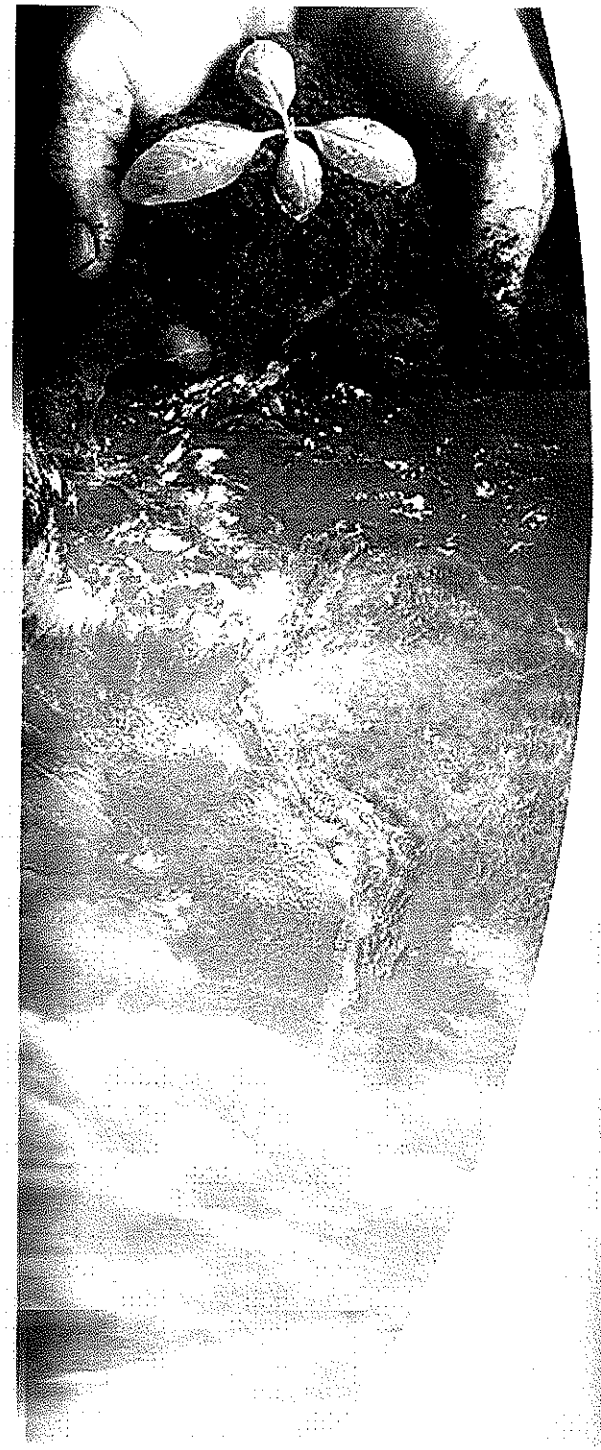


Oregon Business Plan Water Working Group

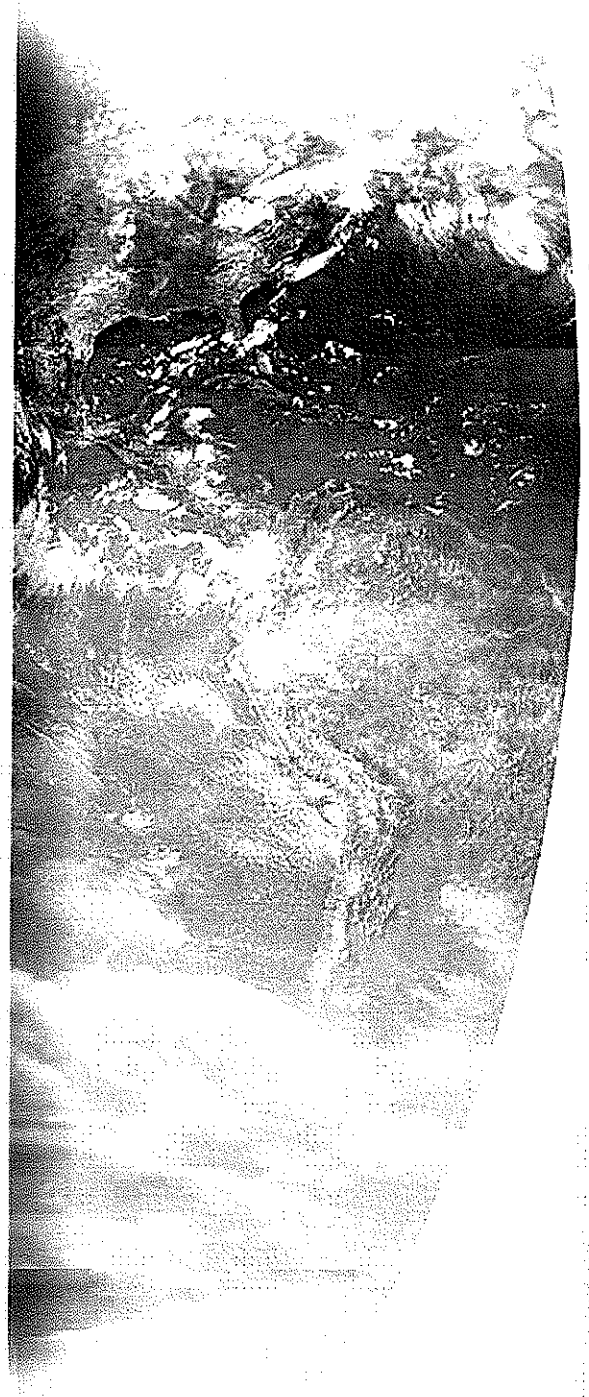
Oregon Business Plan Leadership Summit

