

Irrigation Delivery Entities

Working together, Oregonians have the opportunity to help restore clean water and wild salmon for the benefit of us all and for future generations. The suggestions in this guide are practical changes we can consider making in our daily land management, work and lives to support this statewide restoration effort. These suggestions do not substitute for any local, state or federal legal regulations.

For more information on these and other ways we can modify our activities to help restore clean water and salmon, please contact the Oregon Water Resources Department at (503) 378-8455, or the Oregon Water Resources Congress (OWRC) at (503) 363-0121 or through their website at <http://www.owrc.org>.

This guide for Irrigation Delivery Entities is part of a series of lists targeting a wide variety of groups in Oregon. For information on other guides in this series, please contact the Governor's Natural Resources Office at (503) 378-3589.



THE OREGON PLAN
for salmon & watersheds

Ten ways irrigation delivery entities can help restore clean water and salmon

water measurement capabilities

- Enhance water measurement capabilities at the point of diversion from the stream, at the head of each canal or lateral, and at farm delivery points. Water use measurement allows resource managers to develop greater understanding of how water is being used and to integrate that into management. Using only as much water as is needed leaves more water instream, where fish and other aquatic species depend on regular water flows to survive.

worker training

- Ensure delivery system workers are trained to read and record the output of gaging stations for the purposes of monitoring and maintaining the stations. The people working directly with the resource often are most capable to identify new methods to improve efficiency and save money, time and resources.

funding resources

- Consider consulting with the Oregon Water Resources Congress about funding resources to improve your measurement capabilities. Investing in measurement improvements will pay off through immediate and long-term water conservation, helping to protect our aquatic resources for future generations.

fish screens

- Install and maintain fish screens at points of diversion. Protecting young fish from entering a diversion will help depressed fish populations to recover.

conservation planning

- Invest in developing a water management, or “conservation” plan for long-term use. Developing a management plan will expand your access to management tools and funding sources to help maximize the efficiency of your water use, while ensuring adequate instream flows for fish and aquatic life.

conservation and water quality guidelines

- Help water users anticipate needs and identify tools by putting conservation and water quality guidelines in place. Your customers can integrate their individual conservation actions into community-wide restoration efforts with your leadership.

conservation techniques

- Employ conservation techniques to stabilize and enhance the water supply, such as instream leases, canal lining, enclosed piping, changing points of diversion and other management tools. Innovative conservation practices can help conserve water and benefit aquatic life with little impact to water users.

planning and management

- Consider alternative approaches during development and implementation of water quality plans to meet Total Maximum Daily Load requirements. Look at comprehensive IMP planning (integrated pesticide management) and educate on safe herbicide use and alternative tools for vegetation management. Good water quality is everyone’s business, and it’s your opportunity to create innovative approaches.

access easements

- Work with local county and city planning agencies to develop and protect your access easements under state and federal law. Adequate protection of your easements will enhance your efforts and ability to keep water clean and available.

new irrigation districts

- Consider forming new irrigation districts to help water users combine their resources and efforts. The more users work together to manage resources, the more effectively we can meet the needs of both people and aquatic species.