PLACE BASED PLANNING

DEVELOPING A CONSENSUS BASED REGIONAL WATER PLAN ON THE CENTRAL OREGON COAST

League of Oregon Cities
Small Cities Region 5 – Central Coast
05-16-2019

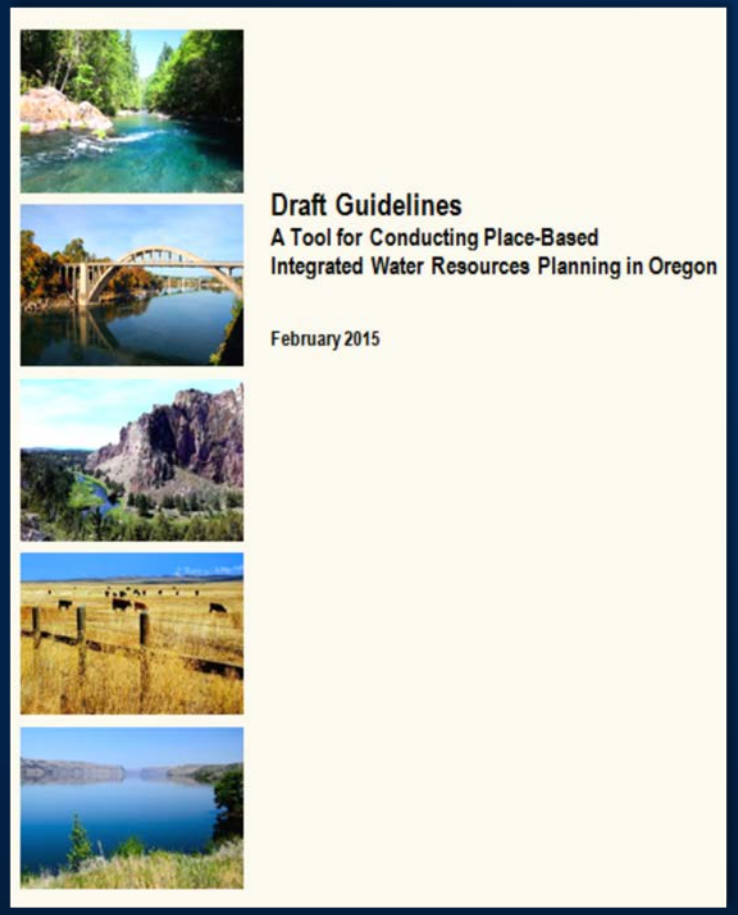
Timothy Gross, PE

Director of Public Works/City Engineer, City of Newport, OR

Co-Convener, Mid-Coast Water Planning Partnership

WHAT IS PLACE BASED PLANNING?

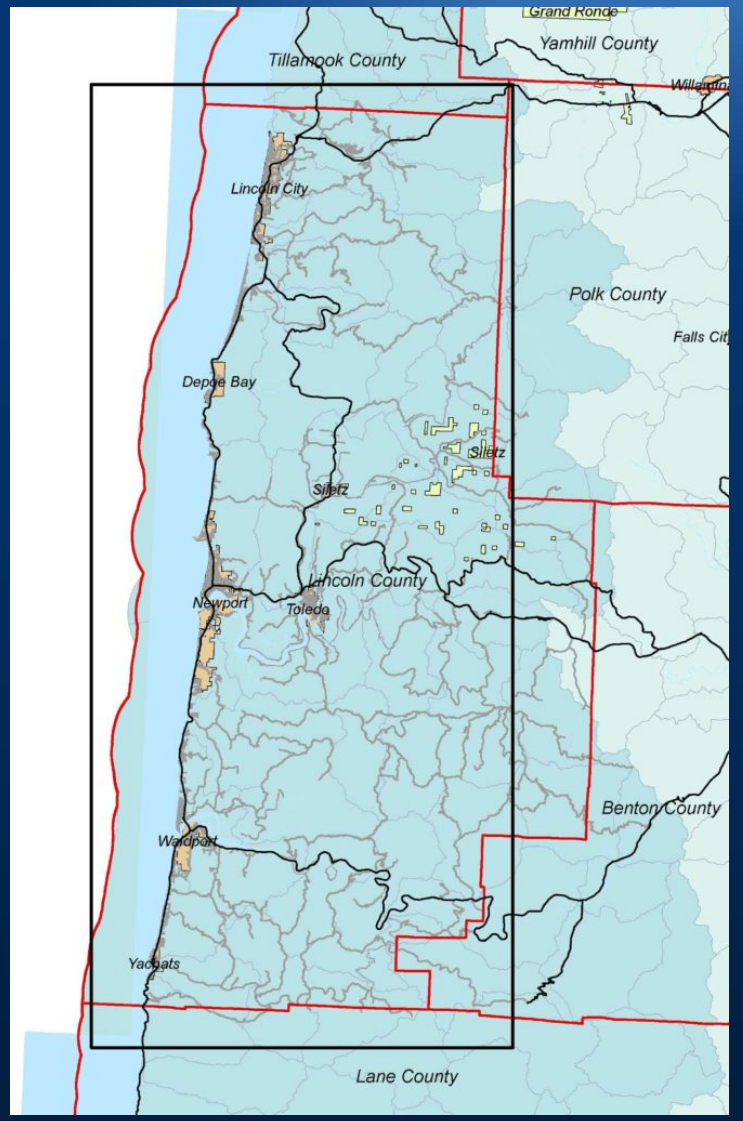
A concept for comprehensive water resources planning conducted on a regional basis by local stakeholders as proposed in the ***Integrated Water Resource Strategy - 2015 Draft Guidelines***



- Voluntary, not regulatory
- Locally initiated and led
- Balanced representation
- Basin or watershed scale
- Partnership with the state
- Five planning steps

WHAT IS THE MID-COAST WATER PLANNING PARTNERSHIP?

- In June 2016 the City of Newport received a grant from the Oregon Water Resources Department (OWRD) to develop a collaborative, integrated water planning effort that looks at instream and out-of-stream water needs while considering water quantity, quality and ecosystem health.
- The City and OWRD together act as conveners for the Mid-Coast Water Planning Partnership, a diverse group who will work together to understand and meet our collective water needs.