December 11, 2008

by Michelle Girts/CH2M HILL,

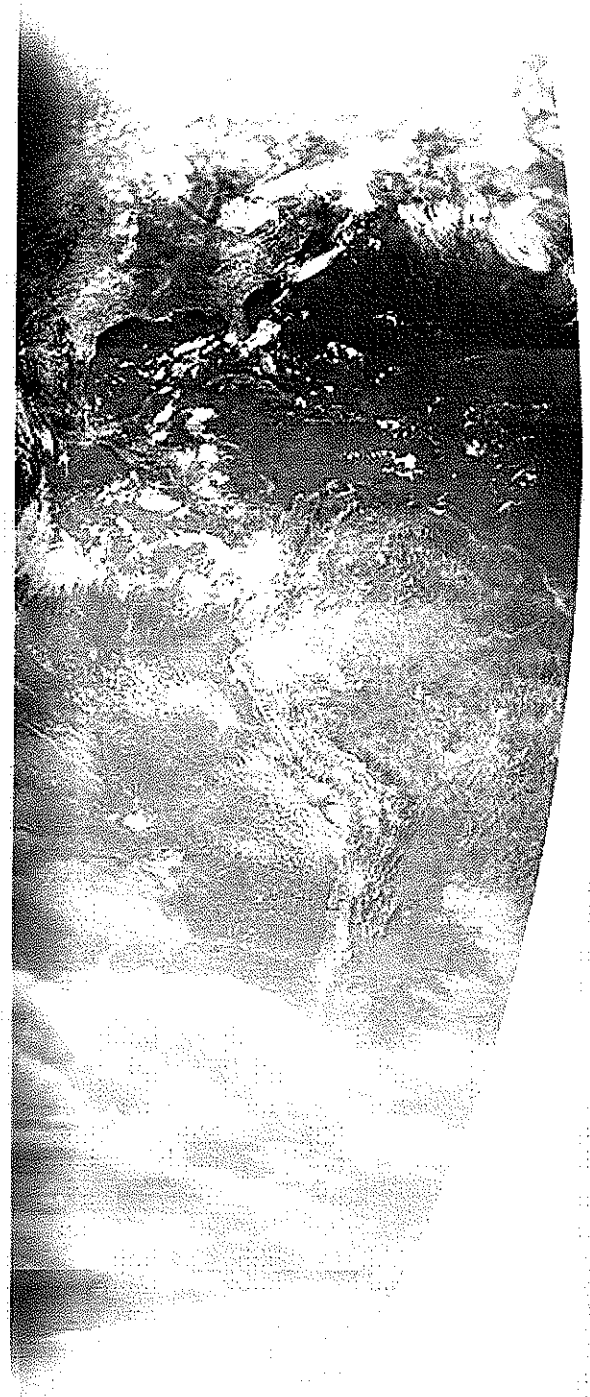
Gail Achterman/OSU Institute for Natural Resources, &

