



**SB 5510 Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife Budget
POP 123**

**Testimony of WaterWatch of Oregon
Kimberley Priestley
Submitted to the Joint Ways and Means Sub-Committee on Natural Resources**

March 13, 2019

Founded in 1985, WaterWatch is a non-profit river conservation group dedicated to the protection and restoration of natural flows in Oregon's rivers. We work to ensure that enough water is protected in Oregon's rivers to sustain fish, wildlife, recreation and other public uses of Oregon's rivers, lakes and streams. We also work for balanced water laws and policies. WaterWatch has members across Oregon who care deeply about our rivers, their inhabitants and the effects of water laws and policies on these resources.

WaterWatch supports full funding of POP 123 as requested in the ARB (\$714,600 GF, \$65,400 OF)

The need for a secure water future that meets Oregon's instream and out-of-stream needs is a widely supported goal. Governor Brown's 100 Year Water Vision to prepare for a secure and resilient water future for all Oregonian's recognizes, explicitly, that instream water for fish and wildlife must be part of this vision.

Similar support for instream data and instream protections are recognized in the state's Integrated Water Resources Strategy (IWRS), which is Oregon's blueprint for meeting instream and out-of-stream needs now and into the future. Numerous instream protections are included in the IWRS--from developing new instream protections, to working with communities on "place based plans" to meet instream and out of stream needs, to building resiliency in the face of climate change (see highlights to attached IWRS placemat for POP 123 overlay).

Full funding of ODFW POP 123 is critical to ensuring that Oregon's goals to protect and restore instream flows as articulated in the ISWR and Governor's 100 Year Water Vision are met.

Specifically, full funding of POP 123 will allow ODFW to fulfill the IWRS goals of understanding instream and out-of-stream needs (IWRS Objective 2), understanding coming pressures that affect our needs and supplies (IWRS Objective 3) and meeting Oregon's instream and out-of-stream needs (IWRS Objective 4). Specific actions that full funding of POP 123 will allow include determining flows needed to support instream needs (action 3.A), supporting continued basin scale climate change research efforts (action 5.A), assisting with climate change adaptation and resiliency strategies (Action 5B), planning and preparing for drought resiliency

(Action 5.5B), place based planning (Action 9A), coordinating implementation of existing natural resource plans (Action 9B), reaching environmental outcomes with non-regulatory outcomes (Action 10.D), improving watershed health, resiliency and capacity for natural storage (Action 11.A), developing additional instream protections (Action 11.B) and protecting and restoring instream habitat and habitat access for fish and wildlife (Action 11.D). Long story short, ODFW's role is carrying out the instream directives of the IWRS is absolutely critical to the success of Oregon's water future. No one else is doing this work. Without POP 123, implementation of this statewide plan will continue to be unbalanced, and will not serve the needs of all citizens of the state.

In closing, with climate change, increasing complexities and conflicts over water, endangered species concerns and other factors putting increasing pressures on our state's limited water resources, full funding of ODFW's Water Program (POP 123) is vital.

We urge the subcommittee to support full funding of POP 123.

Contact:

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Oregon's 2017 Integrated Water Resources Strategy

A framework for improving our understanding of Oregon's water resources and meeting our instream and out-of-stream needs, including water quantity, water quality, and ecosystem needs

(1) Understand Water Resources Today

Further Understand Limited Water Supplies & Systems (groundwater, surface water, and their interaction)

Improve Water Quality & Quantity Information

Further Understand Our Water Management Institutions

- Understanding Water Resources / Supplies / Institutions**
- 1A Conduct additional groundwater investigations
 - 1B Improve water resource data collection and monitoring
 - 1C Coordinate inter-agency data collection, processing, and use in decision-making

OBJECTIVES

CRITICAL ISSUES

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

(2) Understand Instream and Out-of-Stream Needs

Further Define Out-of-Stream Needs / Demands (i.e. diverted water)

Further Define Instream Needs / Demands (i.e. left-in-place water)

- Understanding Oregon's Out-of-Stream Needs/Demands**
- 2A Regularly update long-term water demand forecasts
 - 2B Improve water-use measurement and reporting
 - 2C Determine unapudicated water right claims
 - 2D / 2E Authorize the update of water right records with contact information
 - 2E Regularly update Oregon's water-related permitting guide

- Understanding Oregon's Instream Needs/Demands**
- 3A Determine flows needed (quality and quantity) to support instream needs
 - 3B Determine needs of groundwater dependent ecosystems

OBJECTIVES

CRITICAL ISSUES

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

(3) Understand the Coming Pressures That Affect Our Needs and Supplies

Economic Development

Water & Energy

Climate Change

Extreme Events

Population Growth

Water & Land Use

Water-Related Infrastructure

Education & Outreach

- Water & Energy**
- 4A Analyze the effects on water from energy development projects and policies
 - 4B Take advantage of existing infrastructure to develop non-traditional hydroelectric power
 - 4C Promote strategies that increase/integrate energy and water savings

- Water & Land Use**
- 6A Improve integration of water information into land use planning (and vice versa)
 - 6B Improve state agency coordination
 - 6C Encourage low-impact development practices and green infrastructure

- Climate Change**
- 5A Support continued basin-scale climate change research efforts
 - 5B Assist with climate change adaptation and resiliency strategies

- Water-Related Infrastructure**
- 7A Develop and upgrade water and wastewater infrastructure
 - 7B Encourage regional (sub-basin) approaches to water and wastewater systems
 - 7C Ensure public safety/dam safety

- Extreme Events**
- 5.5A Plan and prepare for drought resiliency
 - 5.5B Plan and prepare for flood events
 - 5.5C Plan and prepare for a Cascadia subduction earthquake event

- Education & Outreach**
- 8A Support Oregon's K-12 environmental literacy plan
 - 8B Provide education and training for Oregon's next generation of water experts
 - 8C Promote community education and training opportunities
 - 8D Identify ongoing water-related research needs

Economic Development & Population Growth
(See Actions 2A and 3A)

OBJECTIVES

CRITICAL ISSUES

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

(4) Meet Oregon's Instream and Out-of-Stream Needs

Place-Based Efforts

Water Management & Development

Healthy Ecosystems

Public Health

Funding

- Place-Based Efforts**
- 9A Continue to undertake place-based integrated water resources planning
 - 9B Coordinate implementation of existing natural resource plans
 - 9C Partner with federal agencies, tribes, and neighboring states in long-term water resources management

- Healthy Ecosystems**
- 11A Improve watershed health, resiliency, and capacity for natural storage
 - 11B Develop additional instream protections
 - 11C Prevent and eradicate invasive species
 - 11D Protect and restore instream habitat and habitat access for fish and wildlife
 - 11E Develop additional groundwater protections

- Water Management & Development**
- 10A Improve water-use efficiency and water conservation
 - 10B Improve access to built storage
 - 10C Encourage additional water reuse projects
 - 10D Reach environmental outcomes with non-regulatory alternatives
 - 10E Continue the water resources development program
 - 10F Provide an adequate presence in the field
 - 10G Strengthen water quantity and water quality permitting programs

- Public Health**
- 12A Ensure the safety of Oregon's drinking water
 - 12B Reduce the use of and exposure to toxics and other pollutants
 - 12C Implement water quality pollution control plans
- Funding**
- 13A Fund development and implementation of Oregon's IVRS
 - 13B Fund water resources management activities at state agencies
 - 13C Invest in local or regional water planning efforts
 - 13D Invest in feasibility studies for water resources projects
 - 13E Invest in implementation of water resources projects

OBJECTIVES

CRITICAL ISSUES

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

[Yellow box] = POP 123 (ODFW)