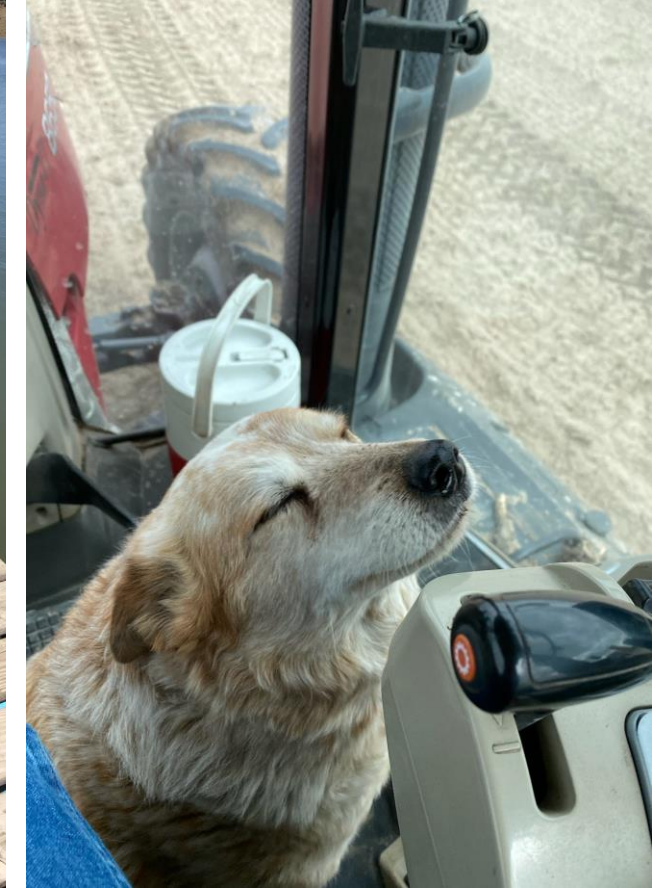


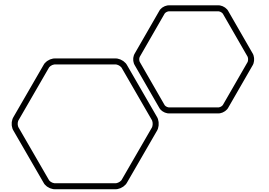
Responsible Water Accounting

Informational Hearing

May 23, 2023

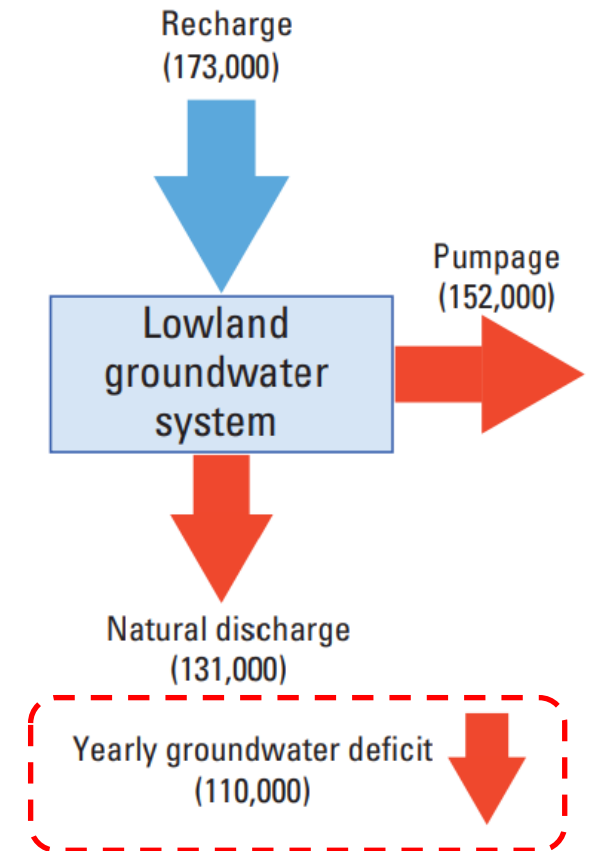
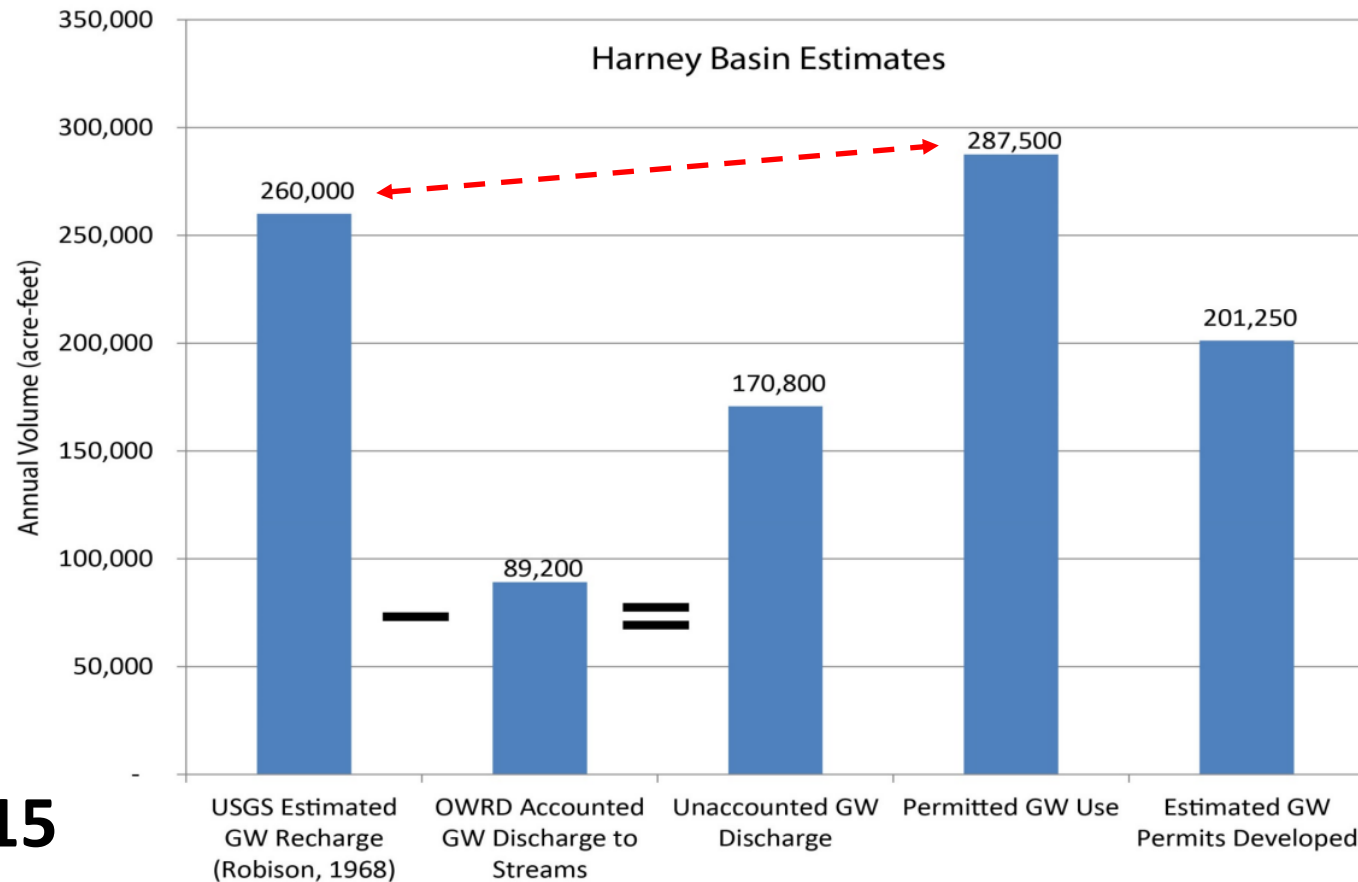


