

DRAFT Walla Walla River Groundwater Study Public Participation Plan

Background and Purpose

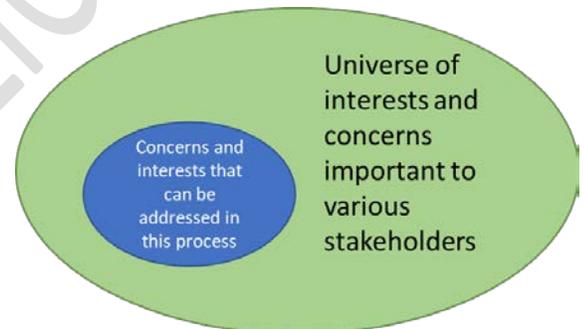
This document summarizes the expected public participation and communication objectives and activities associated with the Walla Walla River Basin Groundwater study. Early input was sought via a public scoping meeting, a survey, stakeholder interviews, and individual calls and emails. The recommendations and proposed actions resulting from this input are described in Attachment A. Feedback on this DRAFT Public Participation Plan will be sought in early 2021 and will be incorporated in to a Final Public Participation Plan that will guide the activities of the cooperating agencies as the Groundwater study progresses.

Project Objective

The ultimate objective of the groundwater study is to develop an updated, comprehensive understanding of the Walla Walla Basin groundwater system based on accepted scientific methodology so that there is a solid technical foundation for future planning, policy, and management.

Scope of Public Participation

Basin stakeholders have been working on complex water issues for decades and there are many ongoing, parallel water-related efforts in the Basin. The groundwater study is focused on developing an updated, comprehensive technical understanding of the groundwater system to inform planning, policy, and management.



The types of decisions included in **this** process are as follows:

- The scope of the groundwater study, including the questions it will seek to answer;
- Data needed to answer those questions, as well as how much and where it will be collected;
- Methods that will be used to analyze available data and what data is analyzed for that purpose;
- Whether there is sufficient data to perform certain analyses or draw particular conclusions.

These decisions will be made by the cooperating agencies based on the expertise of the groundwater study scientists, with input from basin stakeholders and the public. Groundwater study scientists will use established scientific protocols to collect data and perform analyses and will seek to use best available tools and technologies whenever possible and practical given budget and time constraints.

No decisions about policy or management will be made in this public process. Information gathered through the groundwater study may be considered best available information for administrative water rights decisions. Information gathered may be used to inform policy and management decisions made by Oregon and Washington prior to publication of the study reports, but those will have separate public participation processes. The State water agencies recognize that there are many interests and concerns important to various stakeholders that will not be addressed through this the groundwater study process, but will convene and participate in other processes that may be designed to address those interests and concerns.

Overview of Groundwater Study Steps

The general steps in the groundwater study process (see Work Plan) are as follows:

1. Study Scope and Work Plan
2. Current Understanding and Data Gap Assessment (based on existing information)
3. Data Collection
4. Analysis/Interpretation
 - a. Hydrogeologic Framework
 - b. Groundwater Budget
 - c. Integrated Groundwater Flow System
5. Updated Understanding (based on existing information **and** newly collected data/analyses)
6. Report Writing
7. Peer Review and Publication

Interested and Affected Members of the Public

Decisions about groundwater in the Walla Walla River Basin affect everyone and everything that depends on groundwater, including individuals, communities, businesses, fish and wildlife, and the ecosystem in general. Only a subset of the public is likely to be interested in the groundwater study *process* as it progresses, while many more will likely be interested in the groundwater study *findings* and what those findings might mean for current and future sustainable groundwater use and management. There is a group of very involved basin stakeholders who have been working on water issues in the basin for decades. Some of these stakeholders have been involved in gathering or generating technical data and information and are trusted sources of technical information in the community. It is very likely that some of these stakeholders will use the results of the groundwater study to inform their own management decisions or the management decisions of others.

