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Fostering a Place-Based Planning Approach in Oregon

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Oregon Water Resources Department



Oregon's First Water Strategy

House Bill 3369 (2009)

- Directs WRD to lead efforts to “understand and meet” Oregon’s water needs” →
- Partner with water quality, fish & wildlife, agriculture, other agencies, tribes, stakeholders, public
- Account for coming pressures
- Adopted in 2012

7th OREGON LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY-2009 Regular Session

Enrolled House Bill 3369

**instream and out-of-stream
...quality, quantity & ecosystem needs
...today and in the future**

Relating to water supply management; creating new provisions; amending ORS 536.220, 541.700, 541.705, 541.710, 541.720, 541.730, 541.740, 541.765, 541.770, 541.785, 541.830, 541.845 and 541.850; repealing ORS 541.755; appropriating money; and declaring an emergency.

Whereas the western United States is projected to experience substantial population growth this century, including an additional one million people in Oregon before 2030; and

Whereas climate change is expected to alter the timing and form of precipitation in Oregon; and
Whereas surface water is almost completely allocated across Oregon during summer months, ground water levels have declined precipitously in several areas and the hydrological connection between surface water and ground water levels is significant; and

Whereas Oregon needs to develop an integrated statewide water management plan to address existing and likely future in-stream and out-of-stream demands on Oregon's water supply; and

Whereas having coordinated plans and programs to address in-stream and out-of-stream water needs will make Oregon a more likely recipient of federal investments and give Oregon stronger standing in interstate water disputes; and

Whereas water is a valuable economic commodity; and

Whereas water development projects can be designed to simultaneously benefit commercial development, the natural environment and the fiscal responsibilities of the state; and

Whereas it is the policy of the Water Resources Department to directly address Oregon's water supply needs and to restore and protect stream flows and watersheds; and

Whereas it is desirable that the Water Resources Department and the Water Resources Commission have greater authority to issue loans and grants to public and private bodies, Indian tribes and others for the purpose of developing projects that will ensure the availability of a sufficient and sustainable water supply to meet Oregon's current and future water needs; and

Whereas loan and grant moneys for developing projects that ensure a sufficient and sustainable water supply must be administered in a prudent and fiscally sound manner and used expeditiously; and

Whereas water development projects that deliver mutual benefits for water users, the environment and the fiscal condition of this state should be funded or financed with public dollars; and

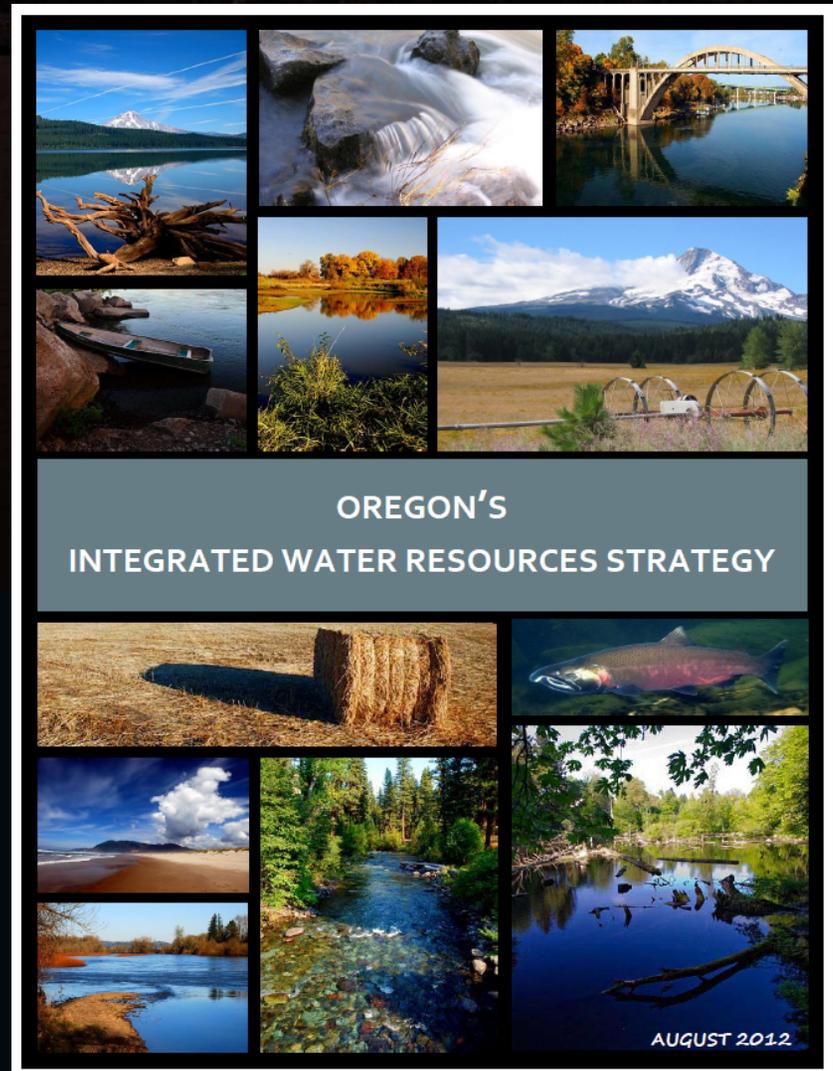
Whereas all water within Oregon belongs to the public pursuant to law; now, therefore,

Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:

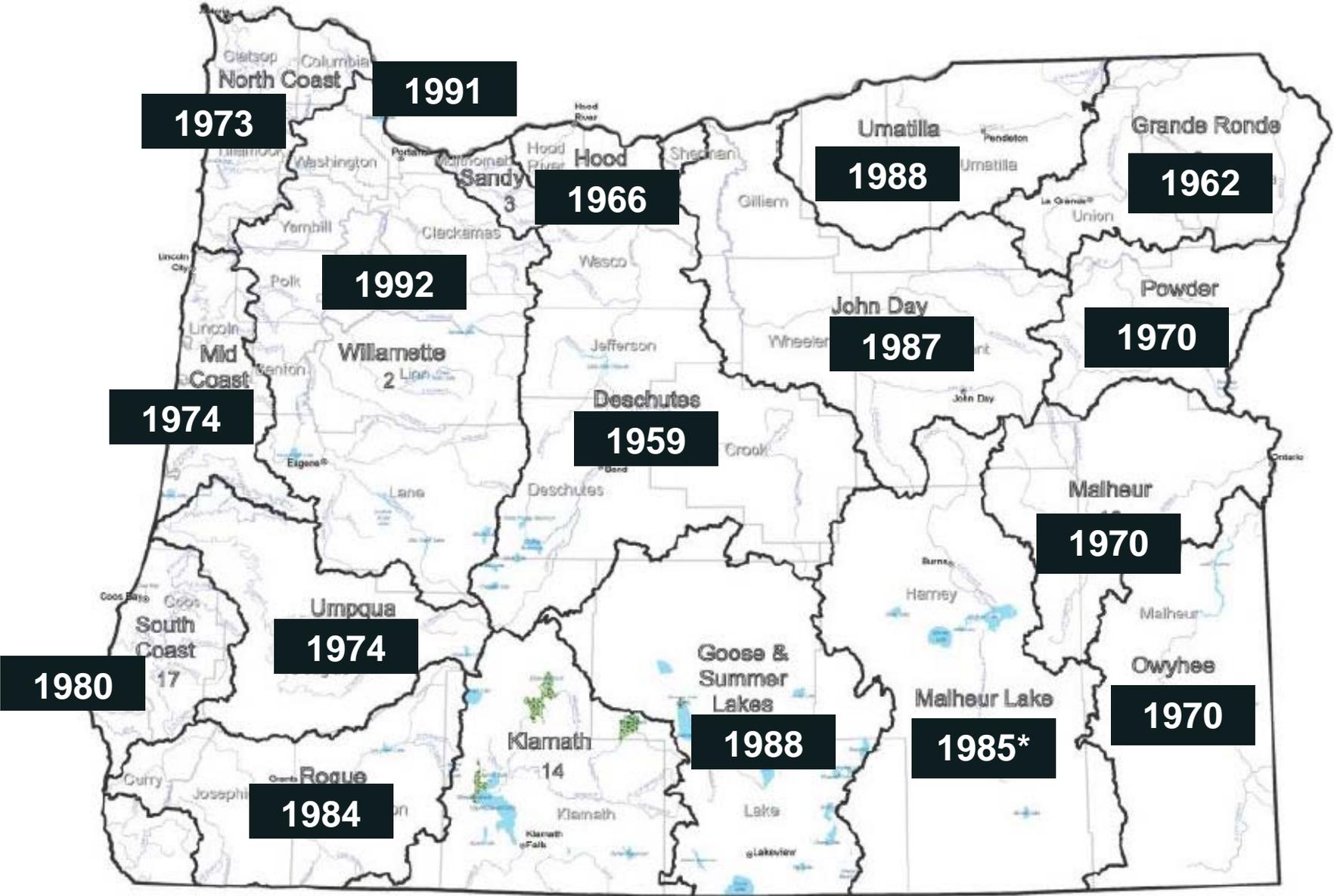
ADDING

Oregon's First Water Strategy

- More than 40 recommended actions
- Emphasis on monitoring and assisting Oregon communities
- Scaling the Strategy's goals and objectives to a place-based level



Oregon's History with Comprehensive Planning



Recommend Action 9.A.

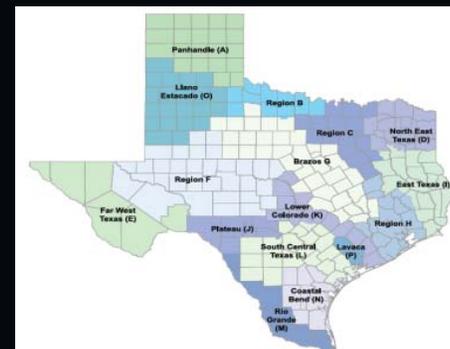
“Undertake Place-Based Integrated Water Resources Planning”

State Commitment:

1. Develop guidelines
2. Provide technical assistance
3. Seek financial resources to help communities plan for water needs

Place-Based Planning in Oregon

- First step: What are other states doing?
- Conducted workshops, took comment in 2014
- Draft finalized February 2015
- 2015 Legislation: SB 266



Place-Based Example: Willamette Basin

Willamette Valley Project

- Federally owned & operated
- 5 percent is contracted
- Flood control & hydropower
- Water releases for fish & wildlife benefits