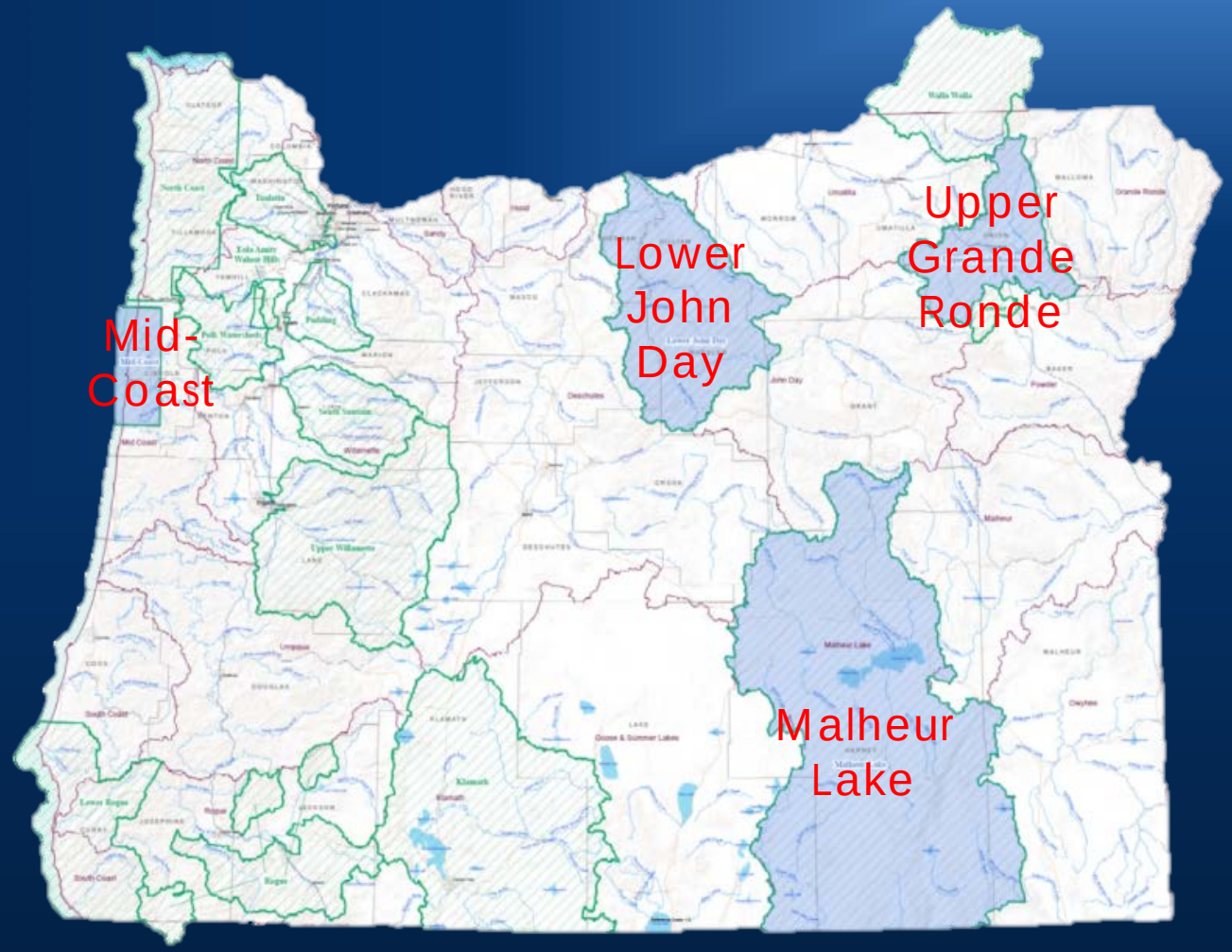


PLACE BASED (WATER RESOURCES) PLANNING

The Mid-Coast area was one of 4 planning regions selected to pilot the Place Based Planning process

<u>5 Planning Steps</u>

- Build a collaborative process
- Characterize the water system
- Quantify current and future water needs
- Identify integrated solutions to meet needs
- Develop an integrated water resources plan



PILOT PHASE OBJECTIVES

1. Test the draft guidelines
2. Gain experience to inform the IWRS
3. Inspire collaboration and integration
4. Build local capacity and support
5. Foster creative problem solving and outside of the box solutions
6. Leverage additional resources

Water on the Mid-Coast

Why is water planning needed on the coast?

The Mid-Coast needs reliable water supplies. Although the mid-coast receives ~70 inches of rainfall annually, local communities have struggled to meet water demands in recent years. A 2008 study found that, given current supplies and infrastructure, water suppliers could have insufficient supplies by as early as 2020. Some communities already struggle to meet their water needs.

Water is critical for people, the economy, and the environment. A sufficient supply of quality water is needed for drinking water, agricultural and industrial uses and to provide adequate stream flow to sustain diverse fish and wildlife species, as well as to support commercial, recreational, and tribal fisheries and tourism on the coast.

Water supply depends on timing and storage. Stream flows are lowest in the summer, when demand for drinking water, industrial water use, tourism, and recreation is highest. We need to provide enough water for all uses while ensuring sufficient stream flows for fish and wildlife.

Water quality. There is a need to expand water quality monitoring to help us better understand water quality needs and plan for improvement.

There is a need for regional water planning. Until recently, there hasn't been a comprehensive effort to understand water supply and quality issues at the regional level using an integrated approach. The challenges we face aren't challenges that any one entity can tackle alone. We need a larger scale, coordinated approach to water planning and management.

