

Place-Based Integrated Water Resources Planning



Mid-Coast Water Planning Partnership



OREGON
WATER
RESOURCES
DEPARTMENT

What do places need to succeed? This document summarizes the gaps and needs identified by places doing integrated water resources planning and implementation. It is meant to encourage conversations among multiple partners who may be able to provide support.

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When asked in December 2019, places identified support and resources needed for success:



Sustainable financial assistance to support coordination, facilitation, and technical expertise.



Agency assistance to better understand current laws and policies as they relate to feasibility of potential strategies and actions.



Flexible timelines that fit the circumstances and needs of each place.



Clarity and commitment from the state about how implementation will be supported.



Continued agency assistance to access, analyze, and understand data and help fill data gaps.



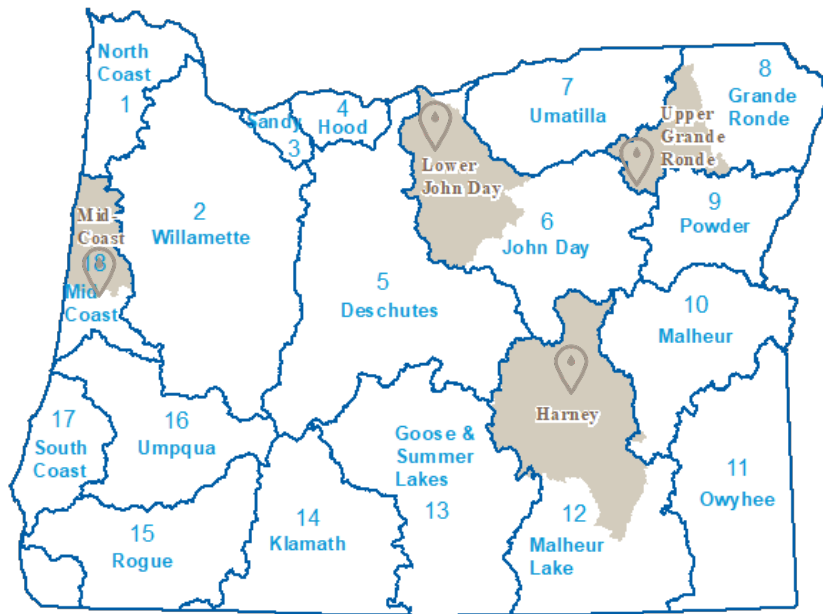
Improved interagency coordination and continued agency participation as groups finish plans and transition from planning to implementation.

The places also identified specific water-related concerns, challenges, and opportunities:



- Limited information about available groundwater supply and aquifer conditions and concerns about declining groundwater levels
- Limited information about instream demands and need for more additional stream gauges
- Known water quality limitations for some uses and limited water quality data to fully characterize conditions
- Surface water deficits that prevent the ability to meet instream and out-of-stream water needs in different seasons depending on the basin-specific considerations
- Lack of coordinated support for large-scale, complex projects
- Administrative and legal uncertainties and challenges associated with moving water to meet other high priority instream and out-of-stream needs
- Need to proactively plan and manage for natural hazards (e.g., spring flooding, summer fires, fall droughts) and changing conditions
- Continued and increased funding to assess feasibility and implement projects

Place-specific status and needs to support planning and implementation in 2021-23



Recognized places doing place-based integrated water resources planning in partnership with the State following Department Guidelines

Mid-Coast Region

- Integrated Water Resources Plan anticipated in late 2021
- Expected annual funding needed to provide essential collaboration and coordination support during implementation = ~\$125,000 per year

Lower John Day Sub-Basin

- Integrated Water Resources Plan anticipated in early 2021
- Expected annual funding needed to provide essential collaboration and coordination support during implementation = ~\$75,000 per year

Upper Grande Ronde Sub-Basin

- Integrated Water Resources Plan anticipated in early 2021
- Expected annual funding needed to support essential collaboration and coordination during implementation = ~\$75,000 per year

Harney Basin

- Groundwater portion of the Integrated Water Resources Plan anticipated in 2020/2021
- Full Integrated Water Resources Plan anticipated in 2023
- Partners are supporting next steps associated with three consensus decisions to help reduce groundwater use
- Expected annual funding needed to complete the Integrated Water Resources Plan = ~\$175,000 per year
- Additional Department staff needed to support monitoring and enforcement associated with anticipated projects and assist with complex basin issues

Agencies

- ODFW, ODA, DEQ, and OWRD positions dedicated to supporting place-based water planning and implementation, including providing technical information and assistance
- Improved interagency coordination in support of place-based water planning efforts, especially around technical and policy information and implementation of actions that have consensus support from the groups
- Dedicated staff support from multiple agencies to support coordinated implementation