

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