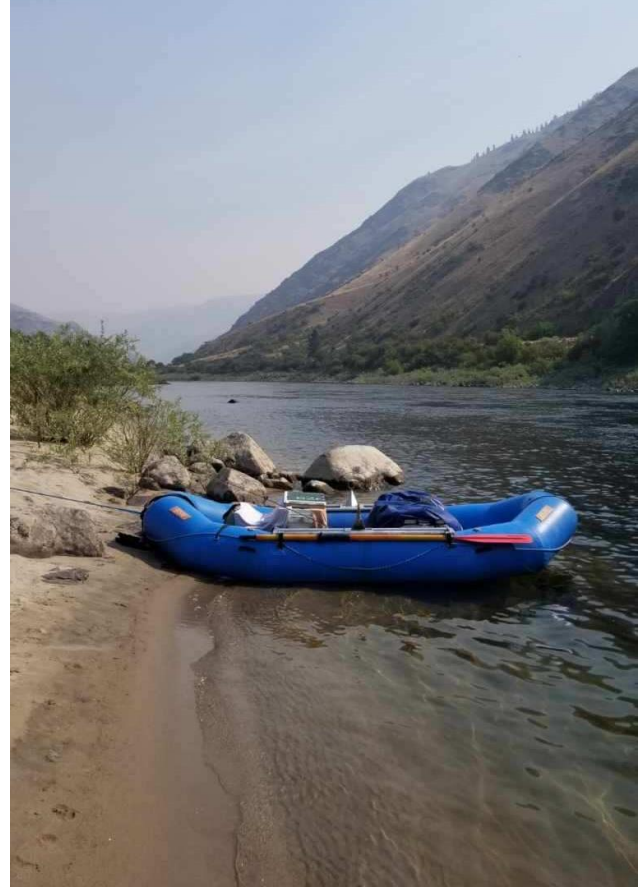
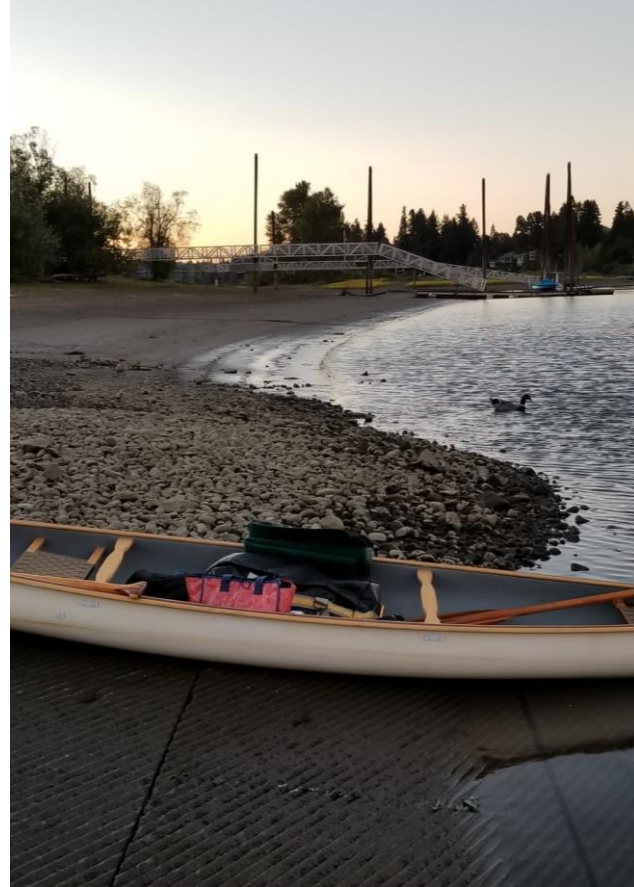
Representative Mark Owens
Why this matters to me



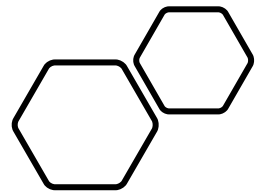
Groundwater Over-allocation in Harney Basin

