



Oregon

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Water Resources Commission

FROM: Tom Paul, Deputy Director
Alyssa Mucken, IWRS Program Coordinator

SUBJECT: Agenda Item R, November 15, 2013
Water Resources Commission

Update on the Willamette Basin WaterSMART Plan of Study

I. Introduction

In March 2013, the Department submitted a proposal to participate in the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation's WaterSMART Basin Study Program. This competitive program is designed to help water users address 21st century water supply challenges. As part of a basin study, Reclamation works with basin stakeholders to study options for meeting future water demands in river basins where imbalances in supply and demand exist or are projected. WaterSMART basin studies address the following four objectives:

- 1) Develop projections of water supply and demand, including climate change risks, such as changes in snowpack, timing and quantity of runoff, impacts to groundwater, and increase in demand for water.
- 2) Examine how climate change and other pressures could affect existing infrastructure, operations, and facilities.
- 3) Develop options for meeting future water needs.
- 4) Identify trade-offs and analyze possible alternatives.

The Department is interested in the WaterSMART program to support and inform the Willamette Basin Reservoir Study. The Corps has funding to scope the Reservoir Study activities during federal fiscal year 2014. If the Corps receives funding and approval to carry out the Reservoir Study tasks, it is anticipated that it would begin in October 2014, continuing through September 2017. The WaterSMART program includes a comprehensive look at all water demands and climate-related risks in the Willamette Basin; information that is necessary to complete the Reservoir Study.

II. Background

In late May, the Department was selected to complete a Plan of Study, with Reclamation acting as a project partner. Reclamation will contribute up to \$50,000 toward these efforts, with a required cost match (cash or in-kind) from the Department, for a total project cost up to \$100,000. Developing a plan of study is the first step to complete a basin study. A plan of study outlines: the purpose and objectives of the study, available data and models, roles and

responsibilities of project partners, methods for communication and public involvement, and study tasks.

III. WaterSMART Workshop in September

The Department worked with Reclamation staff to develop a Draft Plan of Study, which outlines previous work, available data, and current activities in the Willamette Basin. The Draft Plan of Study was shared with stakeholders during a workshop in late September. Workshop participants included municipal, agricultural, and instream interests in the basin, and included state and federal agency staff from the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, Oregon Department of Agriculture, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation. During the workshop, time was spent discussing possible data gaps, particularly related to agricultural, municipal, self-supplied industrial, and instream flow needs. An analysis of agricultural demands has been identified as a key data gap that could be addressed through a WaterSMART basin study.

Willamette Water 2100 team members and HDR Engineering also attended the workshop. The Willamette Water 2100 team members provided a status update on climate change analysis conducted under this National Science Foundation funded project. HDR Engineering provided a summary of how agricultural demands were developed as part of the 2008 Oregon Water Supply and Conservation Initiative Statewide Demand Assessment.

Stakeholders suggested developing a side-by-side comparison of the WaterSMART program and Reservoir Study requirements, along with other ongoing activities in the basin, such as Willamette Water 2100. Doing so will help evaluate how these efforts fit together and can potentially complement one another.

IV. Next Steps/Conclusion

The Department will work with Reclamation and stakeholders over the next several months to further revise and finalize the plan of study. Monthly, or possibly more frequent, stakeholder meetings are planned for this fall. During this time, the Department and stakeholders will need to decide whether to pursue a Basin Study through the WaterSMART program. Letters of interests will likely be due in January 2014.

To implement the Plan of Study, the Department would need to submit an application proposal to Reclamation in early 2014. If the Department's proposal is selected, it is anticipated that work could begin in late May or early June 2014.

Alyssa Mucken
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Update on the Willamette Basin WaterSMART Plan of Study

Water Resources Commission Meeting

November 15, 2013

Outline

- **Introduction**
 - **What is WaterSMART and why are we pursuing it?**
- **Background**
- **September Stakeholder Workshop**
- **Next Steps/Conclusion**

Introduction to WaterSMART

What are WaterSMART Basin Studies?

- Bureau of Reclamation cost-share program
- Comprehensive, collaborative approach
- Competitive process
- Flexible to meet needs of individual basin
- Two year completion requirement
- Climate change a major study component

Introduction to WaterSMART

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- 3) Develop options for meeting future water needs.
 - 4) Identify trade-offs and analyze possible alternatives.

Background

Refresher on the Willamette Basin Reservoir Study

- **OWRD/USACE effort to manage stored water in the Willamette Project for a full range of beneficial uses**
- **Placed on hold in 2000**
- **Willamette BiOp issued in 2008; renewed interest among agencies & stakeholders; IWRS Recommended Action 10b**
- **Initiated small-scale work in FY13**
- **If USACE receives authority & resources, 3-year study will kick off in October 2014**

Background

- **In March 2013, OWRD submitted a WaterSMART Basin Study proposal**
- **Primary purpose: To Support the Willamette Basin Reservoir Study goals (help fulfill some data needs)**
- **Awarded a “Plan of Study” in May 2013**
- **Held our first workshop with Willamette stakeholders in late September**

Stakeholder Workshop

- **Draft Plan of Study shared with stakeholders**
- **Outlines previous work, available data, and current activities**
- **Willamette Water 2100 participated**
- **HDR Engineering outlined agricultural demand methodology used in the 2008 OWSCI Statewide Assessment**
- **Stakeholders suggested doing a “side-by-side” comparison of the Reservoir Study and WaterSMART requirements**

Conclusion/Next Steps

- **Stakeholders will make recommendation to OWRD on whether or not to pursue a full Basin Study**
 - **If “No”...can we fulfill data needs some other way?**
- **Basin Study letter of interest likely due January 2014**
- **If selected, submit new proposal & plan of study by March 2014**
- **Awards announced most likely in May**



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Thank You – Any Questions?

Willamette Study Listserv:

http://listsmart.osl.state.or.us/mailman/listinfo/will_res_study