

## 1. Executive Summary

### 1.1 Vision for the Watershed

### 1.2 Key Takeaways of Strategic Plan

## 2. Introduction

### 2.1 Purpose

- ▶ Overview of the problem the plan is trying to address

### 2.2 Goals and Objectives

- ▶ What do we hope to accomplish through development of this plan?

*The intentions of this plan are to: (1) develop a long-term holistic watershed and water resource management strategy that balances instream and out of stream uses to ensure enough water for fish, farms, and people; (2) identify and prioritize the projects, initiatives, and/or programs needed to address challenges/achieve the long-term vision for watershed; (3) develop an organizational structure that improves accountability; (4) achieve clarity around legal framework and regulatory scheme, including bi-state coordination (i.e., how do we manage water rights during shortages); and (5) obtain adequate/dedicated funding. Each of these elements will be described in the chapters that follow this introduction.*

### 2.3 Plan Authority & Scope

- ▶ Plan authority (federal, OR, WA = brief summary of SB 5352)
- ▶ Scope and scale of this plan

### 2.4 Plan Development Process

- ▶ Description of collaborative/consensus-driven stakeholder process
- ▶ Highlight bi-state nature of the plan
- ▶ Summary of key stakeholder groups and sovereigns that participated

## 3. Watershed Overview

### 3.1 Local Context

- ▶ General description of the basin, sub-basins, hydrology/hydrogeology, and ecosystem function
- ▶ General description of aquatic and riparian ecology with species of concern
- ▶ Overview of water use
  - Surface water
  - Ground water
  - Existing water storage
  - Water delivery infrastructure
  - Municipal
  - Agriculture irrigation
  - Tourism/recreation
- ▶ Population growth projections for the region
- ▶ Climate change projections for the region
- ▶ Projected impacts of changing land use, ag demand, and crop conversion

### 3.2 History & Accomplishments

- ▶ Hydrogeologic history of Walla Walla River
- ▶ Cultural history – who lives/has lived and works/has worked in this watershed (including tribal history)
- ▶ Significant lawsuits and adjudications (including a summary of how these lawsuits have impacted the regulation of water use in the basin by WA and OR)
- ▶ Previous activities (including a summary of the Mill Creek and Bennington Lake operations by the USACE).
- ▶ Recent studies (note there are many water quality related studies within the basin (i.e. TMDLs))
- ▶ Accomplishments

## 4. Current Conditions

*Describe current water supply condition and uses; identify existing plans, programs, and activities related to water managements; summarized current legal and management issues.*

### 4.1 Instream Water Demands

- ▶ Fish and wildlife (include status of ESA-listed species)
- ▶ Water quality
- ▶ Recreation and quality of life

### 4.2 Out of Stream Water Demands

- ▶ Municipal
- ▶ Rural-Domestic
- ▶ Commercial / Industrial
- ▶ Agriculture
- ▶ Tourism/recreation

### 4.3 Habitat

### 4.4 Floodplain

### 4.5 Lands

### 4.6 Groundwater / aquifers

## 5. Desired Future Conditions

### 5.1 Forecasted/Projected Future Conditions

*Summarize projected future conditions if no action is taken*

- ▶ Economic
- ▶ Human population growth
- ▶ Climate change
- ▶ Changes in land use, ag demand, and crop conversion
- ▶ ESA-listed species

### 5.2 Uncertainties and Assumptions

*How confident are we in these projections/assumptions? How likely are these events to happen? Explicitly lay out any significant assumptions and/or uncertainties that would influence whether desired future conditions could be achieved through the recommended strategies.*

**5.3 Desired Future Conditions: Instream Water Demands**

*Describe desired water condition and use goals: what does success look like? Account for forecasted/projected future conditions.*

- ▶ Fish and wildlife
- ▶ Water quality
- ▶ Recreation and quality of life

**5.4 Desired Future Conditions: Out of Stream Water Demands**

*Describe desired water condition and use goals: what does success look like? Account for forecasted/projected future conditions.*

- ▶ Municipal
- ▶ Rural-Domestic
- ▶ Commercial / Industrial
- ▶ Agriculture
- ▶ Tourism/Recreation

**5.5 Habitat****5.6 Floodplain****5.7 Groundwater****6. Recommended Strategies**

*Each project should be evaluated against a determined set of criteria (e.g., effectiveness, cost, priority, near/long term, feasibility, implementation timeline, etc.). Include performance metrics: how will we measure success?*

**6.1 Strategies (listed by project type)**

- ▶ Water storage
- ▶ Source swaps (local to regional; ASR, MAR, SW behind dam, SW from Columbia R, SW to GW, SW to reclaimed)
- ▶ Irrigation and conveyance efficiency
- ▶ Water conservation
- ▶ Floodplain/riparian habitat restoration
- ▶ Aquifer recharge: shallow and aquifer storage and recovery (ASR)
- ▶ Wetland enhancement
- ▶ Fish passage/screening
- ▶ Water markets
- ▶ Regulatory strategies (e.g., meaningful exempt/domestic well mitigation program)
- ▶ Water quality strategies (e.g., WWTP upgrades and non-point load reductions)

**6.2 Organizational Structure and Accountability**

- ▶ Who is accountable for achieving these DFCs?
- ▶ What will that organizational structure look like?
- ▶ What will the legal framework/regulatory framework look like?
- ▶ What will bi-state and tribal coordination look like?
- ▶ How do we manage water rights during shortages?
- ▶ Where will funding come from?

**7. Adaptive Management**

*Based on the performance metrics identified in previous section, how will we know when to adaptively manage strategies? How will we respond if future conditions deviate from the assumptions our strategies are based on?*

**7.1 Adapting to Projected Impacts of Climate Change**

**7.2 Adapting to Potential Economic Changes (including funding changes/availability)**

**7.3 Adapting to Potential Social Change (including population growth)**

**7.4 Adapting to Crop Conversion and/or Changing Ag Demand**

**8. Next steps**

*Description of who/how to move the recommendations forward.*

**Appendices**

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