State of Oregon
Department of Environmental Quality

Office of Governor
TINA KOTEK

Climate Resilient Strategies

Executive Order 25-26: Climate Resilience for Natural and Working Lands and Water

Oregon Department of Environmental Quality Workplan

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Document information

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Acronyms

Acronym	Meaning
BLM	Bureau of Land Management
CWSRF	Clean Water State Revolving Fund
DOGAMI	Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries
EPA	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
NRCS	Natural Resources Conservation Service
OAWU	Oregon Association of Water Utilities
ODA	Oregon Department of Agriculture
ODF	Oregon Department of Forestry
ODFW	Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife
OEM	Oregon Department of Emergency Management
OHA	Oregon Health Authority
OSU	Oregon State University
OWEB	Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
OWRD	Oregon Water Resources Department
SWCD	Soil and Water Conservation District
TMDL	Total Maximum Daily Load
USDA	U.S. Department of Agriculture
USFS	U.S. Forest Service

Office of Governor
TINA KOTEK

EO 25-26 AGENCY WORKPLANS: EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Prepared by

The Governor's Natural Resource Office

September 8, 2026

Executive Order 25-26 Agency Workplans

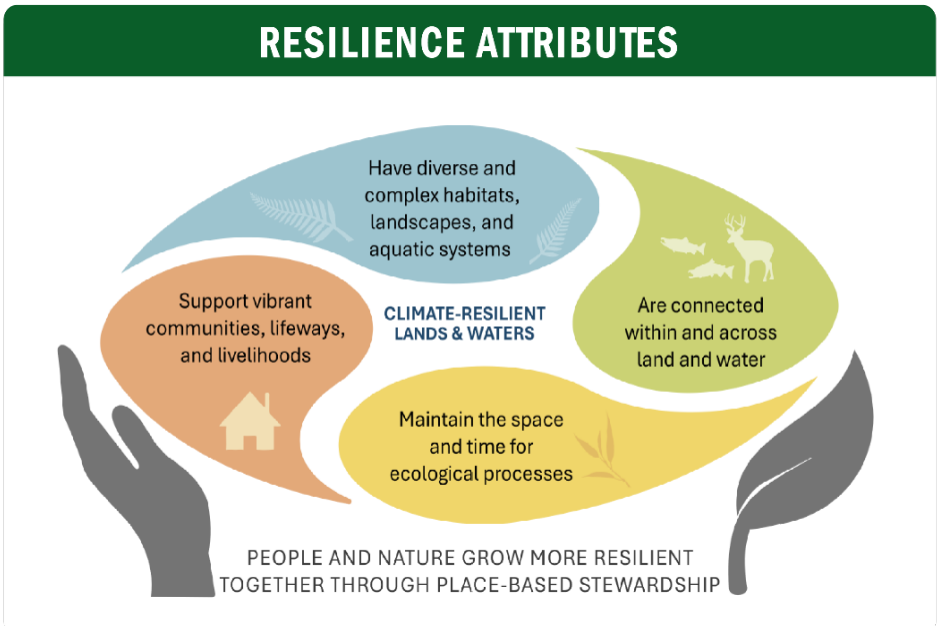
Executive Summary

Coordinated Action to Strengthen the Resilience of Oregon's Lands and Waters (Executive Order 25-26)

Oregon's lands and waters form an interconnected system that supports ecosystems, communities and economies across the state. Forests, rangelands, estuaries, rivers, working farms, transportation corridors, and coastal shorelines each play essential roles. They store carbon, regulate water, support fish, wildlife and First Foods, sustain livelihoods, move people and goods, and buffer communities from the effects of a changing climate. Ecosystems, communities, and economies in Oregon face growing risks from climate-related impacts such as long-term drought, catastrophic wildfire and wildfire smoke, sea level rise, destructive flood events, as well as other stressors like habitat loss, invasive species, and disease.

In recognition of the importance of building the resilience of these systems and communities to climate-related disruptions, Governor Kotek issued Executive Order (EO) 25-26 on October 21, 2025. EO 25-26 directs Oregon's natural resource agencies to work collaboratively toward the shared goal of strengthening the resilience of Oregon's natural and working lands and waters. EO 25-26 recognizes that resilience does not mean preserving things exactly as they are; instead, it means protecting the ability of lands, waters and people to cope, adapt, and/or transform in response to a changing climate and to continue to support essential functions even as conditions change.