Harney Basin: Groundwater Budget Compared to Groundwater Permits





Representative Ken Helm
Why this matters to me

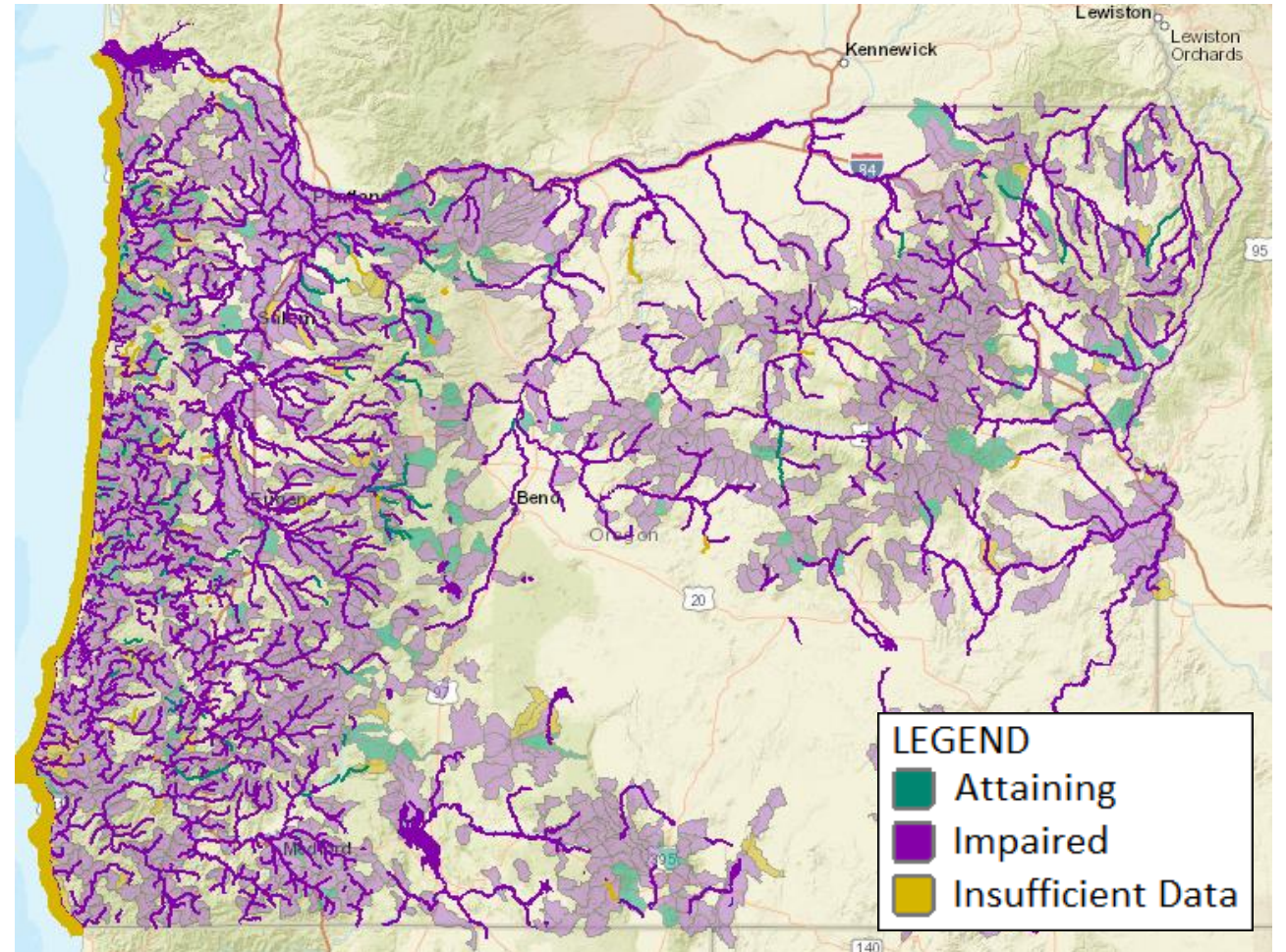


Water Quantity and Quality

According to DEQ, warm water is the top pollutant in Oregon waterways

Warm water is linked to other water quality issues like decreased dissolved oxygen

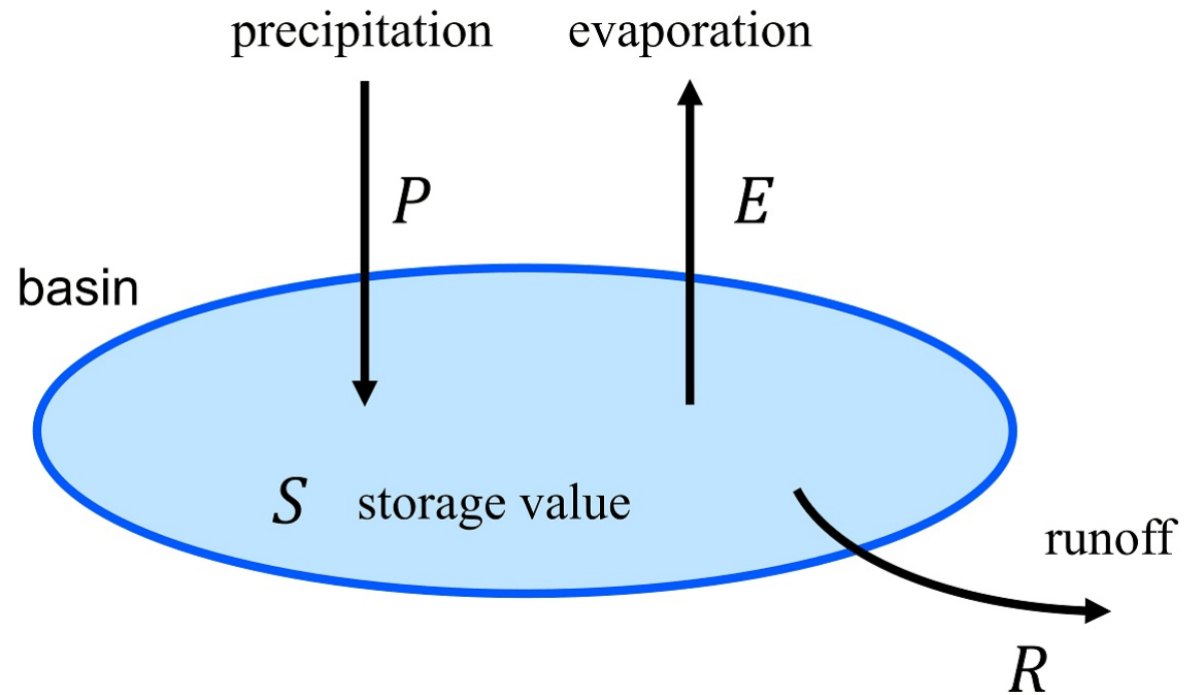
Streamflows and groundwater contributions are linked to water temperature



HB 3368 Original Bill: Basin Water Supply and Demand

Technical analysis – What water enters the system, what water is used, what water is stored in the system, and what water exits the system

Not about changing legal entitlements to use water, just assessing what's on the books



