Oregon Water Resources Department

2025-2027 Governor's Recommended Budget Presentation

Watermaster Matt Anderson and Assistant Watermaster Terra Kemper stand next to a freshly installed gage box on Spencer Creek in Klamath County. Photo by Assistant Watermaster Garrett Steensland.

OREGON
WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT

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Chapter 1: Agency Overview

OUR MISSION

To serve the public by practicing and promoting responsible water management.

GOALS

- To directly address Oregon's water supply needs, and
- To restore and protect streamflows and watersheds in order to ensure the long-term sustainability of Oregon's ecosystems, economy, and quality of life.

Oregon's Integrated Water Resources Strategy

Oregon's Integrated Water Resources Strategy (IWRS) is a state-wide inter-agency strategy framework that identifies objectives, critical issues and recommended actions Oregon needs to undertake to understand and meet its water quantity, water quality, and ecosystem needs to address existing pressures. These pressures include population growth, changes in land use, groundwater depletion, and a changing climate. These issues and actions span multiple state agencies and jurisdictions. The IWRS is the umbrella document that spells out "what" generally needs to happen to understand our water resources and meet Oregon's water needs.

The Oregon Water Resources Department (OWRD) is the agency responsible to bring together the 14 water-related agencies to develop a single cohesive strategy for the state related to water. While not all needs are identified in the strategy, the recommended actions are intended to identify and recommend actions on the most pressing water needs in the state. The current IWRS was adopted by the Commission in the fall of 2017, and it identifies 18 critical issues Oregon faces and providing over 50 recommended actions for how to address those issues. The IWRS recommended actions are outlined in brief below. The next update to the IWRS is likely to be released in 2025.

2017 IWRS Objectives and Recommendations

Objective 1: Understand Water Resources Today

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

Objective 2: Understand Instream and Out-of-Stream Needs

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

Objective 3: Understand the Coming Pressures that Affect Our Needs and Supplies

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
5.5A 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

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 & green infrastructure

Water-Related Infrastructure
7.A Develop & upgrade water and wastewater infrastructure
7.B Encourage regional (sub-basin) approaches to water & 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 & training for Oregon's next generation of water experts
8.C Promote community education & training opportunities
8.D Identify ongoing water-related research needs

Objective 4: Meet Oregon's Instream and Out-of-Stream Needs

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, & capacity for natural storage
11.B Develop additional instream protections
11.C Prevent & eradicate invasive species
11.D Protect & restore instream habitat & 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 & exposure to toxics & other pollutants
12.C Implement water quality pollution control plans

Funding
13.A Fund development & 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

In December 2022, the Department completed the 2017-2022 Oregon's Integrated Water Resources Strategy Progress Report that outlined the State's actions and successes in implementing the IWRS since 2017. The progress report is available for review in the Appendix of this document.

2019-24 Strategic Plan

The IWRS is the foundational strategy for the work done by OWRD and the Department's Strategic Plan and subsequent budget requests seek to carry out IWRS recommended actions. The agency's Strategic Plan is the internal framework to guide program and division goals.

In November 2018, the Water Resources Commission ratified the Water Resources Department's five-year Strategic Plan. The IWRS informs the Oregon Water Resources Department Strategic Plan which identifies the strategic direction of the Department over 2019-2024. The plan identifies the Department's strategic priorities and objectives, presenting areas of focus for development and improvement as we serve the public.

Priorities and objectives follow the theme of modernizing the Department to tackle the water resource issues of today and tomorrow. Specifically, the plan includes the following priorities and objectives for the agency:

Priority: Modernize our management of Oregon's surface water and groundwater resources to meet instream and out-of-stream uses

Objectives

- Advance responsible groundwater and surface water management (IWRS Recommended Actions 1.A, 1.B, 1.C, 2.B, and 10.F)
- Modernize water transactions systems and processes (IWRS Recommended Actions 2.E and 10.G)
- Increase protection of public safety and health (IWRS Recommended Actions 5.5 and 7.C)
- Improve instream protections and increase water conservation (IWRS Recommended Actions 10.A and 11.B)

Priority: Work to secure Oregon's instream and out-of-stream water future in the face of increased water scarcity

Objectives

- Understand Oregon's expected future water supply (IWRS Recommended Actions 1.A, 1.B, 1.C, and 5.5A)
- Equip basins to plan for their water future (IWRS Recommended Actions 9.A, 9.B, 9.C, and 13.C)
- Invest in Oregon's build and natural water infrastructure (IWRS Recommended Actions 10.E, 11.A, 13.D, 13.E)

Priority: Foster a forward-looking team dedicated to serving Oregonians with integrity and excellence

Objectives

- Maintain technical excellence and improve customer service by investing in training for staff
- Improve agency communications

Development of an updated agency strategic plan is currently underway.

A HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE

Oregon Water Laws

Oregon's water laws have roots tracing back to Oregon's early history as the availability of water has been integral to Oregon's development. Before 1909, water claims were staked like mining claims and recorded in the county courthouse.

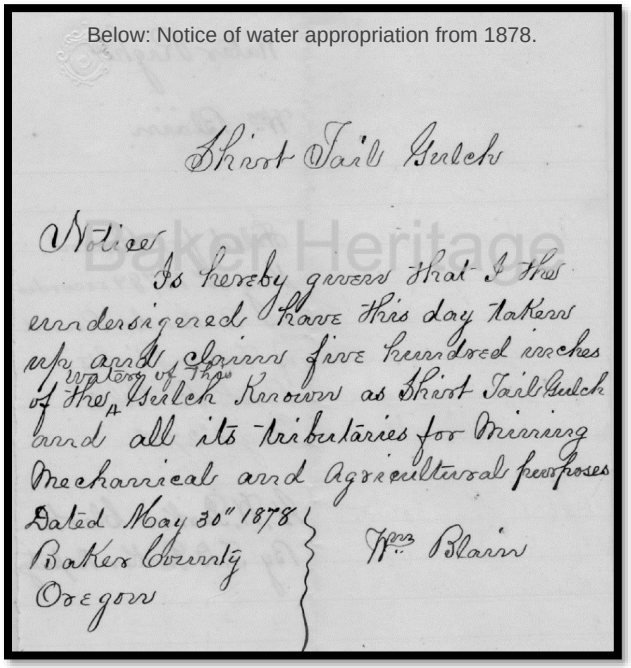
On February 24, 1909, the Oregon Legislature passed Senate Bill 77, commonly referred to as the 1909 Oregon Water Code. House Bill 192 passed in the same session, declaring that "all water within the state from all sources of water belong to the public." With some exceptions, water users must obtain a permit or water right to use water from any source. Like most states west of the Mississippi, Oregon uses the "Doctrine of Prior Appropriation," meaning the first person to obtain a water right on a stream is the last to be shut off in times

of scarcity. This provides greater certainty to senior water users that there will be a source of water to support their needs.

Oregon water law has continued to evolve. In 1955, the Legislative Assembly adopted the Oregon Ground Water Act, placing management of groundwater resources under the purview of the state. The 1987 Instream Water Right Act recognized water instream as a beneficial use, allowing for the establishment of instream water rights.

In 2009, the Oregon Legislature passed House Bill 3369, directing state agencies to develop a state-wide, IWRS to help Oregon understand and meet its water quantity, water quality, and ecosystem needs, while taking into account coming pressures. In 2012, the Water Resources Commission adopted the state's first IWRS.

Below: Notice of water appropriation from 1878.


Shirt Tail Gulch

Notice

Is hereby given that I the undersigned have this day taken up and claim five hundred inches of the water of the Gulch known as Shirt Tail Gulch and all its tributaries for Mining Mechanical and Agricultural purposes

Dated May 30th 1878

Baker County

Oregon

Wm Blain

Image Courtesy of Baker Heritage Museum. William Blain, Shirttail Gulch, May 30, 1878. G. W. Parker, clerk, by I. D. Parker, deputy. www.bakerheritagemuseum.com

Evolution of the Agency Structure and Responsibilities

The Oregon Water Resources Department is Oregon's water quantity agency. Unlike many state natural resource agencies, there is no federal counterpart to OWRD. The agency's structure has changed over the years, since adoption of the Water Code, with various iterations preceding the modern structure of the agency. In 1975, the Legislative Assembly created the Water Policy Review Board and merged the State Engineer's Office and the State Water Resources Board to create the Water Resources Department. Policy responsibilities were transferred to the Water Policy Review Board. In 1985, the Water Policy Review Board was renamed the Water Resources Commission.

Today, the Water Resources Commission, a seven-member citizen board, oversees the activities of the Water Resources Department. The Commission is responsible for setting statewide water policy, consistent with state law.

Commission members are appointed by the Governor for four-year terms, subject to confirmation by the Oregon Senate. The Commission includes a citizen appointed from each of five regions of the state (as shown in the map), as well as an east-side and a west-side at large.

Members of the Commission: Chair Eric

Quaempts, North Central Region; Kathy Kihara, East-Side at Large; Janet Neuman, West-Side at Large; Jan Lee Wienberg, Northwest Region; Woody Wolfe, Eastern Region; Julie Smitherman, Southwest Region; and Joe Moll, West Central Region.

The Commission and Department seek to understand Oregon's water resources, needs, and coming pressures and meet instream and out-of-stream needs by:

- Collecting and providing crucial data about groundwater, streamflows, and water needs throughout Oregon.
- Protecting public safety and water supplies through proper well construction and dam safety.
- Distributing water based on the system of prior appropriation and upholding Oregon water law.
- Providing technical assistance and funding for planning, assessing, and implementing water resources projects to help meet instream and out-of-stream needs.
- Processing water rights, permits, transfers, and certificates.
- Adjudicating water right claims.

Leaning upon recent attention and investments in water from the Oregon Legislature, OWRD and the Commission are harnessing momentum towards a new era in water management. Investments over the last two biennia have begun to make meaningful impacts within the department in staffing, policy development, rulemaking, compliance, data collection, and basin specific assessments. Requests within the FY 25-27 Governor's Recommended Budget continue this positive trajectory.

Chapter 2: Programs and Organizational Information

AGENCY SNAPSHOT

Summary of the 2023-25 Legislatively Adopted Budget, the 2023-25 Legislatively Approved Budget as of August 2024, and the 2025-27 Governor's Recommended Budget (GRB) by Division.

Water Rights Services Division	FTE	Total Fund
23-25 Legislatively Adopted	34.67	$11,145,075
23-25 Legislatively Approved	35.50	$11,000,880
25-27 Governor's Budget	31.50	$9,976,274

The Water Rights Division processes incoming applications for new water use permits and extensions, issues water right permits and certificates, processes applications for instream leases, reservations of water, and water right transfers; and coordinates hydroelectric licensing. This Division serves as a record-keeping body for the existing water rights in Oregon, reviews water management and conservation plans, and adjudicates pre-water law vested and federal reserved water rights.

Technical Services Division	FTE	Total Fund
23-25 Legislatively Adopted	55.28	$24,865,088
23-25 Legislatively Approved	57.61	$31,239,635
25-27 Governor's Budget	58.25	$26,509,472

The Technical Services Division performs surface water and groundwater analyses, manages the dam safety program, inspects high hazard dams, conducts compliance actions, and oversees well construction.

Field Services Division	FTE	Total Fund
23-25 Legislatively Adopted	86.96	$24,653,377
23-25 Legislatively Approved	85.38	$26,276,475
25-27 Governor's Budget	83.50	$27,907,953

The Field Services Division enforces Oregon's water law in the field, and regulates water uses with a newer priority date for the protection of older water rights. The division collects

water resources data and performs well inspections, and inspections of low and significant hazard dams.

Administrative Services Division	FTE	Total Fund
23-25 Legislatively Adopted	39.63	$30,080,567
23-25 Legislatively Approved	39.63	$30,297,485
25-27 Governor's Budget	43.88	$42,148,180

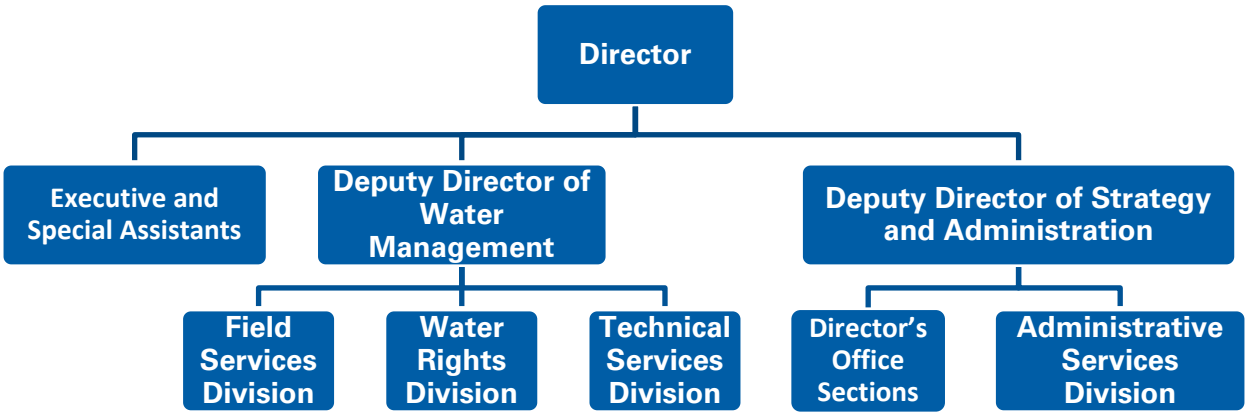
The Administrative Services Division supports the day-to-day operations of the agency through human resources, payroll, benefits administration, accounting, budgeting, public records, procurement and contracting, information technology services, facilities management, and other agency support services functions. This division provides the fiscal administration for the Department's grant and loan programs and provides information technology support for the Department including mapping, database management, computer application support, technology management and website development.

Director's Office	FTE	Total Fund
23-25 Legislatively Adopted	30.09	$181,211,806
23-25 Legislatively Approved	30.59	$185,138,053
25-27 Governor's Budget	29.50	$157,441,277

The Director's Office coordinates Water Resources Commission activities, tribal interactions, policy, legislation, rulemaking, the Integrated Water Resources Strategy, media, legal services provided by the Attorney General's office, and contested case hearings. This section oversees and leads planning, grant and loan funding, and works with communities to address complex water issues and the instream and out-of-stream needs.

Department Total	FTE	Total Fund
23-25 Legislatively Adopted	246.63	$271,958,913
23-25 Legislatively Approved	248.71	$283,952,528
25-27 Governor's Budget	246.63	$263,975,156

Department Organizational Structure



WATER RIGHTS SERVICES DIVISION

The Water Right Services Division supports the allocation of water for instream and out-of-stream purposes, supporting both the economy and a healthy environment by processing and evaluating all the water right transactions for the state.

Program Contact: Katie Ratcliffe, Division Administrator | 971- 338-8105

The Division administers the following water right-related programs and processes:

- New Water Right Applications – Instream and Consumptive
- Drought-related use permits
- Water right certification
- Extensions of time
- Water right transfers
- Hydroelectric licensing
- Allocations of conserved water
- Limited (short-term) license applications
- Adjudication of water right claims of water use that pre-date the 1909 Water Code, federal reserved rights, and tribal rights
- Protests
- Water conservation and management plans
- Customer service and record management

Snapshot

Customers	**Case / Workload**
Cities; Counties; Consultants; Federal Agencies; Oregon Tribes; State Agencies; Watershed Councils; Well Constructors; Well Owners; Water Right holders; Water Right Applicants; Realtors; Public Interest Organizations; Property Buyers/Sellers; General Public; Irrigation Districts; Water and Power Utilities	Water Right Application, Transfer, Extension, Water Management and Conservation Plan, Allocations of Conserved Water Processing; Certificate Issuance; Adjudication Processing; Hydroelectric Licensing; Protests; Cancellations

Funding Source	Modified Current Service Level (Includes Package 070)	GRB Expanded
General Fund	$5.06 M	$5.19 M
Other Funds	$3.45 M	$4.76 M
Federal Funds	$0.03 M	$0.03 M
Positions / FTE	26 / 25.50	32 / 31.50

Program Descriptions

Seven major programs are administered by the Water Rights Division and are described below.

Water Rights

Water Right Application Review - Generally, to use water in Oregon an individual must obtain a water right permit. During the 2021-2023 biennium and to date in the 2023-2025 biennium, the focus of the water right application program has been to improve the timely processing of water right applications and continue efforts to systematize and automate processes. The complexity of application review is increasing as less water is available for appropriation, while demands for competing needs continues to grow. Frequently, water right applications are for groundwater use, which involves a more complex technical review compared to other application types. For these reasons, the Department expects that the number of protested applications will grow in the future. See the protest section for more details. In recent years, progress on the application backlog has stalled as staff reductions and revenue shortfalls requiring vacancy savings have limited agency capacity even as the agency budget has grown.

As of July 1, 2024, the Department had 566 water right applications pending, not including 192 protested applications. In the second half of the 2021-2023 biennium, the Water Rights Section added three limited duration processors because of American Rescue Plan Acti (ARPA) fund dollars made available during the 2021 legislative session. This allowed the section to shorten review timelines that had grown due to reduced staffing levels during prior biennia. These staff have since either moved into vacant permanent positions or termed out at the end of their limited duration positions. Beginning in early 2023, the Water Rights Section successfully released an Initial Review in all but one surface water and storage application within our 45-day goal.

Customer Service and Record Management - Based out of the Department's Salem office, the Water Right Services Division is responsible for assisting customers with a wide variety of water right matters. Division staff maintain a customer service counter that provides walk-in and remote services to the public, which includes assisting with applications, locating water rights on a property, and directing customers to other appropriate staff within the Department. The Division works to provide a high-level of customer service through pre-application conferences, timely reviews of applications for completeness, striving for a one-

day call-back policy, and making refinements to improve the customer service experience. The Department continues to upgrade its website, application guidance materials, research tools, public access to information, water right records, and data. The Division also maintains and manages all the Department's official water right records.

Certificates

After a permit is issued, the permittee generally has up to five years to develop the water use unless an extension of time is applied for and approved. To perfect the right, the permittee must submit a final water-use report with a map of the use as developed. The Division receives these final reports and maps and prepares the certificate describing the use allowed.

Since the 2007-09 biennium, the Division has instituted a number of practices to more efficiently process certificates. These approaches have led to a reduction in the backlog of work in this area; from a high of 6,400 in 2004 to 938 as of July 1, 2024, including new requests the Department continues to receive each year. In the second half of the 2021-2023 biennium, the Certificate Section added two additional processors because of ARPA fund dollars made available during the 2021 legislative session. This allowed the section to shorten review timelines that had grown due to reduced staffing levels during prior biennia. These staff termed out with the end of their limited duration positions in March of 2024.

Extensions

If a permittee is not able to complete water development within the allotted time as prescribed in the permit, the permittee may request an extension of time within which to complete the work. The Division reviews these extension requests and determines, within the requirements of the law, whether to allow the extension. The division received 133 extensions is 2021, 75 in 2022, and 99 in 2023. The Department continues to improve document generation tools which allow the extension caseworker to quickly generate proposed final orders once they have completed the review of the application. To make the best use of available resources, extensions are currently being processed by adjudications staff.

Transfer and Conservation Section

The Transfer and Conservation Section includes staff responsible for processing changes to existing water rights and permits, flow restoration applications, water management and conservation plans, and coordination with local government, conservation partners, soil and water conservation districts, watershed councils, and others. These programs are key to meeting Oregon's long-term water supply and restoration goals.

Transfers - The transfer of an existing water right to a new use or place of use is often the best alternative for obtaining water for new purposes for economic development or streamflow restoration. Under Oregon law, water rights are issued for a specific use, to receive water from identified points of diversion, and are appurtenant to specific locations. However, Oregon water law also provides a process to change the use type, place of use, or point of diversion while still retaining other characteristics, such as the water source and priority date, provided that the changes do not injure other existing water rights.

While transfers can only be completed for specific types of water rights, permit amendments and groundwater registration modifications allow for changes to permits and groundwater registrations, respectively. The Transfer and Conservation Section is responsible for receiving and processing water right transfer, permit amendment, and groundwater registration modification applications. Water right transfer applications include not only standard transfers, but also district transfers, temporary transfers, emergency drought transfers, and instream transfers.

As of July 1, 2024, the Department had 497 transfer applications pending. The Department continues to look at ways of streamlining, combining functions, and leveraging its staff resources to best serve its customers. In recent years, progress on the backlog has stalled as staff reductions and revenue shortfalls requiring vacancy savings have limited agency capacity. In the second half of the 2021-2023 biennium, the Transfer and Conservation Section added two additional processors because of ARPA fund dollars made available during the 2021 legislative session. One of these staff members ended their assignment early; the other staff has since termed out with the end of the limited duration project on March 31, 2024.

Flow Restoration - In addition to processing instream transfers, this section is also responsible for processing instream lease and allocations of conserved water applications. The Transfer and Conservation Section works in coordination with the Field Services Division, conservation groups, water right holders, irrigation districts, watershed councils, and soil and water conservation districts to complete flow restoration projects.

The Water Resources Department processes between 100 and 120 instream lease applications annually, with a goal for average processing time being 45 days. Several years ago, the processing time was near 90 days. There is no backlog for instream lease processing.

In addition, the number of allocation of conserved water applications submitted averages six to eight per year. In the past, some applications took more than two years to process, but, due to a thorough process and efficiency review in 2013, processing of these applications is now taking about six months.

The same staff responsible for processing instream lease and allocation of conserved water applications also process instream transfer applications. Since 2016, the Department has received an average of 4 instream transfer applications annually.

Water Supply and Conservation Planning - Staff work closely with community water suppliers (municipal and certain quasi-municipal water suppliers) and irrigation districts to assist in the initial development and subsequent updates of water management and conservation plans. Many community water suppliers and districts have initiated planning efforts to identify new options and alternatives to meet future water needs. Community water supply entities are required through water right permit conditions, permit extension conditions, or statutory provisions to prepare water management and conservation plans. Under the planning approach developed by the Department, a variety of water supply alternatives are considered for cost-effectiveness and feasibility. The approach is intended to

help water suppliers improve their water use efficiency over time and identify least-cost options for meeting future water needs. On average, the Department receives 16 water management and conservation plans each fiscal year; however, that number can reach much higher, as it did in FY2022 when the Department received 27 plans. Since FY2014, the Department has reviewed 100 percent of all plans received within the 90-day review goal.

Protests

As of July 2024, the Department had 192 protests pending. The protest program is responsible for resolving protests filed against various Department orders, either by negotiated settlement or through a contested case hearing process. Based on experience, the Department expects to receive approximately 28 new protests filed during the 2023-25 biennium. About 75 percent of these are filed by applicants who disagree with the Department's determination; the other 25 percent typically come from a neighbor to the proposed project, conservation groups, or an interested member of the public. The program successfully negotiates resolution of approximately 90 percent of the protests, thereby dramatically reducing the need for expensive contested case hearings, while meeting the essential water needs of the applicants, protecting existing water rights, and ensuring adequate resource protections. At the end of the 2021 legislative session, three million dollars was appropriated to the Department to make progress on the growing number of pending protests at the Department. The money allowed the Department to refer a greater number of protested applications to the Office of Administrative Hearings for Contested Case Hearings, which allowed the Department to settle or otherwise resolve 98 protests in the three-year period starting July 1, 2021.

Adjudication

The Adjudication Program is responsible for the adjudication of pre-1909 water rights, tribal water rights, and other federal reserved water rights. Most of Oregon's river basins east of the Cascade Mountains have been adjudicated for pre-1909 water rights. Only a few of the river basins west of the Cascades have been adjudicated. Adjudications are important for holders of claims, who are often the most senior water users in the basin, but whom the Department cannot regulate for (in accordance with the doctrine of prior appropriation) until such claims are adjudicated. These senior claims also cannot be transferred until adjudicated.

Adjudications can be complex, long-lasting and controversial. The Department initiated the Klamath Basin Adjudication in 1975. This adjudication was delayed by two lengthy federal lawsuits and final claims were then to be filed prior to April 30, 1997. The Department received 5,660 contests to 730 claims. The administrative phase of the Klamath Adjudication was completed in March of 2013, and the case was transferred to the Klamath County Circuit Court. The Department, represented by the Department of Justice, continues its involvement as the Klamath Adjudication makes its way through the Circuit Court.

Hydroelectric Program

The Hydroelectric Program has the lead responsibility for Oregon's hydroelectric water right program. Program staff process all applications related to development, modification,

assignment and decommissioning of hydroelectric projects. Staff are responsible for implementing a coordinated, interagency program for evaluating applications to reauthorize hydroelectric projects with state or federal licenses that are due to expire. The program is also responsible for coordinating the decommissioning of existing facilities.

Division staff conduct annual fee billing and collection for approximately 160 existing hydroelectric projects in Oregon. These fees support hydroelectric programs of the Department as well as the Departments of Fish and Wildlife and Environmental Quality. During the 2021-2023 biennium the Department implemented the overhaul of the annual fees paid by existing hydroelectric projects.

Enabling Legislation/Program Authorization

The Division adheres to the enabling statutes authorizing the water right processes that we administer. The Department continues to seek amendments to statutes to allow for regulatory streamlining whenever possible. The following is a list of Division programs and their enabling ORS citations.

Water Right Transfers: Processing requests for changes (i.e., permit amendments, groundwater registration modifications, instream leases, allocations of conserved water, and permanent or temporary transfers). Transfers can include a change in place of use, type of use, or point of diversion. Both regular and expedited processes are available for permit amendments, and water right exchanges or transfers.	ORS 536.050; ORS 537.211(4); ORS 537.610(4); ORS 540.505 to 540.585; ORS 537.348; ORS 537.455 to 537.500; ORS 536.055.
Water Right Permitting: Water right records and research, processing of new water right applications, permit extensions, certificates, and limited licenses. Both regular and expedited processes are available for processing claims of beneficial use.	ORS 536.050; ORS 537.097; ORS 537.799; ORS 536.050; ORS 537.130; ORS 537.120 to 537.360; ORS 537.135; ORS 537.211 to 537.252; ORS 537.525; ORS 540.520 to 540.580; ORS 537.153; ORS 537.797; ORS 537.621 to 537.628
Adjudication: Confirming uses of water that pre-date Oregon's 1909 water code.	ORS Chapter 539; ORS 539.010; ORS 537.665 to 537.700
Hydroelectric Program: Coordinating agency for project re-authorization and FERC licensing, review of non-FERC applications.	Oregon Constitution Article XI-D ORS 543.015; ORS 543.017; ORS 537.283

Funding Streams

Funding for staff comes from the state General Fund and Other Fund fees. Fees are charged for various water rights permitting activities as well as for the Hydroelectric Program. The fees related to each of the Department's water right transactions are set in statute.

Water Right Services Division

	General Fund	Other Funds	Lottery Funds	Federal Funds	Total Funds
2023-25 Legislatively Adopted Budget	5,350,441	5,772,634	-	25,000	11,148,075
2023-25 Emergency Boards	(464,278)	317,083	-	-	(147,195)
2023-25 Legislatively Approved Budget	4,886,163	6,089,717	-	25,000	11,000,880
2025-27 Base Budget	5,087,322	5,809,360	-	25,000	10,921,682
2025-27 Current Service Level	5,064,829	4,918,469	-	25,000	10,008,298
Total Packages	130,005	1,301,974	-	-	1,431,979
2025-27 Governor's Recommended Budget	5,194,834	4,756,440	-	25,000	9,976,274

TECHNICAL SERVICES DIVISION

The Technical Services Division collects, analyzes, and publishes surface water and groundwater data, monitors drought conditions and provides the Department with the best available science for water management decisions to support a healthy environment and communities and a strong economy. The Division also protects public health and safety by assessing the condition of state regulated dams and overseeing well construction standards to prevent groundwater contamination and waste.

Program Contact: Annette Liebe, Division Administrator | 971- 375-7322

Programs include:

- Aquifer Storage and Recovery / Artificial Recharge
- Dam safety program
- Technical Support for Emergency Response
- Groundwater science, investigations, and management
- Surface water data and analysis / water availability / hydrographics
- Well construction compliance
- Well driller licensing / continuing education
- Water use measurement and reporting

Snapshot

Customers	**Case / Workload**
Cities; Counties; Conservation Groups; Consultants; Federal Agencies; General Public; Internal WRD Staff; Public Interest Organizations; Realtors; Special Districts; State Agencies; Oregon Tribes; Water Right holders; Water Right applicants; Watershed Councils; Well Constructors; Well Owners	Dam Inspections and Reviews, Groundwater studies and data, Surface Water Hydrologic Records, Technical Water Right Reviews, Well Construction Compliance.

Funding Source	**Modified Current Service Level**	**GRB Expanded**
General Fund	$19.65 M	$18.29 M
Other Funds	$4.24 M	$6.18 M

Federal Funds	$2.04 M	$2.04 M
Positions / FTE	59 / 58.25	59 / 58.25

Program Descriptions

The four sections of the Technical Services Divisions are discussed in more detail below.

Dam Safety Program

The Oregon Water Resources Department is the state agency charged with overseeing the safety of more than 950 dams across the state that are authorized to store water for agriculture, cities, industry, recreation, fisheries, and other purposes. Pursuant to statute, dams that are ten feet or greater in height and impound 9.2 acre-feet (3,000,000 gallons) or more are subject to the requirements of Oregon's Dam Safety Program if they are not regulated by the federal government. While dams provide benefits, the consequences of a dam failure can be significant, potentially resulting in loss of lives and damage to property and infrastructure. The Department's Dam Safety Program identifies and work with owners to address dam safety deficiencies to protect people and property, while preserving the many benefits that dams provide for our communities and economy.

Of the 950 dams the Department is responsible for inspecting, the Department strives to inspect more than 200 each year. More than 70 dams rated as "high hazard" and are inspected annually as people live immediately downstream from the dam, and if they were to fail it would likely result in loss of life and damage to public infrastructure and property. Approximately 150 dams are rated significant hazard, meaning that failure is likely to result in damage to property or infrastructure, but is not likely to result in loss of life. The Department inspects significant hazard dams every two to three years. All other dams are considered low hazard. Hazard ratings do not reflect the likelihood of failure or the condition of the dam; rather, they reflect the consequences of failure. Staff engineers conduct inspections of high and significant hazard dams and work with Field Services staff to complete inspections of low hazard dams. The 2009 Legislature established a fee to help pay for the costs of this program.

The Dam Safety Program is led by the State Engineer. The State Engineer provides engineering expertise, conducts staff training, coordinates routine dam inspections, determines actions needed on dams in less than satisfactory condition, provides information on the feasibility and safety of potential new storage sites, and manages Dam Safety program staff and funds. In addition to providing technical oversight of the Dam Safety Program, the State Engineer also provides technical support for the agency's water resources development initiatives. Since 2016, the section has hired three additional professional engineers to help with the technical aspects of the Dam Safety program; conducting engineering analyses and inspections and helping dam owners understand their responsibilities. The amount of program staff and funding resources has historically been inadequate to inspect and assess dams across the state. As these structures age, they require more maintenance, repairs and upgrades considering newer information about floods, earthquakes, design deficiencies, and climate change. In recent years, other states

have suffered significant property and environmental damage as well as loss of life because of dam failures. As structures age and additional seismic information becomes available, proper construction and maintenance becomes even more critical.

Better understanding the risks to dams and the impacts of failure can help prioritize repairs and funding. In recent years, the Department sought resources to evaluate dams across the state. The 2021 Legislature recognized the critical need to complete flood methodology, inundation assessments and engineering analyses by providing the Dam Safety program with $5 million in funding for contracts for dam safety engineering analyses. These funds have been deployed to complete seismic assessments, dam breach inundation analyses, conduit condition analyses, spillway capacity analyses, and structural assessments. In addition, two state-wide extreme precipitation analyses are being funded. Some projects were completed in 2023, but most projects will be completed by 2025 with the remaining being completed by December 2026.

Well Construction

There are more than 250,000 wells in Oregon, with approximately 3,000 new wells drilled each year on average. These wells provide a variety of benefits, from domestic drinking water to water for irrigation, cities, nurseries, industry, and other uses. The Water Resources Department is responsible for helping protect these uses and the people, ecosystems, economies, and communities that rely on aquifers to meet their water needs. The Department's Well Construction Program seeks to ensure that well constructors and landowners use proper well construction, maintenance, and abandonment techniques to protect aquifers and sustain water supplies from depletion, waste, contamination, and loss of artesian pressure. The Well Construction Section includes a well constructor licensing specialist, a well construction compliance coordinator, a well construction program coordinator, a well program specialist, two support specialists, and the section manager.

The section oversees approximately 366 licensed well constructors and responds to over 5,000 requests a year from property owners, realtors, and others, seeking assistance in locating well reports. The section evaluates and issues over 300 special standard requests a year to drillers that are unable to meet minimum well construction requirements, administers approximately 70 well constructor license exams per year, and reviews and approves over 150 continuing education courses a year. This section also processes approximately 5,000 Start Cards for new wells, reviews 4,750 well reports and 4,800 geotechnical hole reports per year and oversees the exempt use well registration program. In addition, the section also administers minimum well construction standards and reviews water right applications for well construction compliance. The section works to communicate and partner with well constructors and landowners to ensure that they understand the importance of protecting aquifer systems from contamination using proper well construction, maintenance, and abandonment techniques. Staff members communicate with drillers and landowners to ensure compliance with minimum well construction standards, and coordinate with Field Services Division well inspectors to resolve issues found during inspections. Section staff are the statewide experts in well construction and assist the public, other government agencies, and other Department staff in the interpretation of well report data and statute and rule interpretation. Section staff also

provide expert assistance to the public in conducting well log research, interpreting well log data, obtaining landowner well construction permits, well construction contractor research, and issuing Well ID labels.

In 2021, the legislature (HB 2145) directed the Department to modernize and increase efficiency within the Well Construction program. As a result, the Department has focused on providing the well construction industry timely assurance that their work is being performed in a manner that is consistent with statutes and rules based on a technical review of the well report. Changes based on requirements in the bill are being implemented in phases over several years. Effective January 1, 2022, the responsibility for submitting the registration fees and a map showing where on a property an exempt use well is drilled shifted from the property owner to the well driller. Beginning July of 2022, the well construction program, in coordination with the FSD Well Inspectors, began conducting technical reviews of all submitted well reports to assess for deficiencies and compliance with well construction standards. Details of the technical well report reviews are delivered to the responsible well constructor within 120 days of submission of the report. On July 1, 2023, additional changes were implemented as required in the bill, including additional requirements for well constructor licensing, notification so that inspectors may be present during well construction work, well location information, and information regarding helpers that assisted in the construction of the well. These changes, as well as other requirements detailed in the bill, have been successfully implemented on time and as directed. Further changes and requirements in the bill, such as mandatory e-filing of documents, continue to move forward on schedule and became effective in July 2024.

Surface Water Hydrology

OWRD's Surface Water Hydrology Section provides data and technical expertise in surface water measurement, availability, and water use to the Department, other agencies, organizations, and the public. The Surface Water Hydrology Section is staffed by twenty-one hydrologists, hydrographers, the section manager, and an assistant manager. The staff work in partnership with the Field Services Division to: (1) develop data, models, and tools to practice & promote responsible surface water allocation and management using best available science; (2) develop, document, and implement quality control and quality assurance measures to ensure all data we produce are reliable; (3) communicate with Department staff, other agencies, and the public regarding surface water and water use topics; (4) support other Department staff and programs through training, guidance, and analysis related to surface water and water use information; and (5) deploy and maintain appropriate measurement equipment.

Key responsibilities of the section include Data and Information for Surface Water Allocation, Management, and Planning; Surface Water Availability/Allocation; Hydrologic Studies and Planning; and Drought Condition Reporting and Drought Declaration Coordination.

Data and Information for Surface Water Allocation, Management, and Planning

- Streamflow, Canal, and Other Flow Data. The Hydrographics team coordinates with the

Field Services Division to operate and process data from approximately 260 surface water gages throughout the state, reviews and documents thousands of measurements at miscellaneous sites each year. This information is vital for water managers, scientists, planners, and policy makers for scientific evaluations, water management (for both distribution and regulatory purposes), and water planning —particularly to better anticipate and prepare for water scarcity. Most of the gages are operated as near real-time with data available on our website. Staff also provide guidance, training, and technical support to Field Staff. While the gaging stations are primarily maintained by Field Staff, the data collected is reviewed by the surface water section to analyze and process it to final record.

- Water-User Reported Water Use Data. All government entities that hold water rights in Oregon, including federal and state agencies, cities, counties, schools, irrigation districts, and other special districts, are required by Oregon Revised Statute 537.099 to annually report their water use. In addition to these entities, beginning in the early 1990s, some water use permits issued to nongovernmental users included a water measurement and annual reporting requirement under the authority of ORS 537.211. Under the Department's Water Use Reporting Program, there are more than 14,800 water rights that are required to measure, and report water use in Oregon. This constitutes about 17 percent of the 89,000 water rights in the state. Water-use reporters submit their information to the Department via its website and this information is then made available to the public.

- Evapotranspiration (ET) Data. Studies of water supplies and allocation models for groundwater and surface water often require estimates of consumptive use from irrigated crops and naturally vegetated areas. OWRD tests and develops remotely sensed ET datasets to update consumptive use estimates for the application to basin studies, water budgets, water planning applications, and others. Additionally, the program works closely with partners from OSU Extension, Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) Agrimet, NASA, and local water users and partners to ground truth these data for use in Oregon. Approximately $300k in ARPA funds were invested to improve the BOR Agrimet network and operation of ET monitoring stations in Oregon.

Surface Water Availability/Allocation - The Surface Water Section assesses surface water availability in rivers and streams throughout the state for applications for new water rights, considering existing water rights and the Department's Water Allocation Policy. This assessment is performed using the Water Availability Reporting system (WARS), a hydrologic model, that water rights staff use to denote surface water availability during their review of water right applications. In addition to the statewide water supply availability analysis, other surface water models have been developed that describe or define water supply for other purposes, namely flood frequency predictions for design and safety applications, and water use impact analyses for consideration in mitigation proposals.

Hydrologic Studies and Planning - The Surface Water Section also analyzes surface water data to address regulatory and technical questions for the Department as well as reviews studies and analyzes data to support water planning. Section hydrologists collaboratively

design and implement surface water data collection and analyses in groundwater studies. They design monitoring and provide analyses for seasonal (or shorter term) water-management needs and analyze and recommend flows after establishment of new Scenic Waterways. They also provide technical guidance in tracking mitigation opportunities in the Deschutes Basin to allow development of groundwater using mitigation credits to maintain or improve streamflow and protect scenic waterways. Section hydrologists also support the Department's Place Based Planning program by responding to technical information requests, participating in place-based planning efforts and other planning efforts, and providing technical review of the surface water aspects of the Department's grant funding programs.

Drought Condition Reporting and Drought Declaration Coordination - Surface Water Section staff chair the Water Supply Availability Committee and Drought Readiness Council. These groups focus on understanding and documenting drought conditions and support the drought declaration process (ORS 536.700-536.780). Additionally, section hydrologists publish a bi-weekly Water Supply Conditions report incorporating information from technical experts across Oregon.

Groundwater Hydrology

The Groundwater Hydrology section supports the agency's mission through implementation of the Groundwater Act of 1955 (ORS 537.505 to 537.795 and 537.992) and related administrative rules. Groundwater section staff participate in all facets of the agency's core work as described in its 2019-24 strategic plan. They are the primary entity responsible for collecting groundwater data statewide, organizing and interpreting that data, and applying that data and information to support analysis of groundwater right transactions, distribution and regulation of groundwater, and planning efforts to meet future groundwater needs.

Data and Information - Groundwater investigations are needed to understand how water moves beneath the surface of the ground, from where it comes in (recharge areas) to where it goes out (discharge areas). These investigations also help the Department understand how groundwater and surface water (like rivers and lakes) interact, how much water gets added back to groundwater each year, and how much water is being used from underground sources. These investigations characterize groundwater flow through the subsurface from areas of recharge to areas of discharge, quantify the interaction between groundwater and surface water, estimate annual recharge, calculate the current demands on the aquifer, and inform management plans to prevent over-drafting the resource. Groundwater investigations include assessments of critical groundwater areas, areas where groundwater levels are declining, and areas where local geology or anticipated growth in water use suggest the resource may begin to show signs of stress. These studies describe the groundwater resource, identify any problems, and suggest management options. State funding of groundwater investigations is leveraged with matching federal funding through the U.S. Geological Survey.

Section staff spend nearly 50% of their time focused on collecting, evaluating, and analyzing water level and water use data. The water level information gathered by the section is used to track the long-term aquifer response to groundwater development and climate change.

Groundwater level and use data are quality-control checked and entered into a database that is available through the Department's website for access by the public and professionals who use the information to track and understand changing conditions. The Department is actively expanding this network by drilling dedicated observation wells in areas of specific groundwater interest; for example, in basins where the Department is working with the U.S. Geological Survey on cooperative groundwater studies.

Water Right Transactions - Significant staff time is devoted to intra-agency technical support, including reviews of groundwater permit and transfer applications, participation in contested cases, counsel on matters relating to well construction, reviewing data collected by water users, and technical analysis of proposed groundwater-related legislation and rules. Department hydrogeologists also provide technical input for mitigation opportunities. The mitigation program in the Deschutes Basin is designed to allow development of groundwater while offsetting impacts through mitigation credits to maintain or improve streamflow. In 2023, hydrogeologists reviewed a total of 439 groundwater permit applications and transfers, reducing backlogs by nearly 200 permits. Additional process improvements have been implemented to speed the process of groundwater permit application and transfer reviews including developing a weekly tracking and reporting system, including review metrics in performance reviews, and modifying the process for when manager review is required.

Groundwater staff review Aquifer Storage and Recovery (ASR) and Artificial Groundwater Recharge (AR) proposals, provide technical assistance, consider the potential for injury to other water users and aquifer water quality, evaluate project data and reports, and draft licenses and permits.

Allocation and Management of Groundwater - There are 27 designated areas in Oregon where groundwater has been restrictively classified, withdrawn, or designated as a critical groundwater area. These include critical groundwater areas, groundwater limited areas, groundwater mitigation areas, significant groundwater management problem areas, and areas withdrawn from further appropriation. Some areas are closed to new appropriations, restrict existing uses, or have well construction or water use measurement and reporting requirements to protect senior water rights. Staff monitor these areas to ensure that the restrictions adequately protect the groundwater resource and existing users without excessively curtailing water development and use and, where applicable, determine the annual allocation of groundwater available to senior water right holders.

Department hydrogeologists work with other sections of the agency to provide technical expertise to assist with the resolution of interference between water wells and surface water, help to address complaints regarding well-to-well interference, and assist with other groundwater enforcement matters.

Meeting Future Needs - Section staff support the Department's Place Based Planning program by responding to technical information requests, participating in place-based planning efforts, and providing technical review of the groundwater aspects of the Department's funding programs.

Enabling Legislation/Program Authorization

Dam Safety: ORS 540.350 through 540.400 identifies certain dams and other water structures as potential threats to life and property and requires review and authorizes inspection by the Water Resources Department.

Groundwater Hydrology: ORS 537.505 through ORS 537.746 provides for the protection of groundwater to ensure a sustainable resource for Oregonians.

Well Construction and Enforcement: ORS 537.747 through ORS 537.796 and ORS 537.880 through ORS 537.895 provides requirements for well construction.

Surface Water Hydrology and Water Use Measurement: ORS 536.440, ORS 537.099, ORS 542.060, ORS 542.750, and ORS 540.435 provides that certain water users must measure and report water use, directs the Department to establish and maintain gaging stations; publish gage records, and analyze surface water.

Funding Streams

Funding for the Technical Services Division operations comes primarily from the state General Fund. Other Funds include dam safety fees, gaging station agreements, and fees for newly constructed wells and the mapping of those wells in the Department's online databases. Federal Funds are received from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), the Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) and United States Geological Survey (USGS).

Technical Services Division

	General Fund	Other Funds	Lottery Funds	Federal Funds	Total Funds
2023-25 Legislatively Adopted Budget	15,660,537	8,651,236	-	553,315	24,865,088
2023-25 Emergency Boards	2,843,020	2,081,457	-	1,450,070	6,374,547
2023-25 Legislatively Approved Budget	18,503,557	10,732,693	-	2,003,385	31,239,635
2025-27 Base Budget	20,910,583	10,916,276	-	2,047,326	33,874,185
2025-27 Current Service Level	19,647,886	4,236,457	-	2,040,179	25,924,522
Total Packages	(1,354,990)	1,939,940	-	-	584,950
2025-27 Governor's Recommended Budget	18,292,896	6,176,397	-	2,040,179	26,509,472

FIELD SERVICES DIVISION

Program Contact: Kim Fritz-Ogren, Division Administrator | 503-509-7980

The Field Services Division carries out the Department's mission by enforcing the state's water laws and implementing the Water Resources Commission's policies in the field around the state.

