

Headwaters to Ocean (H2O)

A Strategy for Meeting Oregon's Water Future

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*"When the well is dry,
we learn the worth of water."*
Benjamin Franklin, Poor Richard's Almanac 1746

"Water is the best of all things."
PINDAR (C. 522-C. 438 B.C.), Olympian Odes

Why H2O?

- No water supply plan for Oregon
- Address data needs, assessment
- Respond to current challenges and provide proactive approach to future challenges
- Build on momentum of recent water initiatives (OR Water Conservation and Supply Initiative, SB 1069, SB 737)
- Long-term investment to ensure sustainable water supply, water quality, maintain and balance beneficial uses

Challenges

- Climate change
- Population growth
- Shifting populations
- Development and increased economic demands
- ESA issues
- Toxics and other pollutants
- Surface water fully allocated during summer months
- Decreases in quantity and quality of groundwater
- Aging infrastructure
- Data needs

H2O May 2008 Draft

Three-pronged approach:

- Protecting and enhancing water quality
- Conservation, efficiency, and water storage/ supply
- Ecosystem benefits

Channel resources by:

- Providing essential state services
- Support local, private, and other partner efforts
- Making strategic capital investments

Process

- May 2008 H2O Draft
- Stakeholder meetings
- Comments
- H2O Advisory Group
- Revisions

Comments

- Overall support for Governor's leadership
- Need for vision, outcomes, focus
- Need for planning, assessment, monitoring
- Clarification between H2O, agency POPs, other water initiatives
- Bias towards new water storage projects
- Address peak/ ecological flows
- Need more emphasis on water conservation, reuse, efficiency
- Connection to climate change?
- Increased regulation/ enforcement?
- How to address measurement?
- Acquisition of instream water rights
- Allocation of proposed funding and funding source

Next Steps

- Still support long-term initiative
- Identify some short-term actions
- 2 tracks:
 - 1) Planning (monitoring, data gathering, assessment)
 - 2) Projects - conservation, supply, measurement, demand-side management, peak flows, toxics/ pollutants
- Develop strategy for best way to package
- Identify funding options

More Info

<http://governor.oregon.gov/Gov/GNRO/index.shtml>

- H2O May 2008 Draft
- Subscribe to H2O listserv for updates
- See comments

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