The first step in implementing EO 25-26 was to define key resilience attributes, i.e. the characteristics of lands and waters that are currently resilient to impacts from climate change and therefore able to deliver multiple benefits that are likely to persist under future climate conditions; or are capable of achieving multiple benefits of high resilience in the face of changing conditions if supported by restoration, enhancement or reconnection. After much conversation and deliberation, four resiliency attributes were developed to guide the implementation of EO 25-26 by natural resource agencies:



1. Connectivity within and across land and water to facilitate the movement of organisms and ecological processes.
2. Diverse and complex habitats, landscapes, and aquatic systems that provide options for native species and human communities to respond to change and disturbance.
3. Flood, fire, and other natural processes have the space and time to sustain key ecological functions.
4. Natural and working lands and waters support, and are supported by, vibrant human communities, lifeways, and livelihoods.

This executive summary distills core elements from workplans prepared by 14 state agencies and the Columbia Gorge Commission to implement the directives of EO 25-26. The summary provides a clear overview of shared priorities and demonstrates how agencies are aligning programs, tools and investments to advance the resilience of lands, waters and communities. The workplans focus on maximizing resilience gains from existing resources while positioning agencies to take advantage of new opportunities as they arise. The workplans focus on the existing and upcoming budget cycle (2026-2029) and will be updated in advance of the 2029-2031 budget development process.

While individual agency workplans vary based on each agency's mission and responsibilities (and may not include all elements noted below), together they reflect a coordinated statewide vision-- integrated, science driven, partnership centered and focused on building long-term resilience. Where possible, the work of Oregon's natural resource agencies leverages work done by others such as Tribal Nations, landowners, federal and local governments, universities, and non-governmental organizations and philanthropic partners. Collectively, these efforts strengthen Oregon's capacity to adapt to change while protecting the values Oregonians share and support the EO's goal to protect, conserve, connect, or restore 10% of Oregon's lands and waters within ten years.

Core Themes of 2027-2029 Agency Workplans

1. Advance Protection, Restoration and Stewardship Actions Across Priority Oregon Waters and Landscapes

Across forests, rangelands, farms, estuaries, rivers, near-shore environments, transportation corridors, state parks, coastal dunes, and wildlife habitats, agencies are implementing or preparing to implement large-scale actions that strengthen the four statewide resilience attributes.

Actions include



Connectivity across land, sea, water, and sky

Protecting cold-water refugia, increasing fish passage, restoring riparian corridors and floodplains, protecting and restoring wildlife corridors, protecting coastal habitats, supporting healthy forest landscapes, and mitigating hazards in a key transportation corridor.

Diversity and complexity of habitats and landscapes

Restoring kelp ecosystems, sage-grouse habitat, oak and grassland systems, tidal wetlands, estuaries, beaver habitat, rangelands, and aquatic systems affected by contaminants, and systems affected by invasive species.





Ecological process function

Pursuing landscape-scale native plant restoration, prescribed and cultural burning, climate-aligned reforestation, groundwater and watershed protection, removal of structural barriers, and actions that allow rivers, forests, dunes, and estuaries to adjust naturally to disturbance.

Community and livelihood resilience

Respecting Tribal sovereignty and supporting the health, abundance, and access to First Foods. Supporting rural stewardship, transportation reliability, drinking-water resilience, smoke-readiness, wildfire-adaptation, hazard mitigation planning, and community leadership—ensuring communities can thrive while adapting to change.



2. Improve and Expand Access to Programs that Support Land and Water Managers in Building Resilience

Workplans show consistent agency commitment to addressing technical, regulatory, and financial barriers, reducing timelines, and modernizing rules and policies to enable restoration, stewardship, climate-smart forestry, water-quality protection, coastal resilience, and wildfire adaptation.

Efforts include:

- Enhancing outreach and communication with land and water managers seeking information on state technical and financial assistance to support resilience projects on natural and working lands;
- Streamlining removal-fill, fish passage, riparian and terrestrial restoration, and tidal project permitting;
- Increasing forest resilience by modernizing forest-practice and prescribed-fire policies;
- Integrating resilience attributes into grant making and planning;
- Expanding wetland and conservation mitigation banking;
- Innovating approaches for water reuse, aquifer storage and recovery and aquifer recharge;
- Collaborating with Tribal Nations to further the integration of Indigenous knowledge; and
- Supporting local governments and communities adapting to wildfire and smoke, flood, heat, drought, coastal hazards, and ecosystem change.

Building resilience at scale requires collaborating with partners and supporting their stewardship of Oregon's working lands and waters in ways that strengthen ecosystems, communities and local economies. These actions will help Oregonians act quickly and confidently to build resilience, while maintaining environmental safeguards and community protections.

3. Target Resources toward Priority Needs and Programs that Deliver Results

Agency workplans embed EO 25-26 into existing programs that have a track record of delivering results — fish and wildlife habitat restoration, forest management, watershed enhancement grants, placed based water planning and investment, water-quality and quantity protection, mitigation banking, estuary and shoreline planning, land-use regulation, transportation resilience, emergency management, scenic-waterway protection, and wildfire programs. Agency workplans not only prioritize these programs but, in many cases, identify strategies to expand their reach and impact. By strengthening proven systems rather than building new ones, agencies increase impact while maintaining clarity for landowners, local governments, Tribal Nations, and community organizations.

