

October 14, 2020 Walla Walla River Basin Groundwater Study Public Scoping Meeting Summary

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Overview

On October 14, 2020, from 4-6pm, the Oregon Water Resources Department, in cooperation with the Washington State Department of Ecology, and the US Geological Survey hosted approximately 75 participants for a virtual public meeting to learn about and discuss the scope of the forthcoming Walla Walla Basin Groundwater Study as well as future opportunities for public participation. The full meeting can be viewed at: <https://youtu.be/l2PYhz0u3d0>.

Additional feedback is welcome and encouraged through November 13, 2020 and can be submitted one of three ways:

- 1) **Preferred:** Via a short online survey – [click this link](#)
- 2) Via email to wrd_dl_wallawalla@oregon.gov
- 3) Via a phone call with Harmony Burright (971-301-0718)

Your feedback will be taken into consideration by the cooperating agencies when they meet in late November to further refine and agree upon the scope of the Groundwater Study and discuss future opportunities for public participation. The final Work Plan for the Groundwater Study and a draft Public Participation Plan will be made available in 2021. Input and feedback will be sought on both. To receive future updates, please sign up for email blasts at: <http://eepurl.com/hb4cml>.

Meeting Summary

Welcoming Remarks

Justin Iverson, with the Oregon Water Resources Department, and Melissa Downes, with the Washington State Department of Ecology, described what led the agencies to initiate the Groundwater Study, the purpose of the public meeting and expressed appreciation for everyone's participation. (2:22 <https://youtu.be/l2PYhz0u3d0?t=142>)

1. The availability of surface water from the Walla Walla River system has been limited by several events, including meeting the water needs of Endangered Species Act listed fish species. Limited surface water availability has increased pressure on groundwater development over time.
2. The deep basalt system has seen renewed pressure, water level declines, and calls from senior users not receiving their usual and accustomed amount of water.
3. The alluvial aquifer exists between the surface water and deep basalt system. The alluvial aquifer has been extensively developed. There have also been efforts to recharge the alluvial system through Managed Aquifer Recharge projects by Walla Walla Basin Watershed Council.
4. The agencies initiated this study to form a foundational understanding of the interconnected workings of these three components of the hydrologic system to support future decisions with respect to management of the limited water resources of this basin.
5. The agencies are happy to be doing so in close coordination with each other, as the hydrologic system is continuous across the state line and management decisions made by each state have ramifications beyond the border that we need to be accounted for.
6. There are many participants in this meeting who are also involved in other complementary efforts, such as the Walla Walla Bi-State Flow Study and/or the Walla Walla Water 2050 process. The agencies frequently hear about the groundwater data gaps during these other forums and this effort will help to fill some of those gaps.
7. The agencies are in a fortunate position with respect to existing available data and want to recognize that several entities have been collecting hydrologic data in the basin, including the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation and the Walla Walla Basin Watershed Council, as well as municipalities and other individual users that measure, record, and report water use, which gives us a head start on the study.

