

# MCWPP Implementation Guide (Examples)

## Priority Group A Actions

### Imperative 1: Public Awareness and Support

Public awareness of water issues in the Mid-Coast region of Oregon is critical to achieving the long-term goals the region has for delivering water sustainably for people and native fish and wildlife.

Imperative	Action #	Priority Grouping	Projects Identified
1	1	A	N
1	1a	A	N
1	1a	A	N
1	1b	A	N
1	1h	A	N
1	1f	A	Y
1	1g	A	Y
1	1j	A	Y

#### Action 1a: Conservation

Promote water conservation at local events, on the Mid-Coast Water Planning Partnership website and the websites of regional partners and entities, in news articles, in water bills, via social media, and through outreach materials to businesses, particularly in the hospitality industry.

#### Approach:

- Form an Outreach / Communications Committee (applicable to all of Action 1 and other actions).
- Identify partners who could reach different public spheres with water conservation messaging.
- Group organizations by category (public utilities, private utilities, industries, education, etc.) to identify what kinds of messaging each group is doing and gaps in existing programs.
- Identify operational resources or grant program (related to imperative 2 and will need to be done for other actions).
- Committee/Partnership can review missions of each group/organization and help plan outreach methods.

- Coordinate consistent messaging between partners and utilize partnerships.

Resources:

- Funding – potential sources include:
  - Georgia-Pacific Environment Grant Program.
  - Business Oregon Drinking Water Source Protection Fund.
  - U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA).
  - EPA's Environmental Education (EE) Grants.
  - Spirit Mountain Community Fund.
  - Starker Forests Grant.
  - Three Rivers Foundation.
- Resources of identified lead partners such as the Mid-Coast Water Conservation Consortium.

Outcomes:

- Outreach committee formed.
- Partners identified.
- Operational resource and funding secured.
- Organizations and water conservation content promoted on Partnership website.
- Conservation content developed for Partners and promoted by Partnership.
- Conservation materials distributed on various platforms in accessible formats.
- Partners promote water conservation at events.
- Consistent messaging between partners is distributed to help establish effective region-wide conservation awareness.

## Imperative 6: Source Water Protection

The 1972 Clean Water Act specifies three categories for protection of all water sources: The physical connectivity, the biological health, and chemicals introduced from point, or non-point sources. Source water includes the rivers, streams, lakes, reservoirs, springs, and groundwater that deliver water to public drinking water supplies and private wells. Protecting source water reduces treatment costs, protects water quality for wildlife and human uses, and helps ensure the availability of water. Strategies to protect source water depend on the source, and include protection of riparian habitats, stream bank stabilization, land protection/easements, best management practices for agricultural and forestry activities, local ordinances to limit activities in source water or wellhead protection areas, emergency response plans, and outreach and education.

Imperative	Action #	Priority Group	Projects?
6	35	A	Y
6	41	A	N
8	58	A	N

### Implementation Guide for Actions 41 and 58

Actions 41 and 58 (Imperative 8) focus on source water and ecosystem protection through easements and acquisition, and therefore have a combined implementation guide. Action 41 is focused on drinking water source protection, and Action 58 is focused on ecosystem and watershed protection generally, but projects could overlap for the two actions.

#### Imperative 6: Source Water Protection – Action 41: Protect critical lands

Protect critical lands within drinking water source areas through acquisition, conservation easements, or other tools that prevent degradation and/or impacts to source water quality.

#### Imperative 8: Ecosystem Protection and Enhancement – Action 58: Easements and acquisitions

Acquire land, or obtain conservation easements, to protect critical land areas managed for water quality protection.

#### Approach

- Assess and prioritize critical areas in the watershed(s) of interest. Determine criteria and methodology for prioritizing critical areas. Areas to prioritize may include those with highly erodible soils, steep slopes near water sources, areas prone to landslides, areas with known water quality issues, high runoff potential, and stream buffers.
- Research and assess existing land ownership and management practices in critical areas. Identify protection needs in critical areas.
- Communicate with landowners/land managers and other stakeholders, such as land trusts or state or federal agencies, about critical area protection.
- Identify opportunities for land acquisition and conservation easements with willing private landowners. For properties that cannot be acquired, promote existing conservation programs and initiatives, such as Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) for agricultural lands.

- Pursue partnerships with organizations and land trusts, if appropriate, targeted toward potential acquisition or conservation easements.
- Pursue funding for viable opportunities.
- Purchase lands or development rights or enter into conservation easements.
- Develop management plans for areas to be acquired. Management plans would likely incorporate other source water protection and ecosystem enhancement actions. Determine land management entity for lands of interest. Plan for long-term tracking of water quality protection objectives and communication and data sharing between stakeholders.
- Develop agreements with willing public landowners if deemed beneficial.

#### Resources

- Funding - potential sources include:
  - Bureau of Reclamation WaterSMART Cooperative Watershed Management Program (Phase I or Phase II Implementation).
  - Meyer Memorial Trust Healthy Environment Program.
  - Business Oregon Drinking Water Source Protection Fund.
  - USDA NRCS Emergency Watershed Protection Program.
  - Safe Drinking Water Revolving Loan Fund (SDWRLF).
  - USDA Rural Development Water and Waste Disposal Loan and Grant Program.
  - ODFW Access and Habitat Program.
  - OWEB land acquisition funds.
- Existing data: OHA and DEQ databases and Source Water Assessment Reports, 303(d) list, GIS databases (including DEQ Drinking Water Protection Program Interactive Map Viewer), TMDLs, existing water quality monitoring data,
- Stakeholder knowledge
- Lincoln County
- Land trusts (including website resources)

#### Outcomes:

- Long-term partnerships established with landowners, agencies, and other stakeholders.
- Lands acquired or conservation easements established.
- Management plans created and land management entities identified.
- Plan developed for long-term monitoring and tracking of water quality objectives and data sharing between partners.

## Imperative 8. Ecosystem Protection and Enhancement

Ensuring the health of watershed ecosystems through protection and enhancement actions helps the sustainable delivery of ecosystem services, including adequate water quality and quantity, reduced drinking water treatment and infrastructure costs, reduced flood mitigation costs, increased resilience to climate change stressors and natural hazards, opportunities to recover listed species and provide habitat for native fish and wildlife, and reduced risk for invasive species introductions and establishment.

Imperative	Action #	Priority Group	Projects?
8	44	A	Y
8	46	A	Y
8	49	A	Y
8	50	A	Y
8	51	A	Y
8	53	A	N
8	54	A	Y
8	55	A	Y
8	58 *combined with 41	A	N
6	41 *combined with 58 (see Imperative 6)	A	N
8	59	A	Y