



JOHN A. KITZHABER, MD
Governor

Benjamin Franklin once said that when the well runs dry, we realize the value of water. The Integrated Water Resources Strategy is a long-overdue assessment that reflects how we value water here in the state of Oregon. Fortunately, our well hasn't run dry, and with this kind of strategic planning, it won't.

From my first legislative water committee, 25 years ago, I have recognized the importance of water in almost every aspect of our lives. There is increased pressure for this natural resource all over the world, and Oregon is certainly no exception. The state's first Integrated Water Resources Strategy is therefore an important achievement, given the importance of water to us all.

This document reflects Oregon's diverse opinions and interests, while providing a blueprint for opportunities both in-stream and out – from our agricultural sector to our municipal water supply to healthy fish and other aquatic life.

With a template for policy and investment strategies, we can move toward implementation, pursuing these ideas to ensure Oregon has the resources it needs to thrive and grow. I am committed to making this a reality, but implementation will rely on all of us working together. I hope that Oregonians continue to stay engaged to move this effort forward.

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