Letters of Endorsement
FROM STATE AND FEDERAL PARTNERS

BOARD OF AGRICULTURE
BOARD OF FORESTRY
BOARD OF GEOLOGY
DRINKING WATER ADVISORY COMMITTEE (OREGON HEALTH AUTHORITY)
ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COMMISSION
FISH AND WILDLIFE COMMISSION
LAND CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT
STATE MARINE BOARD
SUSTAINABILITY BOARD
WATERSHED ENHANCEMENT BOARD
U.S. BUREAU OF RECLAMATION
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY, BONNEVILLE POWER ADMINISTRATION
U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY
U.S. FOREST SERVICE

Oregon
John A. Kitzhaber, MD, Governor

Department of Agriculture
Office of the Director
635 Capitol Street NE
Salem, OR 97301-2532
(503) 986-4552
FAX: (503) 986-4750

July 25, 2012

Oregon Water Resources Commission
725 Summer St NE, Suite A
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Integrated Water Resources Strategy

The State Board of Agriculture is hereby expressing its support for the Integrated Water Resources Strategy.

At the same time, the Board would like to emphasize key components of the report that are integral to the future success of Oregon agriculture. Agriculture is a critical component of Oregon's economic base. Production, processing, transportation and marketing of Oregon agricultural products equates to over 10% of Oregon's economy and 12% of Oregon's jobs. The value of agricultural production is even higher when water is used to irrigate Oregon crops. Agriculture uses 6.5% of water that is produced in Oregon in an average water year – a combination of both surface water and groundwater. Agriculture's future is dependent on its ability to access this precious resource.

With an increased standard of living, particularly in Asia, the demand for quality agricultural products will only increase – Oregon's diverse and high quality agriculture production can help meet this demand. This coupled with the expected impacts of climate change on agricultural production as well as diminishing Oregon's ability to store water in its snow pack means that identifying and delivering water to support agricultural production will only become more important in the future. Oregon agriculture needs to be assured of adequate irrigation water to meet these demands as well as the demands of new crops and farming technologies of the future.

Elements within the strategy related to developing water storage and providing additional water for agricultural use are a priority for the Board of Agriculture. It is also imperative to note that Oregon currently experiences water shortages throughout the entire state. This is not just an eastern Oregon phenomenon. While the Board recognizes that not all water shortage issues can be solved at once, we would like to emphasize the fact that providing additional water in one or two basins throughout the state, does not address the critical statewide need of water for agricultural use.

The Board would like the strategy to emphasize the following actions during implementation:

1. Additional allocation from the Columbia;
2. Off – channel water development;
3. Aquifer recharge; and
4. More impoundments.

Oregon's agriculture industry is certainly committed to water conservation and is currently taking measures to apply water more efficiently. As new technologies are developed, agriculture will continue its strong support of water conservation and efficiency. Our work will not be done until all water basins in the state have adequate water for industry and the environment.

The water quality elements of the strategy are also an important component and need to be emphasized. The Board recognizes the fact that a large part of Oregon's land base is owned by the federal government. Their actions, or inactions, related to managing forest land have impacts on both habitat and watersheds and ultimately impact the state's water quality and quantity. We would like to encourage state agencies to use their agency status to consult and coordinate with the federal government to be more proactive in managing and restoring federally owned land. A watershed destroyed by catastrophic fire takes decades to restore and become functioning again. In the more arid regions, it can take as long as 40 years.

The Board recognizes that nature does not function in a vacuum. It understands that conserving water by moving from flood irrigation to sprinkler, pivot or drip irrigation can have a negative impact on aquifer recharge; negative riparian changes; and diminished wetland water availability and function.

And finally, the Oregon Department of Agriculture has the statutory authority to operate the agriculture water quality program. The Board has been very supportive of this program and believes this is the best way to manage and improve agriculture's contribution to better water quality in Oregon.

The Board of Agriculture commends the Water Resources Commission, the Water Resources Department and all the agency staff and private individuals who spent countless hours in the development of the Integrated Water Resources Strategy. We look forward to working with the Commission to ensure the strategy is implemented, particularly those elements of the strategy which are so critical to the future of agriculture in this state.