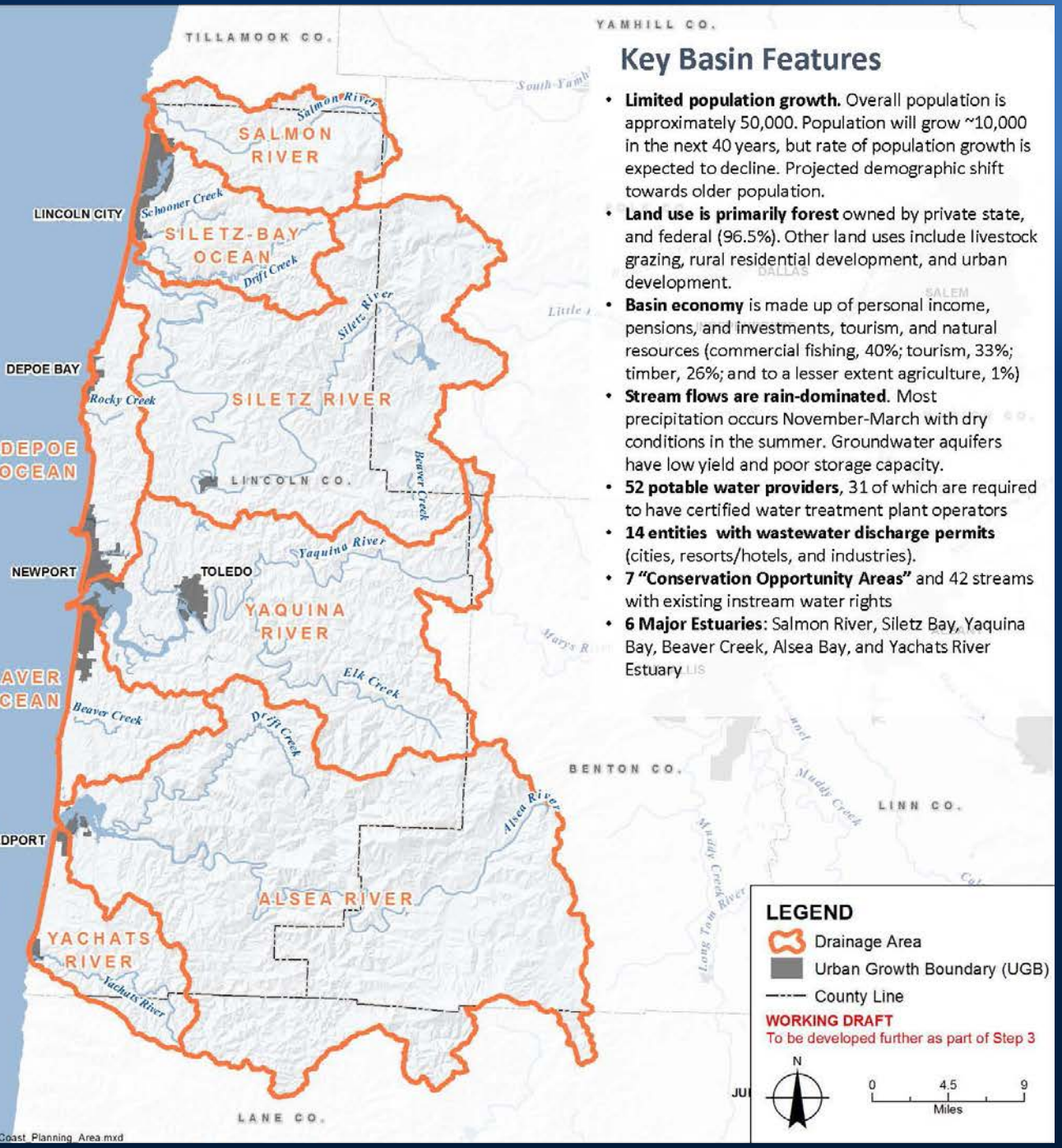
Key Basin Issues

- **Aging infrastructure** (pipelines, reservoirs, pump stations, water and wastewater treatment facilities), few interconnections, and limited financial capacity for infrastructure improvements
- **Siletz River health**: water supply for SRWD, City of Toledo, City of Newport, and GP Mill; supports summer steelhead population
- **Supply vulnerabilities** for water providers (e.g. low summer streamflow; watershed health)
- **Water quality impaired streams** listed by Department of Environmental Quality for over 500 miles
- **Instream flow deficits** identified by ODFW and OWRD for several streams. *Schooner Creek, Drift Creek, Yachats River* rated highest priority
- **Habitat degradation**, including stream channel simplification and incision, altered streamflow timing and watershed function, turbidity related to peak streamflow.
- **Listed species under the Endangered Species Act** – Coastal Coho and Green Sturgeon listed as "threatened" along with several species of concern
- **Human and ecosystem resiliency** to changes in supply and demand, drought and natural disasters.

Key Basin Strategies/Actions

Planning Partnership will develop strategies throughout Steps 3 and 4

- **System improvements** (e.g. automatic meter reading, pipeline replacements, septic, supply interconnections)
- **Restoration projects** (e.g. in-channel, riparian, invasive species removal, estuary dike removal, fish barrier removal, road improvements)
- **Water quality monitoring** (USGS, watershed councils, Lincoln Soil and Water Conservation District, Surfrider Foundation, cities, DEQ, ODA, Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians, Weyerhaeuser, EPA)



Key Basin Features

- **Limited population growth.** Overall population is approximately 50,000. Population will grow ~10,000 in the next 40 years, but rate of population growth is expected to decline. Projected demographic shift towards older population.
- **Land use is primarily forest** owned by private state, and federal (96.5%). Other land uses include livestock grazing, rural residential development, and urban development.
- **Basin economy** is made up of personal income, pensions, and investments, tourism, and natural resources (commercial fishing, 40%; tourism, 33%; timber, 26%; and to a lesser extent agriculture, 1%)
- **Stream flows are rain-dominated**. Most precipitation occurs November-March with dry conditions in the summer. Groundwater aquifers have low yield and poor storage capacity.
- **52 potable water providers**, 31 of which are required to have certified water treatment plant operators
- **14 entities with wastewater discharge permits** (cities, resorts/hotels, and industries).
- **7 "Conservation Opportunity Areas"** and 42 streams with existing instream water rights
- **6 Major Estuaries**: Salmon River, Siletz Bay, Yaquina Bay, Beaver Creek, Alsea Bay, and Yachats River Estuary

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Siletz Bay-Ocean Drainage Area

Key Issues

1. Devils Lake Water Quality
2. D River/Rec Site Water Quality
3. Infrastructure: Aging, lack of interties

Strategies/Early Actions

1. Backup water supply sources
2. Rock Creek Limiting Factors Analysis
3. IGAs: intertie efforts
4. Devils Lake Improvement District water quality improvement efforts