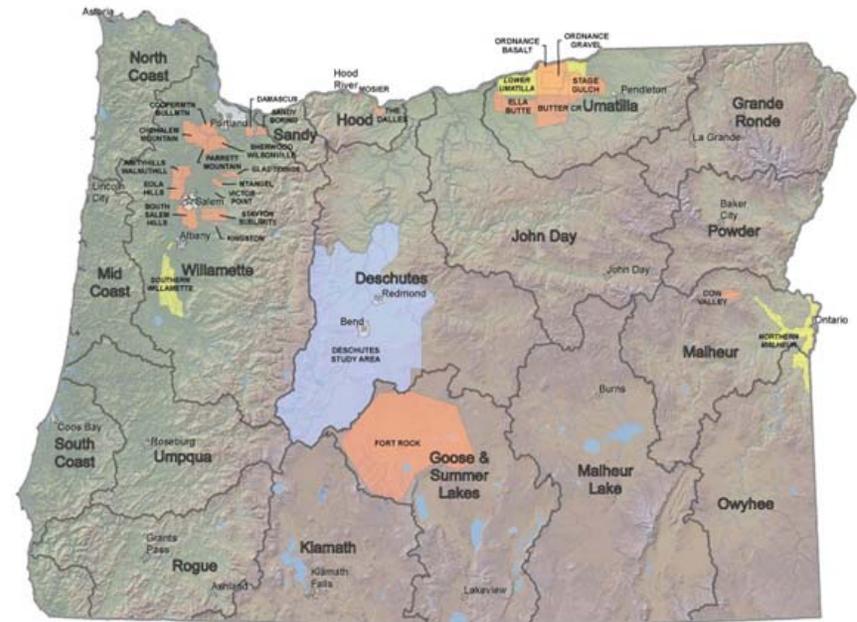
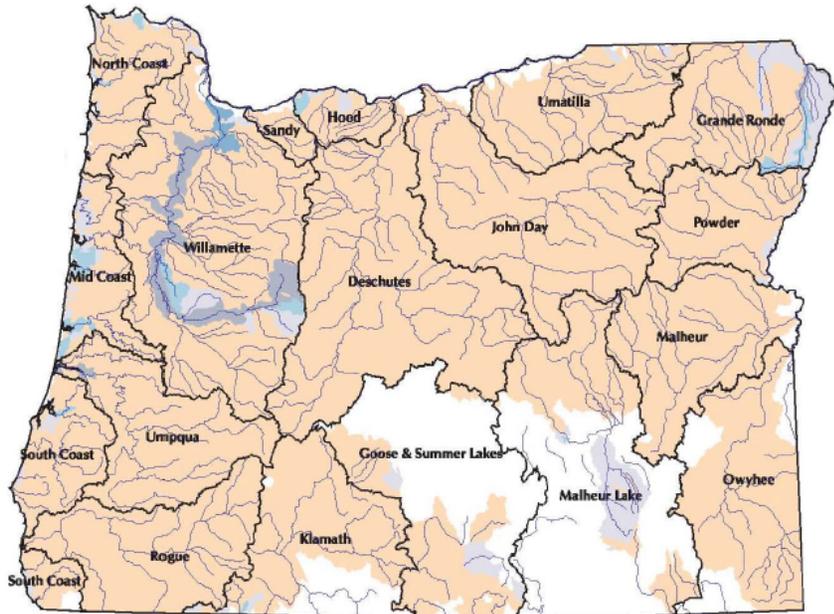
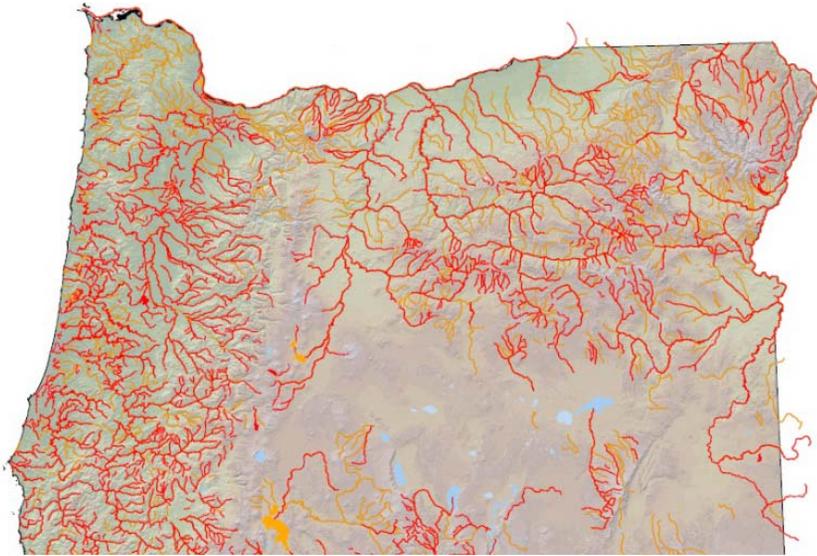
**US Army Corps
of Engineers®**

Why Should We Plan Together?