Agency workplans direct resources toward areas of highest need that lay the foundation for our future. Collectively they center the following priority initiatives:

Build a Resilient Water Future through Strategic Monitoring, Protection, and Innovative Water Management Tools

Monitor and implement groundwater quality strategies, advance drought preparedness, increase instream water protections particularly in cold-water habitats, and innovate approaches for water reuse, aquifer storage and recovery and aquifer recharge.

Accelerate Strategic Water Quality and Aquatic Habitat Restoration

Drive integrated and prioritized restoration efforts—instream leasing, aquatic habitat restoration, fish passage barrier removal, mine reclamation—and incorporate multi benefit approaches to implementing water quality improvement plans (Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs)) to ensure durable, adaptive watershed strategies.

Expand Wetland and Species Mitigation Capacity to Protect Critical Landscapes and Waters

Increase wetland inventories, strengthen mitigation banking, modernize mitigation processes, and scale programs like Sage Grouse In Lieu Fee to protect sensitive species and landscapes under increasing climate pressure.

Advance Rangeland Resilience through Invasive Grass Management, Native Seed Capacity, and Fire-Adapted Strategies

Address invasive annual grasses, protect and grow core sagebrush landscapes, expand native seed capacity, strengthen agricultural water quality partnerships, and support fire-adapted rangeland landscapes to stabilize ecosystem and community resilience.

Increase Coastal and Nearshore Resilience to Climate and Ocean Change

Invest in kelp/rocky habitat resilience, support coastal science convenings, and support planning to safeguard nearshore ecosystems and coastal communities. Locate and prioritize high-risk erosion, landslide and flooding hazard sites along the State's most critical coastal lifeline route (Highway 101).

Protect and Restore Terrestrial Habitat Connectivity

Invest in protection and habitat restoration within Priority Wildlife Connectivity Areas, remove barriers within big game migration corridors by supporting working lands transitions to virtual fence options and support highway wildlife crossing projects, provide technical and financial assistance to landscape restoration projects that facilitate movement of wildlife and climatic shifts in vegetation over time.

Advance Community and Wildfire Resilience

Modernize and align Community Wildfire Protection Plans with statewide hazard mitigation planning, increase use of prescribed fire with public health protections, update the Smoke Management Program and expand landscape-scale fuel treatments, build fire-adapted communities and reduce risk to people, infrastructure, and lifeways, advance climate-smart forestry, ecological restoration, riparian protection, and long-term regenerative capacity.

4. Accelerate the Acquisition and Use of Data that Supports Resilience, Mapping, and Monitoring

Agency workplans prioritize funding and scaling actions that move toward informed, climate-smart decision-making.

Actions include:

- Statewide lidar and remote-sensing for forests, floodplains, estuaries, rangelands, shorelines, watersheds and landslides;
- Water-quality and groundwater monitoring networks;
- Air-quality and wildfire-smoke trend reporting;
- Forest inventory, carbon flux modeling, reforestation and climate adapted species alignment;
- Climate-hazard risk maps for wildfire, flooding, heat, landslides, and coastal erosion;
- Blue-carbon accounting tools for tidal wetlands;
- Vital Signs ecological and cultural monitoring in the Columbia River Gorge;
- Real-time transportation hazard monitoring along U.S. 101;
- Shared statewide data infrastructure for natural climate solutions; and
- Tribal-led integration of Indigenous Traditional Ecological and Cultural Knowledge.

These shared information sources and data sets dramatically increase Oregon's ability to predict climate impacts, prioritize resilience investments, coordinate across jurisdictions, and measure progress statewide.

5. Identify Actions that Promote Collaboration and Shared Resources to Secure Stronger Resilience Outcomes

Agency workplans prioritize actions that build collaboration, support broad use of shared information and tools, and coordinate resources through shared strategies and plans.

Actions include:

- **Shared Science:** Where possible, develop common datasets and monitoring tools to support consistent, science-based decisions;
- **Shared Resources:** Develop tools, data, and guidance that can be shared amongst agencies and with partners to strengthen local planning, hazard readiness, and infrastructure resilience;

- **Shared Planning:** Support efforts to develop a long-term plan that integrates natural resources, infrastructure, public health, land use, emergency management, Tribal priorities, and community needs as part of a Plan for a Resilient Oregon;
- **Integrated Stewardship:** Identify cross-agency work on forests, watersheds, coasts, and habitats using shared strategies and plans and aligned funding; and
- **Partnership with Tribal Nations**: Consider Indigenous knowledge and priorities across key resilience efforts.