Key Species

1. Coho
2. Fall Chinook
3. Winter steelhead
4. Pacific lamprey
5. Green Sturgeon
6. White Sturgeon

Priority Water Availability Basins for Streamflow

1. D River at Mouth
2. Schooner Creek at Mouth
3. Drift Creek at Mouth
4. 2 unnamed Streams at Mouth (WAB 0202 and 0201)

Instream Flows

1. Existing: portions of lower Schooner Creek, lower drift Creek, and Rock Creek
2. Proposed: portions of Erickson Creek, Schooner Creek, Drift Creek, and D River

Key Diversions/ Users

1. Schooner Creek, LC
2. Drift Creek: LC, K-GB-LB WD

Key Infrastructure

1. Intakes, WTPs, Storage Reservoirs: LC, K-GB-LB WD
2. LC WWTP and Discharge Point
3. Lack of interties

Water Quality Impairments

1. Schooner Creek: Temp, E. coli
2. Drift Creek: Temp, Bio Criteria
3. Rock Creek: Temp
4. Pacific Ocean/D River: Enterococcus
5. Unnamed stream/Devils Lake: aquatic weeds/algae; Chl a; pH
6. Thompson Creek: fecal coliform

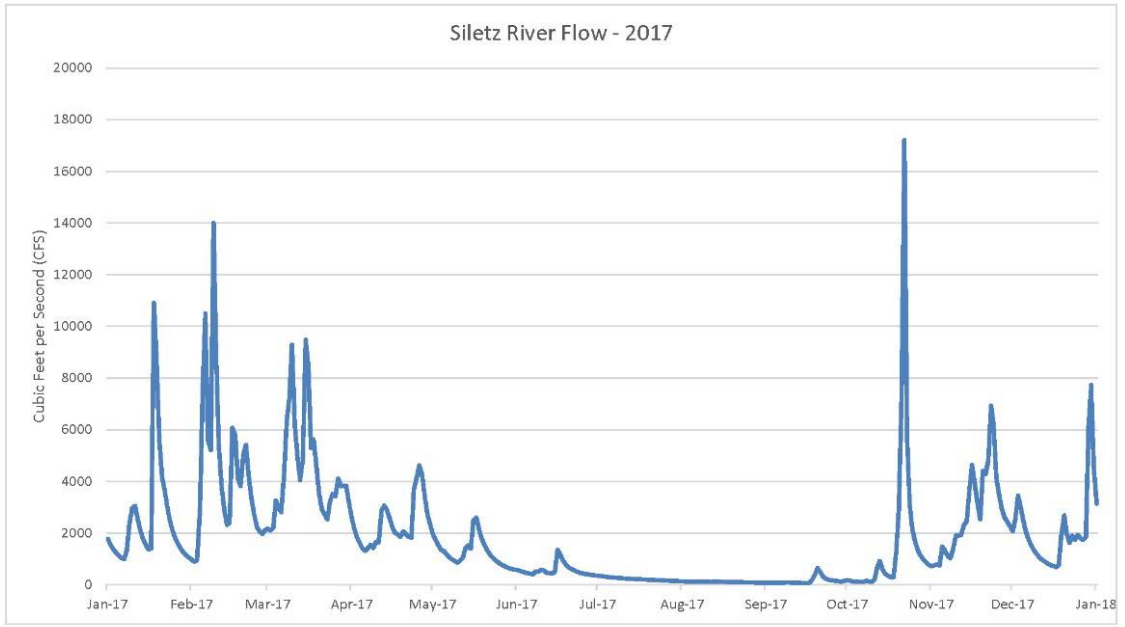
Other Key Watershed Features/Habitats

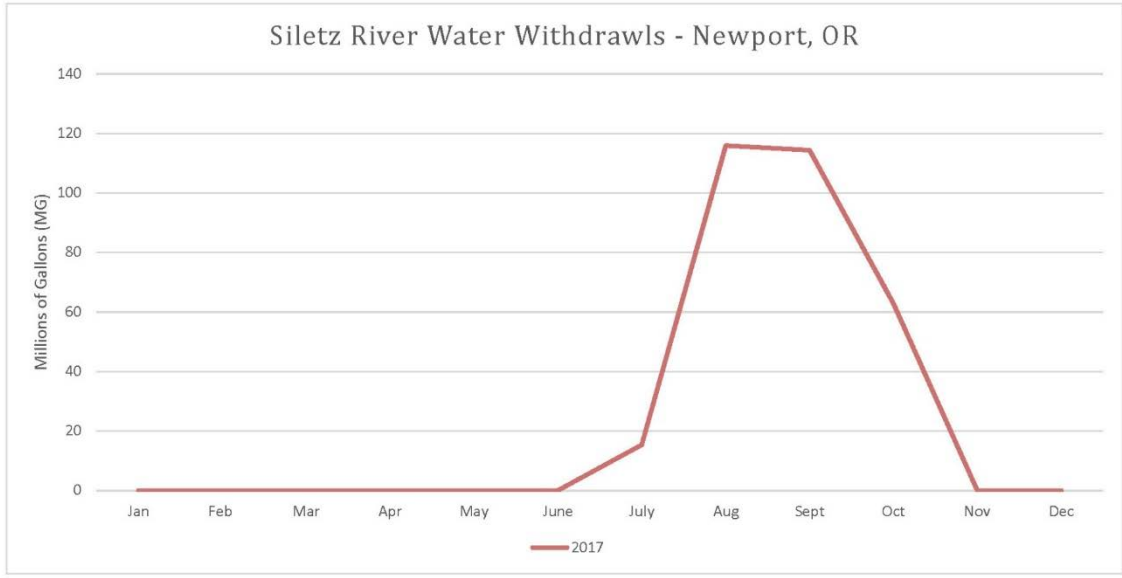
1. Devils Lake Watershed
2. Drift Creek Area
3. Moolack Frontal
4. Schooner Creek minimum streamflow at intake: 3 cfs

EXAMPLE: COMPETING WATER DEMANDS ON THE SILETZ RIVER – MUNICIPAL WATER SUPPLY

- The Cities of Siletz, Toledo, and Newport, the Seal Rock Water District, and the Georgia Pacific Mill all share the Siletz River as a drinking water source, with intakes near the City of Siletz.

