



OFFICES OF REPRESENTATIVE KEN HELM AND REPRESENTATIVE MARK OWENS

October 22, 2024

To: Upper Grande Ronde River Watershed Partnership

From: Representative Helm and Representative Owens, Co-chairs of the House Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources and Water Committee

Subject: Request for information for the 2025 Water Package

To the Upper Grande Ronde River Watershed Partnership;

We commend your efforts to better understand and meet the instream and out-of-stream water needs in your basin through the development of a state-recognized integrated water resources plan. Water connects us to the landscape and to each other. It is the lifeblood of our state and communities. The work that you have done to develop a state-recognized plan will help ensure a more secure and resilient water future for the environment, economy, and communities in your region. As you know, we have championed significant investments in water in both the 2021 and 2023 sessions. We have been closely watching your efforts and are committed to supporting your success. As we prepare for the 2025 session we intend to elevate your work and champion specific investments in your basin or region that will increase water security and resilience for instream and out-of-stream uses.

Over the coming months we will be assembling inputs to a 2025 water package. We invite you to work with members of your collaborative to identify one project investments in each of the following areas that we can champion in the next legislative session:

- **Capacity** – ongoing capacity needs to support the work of the collaborative, including for facilitation, project management, and agency participation
- **Data, monitoring, or analysis** – a project that will advance critical water data, monitoring, or analysis needs.
- **Water conservation** – a project that would advance critical water conservation efforts to benefit both instream and out-of-stream needs.
- **Water supply** – a project that will has the potential to increase water supply.
- **Resilience** – a project that will increase your resilience in the face of natural hazards or other emergency conditions.
- **Outreach and education** – a project that will increase public awareness or public participation in water management efforts.

We ask that you assemble this list of projects by January 15, 2025. For any projects you identify, we would like for you to include the following information:

- Reference to planning document(s) where the need or recommendation for the project(s) exists.
- The expected benefits or outcomes of the project(s), including how it will provide benefits for multiple uses or uses (instream and out-of-stream).
- The anticipated cost of the project(s).
- The entity or group of entities that will oversee implementation of the project(s).
- The level of support for the project(s).
- Any funding you are pursuing or expect to pursue for the project.

All projects you put forward for consideration must be completed within a biennium. It is appropriate to identify a particular phase of your project if the full project cannot be accomplished within a biennium. We want to note that there are no guarantees for funding, but we look forward to hearing more about your priorities in each of these categories.

Additionally, the Water Caucus is conducting a statewide assessment of water investment needs. We encourage you and your partners to contribute to the survey so that we can understand and continue to effectively advocate for increased investments in high priority water challenges and opportunities. The survey can be found at <http://bit.ly/2024waterinvestmentsurvey>.

Thank you for your continued work and dedication to this important topic. We look forward to doing our part to advance and elevate your work.

Sincerely,



Representative Ken Helm – HD 27



Representative Mark Owens – HD 60