Michael E. Campana/OSU Institute for Water and Watersheds



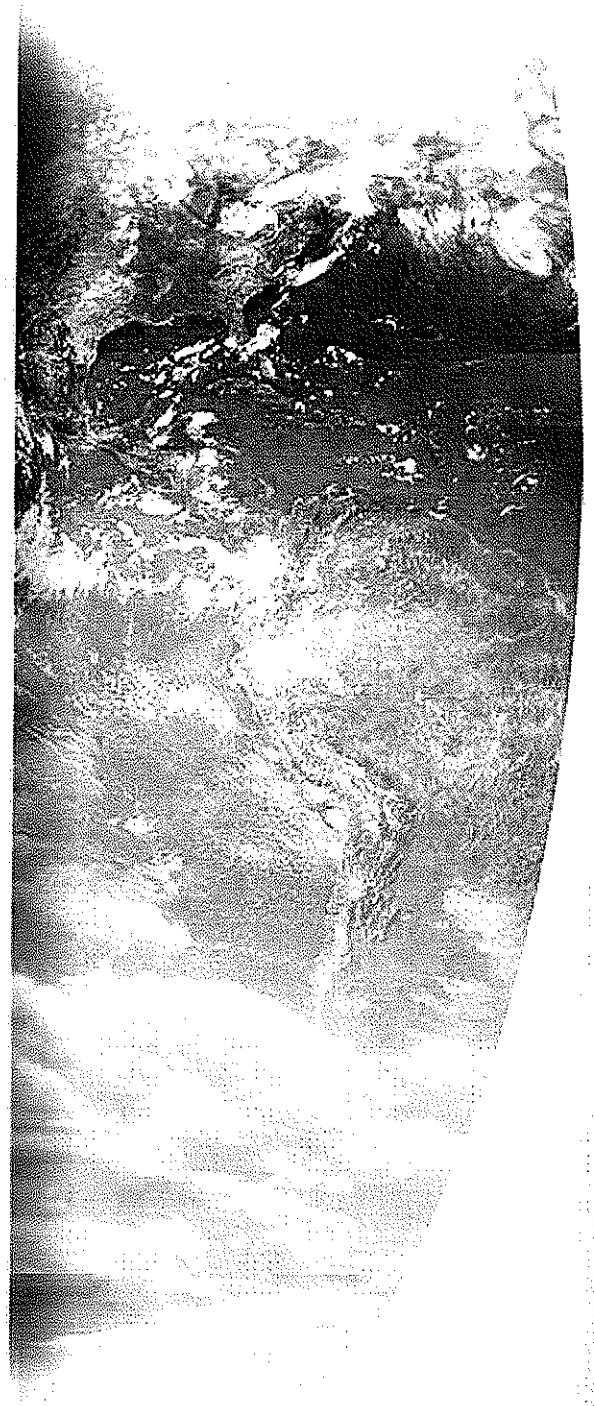
Water and OBP - New Initiative

- 2007 - Oregon Business Plan concept proposed
- 2008 Water Working Group (WWG) convened, initiative developed in 3 meetings
  - Gail Achterman, OSU Institute for Natural Resources
  - Leslie Bach, The Nature Conservancy
  - Myron Burr, Siltronic Corporation
  - Michael Campana, OSU Institute for Water & Watersheds
  - Bill Gaffi, Clean Water Services
  - Julie Keil, Portland General Electric
  - Kent Madison, Madison Farms
  - Steve Munn, Heinz
  - Jay Rasmussen, Oregon Water Resources Commission and Sea Grant Extension
  - Dan Thorndike, Medford Fabrication
  - Bill Williams, Harry and David



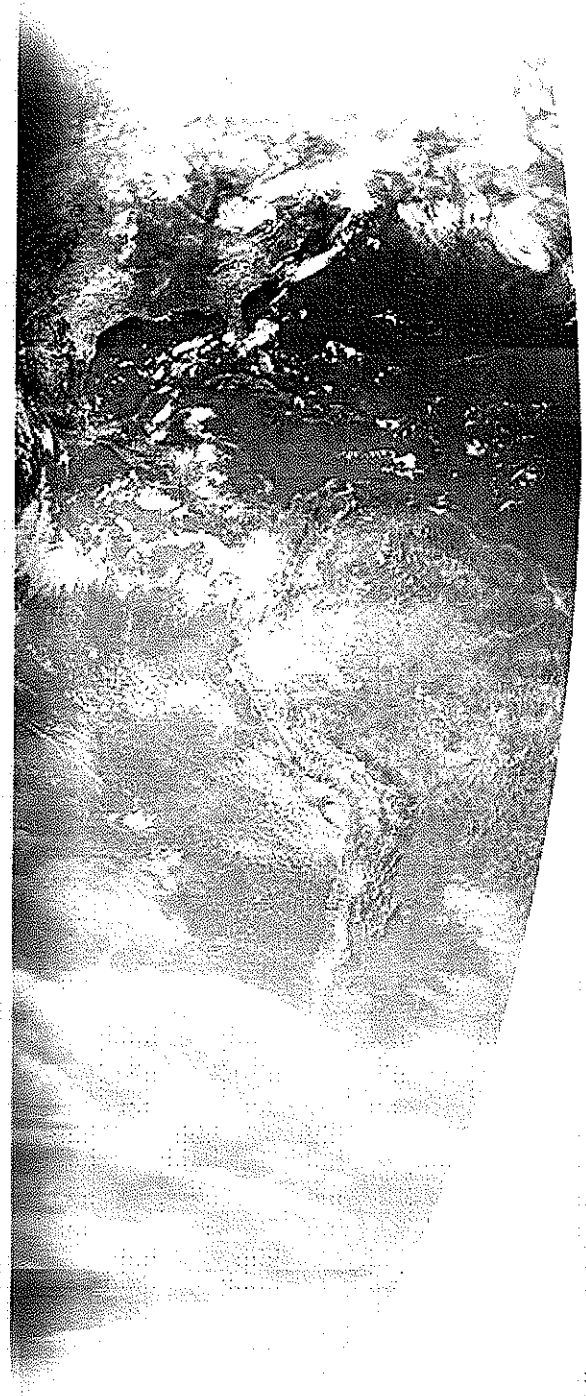
Why now?

- WWG sees that available, accessible quality water is a resource essential to human and economic well-being.
- WWG perceives the need for and opportunity to get ahead of emerging water quantity and quality issues, so that issues can be resolved effectively in an informed, comprehensive, and timely manner.
- WWG recognizes the value of a statewide water strategy framework for regional water management solutions, building collaboratively on work done to date.



Vision of Oregon's Water Stewardship to 2050

Oregon provides safe and sustainable water supplies for people, communities, businesses, energy production, food and crop production, manufactured goods, aquatic ecosystems and other environmental services.