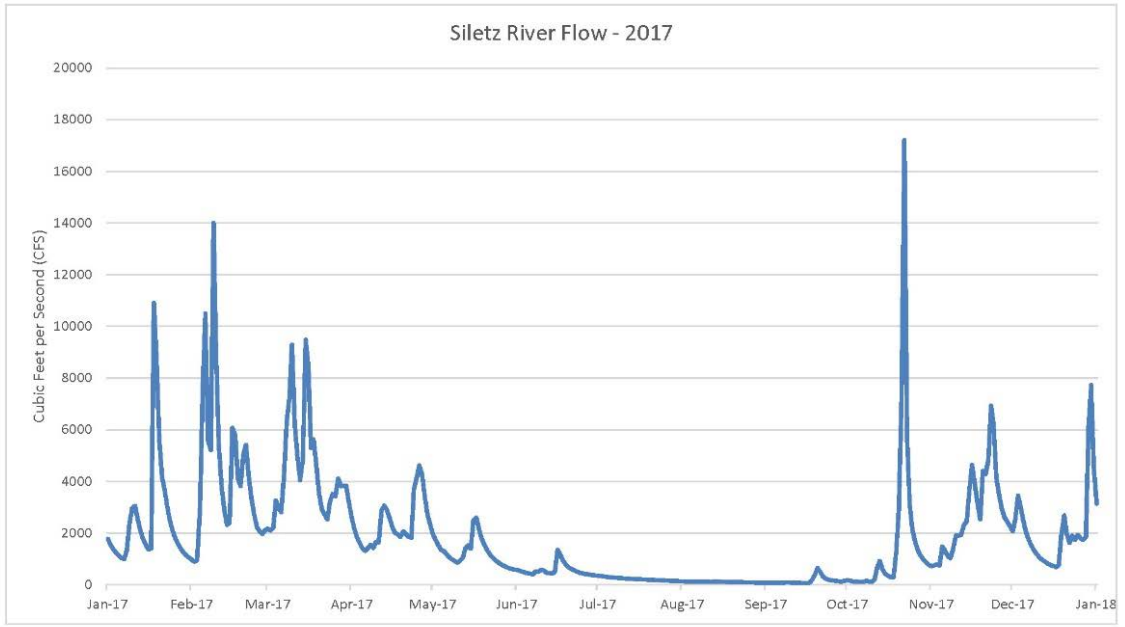
- 11 primary rights on the Siletz River with multiple junior rights

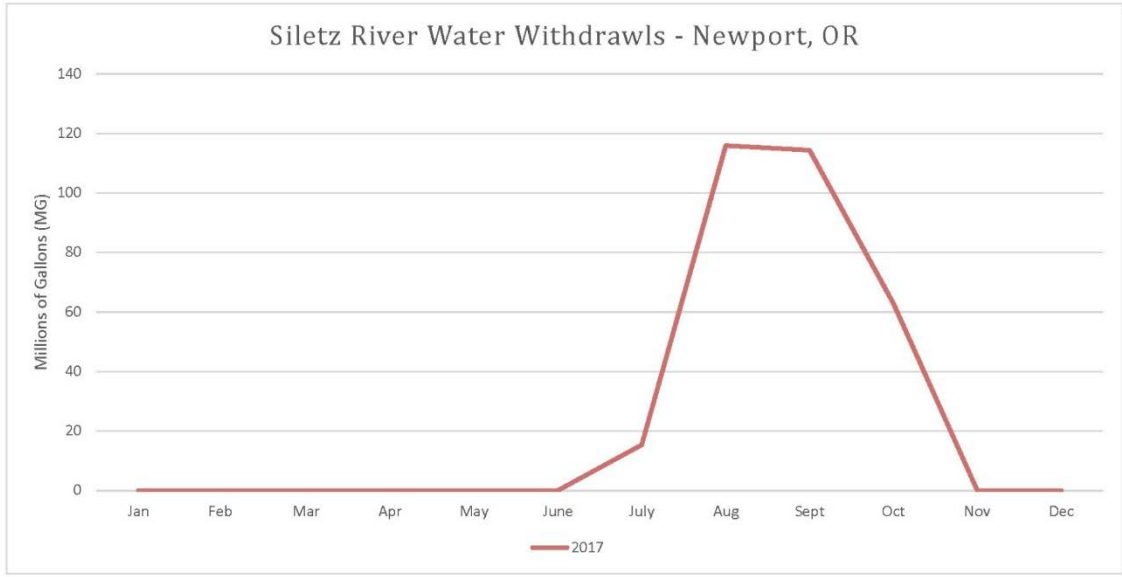




EXAMPLE: COMPETING WATER DEMANDS ON THE SILETZ RIVER – MUNICIPAL WATER SUPPLY

- ***Municipal and Commercial Water Demand:*** 34.6 CFS or 22.37 MGD
- ***City of Newport demand on the Siletz River, Sept 2018:*** 6 CFS
- ***Min. Stream Flow in Sept 2018:*** 60 CFS
  (Note: gauge is upriver of intakes)





EXAMPLE: COMPETING WATER DEMANDS ON THE SILETZ RIVER – ECOLOGICAL NEEDS

Ecological Overview

The Siletz River drainage area has a diversity of species and a large restoration project and study in the Mill Creek watershed to improve fish habitat and monitor the outcomes of stream restoration.

Areas of Ecological Importance.