Programs include:

- Regulation/Distribution of Water
- Well Construction Inspection
- Assisting Technical Services Division with Dam Safety Inspections, primarily for low and significant hazard dams
- Collection of Hydrologic Data (Surface Water and Groundwater), in coordination with

the Technical Services Division
- Customer Service in field offices
- Working with/advising local planning entities on water issues in conjunction with other staff

Snapshot

Customers	Case / Workload
Cities; Counties; Consultants; Federal Agencies; State Agencies; Oregon Tribes; Watershed Councils; Well Owners; Water Right Holders; Water Right Applicants; Realtors; Property Buyers/Sellers; General Public; Irrigation Districts; Conservation Groups and Other Public Interest Organizations	Enforcement, Water right distribution and management, Inspection of Low and Significant Hazard Dams, Inspection of Wells, Collection of Data, Technical Assistance

Funding Source	Modified Current Service Level	GRB Expanded
General Fund	$24.69 M	$24.59 M
Other Funds	$3.33 M	$3.24 M
Federal Funds	$0.08 M	$0.08 M
Positions/FTE	84 / 83.50	84 / 83.50

Program Descriptions

The Field Services Division (FSD) is responsible for the on-the-ground management of Oregon's water laws, distributing and managing water and working with water users to enforce the prior appropriation system and protect against unauthorized use and water waste. Staff also inspect the construction and maintenance of wells for the protection of the groundwater resource; inspect low and significant hazard dams for the protection of the public safety and environment; collect hydrologic data, which is made available for use by staff, agencies, and the public for management and planning purposes, and assist landowners with understanding and implementing water measurement. The Division also works with numerous planning groups and local land use jurisdictions by providing technical information on surface water and groundwater. Staff provide input on water right transactions based on local water management and water availability knowledge and expertise. Staff also regularly interface with the public and water users, providing information on water law, water rights, and well construction, as well as local customer service.

Most staff in the Field Services Division (FSD) are located in field offices across the state, providing local knowledge and services. The Department has grouped its 23 watermaster districts into six regions for efficient management and mentoring of field personnel. The 2023-25 legislatively adopted budget increased funding to create a sixth region with a new region manager operating out of our Klamath Falls office. Region managers, watermasters,

assistant watermasters, well inspectors, field technicians, and locally funded assistants carry out the field activities of the Department. The Enforcement Section provides support to staff in the field and other sections of the agency by providing expertise and support in developing notices of violation, negotiating settlements, and administering civil penalties, when necessary.

Distribution, Management, Data Collection, and Inspections

The Field Services Division addresses a broad range of water supply protections. The table below displays three of Field Services Division's responsibilities: Regulatory Actions, Compliance Checks, and Well Inspections.

Year	Regulatory Actions	Compliance Checks (began tracking 2018)	Well Inspections
2018	7,541	32,485	947
2019	5,757	13,679	932
2020	8,353	17,144	1,214
2021	8,841	23,153	1,413
2022	8,239	30,178	1,303
2023	8,726	29,304	1,571

Regulatory Actions - The watermaster corps is the sole provider of water regulation and distribution in Oregon. In 2018, a new Field Activities Database (FAD) was brought online, resulting in more detailed tracking of field staff activity and improved location of actions. A regulatory action is defined as an action by staff that causes a change in water use behavior. Compliance checks are tracked separately and, in more detail, to confirm that the water use is as it should be, or any additional regulatory actions taken by the watermaster. The number of regulatory actions and compliance checks measures one aspect of the field workload and provides insights into the level of interactions with water right holders. This workload is influenced by weather (wetter years generally require less regulation), availability of staff to undertake the work, and by external forces such as federal irrigation project management related to Endangered Species Act issues. In previous years, workloads were heavily impacted by numerous different water circumstances such as the regulation for determined claims in the Klamath Basin, a severe drought, and the legalization of cannabis. Increases in workload responding to droughts are a challenge for field staff and mean that water scarcity workloads are prioritized accordingly.

Increases in staffing specifically in the positions of assistant watermaster as well as the establishment of the dedicated enforcement section also impacted these numbers as illustrated in the 2022 and 2023 compliance check numbers. Final Orders issued by the Enforcement Section via division referrals require additional follow-up to ensure that compliance is being achieved, and when not achieved, those compliance checks lead to the assessment of civil penalties.

Surface water management and dam safety activities - field staff operate between 250-260 streamflow recording stations each year. In 2023, the Department installed three new gages and staff conducted 2,913 streamflow measurements. The FSD works closely with the Technical Services Division as they provide stream discharge data online in a real-time format. The data is collected by field staff and processed and analyzed by the Surface Water Section. The data is valuable to Department for many purposes; to protect existing water rights and for use by numerous external entities involved in economic development and streamflow restoration activities. In 2023, field staff coordinated the safety inspections of 119 of low and significant hazard dams in collaboration with the agency Dam Safety program. Field staff inspected dams to identify indicators of instability and the water movement to protect downstream landowners. During the 2023 calendar year and with increased staffing capacity, the Dam Safety program began inspections of significant hazard dams in addition to that of high hazard dams, transitioning that work out of the Division. Future reports will show the FSD only conducting inspections on low hazard dams.

Groundwater management and well construction activities - Department staff conduced 1,571 well inspections of new wells (first visit) and 2,902 groundwater measurements in existing wells (this work is conducted by groundwater staff and field staff). Well inspections ensure that wells are properly constructed to protect groundwater from waste and contamination to preserve the use of the aquifer for those that rely on it. The number of newly constructed wells that are inspected each year is influenced by weather as drier years result in more wells being drilled, and the economy, which drives new construction. The Department's goal is to inspect no less than 25 percent of all newly constructed wells. Of the total inspections in 2023, 1,571 were conducted on new construction, representing an inspection rate of 48 percent of all new wells. Water level data is important for groundwater management and permit decision-making, and tracking how much groundwater is in storage in the state's aquifers. The data is also used extensively by consultants, developers, realtors, and the general public.

Adequate field presence- Management of Oregon's water has also relied on counties funding staff to support the Department's work. These county-funded staff work in watermaster and regional offices. State law has recognized the role of counties in supporting water management since 1909. Under current statutes, counties may fund and support assistant watermasters, who work with the Department. These county-funded positions create additional field capacity to serve water management needs and improve customer service within specific counties. As of May 2024, the number of county-funded, full-time, assistant watermasters and office assistants had declined from a total of 37 in the 1980's to eight statewide, with several other counties providing funds for seasonal temporary assistants.

While County funded support continues to diminish, staffing increases resulting from the 2021 legislature and December special session of that year grew the Division by adding additional assistant watermasters, well inspectors, a deputy administrator and an Enforcement Section. The 2023 legislative session further allowed the Division to add much needed managerial capacity to tackle complex issues in the Klamath Basin through the funding of a sixth region manager and establishment of sixth region – dividing the South-

Central Region into two regions. The new South-Central Region comprising of Districts 17 and 12 being Klamath and Lake Basins while the Central Region, managed out of the Bend field office is comprised of Districts 11 and 24 including the Deschutes and Crooked River Basins. Two additional assistant watermasters were added with to support the water availability reporting system update and surface water data collection and analysis. These positions were transferred to the Technical Services Division to be best positioned to support both needs. Given the growth in this section and declines in staffing for backlogs in the Water Rights Services Division, two Field Services positions are being transferred to assist with water right transaction processing.

Enforcement

The Enforcement Section (ES) is comprised of four staff and one manager. The ES monitors referrals from watermasters, dam safety, well construction, and other field and technical staff for potential violations that require formal action. The ES prepares formal enforcement documents and tracks each action to its disposition. In 2023, the section processed a total of 295 referrals from field staff resulting in 162 notices of violation, 108 measuring device notices, 16 notices of assessment, and 12 final orders. Current data reflects 1.89 days separation from the ES receiving a referral and that referral being mailed to the appropriate party/respondent. Additionally, the ES negotiates settlement agreements with respondents and field staff to gain compliance. In cases for which a formal hearing is requested, ES staff are available to represent the OWRD as lay representation. The ES assigns each referral a distinct case number, maintains a database for field staff to monitor the status of the referral submitted, and provides monthly statistics to all regional offices. In 2023, one contested case hearing was requested, and more than $52,000 in civil penalties were assessed. In Fiscal Year 2024, $10,000.00 in civil penalties were paid to OWRD.

Enabling Legislation/Program Authorization

Oregon water law is laid out in Oregon Revised Statutes (ORS) chapters 536 through 543. With ORS 536.220, the legislature recognizes economic development, and the general welfare is dependent upon the proper utilization and control of the water resources and such use and control is a matter of greatest concern and highest priority.

ORS 537.110 declares all waters in the state as a public resource; 537.535 – 537.635 authorizes the water-use permitting process to develop those waters; 537.747 – 537.772 authorizes well construction standards and regulation; 540.020 – 540.045 authorizes the appointment of watermasters and regulatory duties to distribute water based upon water rights of record.

Funding Streams

The Field Services Division is primarily funded using General Fund dollars, a reflection of the long-term history of the program and the many diverse interest groups benefitting from water management, field inspections, and data collection. Start Card fees, authorized under ORS 537.762, are received when new wells are constructed and support Oregon's well inspection program. Other Funds from gaging agreements and local contracts also help support the work of the Field Services Division.

Field Services Division

	General Fund	Other Funds	Lottery Funds	Federal Funds	Total Funds
2023-25 Legislatively Adopted Budget	21,639,428	2,938,949	-	75,000	24,653,377
2023-25 Emergency Boards	1,394,974	228,124	-	-	1,623,098
2023-25 Legislatively Approved Budget	23,034,402	3,167,073	-	75,000	26,276,475
2025-27 Base Budget	25,192,341	3,386,337	-	75,000	28,653,678
2025-27 Current Service Level	24,692,100	3,326,160	-	75,000	28,093,260
Total Packages	(99,648)	(85,659)	-	-	(185,307)
2025-27 Governor's Recommended Budget	24,592,452	3,240,501	-	75,000	27,907,953

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES DIVISION

The Administrative Services Division provides business, information, and administrative services to the Department in support of the agency's mission.

Program Contact: Lisa Snyder, Division Administrator | (503) 983-5801
The Division is divided into three sections: Employee Services, Information Technology, and Business Services. Division responsibilities include:

- Budget preparation and execution
- Human resource services
- Application development services
- Accounting and internal fiscal control
- Payroll and benefits
- Procurement and contracting
- Network support
- Databases and mapping
- Facilities management
- Risk management
- Employee training
- Mailroom support services
- Transportation coordination
- Records management
- Help desk and telecommunication administration

Snapshot

Customers	**Case / Workload**
Internal WRD staff; Cities; Counties; Consultants; Federal Agencies; State Agencies; Oregon Tribes; Public Interest Organizations; Property Buyers/Sellers; Water Right Holders; General Public; Irrigation Districts	Fiscal transactions, Human Resource and payroll/benefits services, agency support services, budgeting, Information Technology, Mapping/GIS, contracts and procurement, recruiting, critical foundational business support services

Funding Source	**Modified Current Service Level (Includes Package 070)**	**GRB Expanded**
General Fund	$15.07 M	$15.41 M
Other Funds	$2.13 M	$2.35 M
Lottery Funds	$24.35 M	$24.35 M
Federal Funds	$0.03 M	$0.03 M

Positions/FTE	42 / 41.5	45 / 43.88

Program Descriptions

Employee Services

The Employee Services Section provides hiring, employee development, worker's compensation, and other human resources services to recruit, grow, develop and retain employees to fulfill our mission to serve Oregonians. A professional, empowered workforce is vital for the Department to achieve its goals and provide quality services. The Section's responsibilities include the maintenance of official personnel files and the Workday system, maintaining required legal notices in Water Resources Department offices, as well as coordinating actions related to affirmative action, and risk management. The Section works with SAIF on workers compensation claims, administers protected leave programs, and coordinates return-to-work programs. The Section is responsible for providing Department managers with human resources advice, as well as counseling staff regarding career opportunities. The Section works with managers to carry out progressive discipline as necessary. Staff update and lead implementation of the Department's affirmative action plan, which values and embraces diversity, and monitor the progress on the agency's affirmative action goals. The Section strives to ensure that all aspects of employee services are handled timely, accurately, and courteously, and that the section promotes an environment that values integrity, diversity, and respect.

Many of the above-referenced services are also provided to the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB) under a shared services contractual agreement. Other responsibilities of the Employee Services Section include payroll and benefits processing and tracking for Department staff, as well as three other agencies, including open enrollment, under a shared services payroll program which the Department made permanent beginning in the 2019-21 biennium.

Business Services

The Business Services Section consists of Fiscal Services and Support Services. Fiscal Services' primary responsibility is accounting, budgeting, and procurement services. The Section establishes and monitors internal controls related to safeguarding State and Department assets, processes accounts receivable and accounts payable transactions and is responsible for the development and preparation of the Department's Statewide Financial Report (SFR), which is combined with other agencies' SFRs to complete the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report for the State. The Section has been continuously recognized as a "Gold Star" contributor to the SFR since 1993 and has been awarded the Accounts Receivable Honor Roll since 2019.

The Fiscal Services Section is responsible for the preparation and execution of the agency's budget including monthly revenue and expenditure monitoring, contract monitoring, management of the allotment and budget tracking. Other Section responsibilities include procurement and contract administration for the agency. The Section's contract administration functions ensure that the Department complies with statewide contracting

rules and policy.

The Fiscal Services Section provides fiscal services for the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB). The Section supports OWEB with general fiscal counsel, providing guidance on accounting, budget, and fiscal policy matters. The Section maintains accounts payable, accounts receivable, general accounting, preparation of statewide financial reporting, and enters the allotment for OWEB.

The Support Services Section responsibilities include records management, public records coordination, fleet management, emergency operations planning, sustainability, travel coordination, key card access, mail processing, revenue receipting, inventory control, telecommunication management, and facilities administration for the agency. The section is responsible for coordination of facilities administration with the two other agencies that share the North Mall Office Building.

Biennially, the Section processes over 100,000 pieces of mail and creates, inputs, and reconciles more than 250,000 accounting entries, which includes accounts payable entries, payroll entries, and accounts receivable or receipt entries. The Section maintains files and controls for over 400 contracts and agreements, including reimbursement authority contracts and other agreements.

Information Technology

The Information Technology (IT) Section develops and manages critical information technology infrastructure and solutions used by all sections of the agency to advance the mission of the agency. The IS Section manages and facilitates access to a vast array of scientific data used by the agency, partners, and the public to assess conditions and make decisions regarding Oregon's water resources. IS achieves this work through four distinct subsections: Application Development, Network Support, Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and Data Management.

During the 2019-21 biennium, the IS section started a migration to the state's combined data center (SDC) that has continued into the 2023-25 biennium as new migration opportunities are realized. This ongoing effort will reduce risk, increase information security, and allow the agency to better focus future efforts to modernizing agency information systems and data. The section also developed an IT Strategic Plan, which is now guiding work and budget priorities for the section.

Application Development - The Application Development team analyzes, designs, builds, deploys, and maintains custom in-house solutions to support the business functions of department program areas. The application development team meets often with business units within the agency to gather requirements for new system development, product enhancements, and to provide fixes for discovered problems.

Data Management - The Data Management team enters new data and performs quality assurance on existing data, particularly water rights and well construction data. The team works with other agency programs and must understand how data within the agency flows in and out of business units in support of the agency mission. They perform this work using

a variety of in-house developed and commercial off-the-shelf solutions.

Network Support - The Network Support team manages all agency network, desktop, and server infrastructure for the agency. This critical infrastructure supports the operations of every business unit within the agency. This team works closely with the State Data Center and Cyber Security Services to ensure that operations fall within acceptable guidelines and provide a secure network environment for staff to operate in. Additionally, the Network Support team provides customer support to agency staff who rely upon our critical network, desktop, and server resources to do their jobs daily. Support is provided both electronically and in person.

Geospatial Information Systems - The Geographic Information Systems (GIS) team builds the infrastructure for maintaining the locations of water rights, wells, dams, stream gauges, and other related location data of the agency. They use this data in the mapping, reporting, and analysis of water-related science performed by the agency. The data is also made available to agency staff, partners, and the public through static and web-based interactive maps, and other tools.

Water Development Loan Fund

The Water Development Loan Program was enacted by the 1977 Legislature to finance irrigation and drainage projects. The legislation was referred to the voters and received approval in 1977. The program has since been expanded to include community water supply projects, to make loans for fish protection and watershed enhancement. The Department has awarded 176 loans were for irrigation and drainage projects and five were for development of community water supply systems. The program has no state-owned property or inventory.

However, the program has not seen any significant interest from potential applicants in recent years. Authority to issue bonds in the amounts of $10 million in 2009-11, $15 million in 2011-13, and $10 million in 2013-15 for a project in the Umatilla Basin were not used. Additional funding of $30 million was authorized for 2015-17 but was not expended. General Obligation bonds are only issued after project(s) are identified and an agreement is signed for repayment by the borrower(s). No funding was authorized for the 2017-19, 2019-2021, 2021-23, or the 2023-25 biennium. There are no pending loans, or applications for loans. No requests for additional bonding authority have been received or submitted.

Enabling Legislation/Program Authorization

ORS 536.037 provides general administrative authority. ORS 536.500 authorizes expenditure of funds. The Feasibility Study Grants (Water Conservation, Reuse and Storage Grant) is governed by ORS 541.561 to 541.581. The Water Project Grants and Loans funding (Water Supply Development Account) is authorized by ORS 541.651 to 541.696. The Water Development Loan Fund is governed by ORS 541.700 to 541.855.

Funding Streams

General Fund is the primary funding source that is used to provide administrative services to the Department. Lottery Funds support the debt service related to the Lottery Revenue

Bonds issued for grant programs and direct appropriations, managed by the Planning, Collaboration, and Investments Section. Other Fund sources include shared services agreements with other agencies for payroll, contracting assistance, accounting, and information technology services.

Administrative Services Division

	General Fund	Other Funds	Lottery Funds	Federal Funds	Total Funds
2023-25 Legislatively Adopted Budget	12,060,775	2,137,935	15,856,857	25,000	30,080,567
2023-25 Emergency Boards	83,008	1,887,929	(1,754,019)	-	216,918
2023-25 Legislatively Approved Budget	12,143,783	4,025,864	14,102,838	25,000	30,297,485
2025-27 Base Budget	13,449,398	4,137,960	24,352,512	25,000	41,964,870
2025-27 Current Service Level	15,070,141	2,354,205	24,352,512	25,000	41,801,858
Total Packages	339,354	226,296	-	-	565,650
2025-27 Governor's Recommended Budget	15,409,495	2,353,173	24,352,512	25,000	42,140,180

DIRECTOR'S OFFICE

The Director's Office is responsible for developing and supervising the policies and programs that ensure water is managed according to Oregon Water Law and to meet current and future instream and out of stream water needs.

Program Contact: Racquel Rancier, Deputy Director of Strategy and Administration | 503-302-9235

The Director's Office oversees policy-related functions affecting the entire Department and supports activities of the Water Resources Commission. In this role, the Director's Office ensures internal controls are in place to help improve performance in key program areas. The Director's Office centralizes responsibility for several major functions including:

- Updating and implementing the Integrated Water Resources Strategy, Strategic Plan and DEI Plan
- Policy oversight of all Department contested case hearings and litigation
- Intergovernmental coordination and representation in state/tribal negotiations
- Drafting, implementing, and coordinating agency policies, rules, and legislation
- Create public information methods suitable for diverse audiences
- Response to press inquiries and issuance of press releases
- Support for Water Resources Commission activities
- Oversight of Department work groups and task forces, climate initiatives, and January 2023 Governor Expectations
- Process improvement, key performance measures, and implementation of the Integrated Water Resources Strategy and Strategic Plan
- Principal contact with members of the Legislature, stakeholder groups, other state agencies, local and federal entities, as well as interested parties
- Integration of equity, diversity, and inclusion into agency programs, policies, and communications
- Participation in the resolution of complex water issues.
- Oversee and lead water planning, collaboration, and development efforts to meet instream and out-of-stream needs, including efforts related to place-based planning, feasibility grants, and water project grants and loans

- Plan and conduct public outreach and engagement activities
- Complex basin engagement and oversight

Snapshot

Customers	Case / Workload
Cities; Counties; Consultants; Federal Agencies; State Agencies; Watershed Councils; Tribes; Water Right Holders; Public Interest Organizations; Legislators and Congressional Offices; General Public; Irrigation Districts and Special Districts; Conservation Groups; Media; and Community Based Organizations	Commission meetings and actions, Contested Case hearings, Rules, Citizen Response, IWRS, Legislation, Communications, Complex water issues, Grant Programs and Direct Appropriations, Planning Groups Support, Basin Support.

Funding Source	Modified Current Service Level	GRB Expanded
General Fund	$16.40 M	$24.56 M
Other Funds	$110.77 M	$132.86 M
Federal Funds	$0.03 M	$0.03 M
Positions/FTE	30 / 29.50	30 / 29.50

Program Descriptions

The Oregon Water Resources Department and its policy-making body, the Oregon Water Resources Commission, have a dual mission: to address Oregon's water supply needs and to restore and protect streamflows. As a result, groups interested in the Department's work are very diverse in their interests and values, representing both out-of-stream water users such as industry, municipalities, agriculture, and individual households, as well as instream uses, such as hydropower, fish and wildlife, water quality, scenic waterways, and recreation.

The Director's Office includes the Director, two Deputy Directors, Executive Support staff, Special Assistants to the Director, as well as two sections: the Policy Section, and the Planning, Collaboration and Investments Section. The Director's Office seeks to ensure that the agency is serving all Oregonians. The Director's Office provides leadership and direction to staff across the agency to help resolve water challenges and help individuals and communities meet their instream and out-of-stream water needs.

The Director, Deputies, and Executive Support staff work together to provide oversight and support for all of the agencies' programs in order to institute policies and practices that best serve Oregonians, including senior level leadership on interagency coordination on complex policy matters and multi-agency work, including serving on the Governor's Natural Resources Cabinet, the Water Core Team, the Deputy Directors Network, the Integrated Water Resources Strategy, and participating in other coordination activities for high-interest priority activities.

These staff also provide oversight, direction, and guidance for agency work, including ensuring completion and integration of work associated with the Governor's 2023 expectations, as well as efforts to integrate diversity, equity, inclusion and environmental justice best practices into agency programs. They provide key policy decisions in coordination with the Department of Justice regarding litigation, contested cases, and other matters. The division staff also provide strategic leadership and coordination among multiple sections through the development and implementation of strategic business documents, including the Integrated Water Resources Strategy, and the agency Strategic and DEI Plan, and IT Strategic Plan. These staff are also frequently involved in the work of sections within the Director's office; those responsibilities are detailed in the section narratives below.

The special assistants to the Director also provide more focused support, primarily on matters in the Klamath Basin, which tend to be more complex.

Some of the key functions of the Director's office are highlighted in more detail below.

Intergovernmental Coordination

The Director's Office leads the agency's formal and informal intergovernmental coordination activities as the lead contact with Oregon's tribal governments, other state-level agencies, the Governor's Office, local governments, neighboring states and federal agencies on matters of common authority, responsibility, or interest. The Legislative Assembly has authorized the Director to initiate negotiations with tribes in Oregon to define the nature and scope of tribal reserved water right claims. The needs to resolve tribal claims in Oregon are real and significant. The Director's office also participates in regular meetings with other state agency Directors and Deputy Directors to coordinate items of multi-agency interest. Increasingly, there is a need to coordinate with other state's on resolving water issues of bi-state interest. Staff also serve councils and committees to represent the agency, including the Western States Water Council and the Oregon Climate Action Commission, as well as in tribal consultations, meetings with other states on transboundary water issues, and often with federal partners.

Complex Water Issues

With Oregon's water resources fully allocated in many parts of the state, it is becoming more challenging to meet the needs of both new and existing instream and out-of-stream demands. The Director's Office is often involved in working on collaborative processes to identify solutions to complex water issues in conjunction with other sections of the agency. Examples of these efforts include addressing water supply needs in the Umatilla Basin, engaging in collaborative planning and resolving disputes in the Deschutes Basin, partnering with U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to engage with stakeholders in the allocation of stored water in the Willamette Basin, working with the community in the Greater Harney Valley to address water supply needs, and engaging in discussions about water challenges in the Walla Walla subbasin. In addition, the Director's office continues to be involved to provide policy, management, and coordination on water management issues in the Klamath Basin. More recently there has been an interest in working in the Lake Abert Basin and in Southwest Oregon on water supply challenges.

Oversight of Contested Cases and Litigation

Water right issues can be complex and contentious. The Department's water right-related decisions, regulatory actions or scientific conclusions are sometimes challenged administratively or in court. The Director's Office works with protest staff, enforcement staff, and Department of Justice attorneys to oversee these activities.

Communications, Outreach and Engagement

The Director's Office is responsible for communicating with and responding to inquiries from stakeholders, partners, members of the Legislature, the public, and the media. The Director's Office communicates through a variety of means: face-to-face meetings, conference calls, web-based platforms, letters, informational listservs, news releases, fact sheets, and public meetings. Engagement staff also provide support in planning efforts to effectively engage with the public. For example, staff are working with others in the Department, the USGS, and communities in support of the Walla Walla Groundwater Study, taking the lead on community engagement. Staff are also attending public events to facilitate interest and understanding of the agencies work. Staff have also been working on a best practices document for community engagement in water projects pursuant to HB 3293 (2021).

Water Resources Commission

The Director's Office supports the Water Resources Commission by coordinating meetings, developing issue reports and briefing papers, staffing work groups, and answering Commission information requests.

Integrated Water Resources Strategy (IWRS), Strategic and DEI Planning

The Director's Office oversees development and implementation of Oregon's Integrated Water Resources Strategy (IWRS), an inter-agency blueprint for understanding and meeting the state's water needs. The IWRS identifies critical water-related issues for the state and recommended actions to address them. The Water Resources Department is required to update the Strategy every five years; the first update was completed in 2017. The next update has been delayed due to the need to conduct several other projects and workgroups directed by the 2021 legislature, and the more recently following direction from the Governor.

While the Integrated Water Resources Strategy provides a comprehensive, high-level framework for strategic guidance for all state agencies, the 2019-2024 Strategic Plan directly focuses on the agency's priorities, processes and functions. The Strategic Plan will be updated beginning in late 2024 and will include a focus on IWRS actions prioritized by the Department. The next plan will be an integrated Strategic and DEI Plan as the agency believes that to advance diversity, equity, inclusion, and justice, we must incorporate this into our day-to-day work and how we do business.

Interagency Climate Work

The Director's Office coordinates with other agencies on climate efforts, such as the Climate Adaptation Framework, and the Climate Action Commission. The Department's efforts are

limited due to limited staff capacity and the need to focus on drought and modernization efforts. In recent years, the Department has been focused on drought response in coordination with Oregon Emergency Management.

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion and Environmental Justice

The Director's Office is expanding its work in this area, leading the agency's efforts to consider diversity, equity, and inclusion in policy and law development, internal and external communications, and outreach, as well as in the administration of its programs and through internal procedures. The Department has an active DEI team that meets monthly and works to help agency staff learn about DEI issues and concepts. One of the deputies serves as the executive sponsor for this team.

Water Law and Policy Expertise

Effective distribution and management of Oregon's water requires trained experts in the fields of law/public policy, hydrogeology, hydrology, engineering, and science. The Director's Office responsibilities require in-house institutional knowledge to make policy decisions and develop strategies to communicate and implement Oregon Water Law, as well as meet instream and out-of-stream needs. The Director's Office staff work with the Water Resources Commission, other staff, stakeholders, elected officials and the public to update Oregon's statutes, rules, and policies. Staff lead the development of policy and budget initiatives and facilitate the public process around legislative and rulemaking actives.

Performance Improvement

The Director's Office has oversight responsibility for continuous improvement in all program areas. A variety of techniques help us identify how we fare in these areas, including key performance measures (KPMs), internal process evaluation, internal performance indicators, meetings with peer agencies, external stakeholder feedback, and the biennial budget process. In recent years, the Department has worked to modernize and improve the Well Construction Program and Dam Safety Program statutes in coordination with those sections. The agency is now focused on working with the Water Rights Services Division to identify needed improvements in water laws to better serve the needs of Oregonians and to streamline processes.

Public Records Requests

Until July 2024, the Director's Office responded to all public records requests received by the agency and coordinated with staff to collect documents to respond to those requests. Given the tremendous growth in those workloads, the agency has had to hire a full-time public records coordinator; that position has been hired and this work has been moved to the Administrative Services Division to work alongside the agency records specialist.

Planning and Funding Program Administration

Place-Based Planning - Place-based integrated water resources planning (also known as place-based water planning) is a voluntary, locally initiated and led effort, in which a balanced representation of water interests work in partnership with the state to understand and meet their instream and out-of-stream water supply needs. The Department is a partner

in these planning efforts and provides financial, technical, and planning assistance to the communities testing the guidelines. There are currently four places that are piloting the place-based, collaborative, and integrated approach to water planning. Three groups have developed plans, achieved state recognition of their plan, and transitioned to plan implementation. The fourth planning group has developed the portion of its plan addressing groundwater and is working on addressing surface water. The Department's authority to provide financial assistance to place-based planning was made permanent during the 2023-25 session, with an additional $2M provided to support future work. The Department is working to update and improve program guidelines by creating new rules to reflect new statutory language and build upon lessons learned from past efforts.

Feasibility Study Grants- Feasibility Study Grants reimburse up to 50 percent of the costs of studies to evaluate the feasibility of developing water conservation, reuse, and storage projects. This competitive funding opportunity helps individuals and communities investigate whether a project is worth pursuing. Grants are offered on an annual basis.

Water Projects Grants and Loans - Water Project Grants and Loans provides funding for projects that help Oregon meet its in stream and out-of-stream water supply needs and produce economic, environmental, and social/cultural benefits. This is a competitive funding opportunity that is meant for implementation-ready projects. Grants and loans are offered twice a year.

Water Well Abandonment, Repair, and Replacement Fund - The Water Well Abandonment, Repair and Replacement Fund (WARRF) was authorized via HB 2145 (2021). It provides financial assistance to persons or members of a federally recognized Indian tribe in Oregon to permanently abandon, repair, or replace a water well used for household purposes. The first phase of this program has provided assistance to low-to-moderate income households with domestic wells in areas that are impacted by drought or wildfire. These impacted households are prioritized to meet urgent public health needs and based on the direction from the Oregon Legislature during the December 2021 2nd Special Session. The Department anticipates a broader set of wells will be eligible for funding in future biennia.

Harney Domestic Well Remediation Fund - The Harney Domestic Well Remediation Fund was authorized in HB 3092 (2021). The purpose of the fund is to provide financial assistance to replace, repair, or deepen domestic personal use wells that are affected by declining ground water levels resulting from overallocation of ground water within the Greater Harney Valley Groundwater Area of Concern.

Cost-Share Measurement Fund - The Cost-Share Measurement Fund provides funding for up to 50 percent of the cost for installing measuring devices. This funding opportunity was in the Field Service Division and will be moving to the Planning, Collaboration, and Investments Section. The section will help modernize and publicize the program.

Enabling Legislation/Program Authorization

Water allocation and management is the responsibility of the state. There is no federal back-up for this work.

Director's Office and Policy Section– Policy and legal oversight, public information / media, tribal and intergovernmental relations, staffing the Water Resources Commission, coordinate with the Oregon Legislature, rulemaking, public hearings, special projects, environmental justice, sustainability, key performance measures.	ORS 536.025; ORS 536.037; ORS 536.220; ORS 536.340; ORS 536.420; ORS 542.630; ORS 183.330; ORS 182.535; ORS 184.423/Executive Order 03-03; ORS 536.040; ORS 182.164; ORS 539.310; Water Laws ORS 536-543
Director's Office, Planning, Collaboration, and Investments Section:	ORS 541.561 to 541.581; ORS 541.651 to 541.696 provides requirements for feasibility study grants and water projects grants and loans. 2015 Oregon Laws Chapter 780 provides authorization for grants for place-based planning.

Funding Streams

Director's Office activities are primarily funded by the General Fund and Lottery Revenue Bond proceeds which are used for the Water Project Grants and Loans program.

	Director's Office				
	General Fund	Other Funds	Lottery Funds	Federal Funds	Total Funds
2023-25 Legislatively Adopted Budget	26,620,276	154,566,530	-	25,000	181,211,806
2023-25 Emergency Boards	2,926,247	1,000,000	-	-	3,926,247
2023-25 Legislatively Approved Budget	29,546,523	155,566,530	-	25,000	185,138,053
2025-27 Base Budget	30,994,702	155,566,530	-	25,000	186,586,232
2025-27 Current Service Level	16,395,759	110,768,593	-	25,000	127,189,352
Total Packages	8,162,184	22,089,741	-	-	30,251,925
2025-27 Governor's Recommended Budget	24,557,943	132,858,334	-	25,000	157,441,277

Chapter 3: Performance Summary

Overview

The Water Resources Department has 12 active Key Performance Measures (KPMs). These performance measures cover agency programs related to streamflow restoration, protection, and measurement; groundwater monitoring; and regulatory actions, and customer service. A brief overview of the Department's KPMs are included in the following pages. The Department's most recent Annual Performance Progress Report is provided in the Appendix.

Key Performance Measures Changes

Many of the Department's KPMs have been in place since the early 2000s; therefore, the Department has begun efforts to review the existing KPMs to ensure they remain relevant. KPM's 6 and 12 were deleted in 2019. KPM 2 was revised in 2019. No changes are proposed by the agency for this biennium.

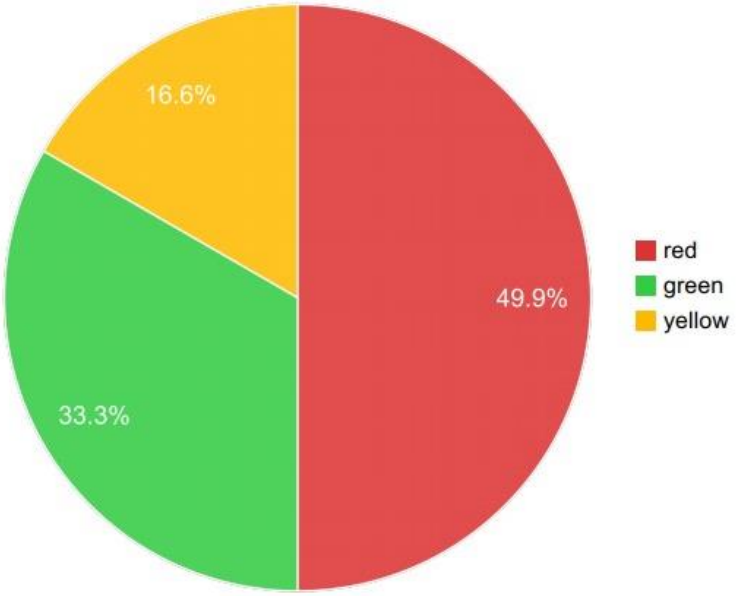
Use of Performance Measures, including KPMs

Metrics are an important tool for managing both daily and long-term performance and identifying areas in need of process improvements. Performance measures and indicators, as well as recommended actions in the Integrated Water Resources Strategy (IWRS) are also important to identify needed agency actions and policy option packages.

At the program level, both key performance measures and other internal performance indicators help managers adjust processes and priorities to prevent bottlenecks and to strategically focus resources. Performance measures and indicators are used at the individual staff level to focus workloads.

Key Performance Measures Compared to Target

Percent of KPMs within a percent of target



Green	Yellow	Red
Measure is meeting target or within -5 % of target	Measure is between less than -5 % of target and -15 % of target	Measure is less than -15 % of target

For each KPM on the pages below, the target is the blue line with boxes, and the actual is shown by the columns and bold numbers.

KPM Snapshot

Meeting Target

- KPM 3 Monitor Compliance
- KPM 5 Assessing Ground Water Resources
- KPM 7 Equip Citizens with Information
- KPM 9 Promote Efficiency in Water Management & Conservation Plan Reviews

Not Meeting Target

- KPM 1 Flow Restoration
- KPM 2 Protection of Water Instream
- KPM 4 Streamflow Gaging
- KPM 8 Water Measurement – Significant Points of Diversion
- KPM 10 Promote Efficiency in Water Right Application Processing
- KPM 11 Promote Efficiency in Transfer Application Processing
- KPM 13 Increase Water Use Reporting
- KPM 14 Customer Service

KPM 1 - Flow Restoration

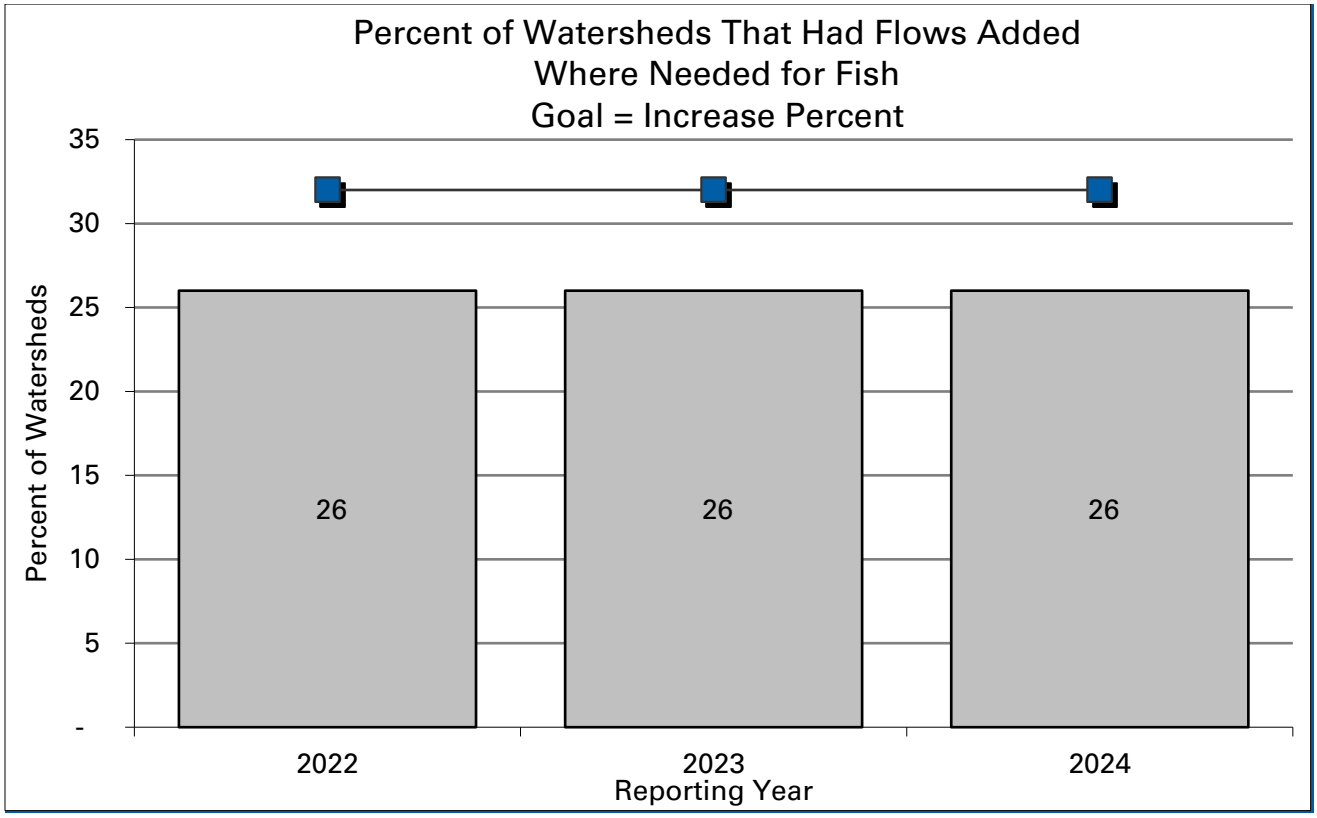
Measured by the percent of watersheds that had flows added where needed for fish

Strategy

- Voluntary streamflow restoration through instream leases, transfers, and allocations of conserved water programs.
- Capitalize on opportunities to benefit farmers and ranchers as well as watersheds.
- Work with conservation partners and willing water right holders.
- Continue to streamline application processing while ensuring protection of existing water rights.

Trends

- 39 percent of Oregon's flow restoration work involves a third party such as The Freshwater Trust, Deschutes River Conservancy, and Trout Unlimited.
- 61 percent of flow restoration activities are directly between water right holders and WRD.
- The modest upward trend is due to an increase in the amount of water put instream in 342 high priority watersheds, which can fluctuate from year to year based on water user interest in leasing water instream.
- The percent of high priority watersheds that had water voluntarily protected instream matches and the total amount of water put instream statewide (within and outside of the high priority watersheds) during the 2024 reporting period matches the prior report.



KPM 2 - Protection of Instream Water Rights

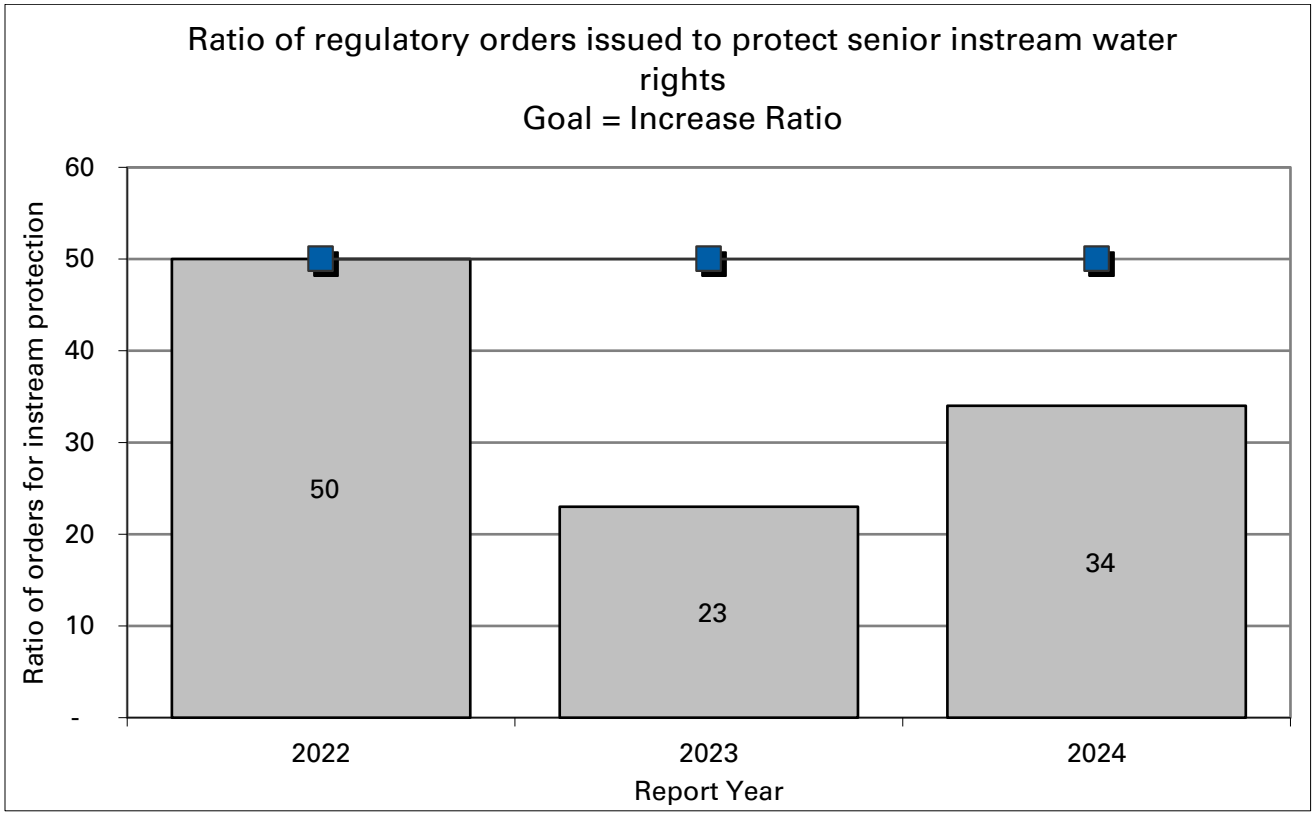
Measured by the ratio regulatory orders issued to protect senior water rights when the senior water right is an instream right to all regulatory orders issued to protect senior water rights

Strategies:

- Monitor streamflows.
- Distribute water to protect instream water rights according to priority date.
- Add near-real-time access to gaging stations to improve monitoring for instream water rights.
- Ensure adequate field presence.

