

# Imperative 8: Ecosystem Protection and Enhancement

## Group A2: Protecting Water Instream

Group A2 includes actions related to understanding instream needs and protecting water instream.

### Foundational Actions

Action	Priority Score	Projects Identified	ARPA funding eligible
52	13	Yes	No
54	15	Yes	No

**Action 52:** *Recommend limits on further appropriation of water on high priority streams where water is not available for meeting aquatic life needs (OAR Chapter 690, Division 500).* [Note: The desired outcome in the Water Action Plan includes identifying criteria for “high priority” streams for flow protection, making this action foundational.]

**Action 54:** *Determine ecological flows (seasonally varying flow targets and temperature-based flow targets), and identify basin-wide in-stream demands. Support development of additional instream water rights. Implement flow restoration efforts in high priority areas as determined by Instream Water Right Monitoring and other means (e.g., ODFW’s Aquatic Habitat Prioritization) (OAR Chapter 690, Division 77).* [Note: this action includes both the foundational task of understanding instream needs and project-based flow restoration efforts.]

### Existing initiatives to build on

ODFW Aquatic Habitat Prioritization

### Associated performance metrics from Water Action Plan

- Ecological function is enhanced throughout Mid-Coast watersheds
- Water rights transactions keep more water in streams and incorporate conservation and water efficiency strategies

**Identified projects**

<b>Project Name</b>	<b>Project Description</b>	<b>Project Lead</b>	<b>Project Partners</b>	<b>Project Location</b>	<b>Funding Secured</b>	<b>Estimated or Ideal Project Start Date</b>
Siletz Flow Restoration Analysis	Feasibility analysis of acquiring upstream existing water rights to transfer instream in order to reduce pressure of water withdrawals and increase legally protected instream flow	TBD	MidCoast Watersheds Council, Wild Salmon Center, ODFW	Siletz Basin	Assessing grant opportunities	Winter 2023-2024

**Tasks**

- Identify a project lead
- Identify grants for the current project and instream water right transfers/transactions
  - Approach: Review grant databases and work with funding organizations for input
  - Resources: project partners
  - Deliverables: List of appropriate grants and timelines
- Apply for funding
  - Approach:
  - Resources:
  - Deliverables:

### Tasks to support development of additional projects

- Work with stakeholders and government agencies to identify additional analyses needed and help conduct analyses as feasible; identify funding sources for analyses as needed
  - Approach: Analyze OWRD water rights data and available resources, as well as meet with stakeholders, to develop a list and possibly a map of priority areas for instream flow protection; review grants to identify those that support this type of analysis
  - Resources: OWRD database, agency data
  - Deliverables: A list of priority areas

### Project-Based Actions

Action	Priority Score	Projects Identified	ARPA funding eligible
54	15	Yes	No
55	15	Yes	No

**Action 54:** *Determine ecological flows (seasonally varying flow targets and temperature-based flow targets), and identify basin-wide in-stream demands. Support development of additional instream water rights. Implement flow restoration efforts in high priority areas as determined by Instream Water Right Monitoring and other means (e.g., ODFW’s Aquatic Habitat Prioritization) (OAR Chapter 690, Division 77). [Note: this action includes both the foundational task of understanding instream needs and project-based flow restoration efforts.]*

**Action 55:** *Use established voluntary programs, or other tools, to convert existing water rights (e.g., irrigation, commercial use, other out-of-stream uses) to instream uses that protect critical flows needed to support fish and wildlife, water quality, recreation, and scenic attraction.*

### Existing initiatives to build on

XYZ

### Associated performance metrics from Water Action Plan

XYZ

### Tasks to support development of projects

XYZ