- A large portion of the Siletz River Watershed is a Conservation Opportunity Area (ODFW[4], 2017).
- *NMFS has identified the Siletz River, Middle Siletz, and Lower Siletz as critical habitat for Oregon coast coho salmon.*
- *The Siletz River Watershed has the only coastal origin population of summer steelhead in Oregon.*

Species of Interest:

- Fall chinook
- Spring chinook
- Chum
- Coho
- Summer Steelhead
- Winter steelhead
- Cutthroat trout
- Pacific lamprey

PROTECTED SPECIES AND SPECIES OF INTEREST - SILETZ RIVER

California Myotis (Modeled Habitat)

Myotis californicus

Chinook Salmon (Documented)

Oncorhynchus tshawytscha

Chum Salmon (Documented)

Oncorhynchus keta

Clouded Salamander (Modeled Habitat)

Aneides ferreus

Coastal Cutthroat Trout (Documented)

Oncorhynchus clarki clarki

Coastal Tailed Frog (Modeled Habitat)

Ascaphus truei

Coho Salmon (Documented)

Oncorhynchus kisutch

Eulachon (Documented)

Thaleichthys pacificus

Fringed Myotis (Modeled Habitat)

Myotis thysanodes

Hoary Bat (Modeled Habitat)

Lasiurus cinereus

Long-legged Myotis (Modeled Habitat)

Myotis volans

Marbled Murrelet (Observed)

Brachyramphus marmoratus

Northern Spotted Owl (Modeled Habitat)

Strix occidentalis caurina

Olive-sided Flycatcher (Modeled Habitat)

Contopus cooperi

Pacific Lamprey (Documented)

Entosphenus tridentatus

Red Tree Vole (Modeled Habitat)

Arborimus longicaudus

Silver-haired Bat (Modeled Habitat)

Lasionycteris noctivagans

Southern Torrent Salamander (Modeled Habitat)

Rhyacotriton variegatus

Steelhead / Rainbow / Redband Trout (Documented)

Oncorhynchus mykiss ssp

Purple Martin (Modeled Habitat)

Progne subis arboricola

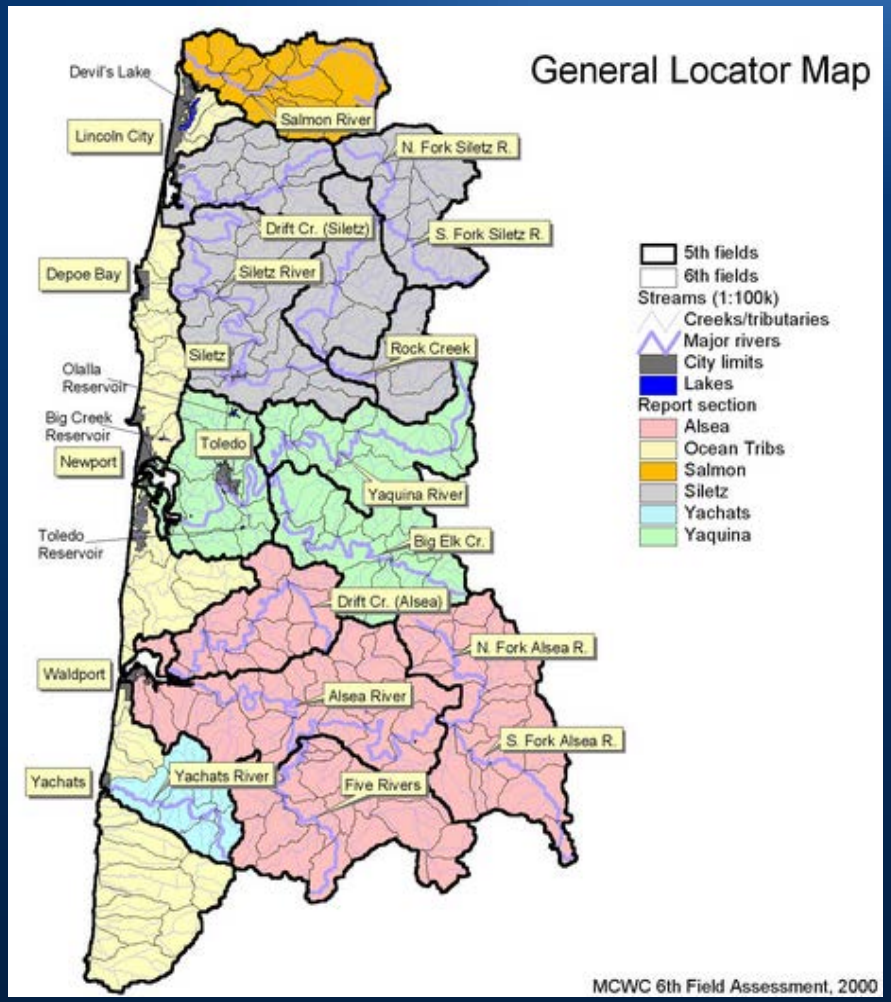
Western Toad (Modeled Habitat)