Sincerely,

Doug Krahmer, Chair
Oregon State Board of Agriculture

Oregon
John A. Kitzhaber, MD, Governor

Board of Forestry
State Forester's Office
2600 State Street
Salem, OR 97310-1336
503-945-7200
Fax 503-945-7212
www.oregonforestry.gov

April 26, 2012

John Jackson, Chair
Oregon Water Resources Commission
725 Summer Street NE, Suite A
Salem, OR 97301

Re: Oregon's Integrated Water Resources Strategy

Dear Chair Jackson,

Thank you for attending the March 2012 Board of Forestry meeting to discuss Oregon's Integrated Water Resources Strategy. The Board appreciates the Commission's leadership on the strategy, and supports the effort to develop a statewide, integrated water resources strategy to meet current and future water needs.

The Board of Forestry has long supported protecting and improving water resources as part of our *Forestry Program for Oregon*, a strategy for sustainable management of Oregon's Forests. The Board articulates our goals and objectives for water resources in Goal D: *Protect and improve the physical and biological quality of the soil and water resources of Oregon's forests.* The Board recognizes that this goal is important because clean water is critical to our quality of life; more than half of Oregon's population depends on drinking water supplies that originate on or are protected in part by forestlands. Oregonians also depend on high-quality water for fisheries, industry, recreation, and agriculture.

The Board's goals and objectives are consistent with the Integrated Water Resources Strategy, and provide policy direction for the development of the strategy related to forestry. The Board has directed the Department of Forestry to continue to collaborate on the strategy work to ensure consistency between our strategies for protecting and improving water resources on Oregon's forests. The Board was pleased to see that one of the next steps includes cross-agency implementation of existing ecological plans. The Board's goals and objectives can inform the implementation of the strategy as it applies of Oregon's Forests.

Best wishes,

John Blackwell, Chair
Oregon Board of Forestry

Cc: Board of Forestry Members
Doug Decker, State Forester
Phillip C. Ward, Director, Water Resources Department
Brenda Bateman, Senior Policy Coordinator, Water Resources Department
Peter Daugherty, Private Forests Division Chief

Oregon
John A. Kitzhaber, MD, Governor

Department of Geology and Mineral Industries
Administrative Office
800 NE Oregon St., #28, Suite 965
Portland, OR 97232-2162
(971) 673-1555
Fax: (971) 673-1562
www.oregongeology.org

April 24, 2012

John Jackson, Chair
Oregon Water Resources Commission
Water Resources Department
725 Summer Street NE, Suite A
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Chair Jackson,

The Governing Board of the Oregon Department of Geology & Mineral Industries (DOGAMI) fully supports Oregon's Integrated Water Resources Strategy as presented to us in the Discussion Draft during our March 2012 Board meeting. This is a timely and sensible plan that strives to provide a balanced understanding of present and future water needs for the state and lays out strategies for sustaining a sufficient water supply into the future. We would like to re-affirm DOGAMI's ability to become a committed partner in this effort. The agency is willing provide data to help fill in any gaps in geoscientific understanding and assist OWRD with the science-based approach principle mentioned in the Framework document.

The Integrated Water Resources Strategy will help to set the course for the future sustainability of Oregon's citizens' quality of life and protection of its natural environment and resources. It is our hope that our Natural Resource agencies work even more closely together in the future to implement this strategy. We feel the framework offers an opportunity for DOGAMI to collaborate with Oregon Water Resources to research geologic solutions to Oregon's water resource goals.

If you have any questions about this endorsement, please contact me at larry.givens@co.umatilla.or.us or at (541) 278 6203.