Trends:

- The number of streams regulated varies with the amount and timing of rainfall in any given year, water conditions, temperatures, as well as staff resources.
- The Department is meeting its dual mission, protecting instream and out of stream uses. Half of the regulatory actions undertaken were for instream water rights, while the other half were for consumptive uses.
- In calendar year 2023, staff reported a total of 8,726 regulatory actions, 2,941 were to regulate for instream water rights. Regulatory actions are actions by staff that cause a change in water use behavior.
- Instream water rights are often junior to other surface water rights and are actively monitored by the Department. Many stream flows with instream water rights are met naturally throughout the season which do not require regulation on their behalf. In years with well-timed precipitation and high stream flows, the total number of streams regulated is likely to go down. In years with lower stream flows the total number of streams regulated is likely to go up because of the greater demand and less supply for all beneficial uses. The number of streams regulated varies with the amount and timing of rainfall and snowmelt run off in any given year, temperatures, as well as availability of staff resources.



KPM 3 - Monitor Compliance

Measured by the percent of total regulatory actions that found water right holders to be in compliance with water rights and regulations

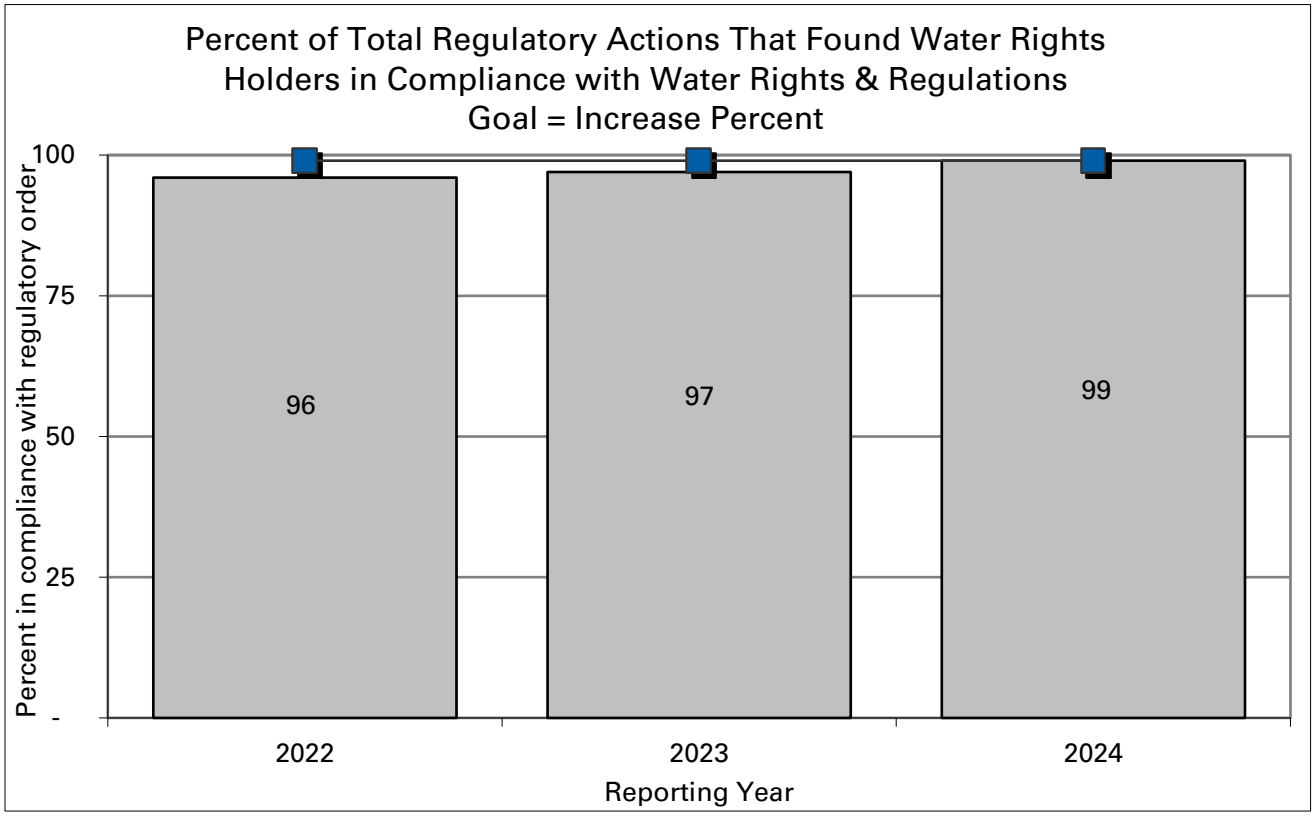
Regulatory activities include any action that causes a change in use, or maintenance, or a field inspection that confirms that no change is needed to comply with water right permit conditions, statutes, or orders of the Department.

Strategy:

- Distribute water according to the Doctrine of Prior Appropriation and enforce against illegal use of water.
- Educate water users about water regulations to achieve voluntary compliance.
- Continue to develop distribution maps and water rights databases.
- Ensure an adequate field presence to maintain a high level of compliance.
- Assess watermaster workloads and priorities and adequacy of laws for curbing unauthorized use.

Trends:

- Compliance rate varies based on water supply conditions; watermasters are likely to have more regulatory actions regarding water use during times of shortage.
- During the 2024 reporting period (2023 calendar year), watermasters had 8,726 regulatory actions, and 29,304 compliance checks.
- A high percentage indicates that water users understand and support the distribution of limited water supplies under Oregon's water code. It indicates that water users trust the watermasters' knowledge, consistency, and integrity.
- This metric does not necessarily reflect compliance with water right conditions or reflect compliance with Oregon water laws - as this only reflects known and tracked activities.



KPM 4 - Increase Understanding of Water Resources: Streamflow Gaging

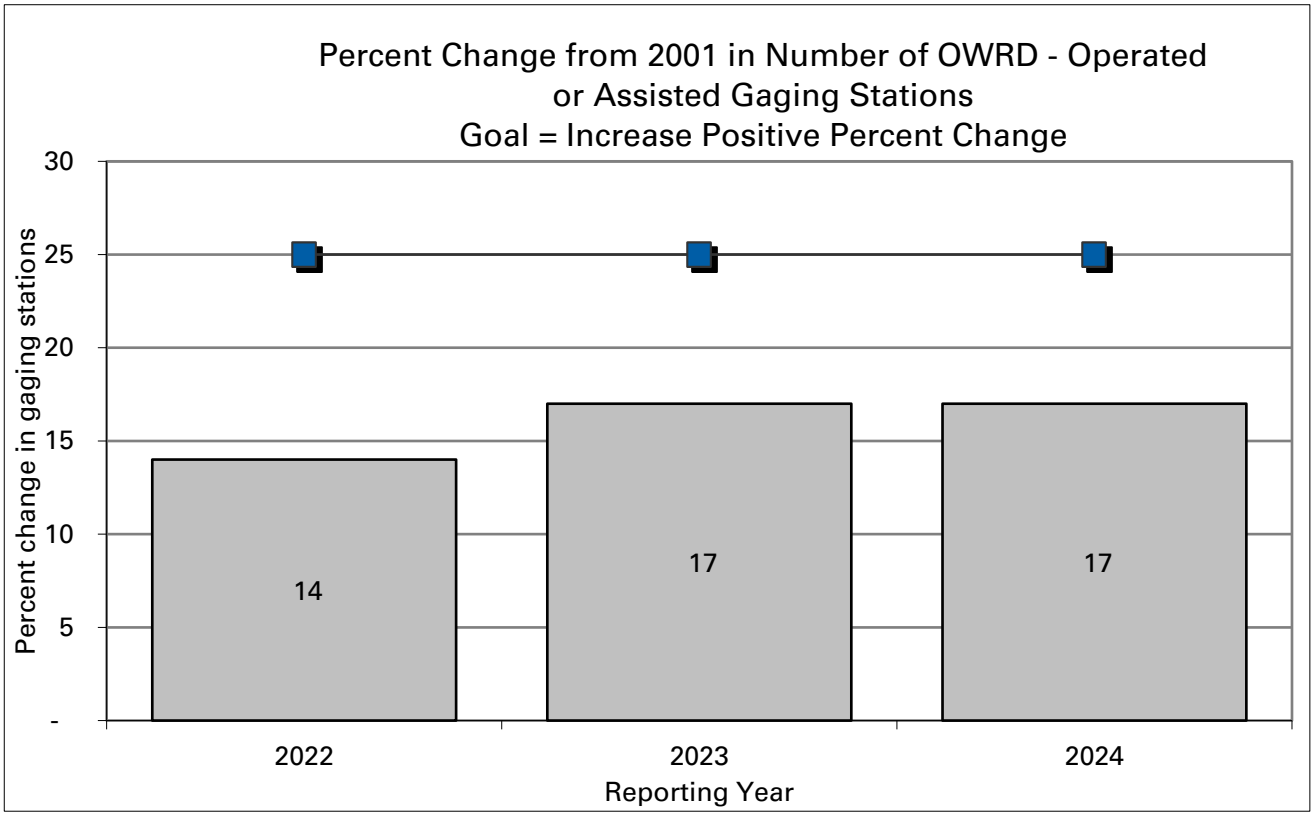
Measured by the percent change from 2001 in the number of WRD operated or assisted gaging stations

Strategy:

- Use watermasters, hydrotechs, and other field staff to collect data and maintain gaging stations.
- Cooperate with the U.S. Geological Survey, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, and others in collecting data.
- Pursue funding and partnerships to increase monitoring.
- Provide data online.
- Ensure adequate staff and funding to maintain the stations and provide quality assurance of the data.

Trends:

- During the 2024 reporting period, the Department added 1 gage and dropped 1, for a no net change in gages compared to the previous reporting year. This brings the total number of gages operated during this period to 251, a 17 percent increase over the 2001 benchmark.
- Staffing levels have not been commensurate with the continuous workload associated with collecting, maintaining, processing, and analyzing the data from these stations. Some gages have been discontinued due to other workload priorities.
- The Department received American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) dollars to purchase equipment for new and existing gages, these dollars are being used to install 10-15 new gages in the 2024 to 2025 year, particularly in support of basin studies and state-wide investigations.



KPM 5 - Increase Understanding of Water Resources: Assessing Groundwater

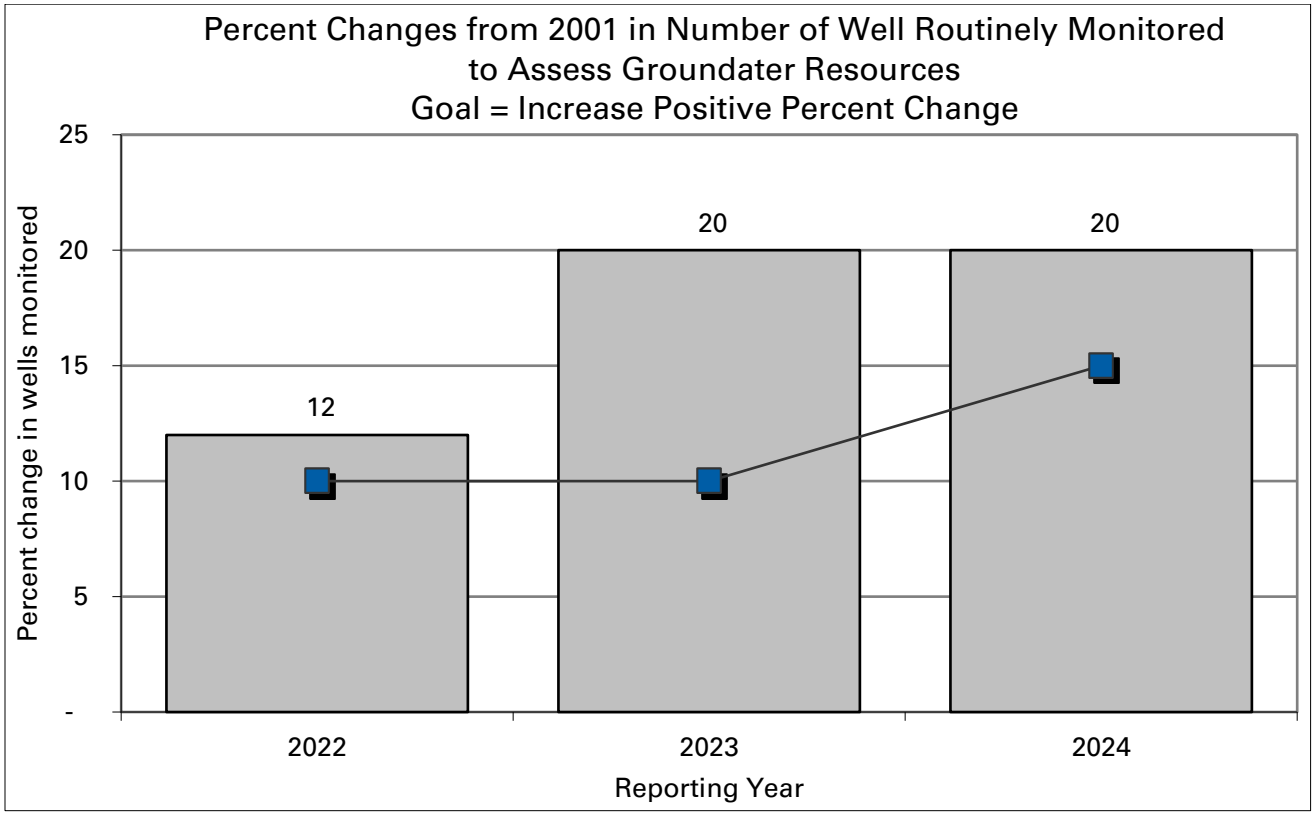
Measured by the percent change from 2001 in the number of wells routinely monitored to assess ground water resources

Strategy:

- Use watermasters and other field staff to take measurements and maintain well network.
- Work with the U.S. Geological Survey, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, and other entities to collect data.
- Request permission from landowners to gain access to wells and well data.
- Pursue funding and partnerships to increase monitoring.
- Provide data online through the State Observation Well Net.
- Maintain adequate staff to establish, maintain, collect, archive, and analyze data.

Trends:

- Since 2013, the legislature has provided resources to drill new state observation wells. During the 2024 reporting cycle, staff routinely monitored 420 wells in the State's Observation Well Network, compared to 350 in 2001. This is an increase of approximately 15 percent over 2001.
- This KPM does not track all wells and measurements. The Department collected 1,678 water level measurements from 816 observation wells.
- Increasing demands on groundwater is making data on long-term water level trends more essential in the Department's ability to manage and allocate the resource.
- Many wells are privately owned; therefore, the number of wells fluctuates each year, based on landowner participation.
- As aging wells are abandoned, access to the well is lost and new measuring sites must be secured.



KPM 7 - Equip Citizens with Information

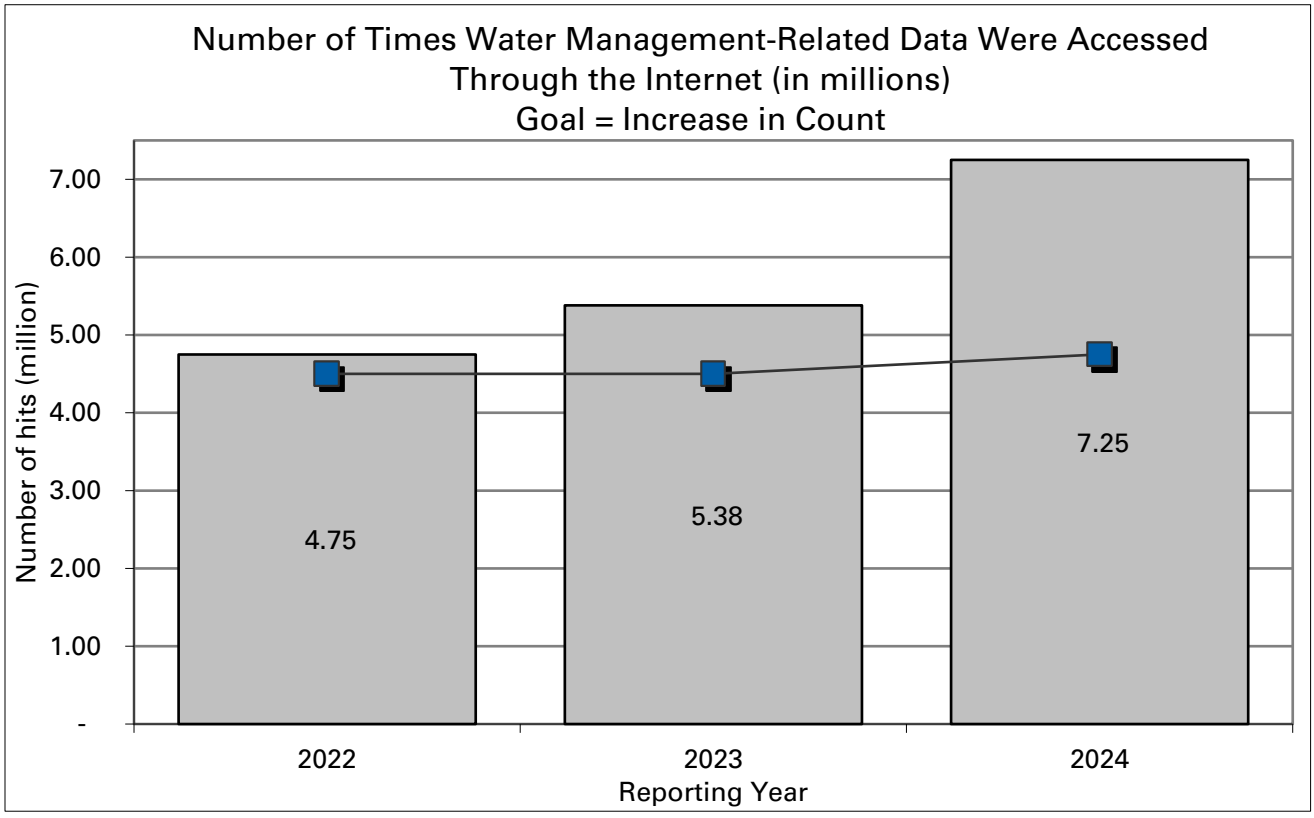
The number of times water management related data is accessed through WRD's website

Strategy:

- Provide data in an accessible and user-friendly format.
- Make water management datasets readily available for use by water users, water managers, and consultants.
- New web applications have been released, but have not been included in this KPM to ensure continuity and parity with historical information

Trends:

- The Department collects information from computer system logs to determine the number of hits received on our website, such as well log transactions, hydrographic records, water availability, water rights, and the document vault.
- In the 2024 reporting period, the Department experienced approximately 7.25 million hits to its website.
- The Department launched an updated website in September 2018, which was focused on making data easier for the public to find.
- In 2021, the legislature funded two communications positions, which will be able to develop more content to keep the public informed about agency activities via our website.
- There have been several new web applications that have been released but are not monitored in this key performance measure to ensure continuity and parity with historical information. This approach, however, underestimates the amount of traffic to the Department's website and use of its web-based applications.



KPM 8 – Fully Implement the Water Resources Commission's 2000 Water Measurement Strategy

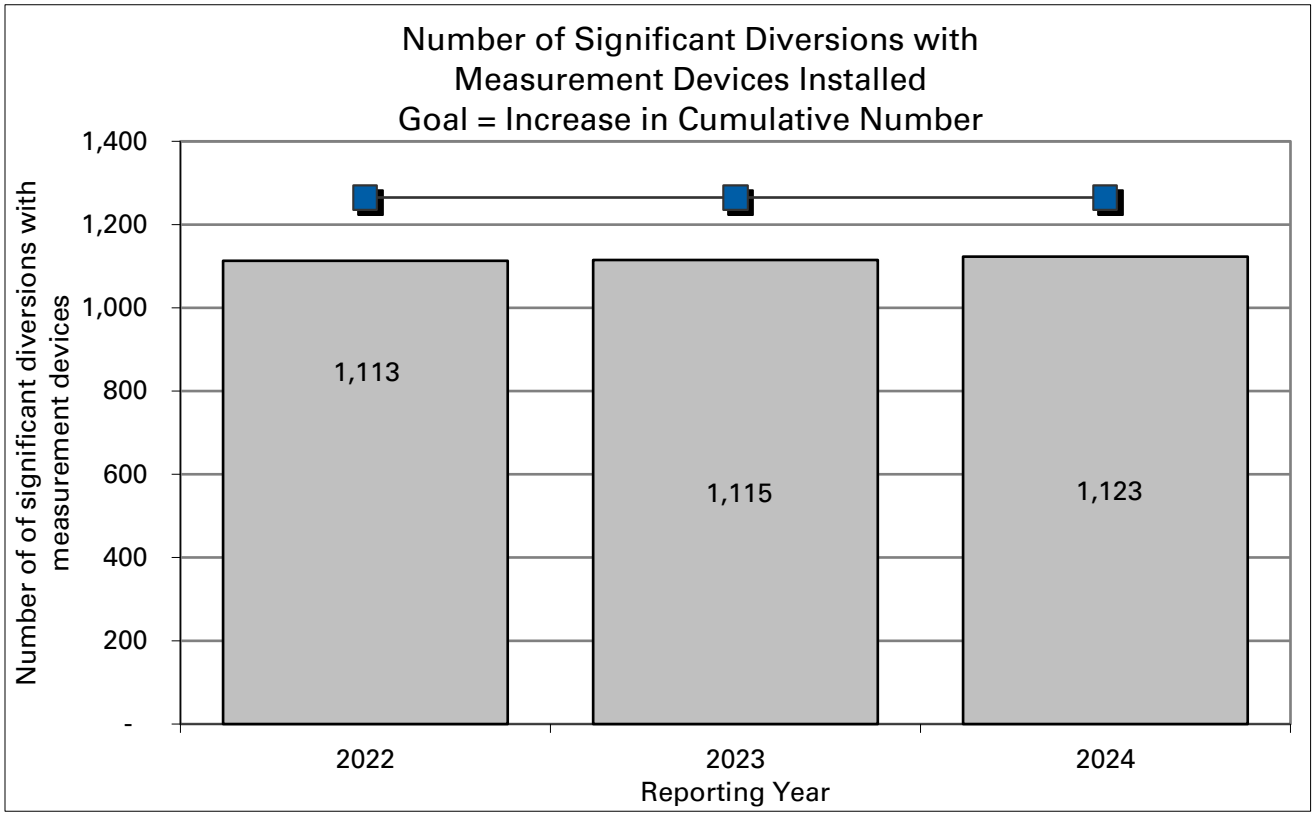
Measured by the number of significant diversions with measurement devices installed

Strategy:

- Pursuant to current law, require measuring devices, where needed, as part of Department permitting process and water management responsibilities.
- Implement the Water Resources Commission's 2000 Strategic Measurement Plan to improve water measurement statewide and by installing measuring devices on 2,385 significant diversions that represent about 10 percent of the overall number of diversions in high priority watersheds, and account for about 50 percent of the volume of water diverted.
- As resources allow, the Department intends to work on a new plan for increasing water use measurement, which may result in proposed changes to this KPM in the future.
- Work with landowners to install water measuring devices (e.g., weirs, flumes, and meters).
- Provide cost-share funding.

Trends:

- Staff efforts, underway since 2000, have resulted in 1,123 measuring devices installed by the 2024 reporting period. In addition, 709 significant diversions are abandoned or not in use. Approximately 482 of the original 2,385 significant diversions still need measuring devices installed.
- It takes significant outreach to bring a landowner onboard with the installation of a measuring device. Success is directly related to time spent by Department field staff working with the landowner.
- This KPM does not account for all of the measuring devices installed annually.
- As more watermaster districts complete the work monitored by this KPM, the number of additional devices installed under this KPM will decline reflecting the fewer staff working on it.



KPM 9 - Promote Efficiency in Water Management and Conservation Plan Reviews

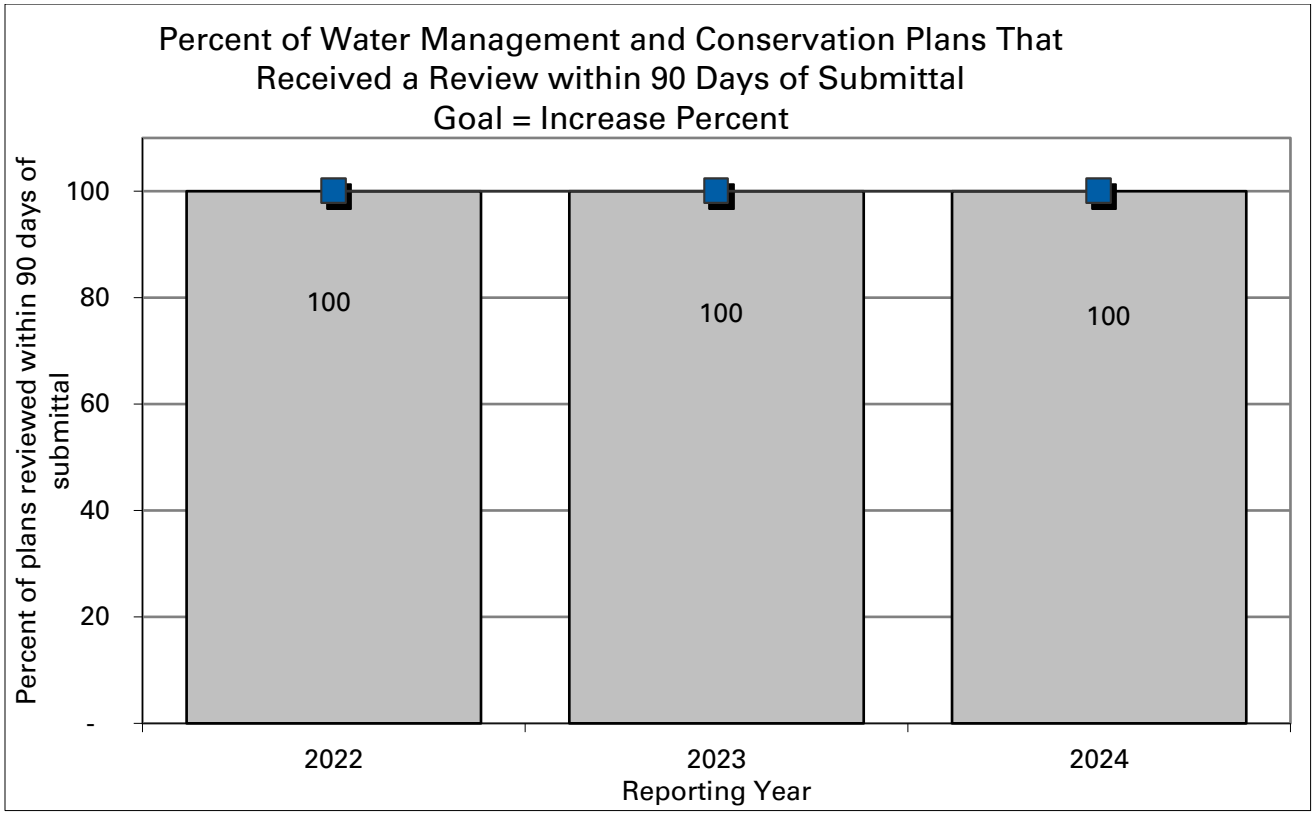
Percent of Water Management and Conservation Plans that received review within 90 days of submittal

Strategy:

- Plans linked to ability of certain municipalities to grow into existing water rights and other conditions.
- Review plans in a timely fashion.
- Conduct outreach and education to improve submission quality and reduce time it takes to review plans.
- Work with key partners to develop tools and educational materials and conduct workshops.
- Support Water Resources Commission policies on conservation and efficient water use.
- Adopted rules in 2018 to address some of the challenges faced by small water providers in developing these plans.

Trends:

- Every year since 2014, the Department has reviewed 100 percent of plans within 90 days of submittal. Staffing resources and outreach to valued stakeholders are key to meeting target.
- Municipal Water Management and Conservation Plans continue to improve in quality, showing increased efficiencies in managing water, preparing for emergencies (curtailment plans), and long-term water supply planning.



KPM 10 - Promote Efficiency in Water Right Application Processing

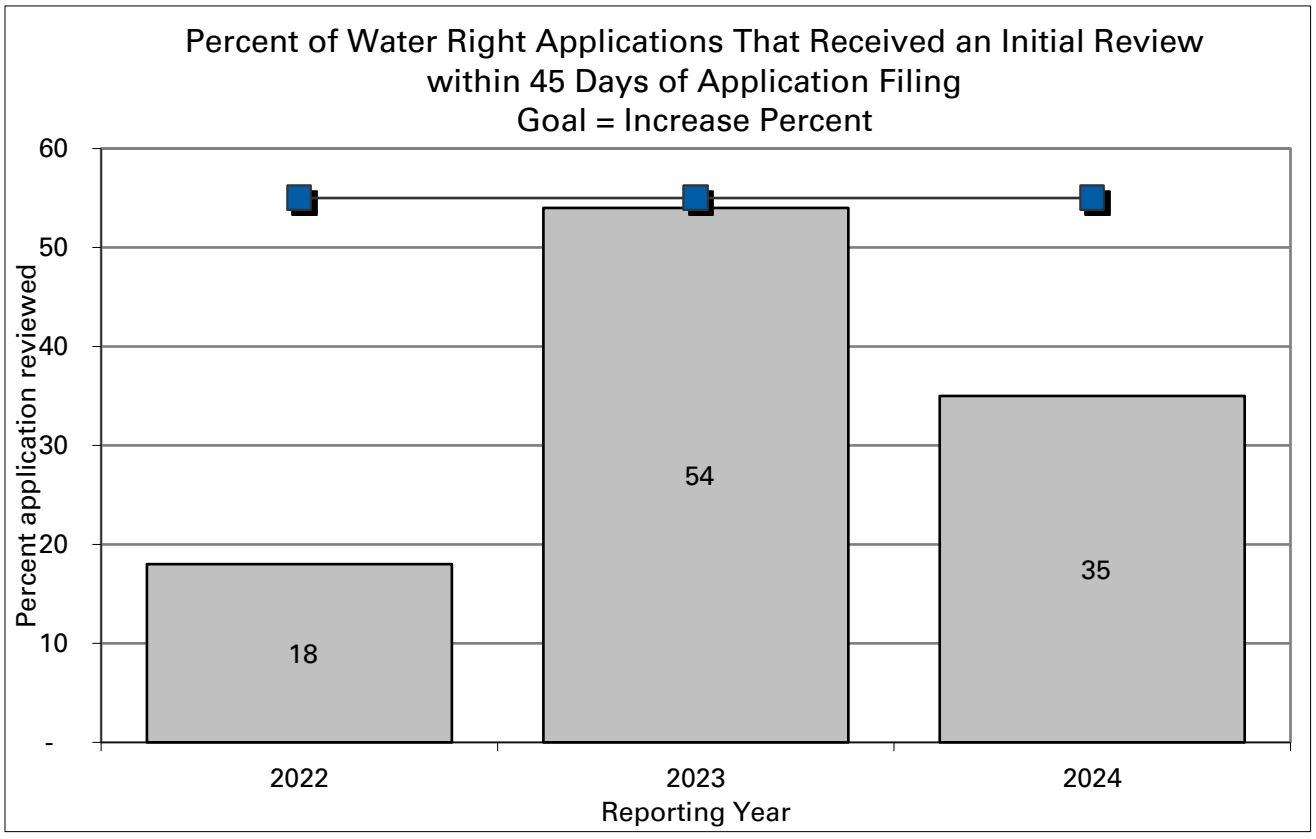
Percent of Water Right applications that receive an initial review within 45 days of application filing

Strategy:

- Utilize technology and streamlining processes to reduce application processing times.
- Reduce backlog of water right applications.
- Pursue adequate groundwater staff to conduct reviews, while not jeopardizing other activities such as basin studies.
- Ensure adequate staff resources to process applications.

Trends:

- The Department's processing times for surface water applications decreased from 54 percent in 2023 to 35 percent for this current reporting period, however, a closer look at the data reveals an *increase* in productivity and timeliness across both the Water Rights Section and the Groundwater Section.
- In the previous reporting period, the Water Rights Section issued only 9 Initial Reviews on groundwater applications, compared to 49 Initial Reviews on groundwater applications within the current reporting period. This substantial increase is due to an increase in technical reviews completed by the Department's Groundwater Section.
- Because groundwater applications often take more than 45 days for the groundwater review, which must occur before the Water Rights Section can begin to draft the Initial Review, every groundwater application Initial Review released lowers the overall KPM number. Groundwater application Initial Reviews account for a far higher percentage of the Initial Reviews issued this reporting period (44% versus 8% last reporting period).
- Despite this, the Department is committed to continuing to release Initial Reviews on groundwater applications as soon as possible.



KPM 11 - Promote Efficiency in Transfer Application Processing

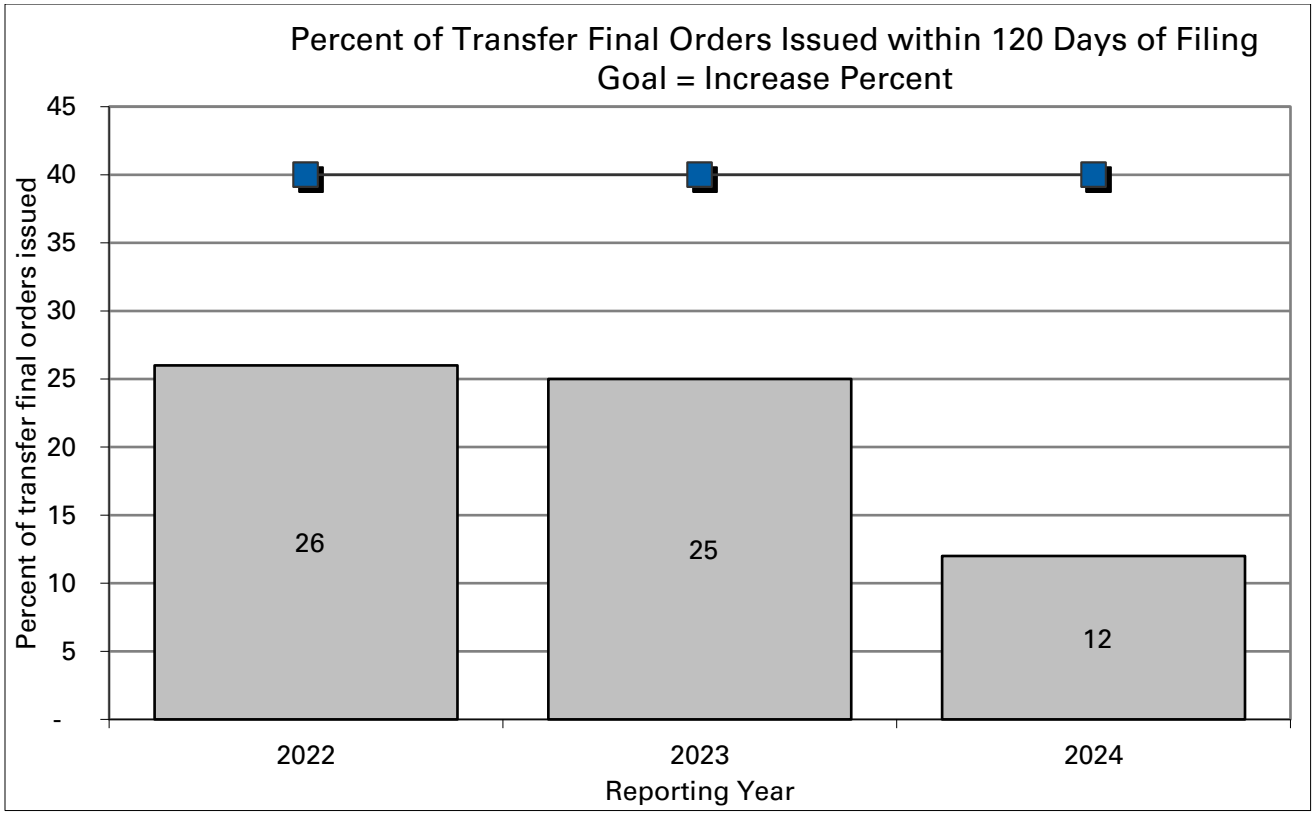
Percent of transfer final orders issued within 120 days of application filing

Strategy:

- Utilize technology to provide more timely and accurate processing.
- Aid applicants in completing and submitting applications.
- Expedite processing under Reimbursement Authority Program.
- Eliminate backlog. Reduce the number of pending applications to less than 212, at which point applications can be processed as soon as they are filed.
- Educate consultants and certified water right examiners about transfer map and application requirements; identify and remedy application deficiencies at the time of filing.

Trends:

- A total of 165 transfer final orders were issued during the reporting period, 19 of which were issued within 120 days of the transfer application being filed. This equates to 12 percent.
- The Department remains focused on the KPM target even as the workload of transfer applications remains high. Staffing resources added to the Transfer Section during the prior reporting period focused on producing more work to reduce the number of pending applications. However, with only one senior level staff available to address ongoing training for new staff and to perform final review of draft documents for accuracy and consistency, the increased production resulting from the additional staff shifted the processing bottleneck from applications awaiting caseworker review to more draft documents awaiting final review by the senior level lead staff person.
- Factors causing this KPM's actual percentage to be lower than the target percentage are: 1) transfer staff working on older, more difficult transfers that can take more time to process; 2) the time it takes to conduct groundwater reviews (see KPM 10); 3) increased utilization of the District Temporary Transfer Pilot Project reducing the number of easy-to-process temporary district transfer application; and 4) staff turnover.



KPM 13 – Increase Water Use Reporting

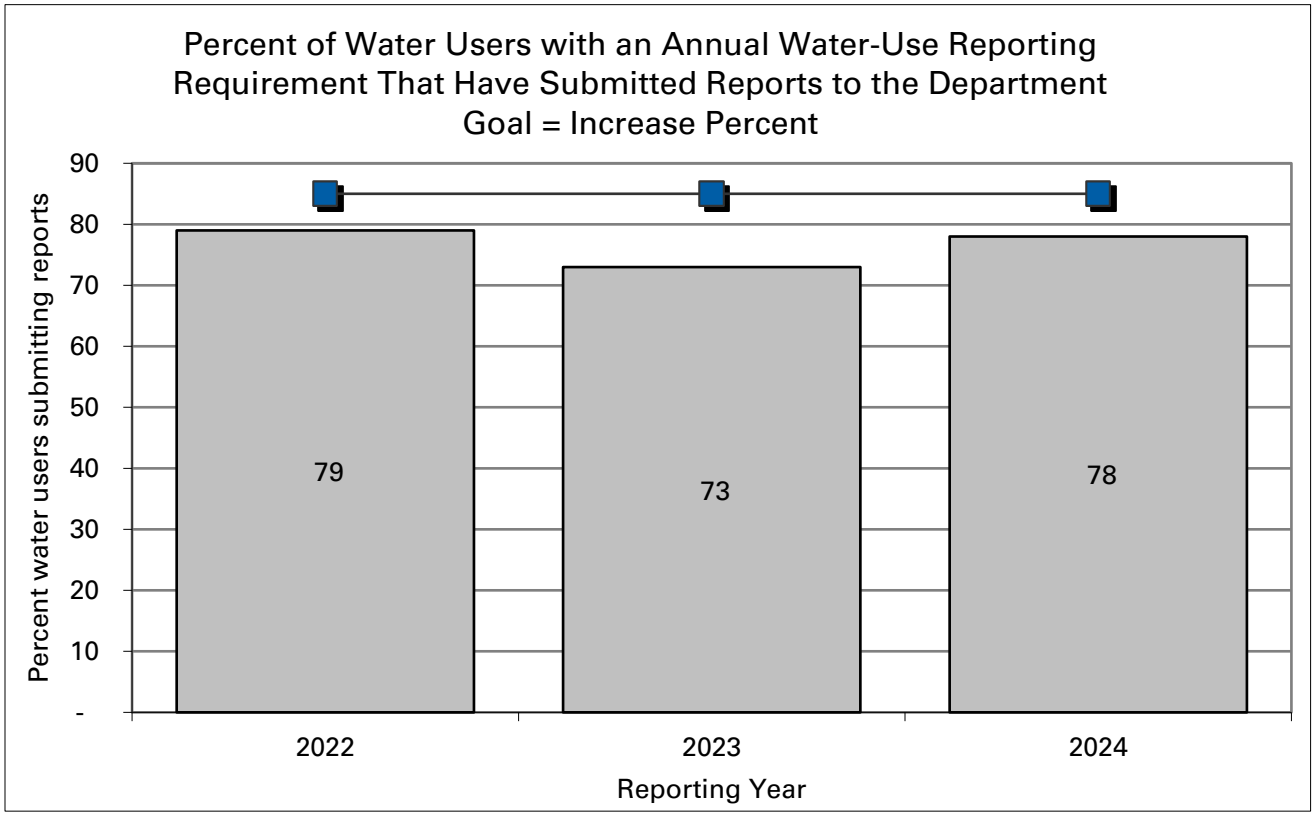
Measured by the percent of water users with an annual water-use reporting requirement that have submitted their reports to the Department

Strategy:

- Water-use reporting by public entities is required by statute and as a condition on newer water right permits.
- Maintain an online reporting form and encourage water-use reporters to enter their data online.
- Mail an annual reminder with the appropriate forms and instructions for recording and entering water use information.

Trends:

- The Department's success with reporting compliance is dependent on having staff to conduct outreach and follow up. Since re-establishment of the Water Use Reporting Coordinator in 2013, the percent of water users submitting water-use reports as required has continued to increase, achieving 78 percent compliance for the 2024 reporting period.
- In 2021, the Department analyzed the data of non-reporters for the 2020 reporting period and found that of the 19 percent not in compliance, 20 percent were government entities, while the remainder were private permit holders. Some that are not in compliance either do not have the equipment or staff resources, or do not have a system to pass on knowledge of the requirement when personnel changes, leading to a lapse in compliance.
- Each additional percent increase in compliance is more difficult to obtain.



KPM 14 - Customer Service Satisfaction

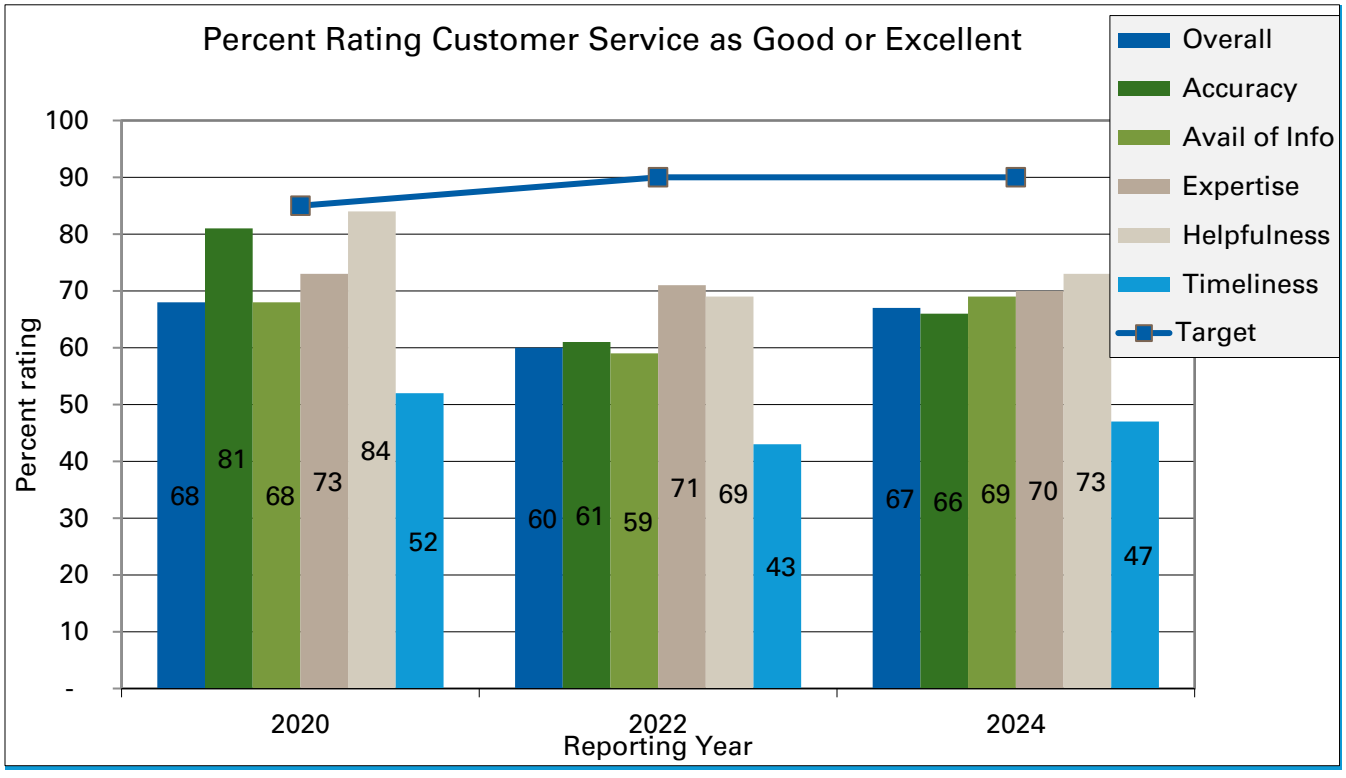
Measured by the percent of customers rating their satisfaction with the Department's customer service as "good" or "excellent" in overall service, timeliness, accuracy, helpfulness, expertise, and availability of information

Strategy:

- Establish a culture of customer service throughout the agency.
- Survey water users who received final decisions from WRD (including transfer, permit amendment, instream lease, water right permit, permit extension, and water right certificates).
- Look at other options for conducting survey to improve response rates and obtain feedback timelier.
- General areas for the Department to work on include: (1) improving processing time and helping applicants realistically understand processing timeframes; (2) developing information to simplify and help applicants better understand the process, criteria and rationale for application criteria and processing times; and (3) identifying methods to address applications that are taking longer than usual.

