



Helping Oregonians plan for their current and future instream and out-of-stream water needs

Water is important to all Oregonians. It is vital to community well-being, economic development and a healthy environment. Across Oregon, every place has its unique water challenges that, if left unaddressed, may increase in the future. The 2012 and 2017 [Integrated Water Resources Strategy \(IWRs\)](#) recommend that state agencies help communities collaboratively develop solutions to address water challenges within a watershed, basin or groundwater area. Place-based planning provides an opportunity for people with an interest in water to better understand local water resources and to coordinate efforts so that they are working towards a shared vision of their water future.

What is place-based planning?

Place-based planning provides a framework for communities to understand and meet their water needs now and into the future. Communities will accomplish this by:

1. Building a collaborative and inclusive process;
2. Gathering information to understand current water resources and identify gaps in knowledge;
3. Examining current and future water needs for people, the economy, and the environment;
4. Developing and prioritizing strategic and integrated solutions to meet water needs;
5. Creating a local integrated water resources plan.

Why place-based planning?

Place-based planning will help foster cooperative relationships between individuals and groups that value water differently. Through a collaborative process planning groups will build upon existing knowledge, identify and fill information gaps, coordinate efforts, and explore innovative solutions to meet multiple needs. Place-based planning can help communities develop a shared understanding and vision, prioritize actions, and gather the support and resources they need to implement those actions.

Key Planning Principles

- Locally-initiated and led collaborative process
- Voluntary, non-regulatory approach
- 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
- 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

Place-based planning areas

In 2015, the Legislature provided OWRD with resources to pilot place-based planning, including two staff and \$750,000 to provide financial assistance to communities. After soliciting and evaluating 16 letters of interest from around the state requesting \$3.6 million, grants were awarded to organizations in four places: the John Day Partnership in the Lower John Day Sub-Basin, Union County in the Upper Grande Ronde Sub-Basin, the Harney County Watershed Council in the Harney-Malheur Lake Basin, and the City of Newport in the Mid-Coast Region.

During the pilot phase, each of these places will partner with the Department to test a set of [DRAFT planning guidelines](#), identify best practices, and improve the process. The first step for the planning groups is to bring together interested partners in a collaborative, locally-led process that is open to the public.

See page 2 for more information on the planning areas.

Learn More!

- Visit the web page: <https://go.usa.gov/xV5f4>
- Contact Planning Coordinators Harmony Burright (503-986-0913) or Steven Parrett (503-986-0914)
- Send an e-mail inquiry to: wrd_dl_placebasedplanning@oregon.gov

Place-Based Planning Updates – July 2016

Programmatic Updates

- Three grant agreements signed
- Allowable Costs guidance and Request for Release of Funds Form completed
- OWRD staff participated in 5 meetings/calls with conveners and partners
- Meetings with statewide groups to provide updates and solicit feedback
- Continued interest (inquiries, IWRS open houses, IWRS Policy Advisory Group)
- Planning Step 1 Guidance and online “toolkit” developed
- Continuing conversations with statewide support network to build a strong foundation for Planning Step 1
- All “kick-off” meetings scheduled for September/October
- Ongoing inter-agency coordination (meetings in April and August)



Place: Lower John Day Sub-Basin
Convener: John Day Partnership
OWRD Grant Award: \$190,000

Grant Execution Date: June 30, 2016

Step: Planning Step 1 – Build a Collaborative Process

July Updates: Grant agreement executed; RFP issued by Convener to current partners to provide capacity funding; Lower John Day Working Group meeting; initial list of stakeholders/partners identified

Tasks/Activities: Develop a communication/outreach plan and materials; identify potential stakeholders; conduct stakeholder outreach; plan official “kick-off” meeting

Upcoming: Stakeholder outreach and engagement (ongoing); “kick-off” meeting anticipated in

Place: Upper Grande Ronde Sub-Basin
Convener: Union County
OWRD Grant Award: \$197,000

Grant Execution Date: Anticipated (August 1, 2016)

Step: Planning Step 1 – Build a Collaborative Process

July Updates: Grant agreement developed (awaiting DOJ signature); OWRD meetings with convener and other local stakeholders

Tasks/Activities: Secure consultant team; develop a communication/outreach plan and materials; identify potential stakeholders; conduct stakeholder outreach; plan official “kick-off” meeting

Upcoming: Stakeholder outreach and engagement (ongoing); “kick-off” meeting anticipated in September/October

Place: Mid-Coast Region
Conveners: City of Newport and OWRD
OWRD Grant Award: \$135,000 (partial fund)

Grant Execution Date: June 30, 2016

Step: Planning Step 1 – Build a Collaborative Process

July Updates: Grant executed; consultant team hired (GSI Water Solutions and Innovative Growth Solutions); project team assembled (conveners and consultants); two project team meetings; initial list of stakeholders/partners identified

Current Tasks/Activities: Develop a communication/outreach plan and associated materials; identify potential stakeholders; conduct stakeholder outreach; plan official “kick-off” meeting

Upcoming: Stakeholder outreach and engagement (ongoing); “kick-off” meeting tentatively set for September 21 from 4-6pm in Newport

Of Note: City of Newport is providing 50% match for Planning Step 1; additional match has been identified

Place: Malheur Lake Basin
Harney County Watershed Council
OWRD Grant Award: \$135,000 (partial fund)

Grant Execution Date: June 30, 2016

Step: Planning Step 1 – Build a Collaborative Process

July Updates: Grant executed; facilitator hired (Oregon Consensus); coordinating committee convened; two coordinating committee meetings; initial list of stakeholders/partners identified

Current Tasks/Activities: Develop a communication/outreach plan and associated materials; identify potential stakeholders; conduct stakeholder outreach; plan official “kick-off” meeting

Upcoming: Stakeholder outreach and engagement (ongoing), “kick-off” meeting anticipated in September/October

Of Note: First Groundwater Study Advisory Committee meeting is on July 26 - several individuals are participating in both efforts to ensure integration