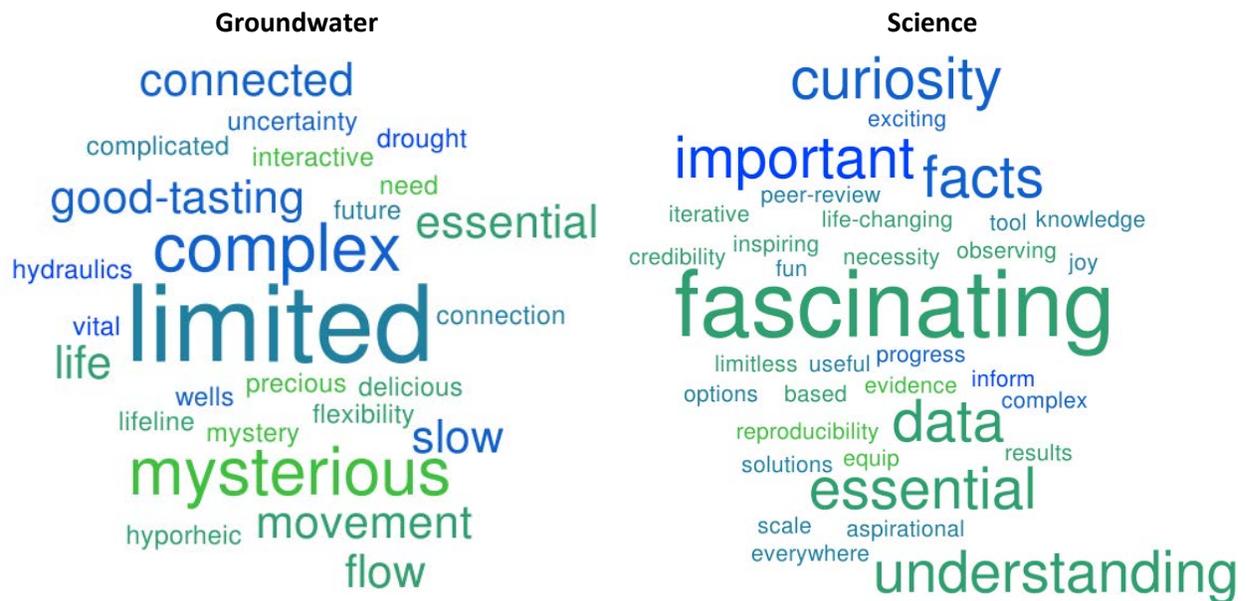
Introductions

The Groundwater Study Team, which is made up of scientists and support staff from the US Geological Survey, Oregon Water Resources Department, and Washington State Department of Ecology were introduced by a representative of each cooperating agency. Participants were also invited to introduce themselves in the chat and share one word they associate with groundwater and one word they associate with science. See Figure 1 below. (11:44 <https://youtu.be/l2PYhz0u3d0?t=704>).

US Geological Survey Presentation

Amanda Garcia, with the US Geological Survey delivered a brief presentation describing groundwater studies, what they generally include, and the value that groundwater studies provide. She also described why a study is needed, the goals of this particular study, the questions to be addressed by this study, study roles and tasks. The cooperating agencies are currently discussing and reaching agreement on the scope of the groundwater study, which will be included in a work plan along with tasks, timeline, deliverables, and budget. Public input provided at the meeting will inform the scope of the Groundwater Study. (19:10 <https://youtu.be/l2PYhz0u3d0?t=1150>).

Figure 1. Word Associations



Breakout Discussions #1 – Questions for the Groundwater Study to Answer

Participants were broken out into break out rooms to answer the following prompt:

- What is one question you hope the groundwater study is able to answer? What makes this an important question to you?

Groundwater Study Team members reflected on what they heard when everyone came back together as a larger group. (32:43 <https://youtu.be/l2PYhz0u3d0?t=1963>).

[Click this link](#) or view Attachment A to review each piece of feedback received. Additional feedback can be provided using [this link](#) by November 13, 2020.

Major themes heard in the breakout rooms included the following:

- Desire to better understand connectivity between surface water, alluvial aquifer, and deep basalt aquifer as well as the timescale for water movement throughout the system.
- Desire to better understand how Managed Aquifer Recharge has impacted the system, whether it has been effective, and how the system can be effectively recharged.
- Desire to better understand how much water is being used and the extent to which the system is fully or over appropriated, how that affects water availability for potential future uses, and opportunities to improve how water is used and shared.
- A desire to understand groundwater level trends and how they vary across the basin as well as connectivity/compartimentalization of geologic units in order to understand and address area specific interests and concerns.
- A desire to understand the water budget for different parts of the system (e.g., surface water, alluvial system, basalt aquifer, different units in the basalt aquifer) and how much water discharges to the Columbia River.

- A desire to understand how a model will be useful to basin management efforts, the types of questions or issues that are appropriate for modelling, and potential limitations of a model.
- A desire to understand current and future impacts to various water users, including rural residents who rely on wells, as well as impacts to fish species.
- There were also questions about future policy, regulation, and management (what will happen?) and how the science will be used to inform these future actions.

