

## Guiding Future Approaches and Support for Water Resources Planning

The State of Oregon's [Integrated Water Resources Strategy](#) (IWRS) contains numerous recommended actions specific to water planning (5B, 5.5A-C, 6A, 9A, 9B, 13C) and the Oregon Water Resources Department (OWRD) [2019-2024 Strategic Plan](#) prioritizes actions that will equip basins to plan for their water future. As recognized in the [100-Year Water Vision](#), planning is an essential step in developing, investing in, and implementing water projects. Since 2016, state agencies have partnered with four places in a pilot phase of [Place-Based Integrated Water Resources Planning](#) and many more places across the state are asking for help.

**Given the importance of planning, how can we structure and support future planning to meet instream and out-of-stream water needs and strategically guide investments?**

To answer this question, OWRD will work with diverse water partners to conduct an assessment and develop recommendations for future water resources planning. In 2020-2021, we will focus on the following areas of investigation:

- A. Review the statewide framework and OWRD's role and responsibilities related to water resources planning.
- B. Learn from others within and outside of Oregon with relevant water resources planning experience.
- C. Evaluate OWRD's past and current approaches to water resources planning, including the pilot phase of place-based integrated water resources planning.
- D. Assess the planning status, assets, and needs of the state and places across Oregon.
- E. Together with partners, chart a path forward with specific recommended actions for future water resources planning in Oregon based on information gathered in areas A-D.

The assessment will provide the information needed by decision-makers to pursue the approaches and support needed for water planning that will lead to a more secure water future for Oregon's environment, communities, and economy.

To receive updates or share information relevant to the assessment, please contact Harmony Burright or Steve Parrett at [wrd\\_dl\\_placebasedplanning@oregon.gov](mailto:wrd_dl_placebasedplanning@oregon.gov) or 503-986-0913.



### Planned Activities (A-D)

- Review **guiding documents**, including statutes, rules, strategies, and plans.
- Conduct a **literature review** to identify factors that enable or limit successful water planning.
- Develop **case stories** with lessons learned from comparable efforts inside and outside of Oregon.
- Conduct a **comparative analysis** of past and current approaches to planning.
- Update the 2014 **discussion paper** with a compilation of lessons learned and best practices.
- Hire an external entity to do an **independent evaluation** of place-based water planning along with a **guided self-evaluation** with the state and places.
- Conduct a **rapid assessment** of the status, assets, interest and needs of places and the state, including a **survey of places**.
- **Share progress and findings** with statewide and place-based stakeholders via emails, presentations, and conversations.