

Performance Metrics

Developing performance metrics, or indicators, to assess progress made implementing any plan is critical to success. The first key step in the development of metrics was establishing criteria used to inform the metrics. Relevance to management goals and objectives, sensitivity to stressors, high “signal-to-noise” ratios (i.e., significant changes to an indicator are caused by changes in stressors versus stochastic variability), quantifiability, accuracy, precision, ability to monitor, cost-effectiveness of monitoring, and measurements that can be interpreted unambiguously, are key criteria that have been used to indicate watershed health (City of Portland Bureau of Environmental Services 2019), and are foundational to all of the imperatives and their associated actions in this plan. Because all actions identify potential lead organizations, it will be incumbent on those leads to ensure that appropriate performance and tracking metrics are developed and used.

Implementing the Water Action Plan

The next portion of the Mid-Coast Water Planning Partnership Water Action Plan includes implementation tables that describe a suite of actions to achieve the water objectives and priorities in the Mid-Coast region of Oregon in phases during the next 10 years, from 2022–2032. This plan should be reviewed and updated every five years given emerging issues and changes in demographics and other factors likely to occur in the Mid-Coast. The specifics for the implementation table within this plan focus on the highest priority actions that should be initiated within the next 10 years to achieve a secure water future for people and fish and wildlife in the Mid-Coast.

Prioritizing Actions

There is no intended order to the categories of actions, as all of the actions are considered Tier 1, or high priority actions by the Partnership. Tier 2 and Tier 3 actions, which are lower priority actions, were not incorporated into the tables. Charter signatories established criteria to prioritize actions:

- **High (Tier 1):** A critical action without which the objective(s) is not achievable. An action that absolutely must be completed to fully achieve the objective.
- **Medium (Tier 2):** A necessary, but deferrable, action that makes the plan/objective less workable, but functional. An action that is necessary, but potentially deferrable.
- **Low (Tier 3):** A productive action to implement if the resources exist, but the plan/objectives can be achieved without implementing. An action that adds value and would be completed under ideal circumstances, but is not essential to achieve the objective(s).

Initially 150 “raw” draft actions were created by charter signatories to address the 18 key issues. The signatories then volunteered to rank the actions per agreed upon criteria, followed by all partners being given the opportunity to comment on priority rankings. Any redundancies across actions were eliminated, and language associated with each action was refined. The set of tables in this plan represents all of the high priority actions identified by charter signatories.

The strategies listed in the implementation table are a result of a prioritization exercise conducted by charter signatories, which resulted in all Tier 1, or high priority strategies, being included in the table. The Tier 2 and Tier 3 strategies, which were not incorporated, can be reviewed on the Partnership website on the Action Plan page. No additional prioritization occurred during the planning process other than describing the phase (1, 2, or 3) in which a specific strategy could likely be implemented.

It is anticipated that each of the entities involved in the development of this plan and actions can identify the role they may play in implementing one or more of the actions in the table, and that all will continue to work collaboratively to assess progress made implementing the actions.

Water Action Teams (Figure 9) will be formed to maintain communication and coordination around the six action-oriented imperatives. The Partnership will, at a minimum, meet on a quarterly basis to support coordination of work between partners. The Partnership will focus its efforts on increasing regional capacity, coordination, and collaboration, building public awareness and support, increasing funding and access to funding, and improving monitoring and data sharing to more effectively implement each of the six action-oriented imperatives. The Partnership will also strive on an annual or bi-annual basis to convene a Regional Water Summit to track and report progress on plan implementation and celebrate success.

This plan is intended to be used by the many partners, organizations, and individuals that live and work in the Mid-Coast Planning Area to achieve the goals, objectives, and actions described herein. In some instances, a watershed council could use the plan to justify funding for an aquatic habitat restoration project. In other instances, a municipal water district could use the plan to identify high priority infrastructure projects, and seek funding to support a specific action. It is anticipated that many of the actions in each phase of this plan will be implemented simultaneously, as resources and capacity exist.

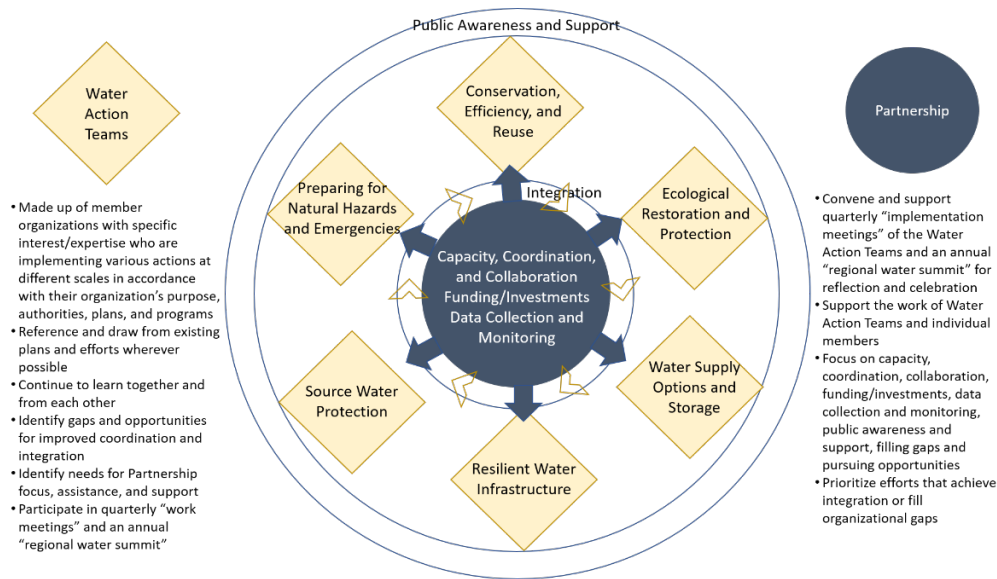


Figure 11. The nexus among water action teams and the Partnership, with the water action teams focusing on the action-oriented imperatives, and the Partnership focusing on the crossing-cutting imperatives.