

# Place-Based Water Planning Updates July – December 2020

## Program and Place-Based Updates

- All four places adapted to virtual meetings to continue safely collaborating while keeping partners safe.
- Learning Partnership hosted virtual conversations to share information and resources to help planning groups with communication, outreach, and engagement. Four conversations held in 2020: 1) how to talk to with legislators; 2) web-based tools to convey complex technical information; 3) tips and tricks for virtual collaboration; 4) communicating complex topics to decision-makers.
- Planning Assessment Element A completed, progress made on Element B, and scoping of Element C initiated (see more [here](#)).



## Harney Basin

Conveners: Harney County Court & Watershed Council  
OWRD Grant: \$300,000 Other Funding (to-date): \$336,234

Planning Steps 2/3/4

- Collaborative meetings held in July, August, September, October, November, and December.
- New campaign style website launched to support outreach efforts – [www.harneywaterfuture.com](http://www.harneywaterfuture.com).
- Consensus reached to develop and submit a Legislative Concept to support domestic well owners affected by groundwater declines.
- Proposal drafted for a Groundwater Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program that will help voluntarily reduce groundwater use in the Basin.

**More information:** Contact Holly Mondo at 805-801-6013 || [holly@hcwatershedcouncil.com](mailto:holly@hcwatershedcouncil.com)

**WEB:** [www.hcwatershedcouncil.com/community-based-water-planning](http://www.hcwatershedcouncil.com/community-based-water-planning)

## Upper Grande Ronde Sub-Basin

Convener: Union County  
OWRD Grant: \$275,000 Other Funding (to-date): \$110,000

Planning Step 4/5

- Stakeholder meetings held in September, October, November, and December.
- Feasibility Study Grant application submitted to the Department to explore storage projects and instream water needs.
- Consensus achieved on Step 4 report.
- First draft of the final plan developed.

**More information:** Contact Scott Hartell at 541-963-1014 || [shartell@union-county.org](mailto:shartell@union-county.org)

**WEB:** <http://union-county.org/planning/place-based-integrated-water-resources-planning/>

## Lower John Day Sub-Basin

Convener: Gilliam County SWCD & Mid-John Day Bridge Creek WC  
OWRD Grant: \$275,000 Other Funding (to-date): \$157,000

Planning Step 4/5

- Meetings held in July, August, September, October, November, and December.
- Continued progress to refine critical issues and develop strategies and solutions.
- Prioritization of critical issues in different Water Availability Basins.
- Draft of a Step 4 report circulated to the workgroup for review.
- \$604,000 of OWEB FIP funding allocated to implement strategies identified in Step 4.

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**WEB:** <https://www.lowerjohndaypbp.com/>

## Mid-Coast Region

Conveners: Seal Rock Water District, OWRD, Lincoln County  
OWRD Grant: \$300,000 Other Funding (to-date): \$430,000

Planning Step 3/4

- Convened working groups and partnership in August and September to confirm critical issues.
- Launched new website and other outreach materials summarizing key information (see below).
- Obtained datasets and began developing Oregon Explorer Mid-Coast Water Map Viewer and Report.
- Compiled best management practices and actions from water plans throughout the US and Europe.
- US Army Corps of Engineers Hydro-Climate Vulnerability Assessment completed.
- [StoryMap](#) describing water conditions completed.

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# Place-Based Integrated Water Resources Planning



## Helping Oregonians plan for their current and future instream and out-of-stream water needs

Place-based integrated water resources planning is one of the recommended actions from the 2012 and 2017 [Integrated Water Resources Strategy \(IWRS\)](#). It provides an opportunity for places to work collaboratively, in partnership with the state, to understand their water resources challenges and needs, and identify strategies and actions to meet those needs. The [DRAFT planning guidelines](#) describe the five steps and key planning principles central to any place-based integrated water resources planning effort.

### Planning Step 1

**Build a collaborative and inclusive process** – Conveners assemble partners representing a balance of interests, including state agencies, and work with partners to: create a governance agreement that describes how the partners will collaborate and make decisions using consensus; develop a communication and outreach strategy to ensure an open and inclusive process that fosters public participation; and develop a work plan outlining how the group will execute Planning Steps 2-5.

### Planning Step 2

**Gather information to develop a shared understanding of current water resources and identify gaps** – The planning group assesses and describes water resources in the planning area, looking at water quantity, quality, and ecology. This effort includes collecting and synthesizing existing information, identifying any gaps in knowledge, and developing strategies to fill these gaps.

### Planning Step 3

**Examine current and future water needs/demands and vulnerabilities for people, the economy, and the environment** – The group identifies and prioritizes current and future instream and out-of-stream water needs/demands using an integrated approach. Groups also examine water challenges and vulnerabilities, such as how climate change may affect water resources and the ability to meet water needs.

### Planning Step 4

**Identify and prioritize strategic, integrated solutions to meet multiple instream and out-of-stream water needs** – The group collaboratively identifies a long-term strategy and near-term recommended actions to address the instream and out-of-stream issues and needs identified in Steps 2-3. Consensus-based strategies and actions are captured in a plan.

### Planning Step 5

**Approve and implement a place-based integrated water resources plan** – The group approves the plan and develops more detailed strategies to implement actions. The Water Resources Commission and other agencies will have an opportunity to formally recognize the plan, based on whether it is consistent with the IWRS, the guidelines, and state water policy.

### Key Planning Principles

- Locally-initiated and led collaborative effort
- Voluntary, non-regulatory process
- Includes a balanced representation of water interests
- Conducted in partnership with the state
- Balances current and future instream and out-of-stream needs
- Looks at water quantity, quality and ecosystem needs in an integrated approach
- Utilizes an open and transparent process that fosters public participation
- Builds on and integrates existing studies and plans
- Does not infringe on existing water rights
- Adheres to IWRS principles and state laws

### Learn More!

Visit the web page: <https://go.usa.gov/xV5f4> Email: [wrd\\_dl\\_placebasedplanning@oregon.gov](mailto:wrd_dl_placebasedplanning@oregon.gov)  
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