

SB 1567 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water

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Meeting Dates: 2/27

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

The measure directs the Oregon Water Resources Department (OWRD) to, in collaboration with the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation and the State of Washington, implement and guide bistate water management in the Walla Walla River Basin following the Walla Walla Water 2050 Strategic Plan.

Detailed Summary

- Directs the Oregon Water Resources Department (OWRD) to, in collaboration with the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation and the State of Washington, **implement and guide bistate water management in the Walla Walla River Basin** through an integrated water resources approach following the Walla Walla Water 2050 Strategic Plan (Strategic Plan).
- Requires the implementation to occur under advice from a **Walla Walla River Basin advisory committee** and specifies committee membership to include representatives from the agricultural and environmental sectors, as well as federal, tribal, state, and local governments.
- Declares **intent for the State of Oregon to share implementation costs**, subject to available funds appropriated for this purpose, and that at least one-half of the total costs will be funded through federal, private, and other nonstate sources.
- Specifies implementation guidelines and directs OWRD to, in consultation with affected federally recognized tribes and in coordination with the State of Washington, **assess the development of a legal and regulatory framework** for the allocation, distribution, and management of developed water resources.
- Authorizes state agencies to fund implementation projects under the Strategic Plan that are located wholly or partially in the State of Washington under certain conditions.
- Requires OWRD to submit a report to a water-related interim legislative committee by June 30, 2026, including recommendations for the assessed development of a regulatory framework. Requires OWRD to report, in coordination with the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation and the State of Washington, to the Walla Walla River Basin advisory committee at specified times.

FISCAL: Has minimal fiscal impact

REVENUE: No revenue impact

SENATE VOTE: Ayes, 29; Nays, 1

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

The Walla Walla Watershed is partially located in southeastern Washington State, and partially in northeastern Oregon, with two-thirds and one-third of its area in each respective state. The Walla Walla Water 2050 Strategic Plan is a 30-year plan to improve stream flows and water supplies in the Walla Walla watershed. The plan uses an integrated water resource management approach and engages stakeholders in both Washington and Oregon to develop a long-term plan for water use in the basin. The Walla Walla Basin Advisory Committee (WWBAC) provides policy and project development advice on implementation of the Walla Walla Water 2050 Strategic Plan.

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WWBAC includes participation from Washington State, Oregon State, the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, and local governments.

PRELIMINARY