



Artificial Recharge, Aquifer Storage & Recovery

Informational presentation to House Committee
on Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources &
Water

Topics for today

- House Bill 2988
- Introduction to Artificial Recharge & Aquifer Storage & Recovery (AR/ASR)
- Interagency coordination
- General permitting pathways

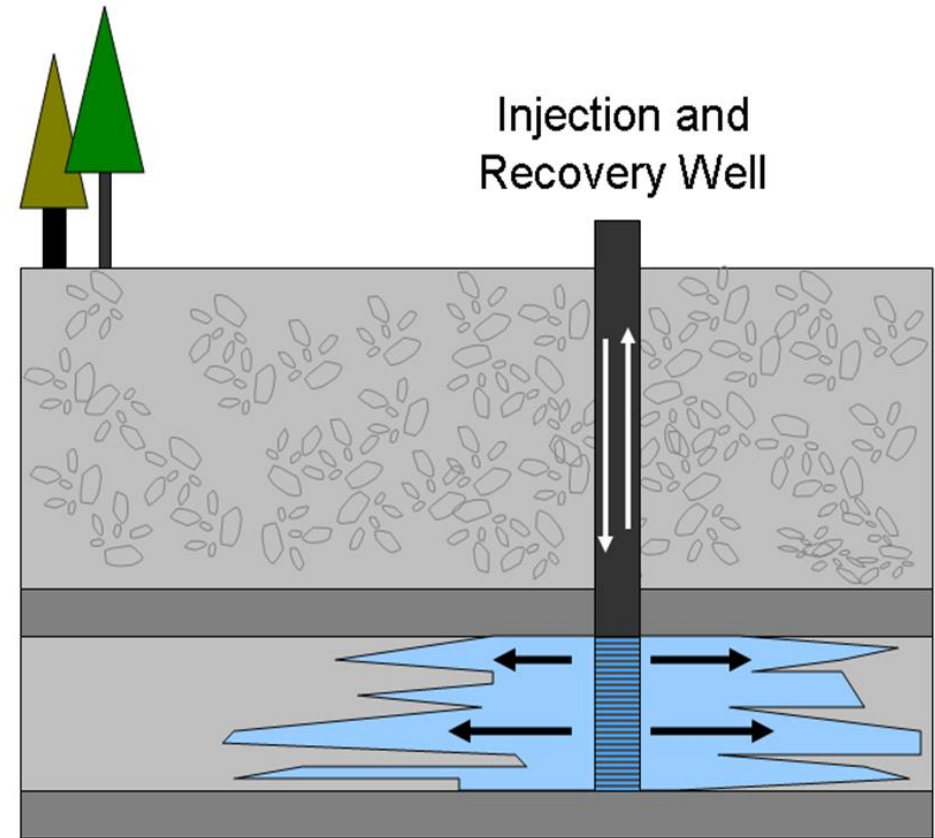
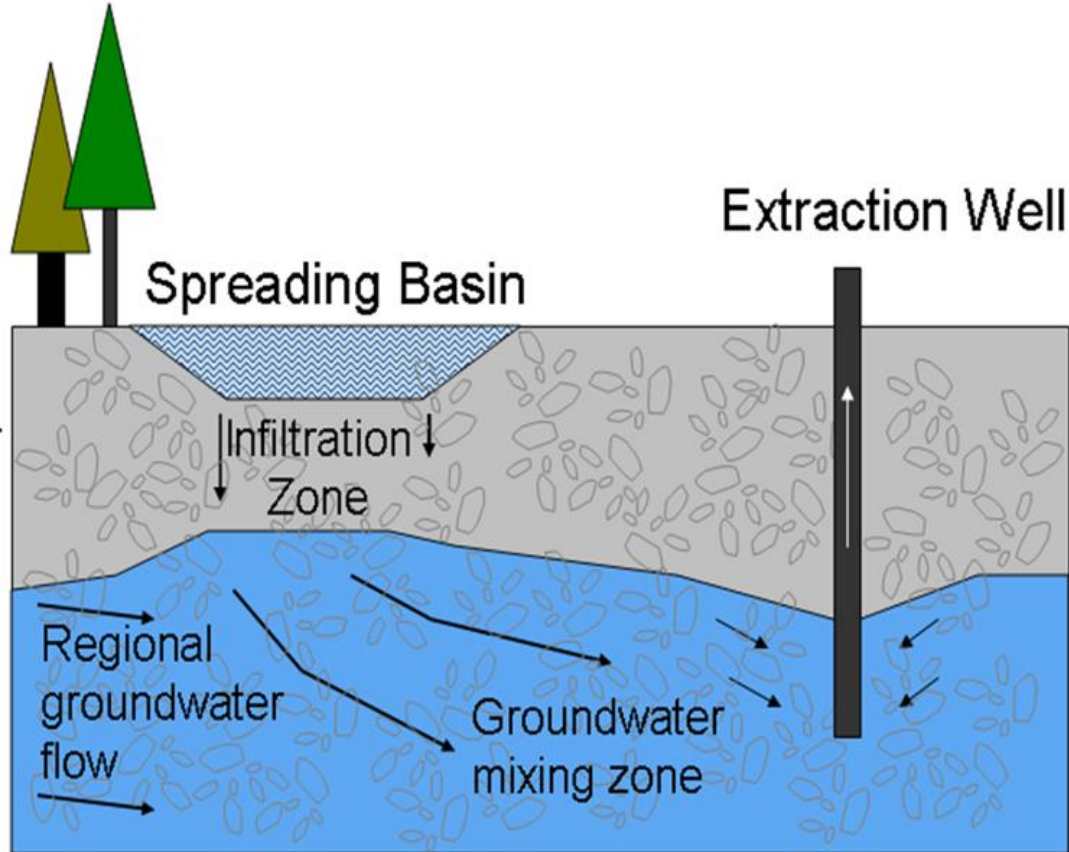
House Bill 2988

- State agency coordination
- Improve processes /reduce barriers
- Technical assistance guidance
- Regulatory changes schedule
- Report to Legislature October 2026

How is Water Recharged?

**Seepage Systems:
most common for AR**

**Injection Wells:
exclusive method for ASR**



AR and ASR Programs

Artificial Recharge

- **Water use:** primarily irrigation, streamflow enhancement
- **Method:** seepage systems, injection wells
- **Water quality:** recharged water cannot impact or degrade GW quality
- **Water rights:** separate permits to appropriate source water & recover recharged water

Aquifer Storage and Recovery

- **Water use:** primarily drinking water
- **Method:** injection wells
- **Water quality:** recharged water must meet drinking water standards
- **Water rights:** can use existing rights to store & recover the water

Multiple Agencies Involved

- OWRD
 - Permitting lead; evaluate water rights & water availability, hydrogeology & storage capacity
- DEQ
 - Ensure groundwater quality is preserved
- OHA
 - Ensure drinking water quality standards are met (ASR)
- ODFW
 - Ensure instream flow protection for aquatic & fish species

Permitting Pathway

- Limited License for testing

Once project is operational & monitoring satisfactory

- Aquifer Storage and Recovery → permit
- Artificial Recharge → permit → certificate

Program Statistics

- ~30 currently authorized projects
 - More than 5 billion gallons stored in aquifers annually under these programs
- Greater than 90% of applications approved
- No staffing solely dedicated to AR/ASR

OREGON



WATER RESOURCES
DEPARTMENT

Thank you!

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