Oregon Department of Environmental Quality Workplan

Introduction

In October 2025, Governor Kotek issued Executive Order 25-26: Climate Resilience for Natural and Working Lands and Waters to prioritize and increase the pace and scale of adopting climate resilient strategies into existing state programs to deliver benefits for communities and ecosystems.

The executive order requires agencies to develop biennial workplans to carry out directives towards climate resilience in Oregon. The Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) drafted an initial workplan in May 2026 drawing from across the agency's Water Quality Program, Smoke Management Program, and in consultation with its Climate Protection Program. DEQ's focus is to clearly identify connection points between its relevant programs and areas of work, and how they align with the Executive Order's focus and priorities as they relate to the resilience of Oregon's lands, waters and communities.

Key considerations in the development of the workplan

This workplan summarizes current and planned program efforts and highlights the areas where DEQ is actively engaged through its internal work planning, commitments to U.S. EPA under the Performance Partnership Agreement, programmatic interagency agreements, and broader statewide initiatives such as the Integrated Water Resources Strategy, Executive Order 23-04 on housing production, and Executive Order 25-29 on reducing greenhouse gas emissions and advancing clean energy. DEQ collaborates with partner agencies to advance environmental outcomes, and this workplan also outlines DEQ's coordination activities to implement Executive Order 25-26.

Document orientation and organization

This document is organized by the following elements of the Executive Order:

Define Key Resilience Attributes for Lands and Waters.

DEQ identified work that is relevant to Resilience Attributes, including data and information that DEQ has and develops, and that is relevant to understanding the environmental conditions related to those attributes, now and into the future. ODFW and OWEB have completed their responsibilities under the Executive Order to lead the development of Climate Resilient Attributes.

Keep Oregon's Working Lands and Waters Working

DEQ has a variety of work and efforts that support this goal through various program efforts to support stewardship of watersheds and scarce water resources, as well as ongoing improvements and streamlining of permitting and funding processes.

Conserve Natural Lands and Waters/Lead by Example

DEQ carries out a variety of programs and efforts targeting protection and restoration of Oregon's waters. Programs and efforts captured here include DEQ's Total Maximum Daily Load and nonpoint source pollution control programs, efforts to designate priority waters as Outstanding Resource Waters, efforts to protect and improve groundwater resources, and water quality trading.

Community and Wildfire Resilience

The elements in this section include programs and activities to support a Plan for a Resilient Oregon as well as actions to create a resilient landscape and fire-adapted communities. Key connection points with DEQ responsibilities include efforts to support community infrastructure through permitting and funding as well as supporting prescribed fire activities and smoke management efforts with communities and other agencies.

Each section describes the following where applicable:

- Anticipated or planned Agency action
- Relevant indicator or metrics
- Anticipated outcomes, and
- Relevant interagency and/or external partner collaborations.

Define key resiliency attributes for lands and waters

Interagency Team shall develop baseline conditions

Environmental Data and Information

Anticipated DEQ actions

Collect, store and make water quality data publicly accessible

- Surface water quality data for biological data, water quality data for conventional and toxic pollutants and other public health and ecosystem indicator data (e.g., cyanotoxins, temperature associated with cold water refugia, etc.).
- Groundwater quality data including general chemistry, nitrates, bacteria, metals, VOCs, pesticides, emerging contaminants (e.g., PFAS). Data includes long-term data from Groundwater Management Areas, targeted sampling in specific geographies, real estate transaction data, and special studies.

Develop and publish watershed-level information and modeling, including

- Watershed analyses produced as part of TMDLs synthesize broad range of data including:
    - Remote sensing data/information related to stream side vegetation, stream hydrology/habitat, cold water refugia, and stream complexity
    - Water Quality Models for watersheds throughout Oregon evaluating water quality, identifying specific areas conducive to prioritized restoration activities and focused efforts to support resilient watersheds
    - Climate and hydrological data over years
    - Source water assessments for public water systems including maintaining publicly available potential contaminant source database

Perform regular analyses and syntheses of data, including

- Status and trends for certain parameters in surface and groundwaters.
- Attainment and impairments related to water quality standards (i.e., DEQ Integrated Report).
- Water Quality Index supporting a DEQ Key Performance Measure.
- Regular reports and special studies for surface and ground waters.

Collect and report on annual air quality trends and wildfire smoke trends over time

- Annual air quality monitoring data and wildfire smoke trends reports including geographic distribution and concentration of particulate matter that is 2.5 micrometers (PM2.5) from wildfire smoke, prescribed fire smoke, and other anthropogenic sources.

