

Oregon Water Roundtables

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<http://water.oregonstate.edu>

Oregon Environmental Quality
Commission

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Hillsboro, OR

A Flow Path for the Future of Oregon's Water Resources

Statewide Water Roundtables

<http://water.oregonstate.edu/roundtables/docs.htm>

What Were The Roundtables and Why Were They Held?

The ***Statewide Water Roundtables*** were five meetings held across the state during Fall 2008 to receive input and advice from Oregonians to develop information to inform efforts to identify and communicate a vision describing where Oregon is, where Oregon is going, and where Oregon wants to be with respect to adaptive, integrated, equitable, and sustainable water management.

In brief: listen to and report Oregonians' water concerns.

Locations, Dates, and Number of Participants

- Central Oregon (Bend; 9/25/08) - **65**
- Coastal Oregon (Newport; 9/30/08) - **55**
- Eastern Oregon (Ontario; 10/7/08) - **50**
- Southern Oregon (Medford; 10/14/08) - **56**
- Willamette Valley (Salem; 10/21/08) - **75**

Total Participants - **301**



Roundtable Background

- Idea: introduced by Rep. Jackie Dingfelder, discussed at IWW Advisory Board meeting in April 2008, then refined
- Purpose: listen to Oregonians' water concerns
- Implemented by IWW, Institute for Natural Resources, Oregon Sea Grant Extension
- Raised money to fund RTs
- Selected five locations, identified experts to speak on local water issues
- Participants generally self-selected
- Report what we heard in time for 2009 Legislature, Governor's Office, OWRC, agencies, citizens

Roundtable Format

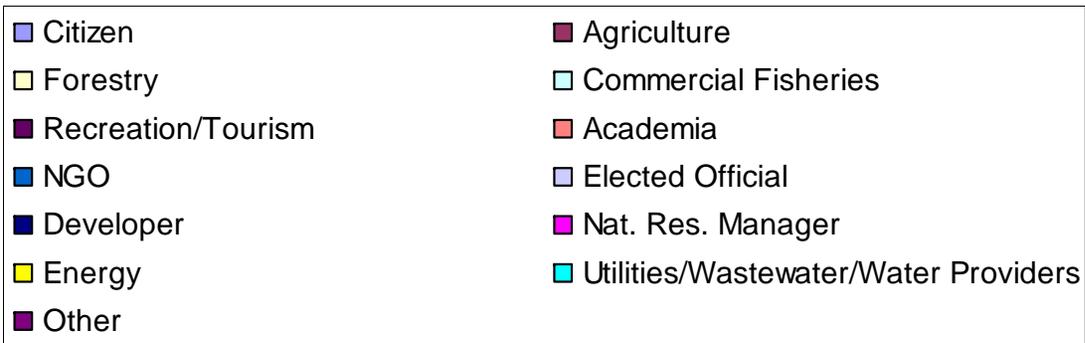
- Six hours: noon – 6 PM
- Lunch provided
- Introductory comments
- Large group facilitation: issue identification
- Expert presentations – provided background on local water issues
- Second facilitation: break-out groups identified more issues, prioritized them, listed desired outcomes, proposed solutions, players, provided examples, etc.
- Break-out groups reported to entire group
- Concluding remarks

Participant Profile

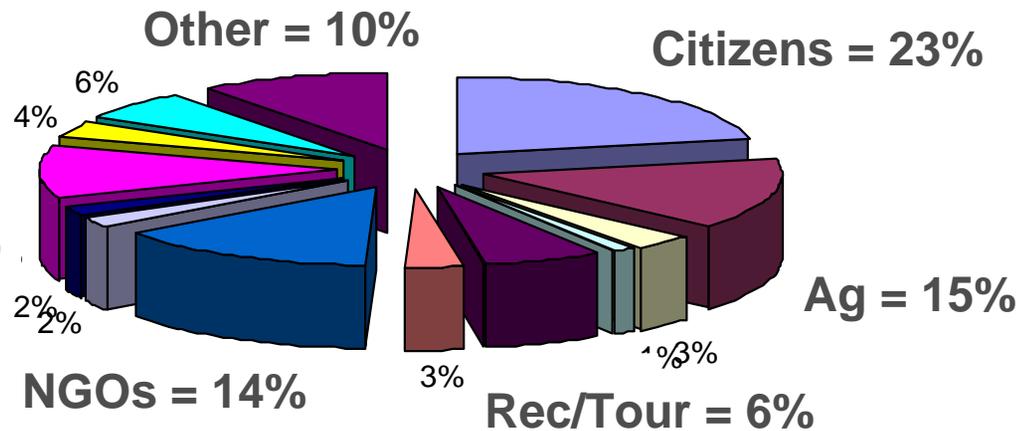
- **Broad range of water users**
- **Knowledgeable**
- **Broad range of concerns about water**
- **Not optimistic about current or future water supplies**

