

SB 761 -2 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Veterans, Emergency Management, Federal and World Affairs

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Sub-Referral To: Joint Committee On Ways and Means

Meeting Dates: 2/6

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

The measure appropriates \$2,500,000 to the Water Resources Department from the General Fund for the 2025-2027 biennium to be used for projects benefitting water demands in the Walla Walla basin.

Fiscal impact: May have fiscal impact, but no statement yet issued

Revenue impact: May have revenue impact, but no statement yet issued

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-2 The amendment replaces the measure, and it appropriates \$2,500,000 to the Water Resources Department from the General Fund for the 2025-2027 biennium to enter into an agreement with the Office of Columbia River within the State of Washington Department of Ecology for the funding of projects in the Walla Walla River Basin.

BACKGROUND:

The Walla Walla watershed sits in southeastern Washington state and northeastern Oregon. Roughly one third of its area is in Oregon, nearly all of which is in Umatilla County. The governments of Oregon, Washington state, and the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation maintain a [website](#) covering issues related to the watershed, noting an overallocated water supply and changes in climate and snowpack supplying the area. The Walla Walla Water 2050 Strategic Plan sets out a 30-year plan to improve stream flows and water supplies in the watershed. [Senate Bill 1567 \(2024\)](#) declared the State of Oregon shall share in the cost of implementing the Walla Walla Water 2050 Strategic Plan, subject to the availability of appropriated funding.

Senate Bill 761 appropriates \$2,500,000 for water projects in the Walla Walla basin.