Metrics or anticipated outcomes

- Surface water and groundwater quantity and quality that support current and future uses (including drinking water, ecological, irrigation, business uses) and the movement of species with adequate cold water refugia for biota.
- Species composition, abundance, and richness (including fish, wildlife, native plants, First Foods, medicines, and culturally significant species) supports native species and ecological integrity.
- Water quality, quantity, and hydrologic functions support beneficial uses and have the capacity to absorb, respond to, and improve through stressors and disturbances.
- Natural disturbances and human activities create landscape diversity and ecological variety.
- Air quality impacts resulting from wildfire smoke and prescribed fire smoke.

Anticipated actions/outcomes

- Understanding of air and water quality and related ecosystem conditions, trends, and areas of concern that can inform and prioritize actions, including:
    - Identifying emerging pollutants of concern in Oregon waters (either to inform programmatic work broadly or in specific geographies).
    - Establishing restoration priorities, including ecological return on investments.
    - Data-informed feedback loops on restoration actions and best management practices.
    - Actions needed to safeguard public health in drinking water or recreational waters.
    - Understanding current and future pressures for surface and groundwater quality.
    - Understanding of community impacts from wildfire and prescribed fire, including temporal variation of smoke throughout the year and geographic areas that are most impacted by smoke.

Inter-agency and external parties for collaboration

- Data collection, storage, and public access to data is coordinated with watershed councils, local governments, tribes, drinking water providers, soil and water conservation districts, permittees, other entities, other state agencies (WRD, ODFW). Federal agency water quality data is pulled into DEQ's data systems to facilitate use and access. OWEB funds partner organizations to collect water quality data that is shared with DEQ.
- Data analyses are frequently conducted in collaboration and/or with input from relevant entities (including entities above as well as additional partners such as Oregon State University Extension and federal agencies) depending on the scope and purpose of the data and information.

Keep Oregon's working lands and waters working

Identify and improve programs, tools and incentives that support stewardship and co-benefits

Biosolids Program

Anticipated DEQ action

Improve education and develop general permits to streamline municipalities' ability to modify their biosolids program outside of their National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System or Water Pollution Control Facilities permit cycles.

Affected attribute or indicator: *Ability to sustain communities, lifeways, and livelihoods.*

Currently contributing to reclaiming depleted agricultural land by improving soil health, carbon sequestration, water holding capacity, nutrient recycling, reduced demand on manufactured fertilizers, and improved yields.

Metrics or anticipated outcomes: Acres of farmland (can calculate fertilizer saved, carbon storage).

Inter-agency and external parties for collaboration: Wastewater utilities, ODA, and Oregon State University extension services.

Recycled Water Program

Anticipated DEQ action

- Outreach/education
- Coordination of program through interagency workgroup
- Revise and modernize regulations and guidance documents

Affected attribute or indicator: Ability to sustain communities, lifeways, and livelihoods

Reduced demand on instream and groundwater water rights.

Metrics or anticipated outcomes: Gallons reused

Inter-agency and external parties for collaboration: Wastewater utilities, ODA, and OSU extension services as well as Inter-agency team (OHA, ODA, ODFW, OWRD, & DEQ). Collaboration with specific entities using reuse to implement innovative strategies.

Drinking Water Source Protection Program

Anticipated DEQ action

Assist public water systems to identify and implement projects that increase the resiliency of the community's drinking water source(s) to support natural infrastructure.

Metrics or anticipated outcomes: Water systems served, number of projects supported, Drinking Water Protection Plans approved or certified.

Inter-agency and external parties for collaboration: OHA Drinking Water Services, Public Universities, OSU Sea Grant Extension & Extension Services, OWEB, CWSRF, ODF, ODA, NRCS, USFS, BLM, EPA, DOGAMI, ODFW, OWRD, SWCDs, Watershed Councils

Forest Water Quality and Nonpoint Source Programs

Anticipated DEQ action

Provide technical assistance to landowners, land managers, and other agencies to align management goals, water quality goals, and ecosystem resilience (including wildfire resilience) on working forestlands.

Inter-agency and external parties for collaboration: ODF, USFS, BLM, EPA

Improve permitting processes for restoration projects on working lands and waters

Water Quality Permitting

Anticipated DEQ action

- Prioritize permitting clarity and predictability - to reduce delays for restoration projects, infrastructure upgrades, fish passage work, floodplain reconnection, and climate adaptation projects. (Most recent 1200-C construction stormwater permit emphasizes this approach.)
- Coordinate application review internally and with permittee – to accomplish environmentally beneficial or resilience-related projects where multiple permits/actions required.
- Permit implementation – to develop implementation strategies and examples and incorporate into existing outreach/training channels.

Affected attribute or indicator: *Diverse and complex habitats, species, landscapes, and aquatic systems that provide options for responding to change and disturbance.*

- Protect riparian corridors, wetlands, floodplains, and receiving waters by reducing erosion, sedimentation, and pollutant loading and enable projects that support culvert

replacement, floodplain reconnection, stream restoration, and green infrastructure projects.
- Natural buffer zones, streambank stabilization, and stormwater treatment reduce stressors on aquatic systems and support habitat function, temperature moderation, and channel stability.
- Nature-based stormwater approaches support ecosystem function in developed areas.
- Predictable and coordinated permitting reduces delays for infrastructure, restoration, and hazard-mitigation projects.