Public participation and communication activities described in this plan will be open to the general public. Some activities will be targeted to the broader public who may be interested and affected by groundwater but who have limited familiarity with groundwater management. Some activities will be targeted to stakeholders who have a significant interest and understanding of water management or whose management decisions and actions are likely to be influenced by the groundwater study findings.

Assumptions and Constraints

The following assumptions were used to shape this Public Participation Plan and successful execution of this plan must also consider the following constraints. This plan may need to be modified if there are any changes associated with the scope, schedule, costs, and resources of the groundwater study. Modifications will be communicated via the email distribution list as the study progresses.

Assumptions

- The contract between the USGS and cooperating agencies will be executed in early 2021.
- The study will take 4 years and will conclude in September 2024.
- There will be sufficient funding for all cooperating agencies to execute the activities contained in this plan as described in the Resources section.
- There will only be one in-person event held each year. It will be safe to meet in person in Fall 2021. Cooperating agencies will have sufficient resources to support one in-person activity each year.

- Local partners will strive to help cover costs associated with in-person public events, including expenses associated with meeting space and food.
- There is sufficient interest among stakeholders to warrant convening and sustaining a Technical Advisory Group (TAG). This will be assessed and confirmed in 2021 prior to convening this group.

Constraints

- None of the cooperating agencies have public participation or communication staff specifically dedicated to the project at this time. All work will be performed by staff with other responsibilities and their ability to focus time and attention on this project may change over time.
- There is uncertainty regarding future budget allocations in both Oregon and Washington to support the groundwater study. Both water agencies will continue to advocate for funding to complete the study as scoped, but funding decisions ultimately rest with the Oregon and Washington legislatures.

Public Participation Objectives

- Information about the study process and findings is shared at key milestones and there are opportunities for public input and feedback.
- Basin stakeholders have opportunities to share data, information, knowledge, and insights that inform and improve the groundwater study.
- The public and basin stakeholders have an improved understanding of the groundwater system.
- The public and basin stakeholders trust the groundwater study process and findings and the information resulting from the study is useful for water planning and management.
- The groundwater study facilitates dialogue and cooperation between diverse stakeholders.

Overview of Public Participation Activities

The public participation activities for each step of the study are listed in Table 1. Most of the steps in the groundwater study are concurrent. Whenever possible, activities will be consolidated (for example, there may be a virtual presentation on the hydrogeologic framework, water budget, and groundwater flow system at the same time) and coordinated with other water-related efforts whenever possible.

A Technical Advisory Group (TAG) will be convened in Fall 2021 to facilitate an open exchange of information and feedback between the cooperating agencies and basin stakeholders. The TAG will be made up of local technical experts, individuals and organizations that can contribute technical information the study, or individuals and organizations who are likely to use data and information gathered through the study to support planning and water management. The cooperating agencies will work closely with local governments to determine the composition of the TAG. The purpose of the TAG will be discussed and documented in a charter at the kick-off meeting. The TAG will strive to meet two times each year (once virtually and once in person). These meetings will be open to the public and will be held in conjunction with public events (either the same day, the day before, or the day after).

Generally speaking, two events that are oriented towards the general public will be held each year, with virtual presentations and discussion held each spring and an in-person event held each fall. These in-person events will be held in conjunction with TAG meetings to the greatest extent possible. The virtual presentations in the spring will have more detailed technical information, while the fall events will convey information at a higher level.