These questions are important for personal reasons (a desire to ensure there is water for continued use) as well as basin-wide considerations. There is a shared desire to ensure long-term sustainability of groundwater resources for the basin and to ensure water for multiple uses and future generations. There is an interest in making sure that future projects are well designed and effective and that basin water users find ways to effectively share water, increase efficiency, and reduce economic impacts/support economic development. Participants have a desire to identify and fill key data gaps, promote cooperation and mitigate future conflict/litigation.

Public Participation Plan Presentation

Harmony Burrig with the Oregon Water Resources Department described that the Groundwater Study Team will be developing a Public Participation Plan that describes the steps of the Groundwater Study as well as the public participation activities associated with each of those steps. The Study is expected to take approximately four years. The cooperating agencies need to balance participation activities with available budget and resource constraints.

The cooperating agencies value public participation and see that it is essential to making sure that the study results are trusted, are useful to basin stakeholders, and can be integrated into other water management efforts in the basin. The cooperating agencies recognize that there is a lot already going on the basin and wants to ensure that participation activities are well timed and coordinated with other efforts and that they are effective and not burdensome.

A draft of the Public Participation Plan will be available in early 2021 for the public to provide feedback and input before it is finalized. (37:18 <https://youtu.be/l2PYhz0u3d0?t=2238>).

Breakout Discussions #2 – Public Participation Opportunities

Participants were broken out into break out rooms to answer the following prompt:

- Imagine that the groundwater study is complete and that the final study is something that you and your partners trust and find useful. Describe one thing that the study team did to create final products that you trust and use? What did your participation look like?

Groundwater Study Team members reflected on what they heard when everyone came back together as a larger group. (42:19 <https://youtu.be/l2PYhz0u3d0?t=2539>).

[Click this link](#) or view Attachment B to review each piece of feedback received. Additional feedback can be provided using [this link](#) by November 13, 2020.

Major themes heard in the breakout rooms included the following:

- There is interest in hearing updates from the Groundwater Study Team at key milestones in the study. Participants want to be informed of activities and preliminary findings as the study progresses and do not want to wait until the end.
- There is an interest in receiving regular updates about what has happened or is happening, especially with respect to data collection efforts.
- There is interest in ensuring an open and transparent process and a desire that the scientists remain neutral and unbiased in their work.
- There is an interest in making sure that the study builds off of and utilizes data and information from past studies.
- There is an interest in making sure that data is reliable, well-vetted, and sufficient to support conclusions.
- There is interest in making sure that all data included in the study is made publicly available so that it can be used in other efforts.
- There is an interest in making sure that there are opportunities for basin stakeholders to contribute observations, knowledge, and expertise to the study process.
- There is an interest in making sure that technical information can be conveyed effectively to multiple audiences who may not have a technical background and can be conveyed in a concise manner using data visualization or handouts.
- Participants want to make sure that there are opportunities to provide input and feedback throughout the process and that the Groundwater Study Team members will listen to, respect, and value their contributions.
- Participants want to make sure that the Groundwater Study results provide a solid basis for future cooperation and action.

Next Steps

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Attachment A. Breakout Room #1 Comments

Prompt: What is one question you hope the groundwater study is able to answer? What makes this an important question to you?

Question	Importance
What is the timescale of surface water and groundwater connectivity?	The shallow aquifer needs all the water it can get and we want to be able to use as much water as possible without compromising aquifer recharge.
What is/will be surface and ground water availability for future development in all areas/for all industries?	Potential for economic development and economic impacts.
Will there be a time in the near future when the regulatory agencies (Oregon Water Resources Department and the Washington Department of Ecology) will be canceling/curtailing junior ground water rights as water availability decreases, as has already happened for some surface water rights?	Agriculture has already lost some use of surface water and filled the deficit by using ground water. If they are also cut off from ground water sources there is concern as to how water needs can still be met.
How to effectively recharge. How can we replace groundwater that is being used?	Groundwater isn't being recharged and there is drawdown.
Would like to learn more about the Basalt aquifer.	This is an important water source for use.
Can we recharge the aquifer? How do we get better at using the water we do have?	Inform the wise use of water, not over watering and reducing evaporation, there is room for improvement.
What are travel times in the alluvial aquifer?	Knowing what is the end point of the Managed Aquifer Recharge water that is being recharged, timeline, and outflow (surface water, pumped for use)
Characterizing the connectivity of the basalt aquifer, to what degree are the aquifers connected and compartmentalized (basalt and alluvial)?	This impacts how we govern the use of water and manage the intentional recharge of aquifers.
Understanding what the water levels are doing over time (is it spatially dependent).	Have a better understanding and getting to a common agreement on what the aquifers are doing.
There are estimates of over 100,000 acre-feet per year of the basalt aquifer discharging to the Columbia River system, we could revisit and understand the source of this info and improve our knowledge of aquifer discharge amounts.	Understand the outflows of the groundwater system.
Answer connectivity issue between surface and groundwater.	Agency mission is water quantity and quality and water habitat.