Metrics or anticipated outcomes

- Increased integration of resilience co-benefits into permitting guidance, training, and outreach. **Milestone**: incorporate resilience-related examples and messaging into existing permits e.g., 1200-C, municipal separate storm sewer system, and 401. certification trainings, guidance updates, or implementation materials.
- Improved coordination for projects involving both water quality permitting and resilience-related restoration or infrastructure objectives. **Milestone**: establish/continue regular coordination with relevant agencies and programs (e.g., OWEB, DSL, ODFW, USACE). and encourage early coordination/pre-application meetings for complex projects.
- Increased awareness and use of nature-based and low-impact stormwater management approaches within existing permit frameworks. **Milestone**: examples of infiltration, soil preservation, riparian protection, runoff reduction, and green infrastructure approaches into outreach and technical assistance efforts.

Inter-agency and external parties for collaboration: Utilize existing interagency coordination with OWEB, DSL, ODFW, DLCD, DOGAMI, USACE, local governments, and infrastructure providers on restoration and resilience-related projects. Continue using existing interagency workgroups, trainings, outreach, and technical assistance channels to reduce permitting conflicts. Early coordination with permit applicants, consultants, Tribes, watershed councils, and conservation and community organizations to improve permitting efficiency/outcomes.

Improve application and grant review processes

Drinking Water Source Protection Program

Anticipated DEQ action

- Connects public water systems with funding resources and provides technical assistance as they apply for and access funding to address source water protection and streamlines access to funding by providing a one stop funding resource for communities seeking source water protection funding.
- Provide outreach, technical support, and training to promote and leverage funding opportunities for communities to address water quality improvement projects.
- Assist communities seeking funding for water quality projects by maximizing shared outreach efforts and materials about the funding opportunities (grants and CWSRF).

- Develop and implement policies, procedures, and process improvements to efficiently administer funding programs and coordinate water quality funding programs (e.g., CWSRF) within DEQ.

Metrics or anticipated outcomes: Water systems served, funding secured for planning or implementation and annual update of funding resource table.

Inter-agency and external parties for collaboration: OHA Drinking Water Services, Business Oregon, Public Universities, OSU Sea Grant Extension & Extension Services, OWEB, CWSRF, ODF, ODA, NRCS, USFS, BLM, EPA, DOGAMI, ODFW, OWRD, SWCDs, Watershed Councils.

Clean Water State Revolving Loan program, 319 Nonpoint Source and Overflow and Stormwater Grant programs

Anticipated DEQ action

- Timely and expeditious use of funds plan in agency Intended Use Plan including outreach, technical assistance, project and loan tracking, and reporting to ensure maximum utilization of funds.
- Early engagement with potential borrowers through loan information meetings and multi-agency One-Stops.
- Technical assistance targeting applicants on Intended use Plan to help them understand and complete loan requirements including environmental review, construction requirements and project financing.
- Agency process improvements and use of new and existing technology to improve tracking and consolidated information systems for applications and loans.

Metrics or anticipated outcomes

- **Metric**: Number of funding recipients participating in pre-application informational opportunities that subsequently apply for and receive funding.
- **Metric:** Number of projects that are co-funded by multiple funding sources within DEQ or partner agencies through coordinated efforts.
- **Metric:** Maximum utilization of funds as measured by percent of available loan and grants funds that are committed to eligible projects.
- **Metric:** Time from when an applicant completes funding requirements until loan or grant is executed.

Inter-agency and external parties for collaboration

- **319 Nonpoint Source Grant program:** Collaborate across various state and federal agencies, including OWEB, ODA, NRCS, EPA, as well as nonprofit organizations such as estuary partnerships and watershed councils.
- **Clean Water State Revolving Loan program:** Collaborate across various state and federal funding agencies: OWEB, Business Oregon, OHA, EPA, USDA Rural

Development for One-stops, Farmers Conservation Alliance, and others on outreach efforts, and co-funding.
- **Overflow and Stormwater Grant program:** Collaborate through targeted outreach to Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System permittees and CWSRF loan recipients.

Federal 319 Nonpoint Source and Overflow and Stormwater Grant programs

Anticipated DEQ action

Increase opportunities for leveraging funding and resources for stormwater and nonpoint source protection by consolidating the loan and grant management staff for the CWSRF program, 319 Nonpoint source program, and Sewer Overflow and Stormwater Reuse Municipal Grant.

