

Columbia and Lower Snake Rivers Temperature TMDL Water Quality Management Plan

Local Advisory Group Charter

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Document information

This document was prepared by Oregon Department of Environmental Quality

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Table of contents

Document information	2
Non-discrimination statement	2
Objectives and scope.....	4
Advisory Group purpose and objectives.....	4
Project scope.....	5
Local Advisory Group Timeline	7
Roles	7
DEQ facilitator	7
Advisory Group members.....	8
Non-committee member attendees	8
DEQ staff.....	8
DEQ support and website	9
Committee meetings	9
Decision making	9
Membership.....	10
Travel expenses.....	10
Public records and confidentiality	10
Information exchange	11
Public involvement.....	11
DEQ contacts.....	11

Objectives and scope

Advisory group purpose and objectives

This Local advisory group's purpose is to provide input to the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality on the Water Quality Management Plan for the *Columbia and Lower Snake Rivers Temperature Total Maximum Daily Load*. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency wrote the TMDL in 2020 to meet a court-ordered deadline and released a revised version in 2021 following a formal public comment period. The TMDL covers the entire mainstem of the Columbia River from the Canadian border to the mouth near Astoria, Oregon. The States of Washington and Oregon are responsible for implementing the reductions of excess heat required by the TMDL.

The WQMP is a required section of a TMDL, as described under Oregon Administrative Rules 340-042-0040(4)(I). The WQMP provides the framework of management strategies to attain and maintain water quality standards. The framework is designed to work in conjunction with detailed plans and analyses provided in sector-specific or source-specific implementation plans.

The WQMP has thirteen required elements:

- A. Condition assessment and problem description.
- B. Goals and objectives.
- C. Proposed management strategies designed to meet the wasteload allocations and load allocations in the TMDL. This will include a categorization of sources and a description of the management strategies proposed for each source category.
- D. Timeline for implementing management strategies including:
 - i. Schedule for revising permits,
 - ii. Schedule for achieving appropriate incremental and measurable water quality targets,
 - iii. Schedule for implementing control actions, and
 - iv. Schedule for completing other measurable milestones.
- E. Explanation of how implementing the management strategies will result in attainment of water quality standards.
- F. Timeline for attainment of water quality standards.
- G. Identification of persons, including Designated Management Agencies (DMAs), responsible for implementing the management strategies and developing and revising sector-specific or source-specific implementation plans.

- H. Identification of sector-specific or source-specific implementation plans that are available at the time the TMDL is issued.
- I. Schedule for preparation and submission of sector-specific or source-specific implementation plans by responsible persons, including DMAs, and processes that trigger revisions to these implementation plans.
- J. Description of reasonable assurance that management strategies and sector-specific or source-specific implementation plans will be carried out through regulatory or voluntary actions.
- K. Plan to monitor and evaluate progress toward achieving TMDL allocations and water quality standards including:
 - i. Identification of persons responsible for monitoring, and
 - ii. Plan and schedule for reviewing monitoring information and revising the TMDL.
- L. Plan for public involvement in implementing management strategies.
- M. Description of planned efforts to maintain management strategies over time.
- N. General discussion of costs and funding for implementing management strategies. Sector-specific or source-specific implementation plans may provide more detailed analyses of costs and funding for specific management strategies.
- O. Citation of legal authorities relating to implementation of management strategies.

DEQ plans to hold two local advisory group meetings for this project. The role of the Local Advisory Group is to advise DEQ on the content and structure of the draft WQMP. DEQ is not requesting the committee to make decisions or recommendations as a group. Neither does DEQ expect that the committee will reach consensus on their views or their input to DEQ. Based on the individual feedback and recommendations provided by members of the Local Advisory Group, DEQ may modify the draft WQMP that will be open to a formal public comment period.

Project scope

The scope of this Local Advisory Group is for the waterbodies identified in the *Columbia and Lower Snake Rivers Temperature TMDL* as impaired for temperature. The entire portion of the mainstem Columbia in Oregon's waters is impaired for temperature and is covered by the TMDL. Table 1 displays the Oregon assessment units addressed in the TMDL.

