of History. The Strategies, Choices and Decisions that People are Currently Making will have Long Term Consequences for the Future of Oregon. We have to Use the Most Current Best Known Science to help us make the right choices for the Future. Science can be a Two Edge Sword. It is called Dueling Science.

3. Are there particular approaches that you have used or seen in planning processes that we should use as well? (e.g., use of a SWOT strength-weakness-opportunities-threats assessment, or other specific process). Which, in your view, are processes that work well and which are not?

A Facilitator adds to the Frustration of the Public Not Being Recognized or Listened to. It is Rude to Invite the Public to Ignore Them. A Active Workshop Meeting with Questions to be answered leaves the Public feeling included and Vested in the Process. Encouraging communications and working together to find the questions and possible solutions is a much better approach. Asking People to come to a meeting to be told to sit back and watch with one short Public Comment Period does not encourage Public Trust

and Confidence in the System. I have been to many Government Meetings to hear Town Folk later say, "I went, but they did listen to me. I did count. Only the People running the meeting could be involved with the process. They didn't want my opinion." I know that you can not please everyone, but the Public must feel included in the System. There question and solutions should be included in the process.

4. How formal should this process be, in terms of advisory or technical groups?

Strong Science with Integrity, Transparency, and Consensus Precautionary Conclusions. Science is a Process that takes time to draw sound conclusions. Many of the Big Discoveries in Science have been Outlier Scientist coming to independent conclusions that change the course of History. Example: Darwinism. Many Scientist at the time did not agree. Turned out to be very true.

5. What do you think about piggybacking this process onto already existing events, activities, or opportunities? For instance, when is your annual organization or association meeting and could a water resources discussion with interested members be held in conjunction with the event?

All opportunities for Public Education and Public Input should be utilized. Asking and Meaning that you want to know what people think is not easy to accomplish. The Index card system does seem to help collect questions and data.

6. What are your main concerns about the process of water resource planning, or are there potential obstacles/deal breakers we should keep in mind?

Making the Same Mistakes Over and Over. There is already not enough water for all of the current needs. How do we solve the Future Water needs of an Exponential Population Growth? And, then you add the Scientific Fact that the Glaciers are not going to provide Summer water flows? How do you plan for an Unknown Future? Very Carefully. How do you store more water for Human use with out killing Fish runs? Design Better Dams? We know more now, but how much more do we know?

7. Would the organization that you represent be willing to participate in the planning and development process of Oregon’s Integrated Water Resources Strategy? In what way?

Yes. I am right now. Public Workshop Meetings with Round Tables using Brainstorming Techniques to help build Public Trust and Transparency. Get everybody Name and Address. Communicate with them after the meeting. Gather the Collected Information, Assemble the Materials and Conclusions. Then, Invite Everyone Back to Discuss and Implement the Action Planning that the Whole Group has worked to help find solutions. It is Rude to Invite Guests to Stand Against the Wall of NO Voice. Multiple Workshops Will Be Necessary. The End Strategy will be Easier to get all People to Follow and Implement the Action Plan to the Future.

Northwest Mineral Prospectors Club
Steven Rosenlund
March 11, 2010

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1. Describe the organization you represent and its interest in an Integrated Water Resources Strategy for Oregon.

> Northwest Mineral Prospectors Club. We are a group of small scale gold miners. We use creeks and rivers for small scale gold mining.

2. We are seeking the widest possible input on this strategy from all interested parties throughout the State. How do you think we can best do this?

> Our creeks and rivers should be available to a broad spectrum of users, not locked up only for kayakers.

3. Are there particular approaches that you have used or seen in planning processes that we should use as well? (e.g., use of a SWOT strength-weakness-opportunities-threats assessment, or other specific process). Which, in your view, are processes that work well and which are not?

> It is important for the minority opinions to be heard and considered.

4. How formal should this process be, in terms of advisory or technical groups?

> Tech advice is good. Gold dredging, while not popular with the radical environmentalists, has never been proven to be harmful when done legally.

5. What do you think about piggybacking this process onto already existing events, activities, or opportunities? For instance, when is your annual organization or association meeting and could a water resources discussion with interested members be held in conjunction with the event?

> We could talk.

6. What are your main concerns about the process of water resource planning, or are there potential obstacles/deal breakers we should keep in mind?

> There is a small percentage of gold bearing streams in Oregon. Many of these are closed to mining by wild and scenic designation. We would like to continue the regulated use of the few we have available.

7. Would the organization that you represent be willing to participate in the planning and development process of Oregon's Integrated Water Resources Strategy? In what way?

> We would like to advocate continued wise use of gold bearing streams and rivers in a way that is compatible with all users.