Conserve natural lands and waters / lead by example

Protect, Conserve, Connect or Restore 10% of Lands and Waters within 10 years

Total Maximum Daily Loads

Anticipated DEQ action

- Develop TMDLs in priority watersheds across Oregon for Temperature, Nutrients, Dissolved Oxygen, Toxics, Bacteria, and additional parameters resulting in improved water quality and riparian and habitat conditions.
- Incorporate evolving climate and ecological science into TMDL development and implementation.

Affected attribute or indicator: *(1) Diverse and complex habitats, species, landscapes, and (2) aquatic systems that provide options for responding to change and disturbance.*

Metrics or Anticipated Outcomes: Increased streamside vegetation, shading, and buffering, including protection of cold-water refuges resulting in
- Restoration of watershed functions, including protecting and developing resilient watersheds.
- Protecting critical waters for aquatic ecosystems and communities.
- Increasing drought resilience.

Water Quality Standards

Anticipated DEQ action

Pursue designation of waters identified as priority candidates for Outstanding Resource Waters.

Affected attribute or indicator: *(1) Diverse and complex habitats, species, landscapes, and (2) aquatic systems that provide options for responding to change and disturbance.*

Metrics or Anticipated Outcomes: Protection of critical waters for aquatic ecosystems and communities.

Drinking Water Source Protection Program

Anticipated DEQ action

- Leverage federal and state funding resources to facilitate public water system readiness to conserve land and implement restoration in drinking water source areas.
- Collaborate with OHA Drinking Water Source Protection Fund and OWEB's Drinking Water Source Protection funding programs to assist with grant program implementation.

Affected attribute or indicator: *(1) Ability to sustain communities, lifeways and livelihoods and (2) diverse and complex habitats, species, landscapes, and aquatic systems that provide options for responding to change and disturbance.*

Metrics or Anticipated Outcomes

- Water systems served, funding amounts leveraged, acres conserved or restoration projects completed, workshops/ webinars held and participation numbers.
- Expected outcome is active engagement with grant program implementation.

Inter-agency and external parties for collaboration

OHA Drinking Water Services, Public water systems, OWEB, EPA, External Partners (Sustainable Northwest, land trusts).

Groundwater Quality Protection

Anticipated DEQ action

Implement current actions in three designated Groundwater Management Areas to improve groundwater quality.

Affected attribute or indicator: *Ability to sustain communities, lifeways and livelihoods.*

Metrics or Anticipated Outcomes

- **Outcome**: Ensure groundwater quality resources remain viable water resources.
- **Metrics**: Improving trends in three designated Groundwater Management Areas.

Inter-agency and external parties for collaboration: ODA, OWRD, OHA, local governments, community-based organizations, EPA, community members, local businesses.

Develop Innovative Mitigation Solutions

Water Quality Trading

Anticipated DEQ action

- Support permittee development of temperature water quality trading plans that restore tracts of streamside land resulting in water quality and ecosystem benefits at a lower cost. Benefits beyond lowering stream temperatures include restored fish and wildlife habitat, flood and drought resilience, carbon sequestration, and streambank stabilization.
- An expanded water quality trading program would focus on reducing nutrient pollution to improve water quality. Other expansion opportunities would include temperature trading for small municipalities and industrial permittees. Expanded water quality trading and other opportunities would provide a regulatory framework to offset permitted pollutants, accelerating water quality improvements and enhancing ecosystem benefits for a lower cost.

Metrics and anticipated outcomes

- **Outcomes:** Restored riparian areas are less fire prone and is shown to improve mental health. Many trading sites receive heavy public traffic, including the Bear Creek Greenway in Medford, and the Fanno Creek Greenway in Beaverton.
- **Metrics:** Practitioners track many metrics that include stream miles restored, solar heat blocked, tree species composition, invasive species control, canopy cover, water temperature, and pounds of nitrogen, phosphorous, and sediment retained.

Inter-agency and external parties for collaboration: Partners include watershed councils, soil and water conservation districts, Metro, nonprofits, businesses, farmers, drinking water providers, and water resource recovery facilities.

Develop and Implement Strategies to Enhance Climate Resiliency as Co-Benefit of Management Objectives

Total Maximum Daily Loads

Anticipated DEQ action

Encourage and allow Designated Management Agencies to use TMDL implementation mechanisms and approaches that also mitigate climate change risks and create resiliency. Use adaptive management methods to iteratively change TMDL implementation in response to changing conditions and new information.

Affected attribute or indicator: *(1) Diverse and complex habitats, species, landscapes, and (2) aquatic systems that provide options for responding to change and disturbance.*

Metrics and anticipated outcomes: Restoration of watershed functions, including protecting and developing resilient watersheds.

Drinking Water Source Protection Program

Anticipated DEQ action

Work with drinking water providers and other Drinking Water Source Area land managers to define and implement management objectives that facilitate and nurture complex and resilient ecosystems in Drinking Water Source Areas. Support actions taken through agreements or through funding mechanisms to protect and/or build resilience in Source Water Area.

