

**Walla Walla Basin Advisory Committee**  
**March 23, 2022**  
**Discussion Guide**  
**State Funding Requests Refinement**

**1. Background:**

As discussed at the March 2023 Advisory Committee meeting, the Tri-Sovereigns are committed to seeking funding for implementation of the WWW2050 Strategic Plan from numerous sources. These include federal and state appropriations, existing state and tribal resources, private funding, grants, and any other sources available. A short-term priority is preparing requests for the OR and WA state legislatures. At the April 2022 Advisory Committee meeting the Tri-Sovereigns would like to provide an overview of the timeline and process for obtaining funding to support implementation in the Walla Walla Basin in both Oregon and Washington.

In March 2022, the Advisory Committee agreed to the strategy categories listed in the Table 1. A March 10, 2022 Implementation Work Group meeting gathered further detail on near term funding actions and additional work to refine these details is ongoing. Over the next few months, the Implementation Work Group and Advisory Committee will work to prioritize strategies for these near-term State funding sources. Projects and actions ripe for implementation funding in Oregon will be considered first. For the Washington legislative request, the Tri-Sovereigns are recommending a total of \$2 million for strategy implementation as outlined below. Further prioritization of which strategies are funded under this \$2million will occur over the next several months.

**2. Legislative Funding Requests: Process and Timelines**

**Ecology timeline for submitting legislative budget request**

- April 2022: Overall budget request confirmed
- June 2022: Additional refinement of budget request and Office of Columbia River submits budget request to Ecology
- Early September 2022- Ecology Submits entire agency budget
- January 2023- April 2023 WA legislative session

**Components of the WA State Legislative Funding Request**

- Bi-state flow study work ~\$500,000
- USGS Basin Study work ~ \$300,000 to complete current scope of work.
- PEIS~ \$1 million
- BAC and Working Groups Facilitation and Technical Work ~ \$500,000
- Strategy Implementation ~ \$2million
- Total ~ \$4.3 million

**Oregon Water Resources Department timeline for submitting budget request**

- April 2022: Implementation Work Group meeting to narrow Oregon strategy list
- May 2022: OWRD assess from Oregon project list the best fit for various funding mechanisms and consider both existing grant programs and a potential direct legislative request

## Components of the OR State Legislative Funding Request

- USGS Basin Study work ~ amount TBD
- Project funding~ TBD

### 3. Draft Prioritization Criteria

The Implementation Working Group is developing criteria to help prioritize projects as funding becomes available. The draft criteria include:

- **Project Ripeness:** Is the project ripe for implementation in 2023-2025 (has sufficient planning, design, permitting etc. been completed) so funds can be used to advance project?
- **Funding Urgency:** Are there unfunded near-term actions? Is the project a good fit for state funding? Does the strategy/project heavily rely on state funding and would likely not move forward without it?
- **Project Support:** Is there support for the project in previous planning document, studies and plans? Does the project have broad community support?

### Discussion Questions for WWBAC Members:

1. Do you have any questions about the process or timeline for near-term funding in either State?
2. Do you support OR and WA proceeding with funding requests simultaneously with BAC efforts to prioritize and refine strategies?
3. Do you have input or suggestions on the draft prioritization criteria?

### Next Steps:

- April Implementation Work Group (4/14?) meeting to focus on application of strategy/project screening criteria and refining immediate priorities in Oregon
- April/May Administrative, Policy and Funding Work group to discuss broader funding landscape

**Table 1. Strategy Categories**

Strategy Number	Strategy Name	Strategy Category
1.01	Reconnect floodplain and restore channel complexity Basin wide to reduce flood risk and improve habitat	Floodplains, Habitat & Fish Passage
1.06	Improve fish passage and habitat conditions in weired and concrete channel sections of flood control project in Mill Creek	
1.07	Restore and protect riparian habitat along tributaries, small streams, and the Walla Walla River Basin wide	
1.09	Protect and improve fish passage at Nursery Bridge and implement levee setback projects upstream and downstream of Milton Freewater	
1.12	Improve flow and timing of fish passage through the Hofer Dam fishway	
1.19	Improve fish passage at Gose Street long term	
1.23	Improve fish passage at Bennington Diversion Dam	Monitoring and Metering
1.1	Develop an overarching monitoring strategy and adaptive management plan for fish, habitat, and water to inform actions and evaluate effectiveness	
1.15	Expand and fund streamflow gages throughout the Basin	Monitoring and Metering
1.2	Improve agricultural irrigation water use metering and reporting programs in WA and OR by installing telemetry and improving data use by agencies and water users	
1.11	Address legal implications of Bi-State surface water management and protection of instream flow across the state border and protection of instream flow within States	Water Policy and Management
1.14	Improve coordination and response to drought management Basin-wide	
1.16	Increase coordination and enforcement of floodplain and riparian regulations and management between Counties and State water management entities	
1.21	Additional Bi-State coordination on groundwater regulation	
1.02	Support the ongoing analyses of the Bi-State Flow Study and work toward a recommendation on implementation of the preferred alternative	Streamflows, Groundwater and Water Supply
1.03	Direct additional winter flow down the Little Walla Walla River to support alluvial aquifer recharge and stream function	
1.08	Decrease surface water diversions or substitute for basalt wells during low flow periods	
1.04	Water rights acquisitions (short-term, long-term, and split season) to restore streamflows	
1.05	Improve and expand managed aquifer recharge (MAR)	
1.13	Expand and support Aquifer Storage and Recovery (ASR) to maintain groundwater quality and capacity	
1.17	Increase infiltration of stormwater rather than discharge to surface water bodies and improve coordination and management	Water Quality
1.18	Upgrade Dayton wastewater treatment plant to meet Ecology requirements and watershed community environmental goals	
1.22	Implement conservation tillage and soil erosion BMPs to decrease nonpoint source pollution	