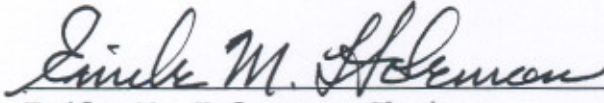


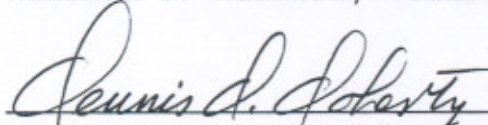
NOW THEREFORE, the Board of Commissioners orders that the report is accepted from the Task Force, and the 2050 Water Management Plan - Statement of Goals and Principles is adopted by Umatilla County. A copy of the plan is attached to this order and incorporated by this reference.

DATED this 5th day of October, 2005.

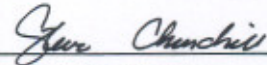
UMATILLA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

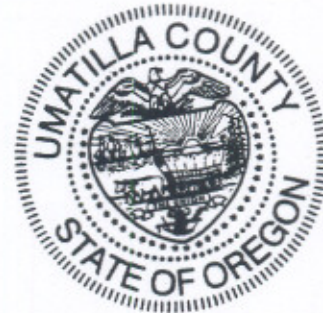

Emile M. Holeman, Chair

ABSENT
William S. Hansell, Commissioner


Dennis D. Doherty, Commissioner

ATTEST:
OFFICE OF COUNTY RECORDS


Records Officer



UMATILLA COUNTY CRITICAL GROUNDWATER TASK FORCE 2050 Water Management Plan - Statement of Goals and Principles

The Umatilla County Critical Groundwater Task Force (Task Force) was created by the Umatilla County Board of Commissioners on January 5, 2004 with the desired outcome of a doable "2050 Plan" to assure adequate groundwater for broad community needs through the year 2050. The plan will address both quantity and quality of water resources necessary for economic development, watershed health, public health and quality of life. The planning area is the Umatilla River sub-basin within the boundaries of Umatilla County.

Background: Since its inception, the Task Force has been researching the history of water development and use, hydrology (science) and water resources planning and management in Umatilla County. The Task Force has established a general understanding of water quality and quantity problems. The Task Force has also heard about tools that are in place to deal with water shortfalls in the basin. The preliminary findings of the Task Force are as follows:

- 1.) Water problems in the Umatilla Basin are not unique to West County;
- 2.) There is increasing development pressures on a finite water supply in both the groundwater aquifers and surface waters (i.e. streams, reservoirs and lakes);
- 3.) The water problems have evolved over time as a result of demands on the resource, which exceed carrying capacity; and
- 4.) The water problems are a result of a water allocation and planning system that did not protect and reserve water required to meet future multiple-use needs of the citizens of Umatilla County.

Geology-Hydrology: The Umatilla River Basin encompasses an interconnected surface-water and groundwater system. The groundwater system includes two principal types of aquifers— Columbia River Basalt aquifers and alluvial aquifers. Columbia River Basalt aquifers underlie the entire Umatilla Basin and are the largest source of groundwater in the basin. The basalt aquifers are built from many layers of basalt lava flows with water bearing zones between each flow. Recharge to the basalt aquifers occurs primarily in the Blue Mountains where most of the rain and snow fall in Umatilla County. The alluvial aquifers of Umatilla County are composed of sediment deposited by streams and are hydraulically connected to surface waters and to the basalt aquifers in many places. The alluvial aquifers receive recharge primarily from streams, deep percolation of irrigation waters applied to land and from canal leakage. Because the basalt and alluvial aquifers are interconnected to various degrees with surface waters, development of either source may affect the other. It follows that management for sustainability of streamflows and groundwater supplies for current and future uses will require an integrated approach that considers the dynamics between the various aquifers and surface waters.

Land Use: Each land use within the Umatilla sub-basin has a positive or negative impact to the overall water system. The land use planning program of Umatilla County is intended to be proactive to assure that the carrying capacity of natural resources will not be overburdened by permitted land uses. All development including municipal, industrial, agricultural, and rural domestic, and in-stream needs for the fishery and aquatic environment relies upon water. Although water is recognized as one of the most valuable natural resources to the Umatilla County planning program, the Task Force has recognized the disconnect between land use planning and water planning.

Water Supply: In nearly all areas of the county, wells penetrating the basalt aquifers will supply enough water to meet at least domestic needs. Many people in Umatilla County are dependent upon the aquifer as their sole source of supply to meet their needs, whether for domestic use, municipal use, or irrigation. However, the Task Force has learned that water consumption is exceeding aquifer recharge. The basalt aquifers are

vulnerable to over-draft and non-sustainable development, as has already been experienced in the lower Umatilla River Basin and in the Pendleton area. The Oregon Water Resources Department (OWRD) has established three Critical Ground Water Areas in the basalt aquifers in the West County. A portion of the alluvial aquifer in the West County has also been over-drafted and is also classified as a Critical Groundwater Area by OWRD.

As water needs continue to increase and as basalt and alluvial groundwater undergo further development, safeguards are needed to maintain water quality and to ensure sustainable supplies for current and future uses. Stream flow in the Umatilla River has been over-appropriated (on an annual basis), but the Umatilla Basin Project has helped restore flows to improve habitat for the fishery. Future water development in the county must not compromise benefits of the Basin Project to the fishery and the agricultural and local economy.