Table 1. Overview of groundwater study steps and corresponding public participation activities (for timing of public participation activities, see Table 2)

Step	Description	Public Participation Activities
1	Study Scope and Work Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public scoping meeting and survey • Public feedback on Work Plan and Public Participation Plan
2	Current Understanding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public Workshop: Groundwater data "show and tell" by basin stakeholders to study scientists • Public Workshop: What is your current conceptual understanding? • Basin Tour: Exploring areas of interest • Virtual Presentation: High-level summary of available studies, current understanding of the basin, key questions and data gaps • Technical Advisory Group (TAG) meeting(s)
3	Data Collection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Volunteer Opportunity: Volunteer your well or provide access to your property • Quarterly updates via email • Public Open House: What data did we collect? Why? How? What is it telling us? • TAG meeting(s)
4	Analysis/ Interpretation – Hydrogeologic Framework	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Virtual Presentation 1: Hydrogeologic Framework - current understanding, data to be collected, methods for analysis • Virtual Presentation 2: Hydrogeologic Framework - updates on data collection and analysis, key insights and questions • Virtual Presentation 3: Hydrogeologic Framework - preliminary findings/updated understanding, including draft graphs and figures • Potential Field Tour: Highlight and explore specific areas of interest • TAG meeting(s)
5	Analysis/ Interpretation – Groundwater Budget	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Virtual Presentation 1: Water Budget - current understanding, data to be collected, methods for analysis • Virtual Presentation 2: Water Budget - updates on data collection and analysis, key insights and questions • Virtual Presentation 3: Water Budget - preliminary findings/updated understanding, including draft graphs and figures • TAG meeting(s)
6	Analysis/ Interpretation – Integrated Groundwater Flow System	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Virtual Presentation 1: Integrated Groundwater-Flow System - current understanding, data to be collected, methods for analysis • Virtual Presentation 2: Integrated Groundwater-Flow System - updates on data collection and analysis, key insights and questions • Virtual Presentation 3: Integrated Groundwater-Flow System - preliminary findings/updated understanding, including draft graphs and figures • TAG meeting(s)
7	Updated Understanding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public Open House: What is the updated understanding of the Walla Walla groundwater system and budget? • TAG meeting(s) – develop key takeaways
8	Report Writing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Updates on report writing
9	Peer Review and Publication	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Updates on peer review and publication process • Public Open House: Announcement of final study report(s), walk through of published study, celebration of project completion

Communication Objectives

- The public and basin stakeholders know what is happening, when, and why, especially as it relates to data collection efforts.
- The public and basin stakeholders are made aware of opportunities to learn more about the study and provide input and feedback at key milestones in the groundwater study.
- Materials summarizing the study process and findings are developed and distributed to help facilitate a shared understanding of the groundwater study investigation and results.
- Communication activities are well coordinated between cooperating agencies to avoid duplication or confusion when sharing information and opportunities with the public.
- Public input and feedback shared with the groundwater study team is made publicly available as well as whether and how input and feedback are considered and/or incorporated into the study.

Overview of Communication Activities

The following communication activities will be coordinated with public participation activities:

- An email list will be maintained to distribute information to all individuals who express interest in water management activities in the Walla Walla River Basin: <http://eepurl.com/hb4cmL>.
- The Oregon Water Resources Department will maintain a web-page dedicated to the groundwater study at: <https://www.oregon.gov/OWRD/programs/GWWL/GW/WallaWallaSubbasin/Pages/default.aspx>.
- The US Geological Survey will maintain a web-age dedicated to the groundwater study products at: <https://www.usgs.gov/centers/wa-water/science/walla-walla-groundwater>.
- Washington Department of Ecology will have reference points to study web-pages from the WW2050 EZ view page or the Department website. The Department will amplify messaging from USGS and OWRD via our platforms - social media, blog, joint news releases, etc. - as appropriate.
- Quarterly updates summarizing past, current, and upcoming activities will be sent via email to the full distribution list maintained by the Oregon Water Resources Department.
- Press releases announcing public participation activities will be drafted and distributed to local media outlets in Washington and Oregon.
- Concise, easy to understand, summary materials describing the study process and findings will be developed and distributed as time and resources allow.
- The cooperating agencies are committed to an open and transparent process. Materials summarizing comments, discussion, and any resolution will be developed for all public events and TAG meetings and will be shared online and/or via the email distribution list.