HB 3368 Original Bill: State of Water Resources

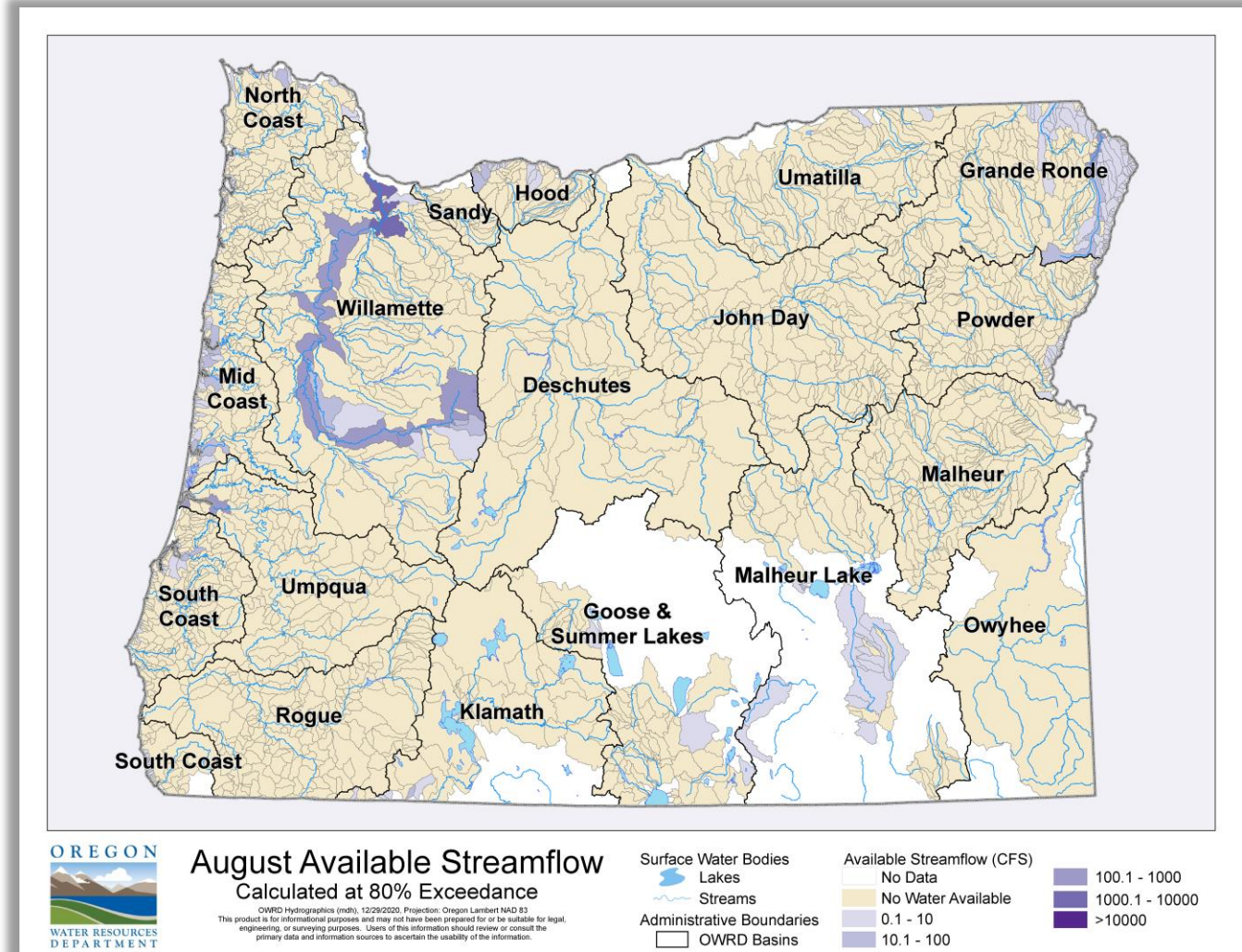
Water is not available at the times when demand is highest

Surface water availability is based on an old period of record - 1958-1987

Oregon has been in a 22 year mega-drought

“In 16 out of the last 22 years, Oregon has received below-average precipitation statewide” - Larry O’Neill, State Climatologist in 2021

An update is long overdue

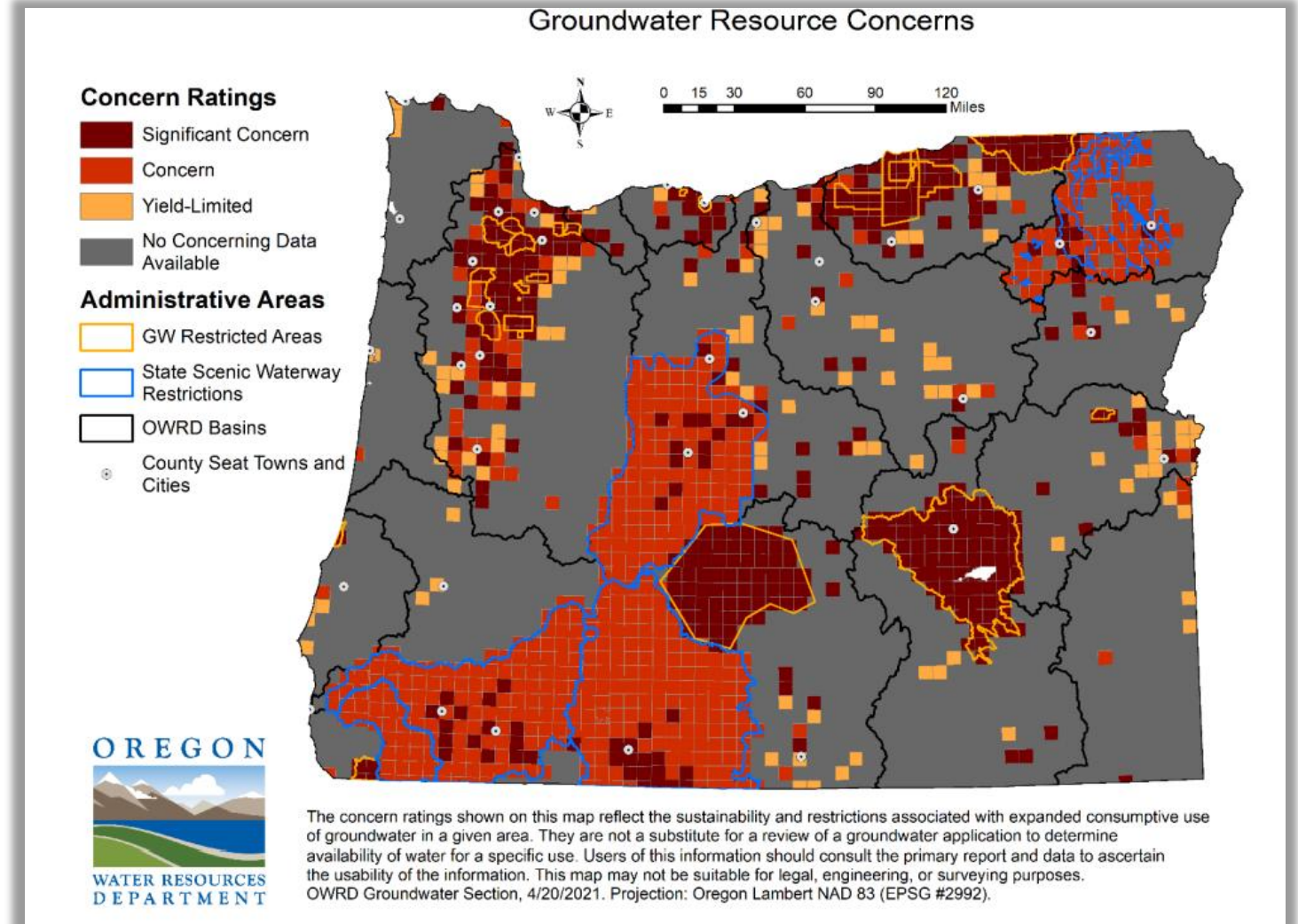


HB 3368 Original Bill: State of Water Resources

Limited surface water availability has increased the demand for groundwater

Limited groundwater data to inform sustainable decisions

History of chasing problems rather than preventing them



HB 3368 Original Bill: Pathway to Sustainability

2016



MARK GRAVES/STAFF

Rolling irrigation pipe stands ready in a Dufur Valley field, farm country along Fifteenmile Creek south of The Dalles. In Oregon, the amount of water landowners are allowed to extract statewide totals nearly 1 trillion gallons annually – enough to fill 150 million tanker trucks. An analysis by The Oregonian/OregonLive has found farmers in a quarter of eastern Oregon, the driest part of the state, are allowed to pump more underground water each year than rains deposit.