Anaxyrus boreas

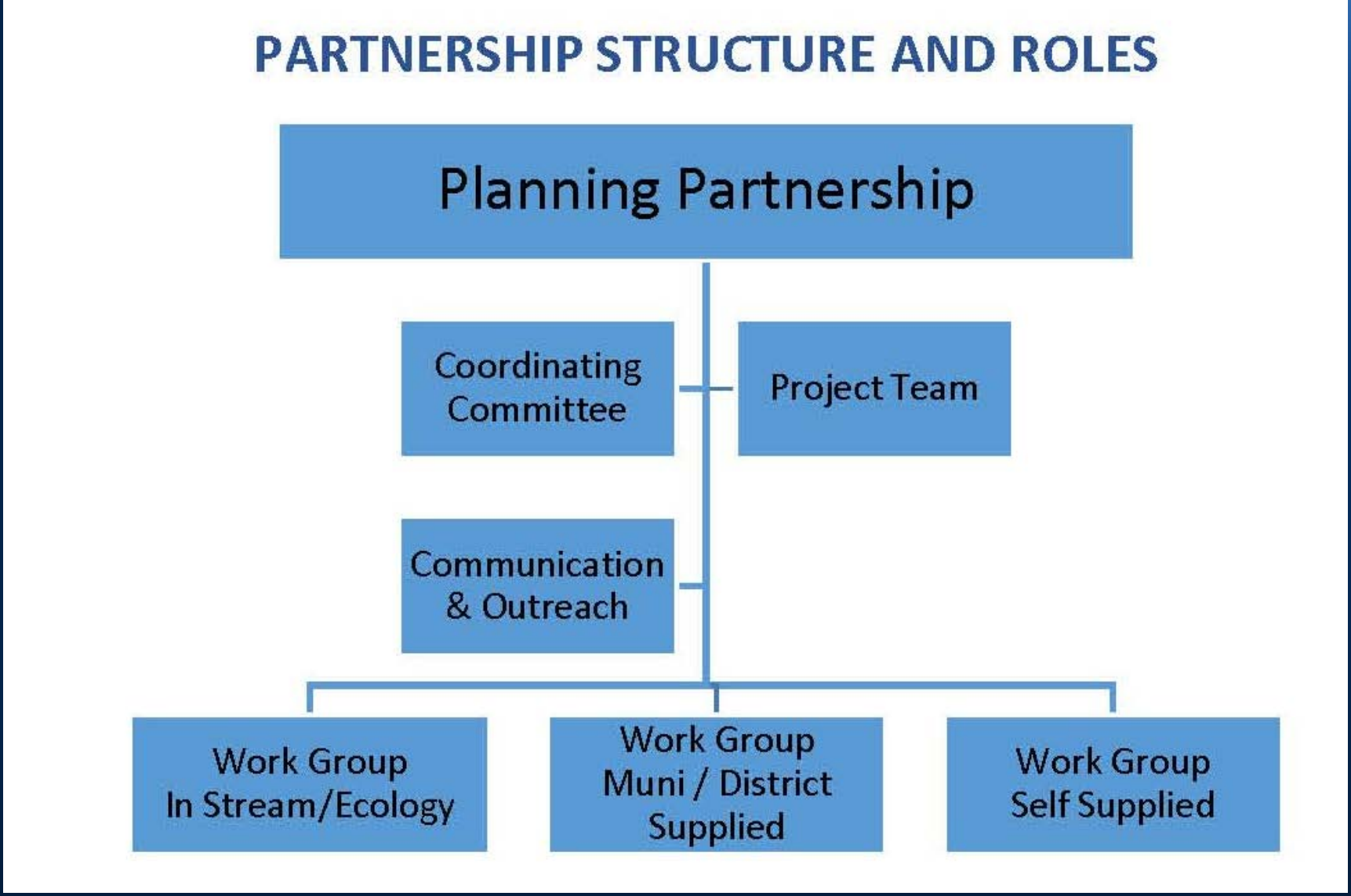
HOW DOES IT WORK?

Over the next three years, the Partnership will explore strategies to:

- Replace aging infrastructure, improve conservation, enhance regional water supply options, and more effectively share water.
- Relieve pressure on rivers, streams, and tributaries while meeting the water needs for coastal communities and industries.
- Create redundancies in our system so we are more resilient to drought, storms, and other natural vulnerabilities.
- Create a learning and action network for small water providers who are often most vulnerable to environmental and regulatory challenges.



HOW ARE WE STRUCTURED?



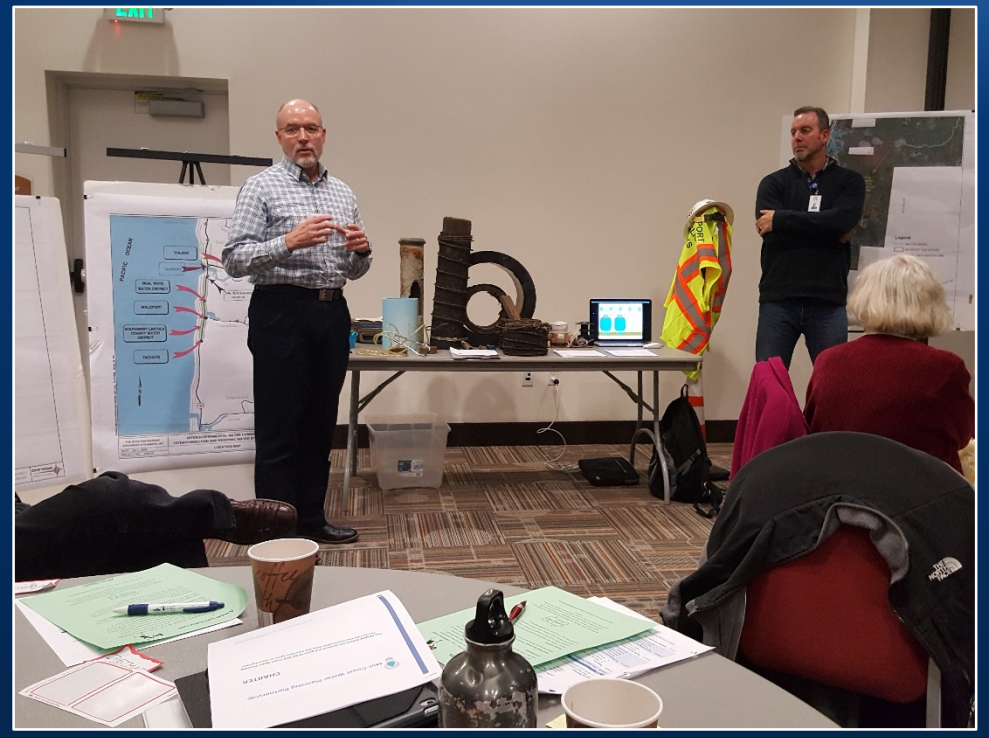
WHO HAS BEEN INVOLVED?

- 280 stakeholders on our master list and 120 actively participating
- 72 partners have signed the charter
- 9 Partnership meetings with attendance ranging from 40 to 65 people
- 3 study groups from 8 to 12 people
  - Self –supplied
  - Municipal/Water Districts
  - Instream/Ecology
- 3 field tours averaging 35-40 attendees
- 8 Communication and Outreach meetings with ~10 members regularly participating
- 19 Coordinating Committee meetings with ~10 members regularly participating

Equals 3,100 hours of in-kind volunteer time

WHAT HAVE WE ACCOMPLISHED?

- Formed new collaborative relationships with Diverse partners
- Shared technical information, resources, and assistance among partners
- Developed a shared baseline understanding of water resources in the Mid-Coast
- Developed technical reports on water quantity, water quality, ecology, and infrastructure
- Developed and signed a Governing Charter
- Developed and Initiated a Communication and Outreach Plan
- Secured grant funding to keep us moving forward



HOW DO OUR PARTNERS BENEFIT FROM PARTICIPATION IN THE MCWPP?