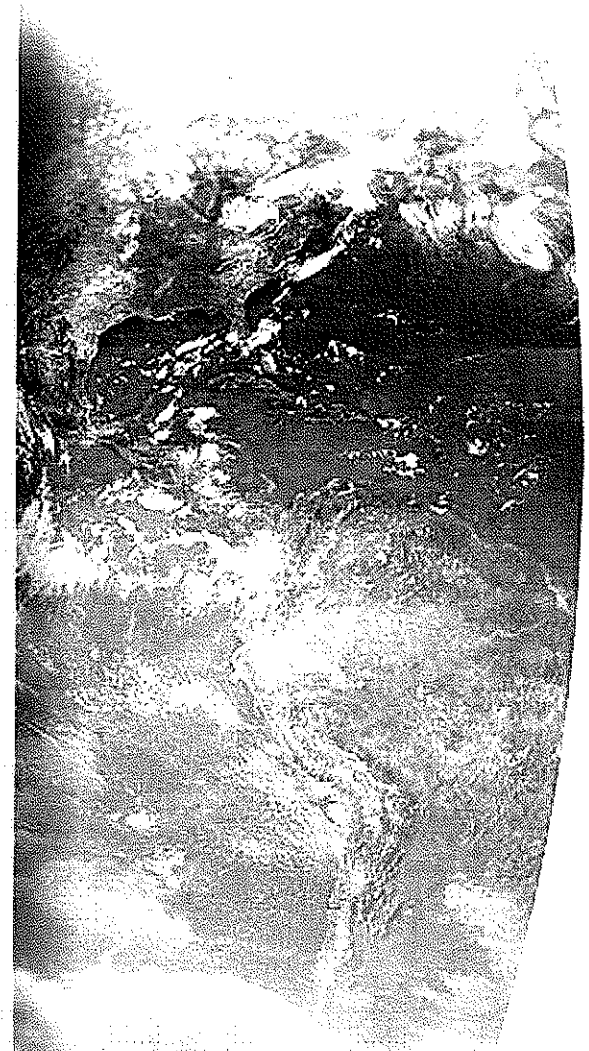


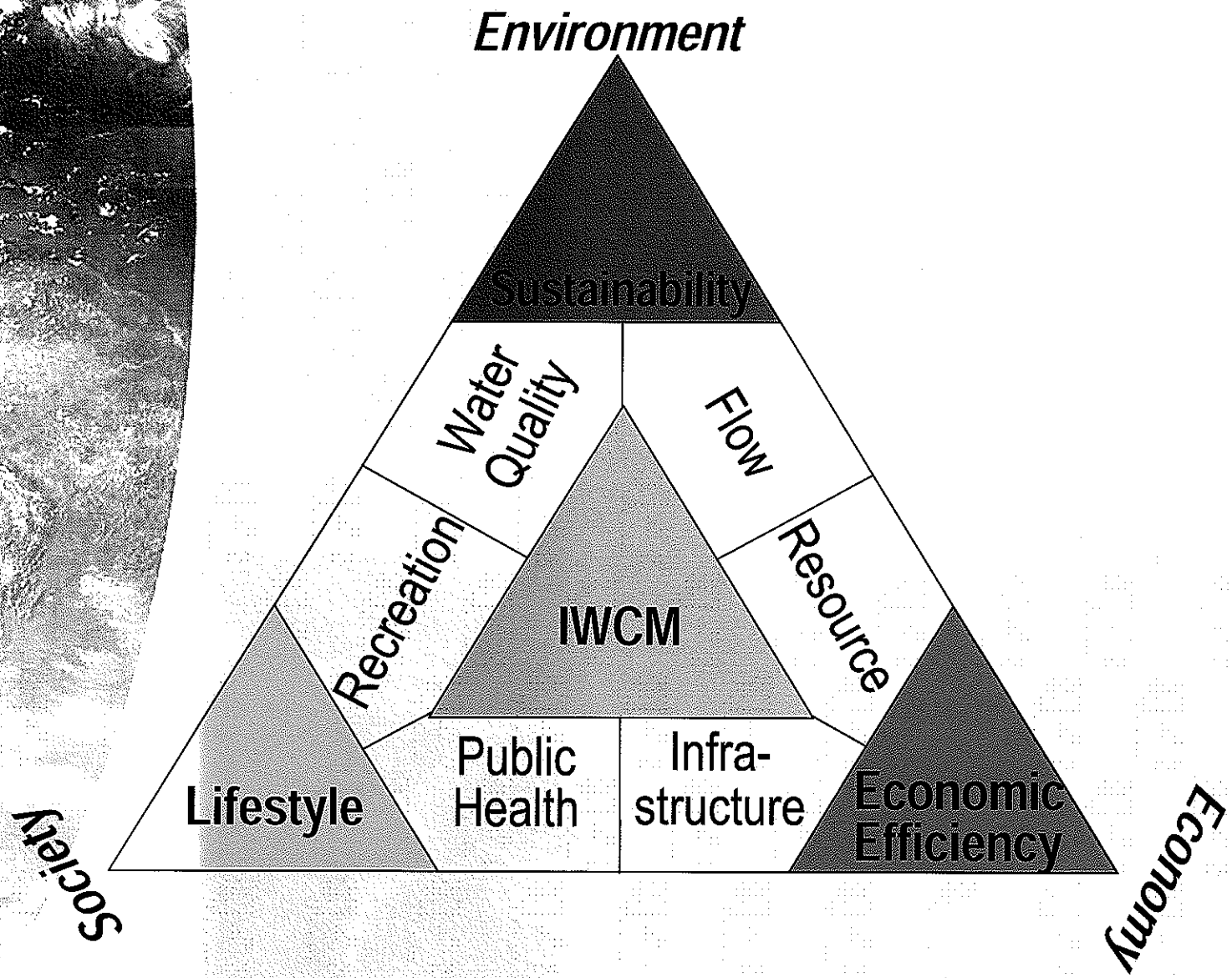
Vision of Oregon's Water Stewardship to 2050

Oregon's water is viewed as a valuable and critical asset by all Oregonians for all Oregonians, and is managed accordingly.