**Table 1. Oregon Assessment Units Addressed in the Columbia and Lower Snake Rivers
Temperature Total Maximum Daily Load**

Assessment Unit ID	Assessment Unit Description
OR_LK_1707010102_88_100147	Lake Wallula (upstream from McNary, OR)
OR_LK_1707010102_88_100148	Lake Wallula (upstream from Switzler Canyon)
OR_LK_1707010102_88_100149	Lake Wallula (upstream from Spaw Canyon)
OR_LK_1707010102_88_100150	Lake Wallula (upstream from McNary Dam)
OR_LK_1707010106_88_100132	Lake Umatilla (upstream from Lwr Four Mile Canyon)
OR_LK_1707010106_88_100133	Lake Umatilla (upstream from East Paterson Ridge)
OR_LK_1707010106_88_100146	Lake Umatilla (upstream from Glade Creek)
OR_LK_1707010109_88_100144	Lake Umatilla (upstream from Sixmile Canyon)
OR_LK_1707010109_88_100145	Lake Umatilla (upstream from Crow Butte)
OR_LK_1707010114_88_100131	Lake Umatilla (upstream from Sand Spring Canyon)
OR_LK_1707010114_88_100140	Lake Umatilla (upstream from John Day Dam)
OR_LK_1707010114_88_100141	Lake Umatilla (upstream from Blalock Canyon)
OR_LK_1707010114_88_100142	Lake Umatilla (upstream from China Creek)
OR_LK_1707010114_88_100143	Lake Umatilla (upstream from Pine Creek)
OR_LK_1707010501_88_100139	Lake Celilo (upstream from Wishram, WA)
OR_LK_1707010504_88_100137	Lake Bonneville (upstream from Rowena Creek)
OR_LK_1707010504_88_100138	Lake Celilo (upstream from The Dalles Dam)
OR_LK_1707010511_88_100135	Lake Bonneville (upstream from Wind River)
OR_LK_1707010511_88_100136	Lake Bonneville (upstream from White Salmon River)
OR_LK_1707010512_88_100134	Lake Bonneville (upstream from Bonneville Dam)
OR_LK_1708000605_04_100320	Estuary: Mainstem upper
OR_LK_1708000605_04_100323	Estuary: Mainstem lower
OR_LK_1708000605_04_107234	Estuary: Mainstem mouth
OR_SR_1708000108_88_100671	Bridal Veil Creek to Sandy River
OR_SR_1708000108_88_100672	Multnomah Creek to Bridal Veil Creek
OR_SR_1708000302_88_100669	Willamette River to Frogmore Slough
OR_SR_1708000302_88_100670	Sandy River to Willamette River
OR_SR_1708000309_04_100662	Puget Island to Quinns Island

Assessment Unit ID	Assessment Unit Description
OR_SR_1708000309_04_100663	Wallace Slough to Puget Island
OR_SR_1708000309_04_100664	Mill Creek to Wallace Slough
OR_SR_1708000309_04_100665	Green Creek to Mill Creek
OR_SR_1708000309_04_100666	Owl Creek to Green Creek
OR_SR_1708000309_04_100667	Kalama River to Owl Creek
OR_SR_1708000309_04_100668	Tide Creek to Kalama River
OR_SR_1708000309_04_100675	Frogmore Slough to Tide Creek

Local advisory group timeline

DEQ plans to host two Local Advisory Group meetings and then release a draft WQMP for a formal public comment period. The table below shows the major milestones and dates for this rulemaking process.

Milestone	Date
Local Advisory Group Meetings #1	Feb. 24, 2026, 11 a.m. – 1 p.m. PT
Local Advisory Group Meeting #2	March 31, 2026. 11 a.m. – 1 p.m. PT
Public notice and comment period	Spring 2026

Roles

DEQ facilitator

The facilitator:

- Encourages open, candid and robust dialogue.
- Starts and ends the meetings and agenda items on time.
- Encourages innovation by listening to all ideas.
- Captures ideas.
- Recognizes when the discussion is outside the scope of the meeting and steers the discussion back to the focus of the meeting.

Advisory group members

Local Advisory Group members must attend each meeting to ensure continuity throughout the process. If a member's absence is unavoidable, please notify the DEQ project manager. In this case, an alternate may be assigned. However, it is each committee member's responsibility to fully brief their alternate on all relevant issues and prior committee discussions to meet the meeting objectives and keep the project on schedule. The primary and alternate members of the committee cannot participate in the same meeting.

The committee member:

- Replies promptly to scheduling emails or polls and sets aside time for the meetings.
- Prepares for meetings by reviewing any materials provided.
- Provides DEQ staff with copies of relevant research and documentation cited or suggested by the member.
- Stays focused on the specific agenda topics for each meeting.
- Comments constructively and in good faith.
- Consults with constituencies promptly to inform them about the process and gather their input.
- Treats everyone and their opinions with respect.
- Allows one person to speak at a time.
- Is courteous by not engaging in sidebar discussions or engaging in other distracting behaviors during the meeting.
- Avoids representing to any outside party, including the public and the media, the views of any other committee member or the committee as a whole.