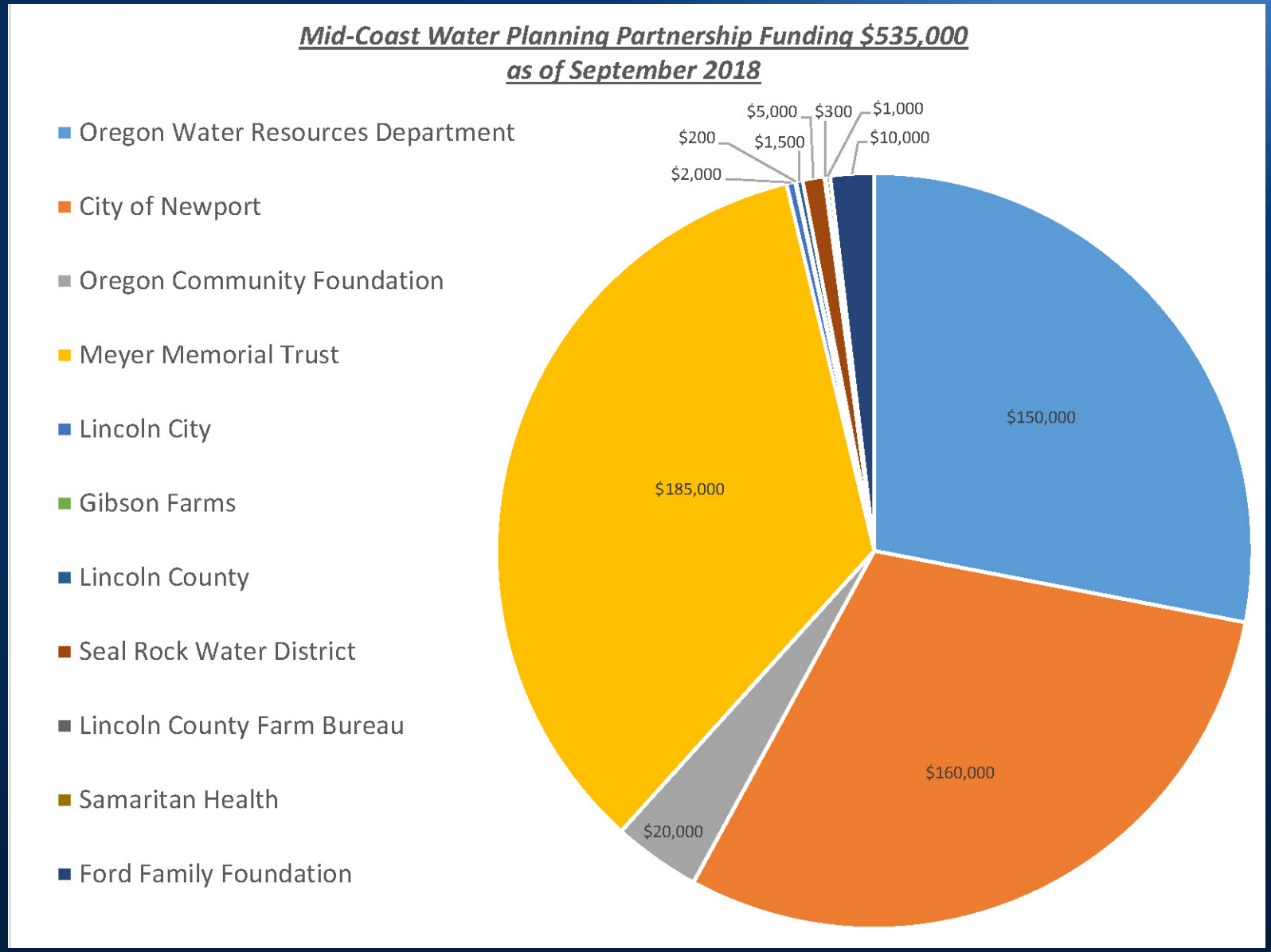
- NON-REGULATORY APPROACH TO MANAGING LOCAL WATER ISSUES
- Helps Develop a Process for Discussing and Communicating Local Water Priorities
- Provides a Forum To Educate Local Communities about The Ecological Role and Value of Water Resources
- The Partnership creates opportunities to develop contacts and relationships As an Essential Basis for mutual aid agreements in Emergencies
- Provides opportunities to Collaborate With Partners on Grant Funding and Projects with Regional Significance and Local Benefits
- Fosters conversations Toward understanding the needs of each agency in a Community and Regional Context
- Helps Demonstrate Local and Regional Benefits of Proposed Projects that seek grant funding

CHALLENGES TO THE PARTNERSHIP

- Trust
- Time
- Resources ($)

FUNDING SUMMARY – LESSONS LEARNED

- The organizational structure of the Partnership in the beginning included Facilitation and Technical Consultants that performed a lot of the coordination and report generation.
- To continue with this model would generate a $171,195 EXPECTED SHORTFALL TO COMPLETE PLANNING STEP 3. Planning step 3 is planned to end in April 2019. Includes no contingency.
- This has forced the Partnership to consider a new structure and work toward hire a Planning Coordinator to offset some of the duties of the higher paid consultants – **stay tuned!**



THANK YOU!

Next Partnership Meeting: October 30, 2018

Yachats Commons, Yachats, OR

Midcoastwaterpartners.com

Mid Coast Water Planning Partnership Conveners

TIMOTHY GROSS
DIR. OF PW/CITY ENGINEER
CITY OF NEWPORT
T.GROSS@NEWPORTOREGON.GOV
541-574-3369

HARMONY BURRIGHT
PLANNING COORDINATOR
OREGON WATER RESOURCES
HARMONY.S.BURRIGHT@OREGON.GOV
503-986-0913

ALAN FUJISHIN
CO-MANAGER
GIBSON FARMS, SILETZ
ALAN.GIBSONFARMS@GMAIL.COM
541-270-6210

ADAM DENLINGER
GENERAL MANAGER
SEAL ROCK WATER DISTRICT
ADENLINGER@SWRD.ORG
541-563-3529