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Question	Importance
Understand connectivity.	Understand contribution of Walla Wallas efforts to connectivity
Are we overappropriated?	Community behavior is predicated by water resource information.
Connectivity and synthetic recharge efforts.	Balance to accommodate nature or human interventions over time.
What are the geologic units that are hydrologically connected and what is the water budget for each unit? Recharge and discharge - magnitude of loss or gain	Interested in cooperating on projects, who do we need to work with?
What ongoing data gaps do we see/opportunities for coordination?	Sustainability of resource.
Scope: in progress? connection between data gaps and project needs - density and scale of data collection.	Need good data in certain locations for good decision making .
How is GW development impacting surface water?	Impact on surface water right holders.
Finding out about illegal water uses.	Enforcement of water rights - there is not enough water - we need to use the water we have more efficiently.
How long before we run out of water in different aquifers?	Help the groundwater last as long as possible.
Quantify by state the impacts on the aquifers.	Promote harmony and cooperation between the states.
What is the alluvial aquifer water budget and its relationship to stream flow.	Need to know effects on organisms in the watershed, especially salmon.
How are basalt aquifers connected?	Make any regulation targeted to problematic aquifers, not overly general.
Will the groundwater study look at the declining base flows in the Walla Walla River and is there a correlation with the dropping basalt water levels?	Irrigators in Milton Freewater rely on water in the Walla Walla for base flows. Concerned there is a correlation between dropping basalts and dropping river flows.
Just how oversubscribed is the groundwater system, but also water generally in the Walla Walla basin? What do we know about how quickly it would recover if groundwater use was curtailed?	Own a farm near the border that is irrigated by a deep basalt aquifer. Convinced that water use will need to be rationed across the watershed. The water use throughout the Walla basin needs to be rationalized. Not everyone is going to get what they have been promised - which gets to the policy question of how we are going to do this?

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Question	Importance
<p>How the study will be designed? We know that the basalt aquifer is compartmentalized. The aquifer is broken up with varying degrees. What is going to be the scale and accuracy of the groundwater flow model? How is the model going to be designed to address the scale dependency?</p>	<p>People will have big picture questions and small picture questions. Want to know what it means to me specifically - from the different irrigator perspective. People will want localized answers.</p>
<p>This question is going to take a bit of time. The water recharge work that has been done over the past few years seems to have declined/stopped. Is there any way for us to complete study on recharge while this study is completed?</p>	<p>Near Umpapine OR on the WA side; there was an effect from recharge for miles around it. There was no more funding to work on recharge. The water source is out of the Walla Walla. Had a site that could have handled recharge. If the study takes 4-5 years: Every day this goes by, there is a loss of opportunity. The recharge is proven to work and would be beneficial.</p>
<p>What role to flow barriers play in assessing or determining groundwater trends. How does that inform an assignment of a sustainable yield.</p>	<p>Importance of scale and subsurface variability throughout the basin.</p>
<p>How do residential wells with restricted water use affect the larger aquifer? Both shallow and deep.</p>	<p>Important because it will impact availability of water.</p>
<p>Changes in water levels over time - impacts to quantity and quality.</p>	<p>How do the Managed Aquifer Recharge projects affect quantity and quality? Also, water is a finite resource so how does moving it around affect availability between sources. Concerned for future generations.</p>
<p>Will the study help domestic well users understand groundwater quantity/level/quality, and make projections into the future re: how that will affect their access to water in future decades.</p>	<p>Many users in the basin she's interacted with are concerned about future availability and quality.</p>
<p>Resolve potential for litigation and conflict.</p>	<p>Head off and mitigate litigation.</p>
<p>Can we get along? Can we improve understanding the aquifer?</p>	<p>To mitigate litigation and continue diverse and strong agriculture production.</p>
<p>How are we going to keep long term users using the basin and help the new folks?</p>	<p>Important for health and economy.</p>
<p>I want to better understand the hydraulic connectivity.</p>	<p>Understand allocation and accessibility for different users.</p>
<p>Information for stakeholders options to meet water needs in the future in a collaborative way that is best for all parties.</p>	

