

## **A Flow Path for the Future of Oregon's Water Resources 2008 Statewide Water Roundtables**

March 19, 2009 Speaker: Todd Jarvis, Associate Director  
Institute for Water & Watersheds at Oregon State University

### **Overview**

Five facilitated Statewide Water Roundtables were held in Bend, Newport, Ontario, Medford, and Salem during September and October 2008; 301 people attended. Since attendees were self-selected, and some attended more than one Roundtable, they are not a representative cross-section of Oregonians.

In each region, **the majority of the stakeholders are not optimistic about either current or future water supplies**, either disagreeing or disagreeing strongly with these statements: 1) in 2008 Oregonians have enough water to cover their needs, including wildlife; 2) same question, but in Year 2028.

**Over 200 issues were identified at the five Roundtables.** The Roundtables were designed to encourage brainstorming so characterizing the issues cannot be done scientifically.

### **Representative issues included:**

- ◆ Funding for water and wastewater infrastructure and management
- ◆ Integrated long range planning and management at the basin level within a statewide framework
- ◆ Protection of existing water rights and uses
- ◆ Water quality, especially non-point pollution, micro-contaminants and the impact of urbanization
- ◆ Water-land use planning integration
- ◆ Climate change impacts
- ◆ Wetland, floodplain and instream flow restoration
- ◆ Interstate water allocation/management for surface and groundwater

### **Key messages heard at all sessions were that:**

- ◆ One size does not fit all; regions vary greatly and regional differences need to be recognized
- ◆ Public information and education about water use and management is needed
- ◆ Need for integrated water management and implementation

### **Potential policy 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)

**The Summary Report, list of sponsors, meeting agendas, presentations, data tables, and related news articles can be reviewed at the following link:**

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