



Place-Based Water Planning

Background

Place-based integrated water resources planning (PBP) is a voluntary, locally led, and collaborative process that brings together an area's water interests to develop a holistic understanding of the area's water resources and plan for a water future that promotes and sustains a healthy economy, environment, and society. Through PBP, the Oregon Water Resources Department (OWRD) and other state agencies provide guidance, funding, and technical assistance to place-based initiatives to bring interested parties together, develop and update plans, and coordinate plan implementation. Upon completion, state-recognized Place-Based Water Plans identify actions that: help meet current and future instream and out-of-stream water quantity, quality, and ecosystem needs; aid state agencies in identifying and considering regional priorities; and provide a platform for continued collaboration to solve complex regional water issues.

Place-Based Water Planning Pilot

In 2015, OWRD selected four places to pilot place-based integrated water resources planning (identified in blue on the map). Since 2015, OWRD has awarded \$2.4 million in PBP grants.



Place-Based Water Planning Fund

The Place-Based Water Planning Fund (ORS 537.872-537.873) was authorized by the 2023 Legislature as a permanent program with an initial allocation of \$2 million. The fund will be used for grants to support planning, including assessing and building collaborative capacity, developing and updating plans, and coordinating plan implementation. OWRD anticipates awarding new PBP grants in early 2026.



Potential applicants can take steps now to prepare to apply for a PBP grant, including identifying potential conveners and collaborative members that represent a balance of instream and out-of-stream water interests. A Place-Based Water Planning Handbook will be available in fall 2025. Please check the [PBP website](#) for updates.

For More Information

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