Timing

The Work Plan has been finalized and a contract is being drafted. Data collection has already begun. Public participation activities will begin following adoption of this Public Participation Plan and agreement on the scope, budget, and resources associated with the Public Participation Plan. The published groundwater study (reports) are expected by the fall of 2024. The schedule may be adjusted depending on available budget and resources needed to complete the work included in the Work Plan.

See Table 2 for a draft schedule of public participation activities. Public participation activities will seek to correspond with key milestones in the groundwater study process. The schedule may be adjusted to ensure that the timing corresponds with key milestones. The schedule may also be adjusted to account for other activities in the basin or to account for budget constraints.

Table 2. Tentative schedule of public participation activities

Timing	Title	Description	Step(s)
Winter 2020-21	Public review period	Public feedback on the Work Plan, revise and finalize the Public Participation Plan	Study Scope and Work Plan
Winter/Spring 2020-21	Volunteer recruitment	Recruit basin stakeholders to volunteer their wells or provide access to their property for data collection efforts	Data Collection
2021/2022/2023	Quarterly updates	Provide ongoing status updates of data collection efforts	
Spring 2021	Virtual presentation	Groundwater study team members provide high-level summary of available studies, current understanding of the basin, key questions, and data gaps	Current Understanding
	Virtual meeting – Data show and tell	Invite basin stakeholders to present available data/information to the groundwater study team	
Fall 2021	Public workshop	Conduct a public workshop to understand how basin stakeholders/partners currently conceptualize the groundwater system	
	TAG kick-off meeting	Convene TAG and develop a charter	
	Basin tour	Tour areas of interest with TAG and other basin stakeholders/partners	
Spring 2022	Virtual presentations	1. Hydrogeologic Framework, Water Budget, and Integrated Groundwater-Flow System - current understanding, data to be collected, methods for analysis	Current Understanding, Data Collection
	Virtual TAG meeting	Convene the TAG to discuss topics of interest	
Fall 2022	In-person TAG meeting	Convene the TAG to discuss topics of interest and prepare for the Open House	Data Collection, Analysis/Interpretation
	Public open house	What data are we collecting? Why? How? What is the data telling us? What's next?	
Spring 2023	Virtual presentations	2. Hydrogeologic Framework, Water Budget, Integrated Groundwater-Flow System - updates on data collection and analysis, key insights and questions	Data Collection, Analysis/Interpretation
	Virtual TAG meeting	Convene the TAG to discuss topics of interest	
Fall 2023	In-person TAG meeting	Convene the TAG to discuss topics of interest and prepare for the Open House	
	Public open house	What have we learned in the past year? What is the data telling us? What's next?	
Spring 2024	Virtual presentations TAG meeting	3. Hydrogeologic Framework, Water Budget, Integrated Groundwater-Flow System - updated understanding, draft graphs and figures	Analysis/Interpretation, Updated Understanding
When study is published (expected Fall 2024)	Public open house	Walk through contents of the groundwater study: What is the updated understanding of the groundwater system and groundwater budget? What are the key takeaways? Celebration of project completion	Updated Understanding, Peer Review and Publication

Resources and Budget

The Oregon Water Resources Department will be responsible for designing and executing public participation and communication activities in close coordination with the cooperating agencies. It is expected that each cooperating agency will have at least one scientist or technical staff and one project manager in attendance at each event.

At this time the available budget for public participation and communication activities is limited and uncertain. Budget will need to be discussed and secured for each individual event and activity. The cooperating agencies will seek to partner with local entities to help secure meeting locations and also ensure that food is provided. In-person events and meetings are contingent upon each participating agency having available resources for travel.

Coordination Between Cooperating Agencies

The Oregon Water Resources Department will be the lead agency for all public participation activities and will coordinate with the other cooperating agencies at designated times consistent with the coordination plan developed and maintained by the cooperating agencies. The cooperating agencies will seek to coordinate public participation activities for the groundwater study with other water-related planning and management activities to improve effectiveness and minimize process fatigue.

