



# Place-Based Integrated Water Resources Planning

Helping Oregon Communities Plan for Current and Future Water Challenges



## What is place-based planning?

The 2012 Integrated Water Resources Strategy (IWRS) recommended that the Oregon Water Resources Department help communities undertake an integrated, place-based approach to water planning (*Recommendation 9.A, 9.B and 13.A*). Place-based integrated water resources planning is a voluntary, locally initiated and led effort in which a balanced representation of water interests within a hydro-geographic area (e.g., basin, watershed or groundwater area) work in partnership with the state to:

- ✓ Characterize current water resources and issues (water quantity, water quality, ecosystem health);
- ✓ Understand current and future instream and out-of-stream water needs and demands;
- ✓ Identify and prioritize strategic solutions to address water issues and needs;
- ✓ Develop a place-based integrated water resources plan that informs the state-wide strategy.

## What are the benefits of place-based planning?

Investments in collaborative planning will lead to better coordination between different water interests and will provide a pathway for partners to identify actionable solutions to water challenges. Up-front planning can help communities prioritize needs and assemble the necessary support and resources to fund and implement water projects.

## How can my community initiate a place-based approach?

Since this program is voluntary, local partners will need to initiate the effort and convene the process. It is best to start by reviewing the Place-Based Planning Guidelines (February 2015), then contact Department staff to express your interest to discuss how the state can partner with you to support your efforts. The Department recognizes that communities are at different stages of planning - some areas may already have ongoing planning efforts while other areas are just getting started. Place-based planning is not one size fits all and the Department seeks to support both existing and new efforts.

## What kind of assistance is available to support planning efforts?

In 2015, the Oregon Legislature provided additional staff as well as \$750,000 to pilot this approach. The Department will be able to provide financial assistance to a limited number of local planning efforts during the pilot phase. Entities interested in receiving financial assistance to pilot the Guidelines should follow the link below and subscribe to the mailing list. Department staff are also available to provide technical assistance to address community water needs. Please contact us to learn more!

### Planning Principles

- **Voluntary tool**
- Locally initiated
- Conducted in partnership with state agencies
- Includes balanced representation of water interests
- Adheres to IWRS guiding principles and state laws
- Addresses instream and out-of-stream needs
- Does not infringe on existing water rights
- Builds upon existing plans and programs
- Results in a place-based integrated water resources plan

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Find more information online:

[www.oregon.gov/owrd/pages/place\\_based\\_planning.aspx](http://www.oregon.gov/owrd/pages/place_based_planning.aspx)

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