Affected attribute or indicator: *Capacity to sustain communities, lifeways and livelihoods.*

Metrics and anticipated outcomes

- Restoration of watershed functions, including protecting and developing resilient watersheds.
- Protecting critical waters for communities.

Inter-agency and external parties for collaboration: OHA Drinking Water Services, Public water systems, OWEB, EPA, External Partners (Sustainable Northwest, land trusts).

Community and wildfire resilience

Support Efforts to Create a Plan for a Resilient Oregon

Smoke Management Program

Anticipated DEQ action

- Carry out pile burn emissions test to better define/calculate emissions.
- Engagement with regional groups to identify marketable uses for woody biomass including the Biomass Utilization Group and Pacific Coast Collaborative.

Affected attribute or indicator: *Capacity to sustain communities, lifeways and livelihoods.*

Metrics and anticipated outcomes: Updated data available for use to calculate emission factors and more accurately determine airshed impacts.

Inter-agency and external parties for collaboration: USFS, ODF, local public health agencies.

Drinking Water Source Protection Program

Anticipated DEQ action

- Implement interagency agreement with Oregon Health Authority to support drinking water protection in Oregon by providing technical assistance to public water systems and communities.

- Serve as lead agency in coordinating drinking water source protection activities with other state and federal agencies.
- Collaborate with Emergency Management agencies and personnel to assist water systems with preparedness and resiliency planning and implementation.

Affected attribute or indicator: *Capacity to sustain communities, lifeways and livelihoods*

Metrics and anticipated outcomes

- Water systems served, number of projects supported, Drinking Water Protection Plans approved or certified.
- Water systems served, number of projects supported, webinars or workshops held and participation numbers.

Inter-agency and external parties for collaboration

- Coordination and collaboration with OHA Drinking Water Services, public water systems, Efforts also include other state and federal agencies, Soil & Water Conservations Districts, Watershed Councils, etc.
- Coordination with OHA, OAWU, OEM, DEQ, Counties Emergency Response Managers or planning departments to water systems with preparedness and resiliency planning and implementation.

Water Quality Permitting

Anticipated DEQ action

Timely water quality permits with adequate water quality protection conditions and incorporation of updated engineering and other management plans.

Metrics and anticipated outcomes:

- Timely issuance of permits; review of plans and requirements.
- Ensure scarce water resources meet water quality needs for ecological and human uses.
- Infrastructure planning and resource management plans routinely updated and incorporated into permits.

Clean Water State Revolving Loan program and 319 Nonpoint Source, Overflow and Stormwater Grant programs

Anticipated DEQ action

Provide loan and grant funding to communities to support planning and creation of resilient gray and green infrastructure.

Affected attribute or indicator: *Capacity to sustain communities, lifeways and livelihoods*

Implement 20-Year Landscape Resiliency Plan

Smoke Management Program

Anticipated DEQ action

- Partner with ODF to update and implement the Smoke Management Program to allow for an increase in the pace of scale of prescribed fire treatments while protecting public health.
- Reduce permitting barriers to alternatives to burning – Air Curtain Incinerator general permit.

Affected attribute or indicator: *Space, time, and capacity for ecological processes to support and reinforce ecosystem functions*

Metrics and anticipated outcomes: Create regulatory space for increased fuel treatments, reducing wildfire risk and increasing ecosystem health, while continuing to monitor air quality impacts and take steps to protect public health from smoke.

Total Maximum Daily Load

Anticipated DEQ action

Coordinate TMDLs implementation actions through Designated Management Agencies to enhance resiliency and decrease community and ecosystem risk. Facilitate the inclusion of restoration projects that incorporate changes in plant communities and ecosystem structure.

Create Fire-Adapted Communities

Smoke Management Program

Anticipated DEQ action

- Management of Congressionally Directed Spending to support communities in fuel reduction projects using alternative to burning.
- Support communities in development and implementation of Community Response Plans for prescribed fire smoke.

Affected attribute or indicator: *People and environments are resilient together through place-based relationships.*

Metrics and anticipated outcomes

- Allow communities to develop fuel reduction programs that will reduce wildfire risk, increase community resilience, and protect airsheds.
- Support communities in preparing for and responding to smoke while allowing for an increase in the pace and scale of prescribed fire.

Total Maximum Daily Load

Anticipated DEQ action

Explicitly include actions to address fire resilience, where applicable, in TMDL Water Quality Management Plans and restoration projects.

Nonpoint Source Program

Anticipated DEQ action

Coordinate with forestland owners, OSU Extension, and other agencies to adapt technical assistance, funding, regulations, and water quality restoration activities to consider future climate, plant community migration, and fire resistance and resilience.