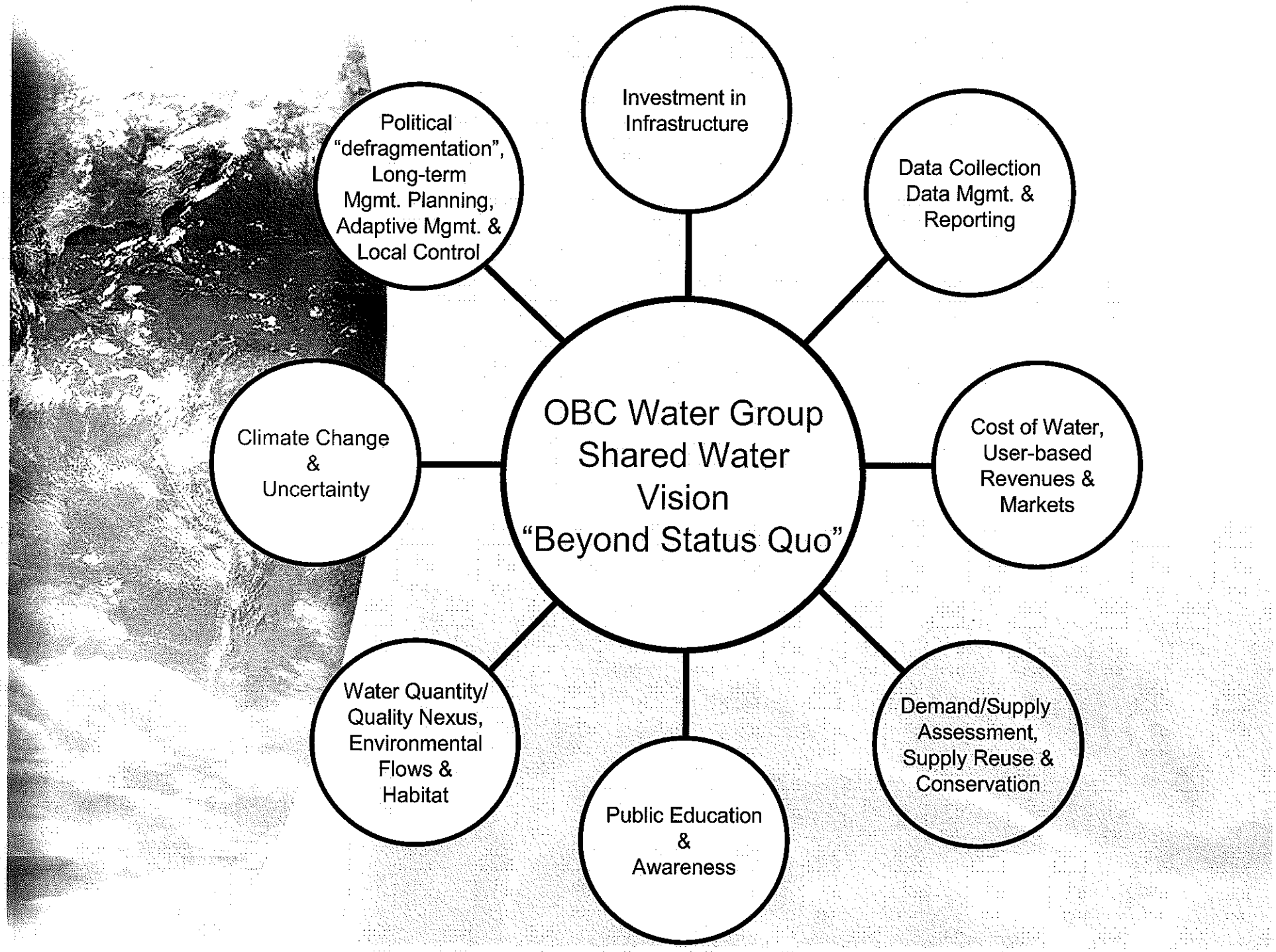
Oregon's water infrastructure (built, modified, and natural) consistently provides these services.