Facilitating Equitable Access

The cooperating agencies understand that not every person has equitable access to meetings and events or materials produced. There may be barriers related to language, access to resources, time, transportation, technology, physical ability, literacy, etc. The public participation staff will solicit information and feedback from stakeholders to understand what barriers exist and will work with them to develop strategies to address those barriers. These will be summarized in Attachment B. Some strategies may not be possible due to resource and budget constraints. The cooperating agencies will clearly communicate what they are able to do to facilitate equitable access.

Evaluation and Adaptation

Feedback will be actively sought throughout the process via anonymous online surveys to ensure the process is meeting public expectations. The public participation staff will hold one-on-one conversations and facilitated group conversations on an annual basis to gain insight. Feedback will be summarized and shared as along with suggested process improvements. Members of the TAG and the general public are strongly encouraged to be open with feedback about what is working and what is not working and can communicate that feedback directly to public participation staff, local staff of the cooperating agencies, or project managers (see contact information below). Feedback will be used to adapt the process to meet the needs and interests of stakeholders and the general public. Any modifications to the scope, activities, or schedule described in the Public Participation Plan will be documented and shared via the mailing list.

Attachment A. Public recommendations and responses

Input on public participation and communication activities was received via a public scoping meeting (n=70), online survey (n=9), stakeholder interviews (n=9), individual calls and emails (n=5). See Table 6 for the recommendations generated based on this input as well as the proposed responses to these recommendations.

Table 3. Public recommendations and responses for public participation and communication activities

Recommendation	Response
As the study progresses, information, insights, and preliminary findings should be shared at key milestones with opportunities for the public and basin stakeholders to provide input and feedback.	Public events will be held at key milestones to share information, insights, and preliminary findings corresponding with each step of the Study. TAG meetings will allow for an open exchange of information and feedback. Spring virtual meetings will provide opportunities for questions. Fall public open houses will provide opportunities for input and feedback.
The study team should explore creative and concise ways to communicate technical information to multiple audiences who may not have a technical background.	The groundwater study team will explore and experiment creative ways to communicate complex technical information. Development of communication materials will likely be constrained by available funding and staff capacity. This may present an opportunity to work in partnership with basin organizations.
Regular updates should be shared regarding groundwater study activities, especially with respect to data collection efforts.	Quarterly updates on activities, past, current, and forthcoming, will be shared via the email list.
There should be opportunities for basin stakeholders to contribute their observations, knowledge, and expertise to the groundwater study.	All public participation activities will be designed to allow for participants to provide input and feedback and to foster dialogue between the groundwater study scientists and basin stakeholders. A Technical Advisory Group will be convened to encourage learning and information sharing between basin stakeholders and the groundwater study team and to provide input on topics that are a high priority to the basin.
The groundwater study should utilize existing data and information to the extent practical. There should be a clear, fair, transparent, and consistent process for considering inclusion of existing data and information in the groundwater study.	The groundwater study team will invite submission of relevant data and information and will clearly communicate whether, why, and how that information will be considered and/or included. The study team will develop and adhere to a clear, fair, transparent, and consistent process for receiving and vetting external data. Inclusion of external data and information may be constrained by available budget and capacity.
The groundwater study team should be clear about whether there is sufficient data of sufficient quality to draw particular conclusions. The study team should help others properly use data and information and identify instances where additional	The groundwater study team is committed to clearly communicating the strengths and limitations of data or analyses as well as where additional data collection or analyses would be necessary or beneficial.