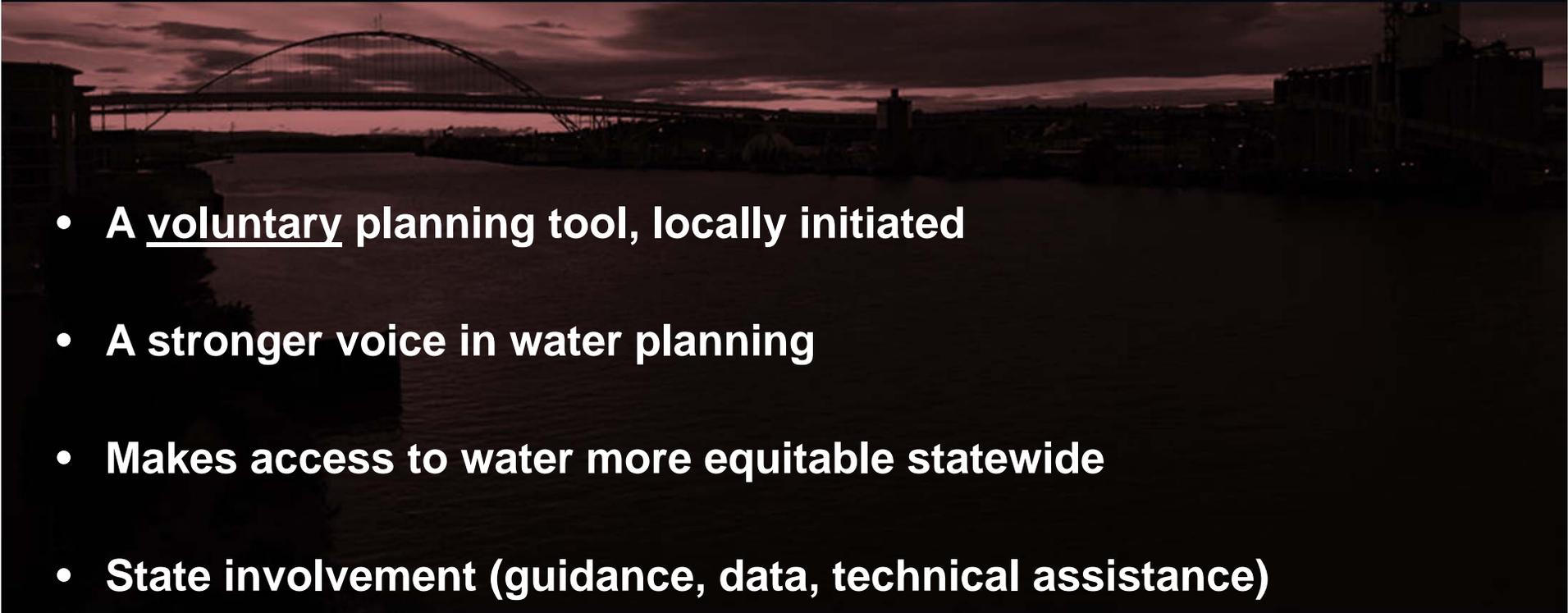
- Strong recreational demand
- Highly diverse & productive agricultural setting
- Several ESA-listed species (2008 Bi-Op)
- Fastest growing area in the state



