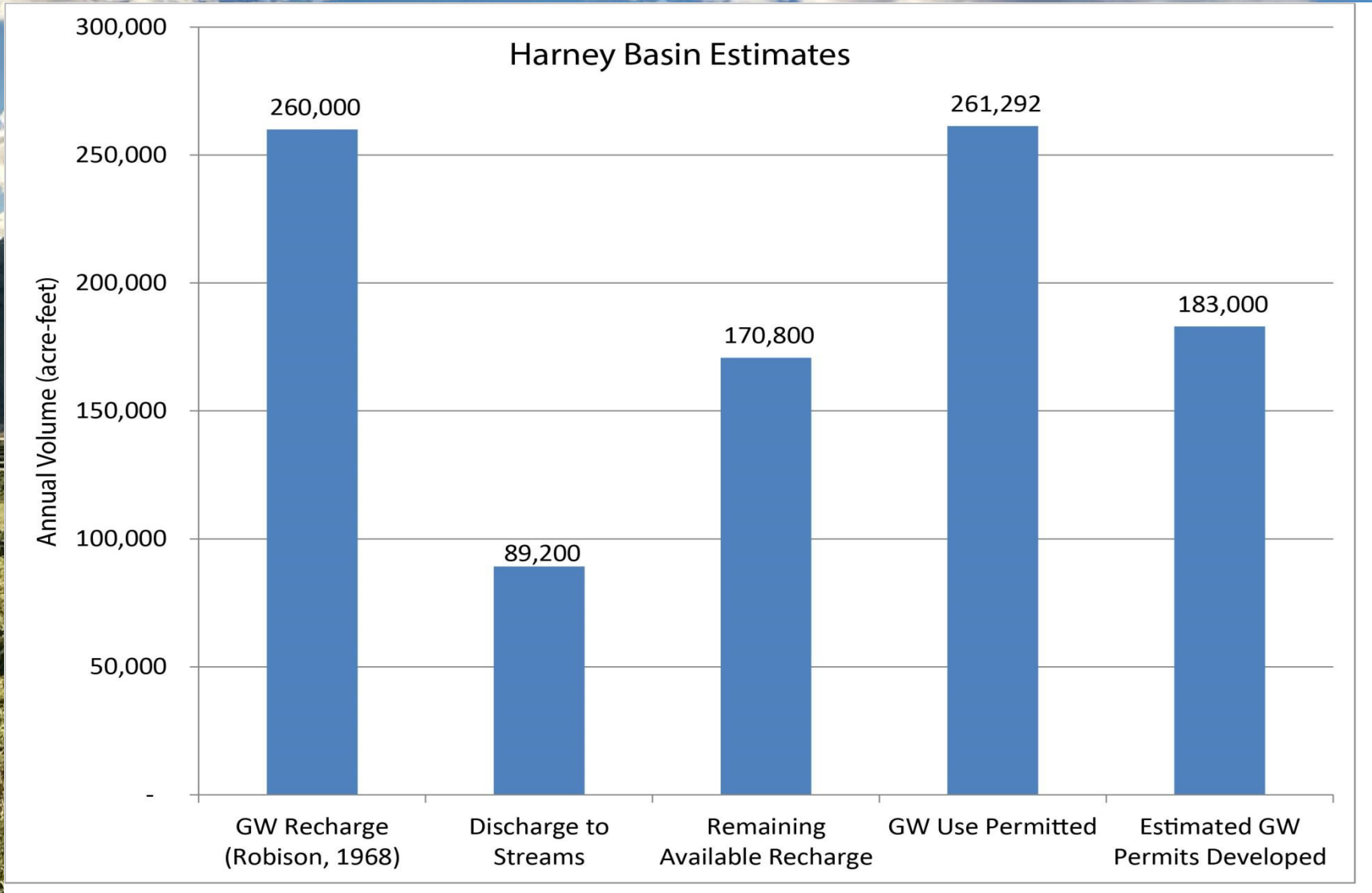


A Window of Opportunity for Harney's Water Future: Place-based Water Planning and Implementation

