

SECRETARY OF STATE

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



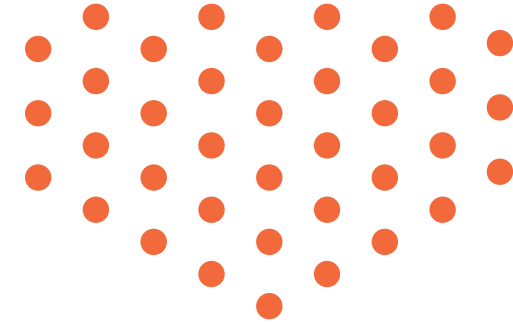
Advisory Report

2023-04



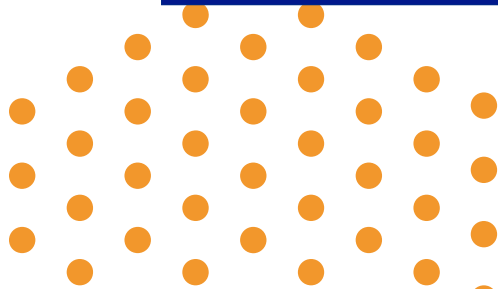
About the Project

- Advisory report directed to the Oregon Legislature and Governor's Office
- Addresses systemic gaps in Oregon's water governance that can create or worsen water insecurity
- Consulted with 13 state agencies, three federally recognized Tribes, and numerous stakeholders and community members



Key Definitions

Water Security	The ability of communities to access and interact with adequate, safe, clean water to sustain human well-being, protect livelihoods and socio-economic development, protect against pollution and water related disasters, and preserve ecosystems.
Water Equity	Occurs when water security is enjoyed by all communities.
Water Governance	Refers to administrative systems, with a focus on formal institutions (laws and policies) and informal institutions (relationships and practices) as well as organizational structures and their efficiency.
Water Management	Covers a range of operational activities intended to meet specific targets, such as aligning water resources with water supply and use.



Water Insecurity in Oregon

- A present and growing concern
- Numerous potential causes, including climate change
- Impacts are broad but unevenly felt
- Water insecurity is costly and consequential for communities





Impacts on Oregonians

- Klamath Tribes
- North Coast Region
- Harney County
- Lower Umatilla Basin

Past Decisions Inform Present Circumstances

Introduction of the Water Code

- Prior appropriation
- Controversy around development of the west
- Oregon's Water Code

Statewide Planning History

- State basin programs were introduced
- Efforts to expand on basin planning ultimately abandoned
- Planning focus shifted to locally driven, collaborative governance
- No comprehensive water policy and management approach developed under fluctuating leadership priorities

Recent Initiatives

- 2021 Water Package
- State Supported Regional Water Management and Planning Workgroup
- Growing need for a coordinated approach and water planning framework



