

Walla Walla Basin Advisory Committee

February 23, 2022

Discussion Guide

Legislative Funding Requests & Strategy Categorization

Background:

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. The Tri-Sovereigns would like assistance from the WWBAC in prioritizing funding needs.

To simplify these requests to the Washington State legislature, the strategies will be grouped into categories. The Walla Walla Water 2050 Strategic Plan includes 23 strategies in Tier 1. A draft categorization of the Tier 1 strategies is included below for your feedback:

DRAFT Framework for Strategy Scoping by Category

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	
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	Water Policy and Management
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	
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	

WA Dept. of Ecology and OR Dept. of Water Resources are beginning to put together a proposed legislative package. The Tri-Sovereigns will be working with the WWBAC and the Implementation Working Group over the next 2 months to build the legislative package.

Key Discussion Questions for WWBAC Members:

- Do you support the proposed categorizations of strategies? Do you have any suggested refinements to strategy categories?
- Do you have initial thoughts on highest priorities for legislative funding in the near-term?
- Which actions needed in the near term to support long-term priorities?

Next Steps:

We will be discussing these questions in greater detail at the March Implementation WG meeting and at the March WWBAC meeting. Additional information will be sent prior to both of those meetings for your consideration.