Presented to Oregon Legislature
House of Representatives Water
Committee
February 16, 2021



The Situation: Harney Basin Estimates 2015





HARNEY COUNTY

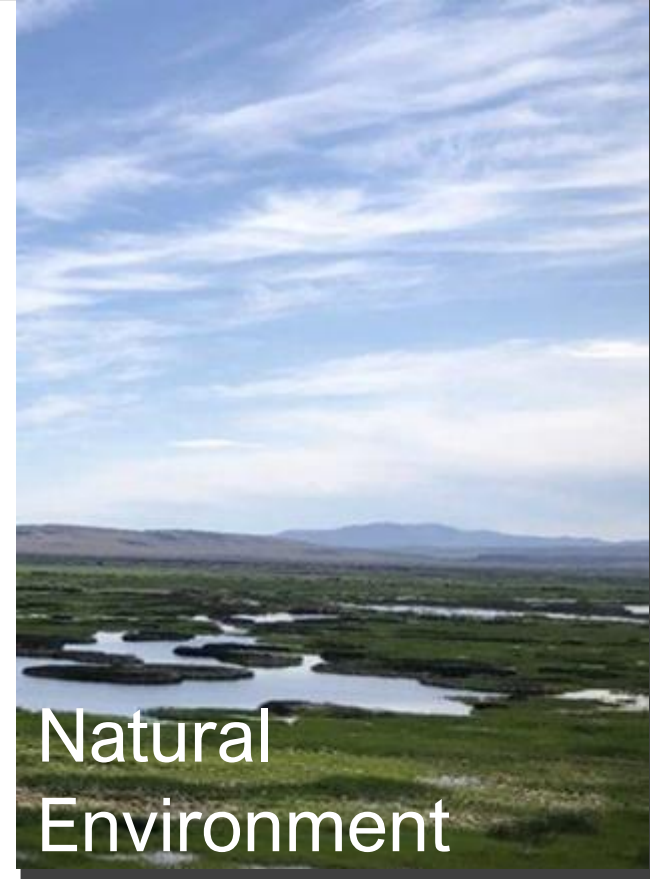
Our rural way of life endures because we have learned to adapt to *economic, environmental, and social* challenges



