

# ODF-DEQ MOU on Water Quality

Joint meeting of EQC and Board of Forestry

Nov. 17, 2021

Presented by: DEQ Director Richard Whitman, State Forester Cal  
Mukumoto, Jennifer Wigal, DEQ, and Kyle Abraham, ODF



# DEQ-ODF Collaboration on Water Quality

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- 1998: Current Memorandum of Understanding
- 2019: Initiated joint effort to update MOU
- Essential for DEQ and ODF to be coordinated in their efforts related to water quality
  - Climate change exacerbating impacts on fisheries, wildfire, drinking water



# MOU Public Process

Sought public input Sep 1 – Oct 7 (extended 1 week)

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## 621 comments received:

- 27 unique letters/emails
- 577 copies of an organized email

## Comments From:

- Environmental advocacy community
- Advocacy organizations
- Agencies
- Landowners/forest operator community
- Coquille Tribe



# MOU Public Comments

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- Broad support for updating MOU
- Clarifications needed on terms, processes and urgency of action
- More detail requested on roles, timelines, history and specific concepts
- Concerns with data use, agency interactions and authorities
- Certainty on compliance with cultural resource protection laws
- Some issues raised associated with processes and authorities outside the MOU scope



# Revisions to MOU

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- Clarified terminology and removed redundancies
- Clarifications to the Agencies' authorities as informed by March 2021 DOJ Memo
- Added accountability and transparency through regular evaluation and reporting on progress to EQC and Board of Forestry
- Committed to documenting implementation processes and amending MOU, as needed



# Revisions to MOU (cont.)

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- Acknowledged overlaps with other work by the agencies on climate change, wildfires and drinking water
- Added a collaboration principle on adherence to all relevant laws, including cultural resource protections



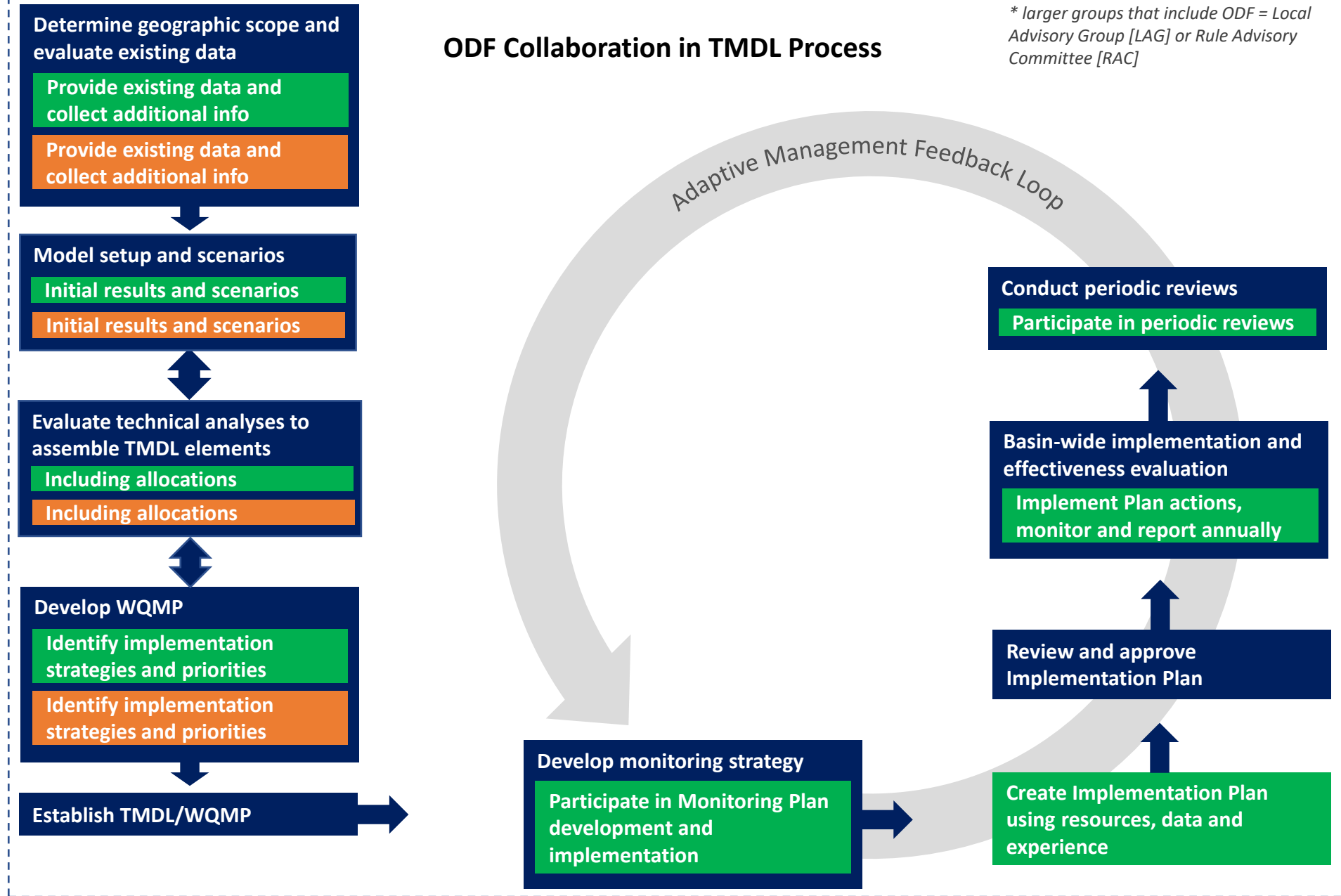
Every 2 years, DEQ reports TMDL priorities to EPA

Discuss TMDL development priorities

- DEQ process/decision point
- ODF-DEQ discussion
- LAG or RAC input\*

\* larger groups that include ODF = Local Advisory Group [LAG] or Rule Advisory Committee [RAC]

### ODF Collaboration in TMDL Process



# MOU Next Steps

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- Signatures by State Forester and DEQ Director
- Implementation and resourcing
  - ODF new position will enable engagement specifically in this work
  - DEQ commitment to engaging external partners, in part embodied in recently filled Watershed Program Analyst position
- Progress evaluation and reporting
  - Proposed regular check-in with EQC and Board of Forestry





# Questions and Discussion