Question	Importance
Future water availability in basin and the effect on regulation for groundwater and surfacewater.	as a Walla Walla resident, this will affect me personally as well as the basin as a whole.
Better sense of scale of system and interaction of groundwater and surface water for assisting in regulation.	Effectiveness of regulation.
How is alluvial aquifer connected to deep basalt aquifer.	Shallow and deep aquifer connection.
Information acquired how will it move forward in providing options for future use?	

Other Questions/Comments
There is some concern regarding differing regulation schemes in OR and WA. How will the two states collaborate on an overall solution that is fair to people in both states?
The watershed council 2013 integrated model is a good starting point for development of the groundwater model.
Need to coordinate this with the 2050 strategic planning effort.
Report should explain geology - make up of how aquifer works and changes.
What will this report mean, given that the basin crosses into two states; i.e. two different sets of laws.
How is groundwater affected by surface water diversions?
What are the effects of conservation projects (piping) on the groundwater system?
How does Managed Aquifer Recharge affect the groundwater system? How much does it help?
No silver bullet, but there may be potential for storage to help with demand.

Facilitator and Groundwater Study Team Observations
The overall theme seemed to concern the need to understand connectivity. That is, connectivity between surface water and groundwater, groundwater connection across the state line, the connection of basalt aquifers in the WWRB to the regional system and the Columbia River, and the interconnection of different aquifers. Will we differentiate multiple basalt aquifers? If we build a model, how will we apply model boundaries to address connectivity outside of the model boundary?
What solutions might we come up with? How long will groundwater be sustainable? What's happening on my farm (e.g., why are my streams drying up)?
Group had a great understanding of groundwater and water issues and different technical questions arose that all point towards a need for a strong scientific underpinning. They covered (1) groundwater/surface water connection and management; (2) How will the groundwater respond to different management methods (such as curtailment) and other water sources, recharge); (3) how do we characterize what the model does and does not do and how do we use it in the future - site specific information versus the model; (4) the length of time of the study and the need for management approaches to continue such as recharge.
Common thread is sustainability, multiple uses of a finite resource: how much groundwater can we use sustainably? Balance available water with water use.
Hope study will help resolve questions regarding future management; aquifer recharge, storage etc.
Foundation to assist with implementation of conservation efforts based on results of the study.
Sustainable yield of the system for water budget/appropriation is important.
How/will this change management practices in the future?

Attachment B. Breakout Room #2 Comments

Prompt: Imagine that the groundwater study is complete and that the final study is something that you and your partners trust and find useful. Describe one thing that the study team did to create final products that you trust and use? What did your participation look like?

Study Team Actions	Participation
People need to feel they've been heard and understood. Need to have a forum to ask good questions and get honest answers.	Be available and kept informed of opportunities to express thoughts and opinions.
Represent the Hudson Bay District Improvement Co. Would like OWRD to emphasize to the public the need and advantage of groundwater recharge projects as a way to supplement/mitigate ground water use.	District has a potential recharge site near Hermiston and wants to work on getting it permitted/operational.
The Study Team needs to foster public confidence that honest public input is encouraged and that the study data is being used for the greatest good.	Role is to express ideas and know that her thoughts are valued and can have an impact.
Wants to see timely responses to information requests, and be able to review public feedback to the study team. Information requests might include the project process, the number of wells being measured, preliminary results, etc.	Role is to provide timely input during the course of the study.
People hear about things upfront and don't hear about conclusions after things are already completed - share preliminary conclusion	Continue public meetings.
Keep stakeholders involved in the discussions, need to be based on good, reliable, trustworthy info.	
Visualization of data/info and being frequently present in front of stakeholders.	These topics are very technical, it is important to effectively translate this info in ways everyone can understand. Using new platforms and data visualization.
Trust is earned, need to spend the time with people to earn it, trust facilitates a quicker process.	Stay connected with the flow study and the 2050 strategic plan, important to not have these going in different directions - this will improve trust.
Relationship building with stakeholders, being respectful/friendly and hearing people out.	Responsiveness and be willing to reach out and ask questions.
Consistency and continuity in updates, for examples quarterly check-ins.	
Quarterly updates might be good, in public meeting format.	