Implementation: The 2050 Water Plan is not intended solely to meet land use planning objectives, nor will it be implemented solely by the Umatilla County planning office. Methods for implementation will be site and action item specific and may include one or more of the following:

- Utilizing existing water law to implement local control (e.g. formation of local improvement and sewer districts, locally based water right public interest review, etc.)
- Reviewing existing water law such as the Umatilla Basin Rules found in Oregon Administrative Rule (OAR) 690-507 and utilizing state agency coordination programs, regional problem solving programs or legislation to encourage feasible and sustainable water development, conservation and projects.
- Utilizing the state land use program to protect certain water supplies for beneficial uses.

In addition to the methods of implementation listed above, the planning process may identify additional opportunities to design new implementation techniques, as well as design an efficient mechanism to deal with political constraints and dispute resolution. A Technical Advisory Committee, or other formally endorsed body, will be created to oversee plan implementation and to prioritize funding, as well as conduct dispute resolution and plan revision if necessary.

Sustainability - A Coordinated Plan: For the reasons noted above, the Task Force has concluded that a Umatilla sub-Basin 2050 Water Plan is necessary to assure clean, sustainable water supplies for all beneficial uses. The 2050 Plan will be a comprehensive guide to water planning and management activities in the Umatilla sub-Basin. Due to the diverse land and water uses in the Umatilla sub-Basin, the 2050 Water Plan will provide site specific, feasible and multi-beneficial alternatives, as opposed to generic (one size fits all) water planning and regulation. Site-specific management alternatives including water storage and delivery, zoning and regulation, legislative changes, etc. will be prioritized. Prioritization of the alternatives will be based on criteria adopted by the coordinating governments and stakeholders to focus resources where alternatives are needed most. The 2050 Water Plan will be adopted by Umatilla County. Vested coordinating governments will be encouraged to co-adopt the plan. The coordinating governments will create a more efficient management mechanism. This mechanism will be designed to work independently, but also as a team under the same set of guiding principles that promote sustainable water and land use development practices.

Goal and Principles of Plan Development: The goal of the 2050 Water Plan is to provide locally developed options, actions, and solutions, through coordination and collaboration, that will assure adequate and sustainable water supplies to meet broad community and environmental needs in the Umatilla sub Basin through the year 2050.

The Task Force will use the following guiding principles as it develops the 2050 Water Plan:

- 1.) The purpose of the plan is to assure that water resources are managed in a sustainable manner to meet

current and future uses in the Umatilla sub Basin. Water quantity and quality will be managed to support and improve economic, environmental, public health, and quality of life conditions in the county.

2.) Plan development will require public outreach and education and the solicitation of input and ideas from the public. Approval and successful implementation of the plan will require broad public support. The Task Force will seek input from members of the public and incorporate such input, when appropriate, in the plan.

3.) Water resources management and permitting is a function of state government, while land-use planning and zoning is a function of the county and city governments. Over-development of groundwater resources in the lower Umatilla Basin has restricted further groundwater development in the critical groundwater areas, thereby limiting land uses in those areas. The plan will provide an analysis and recommendations on (A) resolving inconsistencies in state laws/rules that impede integration of water management/permitting and land use regulation and (B) establishing more local control over water management/regulation in Umatilla County, so that the community has more certainty in the availability of water supplies required to meet current and future needs.

4.) There are variable degrees of connection between groundwater and stream flows throughout the basin. Water development and use in any part of the basin has the potential to affect water supplies and users in other parts of the basin. The plan will recognize this interconnectedness and consider all water sources in the entire basin to ensure sustainability of groundwater and surface water to meet the current and projected water supply needs.

5.) Sustainable management will require an improved understanding of the annual water budget in the Umatilla River Basin. Using the best available information, the plan will assess how much water is in the basin, describe its seasonal and spatial distribution, describe its quality and affects of quality on its use, and identify how much is usable on a sustained basis. The plan will identify gaps in the hydrological data/information and the means and methods for acquiring the information.

6.) It is projected that water needs in the basin for most beneficial uses will increase through 2050. The plan will describe current uses of water and project future water needs in the basin, including federal reserved water rights. The plan will estimate the quantities needed for the various beneficial uses. The plan will describe the means and methods for protecting and enhancing water supplies so they are available to meet projected needs.

7.) To assure water availability to meet the community's needs, the plan will assess and recommend methods and projects that will improve water supplies and water quality. Recommended projects and actions may include water conservation, aquifer recharge, new surface storage facilities, changes in zoning through the appropriate legislative process, using Columbia River water, water rights transfers and acquisition, changes in laws and regulations, and others. The plan will provide recommendations on funding mechanisms needed for implementing actions and projects and for supporting on-going water resources management programs, including monitoring of water supplies and use, conducting hydrologic studies, and managing land and water use.

8.) The understanding of the basin's hydrology, the public's priorities, and water needs will change over time. During the life of the plan, technology and water management tools will change and become available to water managers and users. The plan will be structured for flexibility to accommodate these changes. Periodic review of the plan will need to be an integral part of the 2050 Water Plan to ensure its utility in addressing the water needs and concerns of the citizens of Umatilla sub Basin as we proceed through the 21st century.

9.) The political issues of the Umatilla sub basin water management are not fully understood. The 2050 plan will identify political constraints and opportunities, and propose methods for reaching consensus, such as dispute resolution.