Trends:

- According to the survey results, customer satisfaction improved in five of the six categories between 2022 and 2024. Overall satisfaction increased, with sixty-seven percent of respondents rating their satisfaction with the agency's customer service as "good" or "excellent" in the 2023-2024 survey period compared to sixty percent in the 2021-2022 survey period. This is likely due to limited duration staff approved via temporary funding authorized federal ARPA dollars.
- The Division also established customer service expectations for all Division staff, added a FAQ section to our website, updated and clarified guidance and decision documents, and implemented a rigorous peer review process.
- While we are pleased with the slight improvement, we are still working to improve processes that set us up to provide improved customer service in the future.



Chapter 4: Budget Drivers and Process Improvements

Budget Drivers and Environmental Factors

The Department credits its highly skilled staff and strong working relationships with other agencies and stakeholders for the Department's achievements; however, numerous environmental factors affect the Department's ability to carry out its mission. Drought conditions, climate, population growth, changing demands and increasingly limited water supplies increase the challenges faced by staff in permitting, distributing, and managing water across the state. Responding to increased water conflicts and legal disputes in recent years has taken significant staff time and fiscal resources. Further, budget constraints limit the Department's ability to protect existing water rights through regulation, to support communities and expeditiously address complex policy questions, to provide water resource data to the public, and to process requests for water right transactions to meet new and changing water demands. More details on department environmental factors are outlined below.

Investments, Cost Increases, and Shortfalls

While the Legislature provided a significant influx of resources in recent biennia, which is helping the Department to make progress in many of the areas of responsibility, there are still significant gaps in resources to accomplish the agency's mission which have been unable to clear the historical workload debt. Most notably, while there have been investments in water science, field staff, grant programs, and complex issues, investments are still needed in administration (such as information technology, safety/human resources, budget management, policy, environmental justice, legal expenses, and communications) and the processing of water rights transactions.

In fact, while other sections of the agency have seen important and essential investments, the division that is responsible for processing water rights has seen a reduction in permanent positions. Given the increase in backlogs in this section, the need to provide timely service and significant cost increases that are driving revenue shortfalls in a partially fee funded program area, the agency has taken action to move two positions from the Field Services Division to the Water Rights Services Division to try to prevent backlogs from increasing further; however, this does not adequately address the issue and legislative action will be necessary.

Historically, the water right transaction fees have not been increased to the degree necessary to maintain services levels. Most recently in the 2021 legislative session, a 17% fee increase was only adequate to retain 2.5 FTE of the original 8.83 FTE slated for reduction; 6.33 FTE were reduced permanently. Over the last decade, the Department has used salary offsets and vacant position savings to manage revenue shortfalls, in addition to temporary federal dollars. Additionally, recent requirements for payment to the Department of Fish and

Wildlife (ODFW) for reviews of water right applications and some transfers received by the Department for impacts of water use on fish and wildlife, have also increased costs.

Largely due to the inadequate increases in fees, revenues associated with water right transactions are decreasing, making even maintaining existing service levels difficult. As water becomes increasingly scarce, the type of water transactions has become more complex and time consuming to process with current staffing levels. This inevitably exacerbates processing times and backlogs.

This issue will be a high priority for the agency to work on with the legislature and interested parties in the coming biennia and will be discussed in more detail in other sections of this budget document.

19th Century Laws to Meet 21st Century Needs: An increasingly Complex System

Oregon faces a number of challenges today in meeting the water needs of communities, agriculture, industry, as well as for recreation, fisheries, and other instream values. Water law is an old body of law that is complex. Rights that pre-date the water code are still in place today, meaning the Water Resources Department manages and distributes water for water rights that are in some cases over 150 years old. Over time the laws have grown increasingly more complex and, in some cases, difficult to understand, often based on an extensive body of case-law. This makes administration of the laws a challenge, particularly as many of the statutes age and the history explaining the original purposes behind some of the provisions is lost with time. These challenges can slow decision-making and increase the likelihood of disputes and litigation. As new needs emerge and there is insufficient water to meet all demands, potential solutions to water challenges often stretch the limits of the existing laws. In recent years, there has been more interest in opportunities to change the law to allow for more flexible water management approaches.

Limited Water Supplies and Increases Demands, Increases the Importance of Data Decision-Making: Funding Constraints Limit Data

Most of the state's surface waters are fully allocated during the summer months, leaving surface water storage during the winter available, but costly. As surface water supplies have become limited, Oregonians have increasingly relied on groundwater resources. This has resulted in groundwater level declines in several areas of the state, meaning that the amount of groundwater stored in aquifers is decreasing. In some locations in the state, groundwater aquifers are no longer capable of sustaining additional development, and in many cases, withdrawals impacting connected streams and senior surface water rights.

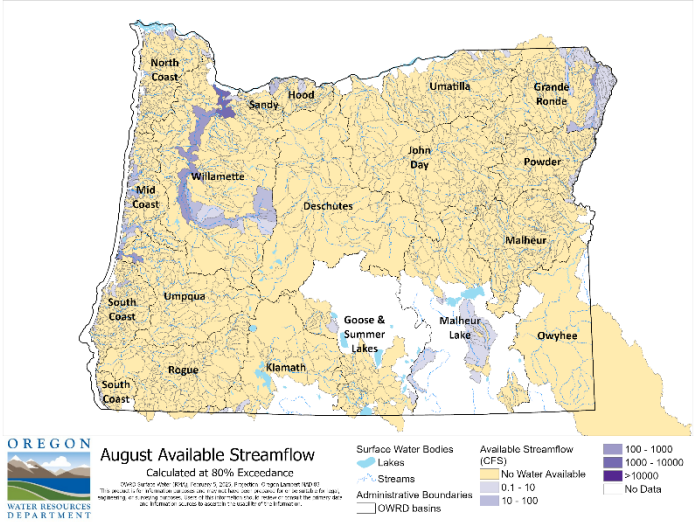


Figure 1. Surface water availability in August.

The network of stream gages and surface water data is important in the management of Oregon's water supplies. However, funding for required ongoing maintenance, equipment modernization, and on-the-ground operations continues to pose challenges to further maintain the expansion of the network. Groundwater is a complex resource, and the Department uses a variety of data sources, as available, to understand it. These include in-depth basin-scale studies, water-level measurements from observation wells, geologic maps, well logs, local and regional studies, and other technical data. There is a continued need to collect, analyze, and study our groundwater and surface water resources to plan, manage, and address water needs. This data informs not only day-to-day and long-term decisions of the agency, but also helps areas plan for and seek to meet their current and future water needs (such as place-based planning groups).

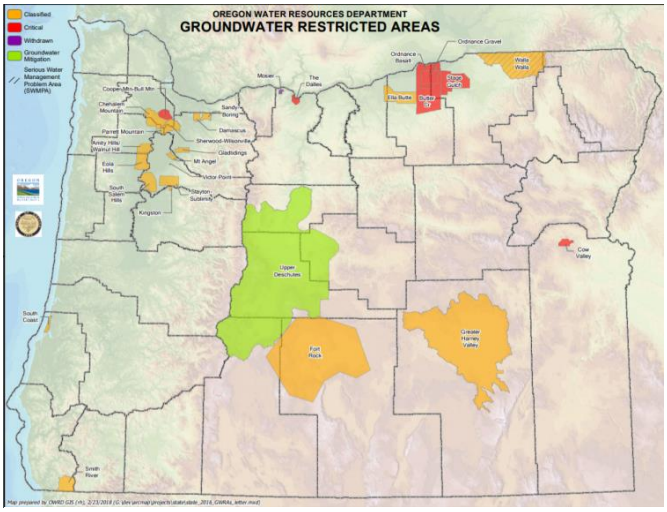
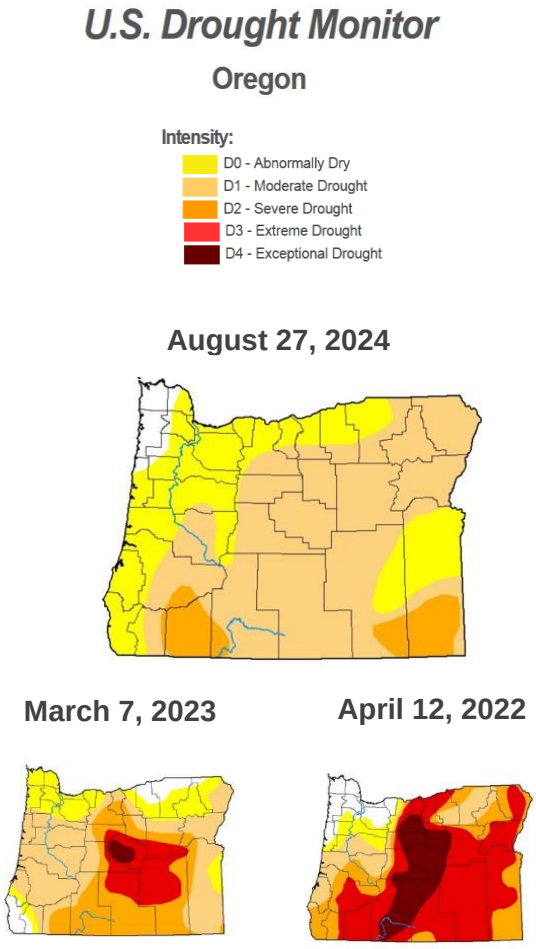


Figure 2. Map of groundwater restricted areas.

Impacts of Climate Change on Water Supplies: Drought is Increasingly Occurring and Impacting Agency Workloads

Although drought is not an abnormal occurrence in Oregon, it has been occurring frequently in recent years. Oregon and the western United States are in the worst megadrought on record. A megadrought is a period of extreme dryness that lasts for decades. Although there have been individual years of wet conditions over the past two decades, on average conditions have been drier than any other 22-year period in the past thousand years. In 2021, Oregon experienced severe-to-extreme drought across the entire state, resulting in 26 counties receiving a drought declaration – more than any other year since 1992, when a statewide declaration was issued. Drought conditions have been occurring in much of the state during almost every year. In the future, a suite of tools will need to be implemented to better respond to and prepare for drought. As climate change continues to impact snowpack and increases the amount of precipitation arriving as rain instead of snow, Oregon will need to find ways to mitigate and adapt to these changes to help meet current and future water needs in basins across the state. A 2016 report of the Task Force on Drought Emergency Response and the 2017 Integrated Water Resources Strategy outlines some actions that can be undertaken.



Demand for Water Resources is Anticipated to Increase

Projected increase in both population and a longer, warmer growing season, is anticipated to lead to more demand from agricultural, commercial, residential, and industrial water users by 2050. Although not studied, needs for ecosystems are also likely to increase, given that many face limited supplies today.

By 2050, Oregon's statewide diversion demands may grow by approximately 1.3 million acre-feet/year

Need to Invest in Meeting Water Needs

Oregon communities, along with Oregon's fish and wildlife, are already facing limited water supplies. Surface water is almost completely allocated, and as we rely increasingly on our groundwater resources, groundwater levels have dropped precipitously in some areas of the state. Water scarcity jeopardizes public health, welfare, and quality of life, as well as the health of ecosystems. The Commission and Department recognize the need to address very pressing and critical water needs in Oregon's communities, while simultaneously engaging in longer-term strategic initiatives to better understand factors affecting the resource and proactively address challenges. In recent years, funding for planning, evaluating project feasibility, and investing in water projects has been a major driver in the Department's budget.

Aging Infrastructure and a Lack of Investment Pose Challenges to Water Security

Aging infrastructure will require a consistent and sustained effort to address. Dams represent one category of the aging infrastructure portfolio in Oregon that underscores the magnitude of investment necessary to ensure safe storage of water. A 2012 report by a subcommittee of the Association of State Dam Safety Officials estimated "that the cost to rehabilitate non-federally regulated dams in Oregon could cost $685 million. This includes dams in all hazard rating categories." In addition, aging community water supply systems across the state need maintenance, updates or replacement across the state. Many of these community water systems are in underserved rural areas of the state and need assistance in the planning and development of water supply and infrastructure needs for their long-term health, security, and prosperity.

Basins Across the State Are Facing Complex Water Issues and Require Assistance

Across the state, basins are facing complicated water resource challenges requiring state involvement and participation to identify and implement solutions. Northeastern Oregon, Southcentral Oregon, the Deschutes Basin, the Klamath Basin, the Harney Basin, the Umatilla Basin, and the Willamette Basin all require support from the Department to address their water resources challenges that are in addition to regular, day-to-day water management activities. Other areas such as Southwestern Oregon are also seeing an increased need for support.

Increased Legal Expenses and Potential Impacts on Agency Services

Water scarcity and increasing competing demands for the resource, when combined with

the complexity of water law, has led to increased Department costs for legal services provided by the Oregon Department of Justice (DOJ) for nearly a decade. The Department's legal costs have exceeded the allotted budget since the 2011-13 biennium. Historically the Department had achieved savings administratively to address legal services expenses, primarily by holding vacant General Fund positions open longer. However, as the expenses have increased, the impacts on the Department's programs and services have also increased and the Department has, more recently, sought assistance from the legislature. In 2019, the Department prepared a report on the Department's litigation and contested cases as required in a budget note. The 2021 legislature increased the agency's base budget for legal expenses by $800,000 to assist with the increased activity. The Department is again facing shortfalls in the 2023-25 biennium, and, at the request of the DOJ, the Department has contracted with an outside law firm for legal services for the first time, due to the inability of DOJ to keep up with the Department's increasing workload. The Department has submitted a $1.9 million general fund request in the February session to assist with the legal costs incurred and anticipated through the remainder of the biennium. Additional resources for the expected shortfall of $4.3 million for 2025-2027 have been included in the Governor's Recommended Budget proposal.

Agency Initiatives 2019-2025

Oregon's Integrated Water Resources Strategy (IWRS) provides a framework for understanding and meeting Oregon's current and future instream and out-of-stream water needs. Key IWRS recommended actions focus on creating additional capacity within the Department's existing programs to improve public safety, water management and decision-making, while also providing resources to meet future instream and out-of-stream water needs. Continued implementation of the IWRS is essential for securing Oregonian's water future to support resilient economies, ecosystems, and communities.

Some of the Department's initiatives are outlined in the process improvements section below. The Department's recent work has been focused on carrying forward actions identified in the Strategic Plan, the Integrated Water Resources Strategy, as well as the increased investments and new legislation from the 2021 and 2023 legislative sessions. It is important to note that these are multi-year efforts that the Department anticipates will need to extend into future biennia. The Department is in the process of developing the next version of the Strategic Plan, as well as the Integrated Water Resources Strategy. The items below implement many of these priorities.

Centering Equity: The agency formed its DEI Team in 2021 and has been working to learn how it can do a better job of centering equity throughout its programs, including coordinating diversity, equity, and inclusion trainings for staff, a Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Justice (DEI) training series for managers in 2023 and launching quarterly Coffee and Conversations in 2024 to create a forum for understanding and discussing DEIJ related topics in the agency. The Department be proposing rules for adoption to implement House Bill 3293 (2021) relating to water project community engagement plans in March 2025. The agency is also working to translate some of its documents into other languages, including a variety of educational documents aimed at the cannabis and water hauling industry. In

addition, the agency is implementing Racial Equity Impact Statements required for the budget, standardized questions to draft statements to identify how proposed rules impact racial equity, and other required actions.

Climate and Resiliency: The Department is also engaged in the State's efforts to address climate change, both through the Climate Adaptation Framework as well as Governor's Executive Order 20-04 processes, as well as contracting for a statewide drought vulnerability assessment and participating in the Department of Land Conservation and Developments Hazard Mitigation Plan drought workgroup. The Department is also working to modernize many administrative aspects as discussed in the process improvements above.

Local and Complex Water Issues: The Department has been undertaking a number of actions to support work in basins across the state. The agency has been working with four planning areas around the state to pilot place-based integrated water resources planning, evaluating how the program is working. The pilot program was made permanent in 2023 (HB 2010), and the Department is proposing rules for adoption to fully implement the program in March 2025. The Department received resources to provide additional support to address complex issues in the Willamette, Deschutes, Umatilla and South-Central basins with resources from the 2021 and 2023 sessions. The Department also received resources for more robust community engagement. The agency worked with Oregon Consensus to conduct the Regional Water Planning and Management Workgroup funded by the 2021 legislature. The agency is working within the Harney Basin to chart a path forward on groundwater following the publishing of the groundwater study in 2024, confirming that groundwater is overallocated, as well as to work on other solutions such as the Harney Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program and voluntary groundwater agreements. The agency is also continuing work in the Walla Walla basin, and the Klamath basin. The agency also continues its work with the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation and local interests to resolve issues associated with the ongoing Indian water rights settlement negotiations. The Department is in regular communication with representatives from the State of Washington's Department of Ecology to discuss water management challenges and opportunities along the states' border and explore more coordinated water management approaches. The Department also provided data and technical assistance to USACE for development of the programmatic Environmental Impact Statement for Willamette Valley Project reservoirs and is engaging in the Chewaucan Basin planning process facilitated by OSU.

Providing Support for Abandoning Wells, and for Repairing or Replacing Wells Use for Household Purposes: As authorized by legislation passed in 2021 (HB 2145), the Department established a Water Well Repair, Replacement and Abandonment Funding Program to help abandon wells with construction deficiencies, and to provide assistance for dry wells or wells damaged by wildfire. The Department has launched the initial phase of the program focused on dry wells due to drought and damaged by wildfires. Since 2021, the legislature has appropriated $6.4 million into the program. Since the Department began accepting applications in June 2022, the Department has awarded 237 individual grants with well owners and over 200 homes had water restored to them. Other aspects of the program and permanent rules will need to be developed. The Department is also implementing the

Harney Domestic Well Remediation Grants program (HB 3092, 2021) and conducted the first funding cycle in spring 2024. Due to staffing limitations, the Department delayed set up of this program until the Well Abandonment, Repair and Replacement Fund had been launched, as that funding would be available statewide.

Policy Development: The Department has identified policy development as an area where it has lacked capacity for years leading to a backlog of needed rulemakings, but also limiting the agency's ability to address identified issues requiring legislation. As a result, the agency is seeking ways to bolster the policy team's capacity to advance policy and rulemaking work. Since 2020, the Department has initiated 12 rulemakings with over 60 rule advisory committees, informational sessions and public hearings. As of December 31, 2024, nine of those rulemakings have been completed.

Modernize water transactions systems and processes: It is important to periodically evaluate processes and procedures to check for improvements and efficiencies that might be gained from modifying practices or considering new information. The Department consistently seeks to ensure the accuracy and quality of processing, while also maximizing efficiency. In addition to the process improvements laid out below, the Department has also been discussions with the legislature on policy, rule and statutory improvements for the 2025 session, as well as concepts for future sessions. There has been significant information gathering on potential ideas for improvement garnered from both internal staff and external entities familiar with Department processes.

Backlog Reductions: As of December 31, 2024, the water right application backlog is 882, the transfer backlog is 483, and the certificate backlog is 1011. The Department previously received American Rescue Plan Act funding to temporarily offset legislatively reduced positions and to work to reduce water right application, transfer, and certificate backlogs, but the limited duration positions funded by that money have since ended. In addition, the protest backlog is currently 231. The Protest program received additional general funds in the 2021-2023 biennium and contested case hearing referrals increased by 250% (when fully staffed). The funding was not renewed for the 2023-2025 biennium and now only one position, rather than three, is fully funded.

Improving instream protections and increase water conservation: As water resources come under increasing strain, conservation becomes vital for preserving our environment, economy, and Oregonian lifestyle. The Department has a role in incentivizing instream flow protections and promoting water conservation.

Improving the Safety of Dams in Oregon to Protect the Public and Water Supplies: In 2018-2021, the Department, prioritized revamping and modernize its Dam Safety program as well as obtain resources to advance our understanding of risks to dams. The Department worked with the Legislature to pass legislation in 2019, followed by rulemaking. In 2021, the department requested, and the legislature made additional investments in the program and for assessments of dams. The Department is currently working to conduct the assessments, develop a flood methodology, and other work authorized with funding by the 2021 legislature including funding 32 engineering assessments, inundation analysis of 18 dams,

and a statewide extreme precipitation analysis. With the increased staffing capacity, the Department has been able to inspect significantly more wells; 235 in 2023 compared to 158 in 2019 (49% increase).

Improving the Well Construction Program to Better Protect the Public and Groundwater Supplies: In 2020, to present, the Department began efforts to modernize the well construction program, working with the Legislature in 2021 to pass legislation (HB 2145), and invest in the program. Rules to fully implement the legislation were adopted in 2024. All provisions of HB 2145 have been implemented, including modernization of well construction information technology systems and the 100% technical well log review requirements. New staff were also added to provide capacity to keep up with well inspection work. In 2023, staff completed 4,282 technical well logs and 1,580 onsite well inspections, compared to 823 inspections in 2019 (92% increase). The Department also participated in the Klamath Domestic Well Group (2021-2022) to support drought relief activities.

Modernizing Groundwater Allocation: After decades of groundwater declines, the Department is responding to the modern water realities experienced by Oregonians and confirmed by science. To limit the long-term impact of groundwater uses around the state, the Department modified practices and rules for new water right applications. With a forward-looking approach that considers the needs of future generations, the Department is working to safeguard existing surface water and groundwater users and the livelihoods they support, while managing groundwater resources more sustainably. In September 2024, the Water Resources Commission adopted historic groundwater allocation rules.

Groundwater and Surface Water Data: The Department has continued to focus on expanding its understanding of groundwater and surface water resources, including completion of an assessment outlining groundwater concerns across the state. The Department completed and published the Harney Basin Study, continues to work on the Walla Walla Basin Study, and is also working to develop groundwater budgets for the state per HB 2018 (2021). Part of this work includes development of a statewide groundwater recharge study, which is slated for completion in 2028. The agency is also seeking to increase gaging and observation wells and has increased that statewide network by 5 gaging stations and 35 wells since 2019. The agency has also been working on the development and integration of evapotranspiration data for the state and are working to finalize a statewide report with interested parties. The Department also developed and provided a report to the former House Water Committee on water use measurement. The Surface Water Section has initiated the update of the Surface Water Availability Reporting System by hiring staff and beginning scoping using resources provided in the 2023-25 session (POP 111). Staff are also participated in initial scoping and planning for the Oregon Water Data Portal.

Responsible Water Management: The Department has established a new enforcement section and staff to assist watermasters with addressing noncompliance. This section has revised the Department's enforcement processes and issued 295 enforcement actions as a result of collaborative efforts with field staff. This has allowed for an increase to the number of site visits conducted by field staff with the new capacity from the 2021 legislative

sessions. As a result, community-based complaints have been reduced by 66% while staff initiated investigations are up 56%. In addition, the Department is implementing new laws and planning for updating rules for the enforcement of water violations, including those related to cannabis operations (HB 2929, SB 326, SB 954 - 2023; HB 4061 - 2022) and confined animal feeding operations (SB 85 – 2023). The Department is also working to update the Water Measurement Cost Share Program to improve water measurement outcomes across the state.

Recruitments and Workforce: The agency has been working to implement actions identified in its Strategic Plan to foster a forward-looking team. A big undertaking in 2021 and 2023 has been recruiting and onboarding new staff. The agency had a number of vacancies due to COVID reductions and received almost 100 new positions in the 2021 and 2023 budgets. Since August 2021, 226 positions have been filled. As a result, managers have been working to hire, train, and retain employees during this very competitive job market for employers. In addition, the agency has revamped its internal staff newsletter, the Hydraulic Connection, and staff training opportunities to improve agency communications. The Agency has also established a cross-divisional team focused on surface water flow measurements techniques and standards, while addressing gaps in communication, coordination, and technical support.

IT Modernization: IT modernization is a key strategic initiative for the Department and will continue to be in future years to support all programs across the agency in their work and carrying out the Department's mission. Some initiatives are reflected in the process improvements below. In addition, the Department's policy option package 107 further identifies work that needs to occur to shore up activities in this section, including development of an IT Strategic Plan, Modernization Plan, and strengthening the section's ability to analyze and carry out projects.

Agency Process Improvement Efforts 2019-2025

Measuring performance is an important tool for managing both daily and long-term performance and identifying areas in need of process improvements. Performance measures and indicators, as well as recommended actions in the Integrated Water Resources Strategy (IWRS) and the Department's Strategic Plan are also important in prioritizing work and identifying problem areas to manage workloads. Many of the Department's process improvement efforts require the Information Technology staff to implement. Information technology will continue to be a critical component for successful modernization and process improvement efforts.

Over the past several years the Departments process improvement efforts have included the following:

Revamp of Recruitment Job Postings Template and DEI-EJ Interview Questions: The Human Resources staff worked with the agency's DEI Team and managers to implement recruitment improvements. The agency revamped its job posting template to better attract candidates and share the agency's mission, as well as more clearly articulate its values around diversity, equity, and inclusion. The agency also implemented interview questions

pertaining to diversity, equity, and inclusion, and environmental justice.

Water right transaction process improvements: Despite reduced staffing capacity, the Department has worked to improve water right transaction processes to increase transparency and improve communication. This Department has developed customer FAQ document developed and available online, added more detailed information to letters to better help applicants understand their options. Further, the Department added detailed explanations and strengthened the legal sufficiency of Proposed Final Orders, improved permit condition language, developed and improved notification procedures for applications, improved user-friendliness of Land Use Information Form and Alternate Reservoir application form, and implemented improved peer review and document tracking and filing systems.

Certified Water Right Examiner (CWRE): During the pandemic the annual CWRE Workshops, that the Department has conducted for over 20 years, were cancelled. Department staff created a series of YouTube training videos, so that CWRE's could continue to receive required training during the pandemic. The Department also updated the CWRE database to remove outdated contacts.

Groundwater Information System (GWIS): The Department's Information Services and Groundwater Staff completed work to redesign and integrate groundwater-related data into a centralized database system. Internal staff and the public now have better access to groundwater-related data through web-based tools and web services. Incremental updates to GWIS are ongoing. In 2021, GWIS was expanded to enable Groundwater Section staff to review groundwater level measurements. This quality control process enables analyses of large quantities of water level data, such as in Groundwater Basin Studies. In 2022, GWIS was expanded to track automated water level transducer instruments and information to allow for equipment lifecycle management and troubleshooting.

Bulk water level upload: The Department routinely receives large quantities of water level data in digital, tabular format, and until recently each water level measurement had to be entered individually into the Groundwater Information System. An updated process allows upload of spreadsheets of water level data associated with routine monitoring or with pumping tests, saving significant staff time and reducing data entry errors.

Critical Groundwater Areas: The Commission adopted Division 10 rules in 2023 that governs the process for designating a Critical Groundwater Area. The new rules define a two-step process the Department must take to curtail current groundwater use, including designation of an area in the state as a Critical Groundwater Area via the rule writing process and the initiation of a contested case process with groundwater users in the designated Critical Groundwater Area. These rules will help the Department approach groundwater declines in a more systematic and responsive way.

Groundwater Concerns Map: The Groundwater section published a map that will be regularly updated to communicate groundwater quantity resources concerns. Recent progress in integrating data across the Department enables new evaluations of the impacts of groundwater development. A data-driven assessment was made in 2021 that compiled

indicators to evaluate a concern about groundwater resources in each Public Land Survey System township (36 square miles) across the state. The resulting map and data set are available to the public on the Department's website.

Reference level setting: Most groundwater permits specify that a reference groundwater level shall be set as a baseline against which future groundwater level declines may be compared. These reference levels have previously been set as a component of the certification process, which typically happens many years after the start of water use. The delay has meant that fewer than 20% of reference levels are tracked in the Water Rights Information System, hindering the Department's evaluation of the status of groundwater resources. An updated process now allows Groundwater section staff to establish reference levels consistent with permit language as pertinent data become available. Further, water level data are now automatically compared against established reference levels to detect exceeded permit conditions and highlight data errors. These data points are made available to Department staff and integrated into the Groundwater Concerns Map.

Pump test program process improvements: In 2021, the Department transitioned from a highly paper-based process to a more electronic process for evaluating and analyzing pump tests and pump test data. The pump test tracking system has been linked to the Water Right Information System (WRIS), allowing others to see the status of a pump test review, and has also been linked to the new groundwater review tracking system, allowing review requests to be prioritized with other water right review items in individual staff review queues. In addition, the previous process for analyzing data with a Microsoft Excel template was replaced by in-house custom software that is integrated with the Department's Groundwater Information System and utilizes rigorous statistics.

Tracking of Groundwater and Well Construction Technical Reviews: The Groundwater and Well Construction Review Tracking System was modified to facilitate communication between Department staff and with applicants. Each night, review queues are updated for each staff person to prioritize review work. The process now automatically estimates the month when each review will be completed based on staff capacity. This allows water right transactions applicants to better understand how long their application may take to get a review.

Well Inspection Entry: The Department has updated the data entry portal used by the Department's well inspectors in the field to enter and track their well inspections. This updated portal gives inspectors the ability to capture more information related to the specific wells being inspected and assists the Department in ensuring that accurate and complete information is recorded. This portal allows the inspectors to attach GPS coordinates and photos to their inspections, as well as generate reports, and to track the locations of their inspections on a map.

New Well Construction Exam Study Material: The Well Construction Section (WCC) has created several videos that are available from the Department's website that offer information and training to applicants interested in becoming Oregon licensed well constructors, or others interested in Oregon's well construction standards. The videos cover

a wide range of topics and offer applicants another method to learn the material prior to sitting for the exam.

Well Construction Statue Modernization: The Department's well construction program has struggled over the years to protect groundwater resources and to serve well owners and the well drilling community, due in part to limited resources, inadequate funding, and inefficient practices due to our statutory authorities. In 2021, the Department ran legislation to modernize the program. The Department engaged in countless hours of negotiations with members of the Oregon Groundwater Association, and eventually the bill passed the Oregon Legislature. The Department has fully implemented this bill (see below).

Exempt Use Well Mapping and Invoicing: The Well Construction Section worked with the Information Technology and Fiscal Sections to transition the exempt use well registration and mapping requirements from the owner of the property where the well is drilled to the well constructor performing the work, as required by HB 2145 (2021). This change allowed staff to modify how the registration fee was collected as well as to create mapping tools that offer a simple way for well constructors to comply with the new requirements.

Well Report Review Updates: The Well Construction Section worked with Information Technology to develop a centralized database system that is used to review and track well report reviews for all the well reports submitted after July 1, 2022, to implement HB 2145 (2021). The new system also links the well inspection database and start card database and gives staff the ability to track deficiencies and deficiency resolution.

Dam Safety Modernization: In 2019, the Department passed legislation that modernized the State's dam safety statutes, which had been relatively unchanged since 1929. In late 2019 through mid-2020, the Department worked to revise its rules to implement the statutory changes and have focused on implementation of the statute and rule requirements. In addition, the Dam Safety Program modernized dam safety inspections with the use of data collection software called Survey123. Inspection results will now be tracked in the program's database resulting with increased efficiency and accuracy of dam safety inspections.

Field Activity Database: The Field Activities Database is used by field staff to record and archive field activities, to monitor and regulate for instream water rights, senior out-of-stream uses, and illegal uses. Metrics compiled in the database help us report on Key Performance Measures (KPM), monitor year-to-year and long-term trends, and better account for field staff workload over time. Field staff now enter data every other week compared to once per year, allowing for more frequent data queries as needed. This database continues to get refined to address new issues, like tracking illegal cannabis and dry domestic wells; however, the Department is working towards a new database that would provide greater features and tools for staff efficiency and better integration into other work of the department which would require Information Technology staffing.

Modernized water distribution tools: Staff have worked across divisions to develop tools to allow for more timely management of water in complex systems, especially those relying on stored water. Using near-real time gage data to determine within-season, weekly irrigation allotments require much more frequent measurements at gages and more aggressive data

quality reviews, meaning staff and the systems they use must adapt. Improvements in the Deschutes Basin Storage Report have led to more accurate tracking on instream rights and storage accounts, and well as more timely processing of streamgage data. We anticipate more systems will rely on approaches like this, including more intense operation of existing and new gages, and the Department may need to pursue additional resources.

Continuity of operations: The Department completed a comprehensive update of the Continuity of Operations Plan, developed supporting training material, including an internal video, and developed a succession plan for several positions critical to agency operations.

Workplace improvement and employee satisfaction: Agency-wide, our management team is conducting quarterly check-ins with staff as part of the Performance Accountability and Feedback model. In 2023, OWRD launched the first employee engagement survey and made progress on developing and implementing actions based on survey results. Annual surveys will be conducted going forward to provide year to year comparisons and trend analyses using staff survey evaluations of quarterly staff meetings and modify approaches based on input. In addition, the leadership team conducts survey before meetings for staff to submit questions to ensure content is relevant to their needs.

Transition to Workday and Training: With the implementation of Workday, Human Resources processes are now mostly electronic, reducing paperwork, and ease of access to information is available for agency staff. Human Resources staff continue to train managers on how to use the different applications in Workday while also providing more opportunities for the development of advanced management competencies. Agency staff have successfully participated in the transition of time tracking and the payroll applications to Workday.

Fiscal Modernization: The Department has explored adding the ability for customers to pay for fees using electronic checks as a payment option for existing online payment stores. A project team was formed and made recommendations on how it should be implemented once IT resources become available. Project is on hold as IT is focused on implementing HB 2145 (2021).

IT Help Desk Ticketing System: The Information Technology Section is deploying a new ticketing system to replace the old one which has aged out of support and lacks modern capabilities. The new ticketing system is expected to increase the productivity of support staff, improve the responsiveness, and monitoring of service desk requests.

Data Center Migration: The Information Technology Section is wrapping up a migration of data center resources and infrastructure to the State's Data Center. This migration helps to provide OWRD with improved reliability and redundancy around our hosted servers, systems, and network infrastructure. It further reduces the agency need to perform costly server upgrades and reduces risk and downtime.

M365 Rollout: The Information Technology Section completed a rollout of M365 services in collaboration with the Department of Administrative Services, Enterprise Information Services. These updated cloud-based services including tools such as OneDrive, SharePoint

and MS Teams are expanding the ability for the agency to perform across divisions and execute work leveraging the cloud. Cloud technology has been of significant help during the agency's response to the pandemic and beyond.

Mobile Device Management: The Information Technology Section has implemented a new Mobile Device Management system, which greatly reduces the labor around managing mobile devices like smartphones. Smartphones have become a critical tool for field services and the increase in smart mobile devices has an increased security and labor risk. The Mobile device management system has greatly reduced both of those concerns, allowing the agency help desk to manage over 200 smartphones.

New Software Patching System: The Information Technology Section has implemented a new software management and patching solution. This system replaces an older, more laborious, and manual process to patch PCs for security vulnerability. The new system automates patching and software management on a higher level, allowing existing staff to manage more systems and more software than could be performed previously.

Information Technology Strategic Planning: The Information Technology Section has completed its IT Strategic Plan. This work will allow IT to better manage technological resources of the agency for the next 10-20 years. It will provide guidance around future IT investment and support better decision making around information technology priorities.

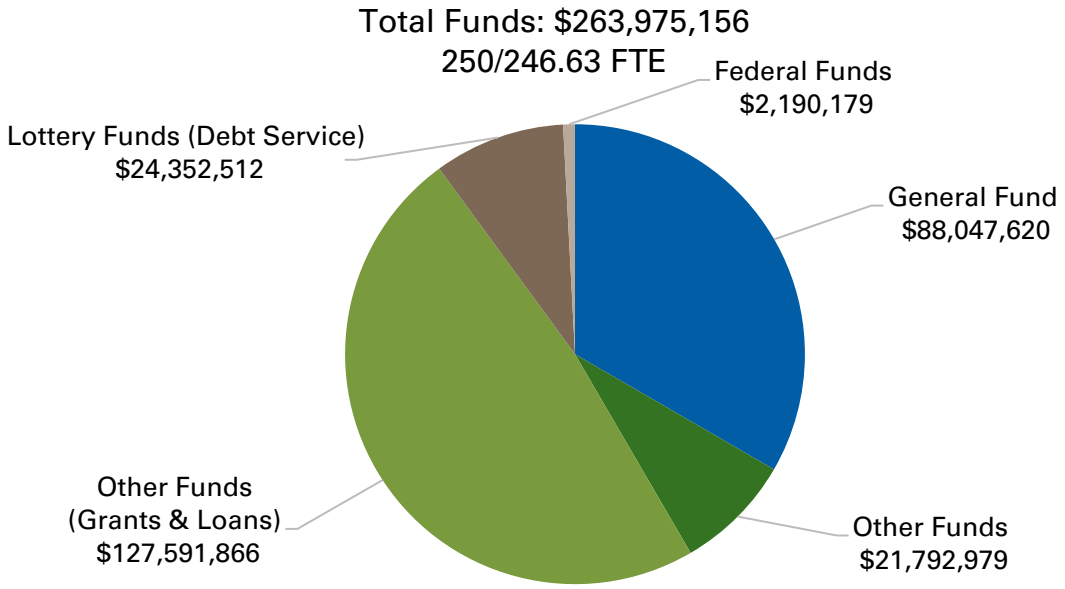
The efforts described above demonstrate the Department's commitment to continuous process improvements and the need for continued investment in information technology. Department staff will continue to identify opportunities to improve performance, increase efficiencies, and better serve customers through continued tracking of performance indicators, tracking of progress in implementing recommended actions in the Integrated Water Resources Strategy and Strategic Plan, meeting with other agencies to identify best practices, and feedback provided by staff, customers, and stakeholders.

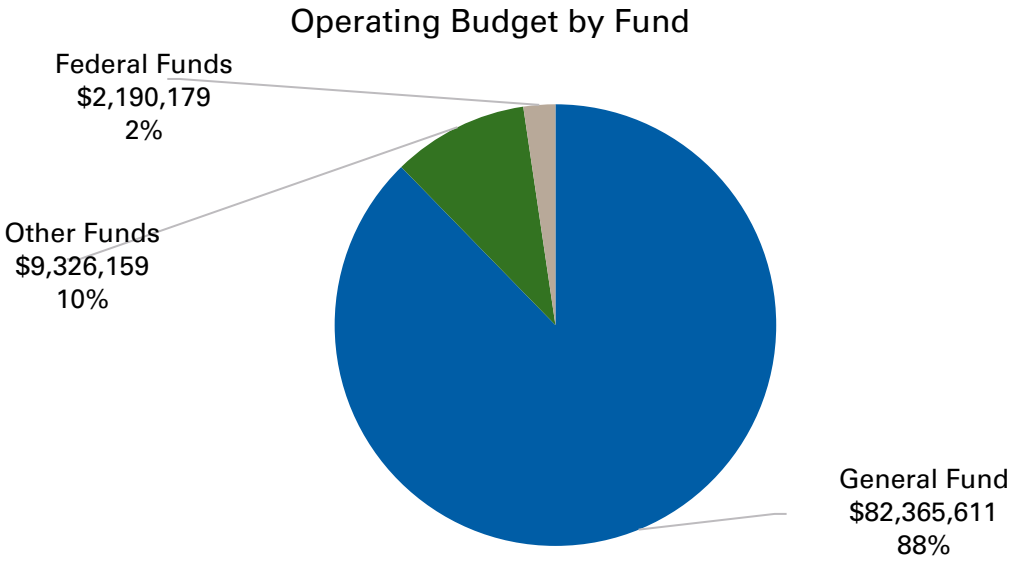
Chapter 5: Budget Information and Governor's Budget Packages

Budget Snapshot

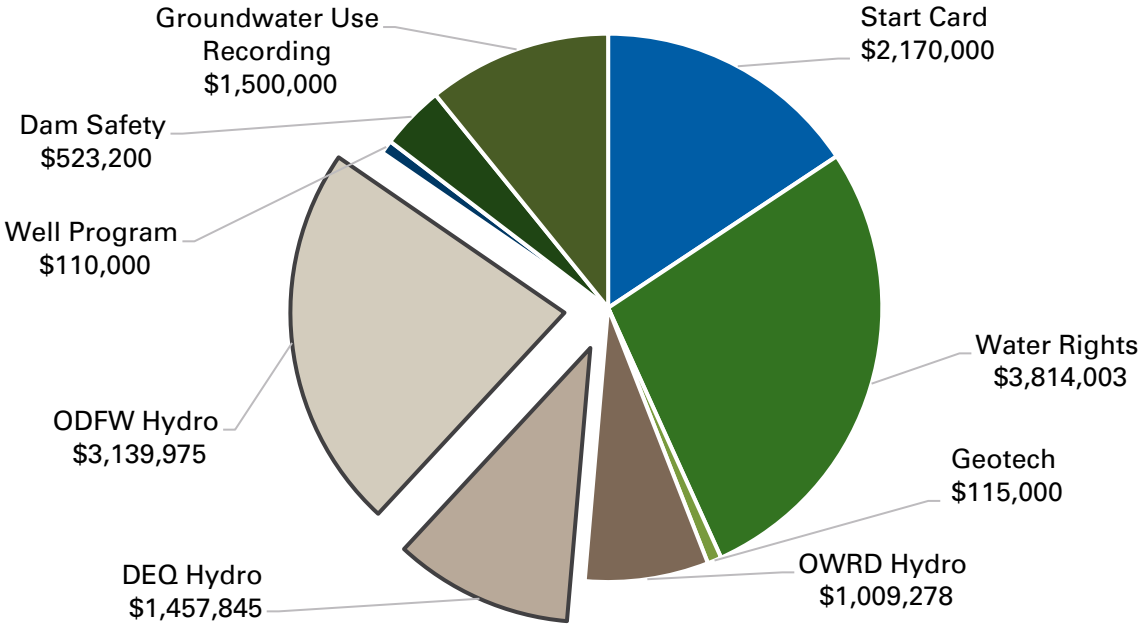
	2023-25 Legislatively Adopted	2023-25 Legislatively Approved (Feb 24)	2025-27 Current Service Level	2025-27 Governor's Recommended Budget
General Fund (GF)	$81,331,457	$88,114,428	$80,870,715	$88,047,620
Other Funds (OF) including Fees	$34,866,859	$40,381,452	$18,203,884	$21,792,979
Other Funds - Grants/Loans	$139,200,425	$139,200,425	$107,400,000	$127,591,866
Lottery Funds - Debt Service	$15,856,857	$14,102,838	$24,352,512	$24,352,512
Federal Funds	$703,315	$2,153,385	$2,190,179	$2,190,179
Total Funds	$271,958,913	$283,952,528	$233,017,290	$263,975,156
Positions / Full-Time Equivalent (FTE)	258/246.63	259/248.71	248/245.25	250/246.63

Total Budget and Operating Budget





Overview of Fee Revenues



Well Start Card Fees are limited to costs associated with the inspection of construction and new wells and a limited amount of related administrative expenses. Statute prescribes spending percentages as follows: administrative costs – not more than 5%; technical costs - not more than 20%; and field and enforcement costs – not less than 75%. The revenue for this program is forecast using historical methods and current economic conditions. This revenue forecast assumes approximately 3,100 wells per year requiring start card fee payments in 2025-27. The Department typically carries at least a six-month operating (ending fund) balance to account for revenue seasonality. The Department is projecting an upcoming budget shortfall beginning in 2027-29 and, because the Department pursues fee increases on a four-year schedule, will be submitting a legislative concept and accompanying policy option package to increase the current fees and recapitalize the operating (ending fund) balance in the 2025-27 biennium. This fee was last increased in in HB 2145 (2021). The current fee, as of January 1, 2022, is $350 in ORS 537.762.