Sincerely,

W. Lawrence Givens
Governing Board Chair
Oregon Department of Geology & Mineral Industries

cc: Board File
Vicki S. McConnell, DOGAMI Director

OREGON DRINKING WATER ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Represented Organizations:
American Council of Engineering Companies of Oregon
Conference of Local Health Officials
Environmental Advocacy Groups
League of Oregon Cities
League of Women Voters of Oregon
Oregon Association of Water Utilities
Oregon Environmental Health Association
Oregon Environmental Laboratory Association
Pacific Northwest Section of the American Water Works Association
Special Districts Association of Oregon
Public Water Systems Greater than 100,000
Privately Owned Water Systems
Plumbers/ Backflow Testers
Water Consumers
Watershed Councils

June 6, 2012

Mr. Phillip C. Ward, Director
Oregon Water Resources Fund
725 Summer Street NE, Suite A
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Director Ward,

The Drinking Water Advisory Committee for the OHA, Center for Health Protection, Drinking Water Section, would like to express our sincere appreciation and support for the Agency's efforts in the development of an Integrated Water Resources Strategy for the State.

The Center for Health Protection Drinking Water Section is charged with the protection of the public health and the safety and viability of drinking water supplies for our communities. We appreciate the global approach the Strategy lays out to maintain the livability of our State and address the critical nature of adequate, safe water resources. The Strategy provides a roadmap towards the recognition that water resources of the State contribute to that quality of life and are critical to the State's economic vitality and future.

Within the Strategy, it is imperative that programs supporting basic life services, such as drinking water, be funded at levels appropriate to the critical mission such services play in the success and livability in Oregon. Without such recognition and funding priority, the success of the Strategy will be hampered as critical pieces of the water puzzle cannot provide the resources necessary to ensure success.

The Strategy is an important first step in the recognition of the important, critical role adequate and safe water resources, in particular drinking water, plays in the future growth and opportunities for Oregon. We look forward to continuing to be an important partner in the Strategy's development and implementation.

Sincerely,

Brian R. Stahl, Chair
Drinking Water Advisory Committee

Oregon

ENVIRONMENTAL
QUALITY
COMMISSION

July 5, 2012

John Jackson, Water Resources Commission Chair
Water Resources Department
725 Summer Street NE, Suite A
Salem, OR 97301

Chair Jackson,

At its April 25-27, 2012, regular meeting, the Oregon Environmental Quality Commission formally endorsed the Oregon Integrated Water Resource Strategy. In its endorsement, EQC unanimously approved the 2012 final draft of the Oregon Integrated Water Resource Strategy and affirmed five statements:

1. We have appreciated having an integral role on the project team.
2. The water quality challenges in Oregon are significant, but we have good tools and people to work with.
3. The Integrated Water Resource Strategy presents real opportunities to manage water more efficiently and collaboratively than ever before, and to ensure future needs for water will be met.
4. We applaud the work completed thus far on the strategy
5. We look forward to continued partnership in the implementation and further development of Oregon's water strategy.

This letter is to confirm the endorsement and the Environmental Quality Commission's support for the 2012 final draft of the Oregon Integrated Water Resource Strategy. I look forward to working with you, and the Oregon Water Resources Department, on this and other projects.

Sincerely,

William Blosser, Oregon Environmental Quality Commission Chair

CC:
Phillip C. Ward, Oregon Water Resources Department Director
Dick Pedersen, Oregon Department of Environmental Quality Director
Brenda Bateman, Oregon Water Resources Department, senior policy coordinator

811 SW Sixth Avenue
Portland, OR 97204-1390
(503) 229-5696

Oregon

DEPARTMENT OF
FISH AND
WILDLIFE

OREGON FISH AND
WILDLIFE
COMMISSION

July 10, 2012

John Jackson, Chair
Oregon Water Resources Commission
725 Summer Street NE, Suite A
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Chair Jackson:

On behalf of the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission (OFWC), I applaud the Water Resources Commission (WRC) and the Water Resources Department (WRD) for their efforts at leading the development of Oregon's first Integrated Water Resources Strategy (IWRS). The OFWC supports the IWRS and recommends that the WRC endorse the final draft of the strategy as submitted to the WRC.

