

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 strategies designed 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, considering progress, emerging issues, and changes in demographics and other factors likely to occur in the Mid-Coast. The specifics within the implementation table focus on the highest priority actions that should be initiated within the next 10 years to achieve a secure water future for people and environments 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 represent all of the high priority actions identified by charter signatories. Tier 2 and Tier 3 strategies, which were not incorporated, can be reviewed on the Partnership website on the Water 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. While general *feasibility* was an implicit driver of consensus support, and often discussed in Partnership conversations, the proposed actions have not been fully considered in light of current State or local laws, or from the perspective of a cost-benefit analysis. Because of the highly specific and technical nature of the potential projects under the proposed actions, individual project Partners, in consultation with the relevant State agencies and local governments, are best equipped to evaluate the feasibility of projects within the tables.

The Partnership recognizes that estimated implementation “costs” for many Actions or Strategies do not reflect the benefits, (or return on investment) for ecosystem services, infrastructure risk reductions, or system efficiencies. Calculating these is technically, socially, and economically complex. However, the Partners agreed to examine ecosystem services and other expected outcomes as part of a comprehensive approach to evaluating Plan implementation and investment strategies utilizing available methods, tools, and references.

The Partnership anticipates that each of the entities involved in the development of this plan and actions, and other community partners, 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 further prioritize and assess implementation progress. Water Action Teams (Figure 12) 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 successes.

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.

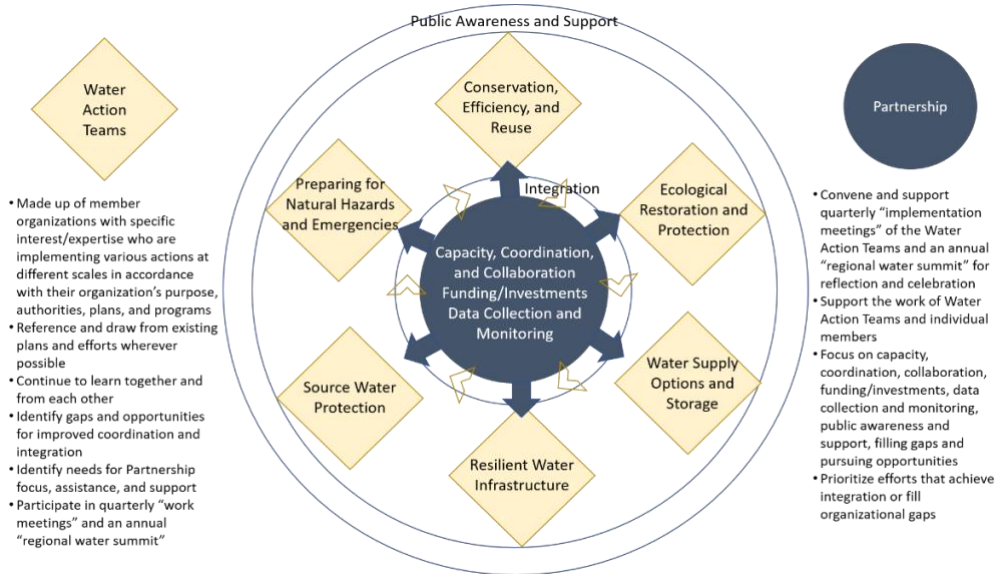


Figure 12. The nexus among water action teams and the Partnership, with the water action teams focusing on the action-oriented imperatives, and the Partnership focusing on the cross-cutting imperatives.

The [Oregon’s Kitchen Table public engagement](#) that took place from November 2021 – February 2022 gave the Partnership an idea of the priorities and areas of concern of the broader community for implementation. Two of the action areas people wanted to see the Partnership start work on first were protecting water sources and ecosystems of watersheds in the area. Replacing and/or improving the region’s systems that collect and supply water as well as water treatment plans, so they are efficient and secure was another action area that people chose as one of the top three action areas they wanted to see the Partnership take on first. During the engagement activities we asked people for future engagement suggestions and how they saw themselves as part of implementing the plan these are the common themes that the Partnership heard.

- They want to investigate and understand better what options or solutions might be possible and to be proactive in taking actions to increase water conservation.
- They also want to learn more about water collection or storage approaches, 70% of those who own land indicated on the survey that they would be interested in learning about ways to improve water quality on own land.