Hydroelectric Fees are used to finance the related processing and monitoring of hydroelectric projects. Funds are disbursed through interagency transfer to the Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) and the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) as outlined in the Oregon Revised Statutes and/or the Memorandum of Understanding between the agencies. The remaining funds are used for operation of the Water Resources Department's Hydroelectric Program. The revenue for this program is forecasted using historical methods and is adjusted for the fee changes approved by the Legislature in HB 2143 (2021).

Water Right Fees are collected and used to support the activities associated with the processing of water rights transactions. The revenue for this program is forecast using historical methods informed by economic conditions. The current forecast is based on revenue received in past three biennia adjusted for current economic conditions. The current revenue forecast is adjusted for recent declines in the number of transactions as well as a projected decline in the number of new groundwater applications received with a slight uptick in the number of transfer applications. This adjustment is related to the adoption of new groundwater allocation rules. The Department typically carries at least a six-month operating (ending fund) balance to account for revenue seasonality. The Department is projecting an upcoming budget shortfall beginning in 2025-27 and will be submitting a legislative concept and accompanying policy option package to increase the current fees. The last fee increase was approved by the Legislature in HB 2142 (2021). The fees associated with Water Right permitting are described in ORS 536.050 (1).

Groundwater Use Recording Fees (Exempt Use) are collected and used for the purposes of evaluating groundwater supplies, conducting groundwater studies, carrying out groundwater monitoring, and processing groundwater data. The revenue for this program is forecast using historical methods and current economic conditions. Historically, about 79% of the wells drilled that require a Start Card Fee also pay the Groundwater Use Recording Fee, so these two revenue forecasts are related. The Department typically carries at least a six-month operating (ending fund) balance to account for revenue seasonality. The Department is beginning to see declines in projected ending funds balances in the out years and will continue to monitor those balances. The current fee is set at $300 in ORS 537.545(6). Geotechnical Hole Fees are collected and used for activities related to geotechnical duties, functions and powers of the Department.

Dam Safety Fees are assessed to dam owners and are used for activities related to the Dam Safety program. The fee is dependent on the hazard rating for the dam (low/significant/high) as detailed in ORS 536.050(2). The revenue for this program is forecast using actual dam counts and the current fee schedule. The Department typically carries at least a nine-month operating (ending fund) balance to account for revenue seasonality. The Department is projecting an upcoming budget shortfall beginning in 2027-29 and will be submitting a legislative concept and accompanying policy option package to increase the current fees. The last fee increase was in 2021 (HB 2142). The Department pursues fee increases on a four-year schedule.

Geotechnical Hole Fees are collected and used for activities related to geotechnical duties, functions, and powers of the Department. The revenue for this program is forecast using

historical methods. The Department is anticipating future revenue to be like recent historical revenues. The Department typically carries at least a three-month operating (ending fund) balance to account for revenue seasonality. The Department is beginning to see declines in projected ending funds balances in the out years and will continue to monitor those balances. The current fees are detailed in ORS 537.890(2).

Well Program Fees are collected and used for activities related to the Well Construction program. Revenues for this program come from well driller licenses, exams, and landowner permits. The revenue for this program is forecast using historical methods adjusted for current economic conditions. The forecast is based on fee data for the past several biennia and adjusts for the current shortage of licensed drillers as well as drillers who have not renewed their licenses as of June 30, 2024. The Department typically carries at least a three-month operating (ending fund) balance to account for revenue seasonality. The Department is projecting an upcoming budget shortfall beginning in 2027-29 and will be submitting a legislative concept and accompanying policy option package to increase the current fees and recapitalize the operating (ending fund) balance in the 2025-27 biennium. The current fees are detailed within ORS 537.747(6).

All fees, charges, payments, and interest received by the Water Development Loan Program are dedicated to that program. There are no pending loans, applications, or bonding activity for the program. No revenue has been projected for this program although the program continues to receive interest monthly, offset by treasury fees.

Recap of Lottery Bond Funding

Over the last several biennia, the Legislature has authorized $133 million in Lottery Bond proceeds for water supply studies and projects. An additional $20 million in funding is proposed in the 2025-27 Governor's Recommended Budget. Many of the projects that have been awarded funding are still working on implementation. More detailed information on the spending of these funds is included in Chapter 7.

New Revenue Sources or Fee Increases

The Department's water right transactions fee schedule is typically a four-year schedule; dam safety fees have been incorporated into this schedule in recent years. Fee increases for these programs will be considered in the 2025 session. In addition, to these programs, the Department has shortfalls in its well construction programs and is also seeking to address those shortfalls. Please refer to House Bill 2803 and House Bill 2808, Revenue Shortfall package 070 and Policy Option Package 102 for additional information.

Governor's Budget Policy Option Packages – Additions

Package 101 - Maintain Well Construction Program Services - $920k OF Revenue - *IWRS recommended actions 7.A, 7.C, and 13.B*. This package accompanies LC 402. The current fee schedule for start cards provides $2.17 million to support 9.87 FTE that support well construction programs: 3.19 FTE in the Well Construction Section, 5 FTE well inspectors in the Field Services Division, 1 FTE Data Tech, and 0.68 FTE in the Administrative Services

Division. The current fee schedule for well construction licensing and permits provides $110k to support 0.57 FTE that support the well construction licensing and permitting functions in the Well Construction Section. This package proposes to increase start card fees by approximately 40% and well program fees by 10% percent for the 2025-2029 biennia. The fee increase will allow the Department to maintain its well program fee supported staff and will help the Department to provide timely service to the public

Package 102 - Maintain Water Right & Dam Safety Services - $1.7m OF Revenue - $1.7M OF – 7.00 FTE / 7 Positions - *IWRS recommended actions 7.C, 10.G, and 13.B.* This package accompanies HB 2803. The current fee schedule provides $330k to support 0.95 FTE in the Dam Safety program and $2.35 million to fund 14.93 FTE (12.43 FTE in the Water Right Services Division, 0.5 FTE in the Groundwater Section, and 2.0 FTE Water Right Data Techs). To maintain current service levels for the 2025-2029 biennia, increases are needed to water right transaction fees by approximately 135% percent and annual dam safety fees by 56%. The fee increase will allow the Department to continue to serve farmers, water supply providers, entities seeking to restore streamflows, and others needing decisions on water rights and to support the dam safety program. Package 102 adds back and retains the 7 FTE reduced in Package 070 due to revenue shortfalls.

Package 103 - Harney Conservation Resource Enhancement Fund - $544k OF Expenditure Limitation

This package accompanies HB 2813 that allows the unspent general fund allocation to roll into an "other funds" account each biennium. This is not a new appropriation of funds, just a technical change. This would allow for the Department to commit to longer term contracts and increase enrollment, while structuring payments to meet the needs of the participants enrolling in the program.

Package 104 - Feasibility Studies, Water Projects, & Wells - $22.2 million Total Funds ($20.2M LRB; $2M GF) - *IWRS recommended actions 5.B, 10.E, 12.A, 13.D, and 13.E.* This proposal includes investment in several funding programs to meet the water needs of Oregonians, including, Feasibility Study Grants ($1M GF); Water Projects Grants and Loans ($20M LRB proceeds); and the Well Abandonment, Repair, and Replacement Fund ($1M GF).

Package 106 - American Rescue Plan Act Carryover - $3.35 million OF

This package carries forward American Rescue Plan Act funding authorized in the 2021-2023 budget for those efforts to be completed and to have desired outcomes be achieved. The federal requirements state that these dollars must be obligated by December 31, 2024, and expended by 2026 for the following: 1) place-based planning; 2) Ordnance Project in Umatilla County; 3) engineering services for flood methodology & inundation assessments; 4) surface water and groundwater data collection field equipment; and 5) funding for the water measurement cost share program.

Package 107 - Strategic Modernization of IT Systems & Tools - $251k GF; 0.88 FTE / 1 Position

This package adds a business analyst to the IT section. The Department needs to modernize its IT functions, and the first start is to invest in business analysis and project management to ensure that the agency can successfully scope and execute much needed modernization projects.

Package 110 - State Scenic Waterway Revenue Gap – $0 Total Funds ($290k GF; ($290k OF)) - *IWRS recommended actions 10.G and 13.B.* This proposal will backfill growing funding gaps for six existing positions (partial FTE) with General Fund in the amount above the existing contracted amount with the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department for Scenic Waterway work. These positions are currently funded with a blend of Scenic Waterway funds and general fund.

Package 111 – Improving Accessibility of Agency Website - $128k GF – 0.5 FTE / 1 Position
This package would add a 0.5 FTE part-time web coordinator responsible for ensuring the Department's website is up to date with information desired by the public, while also considering ease of use, transparency, and website accessibility. Content updates would be conducted by the position to ensure consistency of design, content, methods, and accessibility.

Package 090 Additions / Carryover
1) Planning funds in the amount of $100k GF (one-time) in Information Technology for a Water Use Tracking and Reporting System; 2) One-time GF investment of $4.36 million to assist the department with legal cost overruns anticipated to carry forward from the current biennium; 3) One-time carryforward of GF for projects:

- City of Sodaville - Water System Expansion - $370k
- Rogue River Irrigation District - Fourmile Creek Project - $1.5M
- City of Monroe - Water, Prefilter and Automated Control Infrastructure - $1.5M

Governor's Budget Policy Option Packages – Reductions

Package 090 Reductions
This package includes the following general fund base reductions:

- $200k in services & supplies reductions
- $114k in evapotranspiration funding (leaves $200k)
- $100k in Agrimet funding (leaves $125k)
- $796k in groundwater investigations funding (leaves $500k)
- $272k in gaging station funding (leaves $150k)
- $1M in complex facilitation funding (leaves $526k)
- $66k in Water Measurement Cost Share funds (leaves $50k GF)
- $200k in Feasibility Study Grants funds (leaves $276k GF)

Package 092 & 093 Reductions - $574k GF; $15k OF
This package represents adjustments to the Attorney General rates, the Department of Administrative Services State Government Service Charges and the Department of Administrative Services pricelist charges for services to reflect adjustments made in the Governor's Recommended Budget.

Package 070 – See reference above in Package 102.

2025 Department Legislation

House Bill 2801 – Klamath Leases and Temporary Transfers Sunset Date
The Department's authority to approve temporary transfers and leases for determined

claims in the Upper Klamath Basin, which is undergoing an active adjudication, sunsets in January 2026. If this authority sunsets, the Department will not be able to approve leases or temporary transfers until the adjudication is completed, which limits water users' ability to use their water rights. Because it is unclear when the adjudication will be completed, the Department proposes to extend the current sunset date and insert language to repeal the program upon completion of the adjudication.

House Bill 2803 – Water Right Transaction and Dam Safety Fees
This bill accompanies package 102. Staff in both the Dam Safety and Water Right Transactions Division are partially supported by fees. These programs are core to the Department's mission of responsibly managing Oregon's water resources and maintaining public safety. The Department is facing shortfalls to support staff funded by dam safety annual fees and water right transaction fees. This bill increases Water Right Transaction Fees by 135% and Dam Safety Annual Fees by 56% to maintain existing service levels.

House Bill 2808 – Well Construction Program Fees
The Department's well construction program is almost entirely funded by fees. The ability for the agency to inspect wells to protect public health and safety and to prevent groundwater contamination and waste of groundwater resources requires (1) inspections of wells; (2) well log technical reviews; (3) licensing of well drillers. The Department is facing shortfalls to support staff funded by Start Card fees and Well Driller Licensing and Landowner Permit fees. The bill increases the Start Card fee by 40% and Well Driller Licensing and Landowner Permit fees by 10%.

House Bill 2813 – Harney Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program Other Funds Transfer
This bill accompanies package 103. The Harney Valley CREP is a voluntary program operated through the USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) in partnership with OWRD that seeks to improve groundwater conditions in the Harney basin by incentivizing landowners to voluntarily cancel groundwater rights within the Greater Harney Valley Groundwater Area of Concern. The bill proposes a technical change that would allow the unspent general fund allocation to roll into an "other funds" account each biennium, which would allow for the Department to commit to longer term or lump sum contracts to meet the needs of the participants enrolling in the program. Longer-term contracts (up to 15 years) would allow OWRD to enroll more participants and to better meet the needs of individual participants as the funding would be available beyond the current biennium.

Chapter 6: Reduction Options and Long-Term Vacancies

Ten Percent Reductions List as Requested by LFO 2025-2027

Description	GF	OF	FF	Total	FTE	Impact of Reduction on Services & Outcomes
Increased Vacancy Savings / S&S Reduction - Administrative Services, Field Services, Technical Services and the Director's Office	$200,000	-	-	$200,000	-	Reductions in S&S or increased vacancy targets means the Department will be delayed in implementing the services provided to the public entrusted to the Department by the Legislature. **This reduction is proposed in the GRB.**
Increased Vacancy Savings / S&S Reduction - Water Rights Services Division	$50,000	-	-	$50,000	-	Reductions in S&S or increased vacancy targets means the Department will be delayed in implementing the services provided to the public entrusted to the Department by the Legislature.
Facilitation Funds	$800,000	-	-	$800,000	-	Reduced funding for facilitation services will mean that staff will take on these duties in addition to their regular work, potentially delaying critical work in various basins. This reduction will reduce the agency's ability to accomplish the goal of addressing Oregonian's water needs and working to implement solutions to those water needs in a manner that engages with the people we serve. **This reduction is proposed in the GRB.**

Water Measurement Cost Share Funding	$66,194	-	-	$66,194	-	This reduction would result in fewer measurement devices installed, increase the need for time-consuming measuring device regulatory orders and compliance checks, and decrease water management efficiency. **This reduction is proposed in the GRB.**
Feasibility Study Grants	$200,000	-	-	$200,000	-	Reducing the funding would impact the ability of the grant program to provide funding for these studies, reducing the ability to assess future water conservation, reuse or storage projects, and to meet water needs. **This reduction is proposed in the GRB.**
Evapotranspiration funding	$113,800	-	-	$113,800	-	Reduced technical support for evapotranspiration data work for water budget studies. Items could include reductions to the number of monitoring sensors, locations, and validation resulting in decreased confidence in satellite-based ET. With reduced confidence the data will be less useful to support water management. **This reduction is proposed in the GRB.**
Agrimet funding	$100,000	-	-	$100,000	-	Reductions to Agrimet funding will mean that USBR will not be able to add stations to the network and reduced service and accuracy for existing stations. **This reduction is proposed in the GRB.**
Groundwater Investigation Funds	$796,080	-	-	$796,080	-	This reduces funding for continued scientific study of Oregon's groundwater resources, including the location and extent of groundwater aquifers, hydraulic connection between aquifers and streams, annual recharge to the aquifers, and how much is available for use by wells. Insufficient information about

						groundwater supplies can lead to overallocation of the resource, impacting people that rely on groundwater as well as streams. Study funds are used to leverage Federal dollars to pay for the studies. **This reduction is proposed in the GRB.**
Basin Specific and other Complex Facilitation Funds	$200,000	-	-	$200,000	-	This reduction will remove about a third of the funds allocated for facilitation for specific basins and other complex issues. Reduced funding for facilitation services means that Department staff will take on these duties in addition to their regular work, potentially delaying the work in the Willamette and Deschutes Basins. **This reduction is proposed in the GRB.**
Gaging Station Funding	$272,463	-	-	$272,463	-	This action reduces funding for the installation and maintenance of gaging stations. Reductions to this funding will result in a loss in some current gages that provide important historical record of stream flows and will lead to data gaps in the network used to support distribution and regulation as well as the update of the Water Availability Reporting System. **This reduction is proposed in the GRB.**
Water Distribution & Enforcement Resources	$2,338,309	-	-	$2,338,309	10	Reduced spending on staffing and related costs for field investigations, outreach to water right holders, distribution of surface water and groundwater according to rights of record, and protection of senior water rights, both instream and out-of-stream. Reductions could include assistant watermasters, management staff or enforcement section staff. Reductions in this area will reduce the Department's

						ability to respond to complaints of illegal water use, well-to-well interference, and timely regulate and distribute water to meet the demand of senior water right holders and will slow down the processing of formal enforcements against illegal water users, which impacts the Department's ability to gain compliance with Oregon water laws.
Data Development, Analysis, and Publication Resources	$1,085,843	-	-	$1,085,843	4	Reductions could include data positions, hydrographers, hydrologists, and/or hydrogeologists. These reductions decrease the Department's ability to use best available science to support allocation, regulation and distribution decisions; this science is also used by external partners and the public.
Water Resource Policy & Solutions	$759,996	-	-	$759,996	4	Reductions in this area will reduce the Department's ability to respond to technical assistance requests, particularly from planning groups and groups working on complex basin issues. This will reduce collaboration and relationships the Department has been working to build and delay important rulemaking. It will also reduce information accessible to the public
Central Administrative & Agency Supportive Services	$1,104,386	$102,298	-	$1,206,684	6.5	Reductions in this area would impact the Department's ability to process day to day work and other staff would need to take on additional responsibilities in addition to their regular work. Reductions could include support, accounting, human resources, and/or management staff.
Other Funded Position	-	$1,718,090	-	-	7	Reductions may include positions funded by sources such as the Water Development Loan Program, the

Reductions - Well construction program fees supported positions						Groundwater Use Recording Fee (Exempt Use), Hydroelectric Fees, Water Right Fees and/or the Start Card Fee.
Special Payments Reduction – Federal fund limitations	-	-	$60,000	-	-	Reductions would likely mean the Department would need to return to the Legislature or Emergency Board to request limitation increases in the future for any funds awarded that exceed existing limitation amounts for newly awarded federal sources.
Services & Supplies Reduction	-	-	$159,018		-	This reduction would reduce the limitation for professional services budget line in the Department. Doing so would likely mean the Department would need to return to the Legislature or Emergency Board to request limitation increases in the future for any funds awarded that exceed existing limitations. The current limitation pertains to federal funding the Department received from FEMA programs.
TOTAL	**$8,087,071**	**$1,820,388**	**$219,018**	**$8,408,387**	**31.5**	

Long-Term Vacancy Report

Vacancies as of 12/31/2024			
Position #	**Position Title**	**Type**	**Reason**
9915119	NATURAL RESOURCE SPECIALIST 3	PF	Position has been left vacant to generate vacancy savings and finance another position. Position is being used in a PFP 25-01 which was not keyed in time for PICS freeze in 2025-27 budget development.
9921060	NATURAL RESOURCE SPECIALIST 4	PF	Position has been left vacant to generate vacancy savings and finance another position. Position is being used in a PFP 25-01 which was not keyed in time for PICS freeze in 2025-27 budget development.
9921063	NATURAL RESOURCE SPECIALIST 2	PF	Position has been left vacant to generate vacancy savings and finance another position. Position is being used in a PFP 25-01 which was not keyed in time for PICS freeze in 2025-27 budget development.
7000004	LOAN SPECIALIST 3	PF	No identified revenue to support this Other Fund position. This position is dedicated to the Water Development Loan Program which has had no activity in several years.
9917123	NATURAL RESOURCE SPECIALIST 2	PF	Funding for this position was a contract with Umatilla County who bowed out of the contract June 30, 2023. The position will not be filled unless another funding source becomes available.
1000038	OFFICE SPECIALIST 1	PF	Position partially funded with fee revenues and is being held open to generate fee revenue savings and evaluate workload and other available revenue to support the position.

Chapter 7: Supplemental Information on Grants

FUNDING PROGRAMS THAT SERVE OREGONIANS

The Commission and Department recognize the critical water needs in Oregon's communities, while simultaneously engaging in longer-term strategic initiatives to better understand factors affecting the resource and proactively address future challenges. Oregon communities, along with Oregon's fish and wildlife, are already facing limited water supplies today. Surface water is almost completely allocated, and as we rely increasingly on our groundwater resources, groundwater levels have been dropping in some areas of the state. Water scarcity now jeopardizes Oregonian's health, welfare, and quality of life.

The Planning, Collaboration and Investments section builds partnerships and incentivizes Oregonians to pursue integrated and innovative solutions for complex water challenges and an uncertain water future. The Department does this work to achieve a secure and sustainable water future, addressing instream and out-of-stream needs, for all Oregonians and Oregon's environment, economy, communities, and cultures. Part of the section's responsibilities is to administer funding programs, including direct appropriations. Funding programs are detailed in more detail below.

Program (Year Authorized)	**Description**
Place-Based Planning (2015; made permanent 2023)	Empowers communities to work collaboratively, in partnership with the state, to understand their instream and out-of-stream water resources needs and identify potential solutions to meet those needs.
Feasibility Study Grants – Water Conservation, Reuse and Storage Grants (2008)	Provides up to 50 percent of the costs of studies to evaluate the feasibility of developing water conservation, reuse, and storage projects
Water Project Grants and Loans – Water Supply Development Account (2013)	Provides funding for instream and out-of-stream water supply projects that achieve economic, environmental, and social/cultural benefits
Water Well Abandonment, Repair, and Replacement Fund (2021)	Provides financial assistance to be used to permanently abandon, repair, or replace a water well used for household purposes
Harney Domestic Well Remediation Fund (2021)	Provides funding for replacing, repairing, or deepening domestic wells within the Greater Harney Valley Groundwater Area of Concern (GHVGAC).
Water Measurement Cost Share Program (2001)	Provides funding to contribute up to 75 percent of the cost of measuring devices.

Place-based Planning Grants

Undertaking place-based planning is Recommended Action 9.A of Oregon's Integrated Water Resources Strategy. In 2015, the Oregon Legislature authorized and provided funding for the Department to pilot the place-based approach to integrated water resources planning. Place-based integrated water resources planning is a voluntary, locally initiated and led effort in which a balanced representation of water interests within a basin or watershed, work in partnership with the state to understand their instream and out-of-stream water needs and identify solutions to meet those needs. Planning is essential to being able to formulate solutions to water challenges that may affect communities, ecosystems, and economic development.

The Department has been working with four places – Harney Basin, Upper Grande Ronde Sub-Basin, Lower John Day Sub-Basin, and the Mid-Coast Region – to pilot place-based planning. Three of the four planning groups' integrated water resources plans have been completed and recognized by the Commission.

Place-Based Water Planning Grants (initial award in 2016, additional funds awarded 2019 and 2021)

Planning Group (Fiscal Agent)	Grant Funds (through 2022)	Match Funds (through June 2022)
Harney Community-Based Water Planning Collaborative (Harney County Watershed Council)	$600,000	$568,000
Mid-Coast Water Planning Partnership (Seal Rock Water District)	$600,000	$822,000
Lower John Day Place-Based Planning Partnership (Gillam SWCD)	$575,000	$240,000
Upper Grande Ronde River Basin Planning Partnership (Union County)	$575,000	$330,000

Each community has shown dedication to the process and many of the participants have already observed benefits from the localized collaborative planning. Place-based planning has allowed participants to get to know new people that share an interest in water, collaboratively work through differences, and identify opportunities to work together. It has also allowed the state agencies to be a partner in understanding and addressing complex water problems at a local scale. The planning efforts have increased local access to agency technical information and helped communities better understand existing data gaps and water resource limitations.

Legislation passed in 2023 made the program permanent.

FEASIBILITY STUDY GRANTS
WATER CONSERVATION, REUSE AND STORAGE

Authorized in 2008, Water Conservation, Reuse, and Storage Grants fund the qualifying costs of studies that evaluate the feasibility of a proposed conservation, reuse, or storage project that appears to have merit but is lacking important details necessary to determine whether or not to proceed with implementation. Since 2009, 122 grants totaling over $9.4 million dollars have been awarded. The table below provides information on recent funding awards.

Feasibility Grants Awarded

Study Name	Project Type	County	Funding Awarded	Total Cost of Study
Date: June 2022				
City of Klamath Falls Beneficial Reuse Feasibility Study	Reuse and Storage	Klamath	$336,807	$673,614
Farmers Canal Pipeline Design Study	Conservation	Hood River	$60,000	$120,000
Goose Lake Basin Water Conservation Study	Conservation	Lake	$80,245	$161,850
Horsefly Irrigation District Modernization Study	Conservation	Klamath	$75,000	$152,500
Klamath Irrigation District Water Conservation Study	Conservation	Klamath	$72,000	$146,500
Langell Valley Irrigation District Modernization Study	Conservation	Klamath	$75,000	$152,500
West Canal Pumpback Project Reuse Study	Reuse	Klamath	$115,000	$230,000
		Total	**$814,052**	**$1,636,964**
Date: June 2023				
City of North Plains Aquifer Storage and Recovery Feasibility Study	Storage	Washington	$94,727	$198,297
Drywell-Managed Aquifer Recharge Using Winter flow and Non-Contact Wastewater at Westland Irrigation District	Reuse and Storage	Umatilla	$249,686	$499,372
East Fork Hood River Water Conservation Feasibility Study	Conservation	Hood River	$47,430	$96,416
Silverton Aquifer Storage and Recovery Feasibility Study	Storage	Marion	$250,000	$500,000
		Total	**$641,753**	**$1,294,085**
Date: March 2024				

Brophy Ditch Big Butte Creek Water Conservation Project	Conservation	Jackson	$82,679	$166,585
Clackamas Water Environment Services MBR Water Reuse Feasibility Study	Reuse	Clackamas	$75,000	$150,000
Lower Willow Creek Managed Aquifer Recharge Feasibility Study	Storage	Morrow and Gilliam	$52,500	$105,000
Tickle Creek, Tributary of Clackamas River - Reuse Study	Reuse	Clackamas	$75,000	$150,000
		Total	**$285,179**	**$571,585**

WATER PROJECT GRANTS AND LOANS
WATER SUPPLY DEVELOPMENT ACCOUNT

In 2013, the Oregon Legislature passed Senate Bill 839, establishing the Water Supply Development Account to provide grants and loans for water projects to evaluate, plan, and develop instream and out-of-stream water projects that have economic, environmental and social/cultural benefits. In 2023, the Oregon Legislature passed House Bill 5030, providing $50 million to issue grants for irrigation modernization projects. Since 2016, over $95.8M has been awarded to 55 different projects. The table below provides information on recent funding awards.

Water Project Grants Awarded

Project Name	Applicant	County	Funding Awarded	Total Cost of Study
Date: November 2022				
Deschutes Basin Flow Restoration - Group 4	Tumalo Irrigation District	Deschutes	$2,000,000	$8,706,808
East Fork Irrigation District Sublateral Modernization Project	East Fork Irrigation District	Hood River	$822,995	$1,878,295
Mill Creek Park Aquifer Storage and Recovery Project	City of Stayton	Marion	$3,819,750	$5,093,000
Fitzpatrick Conservation Project*	Trout Unlimited, Rocking M Cattle Company	Wallowa	$68,064	$90,752
		Total	**$6,710,809**	**$15,768,855**

*Additional funding awarded to project which received grant funding in December 2021. The Total

Cost of Project includes only the 2022 funding and additional match provided by the grantee				
Date: November 2023				
McKay Creek Water Rights Switch Project	Ochoco Irrigation District, Deschutes River Conservancy	Crook	$4,063,000	$45,131,286
Deschutes Basin Flow Restoration Project – Phase 2	Arnold Irrigation District	Deschutes	$2,903,667	$12,458,667
Irrigation Modernization and Winter Flow Augmentation Project – Segment 1-2	North Unit Irrigation District	Deschutes	$3,075,000	$20,300,000
Deschutes Basin Flow Restoration - Group 6b	Tumalo Irrigation District	Deschutes	$2,190,726	$5,465,625
Oanna & Yasui Sublateral Efficiency Project	East Fork Irrigation District	Hood River	$1,499,875	$3,800,000
Sarthou South Fork Little Butte Cr Irrigation Efficiency	Trout Unlimited	Jackson	$252,177	$315,238
		Total	**$13,984,445**	**$87,470,816**
Date: June 2024				
McKay Creek Water Rights Switch Project	Ochoco Irrigation District, Deschutes River Conservancy	Crook	$7,500,000	$49,900,000
Lone Pine Irrigation Modernization Phase 2	Lone Pine Irrigation District	Crook and Jefferson	$775,000	$4,698,000
Arnold Irrigation District Deschutes Basin Flow Restoration Project - Phases 3-4	Arnold Irrigation District	Deschutes	$2,860,000	$11,551,000
Deschutes Basin Flow and Water Quality Restoration Project – Group 6C	Tumalo Irrigation District	Deschutes	$3,000,000	$6,567,000
Phase 2: G and G2 Lateral Piping and Water Conservation Project	Deschutes River Conservancy	Deschutes	$3,061,829	$5,086,774
Farmers Canal Piping	Farmers	Hood	$2,527,000	$10,840,000

and Sediment Management Project	Irrigation District, Farmers Conservation Alliance	River		
Joint System Canal Piping Project Phase 1	Medford Irrigation District, Rogue River Valley Irrigation District	Jackson	$2,210,000	$7,360,000
Klamath Irrigation District Pump Plants and 2025 Main D Canal Improvements	Klamath Irrigation District, Farmers Conservation Alliance	Klamath	$4,615,000	$18,460,000
Kingman Lateral 1st Mile Piping	Owyhee Irrigation District	Malheur	$2,000,000	$5,100,000
Piping Lateral Canals in the Vale Bench: Building on Experience	Malheur Watershed Council	Malheur	$3,601,238	$6,121,238
Snake River Pumping Efficiencies*	Owyhee Irrigation District	Malheur	$1,250,000	$2,825,133
		Total	**$33,400,067**	**$128,509,145**
*Provisionally recommended, subject to available funding; contingent on a spring 2025 lottery revenue bond sale)				
Date: December 2024				
Bend Headworks Fish Screen Replacement*	North Unit Irrigation District	Deschutes	$1,971,924	$9,782,732
Winston Reservoir Replacement*	Winston-Dillard Water District	Douglas	$3,700,000	$7,038,500
Sweet Cron Irrigation Modernization Project*	Illinois Valley SWCD and Trout Unlimited	Josephine	$535,868	$669,890
Catherine Creek Elmer Dam Fish Passage and Flow Improvement	Union Soil and Water Conservation District	Union	$1,924,463	$7,267,790
Klamath Irrigation District A-3 Urban Canal Piping*	Klamath Irrigation District	Klamath	$907,290	$3,629,159
		Total	**$9,039,545**	**$28,388,071**
*Provisionally recommended, subject to available funding; contingent on a spring 2025 lottery revenue bond sale. Grant has since been declined due to lack of match funds.				

WELL ABANDONMENT, REPAIR AND REPLACEMENT FUND

The Well Abandonment, Repair, and Replacement Fund (WARRF) was established through the passage of HB 2145 in 2021. Its purpose is to provide financial assistance to repair or replace a water well used for household purposes and to permanently abandon wells, when certain criteria are met. The Department is implementing this funding opportunity in two stages. Stage I is to initially meet the urgent public health needs of Oregonians with low to moderate income that have been affected by drought and wildfire. Stage II will focus on comprehensive design for full implementation.

The Department launched Stage I on June 1, 2022. The Department started receiving applications in mid-June. A limited-duration well fund coordinator was hired and started in July part-time and began processing applications full-time on August 1, 2022; this position was made permanent in 2023. Since June 2022, the Department has processed and obligated $6.4 million in total as assistance to 202 homeowners.

HARNEY BASIN DOMESTIC WELL REMEDIATION FUND

In 2021, the Oregon Legislature passed House Bill 3092, which established the Harney Basin Domestic Well Remediation Fund for the purposes of replacing, repairing, or deepening domestic wells affected by overallocation of ground water within the Greater Harney Valley Groundwater Area of Concern (GWAC). Due to staffing capacity issues this fund has not been set up. The Department focused resources on first setting up the statewide Well Abandonment, Repair and Replacement Fund. The Department launched the fund in 2024 and has awarded $71,000 in total as assistance to seven homeowners.

DIRECT APPROPRIATIONS

Over the last three biennia, the Legislature made a number of direct appropriations to water projects and directed the Department to manage the grants. Direct appropriations made by the Legislature in 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024 are included below.

Project Name	Recipient Name	Fund	Funding Awarded	Status
Year: 2021				
Remediation of the Big Creek Dams	City of Newport	Water Supply Fund	$14,000,000	Grant agreement in place; expected completion 2025
Deschutes Basin Board of Control piping project	Deschutes Basin Board of Control	Water Supply Development Account	$10,000,000	Grant agreement in place; expected completion 2025
State-supported water planning and management	Oregon Consensus	General Fund	$500,000	Work group met through 2022; Project completed
Fire protection infrastructure	Nesika Beach Ophir Water District	General Fund	$250,000	Project completed

Columbia River-Umatilla Solutions task force	Umatilla County	General Fund	$500,000	Grant agreement in place
Ordnance regional water infrastructure project	Umatilla County	ARPA Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Fund	$6,000,000	Grant agreement in place
Rehabilitation of the Wallowa Lake Dam*	Wallowa Lake Irrigation District	Water Supply Fund	$14,000,000	Grant agreement in place
		Total	**$45,250,000**	
Year: 2022				
Addressing Dry Domestic and Community Water Wells	Klamath County	General Fund	$5,000,000	Grant agreement in place
		Total	**$5,000,000**	
Year: 2023				
Waterline replacement	City of West Linn	Water Supply Development Account	$5,000,000	Lottery revenue bond sale scheduled for March 2025
Non-potable (purple pipe) project	City of Beaverton	General Fund	$2,500,000	Grant agreement being finalized
Infrastructure Modernization	North Unit Irrigation District	General Fund	$2,000,000	Grant agreement in place
Piping, monitoring and measurement	Deschutes River Conservancy	General Fund	$1,500,000	Grant agreement in place
Fourmile Creek Project	Rogue River Irrigation District	General Fund	$1,530,000	Grant agreement in place
Water Infrastructure	City of Monroe	General Fund	$1,500,000	Grant agreement being finalized
Water reservoir improvement	City of St. Paul	General Fund	$636,000	Grant agreement in place
Earthquake isolation reservoirs valves	City of Bay City	General Fund	$250,000	Grant agreement in place
Well construction	City of Halsey	General Fund	$300,000	Grant agreement in place
Well construction	City of Sodaville	General Fund	$370,000	Grant agreement in place
Water mainline replacement	City of Fall City	General Fund	$592,000	Grant agreement in place
		Total	**$16,178,000**	

Year: 2024				
Water hauling expenses	City of Sodaville	General Fund	$60,000	Grant agreement in place
Above ground storage reservoir	City of Riddle	General Fund	$1,500,000	Grant agreement in place
		Total	**$1,560,000**	

Additionally, in 2021, the Legislature transferred $500,000 from American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Fund moneys received by the Oregon Department of Administrative Services to the Water Resources Department, for assistance to local governments with meeting fish passage requirements for dam upgrade projects. The Department identified local governments that have High or Significant hazard dams that need funded to meet fish passage requirements for dam upgrades and meet the conditions of the ARPA funds. The Department has grant agreements in place with the cities of Drain and Dallas.

WATER MEASUREMENT COST SHARE PROGRAM

In 2021, the Legislature transferred $1,000,000 from American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Fund moneys received by the Oregon Department of Administrative Services to the Water Resources Department for the Water Measurement Cost Share Program Revolving Fund established in ORS 536.021. The Department provides up to 75 percent of the funds needed to install, substantially repair, or replace a streamflow gage, measuring device or headgate with a measuring device on authorized diversions or points of appropriation where the gauge, measuring device or headgate will be used to protect in-stream flow or existing water rights, measure ground water use, or monitor water rights and streamflow.

RECAP OF LOTTERY BOND FUNDING

Since the 2021-23 biennium, the Legislature has authorized $133 million in Lottery Bond proceeds for water supply studies and projects, with bond sales in the spring of 2022, 2023, 2024 and the latest sale scheduled for the spring of 2025. The Governor's Recommended Budget proposes and additional $20 million scheduled to be sold in the spring of 2027.

Description	Authorized FY 21 – FY 25
Water Supply Development Account	
Deschutes Basin Board of Control irrigation piping projects	$10 million
Water Project Grants & Loans	$40 million
Irrigation Modernization	$50 million
City of West Linn Water Line Replacement	$5 million
Water Supply Fund	
Wallowa Lake Dam	$14 million
Big Creek Dam	$14 million
TOTAL	**$133 million**

Governor's Recommended Budget

Link on Oregon Water Resources Department Website to Governor's Recommended Budget:

https://www.oregon.gov/owrd/publicationsandreports/Pages/default.aspx?wp899=se:%22+GRB%22&wp2359=se:%222025-27+Governor%27s+Budget%22

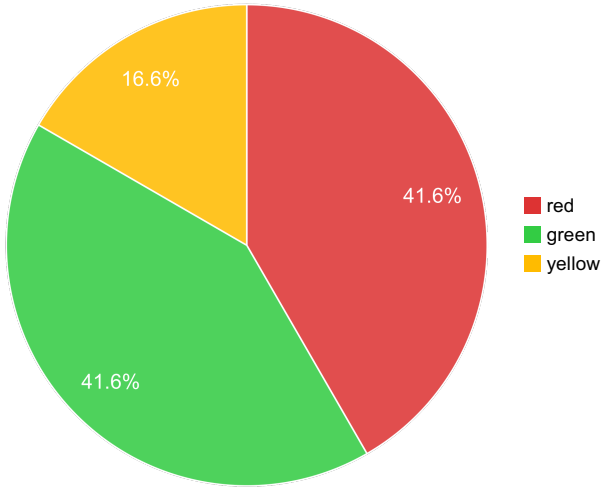
Water Resources Department

Annual Performance Progress Report

Reporting Year 2023

Published: 10/2/2023 5:08:35 PM

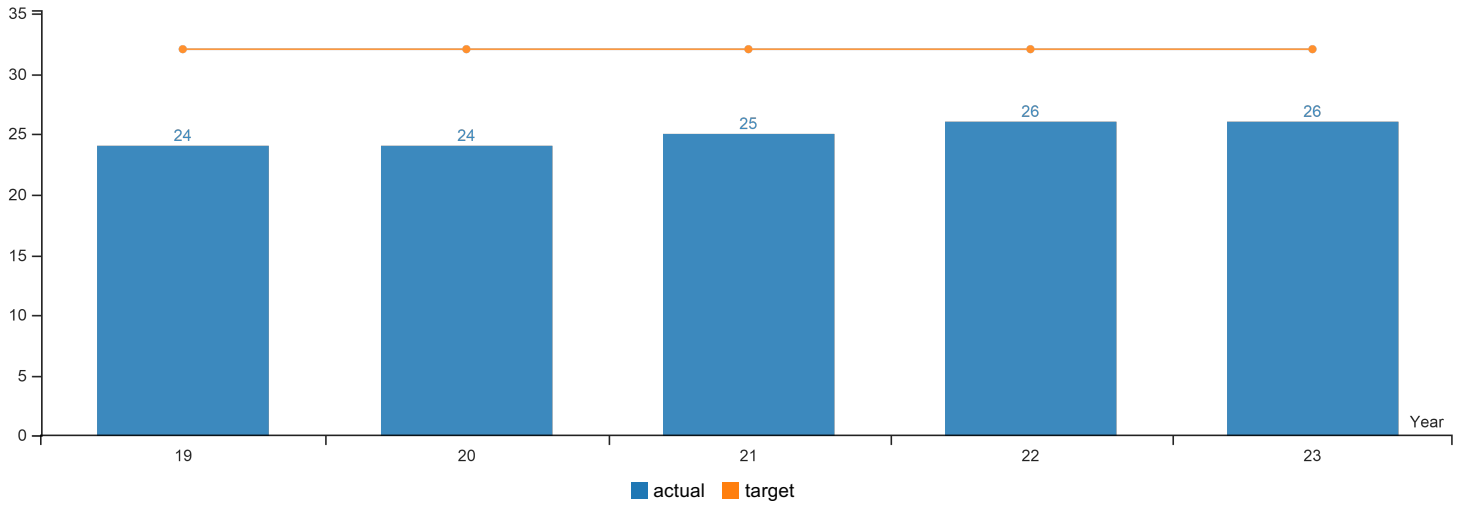
KPM #	Approved Key Performance Measures (KPMs)
1	FLOW RESTORATION - Percent of watersheds that need flow restoration for fish that had a significant quantity of water put instream through WRD administered programs.
2	PROTECTION OF INSTREAM WATER RIGHTS - Ratio of regulatory orders issued to protect senior water rights when the senior water right is an instream right to all regulatory orders issued to protect senior water rights.
3	MONITOR COMPLIANCE - Percent of total regulatory actions that found water right holders in compliance with water rights and regulations.
4	STREAM FLOW GAGING - Percent change from 2001 in the number of WRD operated or assisted gauging stations.
5	ASSESSING GROUND WATER RESOURCES - Percent change from 2001 in the number of wells routinely monitored to assess ground water resources.
7	EQUIP CITIZENS WITH INFORMATION - Number of times water management related data was accessed through the WRD's Internet site.
8	NUMBER OF SIGNIFICANT DIVERSIONS WITH MEASUREMENT DEVICES INSTALLED - To fully implement the Water Resources Commission's 2000 Water Measurement Strategy
9	PROMOTE EFFICIENCY IN WATER MANAGEMENT AND CONSERVATION PLAN REVIEWS - Percent of water management and conservation plans that received a preliminary review within 90 days of plan submittal.
10	PROMOTE EFFICIENCY IN WATER RIGHT APPLICATION PROCESSING - Percent of water right applications that receive an initial review within 45 days of application filing.
11	PROMOTE EFFICIENCY IN TRANSFER APPLICATION PROCESSING - Percent of transfer final orders issued within 120 days of application filing.
13	INCREASE WATER USE REPORTING - the percent of water users with an annual water-use reporting requirement that have submitted their reports to the Department.
14	CUSTOMER SERVICE - Percent of customers rating their satisfaction with the agency's customer service as "good" or "excellent" in overall customer service, timeliness, accuracy, helpfulness, expertise, and availability of information.



Performance Summary	Green	Yellow	Red
	= Target to -5%	= Target -5% to -15%	= Target > -15%
Summary Stats:	41.67%	16.67%	41.67%

KPM #1	FLOW RESTORATION - Percent of watersheds that need flow restoration for fish that had a significant quantity of water put instream through WRD administered programs.
	Data Collection Period: Jan 01 - Dec 31

** Upward Trend = positive result*



Report Year	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Percent of Watersheds That Had Flows Added Where Needed for Fish					
Actual	24%	24%	25%	26%	26%
Target	32%	32%	32%	32%	32%

How Are We Doing

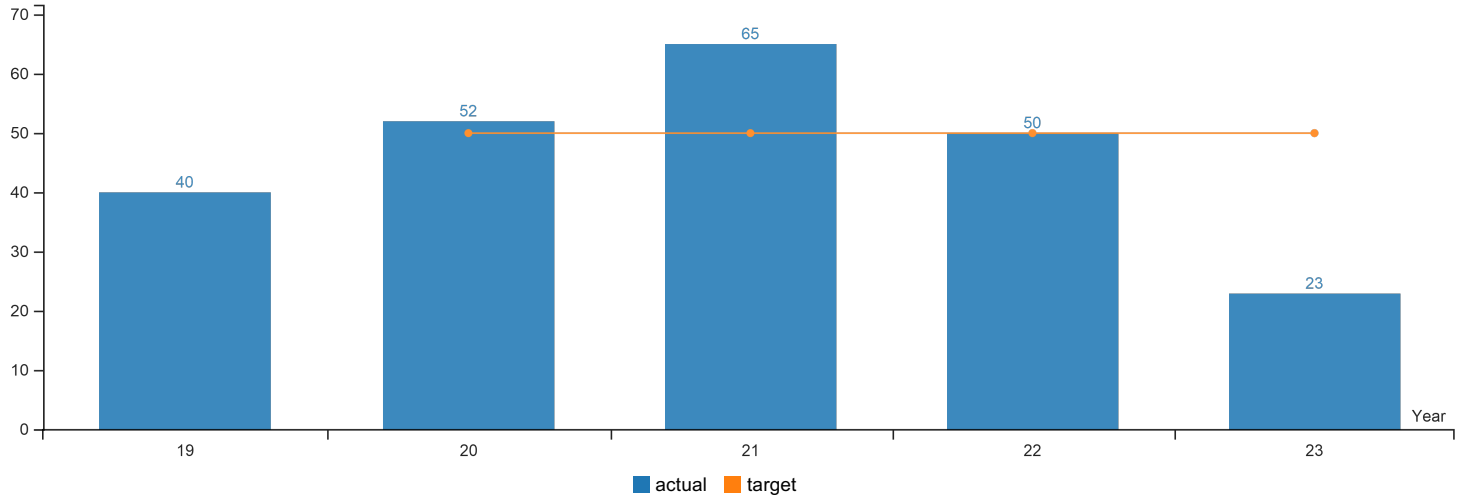
During the 2023 reporting period, 26 percent of the 342 targeted high priority watersheds had flows added for fish. The percentage matches performance from the prior reporting year. The amount of water placed instream can fluctuate from year-to-year based on individual water user interest in leasing water instream and the specific location of the water rights proposed for instream lease. Since this KPM was created in 2002, the Department has permanently protected a total of 1,472.51 cubic feet per second (cfs) water instream. This total is comprised of the following: 1) instream transfers at 422.28 cfs; 2) allocations of conserved water at 250.23 cfs; and 3) converted hydroelectric rights at 800.0 cfs. An additional 4,993.92 cfs was protected instream through temporary instream leases in 2022. Five of those leases were from power rights which resulted in the protection of 4,726.22 cfs instream.