Recommendation	Response
data and information is necessary or beneficial.	
There should be a plan to make data collected for the groundwater study publicly available.	The USGS customarily shares data as a part of the groundwater study process. Some data will be made available shortly after it is collected, while other data will be made available upon publication of the Groundwater Study Report(s). The public availability of data will be communicated at meetings and via the email list.
The groundwater study team should strive to ensure an open and transparent process and should provide assurances that they remain neutral and unbiased in their work.	The groundwater study team adheres to the USGS Scientific Integrity Policy, Code of Scientific and Scholarly Conduct and Fundamental Science Principles. ¹ Feedback will be sought throughout the process from participants regarding the openness, transparency, and objectivity of the process and work being performed. Comments and responses will be maintained in a comment response database.
There is a hope that this effort will help fill significant data gaps that have been previously identified and that are critical to future decisions and management actions.	Previous and current efforts that have identified data gaps were used to inform the groundwater study Work Plan. Basin stakeholders will be consulted throughout the study via a Technical Advisory Group to ensure that local priorities are taken into consideration.
Although the scope of the groundwater study is focused on science and technical information, both state water agencies should clearly communicate whether and how information collected through the Study may be used for management and regulation.	All public participation activities for the groundwater study will focus exclusively on the science and technical investigation, as that is within the purview of the USGS and cooperating scientists. OWRD and the Department of Ecology are responsible for communicating other policy and management decisions being considered as well as opportunities for public participation.
There is a desire that this effort provides a solid basis for future cooperation and action between both states and basin stakeholders.	All activities will be designed to build trust in the groundwater study process and findings and to encourage dialogue and cooperation between diverse stakeholders.
Any public participation activities associated with the groundwater study should account for other ongoing water-related efforts, be well timed and well-coordinated, avoid duplication, add value, and be designed so they are accessible and not burdensome basin stakeholders.	The cooperating agencies will coordinate public participation activities with other water-related efforts. Feedback will continually be sought on public participation activities and our approach will be modified based on feedback to ensure they are meeting the needs of the public and basin stakeholders.

¹ Scientific Integrity Policy: <https://www.usgs.gov/about/organization/science-support/office-science-quality-and-integrity/scientific-integrity>. Code of Conduct: <https://www.usgs.gov/about/organization/science-support/human-capital/us-geological-survey-code-conduct>. Fundamental Science Practices: <https://www.usgs.gov/about/organization/science-support/office-science-quality-and-integrity/fundamental-science-practices>.

Attachment B. Needs and strategies to ensure equitable access

During the first year, public participation staff will identify barriers to participation and develop strategies to meet the needs of any member of the public that wishes to participate. See Table 7 for a list of needs and strategies.

Table 4. Needs and strategies to ensure equitable access

Need	Strategy
Needs will be identified.	Strategies will be developed to meet needs.

DRAFT FOR PUBLIC REVIEW

Attachment C. Walla Walla River Groundwater Study Public Participation Plan Overview

Study Basics

- The ultimate objective of the study is to develop an updated, comprehensive understanding of the Walla Walla River Basin groundwater system based on accepted scientific methodology so that there is a solid technical foundation for future planning, policy, and management.
- The study is a collaboration between the Oregon Water Resources Department (Department), the US Geological Survey (USGS), and the Washington Department of Ecology (Ecology), in close coordination with the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation (CTUIR).
- No decisions about policy or management will be made in this process. Information gathered through the groundwater study may be used in policy and management decisions made by Oregon and Washington, but those will have separate public participation processes.
- The current study timeline is 2021-2024 and assumes a 4-year study beginning in early 2021.

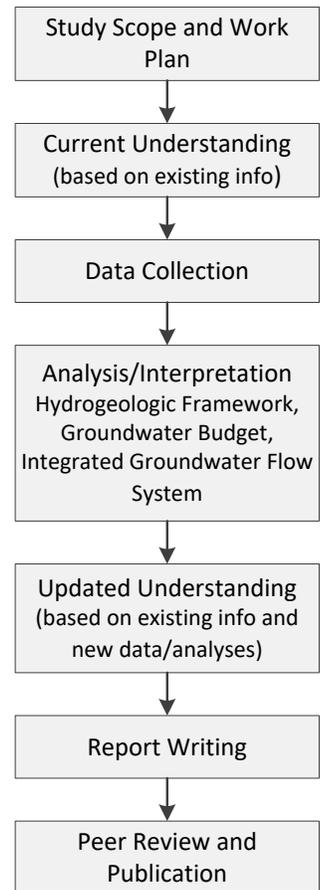
Public Participation Objectives

- Information about the study process and findings is shared at key milestones and there are opportunities for public input and feedback.
- Basin stakeholders have opportunities to share data, information, knowledge, and insights that inform and improve the groundwater study.
- The public and basin stakeholders:
 - Have an improved understanding of the groundwater system and groundwater budget.
 - Trust the groundwater study process and finding/resulting information is useful for water planning and management.
- The groundwater study process facilitates dialogue and cooperation.