DRAINING OREGON

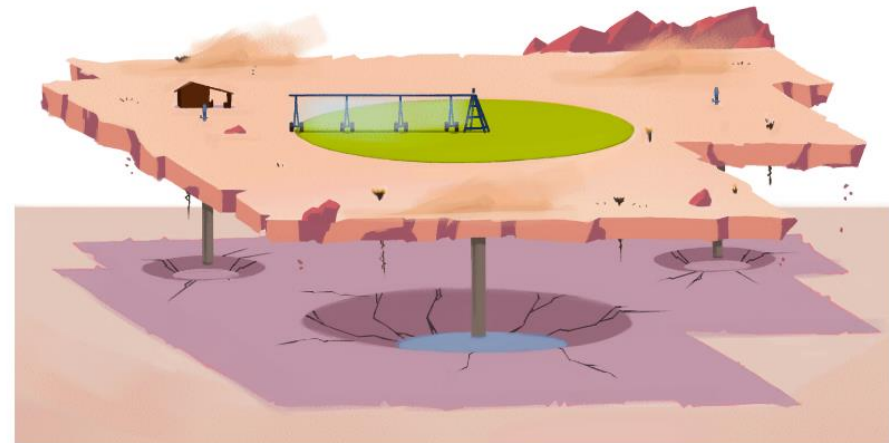
By KELLY HOUSE and MARK GRAVES

The Oregonian/OregonLive



2022

Race to the bottom



Deep wells lead a race to the bottom for Oregon's groundwater.

Managing and mismanaging Oregon's groundwater

▶ 0:00 / 16:25



Oregon officials managing the state's groundwater supplies have fueled crises and inequities, leaving the state ill-prepared to meet the growing challenges of drought and climate change. OPB's Emily Cureton Cook tells us about a series of stories she is working on looking into the management of groundwater across Eastern Oregon.

March 16, 2022

HB 3368 Original Bill: Pathway to Sustainability

2016

Secretary of State Audit Report

Jeanne P. Atkins, Secretary of State
Mary Wenger, Interim Director, Audits Division



Oregon Water Resources Department: Enhancing Sustainability Efforts and Agency Planning Needed to Better Address Oregon's Water Supply Needs

Executive Summary

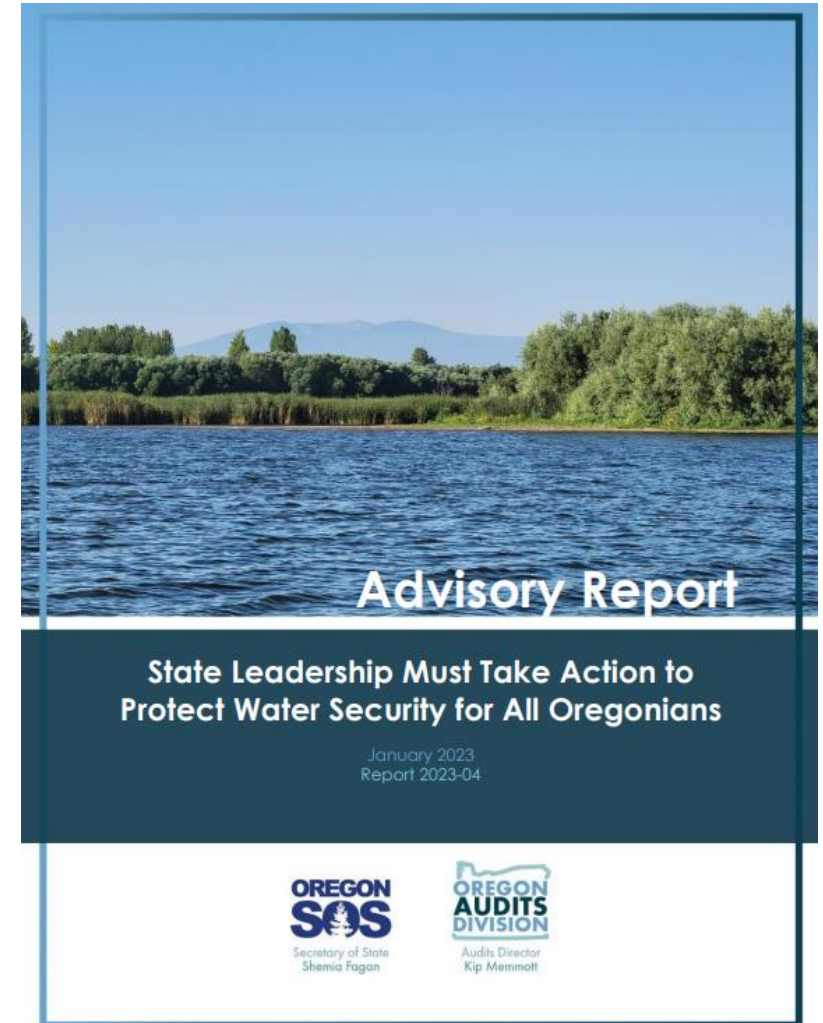
Oregon is facing growing pressures and concerns related to its water supply. The Water Resources Department (WRD), charged with managing the state's water resources, could better balance water rights issuance and management with actions to sustain current and future water needs. The agency can also enhance its focus on groundwater protection, data collection and analysis, and workload and staffing. A long-term agency plan would help WRD strategically focus and prioritize the agency's efforts and align them with available resources.

Better balance needed to ensure water sustainability

Parts of the state are experiencing regular and large scale water supply availability issues. There are indications that this trend will continue, intensify, and spread. Many water sources in the state have been fully allocated, and groundwater levels are decreasing in several areas. By 2050,



2023



The cover of the Advisory Report features a photograph of a lake with a forested shoreline and mountains in the background under a clear blue sky. The text "Advisory Report" is overlaid in white on the right side of the image. Below the image, a dark blue banner contains the title "State Leadership Must Take Action to Protect Water Security for All Oregonians" in white. Underneath the banner, the date "January 2023" and report number "Report 2023-04" are listed. At the bottom, the logos for the Oregon Secretary of State (Shemia Fagan) and the Oregon Audits Division (Kip Memrott) are displayed.

