

**CBWP Critical Issue + Strategy Suggestion Form - Surface Water
Ecological Working Group - Rivers and Streams**

Place-based Planning requires that the Collaborative come up with a list of issues, based on the Step 2 and 3 work, that can be addressed with strategies in the surface water plan. When appropriate, Working Groups will fill out this form with the issues that have been identified during their research, explain why it should be addressed with the surface water plan, propose a possible strategy or solution to the issue, and provide expectations on the outcome of strategy implementation. Then, the project manager will compile the information in a spreadsheet and review with the Collaborative.

Definition of a Critical Issue: A significant concern regarding instream or out-of-stream surface water flows/management/resources that is impacting the Harney basin ecology, economy, and/or community.

Proposed Issue:

While surface water quality in the basin is generally good with regard to contaminants, a number of stream reaches do not meet Oregon water quality standards for temperature and dissolved oxygen.

Source of the Issue:

Has this information been developed in a Step 2 or 3 document? If so, which one?

Yes, Rivers & Streams Step 2 and 3 reports.

Does the issue impact the ecology, economy, or community?:

Elevated temperatures and reduced dissolved oxygen adversely affect aquatic life. This impact can be acute to cold water fish like redband trout.

Why should this issue be addressed with the CBWP surface water plan?:

Determining the heating sources and locations in each watershed is important. Most significant could be reduced flow and/or degraded riparian vegetation leading to increased stream heating.

If issue is not addressed, what will the situation be?:

Without addressing riparian conditions and stream temperatures there will be increased aquatic life losses in tributary streams to Malheur and Harney Lakes as climate heating events occur.

Suggestions for strategies to address issue:

(Note many of these would also need to include securing funding, or capacity, to accomplish the task)

1. Identify and prioritize riparian conditions and areas for riparian restoration that would have the most effect on stream temperatures.
2. Determine stream reaches where flow restriction affects water temperatures.

Expected outcome once strategy is implemented:

Improved riparian habitats that support a diverse community of animals and moderates stream heating.