Communication Objectives

- The public and basin stakeholders know what is happening, when, and why, especially as it relates to data collection efforts.
- The public and basin stakeholders are made aware of opportunities to learn more about the study and provide input and feedback at key milestones in the groundwater study.
- Materials summarizing the study process and findings are developed and distributed to help facilitate a shared understanding of the groundwater study investigation and results.
- Communication activities are well coordinated between cooperating agencies to avoid duplication or confusion when sharing information and opportunities with the public.
- Public input and feedback shared with the groundwater study team is made available as well as whether and how that input and feedback are considered and/or incorporated into the study.

Overview of Groundwater Study Steps



Expected Public Participation Activities

This plan may need to be modified if there are any changes associated with the scope, schedule, costs, and resources of the study. Modifications will be communicated via the email distribution list. In general there will be two public events held each year, a virtual event in the spring, and an in-person event in the fall. In addition a Technical Advisory Group will be convened two times a year to facilitate a deeper exchange on topics of interest.

Description	Public Participation Activities
Study Scope and Work Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public scoping meeting and survey • Public feedback on Work Plan and Public Participation Plan
Current Understanding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public Workshop: Groundwater data "show and tell" for basin stakeholders to share data and information with groundwater study scientists • Public Workshop: What is your current conceptual understanding? • Basin Tour: Exploring areas of interest • Virtual Presentation: High-level summary of available studies, current understanding of the basin, key questions and data gaps • Technical Advisory Group meeting(s)
Data Collection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Volunteer Opportunity: Volunteer your well or provide access to your property for data collection • Quarterly updates via email • Public Open House: What data did we collect? Why? How? What is it telling us? • Technical Advisory Group meeting(s)
Analysis/ Interpretation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Three Virtual Presentations on the Hydrogeologic Framework, Water Budget, and Integrated Groundwater-Flow System <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Current understanding, data to be collected, methods for analysis ○ Updates on data collection and analysis, key insights and questions ○ Preliminary findings/updated understanding, including draft graphs and figures • Potential Field Tour: Highlight and explore specific areas of interest • Technical Advisory Group meeting(s)
Updated Understanding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public Open House: What is the updated understanding of the groundwater system and budget? • Technical Advisory Group meeting(s)
Report Writing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Updates on report writing
Peer Review and Publication	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Updates on peer review and publication process • Public Open House: Walk through study results, celebration of project completion

Expected Communication Activities

- Quarterly updates summarizing past, current, and upcoming activities will be sent via email to the distribution list (see right).
- Press releases announcing activities will be drafted and distributed to local media outlets in Washington and Oregon.
- Concise, easy to understand, summary materials describing the study process and findings will be developed and distributed as time and resources allow.
- The cooperating agencies are committed to an open and transparent process.
- Summary materials will be maintained and shared to ensure transparency and accountability to public input and feedback received over the course of the groundwater study.

Stay Connected and Informed

- Sign up for the email distribution list for all individuals who express interested in water management activities in the Walla Walla River Basin: <http://eepurl.com/hb4cml>.
- Visit the Department web-page dedicated to the groundwater study: <https://www.oregon.gov/OWRD/programs/GWWL/GW/WallaWallaSubbasin/Pages/default.aspx>.
- Visit the USGS web-page dedicated to the groundwater study at: <https://www.usgs.gov/centers/wa-water/science/walla-walla-groundwater>.