Factors Affecting Results

The 2023 reporting period was the calendar year 2022. Streamflow restoration efforts depend on the voluntary actions of water right holders to place water instream. Meeting this target measure relies on the hard work between our conservation partners, our staff, and an increased comfort level with water right holders to dedicate water instream. Streamflow restoration benefits from well-established, active conservation partners. Thirty-two percent of Oregon's flow restoration transactions involve a third party such as The Freshwater Trust, Deschutes River Conservancy, or Trout Unlimited, while the remaining 68 percent of flow restoration activities occur directly between the individual water right holder and the Department.

KPM #2	PROTECTION OF INSTREAM WATER RIGHTS - Ratio of regulatory orders issued to protect senior water rights when the senior water right is an instream right to all regulatory orders issued to protect senior water rights.
	Data Collection Period: Jan 01 - Dec 31

** Upward Trend = positive result*



Report Year	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
PROTECTION OF INSTREAM WATER RIGHTS					
Actual	40%	52%	65%	50%	23%
Target		50%	50%	50%	50%

How Are We Doing

In calendar year 2022 (report year 2023), staff reported a total of 8,239 regulatory actions. Regulatory actions are actions by staff that cause a change in water use behavior. Of the 8,239 total regulatory actions taken in 2022, 1,926 – 23 percent of the total – were conducted to regulate for instream water rights. The 2023 report year target is 50 percent, which was not met. While the target was not met, it is due in large part as there was not a need to protect the instream water rights as water conditions were more favorable to established instream water rights in 2022.

Watermasters and assistant watermasters are responsible for monitoring and protecting instream water rights. These staff are also assisted by regional hydrographic technicians, who conduct numerous streamflow measurements in support of instream water right monitoring. Watermasters report monitoring activities and regulatory actions taken each calendar year for each stream into the Field Activity Database (FAD). The 2023 report year results contain data from activities conducted January 1, 2022 to December 31, 2022.

Factors Affecting Results

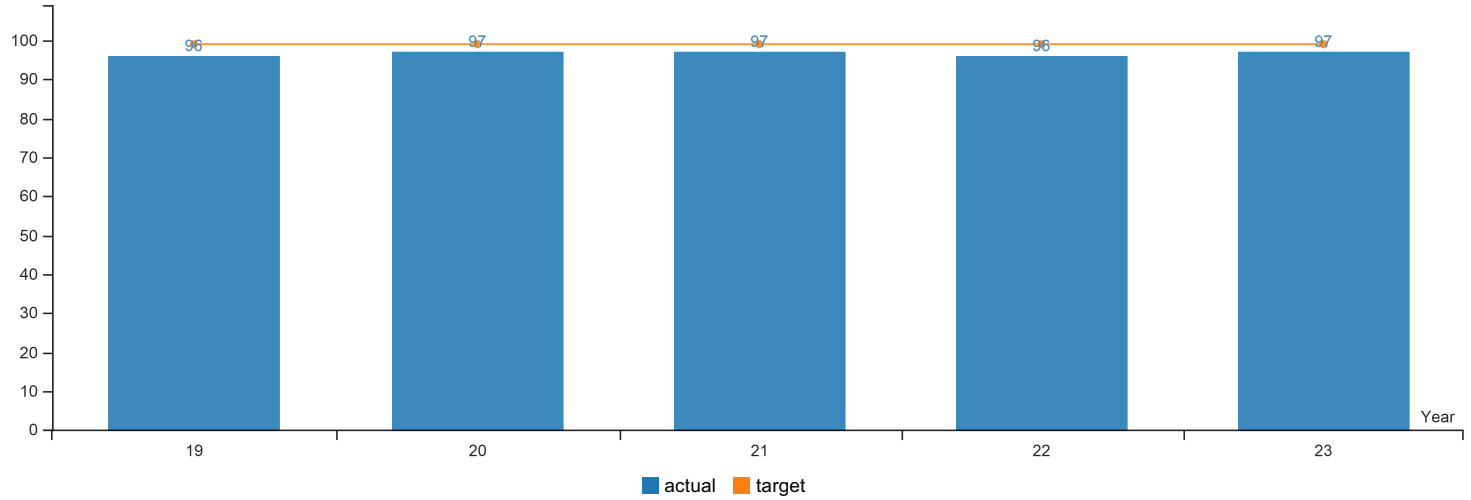
Instream water rights are often junior to other surface water rights and monitored by the Water Resources Department regularly. Many stream flows with instream water rights are met throughout the season do not require regulation on their behalf. In years with high stream flows the total number of streams regulated is likely to go down, while in years with lower stream flows the total number of streams regulated is likely to go up because of greater demand and less supply for all beneficial uses. The number of streams regulated varies with the amount and timing of rainfall in any given year, temperatures, as well as staff resources. This KPM is specific to regulation for instream water rights.

A significant portion of the instream water rights frequently regulated are found in the Northwest Region. In 2022, this area benefited from some late season precipitation and snowpack resulting in

several of these systems meeting instream flows without significant regulation. Conversely, we had significant increases in field staff which lead to increased capacity to address complaints and to conduct proactive investigations into water use compliance. Of the 8,239 regulatory actions, 6,313 – 77 percent of the total – were to protect senior out-of-stream water rights and/or to address illegal use. Therefore, while the target of 50% was not achieved here, it was not as a result of not monitoring the instream rights but rather due to regulatory actions not being necessary due to water conditions. In addition, actions the Department takes to address unauthorized use of water, benefits instream values even if not reflected by this metric.

KPM #3	MONITOR COMPLIANCE - Percent of total regulatory actions that found water right holders in compliance with water rights and regulations.
	Data Collection Period: Jan 01 - Dec 31

** Upward Trend = positive result*



Report Year	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Percent of Total Regulatory Actions That Found Water Rights Holders in Compliance with Water Rights and Regulations					
Actual	96%	97%	97%	96%	97%
Target	99%	99%	99%	99%	99%

How Are We Doing

During the reporting period, the watermasters and assistant watermasters reported 8,239 regulatory actions. Staff also reported 30,178 compliance checks to determine if water right holders were complying with the law or a regulatory action. This is a significant increase from the previous reporting year in which staff conducted 23,153 compliance checks. Consistent with previous years, 97 percent of the compliance checks undertaken in 2022 found water use occurring consistent with a regulatory order or water laws. This metric does not reflect overall statewide compliance with water right conditions or Oregon water laws - as this only reflects known and tracked activities and responses to regulatory orders. With approximately 89,500 water rights statewide and several hundred thousand exempt wells, plus an unknown number of unauthorized uses, it is not possible to fully assess, with certainty, overall compliance.

Factors Affecting Results

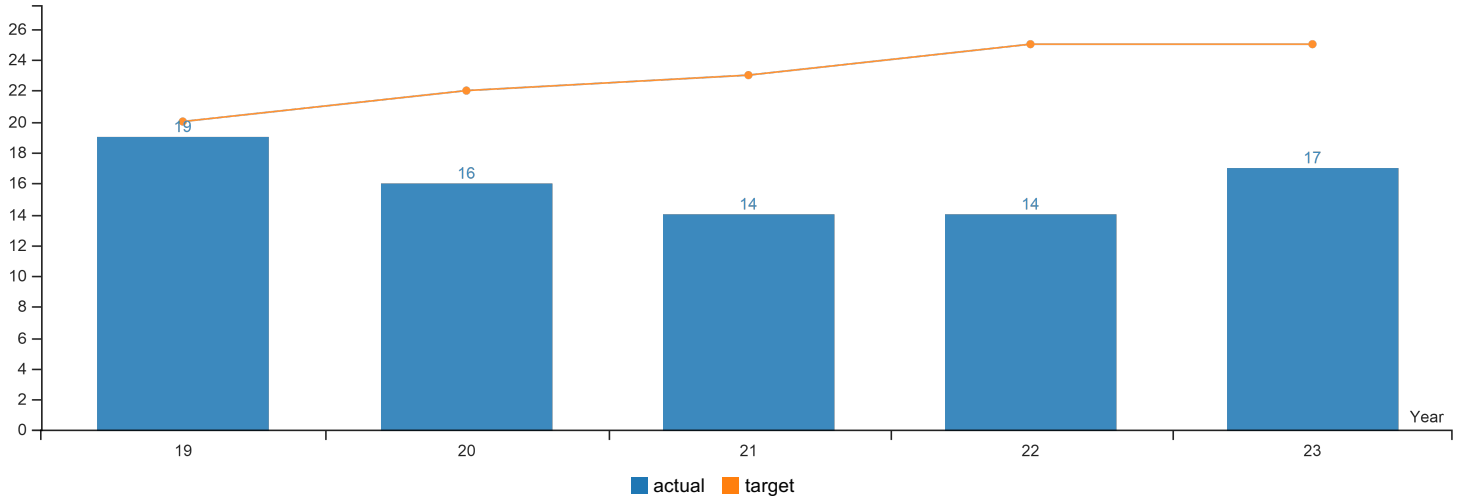
Since staff cannot and do not cover all the area within their district, there may be users that are not in compliance or individuals using water without authorization that have not been identified by the watermasters and captured in this metric. Obtaining proof of unauthorized use can be difficult. However, recent increases in staff garnered from previous legislative and special sessions have increased Field Services Division capacity. This increase in capacity is assisting the Department with both timely response to complaints as well as allowing for more proactive investigations of sites where unpermitted water use may be occurring.

The Field Services Division has been using the Field Activity Database (FAD) since 2018. Continued refinement to this tool, clarifications in data entry and ongoing quality control and assurance have led to a better understanding of how to capture work that is done in the field by Department staff. Continued training, education and Department protocols on FAD utilization have increased understanding of the differentiated workloads around the State. The Department continues to respond to a high volume of illegal water use complaints generated by the cannabis industry, most notably in the southwest region and in the Klamath and Deschutes basins.

Additionally, the establishment of an Enforcement Section has led to increased enforcement activity through more efficient processes, including training to field staff, improved timeliness of compliance and the issuance of final orders and a streamlined notice of assessment have improved compliance mechanisms. One example of this is that the Division issued 40 notices of violation in the 2021 calendar year (reporting year 2022) and 153 in the 2022 calendar year (reporting year 2023). This over threefold increase was in equal parts due to the addition of more assistant watermasters focused on cannabis and the establishment of the Enforcement Section.

KPM #4	STREAM FLOW GAGING - Percent change from 2001 in the number of WRD operated or assisted gauging stations.
	Data Collection Period: Jul 01 - Jun 30

** Upward Trend = positive result*



Report Year	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Percent Change from 2001 in Number of OWRD-Operated or Assisted Gaging Stations					
Actual	19%	16%	14%	14%	17%
Target	20%	22%	23%	25%	25%

How Are We Doing

During the 2023 reporting period of July 1, 2022, through June 30, 2023, the Department added eight gages, and discontinued two gages, with a net increase of six gages. The Department operated a total of 251 gages during this period, a 17 percent increase over the 2001 benchmark (215 gaging stations) but remains under the targeted 25 precent goal (~269 gages). The Department continues to participate in the shared statewide gaging network which increases the capacity to monitor data from measurement gages beyond what our agency is responsible for maintaining.

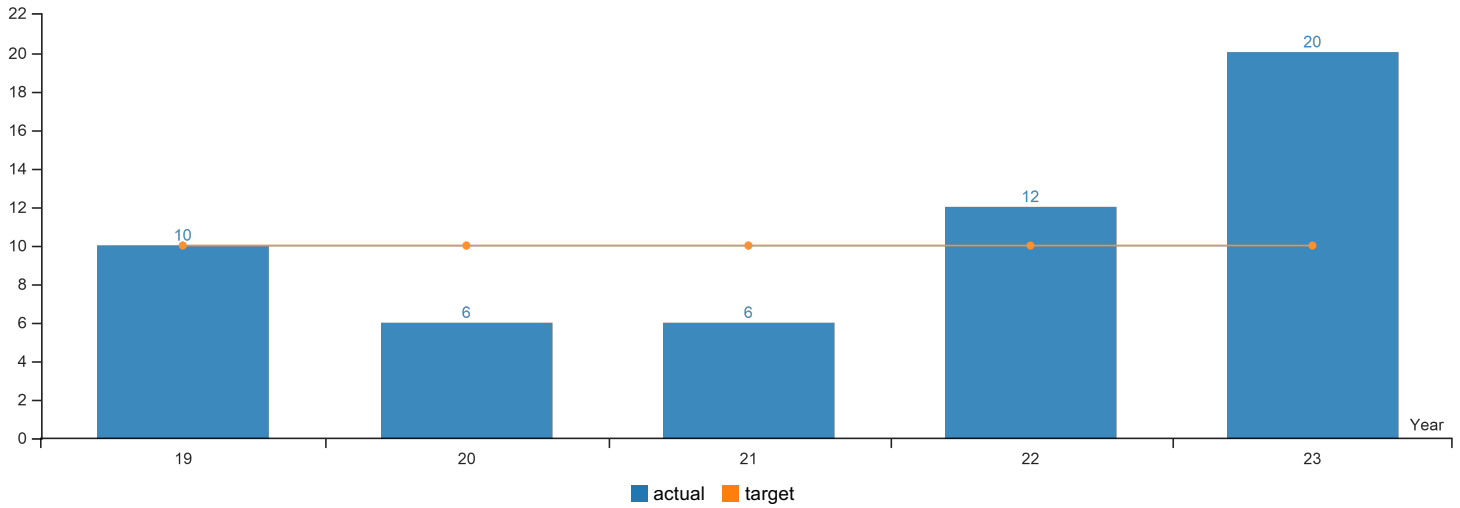
Factors Affecting Results

During 2020 and 2021, the COVID pandemic caused funding and staffing challenges, along with some extreme flooding events, leading to a decrease in the size of our gage network. In 2022, the Department spent $1 million one-time ARPA dollars to purchase equipment for new and existing gages. Most new gages were in support of basin studies and state-wide investigations, however, most of these funds were used to replace necessary equipment at existing gages.

Continuing to increase the size of the gaging network requires the Department to have sufficient equipment, hydrographers, and field staff to provide quality assurance of the data and to maintain the statewide gage network. The 2019 Legislature approved additional hydrographics staff as part of a groundwater basin study package; however, the Department was not able to fill the positions until December of 2021 due to budget reductions during the 2019 2nd Special Legislative Session and COVID restrictions on spending through 2020 and early 2021. As the positions are fully trained, it is expected that these positions will provide some longer-term consistency and improve the KPM reporting on this target.

KPM #5	ASSESSING GROUND WATER RESOURCES - Percent change from 2001 in the number of wells routinely monitored to assess ground water resources.
	Data Collection Period: Jul 01 - Jun 30

** Upward Trend = positive result*



Report Year	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Percent Change from 2001 in Number of Wells Routinely Monitored to Assess Groundwater Resources					
Actual	10%	6%	6%	12%	20%
Target	10%	10%	10%	10%	10%

How Are We Doing

During the current reporting cycle (July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023), department staff routinely monitored 419 wells in the State Observation Well Network, compared to 393 in the 2022 report. This is double the KPM target for wells routinely monitored to assess groundwater resources. Wells in the Observation Well Network produce long standing and high-quality aquifer water level data across the state.

Although not included in the calculations of this KPM, the Department also collects data from 1,196 additional “observation wells”, which are used to regularly monitor groundwater levels for special projects (e.g., the Walla Walla Basin Groundwater Study), are within groundwater administrative areas (e.g., the Stage Gulch Critical Groundwater Area), are measured to satisfy groundwater permit conditions, or are wells monitored by other science and regulatory partners.

From the 1,196 observation wells around the state, the Department collected 3,024 water level measurements. Of those wells, 165 are equipped with automated data-logging pressure transducers that collect water level data several times per day and produce high-frequency time-series data sets. In addition, the Department receives data from licensed professionals who collected 1,984 water level measurements from another 1,634 wells as required by various water right permit conditions. The Department archives and provides this and other groundwater related data via the Groundwater Information System database and web interface which provides this information directly to public.

Factors Affecting Results

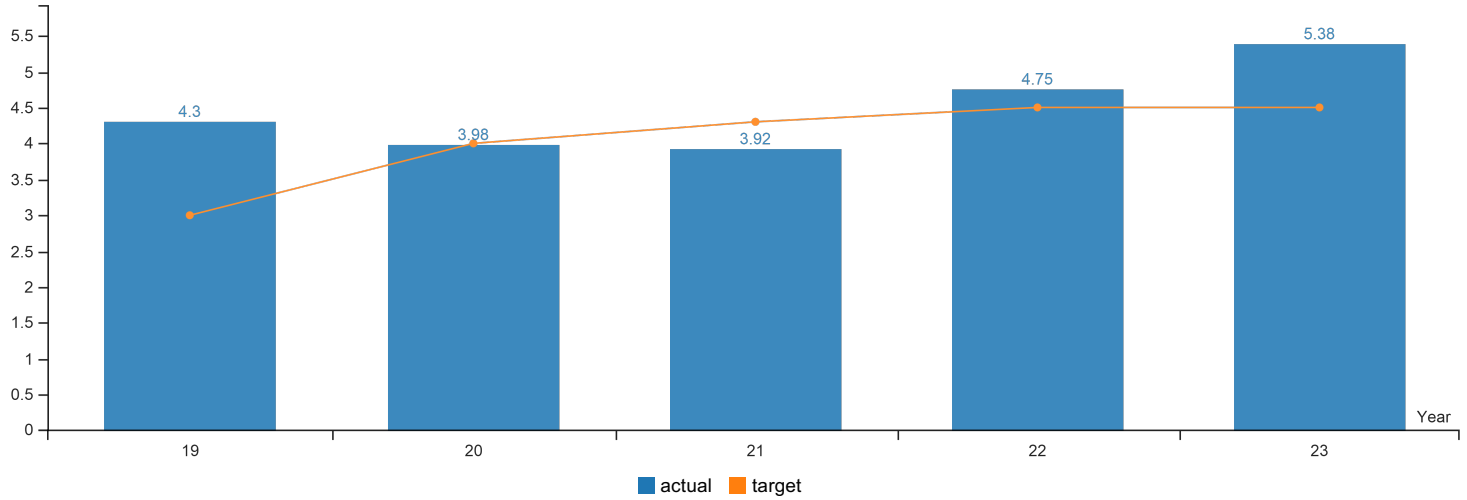
The percentage of monitored wells increased as the Department added new wells to the State Observation Well Network and identified replacements for others that had previously been dropped off the network. Since 2013, the Legislature has included dedicated funding for observation wells in the Department's budget. Apart from the 23 new observation wells drilled by the Department in the last

decade, State Observation Wells are largely owned by private and other public entities. This can create long-term access issues to wells, as the Department must rely on private well owners for continued participation in the network and the ongoing reliability and maintenance. When the Department loses access to an observation well, the Department tries to find or drill a suitable replacement well in the same general area targeting the same aquifer, but this process takes time. As a result, the number and location of State Observation Wells varies from year to year.

The 2021 Legislature funded a significant expansion of groundwater monitoring across the state, including both existing wells and drilling of observation wells. The Department has hired project management and hydrogeologic expertise to support observation well installation, necessary modification projects, to conduct instrumentation, and expanded water level data collection in the field. Additional staff capacity also supported data analysis to identify existing wells that provide valuable water level measurements and entry into the State Observation Well Network.

KPM #7	EQUIP CITIZENS WITH INFORMATION - Number of times water management related data was accessed through the WRD's Internet site.
	Data Collection Period: Jul 01 - Jun 30

** Upward Trend = positive result*



Report Year	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Number of Times Water Management-Related Data Were Accessed Through the Internet (in millions)					
Actual	4.30	3.98	3.92	4.75	5.38
Target	3	4	4.30	4.50	4.50

How Are We Doing

In the 2023 reporting period (July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023), the Department exceeded the established goal of 4.5 million hits on our public facing web applications that serve agency reports and data. Additionally, this represents a nearly 12 percent growth compared to the previous year's activity on our agency site. New applications that have been added to the Department's website in recent years have not been included into this reported 5.38 million hits, so it is expected actual site traffic has increased beyond the report here.

Factors Affecting Results

This year represents another year of significant growth after two years of declines during the pandemic. The agency has also seen an increase in workloads associated with funding and legislation from the 2021 session, which has resulted in some increase in information posted to the website, which may account for some of the increase.

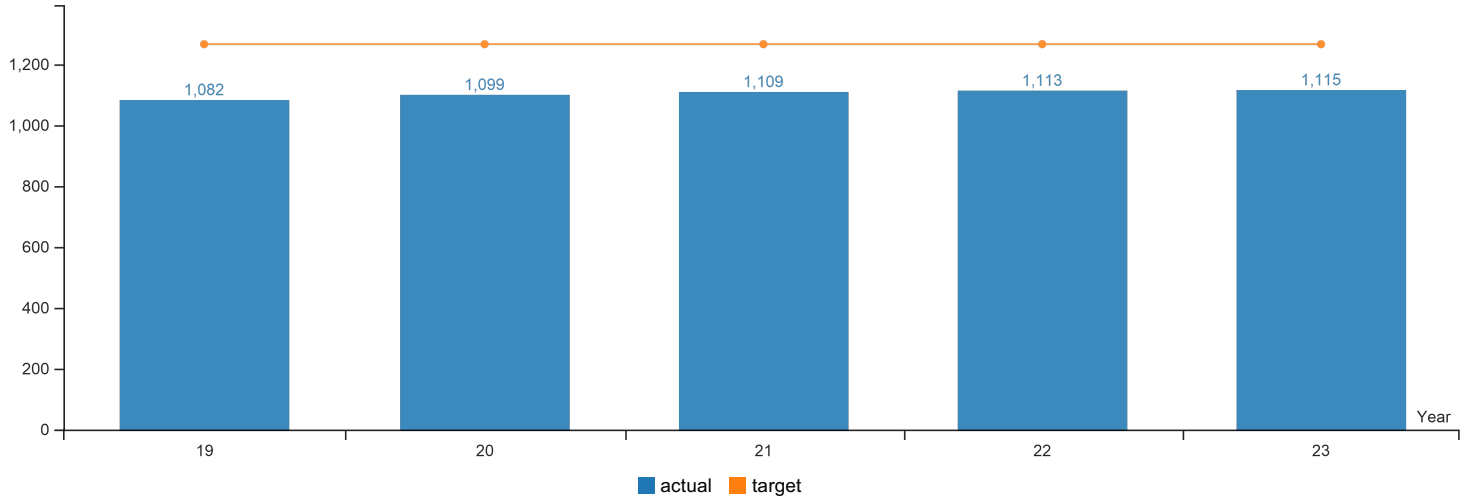
There have been several new web applications that have been released but are not monitored in this KPM to ensure continuity and parity with historical information; this approach, however, underestimates the amount of traffic to the Department's website and use of its applications.

The Department also believes that other factors have posed challenges for growing this metric. First, the Department has historically had very limited communications staff capacity and budget, which means that there has been limited bandwidth to drive the public to the site or to help the public understand where data is located. For the first time in 2021, the legislature funded two agency-wide communications positions. These positions have worked to provide some new and updated content on the agency's website, which may have resulted in increasing visitor traffic. The agency, however, has not had the capacity to work on Search Engine Optimization (SEO) in order to obtain information about how easily our agency is found when water-related keywords are searched for online. The Department does not have a dedicated Webmaster which could be valuable for ongoing improvements to the site. It has been noted the Department needs to continue to work to update its

web interfaces in order to provide data that is more accessible to the public. This metric also does not fully capture the use of the agency's data contained within third parties' sites. For example, the USGS makes a copy of some WRD data available on its own website and is not accounted for in the reported KPM metrics.

KPM #8	NUMBER OF SIGNIFICANT DIVERSIONS WITH MEASUREMENT DEVICES INSTALLED - To fully implement the Water Resources Commission's 2000 Water Measurement Strategy
	Data Collection Period: Jan 01 - Dec 31

** Upward Trend = positive result*



Report Year	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Number of Significant Diversions with Measurement Devices Installed					
Actual	1,082	1,099	1,109	1,113	1,115
Target	1,265	1,265	1,265	1,265	1,265

How Are We Doing

Work on the Significant Points of Diversion Program (SigPODs) began in 2000. Working directly with landowners, there have been 1,115 measuring devices installed on SigPODs across the state. Three devices were installed in the 2022 calendar year (report year 2023). In addition to the measurement devices installed on SigPODs, staff have field evaluated another 704 significant diversions that are currently not in use. This number changes as a water user may go several years without using water and then irrigate for a season to reportedly preserve the water right. Doing so may require the installation of a measuring device to show beneficial water use. As a result, one significant diversion will move from the "not in use" category to the "devices installed" category. Approximately 494 of the original 2,385 significant diversions still need measuring devices installed.

Factors Affecting Results

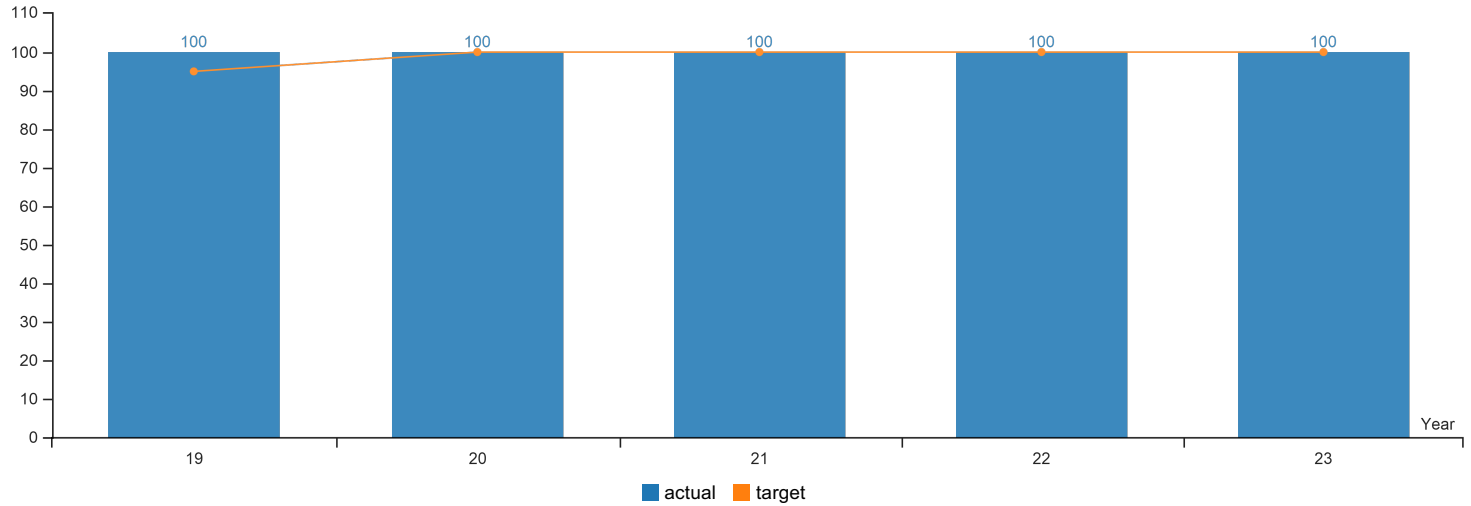
The 2023 KPM reporting cycle includes progress through calendar year 2022. The timing of data submittal and the data entry by staff or landowners may result in small changes from year-to-year on previously reported numbers. This KPM does not account for measuring devices installed as a result of other Department actions. Much of the installation of new measurement devices are not captured by this metric as the Department focuses first requiring devices where there is noncompliance, complaints, or suspicion of unauthorized use, or in the case of groundwater, where the Department is conducting scientific research and measurement is needed.

Staff turnover, high volumes of complaints about unauthorized use, ongoing drought and subsequent regulation has increased regulatory workloads on field staff, which limited the progress on this metric. The installation of measuring devices typically occurs outside the irrigation season and is weather dependent, particularly in freezing conditions. Significant outreach and education are needed to help the landowner with measuring device installations. Success with measuring device installation is directly related to time spent by Department field staff, primarily watermasters and assistant watermasters, working with landowners.

The Field Services Division went through a significant hiring push in the 2022 calendar year and increased capacity in Assistant Watermasters staff which has allowed for capacity increases to impact this metric in the coming years. New staff require training to understand the workflow for the SigPOD program, however, we are confident that we'll see positive increases in this metric, with an additional 8 devices slated for installation for the 2023 calendar year (report year 2024).

KPM #9	PROMOTE EFFICIENCY IN WATER MANAGEMENT AND CONSERVATION PLAN REVIEWS - Percent of water management and conservation plans that received a preliminary review within 90 days of plan submittal.
	Data Collection Period: Jul 01 - Jun 30

** Upward Trend = positive result*



Report Year	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Percent of Water Management and Conservation Plans That Received a Review within 90 Days of Submittal					
Actual	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Target	95%	100%	100%	100%	100%

How Are We Doing

For the thirty-two (32) water management and conservation plans received by the Department with target dates for preliminary review between July 1, 2022, and June 30, 2023, 100 percent of the plans were reviewed within the 90-day goal. This is a continuation of the accomplishments achieved since 2014, when staff first reached 100 percent success rate with the KPM.

The Department continues to see an increase in the number of plans received each year over previous years as more entities become aware of the importance of conserving water and wisely managing their water supplies for the future. The 32 plans with target dates for preliminary review during this reporting period (July 1, 2022, through June 30, 2023) represents a 35 percent increase when compared to the twenty-one (21) plans with preliminary review target dates during the previous reporting period (July 1, 2021, through June 30, 2022). Additionally, water management and conservation plan updates from the municipalities continue to be of improved quality, and they are demonstrating increased efficiency in managing water, preparing for emergencies (water curtailment plans), and planning for stable, long-term water supplies consistent with their comprehensive plans.

Factors Affecting Results

Achieving the 100 percent performance target during this reporting period was the result of hard work, effective time management, and strategically prioritizing the 90-day plan reviews over other work, such as reviewing revised plans, issuing final orders, and sending out upcoming plan due date reminders. Similar to the previous reporting period, program staff were unable to assist with processing of instream lease applications as has been done in the past. In addition, three 90-day plan reviews were completed with the assistance of staff outside of the program to maintain performance for this KPM at 100 percent. Achieving the 100 percent target during this reporting period is notable, when considering the 35 percent increase in the number of plans to be reviewed.

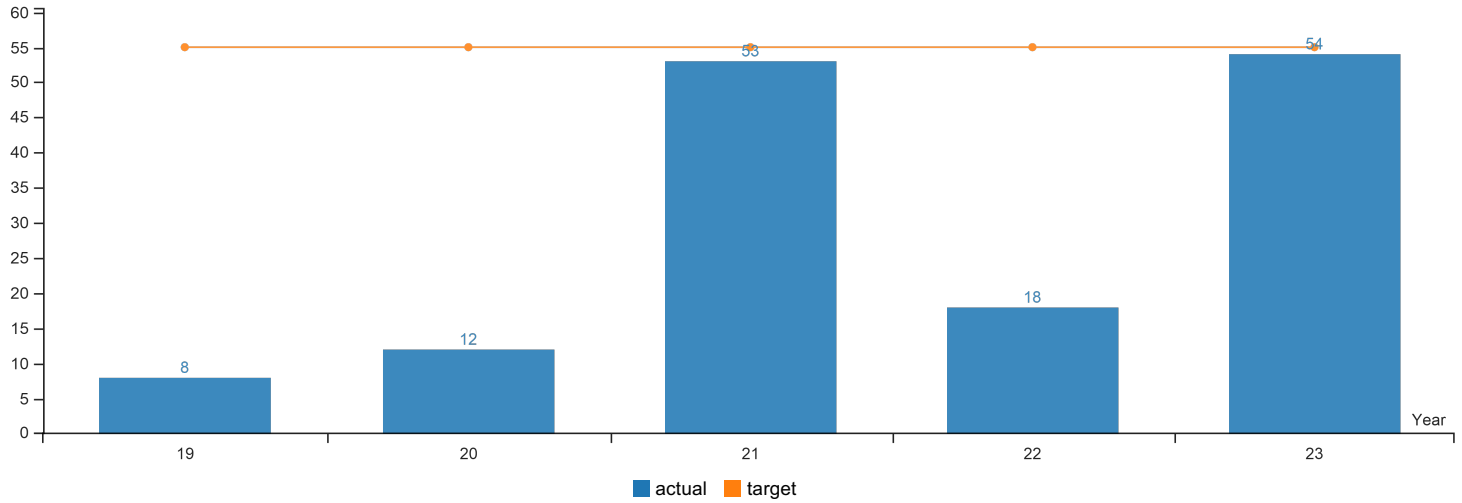
Outreach and consistent communication with municipalities and improved coordination between Department programs have significantly helped meet the KPM target for this program. The Department continues to collaborate with the League of Oregon Cities (LOC) on a recurring feature called, “The Conservation Corner” for LOC’s newsletter. These articles highlight practical water management activities and programs, grant funding, water conservation tips, and guidance on preparing for emergency water shortages.

Guidebooks providing direction and aid in the preparation of water management and conservation plans, water conservation fact sheets, and guidance on curtailment plan preparation are available on the Department’s website. Staff regularly communicate with and assist entities that are in the process of developing a new or updated water management and conservation plan.

In 2018, the Water Resources Commission adopted amendments to the water management and conservation plan rules under OAR Chapter 690, Division 086, which were aimed at addressing some of the challenges faced by municipal water suppliers serving a population of less than 1,000 people or with fewer than 300 service connections. The revised rules encourage implementation of water conservation actions, while providing a streamlined set of rules for smaller communities that may not have the resources, funding, or staff necessary to fully prepare a WMCP. To date, several entities have taken advantage of the revised rules who otherwise may not have submitted a plan absent the new rules.

KPM #10	PROMOTE EFFICIENCY IN WATER RIGHT APPLICATION PROCESSING - Percent of water right applications that receive an initial review within 45 days of application filing.
	Data Collection Period: Jul 01 - Jun 30

** Upward Trend = positive result*



Report Year	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Percent of Water Right Applications That Receive an Initial Review within 45 Days of Application Filing					
Actual	8%	12%	53%	18%	54%
Target	55%	55%	55%	55%	55%

How Are We Doing

Cumulatively, the Department completed 54 percent of water right applications within the Initial Review period of 45 days during the reporting period. This represents a large increase over the last reporting period and is just under the 55 percent target for this KPM. Breaking down these numbers by application type, all surface water right applications and all applications to store water in a reservoir were reviewed within the KPM target deadline. Additionally, 64 percent of instream water right applications received an Initial Review within 45 days. Initial Reviews that did not meet the KPM target required additional technical analysis that could not be completed within the timeframe, as discussed below.

Factors Affecting Results

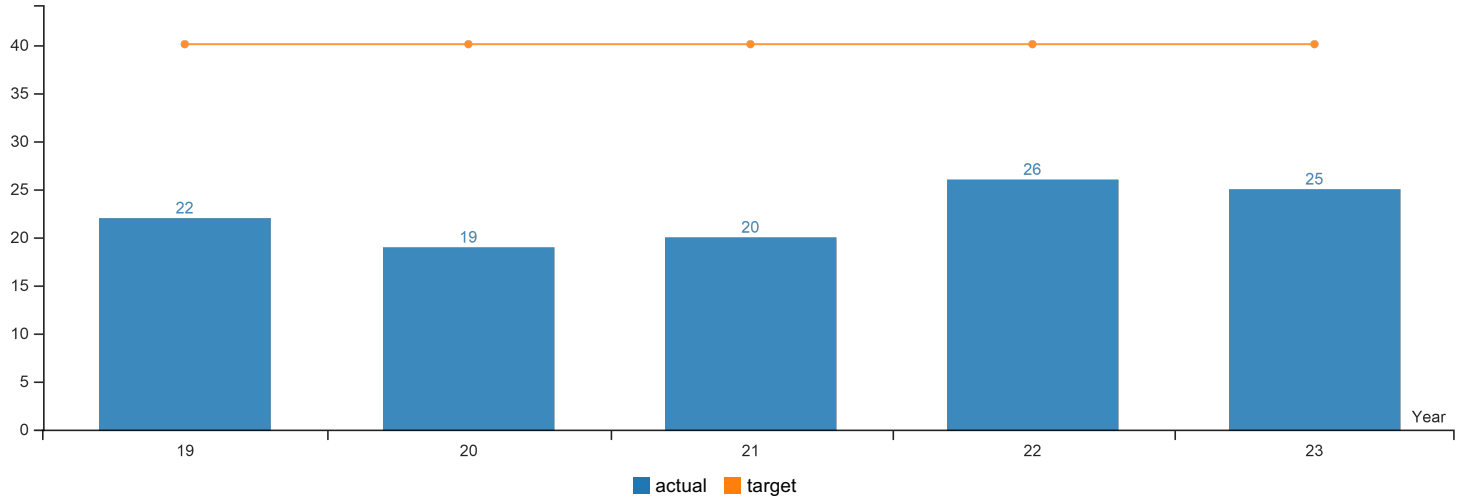
The Water Rights Section benefited significantly from federal funding (American Rescue Plan Act, or ARPA), which supported two limited duration backlog reduction workers. In November 2022, the Department also quickly backfilled for one of two permanent caseworker positions that had temporarily become vacant. In February 2023, the Department filled a permanent, previously vacant lead caseworker position. The added staff, in combination with existing staff, have improved processing times for all water right application types except for groundwater applications. The Department's overall performance in this is largely impacted by the fact that groundwater applications involve an additional technical review that is unique for each application, which typically takes longer than the 45 days established for this KPM target.

This longer review timeline reflects the challenge the Groundwater Section faces in balancing water right and transfer application reviews with duties like groundwater supply data collection and analysis, conducting groundwater basin studies and water budgets, responding to groundwater interference complaints, processing drought applications (these are a high priority which are typically issued within 45 days but are not counted in this KPM), and providing technical input to various planning activities. Notably, during this reporting period the Groundwater Section prepared for and conducted complex rulemakings with a high level of public involvement. Staff time supporting these important rulemakings has increased turnaround times for groundwater reviews, impacting this

KPM. After the rulemakings are complete in 2024, the Department anticipates the backlog for groundwater applications can be reduced and this KPM will further improve.

KPM #11	PROMOTE EFFICIENCY IN TRANSFER APPLICATION PROCESSING - Percent of transfer final orders issued within 120 days of application filing.
	Data Collection Period: Jul 01 - Jun 30

** Upward Trend = positive result*



Report Year	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Percent of Transfer Final Orders Issued within 120 Days of Filing					
Actual	22%	19%	20%	26%	25%
Target	40%	40%	40%	40%	40%

How Are We Doing

A total of 167 transfer final orders were issued during the time-period July 1, 2022, through June 30, 2023, 42 of which were issued within 120 days of the transfer application being filed. The KPM target remains a goal of the Department even as backlog of transfer applications remains high. The trend of this backlog dates as far back as 1993. Staffing resources in the Transfer Section were added during the reporting period to reduce the number of pending applications. While new staff were added, the time it took for hiring and training the number of pending applications increased to 370 (compared to 326 as of July 1, 2022). The Department goal remains focused on reducing the number of pending applications to less than 212, at which point staff will be able to take on processing of new applications as soon as they are filed.

Factors Affecting Results

Despite recent efforts to focus on reducing the number of applications pending for more than three years, the number of applications pending for more than three years rose to 46 as of July 1, 2023 (compared to 34 as of July 1, 2022). However, the Department believes that continuing with this approach, will play a role in improving the overall performance for this KPM over the next few reporting periods. Typically, transfer applications that remain pending after three years contain more difficult and complicated proposals which require more time to evaluate and process. In many parts of the state, significant time is required to review groundwater transfer applications due to their technical nature which requires professional hydrogeologists. As the backlog is reduced over the coming years, the number of final orders that can be issued within 120 days of filing are expected to increase.

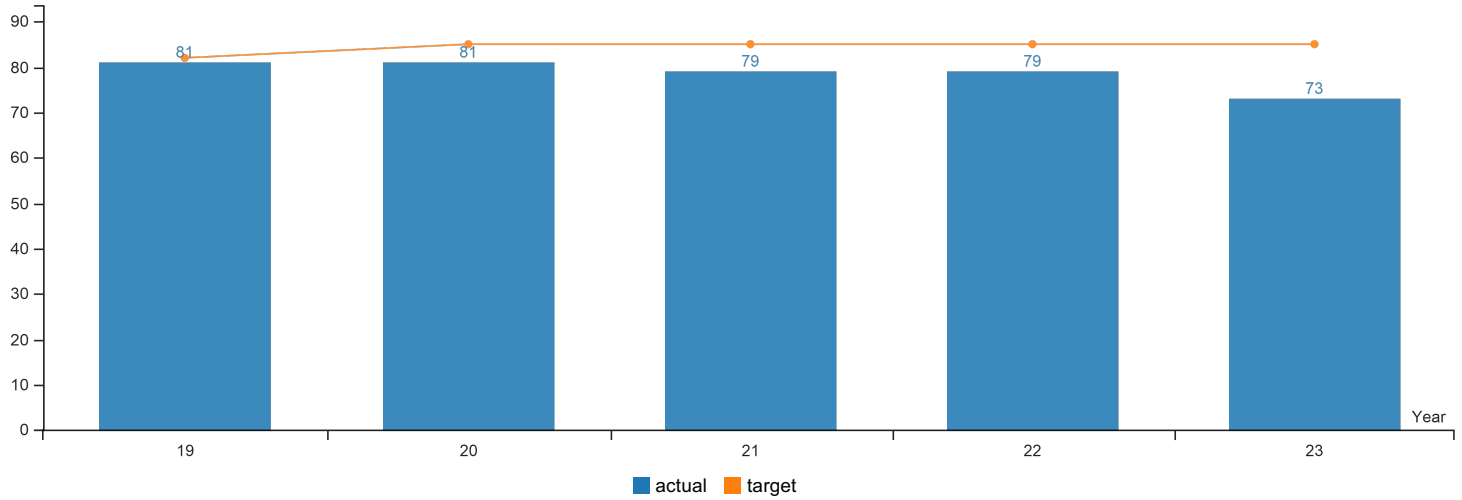
During this reporting year, performance was also affected by the time spent hiring and training new transfer caseworkers, which required more time from experienced staff as they took on roles as peer reviewers. In one case, a staff member took a job-rotation opportunity in another part of the Department, temporarily reducing the number of experienced staff. In addition, there was an increase in the utilization of the District Temporary Transfer Pilot Project, which does not require processing of the transfers by Salem staff, which significantly reduced the number of easy-to-process temporary

district transfer applications.

Additionally, planned efforts to modernize certain transfer application processing steps did not materialize as anticipated. This was due to the primary position responsible for reviewing water management and conservation plans becoming vacant on July 1, 2022, and not being filled until November 1, 2022. Therefore, the new modernization coordinator, hired in June 2022 to coordinate implementation of those modernization efforts, was instead required to shift focus almost entirely to the timely processing of a record number of Water Management and Conservation Plans that were received during the 2023 reporting period. While this shift negatively impacted this KPM, it maintained the Department's 100% performance target on KPM #9. As new transfer caseworkers continue to learn and improve upon their knowledge and skills, and processing efficiencies through implementation of modernization efforts are realized, the Department anticipates it will make progress on this KPM.