Agriculture

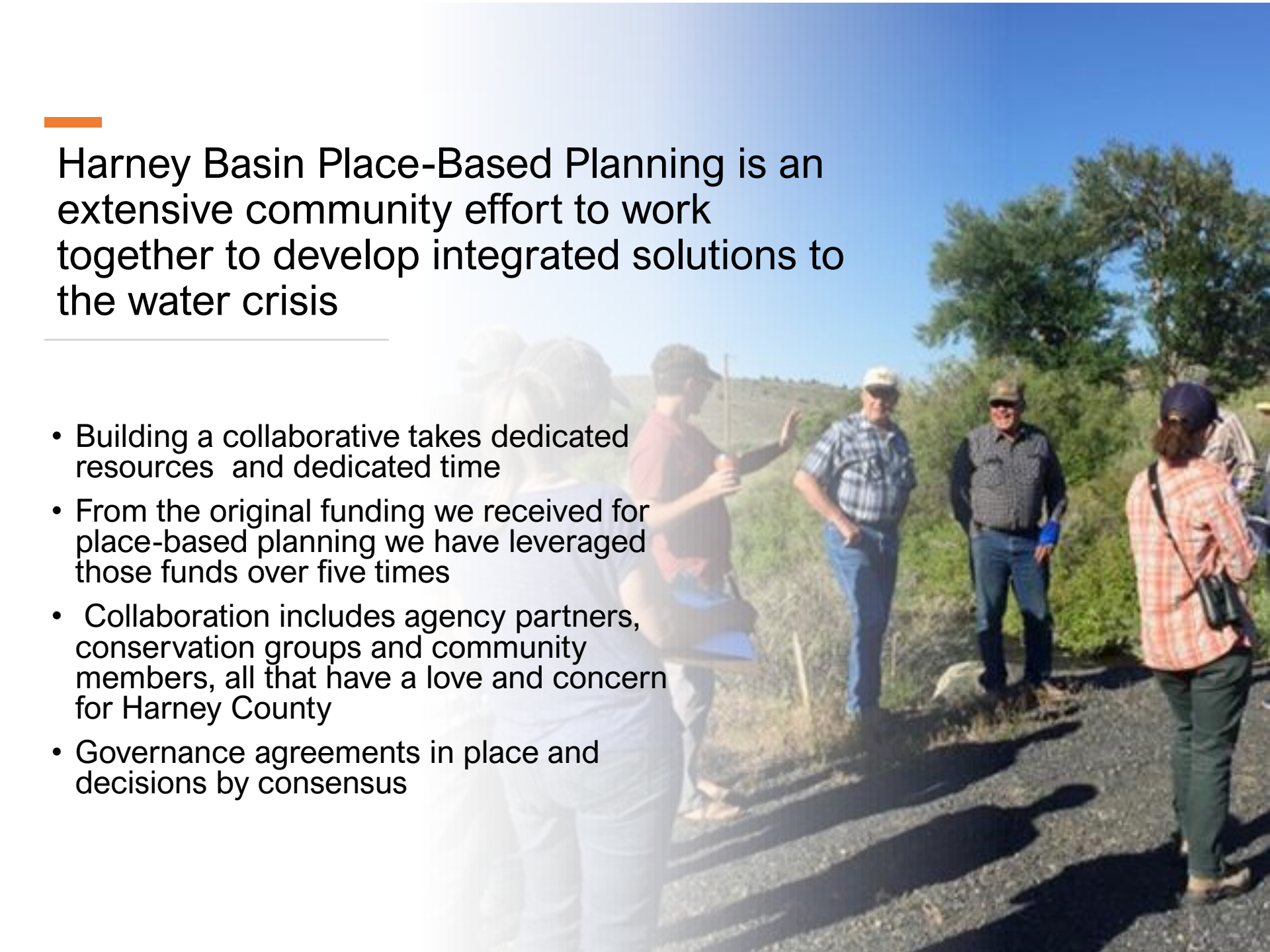


Community:
Domestic &
Municipal Water



Natural
Environment

We are Facing a Water Crisis unlike this region has ever experienced
Everyone and Everything is impacted



Harney Basin Place-Based Planning is an extensive community effort to work together to develop integrated solutions to the water crisis

- Building a collaborative takes dedicated resources and dedicated time
- From the original funding we received for place-based planning we have leveraged those funds over five times
- Collaboration includes agency partners, conservation groups and community members, all that have a love and concern for Harney County
- Governance agreements in place and decisions by consensus



The Future Of Our Water Supply Requires Our Attention And Immediate Action. Updated information as the groundwater study hopefully nears publication.

Groundwater Facts

The Harney Basin is overallocated by 120,000 to 140,000 acre feet.