The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW), along with the Oregon Departments of Environmental Quality and Agriculture, have appreciated the opportunity to play an integral role on the Project Team, led by WRD, which has overseen the development of this policy. This strategy lays out the steps Oregon must take to ensure that water resources are managed, developed, and conserved to ensure the long-term sustainability of our human culture, as well as our abundant natural resources. With the adoption of the Oregon Conservation Strategy in 2006, the OFWC re-affirmed the role of water in conserving Oregon's fish and wildlife resources, by recognizing water quality and quantity as one of six "key conservation issues" that affect species and habitats statewide. Adoption of the Integrated Water Strategy will further our collective efforts to ensure the sustainability of fish and wildlife for all Oregonians, present and future.

While the water quality and quantity challenges in Oregon are significant, we have many of the tools and people to address these challenges. By truly embracing the "integration" as spelled out in the IWRS, real opportunities emerge to manage water more effectively and collaboratively, ensuring the future needs for water will be met.

The OFWC and ODFW commend the work that has been done to date on the strategy. We look forward to building on the partnerships we have collectively developed as we move into the implementation phase of the strategy, as it is in the implementation phase that Oregonians and our natural resource heritage will see the fruits of our efforts.

Please don't hesitate to call on the OFWC or Director Elicker and his great staff in moving the IWRS forward to success.

Best Wishes,

Bobby Levy, Chair
Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission

Cc: Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission Members
Roy Elicker, Director, ODFW
Curt Melcher, Deputy Director Fish and Wildlife Programs, ODFW
Bruce McIntosh, Deputy Fish Division Administrator, ODFW
Rick Kepler, Water Program Manager, ODFW
Phil Ward, Director, WRD
Brenda Bateman, Senior Policy Coordinator, WRD

Oregon
John A. Kitzhaber, M.D., Governor

Land Conservation and Development Commission
635 Capitol Street NE, Suite 150
Salem, Oregon 97301-2540
Phone: (503) 373-0050
Fax: (503) 378-5518
www.oregon.gov/LCD

May 11, 2012

Phillip C. Ward, Director
Oregon Water Resources Department
725 Summer Street NE, Suite A
Salem, OR 97301

Re: Integrated Water Resources Strategy

Dear Director Ward:

The Oregon Land Conservation and Development Commission would like to express its appreciation of and support for your agency's efforts on Oregon's Integrated Water Resources Strategy. LCDC's mission includes protecting significant natural resources and promoting livable, sustainable communities. The comprehensive look at water resources you are undertaking advances these interests and we are glad to see that the materials we were presented recognize this link. We also appreciate that the strategy emphasizes the need to maintain Oregon's economy and protect and restore the environment.

LCDC agrees there is a need for the strategy and endorses its process and goals. The draft strategy is an important step for Oregon and we look forward to future collaboration and coordination on these important issues.

Sincerely,

Marilyn Worrix
Chair

Oregon
John A. Kitzhaber, MD, Governor

Parks and Recreation Department
725 Summer St NE, Ste C
Salem, OR 97301-1266
(503) 986-0707
Fax (503) 986-0794
www.oregonstateparks.org

Mr. John Jackson, Chair
Oregon Water Resources Commission
725 Summer Street, NE
Suite A
Salem, OR 97301-1266

Dear Chair Jackson,

The Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (OPRD) has been pleased to be a partner in the development of the state's Integrated Water Resources Strategy (IWRS). We believe this comprehensive and integrated approach to development of a blueprint for identifying and managing the water related issues facing Oregon will provide a valuable guide for future management actions, policy development, and possibly statutory changes.

Specifically, the IWRS acknowledges the need to protect the public's interests in the Oregon's state scenic waterways, the role OPRD's Water Trails program engages the public in both recreation and education related to water resources, and the role that OPRD plays in identifying and acquiring in-stream rights to ensure healthy ecosystems and water for recreation.

This strategy provides a comprehensive approach to managing the state's water resources in a manner not heretofore compiled. We look forward to playing an ongoing role as this strategy unfolds and provide our endorsement for adoption of the IWRS.

Thank you for the opportunity to be a partner in this undertaking.