KPM #13	INCREASE WATER USE REPORTING - the percent of water users with an annual water-use reporting requirement that have submitted their reports to the Department.
	Data Collection Period: Oct 01 - Sep 30

** Upward Trend = positive result*



Report Year	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Percent of water users with an annual water-use reporting requirement that have submitted reports to the Dept.					
Actual	81%	81%	79%	79%	73%
Target	82%	85%	85%	85%	85%

How Are We Doing

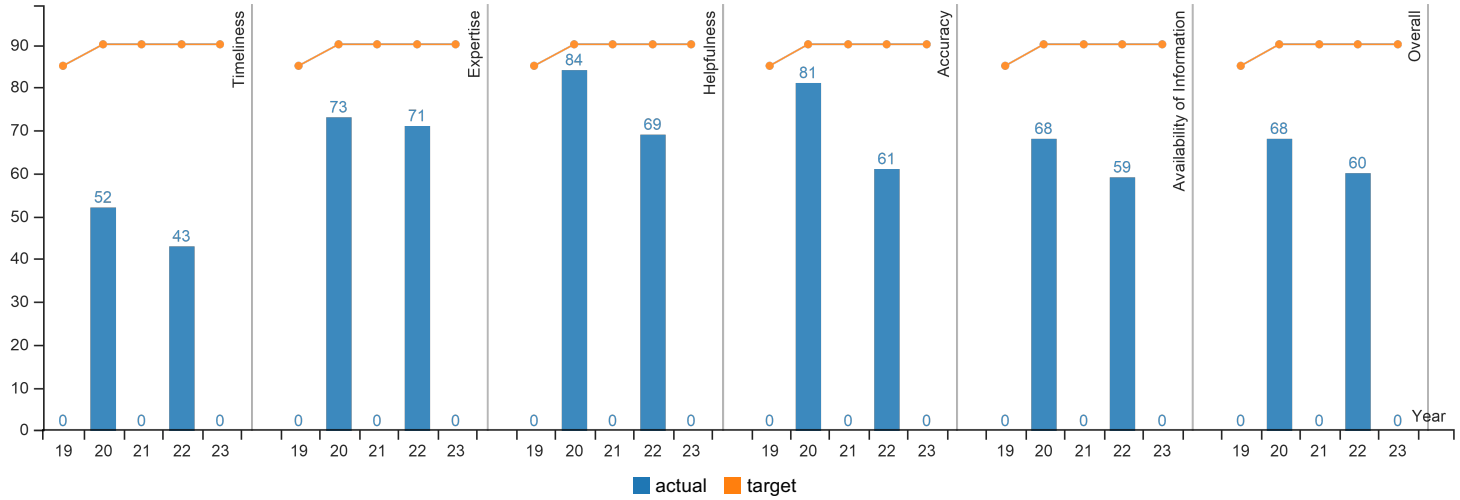
The percent of water users submitting water-use reports as required for the 2023 reporting period was 73 percent. In the past five reporting periods, this KPM has declined. As more water right holders are required to report water use, the number of those not in compliance with annual reporting requirements is increasing.

Factors Affecting Results

The 2023 reporting period contains results from the water year which was October 2021 - September 2022. The required water year reports were due to the Department at the end of the 2022 calendar year. Success on this metric is directly tied to the Water Use Reporting Coordinator position with percent compliance directly correlated to this position being filled. During the 2023 reporting period, the Water Use Reporting Coordinator position was vacant for several months, leading to reduced support for required reporting.

Agency staff continue to evaluate and improve the online reporting program and user interface to help customers who are trying to submit or use the data which also helps the Department achieve additional increases in compliance. Some water right holders either do not have the resources (equipment, staff time, etc.) or do not pass on knowledge of the requirement when personnel changes, leading to a lapse in compliance. In 2021, the Department analyzed the data of non-reporters for the 2020 reporting period and found that of the 19 percent not in compliance, 38 percent were federal entities, 28 percent were non-governmental, 20 percent were irrigation or special districts, 12 percent were cities or counties, and 2 percent were state entities.

KPM #14	CUSTOMER SERVICE - Percent of customers rating their satisfaction with the agency's customer service as "good" or "excellent" in overall customer service, timeliness, accuracy, helpfulness, expertise, and availability of information.
	Data Collection Period: Jul 01 - Jun 30



Report Year	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Timeliness					
Actual		52%		43%	
Target	85%	90%	90%	90%	90%
Expertise					
Actual		73%		71%	
Target	85%	90%	90%	90%	90%
Helpfulness					
Actual		84%		69%	
Target	85%	90%	90%	90%	90%
Accuracy					
Actual		81%		61%	
Target	85%	90%	90%	90%	90%
Availability of Information					
Actual		68%		59%	
Target	85%	90%	90%	90%	90%
Overall					
Actual		68%		60%	
Target	85%	90%	90%	90%	90%

The Department conducts the customer service survey once a biennium. The last survey was completed in 2022, with results available in the 2022 report. The next survey will be completed in 2024, with the results being reported in the 2024 report.

Factors Affecting Results

PROPOSED SUPERVISORY SPAN OF CONTROL REPORT

In accordance with the requirements of ORS 291.227, Oregon Water Resources Department presents this report to the Joint Ways and Means Committee regarding the agency's Proposed Maximum Supervisory Ratio for the 2025-27 biennium.

Supervisory Ratio for the 2023-25 biennium for budgeted positions was 1:7.83 per the Agency Span of Control report as of 09/30/2024.

The agency adjusted actual supervisory ratio was 1:8.

The Agency actual supervisory ratio as of Current Service Level (CSL) is calculated using the following calculation;

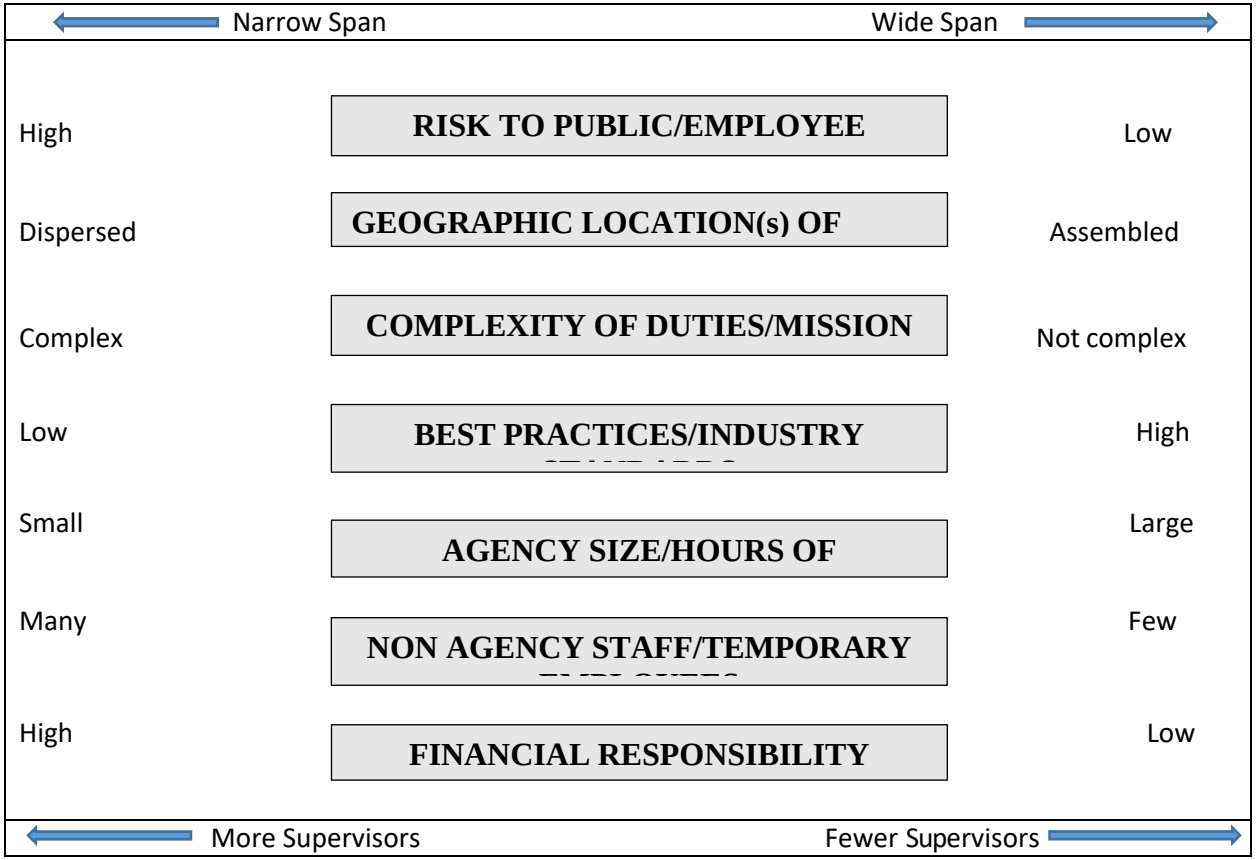
27 = 28 - (1)
(Total supervisors) (Supervisory Positions) (Agency head)

220 = 220
(Total non-supervisors) (Non-Supervisory Positions)

The agency has a current service level (CSL) actual supervisory ratio of-

1: 8.15 = 220 / 27
(Actual span of control) (Total non - Supervisors) (Total Supervisors)

When determining an agency maximum supervisory ratio all agencies shall begin of a baseline supervisory ratio of 1:11 and based upon some or all of the following factors may adjust the ratio up or down to fit the needs of the agency.


Narrow Span
Wide Span
High
RISK TO PUBLIC/EMPLOYEE
Low
Dispersed
GEOGRAPHIC LOCATION(s) OF
Assembled
Complex
COMPLEXITY OF DUTIES/MISSION
Not complex
Low
BEST PRACTICES/INDUSTRY
High
Small
AGENCY SIZE/HOURS OF
Large
Many
NON AGENCY STAFF/TEMPORARY
Few
High
FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY
Low
More Supervisors
Fewer Supervisors

Ratio Adjustment Factors

Is safety of the public or of State employees a factor to be considered in determining the agency maximum supervisory ratio? Explain how and why this factor impacts the agency maximum ratio upwards or downwards from 1:11.

Yes, safety is a high concern. The Department houses staff in 22 offices across the state. The Department has divided the state into 23 watermaster districts, which are distributed across five administrative regions. Watermasters, assistant watermasters, and other field and technical staff travel year-round to remote locations, collecting field data, regulating water use and regularly interacting with water users, landowners or other public, some who are angry and threatening. Staff are frequently out of cell coverage during their field assignments. Each of the five regions has only one supervisor. When a supervisor is absent from the office, local staff must work with a supervisor outside of their region who may be a great distance away and unfamiliar with specific issues or safety matters in that region.

A concern for staff safety impacts the ratio downwards (fewer staff per supervisor). It is important that staff have reasonable access to a supervisor when conditions or circumstances warrant supervisory attention.

Is geographical location of the agency's employees a factor to be considered in determining the agency maximum supervisory ratio? Explain how and why this factor impacts the agency maximum ratio upwards or downwards from 1:11.

Yes, the agency staff are located and working across the entire state. Geographic location of field offices places a downward pressure on the span of control. As noted above, the Department has divided the state into 23 watermaster districts (non-supervisory staff), which are distributed within five regional management structures with one supervisor each. The geographic area of these Regions is extensive, and the Department feels that there should be adequate supervisory management assigned to each of these regions in order to respond to the needs of the public and department's employees.

Two examples: The East Region spans 37,237 square miles, with 14 staff and one supervising manager working out of 6 offices located in Enterprise, Canyon City, La Grande, Baker City, Burns, and Vale.

The South Central Region spans 21,919 square miles. The region is comprised of 13 represented staff and one supervising manager with offices located in Bend, Klamath Falls and Lakeview. As it is currently, the Lakeview office is a three hour drive one-way, and the Klamath Falls office is a two-and a half hour drive for the region manager located in Bend. This supervisory position is already included in our base budget. The Department is proposing a policy option package to add a second supervisory manager for this region.

Prior to the supervisory limitation, the Department's span of control was 1:6. Several positions with supervisory authority were modified to non-supervisory, placing additional duties on remaining supervisors, particularly across the region offices.

Is the complexity of the agency's duties a factor to be considered in determining the agency maximum supervisory ratio? Explain how and why this factor impacts the agency maximum ratio upwards or downwards from 1:11.

Yes, highly complex. Workloads are increasing statewide due to the increasing number of water rights, wells, population, homes, and changing water management needs due to increased water scarcity. The State's 23 watermasters, with the help of state and other-funded assistant watermasters, are responsible for management of more than 89,000 water rights in the state, more than 230,000 wells, dam safety inspections, injury analysis of water right transactions, issuance of grants, participation in local planning efforts, and many other activities.

The agency is responsible for many technical aspects of water management, such as groundwater level monitoring, hydrogeological studies, surface water hydrology, dam safety, well construction and enforcement of water law and well construction standards. These technical sections may only include a handful of staff but require a manager with subject-area expertise and supervisory authority to manage the program. For example, having a HR Manager supervise Well Construction staff would be inappropriate and inefficient, as the HR Manager would not have the technical foundation to understand whether the work was being completed properly. This issue presents itself for all these sections that are small but highly specialized.

The agency also seeks to address and resolve often complicated water issues in basins. With climate change, drought, and increased water scarcity, the Department is seeing an increased need to be involved in identifying, facilitating, and implementing solutions. Each basin is unique, however, and resolution of issues is difficult given how important water is to our communities, ecosystems, cultures, economies, and way of life and the fact that it is a finite resource.

Oregon water law statutes date to 1909 and have been amended and appended ever since. This has created a complex and sometimes conflicting body of law that requires astute interpretation. Litigation against the agency and staff is on the rise and results in more of management's attention in resolving lawsuits and other threats against agency actions. This takes attention away from manager's supervisory duties. The Department seeks to reduce the management ratio to allow for more flexibility in supervisory duties.

Are there industry best practices and standards that should be a factor when determining the agency maximum supervisory ratio? Explain how and why this factor impacts the agency maximum ratio upwards or downwards from 1:11.

Not applicable.

Is size and hours of operation of the agency a factor to be considered in determining the agency maximum supervisory ratio? Explain how and why this factor impacts the agency maximum ratio upwards or downwards from 1:11.

This is generally not applicable, as our agency commonly adheres to standard business hours. The exception is for staff conducting field assignments that require extended work hours. Supervisory managers are knowledgeable of staff work assignments and need to be available after hours in the event staff needs assistance.

Are there unique personnel needs of the agency, including the agency's use of volunteers or seasonal or temporary employees, or exercise of supervisory authority by agency supervisory employees over personnel who are not agency employees a factor to be considered in determining the agency maximum supervisory ratio? Explain how and why this factor impacts the agency maximum ratio upwards or downwards from 1:11.

Yes, many. The Water Resources Department's use of interns, temporary, and county-funded employees should be considered as a factor in determining the agency maximum supervisory ratio, as well as the use of the Department's managers to assist with other agencies.

Management of Oregon's water relies, in part, on local entities funding staff in addition to State-funded staff. These locally funded staff are assigned to watermaster and regional offices and they support the water-management business of the agency. Counties provide much of the budget for the locally funded positions. Under current statutes, counties may support assistant watermasters, who work under the supervision of the Department. These county-funded positions create additional field capacity to serve water management needs within specific counties. Currently there are approximately 8 locally funded staff who are supervised by Department managers.

The Department also relies on interns during short periods of time to assist with special projects as funding allows. Currently there are three interns who are supervised by Department managers. Increasing water scarcity and dry domestic wells has increased the need for seasonal help in some field offices.

The Department provides Information Services, Human Resources, Payroll and Fiscal support to the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board. While the agency is not supervising staff at OWEB, managers and staff provide support to the OWEB that represents another workload and demand on management staff.

Is the financial scope and responsibility of the agency a factor to be considered in determining the agency maximum supervisory ratio? Explain how and why this factor impacts the agency maximum ratio upwards or downwards from 1:11.

Yes, high responsibility. In recent years, the agency has seen a consistent authorization of Lottery Backed Bonds to issue grants, which has increased the financial responsibility and accounting for the agency to ensure that grants are properly administered. This additional fiscal workload takes management's attention away from supervisory duties. The Department seeks to reduce the management ratio to allow for more flexibility in supervisory duties.

Based upon the described factors above the agency proposes a Maximum Supervisory Ratio of 1:8.

Program Prioritization for 2025-27

Agency Name: Water Resources Department

2025-27 Biennium — **Agency Number: 69000**

Program 1

Program/Division Priorities for 2025-27 Biennium

1	2	3	5	6	7	8	9	10	12	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	22
Priority (ranked with highest priority first)		**Agency Initials**	**Program Unit/Activity Description**	**Identify Key Performance Measure(s)**	**Primary Purpose Program-Activity Code**	**GF**	**LF**	**OF**	**FF**	**TOTAL FUNDS**	**Pos.**	**FTE**	**New or Enhanced Program (Y/N)**	**Included as Reduction Option (Y/N)**	**Legal Req. Code (C, D, FM, FO, S)**	**Legal Citation**	**Comments on Proposed Changes to CSL included in Agency Request**
Agcy	**Prgm/ Div**																
1	FSD	WRD	**Water Distribution** - Field investigations, outreach to water right holders, distribution of surface water and groundwater according to rights of record and protection of senior water rights, both instream and out-of-stream. Includes watermasters, assistant watermasters, region managers, enforcement section and other field staff.	690-1; 690-2; 690-3; 690-4; 690-5; 690-6; 690-7; 690-8; 690-10; 690-12	9	22,506,257	-	1,408,820	45,087	$ 23,960,163	71	70.50	N	Y	S	536, 537, 538, 539, 540, 542	POP 110: +$83,894 GF, -$83,894 OF
2	TSD/FSD	WRD	**Public Safety in Water-Related Infrastructure**- Dam safety program including review of plans and specifications, inspections of existing dams to identify and address risks of failure or needed maintenance, review of emergency action plans, and coordination of actions in the event of a dam failure. Well construction program, including development of well construction standards, well inspections, well driller licensing, and general enforcement. Well protections include prevention of waste, contamination, and loss of artesian pressure. Includes dam safety engineers, well construction specialists, and well inspectors.	690-6; 690-7	9	2,805,079	-	3,695,532	1,794,991	$ 8,295,603	18	18.00	Y	Y	S	536, 537, 540	POP 106: +$1,200,000 OF
3	WRSD	WRD	**Water Right Transactions**- Processing of new water right applications, permit extensions, certificates, limited licenses, and water right records and research. Also includes protest coordinator, Water Management and Conservation Plans, and processing requests for changes (i.e., leases, allocations of conserved water, or transfers). Transfers can include a change in place of use, type of use, or point of diversion. Transactions include both instream and out-of-stream. Includes staff responsible for processing water right transactions.	690-1; 690-2; 690-6; 690-7; 690-9; 690-11	6	5,393,650	-	3,991,653	34,563	$ 9,419,866	30	29.50	Y	N	S	536, 537, 538, 540, 541, 542	POP 070: Revenue Shortfall Package: -$1,464,003 OF, -6.0 FTE POP 102: +$1,464,003 OF to maintain 6.0 FTE POP 110: +$156,723 GF , -$156,723 OF
4	TSD/ASD/FSD	WRD	**Hydrologic Data Development, Analysis, and Publication** Measuring the physical water resources of the state, including streamflow (surface water), water levels in wells (groundwater), and reservoir elevations (storage). Analysis of water diverted and used, groundwater studies, groundwater-surface water interaction, surface water, and water availability. Publication includes electronic platforms and portals for surface water and groundwater data, water right information management, and Geographic Information Systems (GIS) mapping. Includes water measurement analyst, datatechs, GIS staff, hydrographers, hydrotechs, hydrologists, and hydrogeologists.	690-2; 690-4; 690-5; 690-8; 690-13	9	19,869,406	-	4,066,655	265,537	$ 24,201,599	57	56.25	Y	Y	S	536, 537, 540, 541, 542	POP 106: +$1,050,000 OF POP 110: +$49,548 GF, -$49,548 OF
5	DO	WRD	**Water Resource Conservation, Development, and Solutions** Programs to assist individuals and communities to address instream and out-of-stream water needs now and into the future through water well repair, replacement and abandonment, water measurement cost share dollars, place-based planning, feasibility studies supported by grants, and water project grants programs (such as conservation, efficiency, storage, water re-use). Includes Planning, Collaboration, and Investments staff.		6	7,647,060	-	109,873,668	-	$ 117,520,728	16	15.50	Y	Y	S	541	POP 103: +$544,000 POP 104: +$22,337,725 OF, +$1,002,352 LF POP 106: +$1,100,000 OF
6	DO	WRD	**Director's Office** - Policy and legal oversight, public information/media, tribal and intergovernmental relations, staffing the Water Resources Commission, coordinating with the Oregon Legislature, rulemaking, public hearings, special projects, and Integrated Water Resources Strategy implementation and updates. Includes staff in the Director's office.		9	8,627,625	-	41,793	25,000	$ 8,694,418	14	14.00	N	Y	S	182, 183, 184, 536, 537, 538, 540, 541, 542, 543, 543A	
7	WRSD	WRD	**Hydroelectric Program** - Coordinating on hydroelectric project re-authorization and FERC licensing, reviews non-FERC applications.	690-1; 690-11	6	-	-	693,557	-	$ 693,557	2	2.00	N	Y	C, S	536, 537, 541, 543,543A, Art XI-D	
8	WRSD	WRD	**Adjudication**- Undertakes the processes to confirm pre-1909 surface water rights, as well as federal and tribal reserved water right claims.	690-11	6	294,527	-	-	-	$ 294,527	1	1.00	N	N	S	537, 539	
NR	ASD/FSD/TSD	WRD	**Central Administrative Costs**- Accounting, Budgeting, Human Resources, Support Services, Information Services, Contracts, Facilities, front counter assistance, system administration (information technology, application developers, webmaster, risk management and firewalls, and business continuity). Includes fixed S&S costs.	690-6; 690-7	6	13,727,111	-	1,832,206	25,000	$ 15,584,317	39	38.50	Y	Y	C, S	541, Art XI-I(1)	POP 070: -$227,328 OF, -1.0 FTE POP 102: +$227,328 OF to maintain 1.0 FTE POP 107: +0.88 FTE, +$251,331 GF POP 108: +1.75 FTE, +$213,539 GF POP 109: +0.88 FTE, +$155,519 GF, +$155,519 OF POP 111: +0.5 FTE, +$127,851 GF
NR	ASD	WRD	**Debt Service**		6	-	24,352,512	-	-	$ 24,352,512			N	N	D		
						80,870,715	24,352,512	125,603,884	2,190,179	$ 233,017,290	248	245.25					

10% Reduction Options (ORS 291.216)

WHICH PROGRAM OR ACTIVITY WILL NOT BE UNDERTAKEN	DESCRIBE THE EFFECTS OF THIS REDUCTION. IDENTIFY REVENUE SOURCE FOR OF, FF. INCLUDE POSITIONS AND FTE FOR 2025-27 AND 2027-29	GF	OF	FF	Total Fund	POS	FTE	RANK
69000-000-00-00-00000 (All)	**Increased Vacancy Savings / S&S Reduction -** Reduced spending on miscellaneous services and supplies or increased vacancy savings targets in Administrative Services, Field Services, Technical Services and the Director's Office. Services & Supplies categories are yet to be determined however reductions could include things like reduced spending in office supplies, limiting travel to only essential travel, or limiting Commission meetings to virtual only. Reductions in S&S or increased vacancy targets means the Department will be delayed in implementing the services provided to the public entrusted to the Department by the Legislature. **This reduction is proposed in the GRB.**	~~$ 200,000~~	$ -	$ -	$ 200,000	-		1

WHICH PROGRAM OR ACTIVITY WILL NOT BE UNDERTAKEN	DESCRIBE THE EFFECTS OF THIS REDUCTION. IDENTIFY REVENUE SOURCE FOR OF, FF. INCLUDE POSITIONS AND FTE FOR 2025-27 AND 2027-29	GF	OF	FF	Total Fund	POS	FTE	RANK
69000-000-010-06-00000 (WRSD)	**Increased Vacancy Savings / S&S Reduction -** Reduced spending on miscellaneous services and supplies or increased vacancy savings targets in the Water Rights Services Division. Services & Supplies categories are yet to be determined however reductions could include things like reduced spending in office supplies, limiting travel to only essential travel, or limiting Commission meetings to virtual only. Reductions in S&S or increased vacancy targets means the Department will be delayed in implementing the services provided to the public entrusted to the Department by the Legislature.	$ 50,000			$ 50,000			1
69000-010-07-01-00000 (PCI)	**Facilitation Funds -** This reduction will remove about 60% of the funds allocated for specialized facilitation. Reduced funding for facilitation services will mean that Department staff will take on these duties in addition to their regular work, potentially delaying critical work in various basins. This reduction will reduce the agency's ability to accomplish the goal of addressing Oregonian's water needs and working to implement solutions to those water needs in a manner that engages with the people we serve. **This reduction is proposed in the GRB.**	~~$ 800,000~~	$ -	$ -	$ 800,000	-		2

WHICH PROGRAM OR ACTIVITY WILL NOT BE UNDERTAKEN	DESCRIBE THE EFFECTS OF THIS REDUCTION. IDENTIFY REVENUE SOURCE FOR OF, FF. INCLUDE POSITIONS AND FTE FOR 2025-27 AND 2027-29	GF	OF	FF	Total Fund	POS	FTE	RANK
69000-010-07-03-00000 (PCI)	**Water Measurement Cost Share Funding -** Water-use measurement helps the Department to manage and understand the resource. The cost to install weirs, flumes, meters, or other appropriate measurement devices can be significant, up to several thousand dollars for meters and as much as $25,000 for large flumes or weirs. Water users cite the expense of installation as a barrier to installing measuring devices. This fund provides for a cost share on the expense of purchasing and installing water use measurement devices. This reduction would result in fewer measurement devices installed, increase the need for time-consuming measuring device regulatory orders and compliance checks, and decrease water management efficiency. **This reduction is proposed in the GRB.**	~~$ 66,194~~	$ -	$ -	$ 66,194	-		3
69000-010-07-03-00000 (PCI)	**Feasibility Study Grants -** Local communities often find it difficult to secure feasibility study funding as part of their project development. Such studies help determine the environmental, engineering, economic, and social implications of proposed water supply projects. Reducing the funding would impact the ability of the grant program to provide funding for these studies, reducing the ability to assess future water conservation, reuse or storage projects, and to meet water needs. **This reduction is proposed in the GRB.**	~~$ 200,000~~	$ -	$ -	$ 200,000	-		4

WHICH PROGRAM OR ACTIVITY WILL NOT BE UNDERTAKEN	DESCRIBE THE EFFECTS OF THIS REDUCTION. IDENTIFY REVENUE SOURCE FOR OF, FF. INCLUDE POSITIONS AND FTE FOR 2025-27 AND 2027-29	GF	OF	FF	Total Fund	POS	FTE	RANK
69000-010-04-03-00000 (SWH)	**Evapotranspiration funding -** Reduced technical support for evapotranspiration data work for water budget studies. Items could include reductions to the number of monitoring sensors, locations, and validation resulting in decreased confidence in satellite based ET. With reduced confidence the data will be less useful to support water management. **This reduction is proposed in the GRB.**	~~$ 113,800~~	$ -	$ -	$ 113,800	-		5
69000-010-04-03-00000 (SWH)	**Agrimet funding -** Weather stations provide data important for irrigators and water managers about water demand and supply as well as data to support water conservation, irrigation scheduling practices, and supporting the assessment of indemnity payments from USDA. Additionally, weather stations are a critical component of ground-truthing satellite-based evapotranspiration data. Reductions to Agriment funding will mean that USBR will not be able to add stations to the network and reduced service and accuracy for existing stations. **This reduction is proposed in the GRB.**	~~$ 100,000~~			$ 100,000			6

WHICH PROGRAM OR ACTIVITY WILL NOT BE UNDERTAKEN	DESCRIBE THE EFFECTS OF THIS REDUCTION. IDENTIFY REVENUE SOURCE FOR OF, FF. INCLUDE POSITIONS AND FTE FOR 2025-27 AND 2027-29	GF	OF	FF	Total Fund	POS	FTE	RANK
69000-010-04-02-00000 (GWH)	**Groundwater Investigation Funds -** This reduces funding for continued scientific study of Oregon's groundwater resources, including the location and extent of groundwater aquifers, hydraulic connection between aquifers and streams, annual recharge to the aquifers, and how much is available for use by wells. Insufficient information about groundwater supplies can lead to overallocation of the resource, impacting people that rely on groundwater as well as streams. Study funds are used to leverage Federal dollars to pay for the studies. **This reduction is proposed in the GRB.**	~~$ 796,080~~	$ -	$ -	$ 796,080	-		7
69000-010-07-03-00000 (PCI)	**Basin Specific and other Complex Facilitation Funds -** This reduction will remove about a third of the funds allocated for facilitation for specific basins and other complex issues. Reduced funding for facilitation services means that Department staff will take on these duties in addition to their regular work, potentially delaying the work in the Willamette and Deschutes Basins. **This reduction is proposed in the GRB.**	~~$ 200,000~~	$ -	$ -	$ 200,000	-		8

WHICH PROGRAM OR ACTIVITY WILL NOT BE UNDERTAKEN	DESCRIBE THE EFFECTS OF THIS REDUCTION. IDENTIFY REVENUE SOURCE FOR OF, FF. INCLUDE POSITIONS AND FTE FOR 2025-27 AND 2027-29	GF	OF	FF	Total Fund	POS	FTE	RANK
69000-010-04-03-00000 (SWH)	**Gaging Station Funding -** The Water Resources Department operates over 250 stream and reservoir gages throughout the state, maintaining a 100-year record for many of them. This network of stream gages is important in both the management of Oregon's surface water and groundwater resources. It is used by a variety of organizations for making daily decisions, distributing water, protecting and monitoring instream flows, forecasting floods, designing infrastructure such as bridges and culverts, planning for recreational activities, understanding how much water is available for new uses, and tracking long-term trends such as climate change and drought. This action reduces funding for the installation and maintenance of gaging stations. Reductions to this funding will result in a loss in some current gages that provide important historical record of stream flows and will lead to data gaps in the network used to support distribution and regulation as well as the update of the Water Availability Reporting System. **This reduction is proposed in the GRB.**	~~$ 272,463~~	$ -	$ -	$ 272,463	-		9

WHICH PROGRAM OR ACTIVITY WILL NOT BE UNDERTAKEN	DESCRIBE THE EFFECTS OF THIS REDUCTION. IDENTIFY REVENUE SOURCE FOR OF, FF. INCLUDE POSITIONS AND FTE FOR 2025-27 AND 2027-29	GF	OF	FF	Total Fund	POS	FTE	RANK
69000-000-00-00-00000 (Various)	**Water Distribution & Enforcement Resources -** Reduced spending on staffing and related costs for field investigations, outreach to water right holders, distribution of surface water and groundwater according to rights of record, and protection of senior water rights, both instream and out-of-stream. Reductions could Include assistant watermasters, management staff or enforcement section staff. Reductions in this area will reduce the Department's ability to respond to complaints of illegal water use, well-to-well interference, and timely regulate and distribute water to meet the demand of senior water right holders and will slow down the processing of formal enforcements against illegal water users, which impacts the Department's ability to gain compliance with Oregon water laws.	$ 2,338,309			$ 2,338,309	10	10.00	10

WHICH PROGRAM OR ACTIVITY WILL NOT BE UNDERTAKEN	DESCRIBE THE EFFECTS OF THIS REDUCTION. IDENTIFY REVENUE SOURCE FOR OF, FF. INCLUDE POSITIONS AND FTE FOR 2025-27 AND 2027-29	GF	OF	FF	Total Fund	POS	FTE	RANK
69000-000-00-00-00000 (Various)	**Data Development, Analysis, and Publication Resources -** Measuring the physical water resources of the state, including streamflow (surface water), water levels in wells (groundwater), and reservoir elevations (storage). Analysis of water diverted and used, groundwater studies, groundwater-surface water interaction, surface water, and water availability. Publication includes electronic platforms and portals for surface water and groundwater data, water right information management, and Geographic Information Systems (GIS) mapping. Reductions could include data positions, hydrographers, hydrologists, and/or hydrogeologists. These reductions decreases the Department's ability to use best available science to support allocation, regulation and distribution decisions; this science is also used by external partners and the public.	$ 1,085,843			$ 1,085,843	4	4.00	11

WHICH PROGRAM OR ACTIVITY WILL NOT BE UNDERTAKEN	DESCRIBE THE EFFECTS OF THIS REDUCTION. IDENTIFY REVENUE SOURCE FOR OF, FF. INCLUDE POSITIONS AND FTE FOR 2025-27 AND 2027-29	GF	OF	FF	Total Fund	POS	FTE	RANK
69000-000-00-00-00000 (Various)	**Water Resource Policy & Solutions -** Programs to assist individuals and communities to addess in-stream and out-of-stream water needs now and into the future and policy and legal oversight, public information/media, intergovernmental relations, rulemaking, public hearings, and special projects. Reductions in this area will reduce the Department's ability to respond to technical assistance requests, particularly from planning groups and groups working on complex basin issues. This will reduce collaboration and relationships the Department has been working to build and delay important rulemaking. It will also reduce information accessible to the public.	$ 759,996			$ 759,996	4	4.00	12

WHICH PROGRAM OR ACTIVITY WILL NOT BE UNDERTAKEN	DESCRIBE THE EFFECTS OF THIS REDUCTION. IDENTIFY REVENUE SOURCE FOR OF, FF. INCLUDE POSITIONS AND FTE FOR 2025-27 AND 2027-29	GF	OF	FF	Total Fund	POS	FTE	RANK
69000-000-00-00-00000 (Various)	**Central Administrative & Agency Supportive Services -** Critical business services that provide core support to the Department. Services in this area include accounting, budgeting, human resources, support services, information services, contracts, facilities, front counter assistance, system administration (information technology, application developers, webmaster, risk management and firewalls, and business continuity). Reductions in this area would impact the Department's ability to process day to day work and other staff would need to take on additional responsibilities in addition to their regular work. Reductions could include support, accounting, human resources, and/or management staff.	$ 1,104,386	$ 102,298		$ 1,206,684	6	6.50	13
69000-000-00-00-00000 (Various)	**Other Funded Position Reductions** - As required by ORS 291.216, this reduction would reduce the limitation in our budget of other fund. Reductions may include positions funded by sources such as the Water Development Loan Program, the Groundwater Use Recording Fee (Exempt Use), Hydroelectric Fees, Water Right Fees and/or the Start Card Fee.		$ 1,718,090			7	7.00	14

WHICH PROGRAM OR ACTIVITY WILL NOT BE UNDERTAKEN	DESCRIBE THE EFFECTS OF THIS REDUCTION. IDENTIFY REVENUE SOURCE FOR OF, FF. INCLUDE POSITIONS AND FTE FOR 2025-27 AND 2027-29	GF	OF	FF	Total Fund	POS	FTE	RANK
69000-000-00-00-00000 (Various)	**Special Payments Reduction -** As required by ORS 291.216, this reduction would reduce the federal fund limitation for special payments in the Department. Doing so would likely mean the Department would need to return to the Legislature or Emergency Board to request limitation increases in the future for any funds awarded that exceed existing limitation amounts for newly awarded federal sources.	$ -	$ -	$ 60,000	$ 60,000	-		15
69000-010-04-03-00000 (DS)	**Services & Supplies Reduction -** This reduction would reduce the limitation for professional services budget line in the Department. Doing so would likely mean the Department would need to return to the Legislature or Emergency Board to request limitation increases in the future for any funds awarded that exceed existing limitations. The current limitation pertains to federal funding the Department received from FEMA programs.	$ -	$ -	$ 159,018	$ 159,018	-		16
		$ 8,087,071	**$ 1,820,388**	**$ 219,018**	**$ 8,408,387**	**31**	**31.50**	

Oregon Water Resource Department (OWRD)

2025-27 Biennium

Long-term vacancies as of December 31, 2024

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	11	13	14	16	18	19	20	21
Agency	**SCR**	**DCR**	**Pos No**	**Position Class Comp**		**Position Title**	**Pos Type**	**GF Fund Split**	**OF Fund Split**	**FTE**	**2025-27 GF PS Total**	**2025-27 OF PS Total**	**2025-27 Total Bien PS BUDGET**	**Vacant Date**	**Position eliminated in GRB? Y/N**	**Reason for vacancy**
OWRD	010-01	010-01-01-00000	7000004	OAO	C1003AP	LOAN SPECIALIST 3	PF	0.00	1.00	1.00	$ -	$ 265,775	$ 265,775	1/31/2023	N	No identified revenue to support this Other Fund position. This position is dedicated to the Water Development Loan Program which has had no activity in several years.
OWRD	010-07	010-07-03-00000	9915119	OAO	C8503AP	NATURAL RESOURCE SPECIALIST 3	PF	1.00	0.00	1.00	$ 236,003	$ -	$ 236,003	11/6/2020	N	Position has been left vacant to generate vacancy savings and finance another position. Position is being used in a PFP 25-01 which was not keyed in time for PICS freeze in 2025-27 budget development.
OWRD	010-03	010-03-04-00000	9917123	OAO	C8502AP	NATURAL RESOURCE SPECIALIST 2	PF	0.00	1.00	1.00	$ -	$ 210,411	$ 210,411	11/1/2023	N	Funding for this position was a contract with Umatilla County who bowed out of the contract June 30, 2023. The position will not be filled unless another funding source becomes available.
OWRD	010-01	010-01-01-00000	1000038	OAO	C0103AP	OFFICE SPECIALIST 1	PF	0.00	1.00	1.00	$ -	$ 164,961	$ 164,961	7/22/2019	N	Position partially funded with fee revenues and is being held open to generate fee revenue savings and evaluate workload and other available revenue to support the position.
OWRD	010-01	010-01-01-00000	9921060	OAO	C8504AP	NATURAL RESOURCE SPECIALIST 4	PF	1.00	0.00	1.00	$ 265,775	$ -	$ 265,775	2/1/2022	N	Position has been left vacant to generate vacancy savings and finance another position. Position is being used in a PFP 25-01 which was not keyed in time for PICS freeze in 2025-27 budget development.
OWRD	010-01	010-01-01-00000	9921063	OAO	C8502AP	NATURAL RESOURCE SPECIALIST 2	PF	1.00	0.00	1.00	$ 210,411	$ -	$ 210,411	2/1/2022	N	Position has been left vacant to generate vacancy savings and finance another position. Position is being used in a PFP 25-01 which was not keyed in time for PICS freeze in 2025-27 budget development.
						TOTAL		**3.00**	**3.00**	**6.00**	**712,189**	**641,147**	**1,353,336**			

Water Resources Department

2025-27 Biennium **Contact Person (Name & Phone #):** Lisa Snyder (503) 983-5801

Updated Other Funds Ending Balances for the 2023-25 and 2025-27 Bienna

(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)	(g)	(h)	(i)	(j)
Other Fund Type	**Program Area (SCR)**	**Treasury Fund #/Name**	**Category/Description**	**Constitutional and/or statutory reference**	**2023-25 Ending Balance**		**2025-27 Ending Balance**		**Comments**
					In LAB	**Revised**	**In CSL**	**Revised**	
Limited	010-07 Director's Office	6900002163: Water Supply Development Account 21-23	Grant Fund	HB 5006 Section 232	0	10,000,000	0	0	Assumption to spend out in 2025-27 (April 22 Bond Sale)
Limited	010-07 Director's Office	6900002161: Deschutes Basin Board of Control Piping 21-23	Grant Fund	HB 5006 Section 232	0	400,000	0	0	Assumption to spend out in 2025-27 (April 22 Bond Sale)
Limited	010-07 Director's Office	6900002162: Wallowa Lake Dam Rehabilitation 21-23	Grant Fund	HB 5006 Section 233	0	13,000,000	0	0	Assumption to spend out in 2025-27 (April 22 Bond Sale)
Limited	010-07 Director's Office	6900002306: Water Development Projects 23-25 2023A	Grant Fund	HB 5006 Section 232	0	10,000,000	0	0	Assumption to spend out in 2025-27 (April 23 Bond Sale)
Limited	010-07 Director's Office	6900002307: Big Creek Dams Replacement 23-25	Grant Fund	HB 5006 Section 233	0	10,000,000	0	0	Assumption to spend out in 2025-27 (April 23 Bond Sale)
Limited	010-07 Director's Office	6900002420: Water Development Projects 23-25 2025A	Grant Fund	HB 5030 Section 11	0	5,000,000	0	0	Assumption to spend out in 2025-27 (May 24 Bond Sale)
Limited	010-07 Director's Office	6900002419: Irrigation Modernization Grant 23-25	Grant Fund	HB 5030 Section 10	0	19,000,000	0	0	Assumption to spend out in 2025-27 (May 24 Bond Sale)
Limited	010-07 Director's Office	Water Supply Development Account	Grant Fund	HB 5030 Section 26 & 40	0	5,000,000	0	0	Treasury Fund TBD - Bond sale expected March 2025; Assumption to spend out in 2025-27
Limited	010-07 Director's Office	Irrigation Modernization	Grant Fund	HB 5030 Section 10	0	25,000,000	0	0	Treasury Fund TBD - Bond sale expected March 2025; Assumption to spend out in 2025-27
Limited	010-07 Director's Office	West Linn I-205 Water Line Replacement	Grant Fund	HB 5030 Section 26	0	5,000,000	0	0	Treasury Fund TBD - Bond sale expected March 2025; Assumption to spend out in 2025-27
Limited	010-01: Water Dev Loan Fund	6900000463: Water Dev Admin & Bond Sinking Fund WDLP Fund Administration	Loan Program - Inactive	Article XI-I(1) ORS 541.750	245,000	273,000	275,000	300,000	The only activity in this account is interest and Treasury Fees. No WDLP activity. Plan is to close the account in 25-27 if allowable.
Limited	010-04: Tech Serv Div	6900000536: Water Resources Department Operating Fund (Start Card Fund)	Operations	ORS 537.763	900,000	1,084,656	750,000	202,561	Administratively managed funding for cash flow and contingencies. Goal is to have a 6-month ending fund balance. Seeing increased Personal Services costs due to salary and pay equity increases not keeping pace with the income provided by fees.
Limited	010-06: Water Rights Services Div	6900000607: Water Resources Dept Hydroelectric Fund	Operations	ORS 536.015	650,000	995,762	1,100,000	1,216,613	Administratively managed funding for cash flow and contingencies. Goal is to have a 6- to 9-month EFB. Automatic annual fee increases tied to CPI.

Updated Other Funds Ending Balances for the 2023-25 and 2025-27 Bienna									
(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)	(g)	(h)	(i)	(j)
Other Fund Type	**Program Area (SCR)**	**Treasury Fund #/Name**	**Category/Description**	**Constitutional and/or statutory reference**	**2023-25 Ending Balance**		**2025-27 Ending Balance**		**Comments**
					In LAB	**Revised**	**In CSL**	**Revised**	
Limited	010-07: Director's Office	6900000975: Water Measurement Cost Share Prog Rev Fund	Other - Incentive funding for water measurement devices (recipient match required)	ORS 536.021	100,000	257,058	227,705	300,000	Assumption is that all other funds will be saved in the 2025-27 biennium. ARPA appropriated in 2023-2025 will be the focus of spending.
Limited	010-06: Water Rights Services Div	6900001083: Water Right Operating Fund	Operations	ORS 536.009 ORS 536.050 ORS 537.545 ORS 537.747	476,369	5,349,953	5,101,042	2,604,796	Administratively managed funding for cash flow and contingencies. Goal is to have a 4- to 9-month EFB. Seeing increased Personal Services costs due to salary and pay equity increases not keeping pace with the income provided by fees.
Limited	010-04: Tech Serv Division	6900001318: Geotechnical Fund	Operations	HB 2232 ORS 537.895	250,000	409,475	400,000	296,111	Administratively managed funding for cash flow and contingencies. Goal is to have 3- to 6-month EFB.
Limited	010-07: Director's Office	6900002133: Domestic Well Remediation Fund	Grant Fund	ORS 537.744 HB 3092 Sec 4	500,000	475,000	0	0	HB 3092 (2021) established a grant program to reimburse owners of domestic wells in the Greater Harney Valley Groundwater Area of Concern for certain costs of replacing, repairing, or deepening domestic wells affected by declining ground water levels.
Limited	010-07: Director's Office	City of Riddle (WSF GF Deposit)	Grant Fund	SB 1530 Sec 12	0	1,500,000	0	0	To be deposited into a Water Supply Development Account. Project work to be conducted in 2025-27.
Limited	010-07: Director's Office	6900002134: Water Well Abandonment Repair and Replacement Fund	Grant Fund	ORS 537.766 SB 5701 Sec 409 & 410	0	762,903	0	0	Due to timing of weather and availability of contractors, some work will not be completed before the end of the biennium.
					3,121,369	113,507,807	7,853,747	4,920,081	

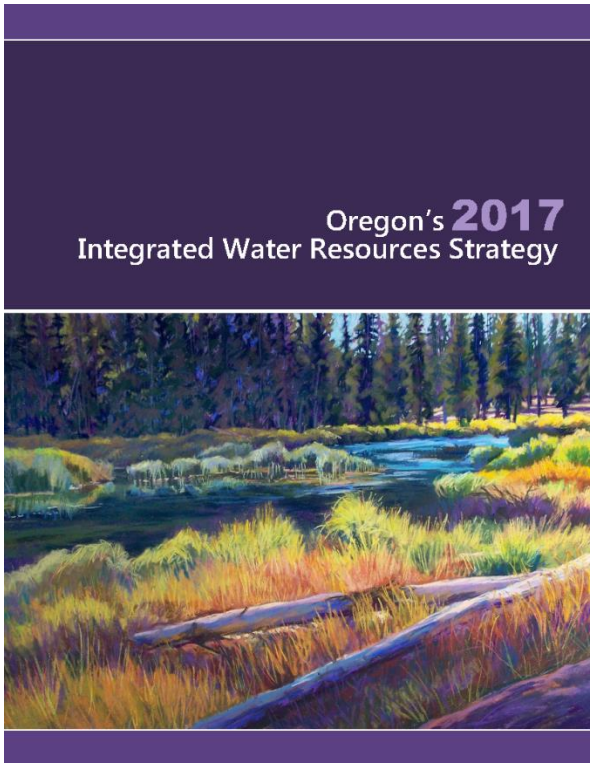
Water Resources Department							
2025-27 Biennium			**Contact Person (Name & Phone #):**				**Lisa Snyder (503) 983-5801**
2023-25 ARPA Ending Balances							
(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)	(g)	(h)
SCR	**Program Description**	**2023-25 LAB**	**2023-25**		**2025-27 POP**		**Comments**
			Ending Balance	**Amount Obligated**	**Y/N**	**POP #**	
010-07	Water Measurement Cost Share Program	900,000	800,000	800,000	Y	106	The Department conducted extensive outreach to interested water users in 2023-25 to obligate the funds, and all funds are expected to be spent by December 2026 in accordance with Federal guidelines.
010-04	Engineering Serices for Dam Safety Engineering Alayses	2,500,000	1,200,000	1,200,000	Y	106	Contracts were awarded beginning March 2023. Due to the nature of the work and federal approvals taking some time, projects have been completed at a slower pace than originally anticipated. Funds are expected to be fully expended by December 2026.
010-04	Support Surface Water and Groundwater Data Collection Field Equipment	2,600,000	250,000	250,000	Y	106	Surface water data collection: The statewide stream gauge network is being upgraded to replace obsolete equipment at approximately twenty stations. Procurement and contract processes have taking longer than anticipated, but funds are projected to be fully expended by December 2026.
010-07	Place Based Planning	800,000	350,000	350,000	Y	106	$250,000 allocated to each of the four planning groups and contracts have been signed. Due to the nature of the work, not all projects will be completed by the end of the biennium, but all funds will be expended by December 2026.
010-07	Umatilla County Ordnance Project	6,000,000	600,000	600,000	Y	106	Due to the size and scope of the project, this project is anticipated to continue into the 2025-27 biennium, with all funds expected to be spent by December 2026.
010-07	Fish Passage	500,000	150,000	150,000	Y	106	Due to the nature of the work, not all projects will be completed by the end of the biennium. All funds will be expended by December 2026.
			3,350,000	3,350,000			

2017-2022 Oregon's Integrated Water Resources Strategy

Progress Report

Oregon's Integrated Water Resources Strategy (IWRS) provides a statewide inter-agency framework for better understanding and meeting Oregon's instream and out-of-stream water needs. Oregon's Water Resources Commission adopted the first IWRS in 2012 and the second in 2017. The 2017 IWRS provides recommendations in 13 different issue areas. Each issue area includes multiple recommendations, resulting in more than 50 recommended actions.

