



DISCUSSION GROUPS CHARGE

Harney Groundwater RAC (last updated 7/10/2024)

What are the discussion groups?

The discussion groups are an informal opportunity, open to all Rules Advisory Committee (RAC) members and the public, to discuss options and considerations for topics tied to crafting the Harney Groundwater rules.

The goal of the discussion groups is to better access and incorporate the collective wisdom of the RAC and public in terms of crafting an approach to groundwater management in the Harney Basin.

The groups do not make decisions, they just discuss options and considerations. Each “discussion” the group hosts is guided by the list of topics being worked on by the RAC. For any topic, the RAC may ask a discussion group to:

- Discuss particular questions posed by the RAC and/or OWRD;
- Offer additional options and considerations for a particular topic; and
- Keep a record of the discussion to help inform RAC feedback to OWRD.

How are the discussion groups noticed, facilitated, and notes kept?

The discussion groups will be facilitated by Oregon Consensus, and who will be responsible for an inclusive discussion and one that is consistent with Oregon Consensus’ standards of practice for third party mediation.

The discussion groups will have staff support from High Desert Partnership to assist with organizing discussion group logistics; and bringing information into the discussion on the options and considerations offered by the discussion groups, RAC, and/or OWRD.

All discussion group meetings will:

- Be noticed in advance via email to RAC members and posted to the OWRD RAC website;
- Include agendas on the types of discussion to be held;
- Be hosted in a hybrid form to allow for both in-person and online participation; and
- Be recorded with notes taken so that the discussions are transparent and information is available to inform RAC feedback to OWRD.
- Anyone can participate, not just RAC members.
- Will include OWRD staff as participants



When do the discussion groups meet?

Generally, the discussion groups will meet on Mondays from 10-11:30am.

- In person at the Harney County Community Center (484 N Broadway Ave, Burns, OR 97720); and
- On Zoom at <https://pdx.zoom.us/j/87264429397>

There may be an opportunity/need for some longer discussion group sessions (e.g., a half day), so there is opportunity for addressing more topics and/or working through more complex issues.

DRAFT discussion group operating principles

Operating principles can help a group guide its conversations. The discussion group will develop its own operating principles, but here are some ones to start with:

- Start with the RAC feedback that has already been provided as the beginning point for the discussion groups.
- Be clear about the status of a discussion on a particular topic before moving on to discuss a new topic.



Discussion Group Meeting
Monday, July 22 from 10 AM - 11:30 AM
Harney County Community Center
484 N Broadway Ave, Burns, OR 97720

**THE JULY 22 MEETING WAS CANCELED OUT OF RESPECT FOR
THOSE RESPONDING TO WILDFIRES**

Discussion Group Meeting
Monday, July 29 from 10 AM - 11:30 AM
Harney County Community Center
484 N Broadway Ave, Burns, OR 97720

ZOOM: <https://pdx.zoom.us/j/87264429397>

Meeting purpose: Forming the discussion groups & touching on what information is needed to support discussions for the wide range of topical areas that need to be addressed

- 10:00 - 10:15 a.m. Welcome & Confirming what to discuss
- Context for why discussion groups
 - Introductions
 - Agenda overview
- 10:15 - 10:45 a.m. Discussion 1: Formation of the discussion groups
- Is the “charge” for the discussion groups clear and complete?
 - Any other operating principles that are important to guide discussions?
 - How we plan to “discuss” (e.g., introducing a topic and past feedback, open the discussion, record feedback)
 - How can we work together and with the RAC in the best ways?
- 10:45 - 11:15 a.m. Discussion 2: Clarifying the discussion areas and schedule
- Are the discussion areas, and topics within each area clear?
 - What information is needed to support discussion on the first few discussion areas?
- 11:15 - 11:30 a.m. What needs to get reported back to the RAC?
- Options and considerations
 - Asks & Other next steps



Discussion Group Meeting
Monday, August 5 from 10 AM - 11:30 AM
Harney County Community Center
484 N Broadway Ave, Burns, OR 97720

ZOOM: <https://pdx.zoom.us/j/87264429397>

- 10:00 - 10:15 a.m. Welcome & Confirming what to discuss
- Introductions
 - Agenda overview
- 10:15 - 10:45 a.m. Discussion 1: Clarifying the discussion areas and schedule
- Picking up where we left off from July 29
- 10:45 - 11:15 a.m. Discussion 2: Reviewing the updated groundwater level trends analysis
- The Department will be providing an updated groundwater level trends analysis prior to the August 13 RAC meeting
 - We will walk through the updated analysis to develop a shared understanding and generate questions and feedback to bring to the RAC meeting
 - What does this document tell us about current conditions in each of the subareas? What additional information do we need to understand current conditions as well as current and potential future impacts?
 - How can we best make use of the information provided? What additional information would aid in discussions?
 - We will begin to identify “areas of agreement” and “problem statements.”
- 11:15 - 11:30 a.m. What needs to get reported back to the RAC?
- Initial areas of agreement and problem statements
 - Requests for additional information
 - Other next steps



Discussion Group Meeting

Monday, August 12 from 10 AM - 11:30 AM

Harney County Community Center

484 N Broadway Ave, Burns, OR 97720

ZOOM: <https://pdx.zoom.us/j/87264429397>

- 10:00 - 10:15 a.m. Welcome & Confirming what to discuss
- Introductions
 - Agenda overview
- 10:15 - 10:45 a.m. Discussion 1: Options for delineating subareas
- Review of subarea discussion guide
 - Review of past subarea conversations and inputs
- 10:45 - 11:15 a.m. Discussion 2: Options for delineating subareas (cont.)
- Generating additional considerations for subarea boundaries: criteria and potential delineation.
 - What information does the RAC need to carry on this discussion (from OWRD, from the discussion group)?
 - What else needs to be communicated to the RAC and/or which additional discussions are needed on this topic?
- 11:15 - 11:30 a.m. What needs to get reported back to the RAC?
- Options and considerations
 - Requests for information
 - Other next steps