

OREGON



WATER RESOURCES
DEPARTMENT

Joint Ways and Means Subcommittee on Natural Resources

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April 18, 2019

Presentation Overview

Today's Roadmap:

- Department Overview
- Current Funding
- Funding Catalysts
- History of Water Management Fee Bills

Department Overview

- Mission: To serve the public by practicing and promoting responsible water management.
- Goals:
 - To directly address Oregon's water supply needs
 - To restore and protect streamflows and watersheds...

21 Districts in 5 Regions

~167 staff (2017-19)

~110,000+ miles of streams

~89,000 water rights

~250,000+ wells

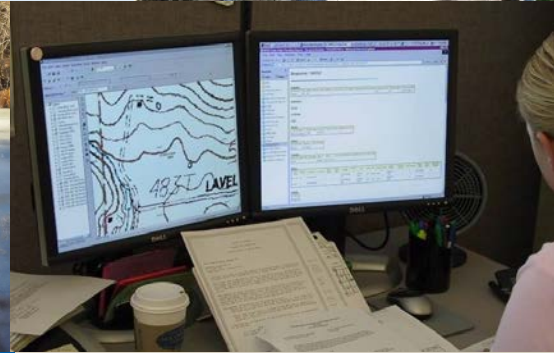
~970 dams (non-federal)

~260 stream gaging stations

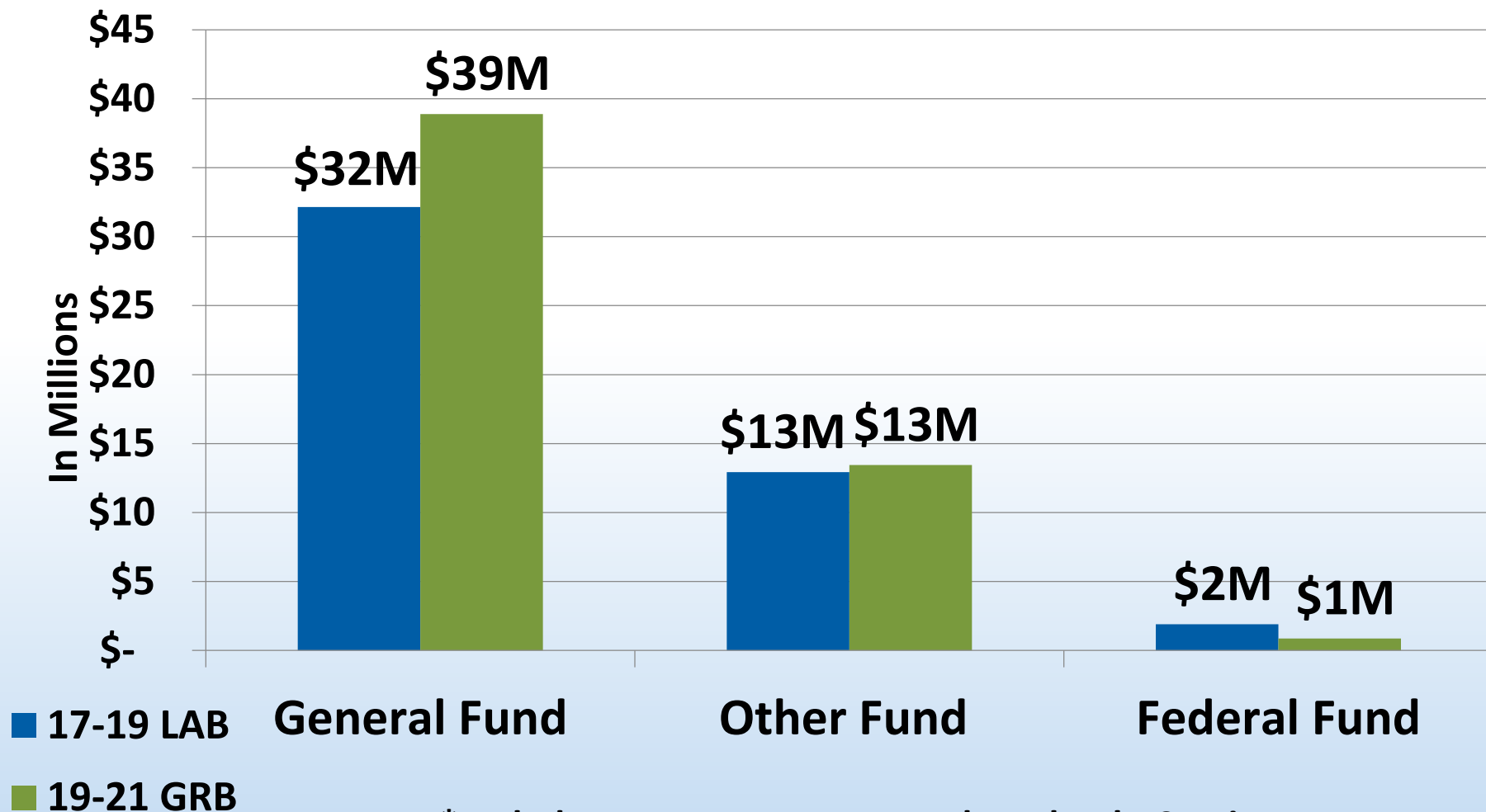
~1,270+ observation wells

Key Responsibilities

- Collecting, analyzing, and providing data
- Protecting public safety
- Distributing water under the system of prior appropriation
- Providing planning, technical assistance, and funding to address water supply needs
- Processing water rights transactions