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Study Team Actions	Participation
Provide opportunities during updates for feedback and comments.	
When providing updates, define technical terms and use diagrams as much as possible.	
It is really useful to the study team to hear local observations, for example about well behavior and stream changes.	
We should develop a process for well owners to offer up their well or stream access for measurement in the study.	
Ensure that final project is actually usable and implementable - ensure that participants trust in the science and understand the scope of the study	
Ensure that milestones are being met and participant are continuously being engaged.	
Openness, honesty and transparency throughout the process.	
As we move through the process from year-to-year, will the public be continuously updated on findings (honest updates) throughout the year.	Keep data in front of public.
Follow up question: will you have enough data to make valid conclusions?	
Basis of an action plan. Where each party fits into plan.	Looking at data is the interesting part.
Data rich results. Data should be tested and vetted by appropriate scientists	How it integrates into agency's program. Results will inform grant program.
Based on science and data. Politics for a later time.	Along for the ride.
Data density and spatial distribution of data/temporal distribution of data - not just static measurements - better understanding of connection between wells.	Involved in data collection - management - interference of wells.
More of what we are doing now; interviewing local community (like Chris Kowitz has been doing) - not disconnected from local knowledge base - public engagement	Collecting data; sharing information; samples from upper watershed; collaboration

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Study Team Actions	Participation
<p>Periodic update and check-in from study team - progress and understandings. Solicit input from stakeholders - update scope of work if necessary; what is the plan for data in the future? Would build trust to provide some the data/sources to local groups (watershed boards, etc.) to continue the work of the study.</p>	<p>Limited involvement in Basin; scrutinize water budget or balance numbers.</p>
<p>See trends - draw patterns; how much is it dropping and how much? Would like to know how and when data is collected.</p>	<p>Advocating for more groundwater recharge; irrigator depends on water for livelihood; member of irrigation district - feet on the ground/policy.</p>
<p>Use existing studies that have been completed in both states.</p>	<p>Public meetings at major milestones to update progress.</p>
<p>Full inventory of all groundwater inputs and outputs.</p>	<p>Several meetings such as this (public engagement) / updates at major milestones.</p>
<p>Study utilized previous studies across the basin to develop a wholistic view and report for the entire community</p>	
<p>Make sure science fully reviewed, based in reality.</p>	
<p>Involve tribes in decision making.</p>	<p>Involved in helping to choose gaging stations, range of alluvial wells.</p>
<p>Use statistics to characterize confidence in results.</p>	<p>Let study team do science.</p>
<p>Involve policy and management decision makers to ensure they understand the results.</p>	
<p>Provide regular drafts to the community and incorporate feedback from community.</p>	<p>Provide feedback on drafts.</p>
<p>Observe, even if wasn't able to actively participate, so that data that have available, even if the data isn't synthesized. Share data along the way. Transparency throughout on both sides of the basin. Where I can help by adding my own farm to the effort and add our use/water/farm. There is a long history of water use. There is a general suspicion of regulatory agencies. Water is precious and scarce. One of the things most concerned about is to get good data on the use of their water. It seems like we would get better data if there was a safe harbor rule so that participants wouldn't be incriminating themselves.</p>	

