CBWP DRAFT CRITICAL ISSUES LIST

Version 7 – January 2, 2024

As of 12/14/23, The Harney Community-Based Water Planning (CBWP) Collaborative supports that this list of critical surface water issues identified is comprehensive, with the caveat that #4 and #5 require additional refinement. Eligible Collaborative members and their respective votes are included on page 3.

If the Collaborative deems it necessary to add a critical issue to this list in the future, that can be done upon discussion and additional consensus event(s).

1) Conifer infilling of large areas of forestland and rangeland has led to increased tree density, distribution, and cover which decreases the surface water supply. (Vegetation Management)

2) Malheur Lake is highly turbid and the source of turbidity appears to be partially from tributary streams and partially from resuspended bottom sediments. (Lakes and Reservoirs)

3) Malheur Lake is affected by water use in the tributary streams affecting the volume and fluctuation of water levels. (Lakes and Reservoirs)

4) There is a lack of locally-based information about current distribution of persistent wetlands, by type, throughout the Basin to aid in conservation and management. (Wetlands)

5) There is a lack of information needed to manage the changing quantity of water needed to maintain diverse wetlands types, including semi-permanent marshes and other seasonal wetlands. (Wetlands)

6) There is a lack of adequate streamflow to provide for instream needs in certain streams and rivers. (Rivers and Streams)

7) There is a need for additional streamflow data and surface water use data (Rivers and Streams)

8) There is a need to address fish passage barriers and impediments to fish movement. (Rivers and Streams)

9) Stream temperature and DO conditions exceed Oregon water quality standards in some places. More data are needed. (Rivers and Streams)

10) The lack of fish screens on some irrigation diversions harms native fish and contributes to the spread of invasive fish. (Rivers and Streams)

11) Some parts of the irrigation system need improved in-field and diversion infrastructure (Surface Water Management)

12) There is illegal use of water in the basin (Surface Water Management)

13) Timely and effective communication with and between irrigators is deficient (Surface Water Management)

14) There is uncertainty about groundwater recharge in the Silvies, Donner und Blitzen, and Silver Creek floodplains. (Surface Water - Groundwater Interaction)

15) There is a lack of a comprehensive assessment of riparian conditions in the Basin to inform prioritization of strategic restoration actions is needed to address impaired watershed function, which could include riparian habitat conditions. (Vegetation Management)

16) Riparian habitat conditions need to be improved wherever possible to provide stream habitat, shading, nutrient uptake, bank stability, and other ecological values. (Rivers and Streams; Wetlands) – This can occur without an assessment.

17) Rivers and streams are disconnected from floodplains in some parts of the basin. (Wetlands)

18) There are concerns that groundwater withdrawal has an adverse effect on surface water as expressed by declining or halted spring flow, declining stream flow, and possibly lake level effects. (SW-GW Interaction)

    a) ***It should be noted that we don't know the full impacts of groundwater withdrawal*

19) Future climate conditions in the Harney Basin are likely to be warmer and drier than current ones, which will likely impact surface water resources. (Drafted by Holly + Ken)

20) Ditches are not being adequately maintained. (Surface Water Management)]

Eligible CBWP Collaborative Members for December 14 Consensus Event:

1. Sam Artaiz, 2
2. Katie Baltzor, 2
3. Keith Baltzor, 2
4. Lisa Brown, 2
5. Donald Doverspike, Absent
6. Mark Doverspike, 2
7. Zach Freed, 1
8. Brandon Haslick, 2
9. Cole Hendrickson, Abstain
10. Jeff Mackay, 2
11. Karen Moon, 2
12. Breanna O'Connor
13. Chance Peila, Abstain
14. Rick Roy, 2
15. Alexandria Scott, Abstain
16. Kristen Shelman, 2
17. Janna Stevens, Abstain
18. Tara Wertz (Alternate: Jess Wenick), Absent
19. Teresa Wicks, Absent

Interests represented include: Landowners, Residents, Recreation, Conservation, Local Government, State Agencies, Tribal, and Federal Agencies