Place-Based Planning: Why should we?

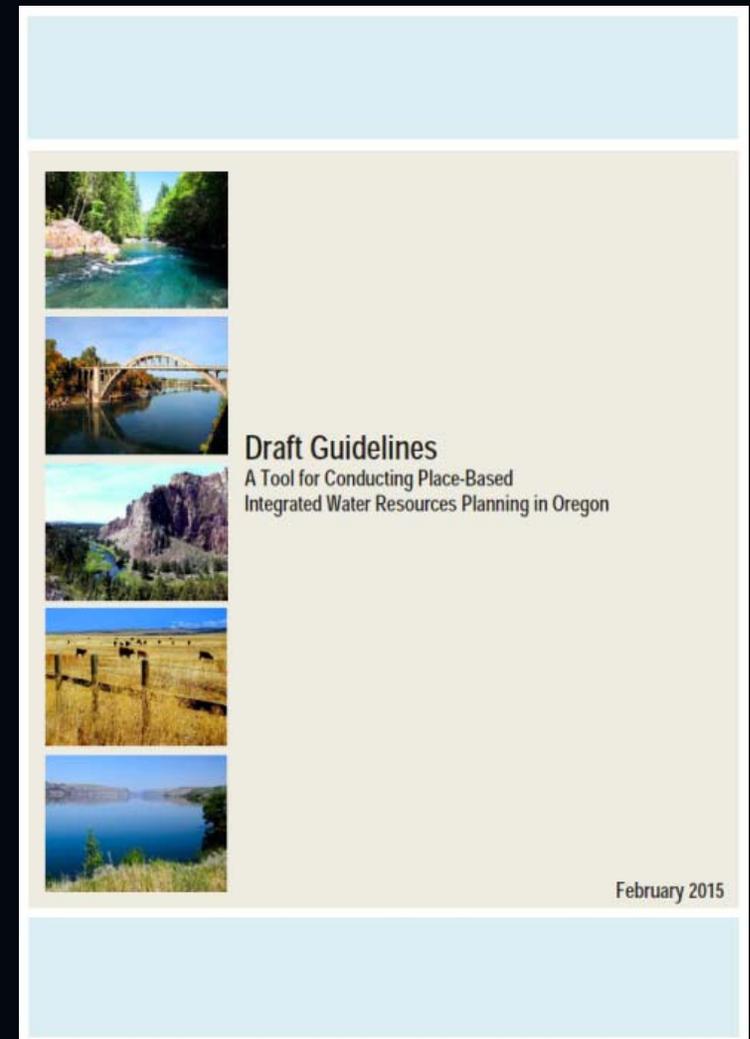


Place-Based Planning: The Benefits

- 
- A voluntary planning tool, locally initiated
 - A stronger voice in water planning
 - Makes access to water more equitable statewide
 - State involvement (guidance, data, technical assistance)
 - Connects to statewide IWRS
 - Compatible with federal planning programs
 - Contains 5 basic planning steps

