



Oregon's 100-Year Water Vision

Outreach Methods and Feedback Processing

Outreach Methods

During the fall and winter of 2019, the Governor's Natural Resources Office and state agencies listened, learned, and gathered information about the 100-Year Water Vision and its associated goals and problem statements. The objectives for this fall included:

- Refine the vision, problem statement and goals as appropriate from feedback received;
- Building on the Integrated Water Resources Strategy (IWRS), increase understanding of available data and gaps in data related to current surface and groundwater condition, as well as built and natural water infrastructure conditions and needs;
- Building on the IWRS, increase identification of priority data needs for effective built and natural water infrastructure decision-making;
- Increased knowledge of current state and federal funding available for water system investments and funding gaps; and
- Increased awareness by water leaders of the context around the 100-Year Water Vision and its goals, including examples.

This fall, individuals and organizations across Oregon were offered a variety of ways to engage with the 100-Year Water Vision in person and online:

- **SHARE YOUR THOUGHTS:** Oregonians responded to the Water Vision at OregonWaterVision.org by filling out a 3-question survey. This platform engaged over 320 participants.
- **COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS:** Conversations (eight total) held across Oregon and available via webinar for those unable to join in person engaged over 400 participants, and allowed water leaders to share, learn, and discuss the Vision's 4 major goal areas (Health, Safety, Environment, and Economy), learn from local water case studies, provide feedback on challenges and share their vision of success for Oregon's water future.
- **TECHNICAL WORKSHOP:** More than 150 of those who use water data and information to plan, manage and make decisions about water, gathered to help state agencies better define what we know and gaps in knowledge around natural and built water infrastructure, current surface and groundwater condition, and funding.
- **INTERVIEWS:** The State partnered with the Oregon Consensus to conduct neutral interviews with 78 individuals from 50 organizations who have an interest in Oregon's water future, as well as tribes and local governments. Interviewees helped better understand challenges and opportunities related to Oregon's Water Vision and provided

suggestions to ensure the Vision adequately and equitably reflects the diverse interests of Oregonians.

- **TRIBAL ENGAGEMENT:** The State conducted individual meetings with 7 of the 9 federally recognized tribes in Oregon. Each tribe discussed their individual water challenges, and evaluated the 4 major goals and problem statements highlighted in the Water Vision. Members of the other 2 tribes participated in interviews or informal conversations.
- **FORMAL LETTERS:** Some organizations and individuals submitted formal letters via email about the Water Vision, and the engagement process moving forward.
- **INFORMATIONAL PRESENTATIONS:** When invited, staff gave informational presentations, and collected feedback about the Vision at organizational meetings, primarily for state boards, commissions and task forces.

Moving forward, outreach and communication with Oregonians across the state will continue to be a core principle of the 100-Year Water Vision.

Analyzing the Information

Gather feedback > Sort by primary topic > Sort by secondary topic > Conduct thematic analysis

Throughout the outreach and engagement process, participants provided feedback about how adequately the 100-Year Water Vision connected with their personal relationship to water.

Participants were asked to reflect on whether the 4 goals of “Health, Economy, Environment, and Safety” were sufficient in addressing the current and future needs of Oregonians across the state. They were also asked to evaluate how the 6 problem statements, focusing primarily on modern water supply, resilient built and natural infrastructure, upgraded water systems, data, community capacity, and funding, connected with the challenges that participants saw in their communities. Participants provided feedback on their vision of future success for Oregon’s water future. They also shared their perspectives on what a successful process would look like for future phases of Water Vision work.

During the Technical Workshop, participants were asked to discuss the key water management questions they needed to answer, and what data they needed in order to address those questions. Breakout groups further discussed the current conditions of, and relevant data and information gaps in the following subject areas:

- Water availability and use
- Water quality
- Environment
- Future trends
- Funding and finance

Collectively, over 4,100 individual comments about the 100-Year Water Vision were collected to help inform next steps for the process.



Each of the over 4,100 individual comments about the Vision goals and problem statements, as well as data gaps and needs, were sorted into high level subject areas. These included topics such as environment, water supply, community needs, and policy. From there, each comment was further sorted into a more specific, secondary topic, such as groundwater supply, or cold water habitat for fish.

This sorting process was cross checked by several parties, in order to ensure that the true nature of the comments was adequately captured.



Following the sorting process, the secondary topics were summarized in a series of narratives, and high level themes that transcended that multiple subject areas were extracted. Themes such as equity, education, external pressures like climate change and community growth, and the balance of tension between local and state needs, emerged as common threads that formed the foundation of challenges and needs across the state.

Stakeholder Interviews

Oregon Consensus, the state’s public policy dispute resolution and collaborative governance program, conducted an independent and neutral assessment. The objective was to interview a representative cross section of individuals, organizations, and government representatives who have an interest in water. Interviews focused on their views about the draft vision and their ideas about investments in Oregon’s water future. They discussed what the big concerns are and how best to address multiple ecological, economic, and social needs. They also discussed what a pathway forward might look like, including advice to the state about their role in the effort. Oregon Consensus interviewed 78 individuals from 50 organizations. The full report, including in-depth methodology, from Oregon Consensus can be viewed at www.OregonWaterVision.org.

Updating the Water Vision

After gathering extensive feedback from a variety of sources, and the individual comments were analyzed for important themes, the state drafted language for the refined 100-Year Water Vision. The figure below displays the steps taken by the state to translate the feedback received into a revised 100-Year Water Vision document.