Advisory Report

State Leadership Must Take Action to Protect Water Security for All Oregonians

January 2023
Report 2023-04

OREGON SOS
Secretary of State
Shemia Fagan

OREGON AUDITS DIVISION
Audits Director
Kip Memrott

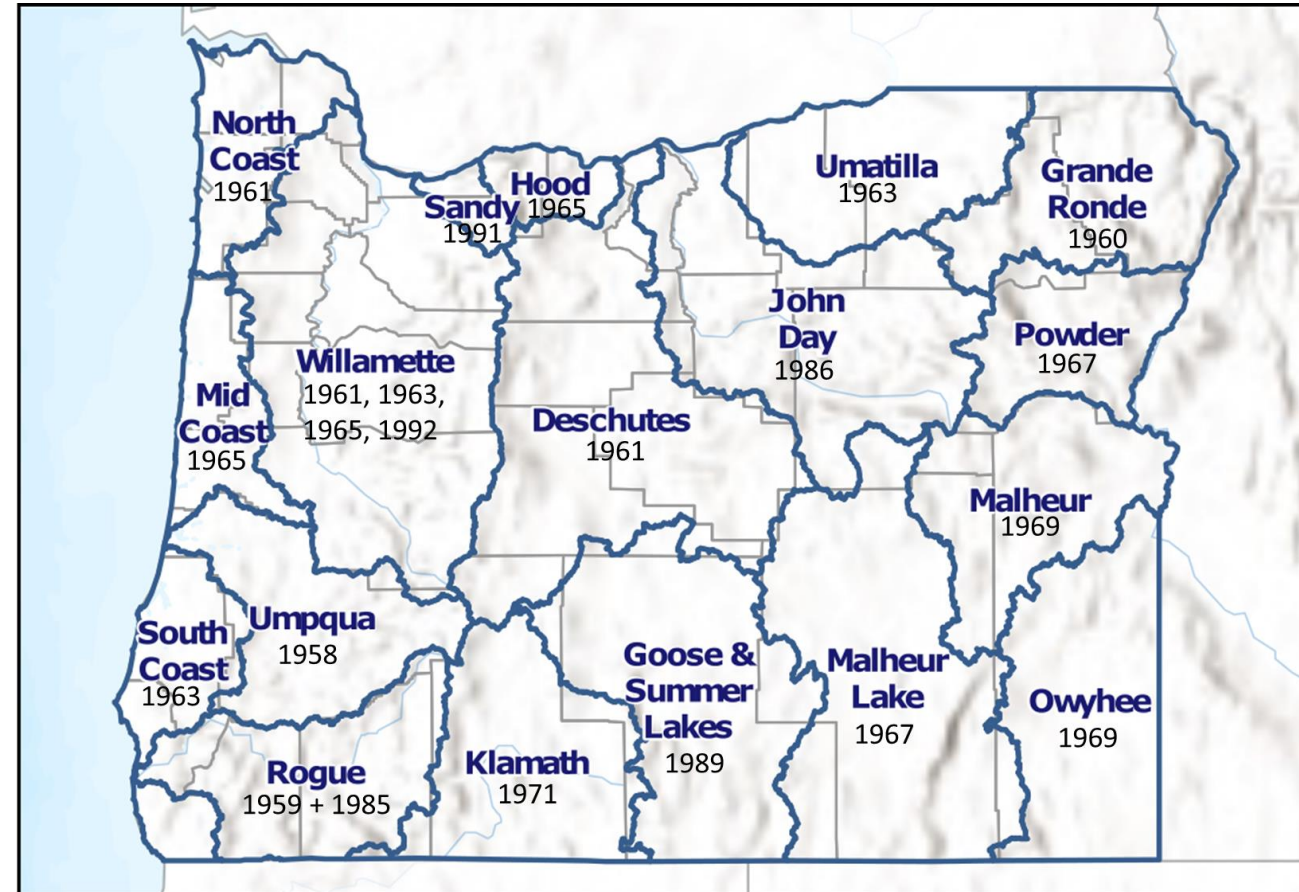
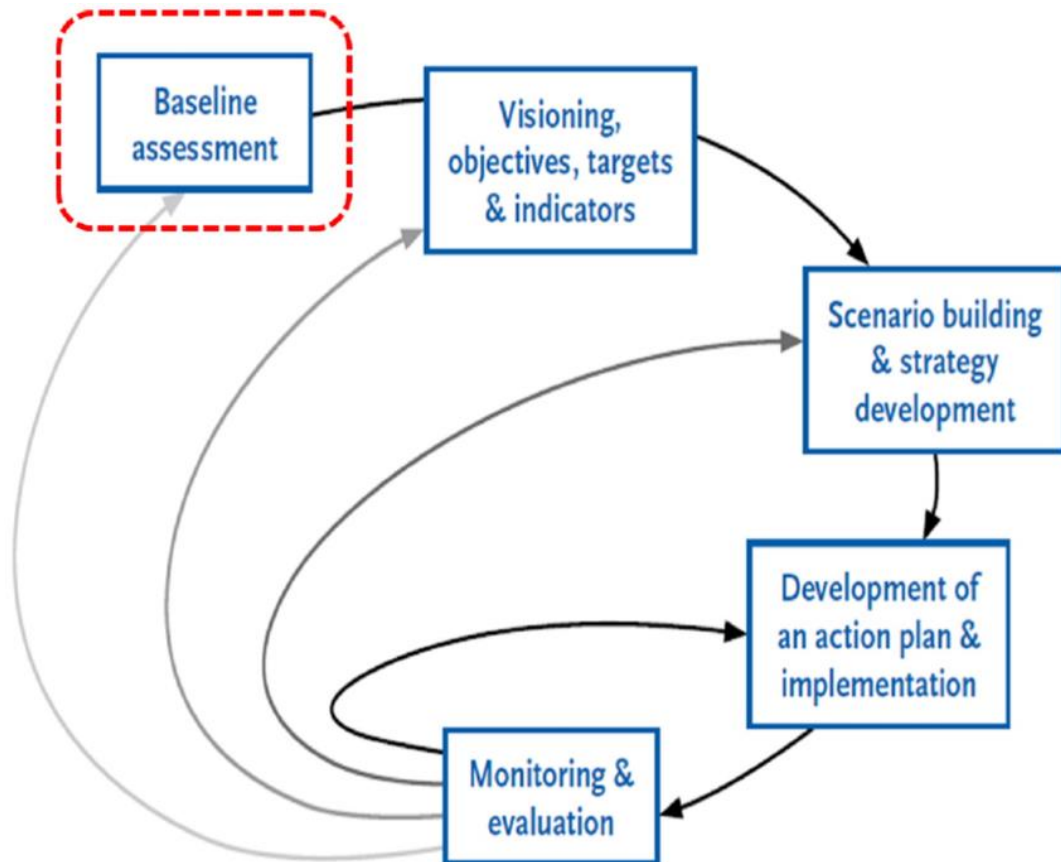
HB 3368 Original Bill: Managing Versus Allocating Water

- 100+ years of allocating water resources
- Distribution and regulation are getting more and more difficult and complex
- Over-allocation leads to costly conflict for individuals, communities, and the state
- Need to increase our focus on conservation, storage, and novel water supply options to meet instream and out-of-stream water needs
 - Most solutions require working together
 - No silver bullet

HB 3368 Original Bill: “The Pause”