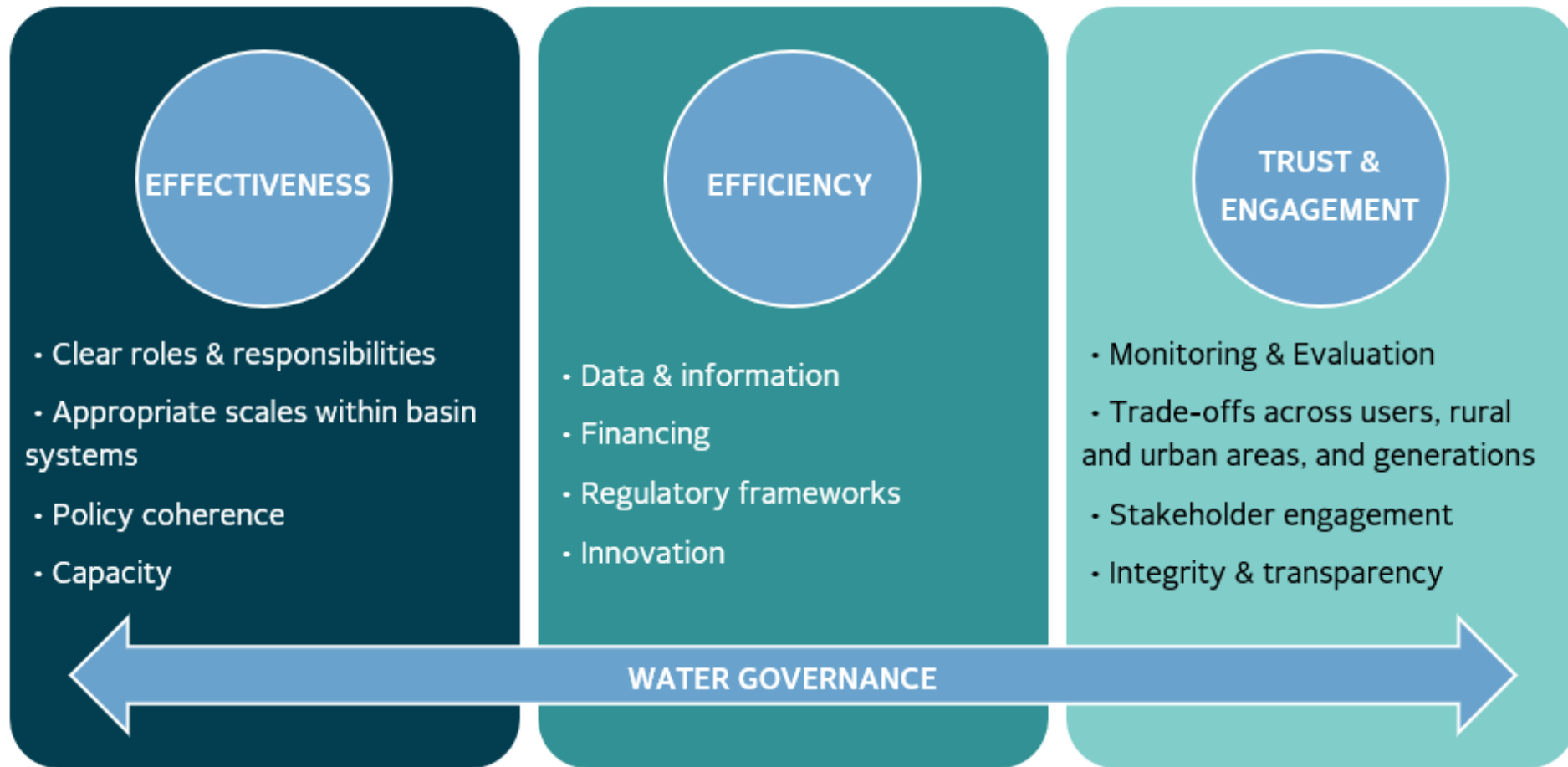
Governance gaps undermining Oregon's water security

- **Limited community and Tribal engagement in water decisions**
- **No implementation pathways for Integrated Water Resources Strategy (IWRS) and no connection to regional planning efforts**
- **State leadership and state agencies do not have shared water security priorities**
- **Agencies have limited capacity and resources to collaborate with each other and engage with communities**



Governance gaps undermining Oregon's water security

- **Data is disaggregated, incomplete, and not set up to support regional governance or planning**
- **The state lacks a funding strategy that ties water planning to investments**
- **External pressures may prevent agencies from using their regulatory authority to public benefit**
- **Oregon Tribes face unique water security challenges**



Good Water Governance Principles

Developing a State Water Governance Model



State and regional planning framework

- Developing shared priorities centered on water security
- Connect state plan to regional planning framework
- Convene formal planning and coordination body
- Define agency roles within a regional framework



