

**UPPER GRANDE RONDE RIVER WATERSHED PARTNERSHIP
PLACE-BASED INTEGRATED WATER RESOURCES PLANNING**

UNION COUNTY, OREGON

**DRAFT WORK PLAN - STEP 2
CHARACTERIZE WATER RESOURCES, WATER QUALITY, AND BASIN CONDITIONS**

October 2016



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Introduction

In 2015, the Oregon State Legislature provided the Oregon Water Resources Department (OWRD) with funding to support Place-Based Integrated Water Resources Planning, a five-step collaborative process.

This document describes the intended Work Plan of the Upper Grande Ronde River Watershed Partnership. The purpose of this Work Plan is to provide a step-by-step description of Step 2 (Characterize Water Resources, Water Quality, and Basin Conditions) referenced in the Statement of Work. Please refer to the Budget and Statement of Work for cost estimates and time frames.

Summary

This step of the planning effort will generally consist of gathering available data on the volume and quality of water in three separate zones of the study area. These three zones include the Catherine Creek (CC) drainage above the confluence with the Grande Ronde River (GRR), the GRR drainage above the confluence with CC, and the GRR drainage below the confluence with CC. The data will be developed for each week of the year.

Water volume data will include both surface water supplies and groundwater supplies. Available groundwater supplies will be estimated using best available science from well pumping volumes and aquifer decline information. Surface water supplies will be determined based on available data for average annual flows, 5-year annual high flows, and 5-year annual low flows for each week of the year.

Water quality data will include limiting factors identified for beneficial use of the water to support agriculture, municipal needs, stream and river ecology, and wetland ecology.

Work Flow

Work flow for the report development tasks described below will generally be as follows:

1. The Convener will outline the work task and present it to the Steering Committee.
2. The Steering Committee will review, comment on, and modify the work task as appropriate for presentation to the Stakeholders.
3. The Stakeholders will review, comment on, and modify the work task for completion of the work product for the planning effort.
4. The work task will then be completed with review of the work product following items 1 through 3 above.
5. The Convener will publish the final work product resulting from the task at hand.

Collaboration Tasks

Task 2A: Meetings, Collaboration, and Technical Review

This task will include meetings of the Steering Committee approximately once per month and meetings of the Stakeholder Committee/public approximately once per month.

At the beginning of Step 2, it is anticipated that a Supply Analysis Technical Committee will be formed to review gathered data. This team will meet informally and more frequently.

Report Development Tasks

Task 2B: Data Collection

This task will be carried out primarily by the Supply Analysis Technical Committee and will comprise the following steps:

1. Develop a list of available water supply data and their sources.
2. Develop a list of available water quality data and their sources.
- ~~2.~~3. [Develop a list of existing conditions data and their sources.](#)
- ~~3.~~4. Develop a list of parties responsible for gathering the required information.
- ~~4.~~5. Develop a schedule for data gathering.

The following water supply data (for the three different zones of the watershed) are anticipated to be gathered in this step:

WATER SUPPLY				
Data Type	Source	Format	Category	Notes
Estimated Surface Flow (cfs) - HUCs	OWRD		Supply	
List of Gauges and Data	OWRD		Supply	
Water Flow	OWRD		Supply	
Reservoir Locations and Acre-Feet of Storage	OWRD		Supply	
Well Location, Flow, and Drawdown	OWRD		Supply	
Spring Location and Flow	OWRD		Supply	
Groundwater Pumping Volumes	OWRD		Supply	
OWEB Existing Conditions Data	OWEB		Supply	
ODFW Existing Conditions Data			Supply	
GRMW Existing Conditions Data	GRMW		Supply	
USDA Existing Conditions Data	NRCS		Supply	
Snowpack and Precipitation	NRCS		Supply	
Temperature	DEQ		Supply	
Water Quality Data	DEQ		Supply	

cfs = cubic feet per second

DEQ = Oregon Department of Environmental Quality

GRMW = Grande Ronde Model Watershed

HUC = hydrologic unit code

NRCS = Natural Resources Conservation Service

ODFW = Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife

OWEB = Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

USDA = United States Department of Agriculture

It is expected that the Steering Committee and Stakeholder Committee will refine this list before adopting the Step 2 Work Plan and before the Convener opens membership to the Supply Analysis Technical Committee.

In the first meeting of the Supply Analysis Technical Committee, this list will be refined and more potential sources added. Members of the team will volunteer to gather this data and place it in the Google Drive (or similar) folder for analysis. The data will be separated by zone.

In general, all available data will be collected (multiple years, flowmeters, etc.) with the understanding that the data will be paired down into approximately 5-year annual highs, 5-year annual lows, and average annual in Task 2C.

This task will be accomplished by February 2017.

Task 2C: Water Availability Analysis

The Supply Analysis Technical Committee will develop a presentation format for gathered data. After the date when data collection is considered complete, supply data will be formatted and collated.

Next, the compiled data will be presented to the Steering Committee and then the Stakeholder Committee. It will be noted what data gaps exist and where data was interpolated, extrapolated, or truncated for consistency with the larger data set.

It is anticipated that the data will be in tabular format for the published report and GIS format for the database of compiled information (where available).

Preliminary analysis of the availability data will be completed and peer reviewed by the Supply Analysis Technical Committee. General questions anticipated to be answered will be volume of water and quality of water normally available for each week of the year.

[In addition, it is anticipated that OWRD will present a “water setting” to the Stakeholder Committee to inform the water availability analysis.](#)

This task will be accomplished by March 2017.

Task 2D: State of Water Resources Report

After the data analysis has been completed, an outline for the State of Water Resources Report will be drafted with input from the Supply Analysis Technical Committee and presented to the Steering Committee and then the Stakeholder Committee. The outline will be presented by April 2017.

Once the outline gains general approval, a draft State of Water Resources Report will be completed by May 2017.

Through additional reviews of the Supply Analysis Technical Committee, the State of Water Resources Report will be developed by June 2017. It is anticipated that the data used and specific analysis performed will change as the other steps bring new data and questions to light.

Project Management and Administration Tasks

The State of Water Resources Report development tasks will be completed with management and administrative support. This support includes preparing for and overseeing meetings, public outreach, progress reporting, billing, and expense tracking.

Task 2E: Project Management and Reporting

This task includes general support and management as well as a semi-annual progress report to be submitted to the OWRD in June 2017.

Attached to the semi-annual report will be a Work Plan for Step 3. [The Step 3 Work Plan will be developed and reviewed in conjunction with the State of Water Resources Report, as it is anticipated that this report will inform elements needed in the Step 3 Work Plan.](#)

Task 2F: Project Administration

This task includes submitting requests for release of funds and other administrative requirements that will be completed on an ongoing basis.

Conclusion

At the completion of Step 2, a review of this Work Plan will be conducted to determine how best to proceed with creating a Work Plan for Step 3.