

HB 3116 -2 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water

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Sub-Referral To: Joint Committee On Ways and Means

Meeting Dates: 3/19

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

The measure appropriates \$2 million from the General Fund moneys to the Oregon Water Resources Department (OWRD) for deposit in the Place-Based Water Planning Fund. Appropriates \$_____ from the General Fund to OWRD for distribution to the Seal Rock Water District, the Harney County Watershed Council, Union County, and Gilliam County Soil and Water Conservation District to support implementation of their state-recognized place-based integrated water resources plan. The measure declares an emergency and takes effect on July 1, 2025.

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

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

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-2 The amendment replaces the measure and instead directs the Oregon Water Resources Department (OWRD) to submit specified reports to the Legislative Assembly related to the place-based planning program, the regional water planning and management work group, and water basin assessments. It appropriates \$1 million from the General Fund to OWRD for implementation. The amendment further appropriates \$3.35 million from the General Fund to OWRD to provide grants to specified entities to support implementation of their state-recognized place-based integrated water resources plan. The amendment declares an emergency and takes effect on July 1, 2025.

Detailed Summary

Replaces the measure.

- Directs the Oregon Water Resources Department (OWRD) to develop and implement a plan to address recommendations from the evaluation of the place-based planning program and the regional water planning and management work group. Requires the plan to, at minimum, develop the following content:
 - Data inventories and identification of data gaps;
 - Climate-informed water budgets for basins in Oregon to better understand their current and future hydrologic conditions.
- Directs OWRD to produce, or contract for the production of, a prototype for a water basin assessment as described in the updated scope of the Stewardship and Supply Initiative by December 31, 2026.
- Directs OWRD to report to the Legislative Assembly on:
 - Best practices and lessons, including technical insights, from state-led water planning efforts in other states.
 - Best practices and lessons from the water basin assessment prototype.
 - A proposed timeline for completing the basin assessments, a plan for meaningful public engagement in their development and review, and strategies for cost reduction in their development.
 - Recommendations for using an integrated water data portal to enhance data accessibility and update basin assessments.

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- Appropriates \$1 million General Fund moneys to OWRD for deposit in the Place-Based Water Planning Fund for implementation.
- Appropriates \$3.35 million General Fund moneys to OWRD and directs OWRD to use the funds to grant moneys to specified entities to support implementation of their state-recognized place-based integrated water resources plans:
 - \$650,000 to Lincoln County Soil and Water Conservation District
 - \$1.1 million to the High Desert Partnership
 - \$500,000 to Union County
 - \$1.1 million to the Gilliam County Soil and Water Conservation District
- Requires OWRD to establish an agreement with a grant recipient, mandating a report on grant expenditures and outcomes be submitted to the Legislative Assembly by December 1, 2026, before issuing a grant.
- Declares an emergency, effective July 1, 2025.

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

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

BACKGROUND:

In 2015, the Oregon legislature authorized the Oregon Water Resources Department (OWRD) to pilot a place-based approach to integrated water resources planning by making grants and providing technical assistance to communities to engage in place-based planning. Place-based planning is voluntary, locally led, and tailored to specific water resource needs and challenges of the location in which planning efforts take place. Participating communities are required to build a collaborative and inclusive process; gather information to understand water resources and identify knowledge gaps; examine current and future water needs for people, places, and nature; identify and prioritize strategic, integrated solutions to addressing water needs; and develop a place-based integrated water resources plan (place-based IWRP). In 2019, [House Bill 2084](#) extended the sunset date of place-based IWRP program from July 1, 2019 to July 1, 2023. In 2023, the Legislative Assembly passed [House Bill 2010](#) which established the Place-Based Water Planning Fund.