- Protect existing uses from incremental depletion
- Set realistic expectations and common baseline regarding water availability before additional investments are made
- Provide a transparent, publicly available accounting of our water situation and a common technical basis for planning
- Allow time and space for the Department to take stock of our current situation
- Allow for a purposeful shift and deliberate approach to understanding and meeting our instream and out-of-stream water needs
- Wake up call and call to action - stop kicking the can down the road

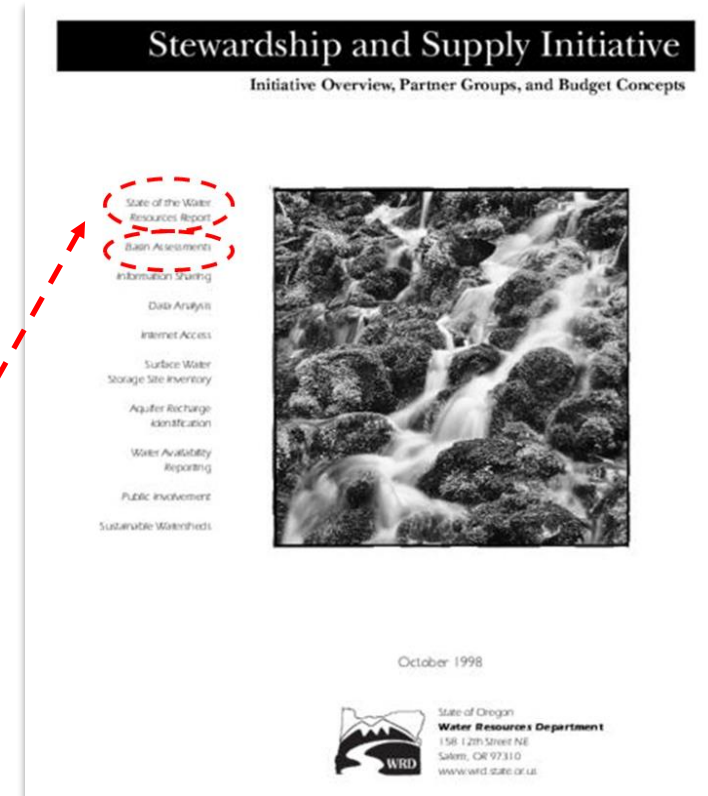
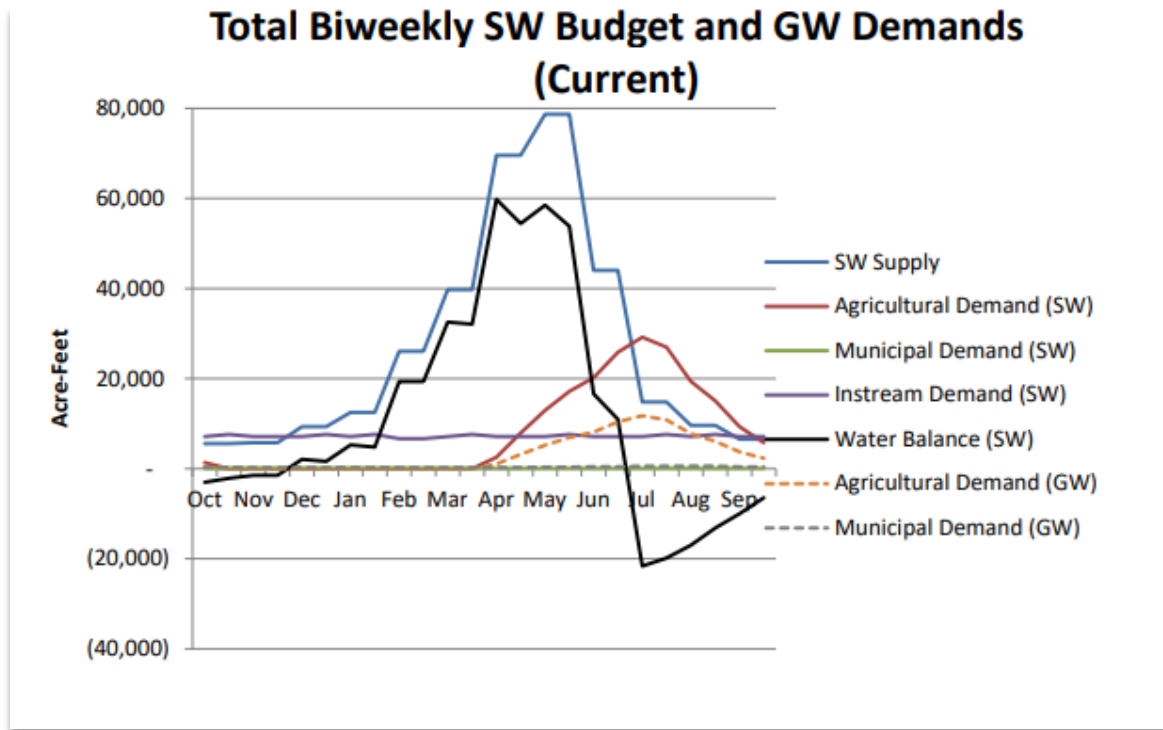
HB 3368 Original Bill: Rational Framework for Planning, Allocation, and Management



HB 3357: The Cost of Over-Allocation

- HB 3357 is intended as a conversation starter
- Directs the Water Resources Department to pay for voluntary relinquishment of groundwater rights in over-allocated basins
 - Initial estimate of \$105,000,000 is likely an under-estimate
- Issuance of a water right by OWRD signifies that water is available and significant financial investments are made as a result of those decisions
- Over-allocation is costly to individual water users, communities, and the greater public