Study Team Actions	Participation
<p>Main concern is to have the gw team be neutral and science driven to the extent that it can be. My role is to advocate and provide information that I have. My role is to not talk about info I don't have. From a farmer's perspective, someone that has drilled a lot of wells. If they could provide a model of what they are going to do, this is not the first study that is done. When they don't have actual data, if using modeling data, to make sure that everyone understands that - if its not actual data. Make sure people know what is modeled data.</p>	
<p>Process needs to be transparent. Communication with basin stakeholders will be very important for establishing trust. Would hope there would be updates at local planning efforts, maybe at the watershed council. Keep us informed along the way. Allow us to ask questions and provide input.</p>	
<p>Utility and use. Years down the road, these ground flow models take on a life of their own. They create their own certainty that wasn't supposed to. (chambers creek model). Have to assume certain element to calibrate. Things that are used to calibrate the model versus actual. Would be good to characterize and specify what were the assumptions. Need to specify what you can use it for and what you cannot. Have a really clear description of its utility and some of the big assumptions that go into it. Prevent it from being misused long after the study. Have it well documented that anyone can pull out and look at. Can't use it to do everything.</p>	
<p>Information exchange, timely reports on study progress (newsletters to email distribution list, newspaper), ability for folks to provide continuous input. Realistic to engage the general public? Will want the bottom line at the end with openness and transparency for trust.</p>	
<p>Would like to remain informed, frequent incremental updates and the opportunity for feedback. As public questions develop there's a forum for exchange.</p>	

Study Team Actions	Participation
<p>Accessibility to data and work product – data in GIS readily available (e.g., groundwater recharge dataset). Is data usable and readily accessible. Appreciates these public meetings (and breakout rooms), keep advertising broadly, consider multiple sessions at variable times.</p>	
<p>Appreciated public meetings in the Harney Basin and assumes this is the plan for WW. Liked the information exchange and accessibility to study team members. As a state water quality agency appreciates the detailed science – would like to participate by using resulting data to inform setting up long-term water quality monitoring stations in the basin.</p>	
<p>Input of different groups includes a balancing of the data from different sources.</p>	<p>All sides and perspectives are respected. No one data source is dismissed.</p>
<p>We know what data is being collected.</p>	<p>We understand the data and what its use is. We can see and understand the report.</p>
<p>We know that it is not collecting dust. Filling data gaps and not creating more.</p>	<p>Use data for regulatory knowledge and management.</p>
<p>Provides definition and information for all economic sectors.</p>	<p>Informs future economy.</p>
<p>Consistent information expects to see decline in groundwater; can we take it forward and work towards options that are viable? Will the results be able to be understood by all users/interested parties?</p>	<p>Represents multiple groundwater and surfacewater users so would like to attend meetings and able to provide information to users/individual stakeholders. Would like to participate as a resident</p>
<p>Ensure public is along throughout the process and be available to build trust in the process/organization for local users and stakeholders. Communication with public and connection with other efforts is clear.</p>	
<p>Ensure clear connections between each phase of the study so people from various backgrounds can understand/follow along throughout the process.</p>	
<p>Building events such as this one. Report back out on next steps and progress reports not just a final report at the end. High level science, but usable in other forums as well (i.e. WW 2050).</p>	

Study Team Actions	Participation
Strict rulebook of USGS should protect accuracy of the study. The ability to adapt the study as it progress to meet needs of local users. Need flexibility to adapt with data/progress.	Sit in and see how study addresses these points.
Trust should go along with the process/analysis.	Hoping for high level of involvement being a resident and employed in the Walla Walla basin.
Report should be very large with a lot of data, but we hope the public meetings/fact sheets will hopefully help people understand the technical details and progress of the study. Hopefully feedback will continue throughout the process.	

Facilitator/Groundwater Study Team Member Observations
How will we keep people apprised of the project progress and milestones? We need to be open and transparent about how things are going to build public trust. Are we getting data out there quickly for public access? Public meetings and updates should be concise and respectful of peoples' time. Did we create something they can use?
There is curiosity regarding the timeline of the study.
How do people feel about COVID for collecting data? Send out letters/ phone call. Would probably be well received. No complaints about people coming out. Probably wouldn't have concerns with USGS. Teresa willing to help. WWID could also put info in billings in January.
Data availability (easy to download in usable formats), continuous incremental communication of study progress and opportunities during the study for public communication/exchange, recognize variable potential uses of the data and variable science backgrounds of all users.
Do we get more than one chance to get it right?
Provide understandable results and maintain connection/communication throughout the process.
Communication throughout the process and making it understandable to all interested parties.