

Place-Based Water Planning Updates January – June 2021

Program and Place-Based Updates

- Learning Partnership hosted [virtual conversations](#) to learn from other states doing regional water planning and integrated water planning, including 1) Yakima Basin Integrated Plan, 2) Colorado Basin Planning, 3) California Integrated Regional Water Management Planning, 4) Texas Regional Water Planning.
- Planning Groups participated in a training with StoryGorge to learn about audio visual storytelling and produce [videos](#).
- Two commission presentations – [an update from the Groups in February](#) and [an overview of the State review process in June](#).
- [Presentation to the Legislature](#) in support of funding for place-based planning. Funding secured from the legislature (HB 5006).
- Contract signed with the National Policy Consensus Center and Oregon State University Extension to conduct an independent evaluation of the pilot phase of place-based planning.



Harney Basin

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

Planning Steps 2/3/4/5

- Collaborative meetings held in January, February, April, May, and June.
- Funding secured from the legislature to support domestic well users impacted by groundwater level declines and to support a groundwater Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) to pay irrigators to reduce groundwater pumping. Consensus achieved on the CREP proposal.
- Draft Step 2 and 3 summary materials and conclusions discussed for inclusion in a draft plan.

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WEB: www.hcwatershedcouncil.com/community-

Upper Grande Ronde Sub-Basin

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

Planning Step 5

- Stakeholder meetings held in January, February, March, and April.
- OWRD grant awarded to explore storage projects and instream needs. OWEB grant for instream needs recommended for funding.
- Integrated Water Resources Plan locally adopted and submitted for state recognition.
- Inter-agency review of plan. Partnership working through required and suggested revisions.

More information: Contact Scott Hartell at 541-963-1014 || shartell@union-county.org
WEB: <http://union-county.org/planning/place-based->

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 January, March, April, May, and June.
- Public review of Step 4 report and comments addressed.
- Consensus achieved on the Step 4 report.
- Information and recommendations from place-based planning process used to help strategically direct OWEB FIP funding to high priority areas and projects.

More information: Contact Herb Winters at 541-384-2672 x110 || herb.gilliamswcd@gmail.com
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 4/5

- Convened Action Plan development meetings in January, February, March, April, and May.
- Convened Partnership meetings in March and May to provide an update on Plan development.
- [StoryMap](#) describing water conditions completed.
- Secured funding to conduct Phase 2 of the outreach project with Oregon's Kitchen Table, including outreach to Latinx/indigenous communities, tribal communities, and local businesses and industry.

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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
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