Place-Based Planning: The Fundamentals

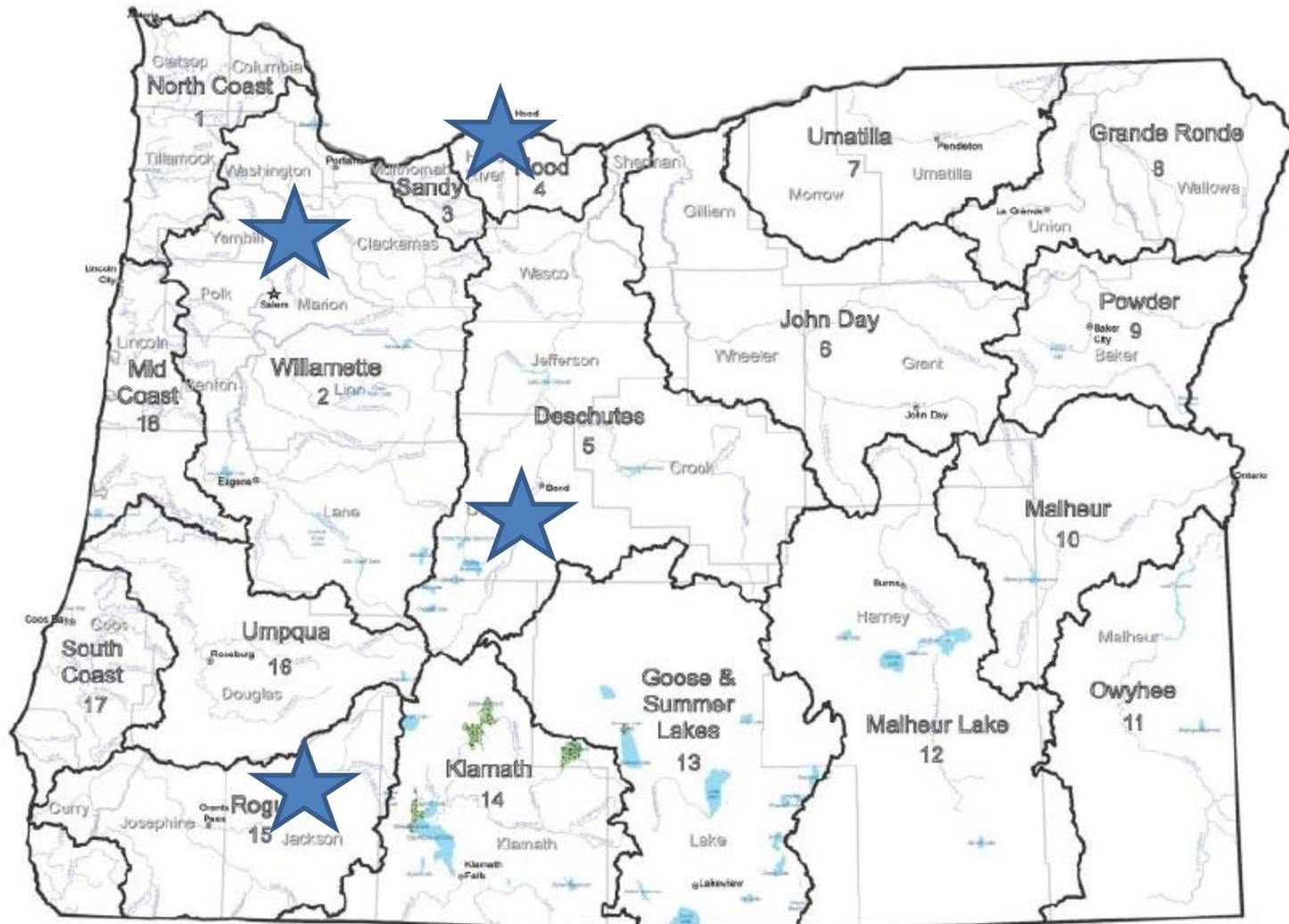
- Recognize the public interest in water, state authorities, and responsibilities
- Ensure balanced representation of all interests
- Have a meaningful process for public involvement
- Adhere to the IWRS Guiding Principles
- Cannot jeopardize existing water rights