Sincerely,

Tim Wood
Director

Oregon
John A. Kitzhaber, MD, Governor

State Marine Board
435 Commercial St NE, Suite #400
PO Box 14145
Salem, OR 97309-5065
(503) 378-8587
Fax (503) 378-4597

July 13, 2012

John Jackson, Chair
Oregon Water Resources Commission
725 Summer Street NE, Suite A
Salem OR 97301

Dear Chair Jackson,

On behalf of the Oregon State Marine Board, we appreciate the opportunity to be a partner in the Integrated Water Resources Strategy to create this important plan to manage Oregon's water resources. Even in Oregon, water is a limited resource and managing in-stream and out-of-stream needs is critical for Oregon's environment, livability, and economy.

Boating, simply put, needs clean and abundant water. The Oregon State Marine Board is dedicated to preserving boating access and encouraging safe, legal and sustainable boating on Oregon's waterways. In the last 20 years, more than $85 million has been invested in building launch ramps, parking lots and restrooms to access Oregon waterways. We have also advanced the reduction of pollution and maintaining clean waterways to minimize boater impacts on water quality by forming and managing the Aquatic Invasive Species and Clean Marina/ Clean Boater programs, both of which are aimed at keeping hazardous substances and organisms out of the water. The Marine Board also apportions the Abandoned Boat fund to remove abandoned vessels so that they no longer pollute or congest our waterways. Since 2002, we have invested more than $ 2.8 million of Clean Vessel Act funds to build pump stations to remove onboard sewage from boats and floating restrooms. To date, we have collected more than 15 million gallons of sewage, some of which likely would have ended up in our waterways. Most recently, the Marine Board has partnered with Oregon Sea Grant to provide a focused educational effort to encourage boaters to properly dispose of their sewage.

The Integrated Water Resources Strategy is an excellent first step in managing this important natural resource. We look forward to viewing proposed implementation strategies and how they may or may not affect recreational boating.

Sincerely,

George Tinker

George Tinker, Chair

Oregon
John A. Kitzhaber, M.D., Governor

Oregon Sustainability Board
Secretary of State Kate Brown, Chair
Governor's Sustainability Office
900 Court St. NE, Ste. 160
Salem, OR 97301
503-378-6460

July 6, 2012

Ruben Ochoa, Water Policy Analyst
Water Resources Department
725 Summer Street NE, Suite A
Salem, OR 97301

Re: Draft Integrated Water Resource Strategy

Dear Mr. Ochoa:

Thank you for allowing the Oregon Sustainability Board the opportunity to review and comment upon the draft strategy of the Integrated Water Resource Strategy Commission. We commend the work done thus far. The Board was established pursuant to ORS 184.427, and is charged in part with the goal of enabling and encouraging local communities to achieve the objective of clean and sufficient water for all uses.

The sustainability of fresh water resources is both a challenge and a unique opportunity to ensure that our needs do not deprive future generations of this precious and finite resource. The draft report eloquently describes the complexities involved in requiring communities and businesses to satisfy their fresh water needs while staying within the limits of this resource.

As a first principle, therefore, we would urge that the conservation and efficient use of fresh water resources find expression early and prominently in your report. This recommendation is of such a fundamental nature to the achievement of all goals, that we would encourage you to configure it in all of your thinking and place it prominently among your principles to guide the IWRS. Thank you for the opportunity to comment and assist you in this important task.

Sincerely,

Kate Brown
Chair, Oregon Sustainability Board
Secretary of State

Oregon
John A. Kitzhaber, MD, Governor

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
775 Summer St NE Ste 360
Salem, OR 97301-1290
(503) 986-0178
FAX (503) 986-0199
www.oregon.gov/OWEB

OWEB

March 13, 2012

Phillip C. Ward, Director
Oregon Water Resources Department
725 Summer Street NE, Suite A
Salem, OR 97301

Re: Integrated Water Resources Strategy

Dear Director Ward:

The Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB) would like to express its appreciation of and support for the agency's efforts on Oregon's Integrated Water Resources Strategy and the December 2011 Discussion Draft.

OWEB's mission is to help protect and restore healthy watersheds and natural habitats that support thriving communities and strong economies. We appreciate that the Strategy emphasizes the need to maintain Oregon's economy and protect and restore the environment. OWEB stands ready to provide investment, through grants, in the critical water needs that relate directly to OWEB's priorities, and would encourage further coordination between our agencies.