Operating Budget By Fund*



*Excludes Lottery Revenue Bonds and Debt Service

Responsibilities by Division

Director's Office

- Legislative, rulemaking, & policy coordination
- Public records & information
- Water Resources Development Program
- Integrated Water Resources Strategy and Strategic Plan
- Executive and Commission support

Field Services

- Water management and distribution
- Well inspections
- Data collection
- Assist with dam inspections
- Water measurement

Water Right Services

- Water right transactions
- Customer service
- Hydroelectric licensing
- Adjudications
- Water Management and Conservation Planning

Administrative Services

- Fiscal services
- Human Resources
- Facilities
- Grant and Loan Payments and Contracts
- Support services

Technical Services

- Dam safety program
- Surface water science
- Groundwater science
- Information services
- Well construction & Enforcement

17-19 LAB Division Operating Budget

	Admin. Services Division	Water Rights Division	Field Services Division	Technical Services Division	Director's Office
FTE	12.75	37.42	60.42	46.00	11.00
General Fund	78%	46%	80%	57%	100%
Federal Funds	0%	0%	4%	9%	0%
Other Funds	22%	54%	16%	34%	0%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

Existing Fees

One-Time Fees (2017):

- Water Right Permit
- Permit Amendments
- Permit Extensions of Time
- Certifications
- Transfers
- Procedural Matters
- Allocations of Conserved Water
- Water Conservation and Management Plans
- In-Stream Leases and Transfers
- Claims of Beneficial Use

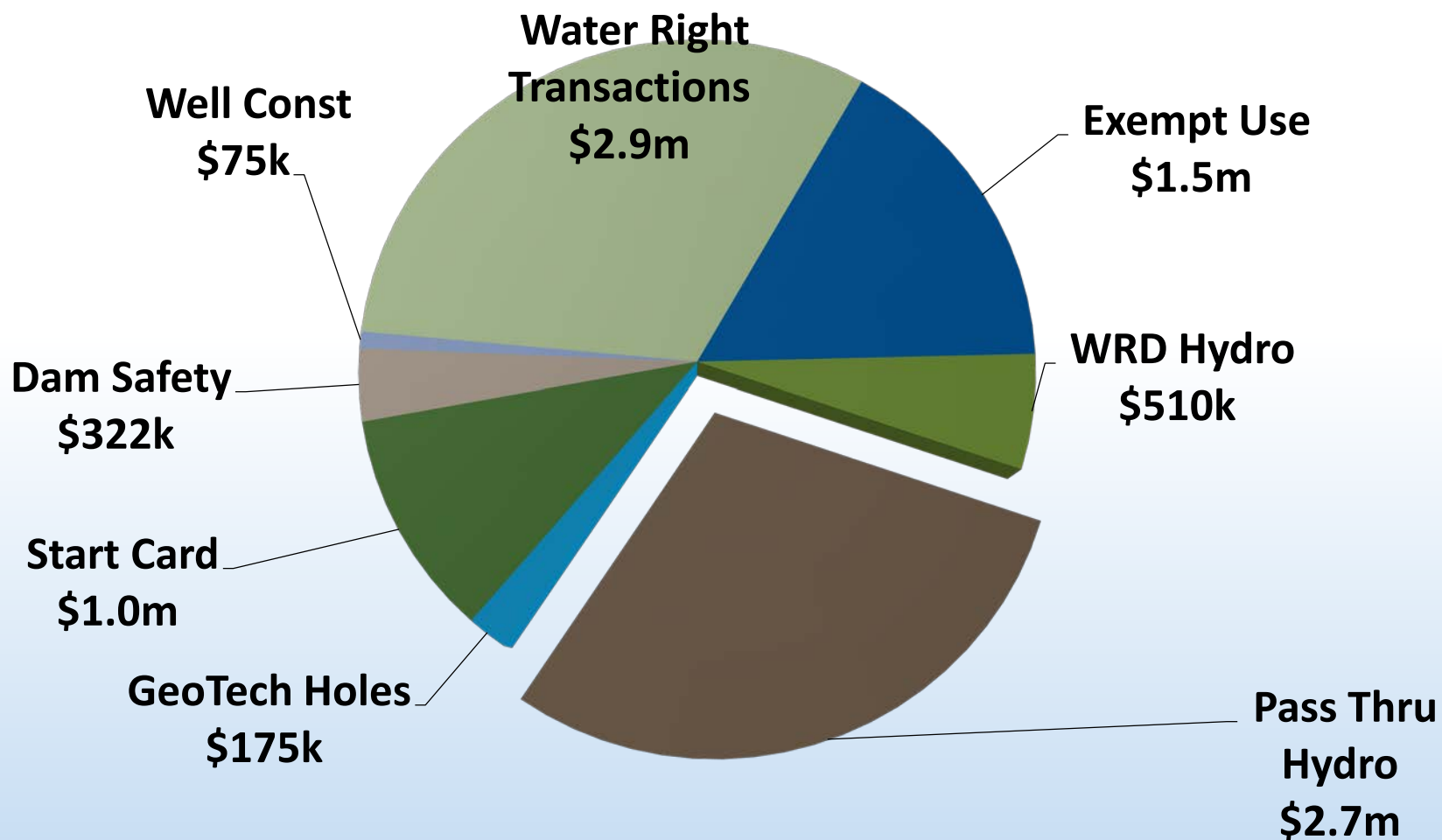
One-Time Fees:

- Limited Licenses (2015)
- Landowner Well Permit (2017)
- Exempt Use Recordings (2009)
- Geotech Holes (2009)
- Start Cards (2009)
- Hydroelectric projects (various)

On-Going Fees:

- Well Constructor Licensing (2007)
- Dam Safety (2017)
- Hydroelectric Annual (various)

GRB Projected Fee Revenues



Funding Sources

- General Fund
- Federal Funding
- Fees (Mostly for one-time services)

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- County Funding and Partnerships

Catalysts for Funding Discussions

- Competition for General Funds
- Decline in General Fund
- Increasing workload and complexity of water resources management
- Increasing recognition of importance of water to address current and future needs

2009: SB 740

- *Sponsor* - Senate Environment and Natural Resources Committee
- *Proposal* - Annual fee of \$100 on water right (permit, certificate or limited license other than an in-stream right)
- *Use* - Administrative and enforcement of specific statutory provisions

2010-2012 Developments

- In 2010, the Water Resources Commission observed declining investment and impact on mission
- Formed revenue subcommittee to evaluate funding options
- Subcommittee report in 2012 considered range of revenue options
- Worked with Governor's Office to introduce legislation

2013: SB 217

- *Sponsor* – Governor Kitzhaber at the request of the Water Resources Department
- *Proposal* - Annual fee of \$100 on water right (permit or certificate); fee capped at \$1,000 for non-municipal holders
- *Use* - Field, technical, and administrative activities of Department involving water rights management

2017: HB 2706

- *Sponsor* – Representative Helm
- *Proposal* - Annual fee of \$100 on water right (permit, certificate, decree, groundwater registration); fee capped at \$1,000 for non-municipal holders; fee capped at \$2500 for municipal providers
- *Use* - Field, technical, scientific and administrative activities of Department involving water rights management (including groundwater studies)

Overview of Measures

2009: SB 740

- Annual fee of \$100 on water right; except in-stream
- In Ways and Means upon adjournment

2013: SB 217

- Annual fee of \$100 on water right; \$1,000 cap for non-municipal
- Proposed Amendment added \$2,500 cap for municipal
- In Senate Environment and Natural Resources upon adjournment

2017: HB 2706

- Annual fee of \$100 on water right; \$1,000 cap for non-municipal; \$2,500 cap for municipal
- Adopted Amendment removed fee \$ amounts
- In Ways and Means upon adjournment

IWRS Recommended Actions

Download: www.oregon.gov/OWRD/programs/Planning/IWRS/Pages/default.aspx

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

- 1.A Conduct additional groundwater investigations
- 1.B Improve water resource data collection & monitoring
- 1.C 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

- 2.A Regularly update long-term water demand forecasts
- 2.B Improve water-use measurement & reporting
- 2.C Determine unadjudicated water right claims
- 2.D Authorize the update of water right records with contact information
- 2.E Regularly update Oregon's water-related permitting guide

Understanding Oregon's Instream Needs/Demands

- 3.A Determine flows needed (quality & quantity) to support instream needs
- 3.B Determine needs of groundwater dependent ecosystems

(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

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

Climate Change

- 5.A Support continued basin-scale climate change research efforts
- 5.B Assist with climate change adaptation & resiliency strategies

Extreme Events

- 5.A Plan and prepare for drought resiliency
- 5.B Plan and prepare for flood events
- 5.C Plan and prepare for a Cascadia subduction earthquake event

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

Water & Land Use

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

Water-Related Infrastructure

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

Education and Outreach

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

OBJECTIVES

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

Place-Based Efforts

Water Management & Development

Healthy Ecosystems

Public Health

Funding

Place-Based Efforts

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

Water Management & Development

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

Healthy Ecosystems

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

Public Health

- 12.A Ensure the safety of Oregon's drinking water
- 12.B Reduce the use of and exposure to toxics and other pollutants
- 12.C Implement water quality pollution control plans

Funding

- 13.A Fund development and implementation of Oregon's IWRS
- 13.B Fund water resources management activities at state agencies
- 13.C Invest in local or regional water planning efforts
- 13.D Invest in feasibility studies for water resources projects
- 13.E Invest in implementation of water resources projects

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