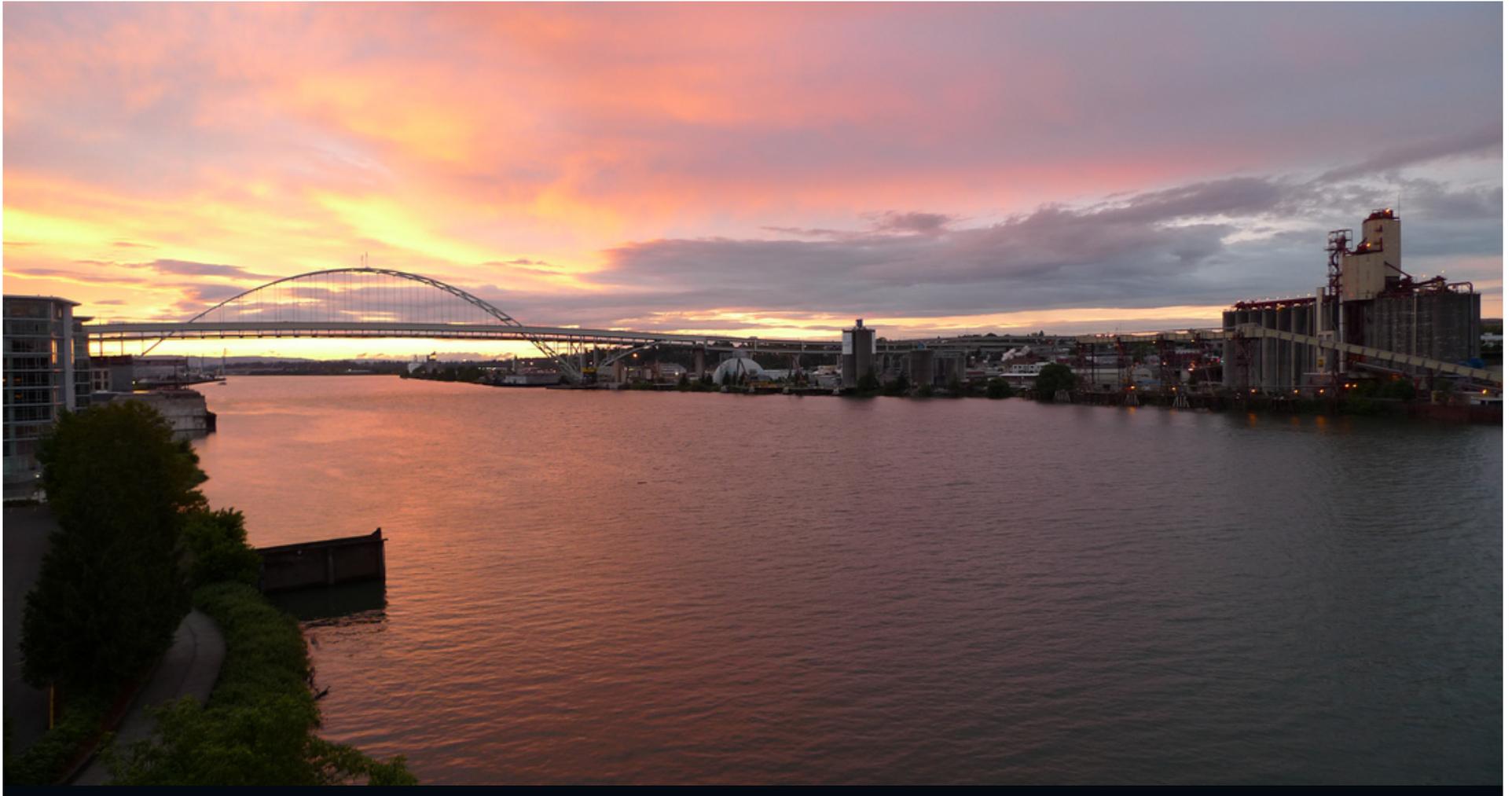


Why should municipalities plan with others?

- Many benefits of working with others
- State water law and policies –
 - Multi-purpose benefits
 - Economic, environmental, social benefits
 - State priority to meet both instream and out-of-stream water needs
- More competitive for state funding resources (SB 839)
- Less surprises at the water rights phase

Why should municipalities plan with others?





Thank you!

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