In summary, the draft strategy is an important first step for Oregon and we look forward to future collaboration and coordination on these important issues.

Sincerely,

Dan Thorndike
Board Co-Chair

Eric Quaempts
Board Co-Chair

United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION
Pacific Northwest Regional Office
1150 North Curtis Road, Suite 100
Boise, ID 83706-1234

IN REPLY REFER TO:

JUN 28 2012

SRA-1215
WTR-1.00

Mr. Phillip C. Ward
Director
Oregon Water Resources Department
725 Summer Street NE, Suite A
Salem, OR 97301

Subject: Integrated Water Resources Strategy

Dear Mr. Ward:

I appreciate the opportunity for the Bureau of Reclamation to have real and meaningful participation in development of Oregon's Integrated Water Resources Strategy (IWRS). Adoption of the IWRS by the Water Resources Commission is a positive first step forward in the state's efforts to achieve lasting change for the benefit of the citizens, the economy, and the ecosystems of Oregon.

Reclamation supports the consensus-building and cooperative process developed by the state to establish and maintain the network of agencies, organizations, and individuals needed to complete this document. Reclamation looks forward to continuing collaboration as the state takes the next steps necessary to implement the IWRS.

Sincerely,

Lorri J. Lee
Acting for Regional Director

Department of Energy

Bonneville Power Administration
P.O. Box 3621
Portland, Oregon 97208-3621

EXECUTIVE OFFICE

July 10, 2012

In reply refer to: DKR-7

Phillip C. Ward, Director
Oregon Water Resources Department
725 Summer Street NE, Suite A
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Director Ward:

The Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) appreciates the coordination and outreach that the Oregon State Water Resources Department has extended to BPA in the development of the Oregon Integrated Water Resources Strategy. BPA recognizes state and federal coordination leads to better management and administration of the region's shared resources.

BPA is the federal agency that markets the wholesale electrical power from the federal dams in the Columbia River Basin. The dams are operated by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Bureau of Reclamation. BPA markets about 30 percent of the electric power used in the Pacific Northwest. As part of its responsibilities, BPA funds regional efforts to protect and enhance fish and wildlife populations affected by the federal dams in the Columbia River Basin.

BPA reviewed and commented on the draft strategy to determine if the recommended actions could impact the regional hydropower system or be at cross purposes with our fish and wildlife mitigation efforts. Our involvement in this process highlighted both areas of shared interest and potential opportunities.

It will be critical to maintain open lines of communication, consistent policies, and careful coordination to ensure positive outcomes for all partners. We are strongly committed to this type of approach and look forward to working with the state to ensure that successful collaboration continues. Thank you again for your outreach and consideration of our comments.

Sincerely,

Acting for

F. Lorraine Bodi
Vice President, Environment, Fish and Wildlife

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 10
OREGON OPERATIONS OFFICE
805 SW Broadway, Suite 500
Portland, Oregon 97205

May 23, 2012

Phillip C. Ward, Director
Oregon Water Resources Department
725 Summer Street NE, Suite A
Salem, Oregon 97301

Re: Integrated Water Resources Strategy

Dear Director Ward:

We appreciate the opportunity for the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to participate in the development of the Oregon Integrated Water Resource strategy (IWRS). The partnership and collaborative nature of this process is one of the fine examples of how the public sector can achieve important goals efficiently and effectively. The public and the environment benefit from various Federal and State government agencies coming together and consolidating efforts, sharing program information and indentifying data gaps.

The water quality and quantity challenges today and into the future are significant. This planning and network of program implementers will be better equipped to prevent future problems and deal with the existing needs of today. A strategy that identifies a rich set of tools for meeting our future challenges is ultimately the strength of the strategy. An ability to share the work will allow needed flexibility in addressing specific water quality and quantity needs. This strategy significantly improves our ability to do just that.

We commend the work done to date. We look forward to continued collaboration. This established network of organizations and individuals will need to continue the conversations. The EPA will continue to support the State of Oregon in this effort through our suite of water focused policies, guidance, and regulations.

