

Okanogan CD Drought Preparedness Plan – December Planning Meeting  
February 9<sup>th</sup>, 2026 | 1:00pm – 3:00 pm

SUMMARY NOTES

Meeting started at 1:00 pm

Introductions: Attendees introduce themselves & Affiliation.

Attendees:

Jordana Ellis (Okanogan CD)  
Rosalie Powell (Okanogan CD)  
Emmy Engle (Okanogan CD)  
Cindy Fabbri (WSU, WRC)  
Celeste Acord (NRCS)  
Elianna Rosenthal (DFW)  
Sandra Streiby (MWC)  
Rita Stewart (MWC)  
Mike Bastian (MWC)  
Tessa Reeder (WWT)  
Jon Yoder (WSU, WRC)  
Stuart Crane (YN)  
Dick Ewing (Farm Bureau)  
Lisa Matthews (Colville Tribe)  
Sarah Lane (MWC)

**Additional Agenda Items:**

Notes correction: Inconsistency in reporting of discussion of Community Profile boundary delineation discrepancy. It was discussed that the project rational would include the possible impact on project scope/ benefits if a community profile boundary doesn't line up with census tracts, then that will be noted additionally in the scoping for projects in that affected area in the plan.

Dick Ewing – Preliminary research on watershed bibliography on drought. To address during Literature Review discussion.

**Survey:**

Agenda Intent: Review the number of responses. Review preliminary data analysis.

**Discussion:**

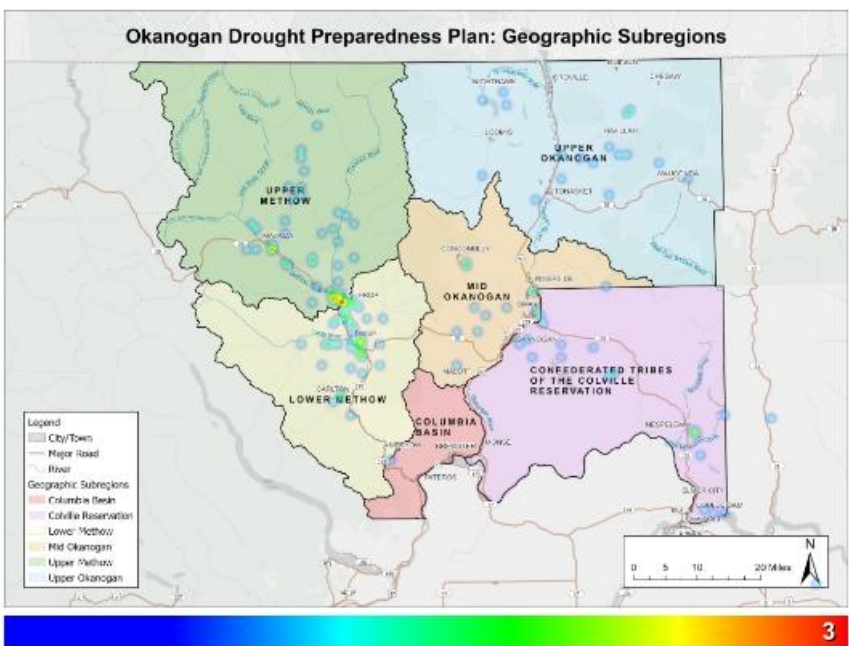
Cindy provided a quick overview of who has taken the survey.

- Respondents to the English survey: 218 up from 169
- Respondents to the Spanish survey: 3 up from 1
- Respondents to the purveyor survey: 29 up from 25

Comments from WSU: Still missing for Q1 (about primary area of interest), we do not have responses from fire districts, hydropower, industry, or water utility: stormwater and water treatment. I know we said we are not expecting responses from stormwater and water treatment because they likely chose the other option, "Water Utility: Drinking Water" so this last one is not a concern.

Ok-CD performed targeted outreach to Columbia Basin area through social media and posting flyers around Pateros and Brewster. Ok-CD sent email to local agricultural interest groups and requested the email be forwarded to members. Staff are planning to attend the Horticultural Society annual meeting Feb 11<sup>th</sup>, 2026.

Rosalie – Question on Columbia basin responses. JLE showed “heat map” provided by WSU.



### Decision/Outcome

Ok-CD will send the survey again to the list of “user groups” and stakeholders. Examples: Fly fishers club, Methow Salmon Recovery, SOWAT, PUD, Methow Restoration Council, Gebber’s, Fire Districts.

Ok-CD will promote at community events where we have the opportunity for “tabling”.

### **Risk Assessment:**

Agenda Intent: Review status of Risk assessment. Timeline for completion.

### Discussion:

Comments from WSU: The analysis is underway. WSU is working with WA Water Trust on some mapping analysis.

The process includes pulling two pieces together – the survey analysis and the literature reviews. Then merging the two into one document. Some survey analysis has been completed, next step is to cross tabulate the information and break it down by regions.

Mike B. If we did the risk assessment with the data we have now, do you feel it would be representative and inclusive?

Jon Y. This is not a randomized control trial where we can generate statistical confidence around the survey responses. We did not choose to do a stratified random sample in order to get a “population representation”. What the process we choose does, is provide a sense of the important topics related to the drought issue in this region. The responses are informative, but not in the statistical way. The distribution and character of responses is telling the story.