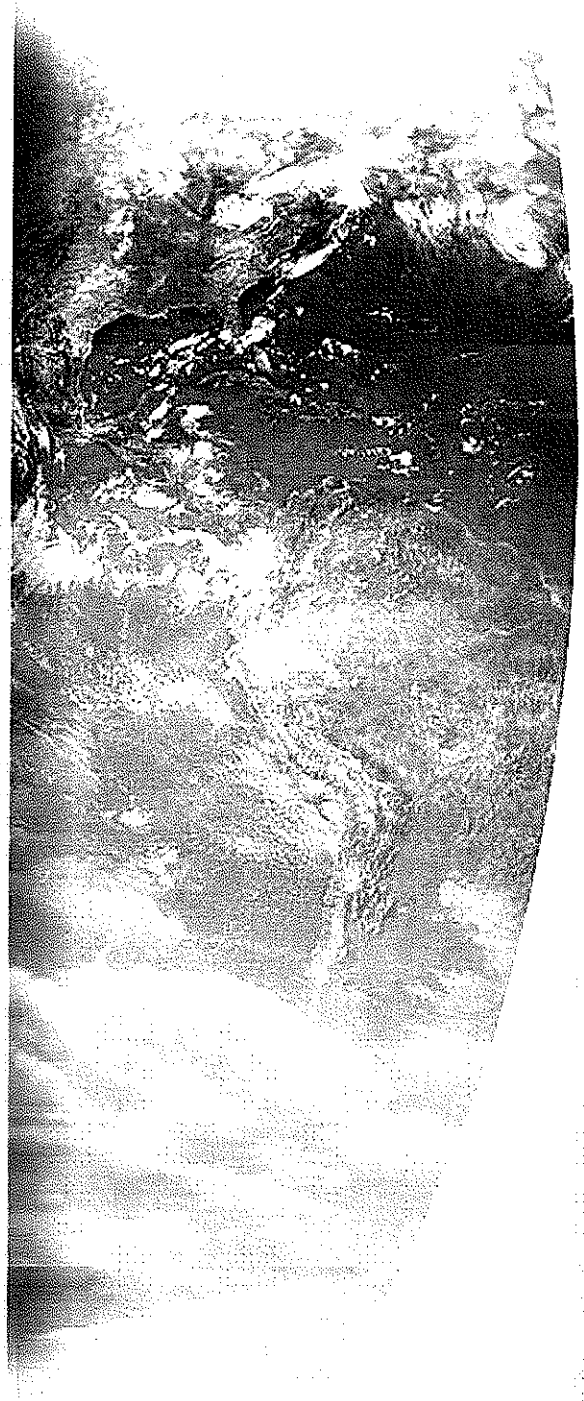
The Future? The 'Triple Bottom Line' Performance, Australia





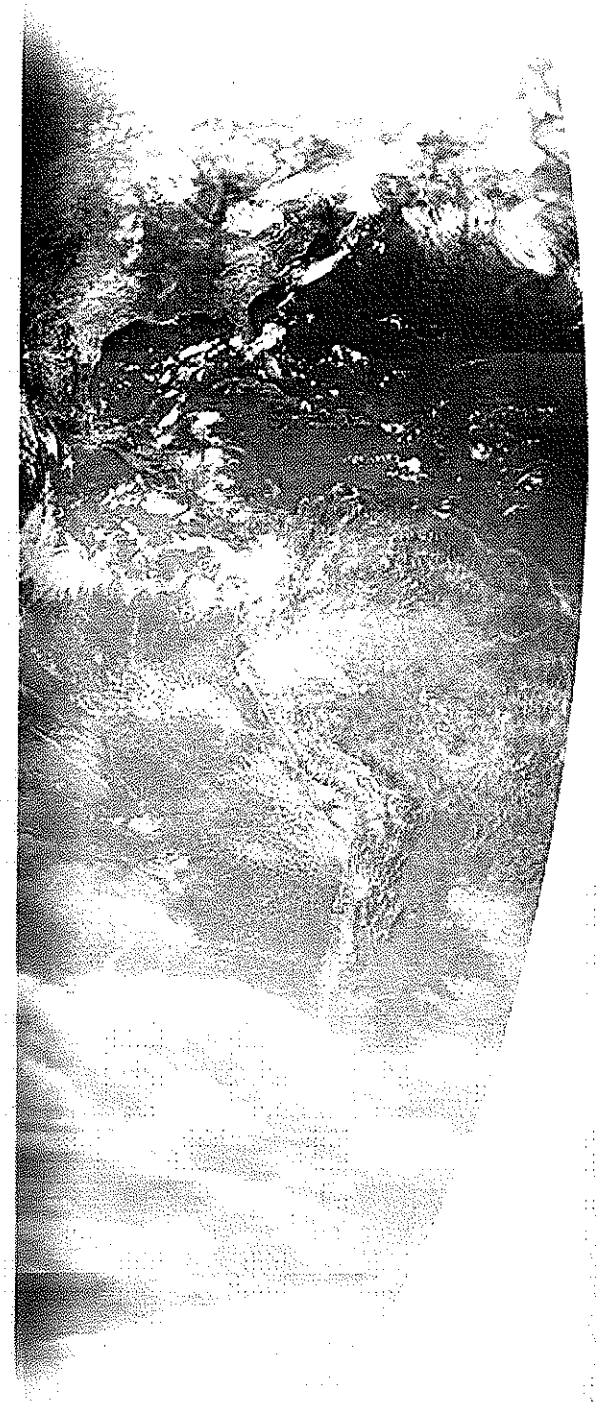
- Water Reforms
- Principles
- IWCM Process
- Strategies
- Future
- IWCM Pilot Studies


OBC Water Group Shared Water Vision "Beyond Status Quo"
Investment in Infrastructure
Data Collection Data Mgmt. & Reporting
Cost of Water, User-based Revenues & Markets
Demand/Supply Assessment, Supply Reuse & Conservation
Public Education & Awareness
Water Quantity/ Quality Nexus, Environmental Flows & Habitat
Climate Change & Uncertainty
Political "defragmentation", Long-term Mgmt. Planning, Adaptive Mgmt. & Local Control