Participants' Interests

PARTICIPANT INTEREST

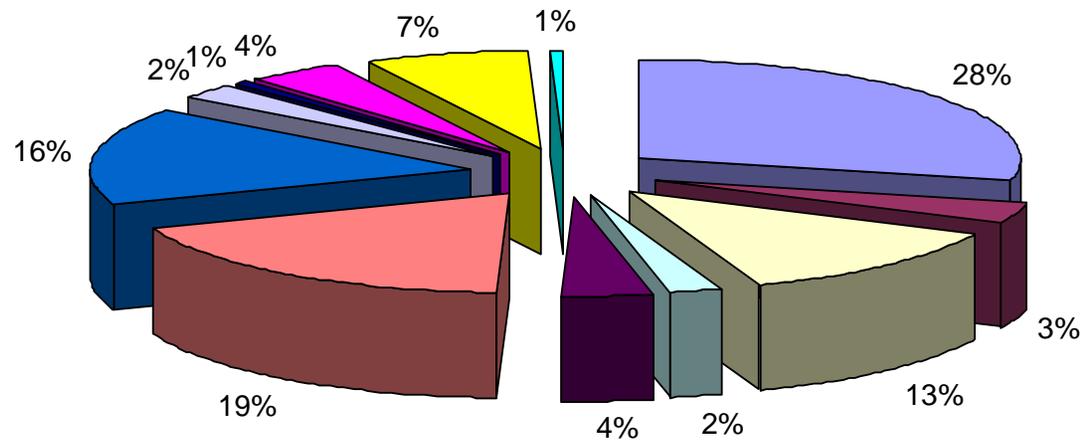
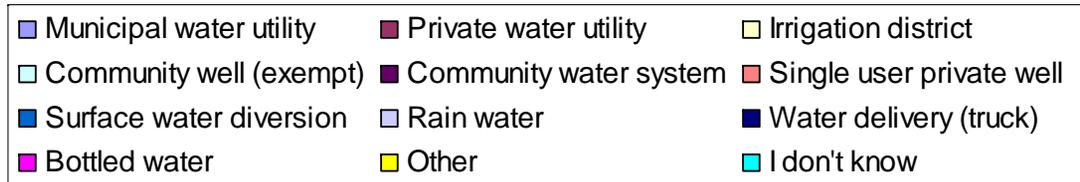


Resource
Managers = 11%



Participants' Primary Supply Sources

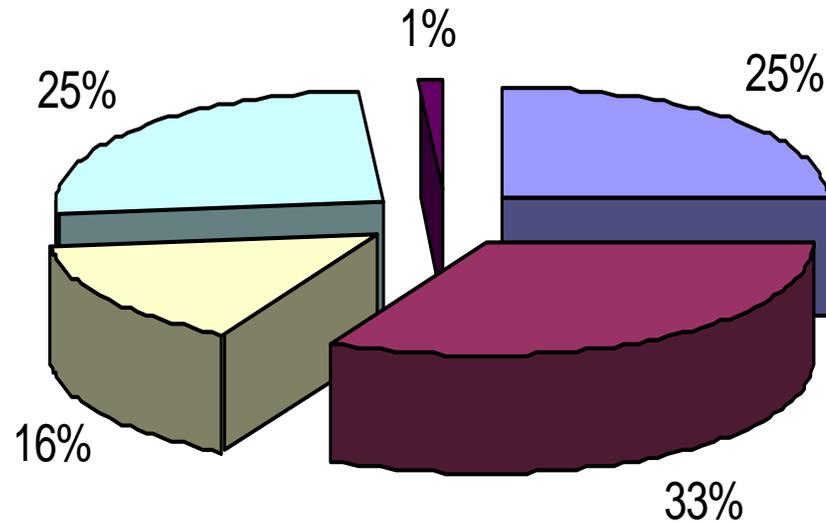
PRIMARY SUPPLY SOURCE



Participants Cared Most About...

FACTORS PARTICIPANTS CARED MOST ABOUT

■ A. Water Quality ■ B. Water Quantity ■ C. Economics ■ D. Ecological ■ E. Social