Policy, data, and funding

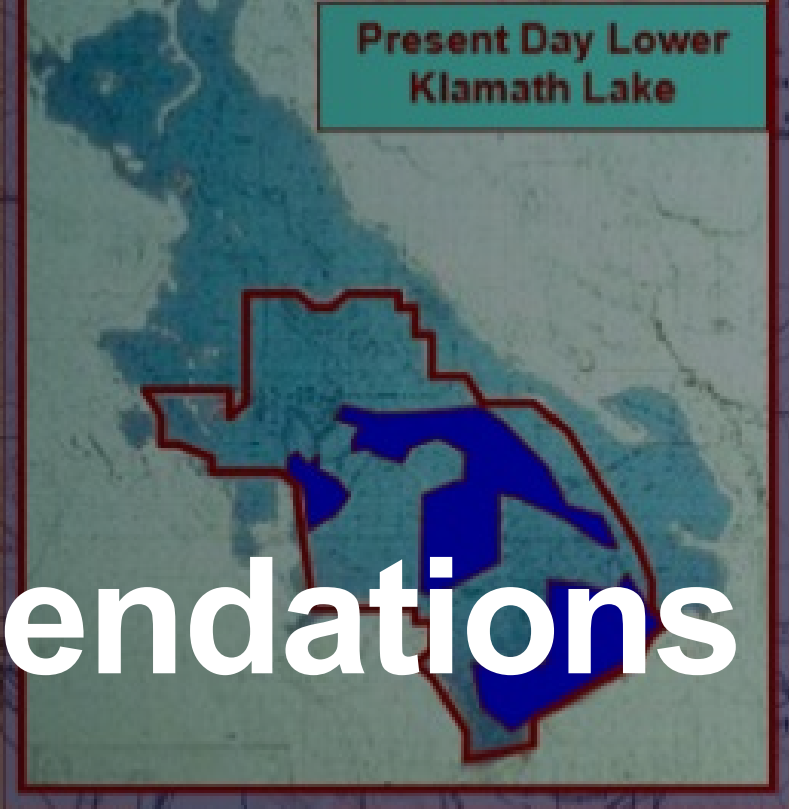
- Explore water security policy options
- Improve data to support decision making
- Adopt strategic funding
- Support regulatory agencies

Tribal and Community Engagement

- Balancing interests and integrating communities into water decisions
- Enhancing public awareness of water challenges
- Tribal integration into state and regional decision making

Recommendations

Present Day Lower
Klamath Lake



Present Day
Tule Lake



PROJECT CHIEF ENGINEER
L PROGRESS MAP
ENGINEER T. H. HUMPHREYS PROJECT ENGINEER
Plans, and Maps, Lake State topographic sheets of the U. S. Geol.
ogy from U. S. Land Office and Miscellaneous Survey maps, etc.
MAP NO. 8099
APRIL, 1908
Scale: miles
Contour Interval 200 feet




State and Regional Planning Framework

- Sustain legislative commitment and develop shared priorities to guide Oregon in making holistic and inclusive water decisions promoting water security.
- Connect a regional planning system with an integrated state water plan to guide water decisions and policy development.





State and Regional Planning Framework

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- Convene a formal planning and coordination body to guide the statewide plan and provide consistent support for regional governance needs.
 - Define and clearly establish agency roles and responsibilities in state and regional water plan development and implementation.
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Policy, Data, and Funding

- Explore opportunities to prioritize water security and equity more clearly in state policy, such as enshrining the human right to water in law and other policy changes that could expand protections for community and ecosystem health.
 - Improve water data to help Oregon agencies and communities better understand statewide and regional water needs and support strategic decision-making.
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Policy, Data, and Funding

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- Adopt a strategic approach to water funding and a consistent funding base to support desired outcomes.
 - Show clear support for state water agencies tasked with carrying out regulatory responsibilities.
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Tribal and Community Engagement

- Integrate federally recognized Tribes as full and equal partners and co-managers in water decision-making.
- Take steps to balance interests and address high-priority water security needs by increasing public engagement in state and regional water management decisions.
- Enhance public awareness and understanding of the state's urgent water challenges.



Final Thoughts

- Building on previous and ongoing efforts
- Thoughtful, well-coordinated, systemic response



Questions?

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