This amount equals current groundwater use



Water Budget



Natural ET-GW



190,000 – 220,000 AF

Crop ET-GW



110,000 – 150,000 AF

+

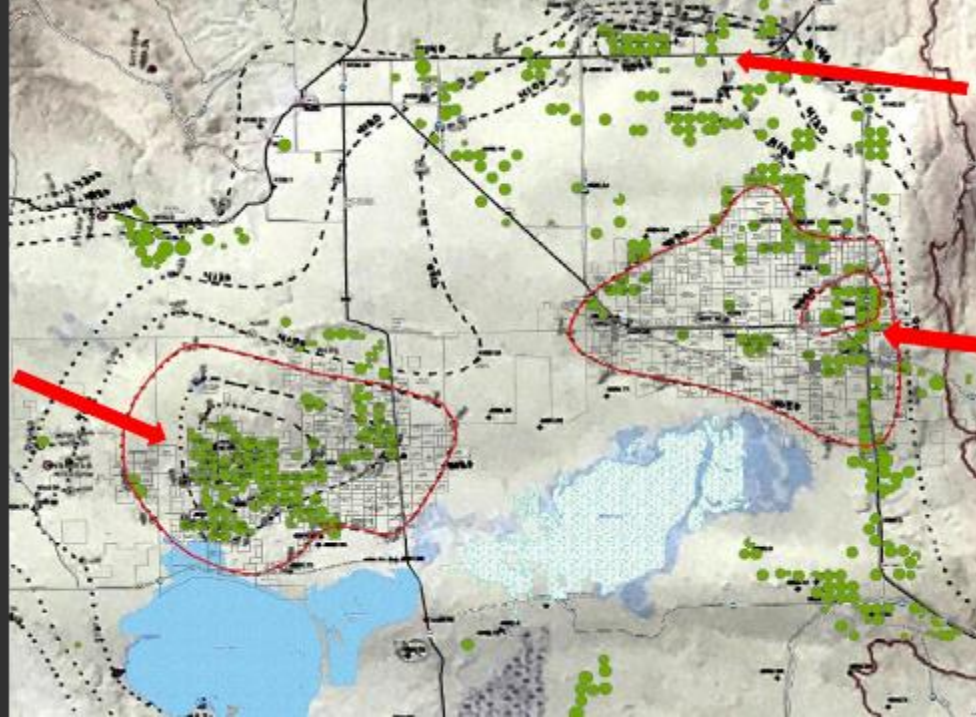
Total discharge \approx 300,000 – 370,000 AF

Estimated recharge range (160,000-220,000 AF)

The groundwater budget was in balance until people started accessing water.



25 to 80 feet



20 to 40 feet

> 30 feet

Domestic Well Facts

The depths and extent of cones of depressions are influenced in addition to the pumping the surrounding geology
Even with reducing groundwater use, domestic wells will continue to see declines in water levels due the water flowing to the cones of depression

It is going to get worse before it gets better, HB3092 will help mitigate the issues domestic well owners are facing

Our Shared Water Future: Secure Supply of Local Drinking Water



Overallocation has impacted our rural residents water supply

Actions of the Domestic Well Working Group of the Place-based Water Collaborative:

Obtained funding to commission an OSU survey sent to 1200 residential well owners in Harney County

Findings: 480 responses returned of those 144 or 30% reported a decline in yield or rate in the last 10 years.

HB 3092 is just one strategy of the collaborative to secure domestic supply damaged in overallocation of the basin groundwater

The working group also obtained funding for a Water Feasibility Study

Options Include:

