



WWW2050 Strategy Prioritization Process

Overview:

This document provides a step-by-step overview of the tasks required to complete a simple, high-level prioritization of potential strategies that were developed by the work groups. The exercise will rely on information provided the Working Groups (as opposed to research and/or collection of new data). The tasks are as follows:

1. Develop prioritization criteria.
2. Survey of SPAC members.
3. Presentation of Results.

Goal:

The overall goal of the prioritization exercise is to assist the SPAC in developing recommendations for actions that will address water resource management challenges in the Walla Walla Basin. The SPAC will recommend prioritized strategies to address water management needs in the Walla Walla Basin in both the near-term and long-term.

1. Prioritization Criteria

A number of criteria have been proposed, discussed, and reviewed. Based on individual input, data availability, and other considerations, the following considerations will frame how strategies are prioritized.

- Strategy Categorization – The SPAC has indicated that it is important to balance effort across different strategy types (i.e., floodplain and habitat restoration, water quality improvement, streamflow improvement and groundwater recharge, policy and regulatory actions, monitoring and metering, water supply). For this reason, strategies will be grouped before prioritization and the SPAC will only be asked to prioritize a strategy as compared to other strategies within that category.
- Timing of Implementation – A key focus of this exercise is identifying a list of strategies for which to seek funding in the near-term, strategies or actions identified as “ongoing”, “near-term” or “long-term” strategies that require short-term steps will be prioritized by the SPAC. For the strategies identified as “long-term,” the Implementation Working Group will identify actions that should be started in the near-term.

2. Survey of SPAC members

- Strategy Prioritization by SPAC – Each SPAC member will need to complete a worksheet in which you will be provided a list of strategies and implementation details. SPAC members will be asked to identify your top strategies (up to 5 total) within each strategy category.
- Each SPAC member will be provided with an individual Excel file, which will include an Overview tab with instructions and then six additional “strategy category” tabs.

3. Presentation of Results

Results of the prioritization survey will be organized and presented in the following manner:

- Strategy prioritization results will be summed equally across all SPAC members for each strategy category. Results will be presented in cumulative form (i.e., summed across all SPAC member responses), and as to two or three tiers for discussion purposes. SPAC members will have the opportunity to share and discuss their choices with the larger group.

- For comparison, results will also be weighted by interest group — i.e., if three municipal representatives respond, but only one tribal representative, results from municipal representatives could be summed and divided by three to show equal representation in the results by interest group.
- Results will show the number of Desired Future Conditions (DFCs) addressed by that strategy so show SPAC members how many DFCs are addressed (and which are not addressed) but the various combination of strategies.

4. Survey Timeline

- The survey will be distributed to SPAC members at the end of the week of March 1.
- SPAC members will have 1.5 weeks to respond. We will provide support to any SPAC member who is having trouble completing the survey.
- We will present the initial results to the SPAC at the March meeting and invite discussion.
- At the April SPAC meeting, we will provide a draft package of recommendations for SPAC consideration. This will be used to determine whether the suite of strategies by strategy category is meeting the water management needs identified in the Walla Walla 2050 strategic planning process. This package will be used to build consensus with the SPAC, with the goal of having consensus on the recommendations by the May SPAC meeting.