

## Overview of the Strategic Action Imperatives

Stakeholders developed cross-cutting and action-oriented imperatives (below) to organize and characterize key basin issues and the strategies proposed to address them. Each of these recognizes that water issues crosscut many geologic, biological, legal, and cultural contexts. The trust and collaborative spirit nurtured in the planning process reflect the commitments and approach of Oregon's 2017 Integrated Water Resources Strategy (IWRS), were critical in reaching consensus on Plan imperatives and potential actions, and will be equally important during the implementation and assessment phases of the Plan.

As we approach the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the establishment of Oregon's current land use governance system, we recognize both the opportunities and the challenges of working within state-wide planning goals. The IWRS acknowledged that many localities' comprehensive plans have not been updated since the 1990s. Clearly things have changed since then, especially trends in climate and demands on water. The Mid-Coast exemplifies many of these land use challenges. The descriptions of needs and the strategies to address them in this plan will be helpful in both navigating the current system and improving the ways by which Oregon's state agencies, community partners, and community members work together on the IWRS identified *Critical Issue: Water and Land Use*. The high-level Imperatives and more specific actions below are proposed as starting points in that deeply collaborative work. As the actions developed through this collaborative effort move towards implementation, awareness and understanding of the multiple layers of regulatory oversight is essential. Working with private entities and non-profits, cities and county to understand how the proposed actions align with the local comprehensive plans and land use ordinances is the first step in moving through the regulatory processes locally and at the state level. It is hoped that the priorities and imperatives identified here will be considered in updated comprehensive planning by all water stakeholders. Developing projects within the existing frameworks while encouraging innovation is critical to ensuring success.

### Cross-Cutting Imperatives

**Regional Capacity, Coordination, and Collaboration.** All strategies and actions will benefit from increased regional capacity, coordination, and collaboration. Each strategy and action will also have specific needs regarding capacity, coordination, and collaboration.

**Public Awareness and Support.** All strategies and actions will benefit from an improved understanding throughout the region about water conditions and challenges, with communication and outreach tailored to the interests and values of different audiences. All strategies/actions will also need various levels of public awareness and support, especially where the success of the action is contingent upon public support. A well-informed and engaged public will be more connected to water providers, water and watershed managers, and each other and will be better prepared for a changing climate, natural hazards, and other emergencies.

**Monitoring and Data Sharing.** All strategies and actions will benefit from improved monitoring, data collection and sharing. Specific strategies and actions will benefit from more specific data collection and

monitoring efforts to track progress and impacts. The scale of data collection and monitoring efforts will be informed by the desired goal. Data collection and monitoring efforts will generally benefit from increased Capacity, and improved coordination and collaboration. Implementation of the Water Action Plan will generally benefit from increased transparency and accessibility of data for all partners. Recognizing resource constraints, recommendations to improve and enhance data collection and monitoring will need to be prioritized to focus on the highest needs identified in the plan (finding a balance between tracking status and trends of water-related conditions and monitoring the impacts of actions).

**Funding and Investments.** All strategies and actions will benefit from increased funding and improved coordination of funding. Each strategy and action will have specific needs and structures regarding funding. Partners recognize that, generally, historical investments in water planning, conservation, and infrastructure (both natural and built) have lagged development and demands upon the resource. Federal funding may have the greatest potential impact, but is often difficult for local communities to access and direct. Similarly, there is a patchwork of potential funding from state and local public and private entities that can be difficult to inventory, access and coordinate, especially for partners with limited capacity. The strategies and actions assume the imperative of greater collaboration and coordination to develop, access, and administer funding for water investments to achieve plan goals and maximize returns on those investments.