Requirements for multi-agency involvement, document adoption, and update frequency are outlined in ORS 536.220. Although the Oregon Water Resources Department (OWRD) is the lead agency for developing and updating the IWRS, they work in close cooperation with other agencies, stakeholders, and the public.



ORS 526.220 states that the IWRS is to be updated every five years. This Progress Report is intended to summarize progress made to date in achieving the recommended actions outlined in the 2017 IWRS and to help inform the next IWRS update currently underway.

Clean water restoration plans developed for 5,000 miles of impaired streams and 187,000 acres of impaired water bodies

$19.4 million provided by ODA to farmers and ranchers for 2021 natural disaster assistance

65 Projects awarded funding by ODFW in 2022, supporting removal of 96 fish passage barriers

Over 2,000 cannabis sites investigated for water use compliance (HB 5561)

Highlighted Accomplishments & Agency Collaboration

Groundwater & Surface Water Data Collection

Contributing Agencies (see page 3 for agency acronyms)

ODA, ODEQ, ODFW, OWRD, USGS

Current, accurate data regarding groundwater and surface water conditions are critical to understanding available water resources.

Specific projects performed under this category include:

- ODA's Water Quality Pesticide Management Team monitoring
- ODEQ's Environmental Data Management System (EDMS)
- ODFW's Real-time instream flow restoration monitoring
- OWRD's Groundwater Monitoring Program
- OWRD & USGS Harney Basin Groundwater Study

IWRS recommended actions
1.A, 1.B, 1.C

Oregon Water Data Portal

Contributing Agencies (see page 3 for agency acronyms)

DLCD, ODA, ODAS, ODEQ, ODF, ODFW, ODSL, OHA, OSU-INR, OWEB, OWRD

The Oregon Water Data Portal is a project led by ODEQ. The portal serves as a central location for agencies and the public to access water quality and quantity data.

The project is the result of agency and public demand for easily accessible data to support water planning efforts and decision-making at various scales.

Development of the portal is in the early phases. Future work will include the complex tasks of standardizing and compiling data from many sources. Once the portal is complete, it will support adaptation and resiliency strategies, community education, and water conservation efforts.

IWRS recommended actions
1.B, 1.C, 2.B, 5.B, 6.A, 6.B, 8.A, 8.B, 9.A, 10.A

Drought Planning & Support

Contributing Agencies (see page 3 for agency acronyms)

DLCD, DOGAMI, ODA, ODFW, ODHS, ODOE, OEM, OHA, OWEB, OWRD

Drought planning and support is a statewide priority due to several consecutive years of drought declarations. Both the Drought Readiness Council and the Water Supply Availability Committee are chaired by OWRD and provide a forum for inter-agency coordination.

Examples of agency efforts include:

- DOGAMI & DLCD Multi-hazard and Natural Hazard Risk Reports
- ODA provided $19.4 million in assistance for impacts from natural disasters
- ODFW funding for drought fish passage projects, drought education and outreach campaign
- ODHS/OEM Emergency Water Supplies in the Klamath Basin
- OWRD Water Well Abandonment, Repair, and Replacement Funds (WARRF)
- OWEB Drought Relief Grants

IWRS recommended actions
1.B, 1.C, 2.B, 4.C, 5.A, 5.B, 5.5C, 6.B, 13.B, 13.C, 13.D, 13.E

Conservation & Ecological Restoration

Contributing Agencies (see page 3 for agency acronyms)

ODA, ODEQ, ODF, ODFW, OPRD, OWEB, OWRD

Conservation and restoration activities protect and improve water quality and fish and wildlife habitat.

- ODA – Supports 45 Soil & Water Conservation Districts throughout Oregon
- ODEQ – Designated Waldo & Crater Lake Outstanding Resource Waters
- ODF – Pursuing a State Forests Habitat Conservation Plan
- ODFW – Implemented projects to improve fish passage and secured instream water rights
- OWEB – Administers 17 grant programs to protect and restore watersheds
- OPRD & OWRD – Designated a portion of the Nehalem River a Scenic Waterway

IWRS recommended actions
9.B, 11.A, 11.B, 11.D, 13.C, 13.E

Place-Based Planning

Contributing Agencies (see right for agency acronyms)

ODA, ODEQ, ODFW, OWRD

Lead by OWRD, a pilot place-based planning process began in 2016. Four planning areas were awarded funding to complete regionally-specific plans that address water quality, quantity, and ecosystem needs:

- Upper Grande Ronde Sub-basin
- Lower John Day Sub-basin
- Mid-Coast Region
- Harney Basin

Three final plans were published in 2022, and these groups are now working on implementation. The Harney Basin has completed the groundwater portion of the plan and is now working on the surface water planning. Authority to fund place-based planning sunsets in 2023, OWRD is introducing legislation to make the program permanent.

IWRS recommended actions
1.C, 3.A, 3.B, 5.B, 6.A, 7.B, 8.D, 9.A, 9.B, 9.C, 10.C, 11.B

Pesticide Stewardship Partnership

Contributing Agencies (see right for agency acronyms)

ODA, ODEQ, ODFW, ODF, OWEB, OSU, PSU

The Pesticide Stewardship Partnership (PSP) Program is a voluntary program that relies on local partnerships to monitor pesticide levels in waterways and enact solutions to protect water quality while managing pests and maintaining crop yield.

The PSP Program provides technical assistance, outreach, and education.

There are nine PSP Program areas across the state. Watershed councils and soil and water conservation districts are additional partners.

The PSP Program documents water quality sampling results in their biennial summary reports.

IWRS recommended actions
1.B, 8.C, 8.D, 12.A, 12.B

IWRS Accomplishments Summary

Tables 1 and 2 (below) identify the agencies that have contributed to advancing IWRS recommended actions since 2017. Table 1 lists the 28 recommended actions (1.A through 8.D) under IWRS **Goal 1, Improving Our Understanding of Oregon's Water Resources**. Table 2 lists the 23 recommended actions (9.A through 13.E) under **Goal 2, Meeting Oregon's Water Resource Needs.**

Acronyms for each agency have been used. A list of the full agency names is provided, below:

BizOR – Business Oregon
DOGAMI – Oregon Department of Geology & Mineral Industries
DLCD – Oregon Department of Land Conservation & Development
ODA – Oregon Department of Agriculture
ODEQ – Oregon Department of Environmental Quality
ODF – Oregon Department of Forestry
ODFW – Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife
ODOE – Oregon Department of Energy
ODSL – Oregon Department of State Lands
OHA – Oregon Health Authority
OPRD – Oregon Parks and Recreation Department
OSMB – Oregon State Marine Board
OWEB – Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
OWRD – Oregon Water Resources Department

Agencies mentioned in "Highlighted Accomplishments" but not included in Tables 1 and 2:

ODAS – Oregon Department of Administrative Services
ODHS – Oregon Department of Human Services
OEM – Office of Emergency Management
OSU-INR – Oregon State University Institute of Natural Resources
USGS – United States Geological Survey

Table 1. Oregon Agencies Contributing to IWRS Implementation, 2017-2022 - Goal 1

GOAL 1: Improve Our Understanding of Oregon's Water Resources		BIZOR	DGMI	DLCD	ODA	ODEQ	ODF	ODFW	ODOE	ODSL	OHA	OPRD	OSMB	OWEB	OWRD
Understanding Water Resources	1.A Conduct additional groundwater investigations		X		X	X									X
	1.B Improve water resource data collection & monitoring				X	X		X			X			X	X
	1.C Coordinate inter-agency data collection, processing, and use in decision-making		X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X			X	X
Understanding Oregon's Out-of-Stream Needs/ Demands	2.A Regularly update long-term water demand forecasts			X	X										X
	2.B Improve water-use measurement & reporting														X
	2.C Determine unadjudicated water right claims														X
	2.D Authorize the update of water right records with contact information														
	2.E Regularly update Oregon's water-related permitting guide														
Understanding Instream Needs/ Demands	3.A Determine flows needed (quality & quantity) to support instream needs				X	X		X				X			X
	3.B Determine needs of groundwater dependent ecosystems		X			X		X							X
Water & Energy	4.A Analyze the effects on water from energy development projects & policies					X		X	X						X
	4.B Take advantage of existing infrastructure to develop non-traditional hydroelectric power														X
	4.C Promote strategies that increase/integrate energy & water savings								X					X	X
		BIZOR	DGMI	DLCD	ODA	ODEQ	ODF	ODFW	ODOE	ODSL	OHA	OPRD	OSMB	OWEB	OWRD
Climate Change	5.A Support continued basin-scale climate change research efforts			X		X		X							X
	5.B Assist with climate change adaptation & resiliency strategies	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Extreme Events	5.5A Plan and prepare for drought resiliency			X	X	X	X	X	X		X			X	X
	5.5B Plan and prepare for flood events		X	X							X				X
	5.5C Plan and prepare for a Cascadia subduction earthquake event		X	X							X				X
Water & Land Use	6.A Improve integration of water information into land use planning (and vice versa)		X	X	X	X		X		X					X
	6.B Improve state agency coordination	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
	6.C Encourage low-impact development practices and green infrastructure	X				X					X			X	
Water-Related Infrastructure	7.A Develop and upgrade water and wastewater infrastructure	X	X	X		X									X
	7.B Encourage regional (sub-basin) approaches to water and wastewater systems	X				X									X
	7.C Ensure public safety/dam safety	X						X							X
Education & Outreach	8.A Support Oregon's K-12 environmental literacy plan												X		X
	8.B Provide education and training for Oregon's next generation of water experts														X
	8.C Promote community education and training opportunities				X	X	X	X		X	X		X		X
	8.D Identify ongoing water-related research needs				X	X		X	X		X				X

Table 2. Oregon Agencies Contributing to IWRS Implementation, 2017-2022 - Goal 2

GOAL 2: Meet Oregon's Water Resource Needs		BIZOR	DGMI	DLCD	ODA	ODEQ	ODF	ODFW	ODOE	ODSL	OHA	OPRD	OSMB	OWEB	OWRD
Place-Based Efforts	9.A Continue to undertake place-based integrated, water resources planning		X	X	X	X		X						X	X
	9.B Coordinate implementation of existing natural resource plans			X	X	X	X	X				X		X	X
	9.C Partner with federal agencies, tribes, and neighboring states in long-term water resources management			X	X	X	X	X							X
Water Management & Development	10.A Improve water-use efficiency and water conservation				X			X	X					X	X
	10.B Improve access to built storage	X						X							X
	10.C Encourage additional water reuse projects					X		X							
	10.D Reach environmental outcomes with non-regulatory alternatives	X			X	X	X	X						X	X
	10.E Continue the water resources development program							X							X
	10.F Provide an adequate presence in the field				X	X		X			X				X
	10.G Strengthen water quantity & water quality permitting programs				X	X	X	X		X					X
		BIZOR	**DGMI**	**DLCD**	**ODA**	**ODEQ**	**ODF**	**ODFW**	**ODOE**	**ODSL**	**OHA**	**OPRD**	**OSMB**	**OWEB**	**OWRD**
Healthy Ecosystems	11.A Improve watershed health, resiliency, and capacity for natural storage				X	X	X	X		X		X		X	X
	11.B Develop additional instream protections				X	X	X	X				X		X	X
	11.C Prevent and eradicate invasive species				X	X	X	X				X	X	X	
	11.D Protect and restore instream habitat and habitat access for fish and wildlife	X			X	X	X	X		X		X		X	X
	11.E Develop additional groundwater protections					X									X
Public Health	12.A Ensure the safety of Oregon's drinking water	X				X	X				X			X	X
	12.B Reduce the use of and exposure to toxics and other pollutants	X			X	X	X	X		X	X		X	X	
	12.C Implement water quality pollution control plans				X	X	X							X	
Funding	13.A Fund development and implementation of Oregon's IWRS	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
	13.B Fund water resources management activities at state agencies		X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X
	13.C Invest in local or regional water planning efforts	X	X	X	X	X		X						X	X
	13.D Invest in feasibility studies for water resources projects	X			X	X		X		X	X				X
	13.E Invest in implementation of water resources projects	X			X	X	X	X	X	X			X	X	X

Oregon Agency Summaries

Oregon agencies have variety of connections with water and with the IWRS. Some agencies work exclusively with natural resource issues that include water, while others have a peripheral role in water management.

The summaries, below, provide a description of an agency's work relating to water, identifies state agencies with whom they collaborate, lists the IWRS recommended actions most applicable to their ongoing work, and gives three examples of IWRS accomplishments (selected by OWRD).

This information provides valuable insights into how Oregon agencies work together to manage water resources; however, it is important to recognize that implementation of IWRS recommended actions often will require local, state, federal, and tribal participation, as well as efforts by non-governmental organizations (NGO's) and the public.

Business Oregon (BizOR)

BizOR is the state's economic development agency, with a mission to "invest in Oregon businesses, communities, and people to promote a globally competitive, diverse, and inclusive economy." BizOR administers a variety of loan and grant programs that support site assessment, remediation, and water infrastructure planning, design, and implementation. The types of water infrastructure projects that receive funding include drinking water supply, stormwater conveyance, wastewater treatment, water storage, fish passage, and levees.

BizOR frequently collaborates with state agencies, including DLCD, DOGAMI, ODEQ, ODFW, OHA, OWRD, and OWEB.

Grant and loan programs administered by BizOR address ***IWRS recommended actions 7.A, 7.C, 11.D, 12.A, 12.B, and 13.E.***

BizOR 2017-2022 IWRS Accomplishments:

- Funded 61 water-related water projects through the American Rescue Plan Act (**ARPA**) in 2022, totaling nearly $280 million.
- Developed the new **Tide Gate Program** in 2022, providing loans to replace tide gates and improve fish passage.
- Awarded nearly $140 million dollars (2017-2022) for planning, design, and construction of drinking water infrastructure through the **Safe Drinking Water Fund**.

Department of Geology and Mineral Industries (DOGAMI)

DOGAMI's mission is to "provide earth science information and regulation to make Oregon safe and prosperous." DOGAMI works to increase understanding of Oregon's geologic resources and hazards through science and stewardship. There are two main programs at the Agency: Mineral Regulation and Reclamation (MLRR) and Geological Survey and Services (GS&S). The MLRR Program oversees the state's mineral production and works to minimize impacts of natural resource extraction and to maximize the opportunities for land reclamation. This includes extensive interagency coordination to enforce mining permits that protect water quality, among other environmental concerns. The GS&S program has much more extensive interaction with the IWRS, including earth science data collection, information sharing, natural hazard mapping, and identification of risk reduction strategies. Staff in the GS&S program lead the Oregon Lidar Consortium which organizes the collection of lidar data in coordination with dozens of local, state, and federal partners.

DOGAMI frequently collaborates with other state agencies, including DLCD, ODEQ, ODOT, OEM, OHA, and OWRD.

DOGAMI'S ongoing work supports ***IWRS recommended actions 1.A, 1.B, 1.C, 3.B, 5.5A, 5.5B, 5.5C, and 13.C.***

DOGAMI 2017-2022 IWRS Accomplishments:

- Released the **Oregon Seismic Hazard Database 1.0** (2021) providing the first comprehensive collection of seismic hazard data for Oregon.
- Published the 'DOGAMI Bulletin 108, Geology of the North Half of the Lower Crooked River Basin, Crook, Deschutes, Jefferson, and Wheeler Counties' which characterizes **geologic conditions controlling the distribution of water resources**.
- Published the **Oregon Coastal Hospital Resilience Project**: Resilience Planning Maps and Guidance.

Department of Land, Conservation, and Development (DLCD)

DLCD's mission is to "help communities and citizens plan for, protect and improve the built and natural systems that provide a high quality of life. In partnership with citizens and local governments, we foster sustainable and vibrant communities and protect our natural resources legacy." DLCD's work is guided by Oregon's Statewide Land Use Planning Goals, requiring each city and county to adopt and maintain a comprehensive plan addressing these goals. DLCD has been leading the state's Climate Change Adaptation Framework and Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment. Additionally, DLCD administers a variety of grants for comprehensive plan updates, public facilities plan updates, natural hazard mitigation planning, and climate change adaptation and mitigation. DLCD provides annual funding to Portland State University (PSU) to update county-level population forecasts.

DLCD frequently collaborates with other state agencies, including ODA, DOGAMI, ODFW, ODF, OWEB, and OWRD.

DLCD's ongoing work supports ***IWRS recommended actions 1.C, 2.A, 5.A, 5.B, 5.5A, 5.5B, 5.5C, 6.A, 9.B, 11.A, 11.D, and 13.C.***

DLCD 2017-2022 IWRS Accomplishments:

- Lead the development of the **2021 Climate Change Adaptation Framework**, in collaboration with 24 state agencies.
- Initiated the **Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment** (target completion 2023).
- Assisted cities with **Public Facilities Plan updates**, which include the development of cost estimates and funding plans for sewer and water systems.

Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA)

ODA's mission is to "ensure healthy natural resources, environment, and economy for Oregonians now and in the future through inspection and certification, regulation, and promotion of agriculture and food." ODA oversees many programs that support water quality and habitat protection. The Insect Pest Prevention & Management Program supports invasive species eradication. The Agricultural Water Quality Program supports water quality monitoring, identifies Strategic Implementation Areas (SIA's) needing additional water quality management, and provides grants to Soil & Water Conservation Districts and watershed councils for voluntary water quality projects. The Confined Animal Feeding Operations (CAFO) and Pesticide Stewardship Partnership Programs also focus on collaboration and strategies to protect water quality.

ODA frequently collaborates with other state agencies, including ODEQ, ODFW, ODF, OHA, and OWRD.

ODA's ongoing work supports ***IWRS recommended actions 1.B, 1.C, 6.A, 6.B, 8.C, 8.D, 9.B, 12.A, 12.B, 11.A, 11.C, 11.D, 13.A, 13.C, and 13.E.***

ODA 2017-2022 IWRS Accomplishments:

- Supported **invasive species eradication** for Japanese beetle, apple moth, light brown apple moth, and emerald ash borer. These invasive species can damage or kill trees, posing a risk to watershed health.
- Conducted research related to fertilizers and **nitrate levels that are impacting groundwater quality**.
- ODA and ODEQ developed a Memorandum of Understanding to describe activities each agency will complete to **ensure CAFO's protect the environment** for all Oregonians.

Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (ODEQ)

ODEQ's mission is to "be a leader in restoring, maintaining, and enhancing the quality of Oregon's air, land, and water." ODEQ has four Divisions: Air Quality, Land Quality, Water Quality, and Laboratory Administration. The latter three Divisions perform work related to the IWRS. The Land Quality Division oversees programs that address pollutant management and cleanup. The Water Quality Division implements state and federal laws to protect and restore Oregon's rivers, lakes, streams, oceans, estuaries, and groundwater. This work plays a critical role in ensuring that Oregon's water resources are safe and available for both in and out-of-stream uses, a fundamental goal of the IWRS to meet Oregon's water resource needs. Programs within the Water Quality Division support water quality

monitoring and compliance, funding for planning/design/construction of water pollution control activities (Clean Water State Revolving Fund) and encourage water reuse. The Laboratory and Environmental Assessment Division oversees water quality monitoring programs.

ODEQ frequently collaborates with other state agencies, including DOGAMI, ODA, ODF, ODFW, OHA, and OWRD.

ODEQ's ongoing work supports ***IWRS recommended actions 1.A, 1.B, 1.C, 3.A, 6.C, 7.A, 8.D, 9.B, 10.C, 10.D, 10.G, 11.C, 12.A, 12.B, 12.C, 13.A, and 13.E.***

ODEQ 2017-2022 IWRS Accomplishments:

- Lead the **Oregon Water Data Portal Project** to co-locate water data from several agencies.
- Conducted rulemaking to incorporate new eligible Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) borrowers for the purpose of **lending to address failing onsite septic systems.**
- Designated **Waldo and Crater Lake as Outstanding Resource Waters**, providing additional protections.

Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF)

ODF's mission is to "serve the people of Oregon by protecting, managing, and promoting stewardship of Oregon's forests to enhance environmental, economic, and community sustainability." The Forest Practices Act (FPA) guides ODF's management of private and federally owned forests. The recent Private Forest Accord modifies the implementation of the FPA, providing additional protections to habitat and water quality. ODF also manages over 700,000 acres of state-owned forests and the state's Common School Fund Forest Lands. Management approaches to both private and public forests provide an opportunity to protect water quality, conserve and restore habitat for native species, and eradicate invasive species.

ODF frequently collaborates with other state agencies, including ODA, ODEQ, ODFW, OWEB and OWRD.

ODF's ongoing work supports ***IWRS recommended actions 1.C, 6.B, 8.C, 8.D, 9.B, 10.G, 11.A, 11.B, 11.C, 11.D, 12.B, and 13.E.***

ODF 2017-2022 IWRS Accomplishments:

- Implemented the **Private Forest Accord** (Senate Bill 1501, 2022), including administrative rules that focus on riparian protections.
- Collaborated with ODA to **slow the spread of emerald ash borer,** which can kill native Oregon ash trees, an important species in riparian and wetland areas.
- Educated private forestland owners and identified opportunities for voluntary actions that improve or **enhance in-stream conditions and habitat for fish and aquatic wildlife**.

Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW)

ODFW's mission is to "protect and enhance Oregon's fish and wildlife and their habitats for use and enjoyment by present and future generations." ODFW has three Divisions, Fish, Habitat, and Wildlife, all of which provide some level of support for the IWRS. Fish Division programs include fish passage/screening engineering, public education, conservation, and recovery. The Habitat Division programs collect and share data, identify conditions needed to support aquatic and terrestrial species, and support restoration activities. The Wildlife Division includes a conservation program that implements the Oregon Conservation Strategy and a habitat program that oversee 16 ODFW Wildlife Areas. ODFW also co-manages an Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention Program with OSMB.

ODFW frequently collaborates with other state agencies, including DLCD, ODA, ODEQ, ODF, ODOT, ODSL, OSMB, OWEB, and OWRD.

ODFW's ongoing work supports ***IWRS recommended actions 1.B, 1.C, 3.A, 4.A, 5.A, 5.B, 5.5A, 5.5B, 6.A, 6.B, 8.C, 9.A, 9.B, 9.C, 11.A, 11.C, and 11.D.***

ODFW 2017-2022 IWRS Accomplishments:

- **Installed wetland enhancements** at Summer Lake, Klamath, Irrigon, and Fern Ridge wildlife areas to store and manipulate water for wildlife benefits.

- Hired/Funded new **Water Planning Coordinator** position to support Place Based Planning and other local efforts (Deschutes, Walla Walla, Upper Grande Ronde, Harney).
- Developed and implemented **drought education and outreach campaign** to communicate 1) the impacts of drought and wildfire on fish, wildlife, and habitats, 2) the unintended impacts of recreation on fish, wildlife, and habitats during drought; and 3) alternative recreation opportunities during the drought.

Oregon Department of Energy (ODOE)

ODOE's mission is to "help Oregonians make informed decisions and maintain a resilient and affordable energy system." The agency accomplishes this through a combination of data collection/analysis, education, technical assistance, regulation, oversight, and administration of energy programs. ODOE offers a variety of incentive programs to encourage energy and water conservation.

ODOE collaborates with state agencies including ODEQ, ODFW, and OWRD

ODOE's ongoing work supports ***IWRS recommended actions 4.A, 4.C, 5.B, 10.A, 10.C and 11.B.***

ODOE 2017-2022 IWRS Accomplishments:

- Awarded funding through the **Renewable Energy Development Grant** program to irrigation districts to generate power from canal piping projects.
- Published the **2022 Biennial Energy Report**, which includes energy data collection/analysis, informing local, state, and federal energy policy, planning and investments. The report addresses the interconnection of water and energy with respect to hydropower supply and demand, the potential for collecting renewable natural gas from wastewater treatment plants, and residential opportunities to conserve both water and energy.
- Released **new efficiency standards for landscaping spray sprinkler bodies**, applicable to products manufactured on or after 1/1/2023 and **new efficiency standards for faucets and showerheads,** applicable to products manufactured on or after 1/1/2022.

Department of State Lands (ODSL)

The Department's mission is "to ensure Oregon's school land legacy and protect wetlands and waterways of the State through superior stewardship and service." ODSL oversees permitting associated with removal or fill in wetlands and or waterways, as defined in Oregon's Removal-Fill Law (ORS 196.795-990). The Department maintains programs and training to support natural resource identification, included the Oregon Rapid Wetland Assessment Protocol (ORWAP), Stream Function Assessment Method (SFAM), and Aquatic Resource Mitigation Framework. ODSL also coordinates with state, federal, and community partners to address abandoned or derelict vessels in waterways.

ODSL frequently collaborates with other state agencies, including ODEQ, OSMB, and OPRD.

ODSL's ongoing work supports ***IWRS recommended actions 1.C, 6.A, 8.C, 10.G, 11.A, 11.D, and 12.B.***

ODSL 2017-2022 IWRS Accomplishments:

- **Organized and executed 58 camp cleanup projects** (2020-present), removing over 100 tons of debris from state owned channel beds and banks.
- **Removed 29 vessels** from waterways (2018 & 2019).
- In 2020, released updates to the **Oregon Rapid Wetland Assessment Protocol** (release 3.2) and the **Stream Function Assessment Method** (release 1.1).

Oregon Health Authority (OHA)

OHA's mission is "ensuring all people and communities can achieve optimum physical, mental, and social well-being through partnerships, prevention, and access to quality, affordable health care." While OHA encompasses many divisions and programs that promote public health, it is the Environmental Public Health (EPH) section of the Public Health Division that includes the most relevant activities in relation to the IWRS. OHA-EPH identifies, assesses, and reports on threats to human health from exposure to environmental and occupational hazards, and also advises the people and

communities of Oregon on how to best understand potential risks where they live, work and play. OHA-EPH's involvement with water is through the Healthy Waters program that includes Fish Consumption Advisories, Harmful Algae Bloom Surveillance (HABS), Beach Monitoring, and Domestic Well Safety. OHA-EPH also includes Drinking Water Services (DWS), which administers and enforces drinking water quality standards for public water systems in the state of Oregon. DWS provides water system operator training, technical assistance for water systems, and emergency planning and response.

OHA frequently collaborates with other state agencies, including BizOR, ODA, ODEQ, OEM, and OWRD.

OHA's ongoing work supports ***IWRS recommended actions 1.B, 5.5A, 5.5B, 5.5C, 7.A, 8.C, 12.A, and 13.E.***

OHA 2017-2022 IWRS Accomplishments:

- Participated in state **emergency response and recovery** for 2020 wildfires, assessing impacted public water systems.
- Conducted perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substance (PFAS) monitoring **study of 146 small public water systems at possible risk** of contamination.
- Updated agreement with ODEQ to include more **strategies to increase groundwater and source water protection.**

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (OPRD)

OPRD's mission is "to provide and protect outstanding natural, scenic, cultural, historic and recreational sites for the enjoyment and education of present and future generations." OPRD manages and maintains state parks, campgrounds, and beaches. They administer several grant programs, all aimed at increasing access to recreation. OPRD manages the State Natural Areas Program to protect and recognize high quality native ecosystems and rare plant and animal species. OPRD also manages the Scenic Bikeways, Scenic Trails, and Scenic Waterways Programs. The Scenic Waterways program supports recommended action 11.B in the IWRS, i.e., "develop additional instream protections." A Scenic Waterway designation places restrictions on the types of activities that can occur within or near the banks of the waterway. Oregon's Scenic Waterway system includes 22 rivers and one mountain lake.

OPRD's collaborates with several other state agencies on the Scenic Waterways program, including ODA, ODEQ, ODF, ODFW, ODSL, and OWRD.

OPRD's ongoing work supports ***IWRS recommended actions 3.A, 6.B, 9.B, 11.B and 11.D.***

OPRD 2017-2022 IWRS Accomplishments:

- In collaboration with OWRD, designated the **Nehalem River** (from Henry Rierson Spruce Run Campground to the confluence with Cook Creek) as a **Scenic Waterway**, providing additional protections.
- Completed the Sitka Sedge Natural Area hydrology study (2019) to assess the removal of dikes to allow **fish passage and improve habitat.**
- Completed the **Willamette Basin Strategic Action Plan** (2017), which addresses protection and restoration of natural resources, partnerships, funding, monitoring and public communication.

Oregon State Marine Board (OSMB)

OSMB's mission is to serve "Oregon's recreational boating public through education, enforcement, access, and environmental stewardships for a safe and enjoyable experience." OSMB accomplishes this mission through their Administration & Education, Law Enforcement, Boating Facilities, and Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention Programs. The Administration and Education Program provides boater registration, education, clean marina certification, and coordinates abandoned/derelict vessel removals, reducing hazards in waterways to both humans and wildlife. The Boating Facilities Program provides grants and technical assistance to renovate, construct, and maintain approximately 1,200 public boating access facilities in Oregon. The Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention Program is co-managed with ODFW. OSMB develops outreach and education materials and contracts with ODFW for border inspection stations, inspectors, and decontamination efforts.

OSMB collaborates with other state agencies, including ODEQ, ODFW, ODSL, and OPRD.

OSMB's ongoing work supports ***IWRS recommended actions 6.B, 8.A, 8.C, 11.C and 12.B.***

OSMB 2017-2022 IWRS Accomplishments:

- Increased standards in 2021 for boating facilities to receive certification through the **Clean Marina Program** to protect and improve water quality.
- Coordinated with ODFW on the **Aquatic Invasive Species Program** to educate, inspect, and enforce regulations regarding boat and ballast management to minimize the transfer of invasive species into waterways.
- Coordinated statewide **water safety education programs** including K-12 programs.

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB)

OWEB's mission is to "help protect and restore healthy watersheds and natural habitats that support thriving communities and strong economies." The agency provides grants to a variety of public and private entities to accomplish habitat conservation, restoration, and monitoring. OWEB currently offers 17 different grant programs. OWEB's work supports the Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds, including the task of coordinating watershed monitoring data from a variety of private landowners, federal, and state agencies. OWEB maintains the Oregon Watershed Restoration Inventory (OWRI) database which quantifies conservation and restoration results to inform future efforts.

OWEB frequently collaborates with other state agencies, including ODA, ODEQ, ODF, ODFW, and OWRD.

OWEB's ongoing work supports ***IWRS recommended actions 1.B, 5.5A, 9.A, 9.B, 10.A, 10.E, 11.A, 11.B, 11.C, 11.D, and 13.E.***

OWEB 2017-2022 IWRS Accomplishments:

- Established and implemented the **2020 and 2021 Post-Fire Recovery Grants** to support upland and riparian replanting, floodplain restoration and natural resource recovery.
- Established the **Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program** (2018), which includes a requirement for "enhanced fish or wildlife habitat, water quality, and other natural resources on Oregon's working land."
- Created the **Stakeholder Engagement Grant Program** to support the communication and engagement needed in the early stages of project development.

Oregon Water Resources Department (OWRD)

OWRD's mission is "to serve the public by practicing and promoting responsible water management through two key goals; one, to directly address Oregon's water supply needs, and two, to restore and protect streamflows and watersheds in order to ensure the long-term sustainability of Oregon's ecosystems, economy, and quality of life." OWRD collects, analyzes, and provides water quantity data to other agencies and to water users. OWRD processes water rights transactions, distributes water under the water rights system of prior appropriation, and addresses unauthorized uses of water. OWRD also protects public safety through the well construction and dam safety programs. OWRD provides planning, technical assistance, and funding to address instream and out-of-stream water supply needs. OWRD is responsible for developing and updating the IWRS, in collaboration with other state agencies, tribes, stakeholders, and the public.

OWRD frequently collaborates with other state agencies, including DOGAMI, DLCD, ODA, ODEQ, ODF, ODFW, OHA, OPRD, and OWEB.

OWRD's ongoing work supports ***IWRS recommended actions 1.A, 1.B, 1.C, 2.A, 2.B, 5.A, 5.B, 5.5A, 5.5B, 7.A, 7.C, 8.C, 8.D, 9.A, 9.B, 9.C, 10.A, 10.B, 10.E, 10.F, 10.G, 11.B, 11.E, 13.A, 13.B, 13.C, 13.D, and 13.E.***

OWRD 2017-2022 IWRS Accomplishments:

- **Modernized the dam safety program,** raised awareness of dam safety risks, and received increased funding to evaluate high-hazard dams to better protect water supplies, people, and property.
- Modernized **well construction statutes** to better protect groundwater supplies, and established the **Water Well Abandonment, Repair, and Replacement Fund** (WARRF) to provide financial assistance to homeowners to repair, replace, or abandon wells.
- Advanced **understanding of groundwater conditions** including the completion of the **Harney Basin Groundwater Study**, initiated the Walla Walla Basin Groundwater Study, and began efforts to develop groundwater budgets for major hydrologic basins.

Future Support for the IWRS

Continued funding for agency programs and activities is critical to ensuring the ongoing implementation of the IWRS. Oregon agencies have submitted Policy Option Packages (POP's) for the 2023-25 budget to support continuing work regarding the IWRS. **Table 3** summarizes the POP's that were included in the Agency Requested Budgets submitted earlier this year. Governor-Elect Kotek will finalize the Governor's Recommended Budget in early 2023 which may contain some of these requested resources.

Table 3. Agency Policy Option Packages (POP's) submitted in their Agency Requested Budgets for the 2023-25 Biennium

IWRS Topic Areas	Agency	POP#	Title	Primary* IWRS Action	Add'l IWRS Actions
Water Resource Data, Monitoring, Investigations *1.A-1.C*	**DOGAMI**	102	Oregon Mapping Program: Water Resources and Mineral Resource Potential	*1.A*	*1.B, 1.C*
	ODEQ	120	Improve Water Quality Assessments	*1.B*	*6.A, 10.G, 12.B, 12.C*
		160	Water Data Framework	*1.C*	*6.A, 6.B*
		170	Sustain DEQ Environmental Laboratory Infrastructure & Equipment	*1.B*	*1.C, 10.G, 12.C*
	ODFW	105	Private Forest Accord Data Collection	*1.B*	*1.C, 3.A, 3.B, 6.A*
		109	Klamath Salmon Restoration Monitoring	*1.B*	*1.C, 3.A*
		110	Statewide Stream Temperature Monitoring	*1.B*	*3.A, 6.A, 6.B*
	OWRD	111	Water Use, Supply, and Availability Data	*1.B*	*5.B, 9.C, 13.B*
		118	Understanding the Lake Abert Watershed	*1.B*	*5.B*
		120	Improving Data Accuracy and Availability	*1.C*	*6.B*
Out-of-Stream Demands, 2.A-2.E					
Instream Demands 3.A-3.B	**ODFW**	124	Salmonid Forecasting and Habitat Models	*3.A*	*1.B, 1.C, 5.A, 6.A, 11.D*
		125	Rogue-South Coast Steelhead Monitoring	*3.A*	*1.B, 1.C, 6.A, 11.D*
	OWRD	119	Studying Springs in Deschutes Basin	*3.A*	*3.B, 5.B*
Water & Energy 4.A-4.C					
Climate Change 5.A-5.B	**DLCD**	212	Climate Adaptation Coordinator	*5.B*	*5.A*
	ODFW	114	Climate Change Policy Implementation	*5.B*	*5.A*
	OWRD	109	Adapting to Climate Change & Drought	*5.B*	*5.A, 5.5A, 8.C, 10.A, 10.B, 11.D, 13.C*
	OWEB	110	Program Continuity	*5.B*	*11.A-11.E*
Extreme Events 5.5A-5.5C	**DLCD**	209	Floodplain & Recovery Planner	*5.5B*	*6.A*
	OWEB	150	Emergency Response Programs, continues funding for staff	*5.5A*	*5.B*
		250	Emergency Response Programs, including post-fire restoration and drought relief and resiliency	*5.5A*	*5.B, 10.A*
Water & Land Use 6.A-6.C					
Water-Related Infrastructure 7.A-7.C	**ODFW**	134	Jubilee Lake Dam Repair	*7.A*	*7.C, 13.E*
	OWRD	117	Assess and Inventory Levees	*7.A*	*7.C*
Education & Outreach 8.A-8.D					

IWRS Topic Areas	Agency	POP#	Title	Primary* IWRS Action	Add'l IWRS Actions
Place-Based Efforts 9.A-9.C	**ODEQ**	125	Support Local and Integrated Water Planning	*9.A*	*7.B, 9.B, 9.C, 13.C*
	ODFW	107	Integrated Water Resource Solutions (1 of 3 positions)	*9.A*	*9.B, 10.G, 11.D*
	OWRD	110	Centering Equity in Agency Programs & Policy	*9.A*	*8.B, 8.C*
		112	Supporting Tribal Water Solutions & Relations	*9.C*	*9.A, 13.C*
		115	Supporting Resolution of Complex Issues	*9.C*	*5.B, 9.A*
Water Management 10.A-10.G	**ODEQ**	121	Improve Wastewater Permitting Efficacy	*10.G*	*12.B*
		122	Improve Stormwater Permitting Efficacy	*10.G*	*6.C, 12.C*
		123	Ensure Protective Onsite Septic Systems	*10.G*	*12.A, 12.B*
	ODA	370	Pesticide Enforcement Capacity	*10.G*	*10.F, 12.B*
	ODFW	107	Integrated Water Resource Solutions (1 of 3 positions)	*10.G*	*9.A, 9.B, 11.D*
	OWRD	114	Watermaster Staff: Improving Water Management	*10.F*	*5.5B, 5.5C, 7.A, 7.C*
		116	Increase Engagement Through Communications	*10.F*	*5.5A, 10.G*
Healthy Ecosystems 11.A-11.E	**DLCD**	206	Habitat Projects Coordinator	*11.D*	*11.A*
	ODEQ	124	Supporting Watershed Restoration Efforts	*11.D*	*10.D, 11.A*
	ODF	106	Private Forest Accord Development, funding to support Small Forestland Owner Investment in Stream Habitat Program (SFISH)	*11.D*	*11.A*
	ODFW	101	Fish Passage Position	*11.D*	*10.F, 10.G*
		103	OR Conservation Strategy Implementation	*11.D*	*11.A*
		107	Integrated Water Resource Solutions (1 of 3 positions)	*11.D*	*9.A, 9.B, 10.G*
		118	Non-Native Fish Management	*11.C*	*10.D, 11.C*
		130	Fish Passage Restoration - Culverts	*11.D*	
	ODA	310	Japanese Beetle Eradication	*11.C*	*11.A*
		330	Noxious Weed Grants	*11.C*	*11.A*
		385	Aquatic Noxious Weeds Specialist	*11.C*	*11.A*
	OWEB	145	Water Acquisitions Continuation, convert limited duration position to permanent to support Water Acquisitions Program	*11.B*	*3.A*
		245	Water Acquisitions Continuation	*11.B*	*3.A*
		160	Extend funding for position to support tide gate work	*11.D*	*13.E*
Public Health 12.A-12.C	**ODEQ**	126	Protect Drinking Water Sources	*12.A*	*12.B*
		127	Groundwater Quality Act Evaluation	*12.A*	*3.B*
		128	Domestic Well Testing Data Collection	*12.A*	*8.D*
	ODA	320	Agricultural Water Quality Capacity	*12.C*	*1.B, 11.A, 11.D, 11.E*
		340	Pesticide Safety Capacity	*12.B*	*1.B*
	OHA		Domestic Well Safety Program Restoration and Lower Umatilla Basin Domestic Well Intervention	*12.A*	*8.D, 12.B*
Funding 13.A-13.E	**BizOR**	102	Special Public Works Fund (SPWF) Recapitalization	*13.E*	*12.B*
		107	Special Public Works Fund (SPWF) Recapitalization	*13.E*	*12.B*
	ODEQ	129	DEQ Capacity to effectively Administer Grants & Contracts	*13.E*	*13.B*
	ODFW	112	Oregon Conservation and Recreation Fund	*13.E*	*11.A, 11.D*
	OWRD	101	Facilitate Interagency Work & Implement IWRS	*13.A*	*6.B, 9.B, 9.C*
		102	Addressing Agency-Wide Foundational Support Gaps	*13.B*	*10.D, 10.F, 10.G*
		103	ODFW Review and Scenic Waterway Revenue Gap	*13.B*	*10.G*
		106	Water Planning Funding, Support, and Data	*13.C*	*5.B, 9.A, 9.B*
		107	Feasibility Studies, Water Projects, & Wells	*13.E*	*5.B, 10.E, 13.D*
		108	Water Rights and Protest Backlog Reduction	*13.B*	*10.G*

Summary

The 2017-2022 IWRS Progress Report provides a concise summary of how Oregon's agencies work together to manage our state's water resources. This information provides a valuable foundation for continued coordination and identifies areas where more work needs to be done.

Agencies have been successful in expanding their capacity to implement the significant water investments from the 2021 Legislative session. Agencies are providing support for drought and fire-impacted Oregonians and awarding funds for updating water infrastructure, while communities have come together to discuss their water challenges.

Although many agencies have significant responsibilities regarding water management or infrastructure, available funding and dedicated staffing has not always supported these responsibilities. Additionally, there are inconsistent resources available to support IWRS collaboration across agencies. Oregon's progress towards a secure water future would benefit from a sustained source of funding and dedicated staffing to support IWRS implementation. 2023-25 Agency funding requests to support water-related work are well distributed across the IWRS recommend actions. Data, Monitoring, Investigations, Climate Change, Water Management, Healthy Ecosystems, Public Health and Funding all received significant attention from state agencies for their 2023-25 Agency Requested Budget. The continued support of 2021 Legislative session water investments will be critical to making progress towards our water security challenges.

Over the next year, OWRD will be leading the effort to update the IWRS. Agencies, tribes, stakeholders, and the public will all have an opportunity to contribute to the next IWRS.

Weather station in Harney County, Credit: OWRD