Sincerely,

Anthony Barber
Director

Joel H. Salter
Oregon Water Programs Coordinator

United States Department of the Interior

U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

Oregon Water Science Center
2130 SW 5th Avenue
Portland, OR 97201
(503) 251-3220 • Fax: (503) 251-3470
http://or.water.usgs.gov/

June 13, 2012

Phillip C. Ward, Director
Oregon Water Resources Department
725 Summer Street NE, Suite A
Salem, Oregon 97301

Dear ~~Director Ward~~ PHIL,

I am writing to voice U.S. Geological Survey support for the Oregon Integrated Water Resources Strategy. As a federal agency and a participant on the Federal Liaison Group, I have seen the IWRS evolve and improve with input from state and federal partners. The USGS Oregon Water Science Center fully supports the important "Key Recommended Actions" that constitute the framework for the IWRS. Many of these key actions dovetail with national and regional USGS Science Strategies that are being developed for each of our 7 Mission Areas. Our Mission areas include: Climate and Land Use Change, Ecosystems, Hazards, Environmental Health, and Water among others. I am sure it is no surprise that our USGS strategies and ongoing projects have significant crosscut with the IWRS. The IWRS strategy calls out Groundwater Resources, Climate Change, Funding, and Institutional Coordination as significant issues.

Both Oregon and the federal government are under unprecedented fiscal pressures, yet we at USGS are committed to continued collaboration with OWRD and other state partners to further our common goals. USGS has a long history with OWRD which includes numerous Cooperative Water Program studies directed at several of these key actions. The Cooperative Water Program, with its Federal matching funds, as an ideal way to work collaboratively with IWRS partners. The Northwest Climate Science Center is another USGS avenue for cooperation. Through the NWCSC, we can pool resources to address challenges to water resource management that will arise from predicted changes in climate during the coming decades. We strongly agree that "No entity is an island when it comes to water management and protection." We look forward to implementation of the Oregon IWRS and working collaboratively with your agency in the future.

Regards,

Dar Crammond
Director, Oregon Water Science Center

USDA United States Department of Agriculture | Forest Service | Pacific Northwest Region
333 SW First Avenue (97204)
PO Box 3623
Portland, OR 97208-3623
503-808-2468

File Code: 2540
Date: July 12, 2012

Phil Ward
Director
Oregon Water Resources Department
725 Summer St., NE
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Mr. Ward:

We commend the completion of Oregon's June 2012 Draft Integrated Water Resources Strategy (IWRS) and fully support the IWRS as a comprehensive approach to understanding and addressing Oregon's water needs, now and into the future. We are pleased to have the opportunity for the USDA Forest Service (Forest Service) to be part of the federal liaison group over the past three years. The IWRS is indeed a blueprint for restoring and maintaining healthy water resources to meet the needs of Oregonians. As you are aware, the Forest Service manages about 25 percent of the land base in Oregon, mostly in headwater areas, and many of the objectives, issues and solutions identified in the IWRS are shared with those of the Forest Service. It has been rewarding to participation in this collaborative partnership between federal and state agencies and work together to leverage experience, programs and resources for the benefit the public and the environment. It is especially valuable in development of the IWRS to have the implementation component that embodies existing programs and tools and empowers local solutions.

We are optimistic that the IWRS will be adopted by the Water Resources Commission at the upcoming August meeting. I look forward to a continued partnership and enhanced coordination between our respective agencies as finalization and implementation of the IWRS advances.

Please contact Trish Carroll, Regional Water Rights-Uses and Groundwater Program Manager, at 503-808-2905 (tcarroll@fs.fed.us) or Brian Staab, Regional Hydrologist, at 503-808-2694 (brianstaab@fs.fed.us), to discuss our comments or set up future meetings.

Sincerely,

/s/ Kent P. Connaughton

KENT P. CONNAUGHTON
Regional Forester

cc: Jose Linares, Peggy A Polichio, Richard N Rine, Dick Pedersen,
Director of Oregon Department of Environmental QualityRoy Elicker
Director of Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, Alyssa Mucken
Policy Coordinator, Oregon Department of Water Resources