### Decision/Outcome

Timeline for rough draft is projected for July.

### **Literature review**

Agenda Intent: Any feedback of the Literature reviews? Any data gaps? Gaps that can be filled now or as a project? Timeline for completion?

### Discussion:

Comments from WSU: The literature reviews have been very helpful. The information has been integrated into a single document and working to synthesize it into a coherent piece. Will report back on gaps after more analysis. Keep accepting reviews if we find more information that might be helpful. Email a copy to Cindy, along with uploading them to the shared folder, so she can track which ones are coming in new and which ones have already been integrated into the report.

Cindy may be reaching out the individuals who performed the review to verify info.

Sandra S. When do we cut off the literature review process?

Group discussion was to keep the reviews open and if new literature info comes in it should be included.

Sandra S. are there gaps or areas that have been identified as opportunities for further data gathering?

Dick E. has created a bibliography and will send that to Cindy and Ok-CD.

### Decision/Outcome

Future Agenda Item: Cindy will be keeping the idea of identifying data gaps in the forefront while sensitizing data and will let the team know if there are any opportunities to fill the gaps with search for existing data or project development.

Ok-CD will cross reference the bibliography Dick is sending to current effort to see if there are any gaps to fill.

### **Project ID:**

Agenda Intent: How to develop projects, literature reviews, Public meetings, Survey, Partner input/stakeholder list.

### Discussion:

Group discussed where to look for project ideas. Currently the list is being generated by projects listed in literature reviews. Additionally, WDFW has supplied list of current and planned projects. Group discussed the intent of the plan is to create list of projects and does not contain implementation requirements or funding.

Sandra S. The group may want to define terms like "shovel ready" as the term can have a different level of project readiness depending on agency or organization.

When listing projects, determining the “stage” of those projects needs to be defined: as in concept, planning, ready for funding, implementation, etc.

Elianna R. When should WDFW stop sending project info to planning team? Group discussed that projects could continue to be added to the list. Re-evaluate in Summer.

Group discussed how to filter the projects when they come in to see if they are responsible and how the public will feel about it. Before officially including a project on the list and advancing to the scoping stage there should be a filter. Is the project: legal, physically and/or financially feasible, and what is the potential it will cause un-intentional harm? What other factors need to be considered?

### Decision/Outcome

Action Item: If anyone has ideas on methods for soliciting/identifying projects follow up with Ok-CD.

Action Item: Group to add to the [Glossary working draft](#) in the Google Drive for terms used to classify project readiness and other ambiguous terms.

Action Item: Group to create “filter” for projects.

## **Public meeting round 2**

Agenda Intent: Plan for outreach/ public meetings, Proposed timeline of July (3 meetings) Locations, Topics.

### Discussion:

Timing for the meetings suggested for July. Group agreed. Also, any community events where Ok-CD has the opportunity for staffing a table, the survey and meetings will be advertised.

Topics for the meetings could include: Where we are in the process, identifying the trends we have seen in the risk so far, describing projects we are already seeing listed and scoping community priorities for those projects, asking community to describe projects they see needing to be done that are not already on the list.

Dick E. Suggested strategy for meeting locations – Winthrop, Pateros, Tonasket.

Rosalie P. Stated that would be a good strategy for reaching individuals in all areas of the county.

Group discussed briefly how to encourage attendance. Sarah L. Suggested promoting snacks or possibly a raffle. Also suggested radio interviews.

Sandra S. Suggested offering the meetings with childcare. JLE can investigate if that cost would be covered by granting agency. – Also, what is the messaging for reaching out to community and partners. Purpose of the plan, how it will be useful, what we are hoping to learn, what overall process will be.

Sarah S. Suggested creating agreed upon talking points and “press release”.

### Decision/Outcome

Future agenda item what the ask is of the community and what messaging we are sending.

Ok-CD will draft a press release to get group approval for the April meeting.

Ok-CD and MWC plan to do radio interviews. Rollout for promoting meetings for Ok-CD will be May-June timeframe.

Ok-CD will promote at community events where we have the opportunity for “tabling”.

Ok-CD will investigate if childcare cost would be covered by granting agency.

### Action Items:

- Ok-CD will send the survey again to the list of “user groups” and stakeholders. Ex: Fly fishers club, Methow Salmon Recovery, SOWAT, PUD, Methow Restoration Council, Gebber’s, Fire Districts.
- Ok-CD will cross reference the bibliography Dick is sending to current effort to see if there are any gaps to fill.
- Action Item: If anyone has ideas on methods for soliciting/identifying projects follow up with Ok-CD.
- Action Item: Group to add to the [Glossary working draft](#) in the Google Drive for terms used to classify project readiness and other ambiguous terms.
- Action Item: Group to create “filter” for project ID.
- Ok-CD will draft a press release to get group approval April meeting.
- Ok-CD and MWC plan to do radio interviews. Rollout for Ok-CD will be May timeframe.
- Ok-CD will investigate if childcare cost would be covered by granting agency.

**Meeting Adjourned** at 2:15 pm