Non-committee member attendees

DEQ will invite the public it expects to be interested to observe the committee meetings using DEQ's opt-in email notification service for TMDLs. Non-members from the public may attend the committee meetings to observe, but not to actively participate in committee discussions. If non-committee members are present at a meeting, DEQ will try to provide time during the meeting for their comments and questions. However, this will be discretionary and as time allows.

DEQ staff

DEQ is committed to making the most effective use of committee members' time by:

- Establishing clear committee goals, meeting objectives and agendas.
- Giving committee members reasonable access to staff.

- Encouraging all members to participate in discussions.
- Providing a clear description of member roles, the committee timeline, the level of support or agreement perceived on specific proposals, and feedback on how committee member input will be used.
- Prepare for meetings and document reviews as described further below.

DEQ support and website

DEQ will post the agenda and meeting materials on the advisory committee website at least one week in advance of the meeting. DEQ staff will provide meeting summaries of committee discussions that highlight the different perspectives and input of individual committee members. DEQ will send draft meeting summaries to the advisory committee for review and input. The local advisory group charter, a roster of the committee, meeting agendas and minutes, and background materials will be located on the [Columbia River TMDL web page](#).

Committee meetings

All committee meetings will be:

- Open to the public for observation. DEQ will try to include time on the agenda at each meeting for non-member comments and questions if time allows.
- Advertised on the [DEQ web page calendar](#) two weeks before the meeting
- Noticed by email to the Water Quality Standards GovDelivery list
- Accessible via a call-in number or webinar

The committee will meet virtually two times between February and March 2026. Meetings will be scheduled for two hours, but the durations may vary depending on topics and committee progress. The agenda and meeting materials will be posted to the advisory committee webpage. When DEQ shares information with the committee, DEQ will allow a reasonable timeframe for review and feedback.

Decision making

This advisory committee will not make policy decisions. Rather, DEQ will consider the committee's discussions and input to inform its draft Water Quality Management Plan that will be released for formal public comment. DEQ may ask individual committee members to state whether they agree with or support certain aspects of the pre-public comment draft WQMP under consideration or discussion. DEQ retains the authority to decide the content of the final draft WQMP. The draft WQMP will be published for public

review and public comment and DEQ plans to release a formal response to comments with the final WQMP.

Membership

In convening this Local Advisory Group, DEQ selected members who reflect the range of stakeholders the proposed rules may impact, both directly and indirectly. Representatives can consider and provide input to DEQ on the proposed content and structure of the Water Quality Management Plan.

Table 2. Advisory Committee Membership

Name	Affiliation
Paula Calvert	Bonneville Power Administration
Sherrie Duncan	Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation
Keri Handaly	Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde
Miles Johnson	Columbia Riverkeeper
Ray Walton	WEST Consultants on behalf of Northwest RiverPartners
Liz Hamilton	Northwest Sportfishing Industry Association
Erick Van Dyke	Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife
Neil Maunu	Pacific Northwest Waterways Association
Dan Turner	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Todd Maguire	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency [Agency Advisory Role]
Robbie O'Donnell	Washington State Department of Ecology
Charles Morrill	Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife

Travel expenses

DEQ can reimburse any in-state or out-of-town committee members for travel expenses to in-person meetings, as required, if DEQ approves the reimbursements in advance of travel.

Public records and confidentiality

Committee communications and records, such as formal documents, discussion drafts, meeting summaries and exhibits are public records, and are available for public inspection and copying. DEQ does not assume responsibility for protecting proprietary or confidential business information shared during committee or subcommittee meetings. However, the private documents of individual committee members outside of DEQ generally are not considered public records if DEQ does not possess a copy.

Information exchange

Committee members will provide information as far in advance as possible of the meeting at which it will be used. The members will also share all relevant information with each other to the maximum extent possible. If a member believes the relevant information is proprietary, the member will provide a general description of the information and the reason for withholding it.

Public involvement

All meetings will be open to the public. DEQ will try to set aside time for public input during a committee meeting if time allows. However, this is at DEQ's discretion.

DEQ will develop a draft Water Quality Management Plan concurrent with the Local Advisory Group process. Following consideration of the advisory group's feedback, DEQ will release a draft Water Quality Management Plan for public comment. That process will include a specified period of time during which all members of the public can submit comments on the proposed text. DEQ may modify the Water Quality Management Plan based on public comment and will provide a formal response to comments with publication of the final plan. DEQ anticipates releasing the draft Water Quality Management Plan in Spring 2026.

DEQ contacts

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