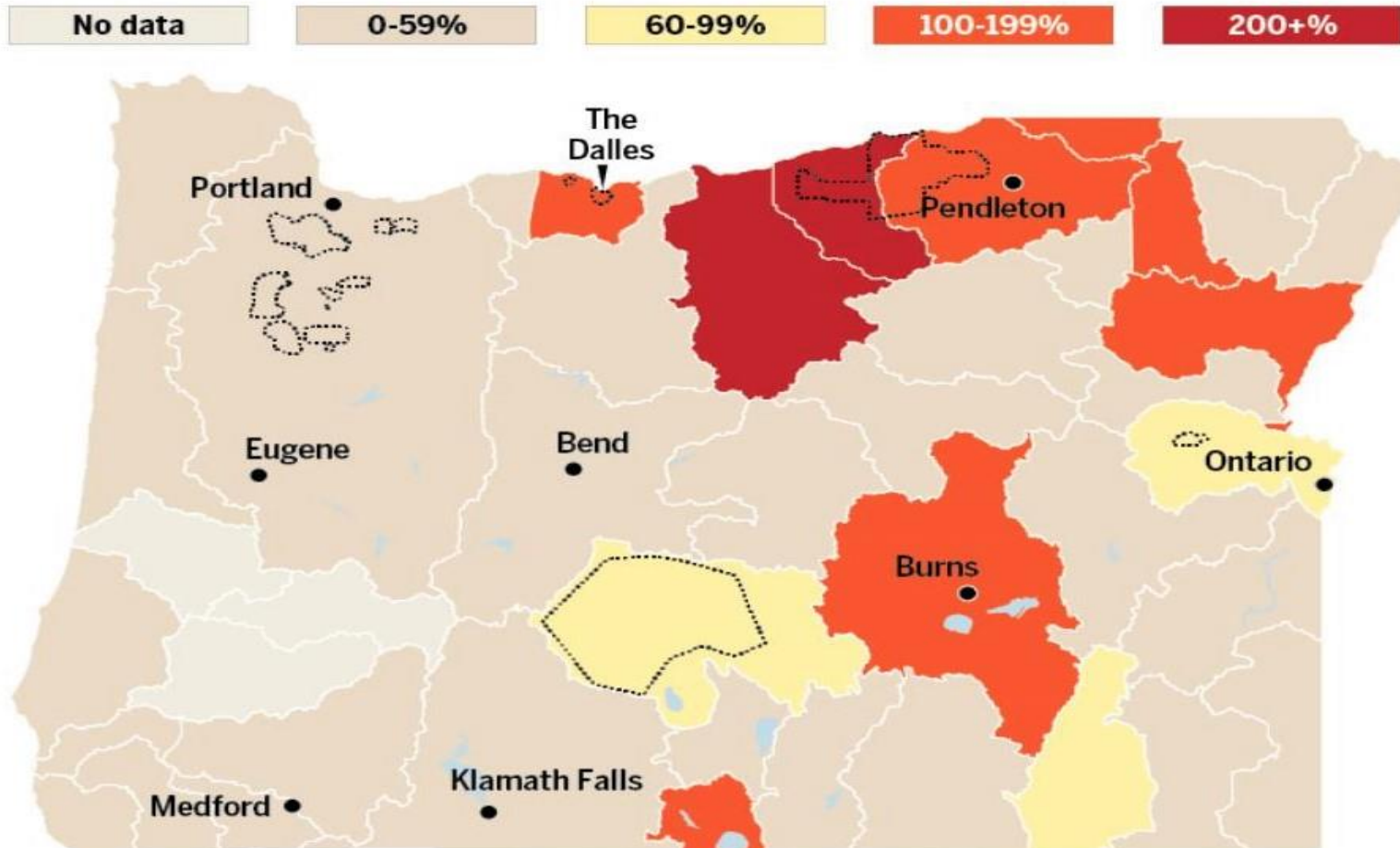
- Rural Water Distribution – expanding municipal delivery
- Community Well Systems for a special water district
- Trucking Water to Cisterns
- Fire Truck Fill stations
- Rainwater Capture
- Deepening Wells – HB3092



Irrigation rights vs. capacity

In some of Oregon basins, irrigators are allowed to use a greater percentage of the groundwater that winter rain and snow are estimated to replenish, according to an Oregonian/OregonLive analysis.

..... Areas labeled "groundwater restricted" by Oregon Water Resources Department



Source: The Oregonian/OregonLive analysis. Oregon Water Resources Department

MARK FRIESEN AND
MARK GRAVES/STAFF



REMEMBERING A HARNEY WATER CHAMPION

Local Hines resident, author, and former watershed council member Diane Rapaport was passionate about raising awareness and public concern for water issues in the Harney Basin. Diane served as a coordinating committee member of this place-based water planning effort, providing sage advice that is a legacy to our community.

With Urgency
Comes
Opportunity

Harneyswaterfuture.com