

For Immediate Release

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Lower John Day Work Group Calls for Public Comment on Integrated Water Resource Plan

Comments due October 25, 2021

Condon, Oregon. The Lower John Day Work Group today announced their final report, *The Lower John Day Integrated Water Resource Plan*, which has been distributed for public review. Today's announcement is a culmination of 17 parties working together over the last five years (2016 through 2021) to help plan for future instream and out-of-stream water needs in the Lower John Day Basin. The Integrated Water Resource Plan represents the work of three reports (Steps 2 through 4), which have been assembled into this final report that can be found on the Lower John Day Work Group website: <https://www.lowerjohndaypbp.com/>

In response to the call for public comment today and recognizing the work of many partners, agencies, volunteers, and the Warm Springs tribes, the Co-convenors released these statements:

"Water is the most basic of our needs. Over the last five years, the place-based planning process has worked to develop a plan to meet that need for people and our environment. The Integrated Water Resource and Action Plan encompasses the work that began with a locally initiated and led effort with close coordination between local stakeholders, watershed councils, and soil and water conservation districts. That effort was quickly expanded and made stronger by the involvement of a balance of representation from regional and statewide interests," said Debbi Bunch, Coordinator, Mid John Day-Bridge Creek Watershed Council.

“The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife and the Warm Springs tribes were critical in better understanding our fisheries resource. We believe our action plan and our coordinated efforts with the John Day Basin Partnership puts the Lower John Day on solid footing for improving existing instream conditions,” said Herb Winters, District Conservationist, Gilliam County Soil and Water Conservation District.

Please download a copy from our website <https://www.lowerjohndaypbp.com/> or request a hard copy from Norie Wright at norie.gilliamswcd@gmail.com or 541-384-2672, ext. 108. Alternatively, you can pick up a hard copy at one of these three offices:

- U.S. Department of Agriculture Agricultural Service Center, 234 S. Main Street, Condon, Oregon 97823
- Wheeler Soil and Water Conservation District/Mid John Day-Bridge Creek Watershed Council 40535 Highway 19, Fossil, Oregon 97830
- Sherman Soil and Water Conservation District, 123 S. Main Street, Moro, Oregon 97039

Email or mail your comments to norie.gilliamswcd@gmail.com or Gilliam County Soil and Water Conservation District, P.O. Box 106, Condon, Oregon 97823 by October 25, 2021, and be sure to mark your calendars for the public meeting on November 16, 2021, to discuss the plan and suggested revisions.