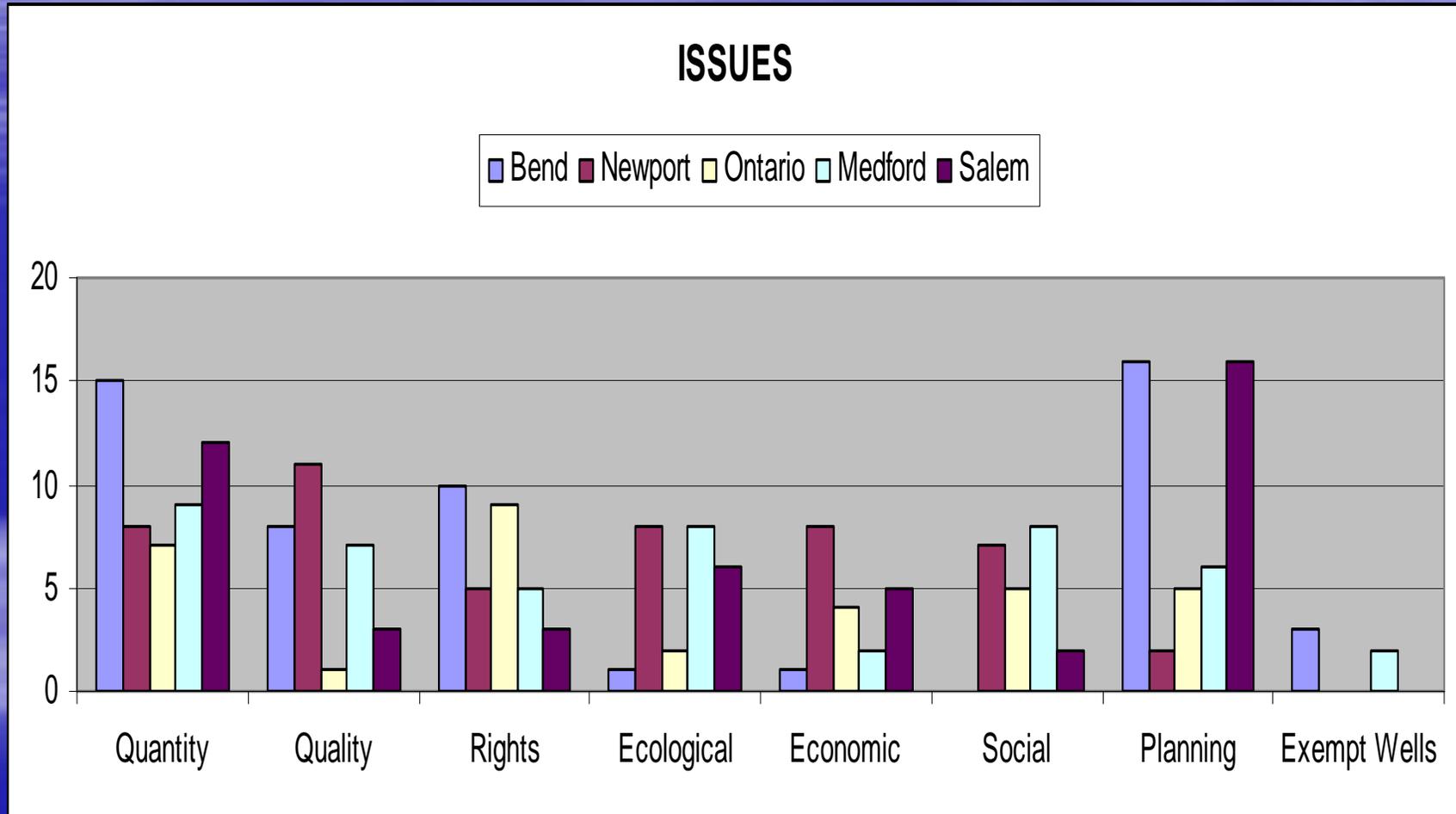
Expert Presentations

- **Water Resources Department**
- **Department of Fish and Wildlife**
- **Department of Environmental Quality**
- **U.S. Army Corps of Engineers**
- **Irrigation District Managers**
- **City Water/Wastewater Managers**
- **Tribal Representatives**
- **NGOs**
- **Academics**

Representative Issues

- Funding for water and wastewater infrastructure and management
- Regional integrated water planning with state framework
- Protection of existing water rights and uses
- Water quality, especially non-point, micro-contaminants and impacts of urbanization
- Water-land use planning integration
- Climate change impacts
- Wetland, floodplain, and instream flow restoration
- Interstate water allocation/management

Issues of Interest by Location



Key Messages

- **Need for integrated water management planning and implementation**
- **One size does not fit all—regional solutions are needed to meet regional needs**
- **Protection of existing water rights, uses**
- **Public information and education about water and water management are needed**
- **More support for State agencies involved with water**

Quote From Ontario

“We need to do it ourselves. We need to start local and include those impacted physically and economically by water use, including peripheral industries linked to water use. Growth should pay its own way so we own a benefit down the road. We need to demonstrate an economic and ecological benefit to investors in the future through planning.”

Potential Solutions

- Maximize available funds through agency coordination and streamlining of funding sources
- Water conservation tax credits, like energy tax credits
- Water reuse and recycling
- Water markets, pricing, and incentives
- Water storage and conservation
- Measuring water flows and uses systematically
- Local integrated water planning
- Interstate compact(s)

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My Impressions...

- **Locals: “ahead” of state government and want more community-based or regionally-based solutions, with support, not interference, from government**
- **Water rights, exempt wells concerns**
- **Despite disagreements, stakeholders with disparate views generally got along well**
- **Reason for optimism on my part**

Comments, Questions?

- All documents – agendas, presentations, Power Points, synthesis report, and appendices - are available at:

water.oregonstate.edu/roundtables/docs.html

- Contact me at aquadoc@oregonstate.edu,
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