

State of Oregon  
Department of Environmental Quality

Memorandum

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**Date:** Nov. 20, 2013

**To:** Environmental Quality Commission

**From:** Dick Pedersen, Director

**Subject:** Agenda item N, Informational item: Updates from the John Day, Umatilla and Grande Ronde Basins monitoring summit  
Dec. 11-12, 2013, EQC meeting

**Purpose of item** DEQ will share the results of a recent water quality monitoring summit and describe the agency's work to build professional networks to share information among state, federal, local and tribal governments and environmental organizations in Oregon.

**Background** Science forms the foundation of DEQ's work, and monitoring and analyzing environmental data is critical to the development of effective policies built on good science. DEQ hosted a collaborative summit about water quality monitoring Nov. 13-14, 2013, that focused on work in the John Day, Umatilla and Grande Ronde Basins. The summit brought together governments, environmental advocacy organizations and scientists from across the state to discuss the greatest water quality monitoring data needs and opportunities in the region.

The summit had six primary outcomes, which DEQ staff will discuss today:

1. Network and share information on who is monitoring for what indicators in this region.
2. Share the monitoring activities outlined in DEQ's action plan for the region.
3. Define monitoring roles, commitments and priorities for the next five years.
4. Understand where the data gaps are and discuss how to fill them.
5. Work together to track monitoring activities in the region moving forward.
6. Identify ways to share data and information.

Aaron Borisenko, Watershed Assessment Manager at DEQ's lab, will present this item.

**Next steps** There is no request for commission action. DEQ welcomes the commissioners to attend future monitoring summits, workshops and

other environmental events of interest.

**Attachments**

- A. Invitation to the summit
- B. Summit agenda
- C. Pre-summit survey results
- D. *East Oregonians* news article on the summit

*Report prepared by Stephanie Caldera from  
information provided by the presenter*