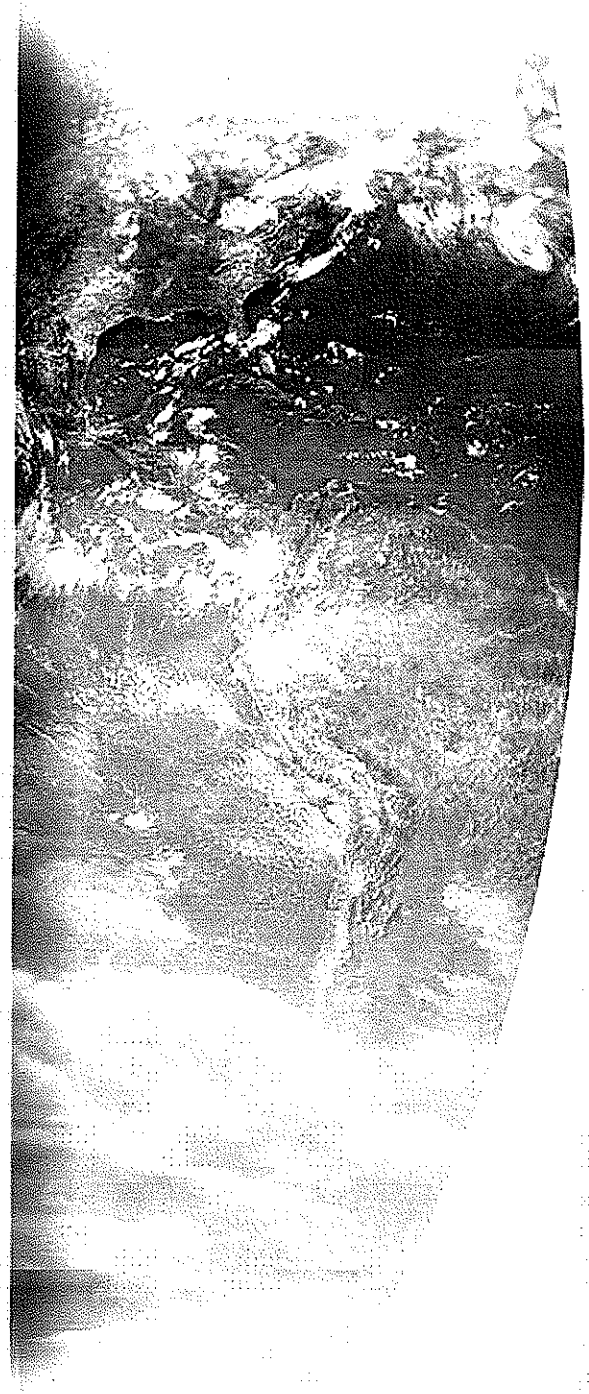
Key Drivers: Recognized Issues & Timelines

- **Issues**
  - Population increases
  - Aging infrastructure
  - Fragmented management
  - Lack of adequate and accessible data
  - Challenges of coordinated planning
  - Over-allocation
  - Loss of aquatic species and communities
  - Climate change
  - Under-developed water market
- **Timelines**
  - 2014 – Decision deadline to start Canada/US Columbia River Treaty
  - 2014 - sunset date for mandate and funding of the Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds



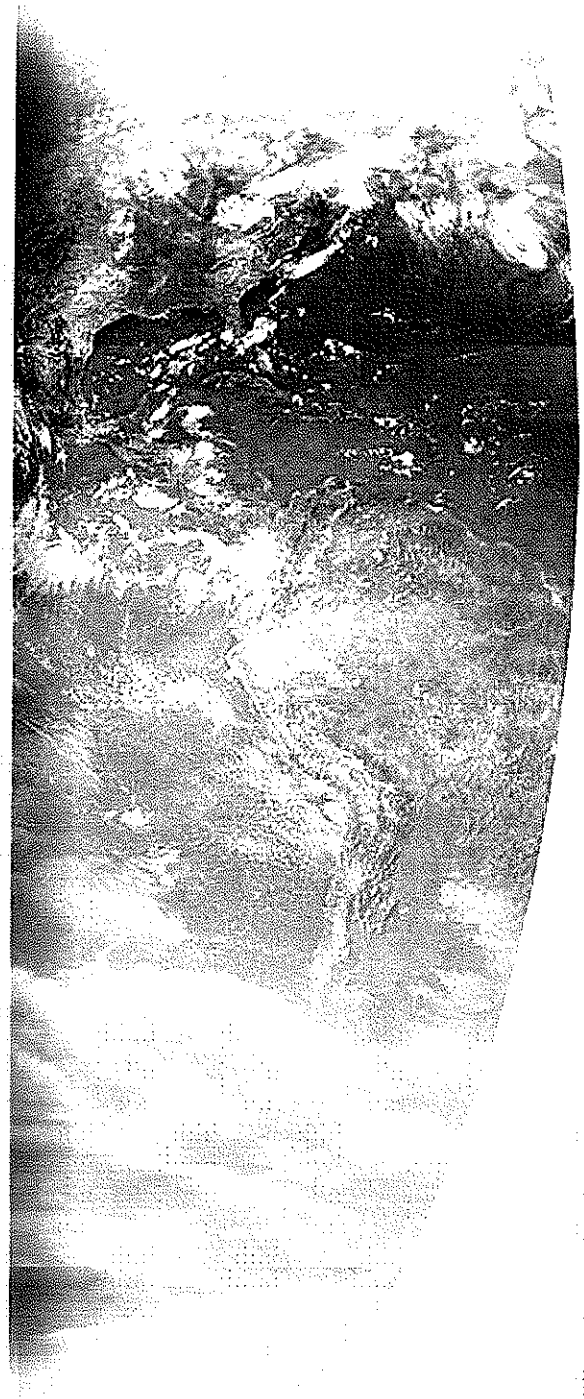
Principles

- Implementation of adaptive, integrated, and sustainable water management systems consistent with values of Oregonians and legal frameworks.
- Assurance of ecosystem health while maintaining a sound economy.
- Emphasis on policies, systems and projects that realize multiple benefits.
- Adoption of best management practices to assure efficient, environmentally sound services.
- Infrastructure investment made on the basis of least cost planning (highest benefit gain for investment), with demand management, conservation, and reuse of high priority.
- Collaboration among all involved to respond nimbly to changing demands and opportunities.
- Productive and efficient water use, assured by rational application of technology, best practices, adaptive management, data analysis, and market pricing.



Recommended Actions - Near Term (2009-2014)

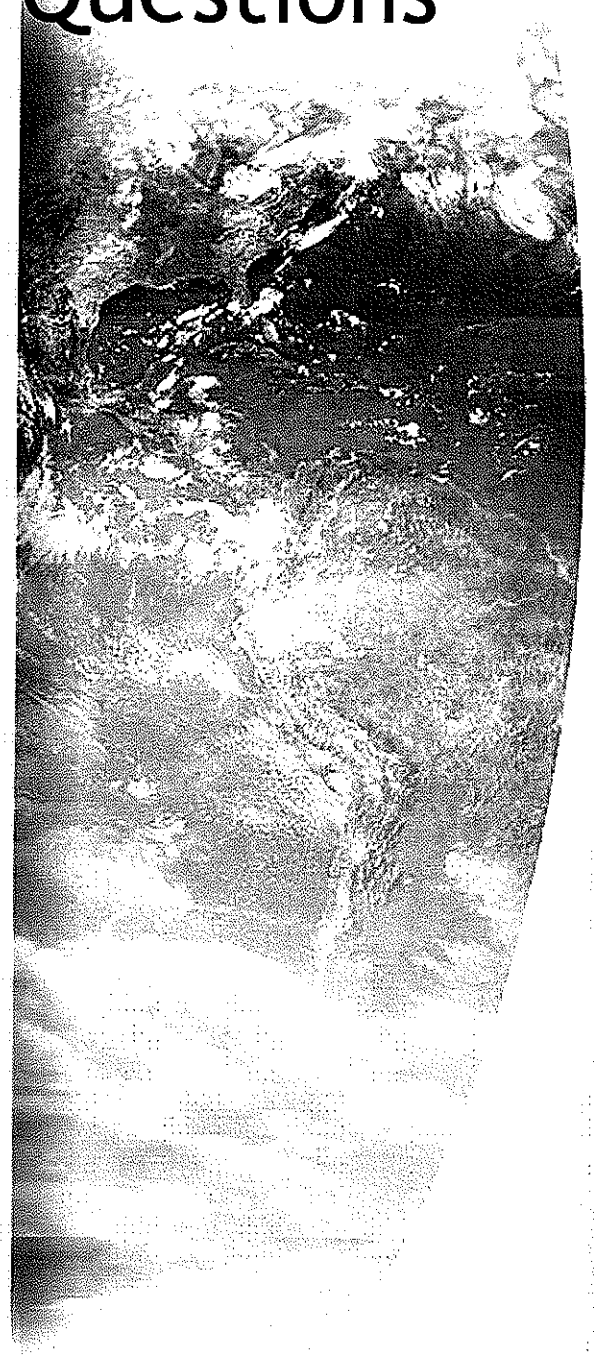
1. Public: Engagement, education and water value determinations
2. Data: Asset inventory of supply and demand (including environmental flow requirements), and development of a monitoring/data management system to enable adaptive management decision-making
3. Projects: Pilot, demonstration, and model projects and policy foundational to achieving the vision
4. Technology: Compilation of water management challenges, and development of tools, technology, and best practices - made available throughout the state



Path Forward

- **Review Summit and initiative feedback**
- **Engage partners**
- **Prioritize, plan, and fund near term activities**

Questions



1. To what extent should the price of water be driven solely by market pricing? Can markets accurately move water to the "highest and best" use? How should pricing of "public good" uses - or uses that have some proportion of "positive public good" return - be addressed?
2. There is a lack of funding for staff, technology, and data needed to manage water and water infrastructure efficiently and using adaptive management approaches - by all water-related organizations. How can this best be remedied?
3. Are there additional Near Term Actions that should be highlighted - in progress, proposed, or new, and with or without identified sponsors - and how would you prioritize the overall list?
4. Are there any issues of concern, in addition to flood management and power generation on the Columbia River, that could be addressed in a regional Columbia River compact and a renegotiated US-Canada Treaty? What should Oregon's position be - or what process would you recommend for formulating Oregon's position?
5. We recommend that an ongoing dialogue and educational process take place, within the water regions and including businesses and all water stakeholders. How would you like to participate, and who could sponsor such dialogues?