HB 3368 -1 Amendment – The Bare Minimum

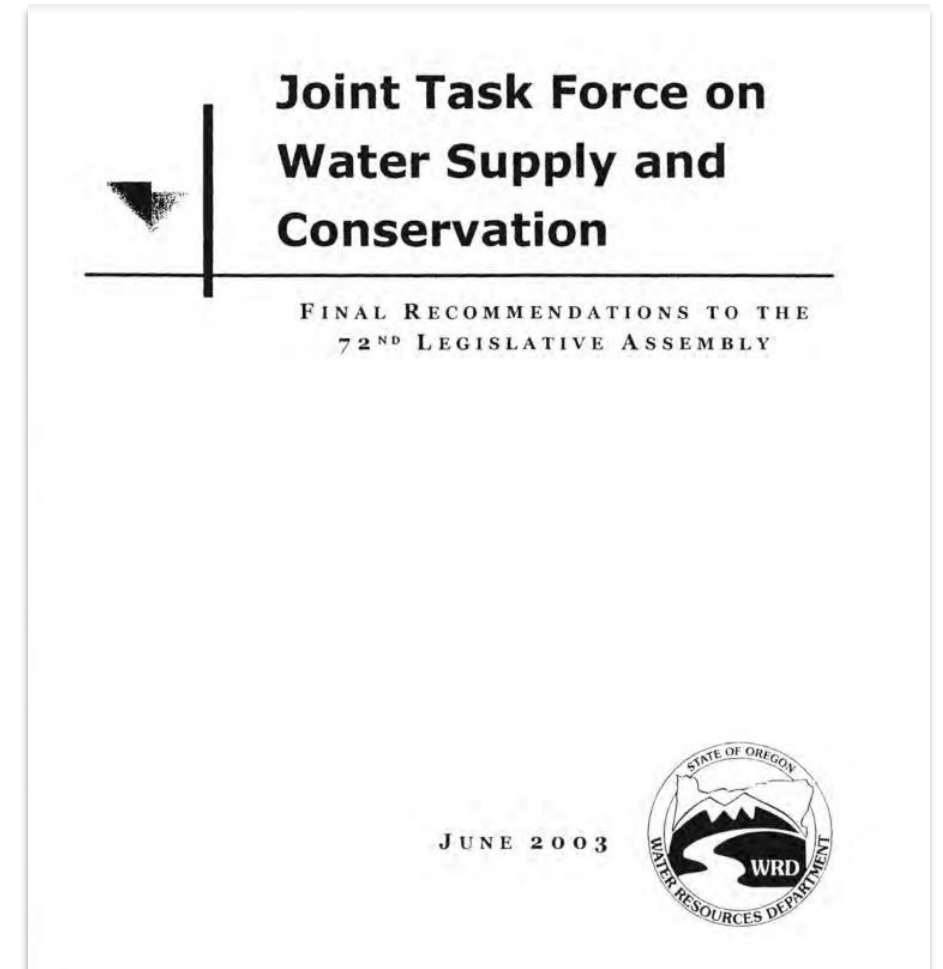


State of Water Resources and Basin Assessments – provide a common technical basis for future discussions and planning

“Despite Past Efforts”

2003 Joint Task Force on Water Supply and Conservation:

“Despite past basin planning efforts dating back to the mid-1950s, the state does not have a comprehensive plan to ensure it can meet the water needs of streamflow-dependent resources and a growing economy and population.”

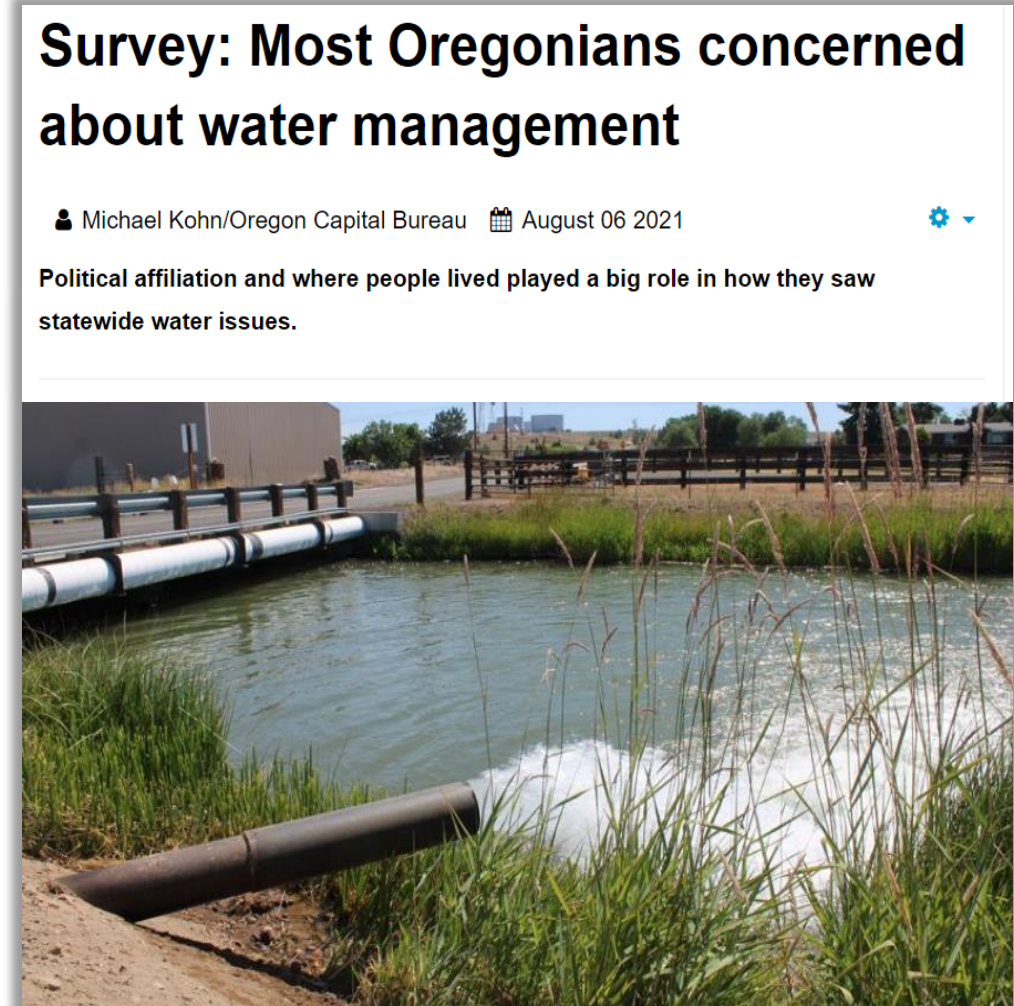


Oregonians Have Been Asking For a Long Time



The screenshot shows the Oregon State University website from 2008. The main headline is "Oregonians foresee future water shortages" by Michael Milstein, dated Tuesday, December 30, 2008, 9:07 PM. Below the headline is a "Capital Press" logo with the tagline "The West's Ag Website". The page features a navigation menu with categories like News, Sports, Entertainment, Living, Obituaries, GI Extras, Blogs, and Contact Us. A search bar is visible, and there are links for "Print this story" and "Email this story". The date "Friday, January 2, 2009 11:22 PM PST" is shown at the bottom of the page.

2008



The screenshot shows a 2021 survey article titled "Survey: Most Oregonians concerned about water management" by Michael Kohn/Oregon Capital Bureau, dated August 06 2021. The article discusses the political affiliation and where people lived played a big role in how they saw statewide water issues. Below the text is a photograph of a water treatment facility with large pipes and a body of water.

2021

Time to Make This a Reality

- “Water is a finite resource with growing demands; water scarcity is a reality in Oregon. Water-related decisions should rest on a thorough analysis of supply, the demand / need for water, the potential for increasing efficiencies and conservation, and alternative ways to meet these demands.”

- 2017 IWRS Policy Advisory Group

Oregon's **2017**
Integrated Water Resources Strategy



Closing Thoughts

- Our current approach is not working
- We've got more water to manage than we have left to allocate
- Understanding our current water situation is an essential first step
- Communities have been asking for this information for a long time and continue to ask for this information
- This is not about pointing fingers or placing blame – solutions will require us all working together
- We owe it to the next generation
- We look forward to interim conversations