



Oregon

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Water Resources Commission

FROM: Thomas M. Byler, Director

SUBJECT: Agenda Item D, September 1, 2022
Water Resources Commission

Project Implementation Update

I. Introduction

Staff will update the Commission on Department efforts to implement numerous projects associated with the 2021-2023 budget and legislation. *This is an informational report.*

II. Background

In 2021, the Oregon Legislature made a major focus on water resources, adding significant new staff capacity across many Water Resources Department programs as well as creating new responsibilities for the agency. The legislative actions included funding specific water projects, authorizing a number of work groups, studies, and assessments, supporting and enhancing existing programs, and establishing new programs. The Legislature made additional water resources-related investments during the second Special Session in December 2021, particularly related to water law enforcement associated with cannabis and assistance for owners of domestic wells that have gone dry due to drought and catastrophic forest fire damage.

The noteworthy legislative actions in 2021 resulted in many new positions for the Department and over 40 significant new tasks and responsibilities for the agency to carry out in addition to its existing workload. Over the course of the biennium, the Department has focused substantial energy on recruiting, hiring and onboarding people into many positions and carrying out the added tasks. Staff have made an ongoing effort to keep the Commission, legislators, stakeholders, and the general public informed about the status of implementing this significant workload.

At the September meeting, staff will report on 2021-2023 budget and legislation implementation progress to date and expected future activities. In addition, the Commission will receive more detailed briefings by managers on the workload responsibilities, priorities and status for programs and projects under their supervision.

Attachments:

1. OWRD Select Projects Tracking List
2. Completed Projects Tracking List

3. Water Right Section 2021-23 Biennium Work Priorities and Projects
4. Water Right Services Division Additional Functions 2021-23 Biennium Work Priorities and Projects
5. Groundwater Hydrology Section 2021-23 Biennium Work Priorities and Projects
6. Transfer and Conservation Section 2021-23 Biennium Work Priorities and Projects
7. Policy Section 2021-23 Biennium Priorities and Projects

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K
1	Project	Description	Category	Type	Stage	Status	Completed	In Progress	Next Steps	Issues / Risks	Link
2	SB 5561 Cannabis Package (special session)	Funds 29 FTE for improving regulation of cannabis and compliance	Administration	Modern Workforce	Recruiting	Meeting Expectations	13 of 14 AWMs have been hired. Enforcement Section (ES) manager is hired and working. Two AS2's hired and working. Comms staff hired. Policy	Recruiting for one AWM in SCR continues; ES starting work on PDs and recruitment for 5 compliance specialists.	Onboarding and training continues; introductions for staff with partner agencies and law enforcement at local levels.		
3	System LifeCycle Replacement	Continued replacement of staff computer equipment based on age and special need.	Administration	Information Technology	In Progress	Meeting Expectations	Ongoing project.		Continue to replace equipment based on criteria established by the IS Manager.		
4	M365 Implementation	Agency Implementation, Training and Adoption of M365 Services (Microsoft Cloud).	Administration	Information Technology	Complete	Complete	Rollout of M365 solution(s) complete but there is a lot of work remaining with regard to training, adoption and workflow modification.		Continued work supporting business units and field offices in the adoption of these cloud services, replacing legacy services like file servers.	Ongoing coordination with EIS on new feature rollouts and infrastructure changes supporting M365	
5	Mobile Device Management Implementation	Procurement and rollout of mobile device management solution to securely manage phones and tablets.	Administration	Information Technology	In Progress	Meeting Expectations	Prototype of new system rolled out to early adopters. Agency rollout to happen through device lifecycle replacement over the next 18 months.	Lifecycle replacement continues and we continue MDM rollout through this process with low impact to staff.	Continue to replace phones, enrolling new devices in the MDM solution.	80% complete	
6	Ticketing System Replacement	Agency ticketing system is being aged out and must be replaced.	Administration	Information Technology	In Progress	Meeting Expectations	Procurement	70% complete	Coordinate installation with Vendor	Will compete for Network/Helpdesk resources. Risk of helpdesk interruptions during cutover.	
7	Work From Anywhere Modernization	Continued work in support of adapting to "Work from anywhere".	Administration	Information Technology	In Progress	Meeting Expectations	Significant rollout of laptops. Updating conference rooms to better support hybrid meetings. Updating commission meeting equipment to better support remote and hybrid meetings.	80%	Continued migration to Laptops and analysis of remote desktop solutions to replace the many desktop computers being left running for high bandwidth systems like ArcGIS. Continued work with planning by exec team, reopening team and workplace reimaged.	Onboarding of new IS staff and resource constraints continue to pose challenges.	

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K
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8	Data Center Migration	Continued migration of WRD computer infrastructure to the DAS Data Center.	Administration	Information Technology	In Progress	Meeting Expectations	In Flight, 90% complete	Working on remaining server infrastructure needing to be migrated to state data center.	ArcGIS, Trialworks and remaining file server migration. Anticipated to be complete by July 2023	Other deliverables and technical obstacles has slowed this effort down. This work must be balanced on limited technical staffing resources to allow for parallel work on projects in this spreadsheet and labor required for pandemic response.	
9	Field Office Network Upgrades	Continued work to bring all field offices onto high speed internet and state networks.	Administration	Information Technology	In Progress	Meeting Expectations	Medford, Bend, Klamath Falls, Roseburg and Pendleton complete.	Eugene and Baker City in pre-planning	Procure Office Internet for Eugene Office. Baker City in pre-planning	Work continues very slowly due to resource constraints. Competing work is taking priority.	
10	Work Reimagined	Determination of Department processes associated with hybrid work (i.e., position eligibility), including alignment with DAS policies and guidance.	Administration	Modern Workforce	In Progress	Meeting Expectations	Worktypes determined across Department Individual needs surveys complete Input from in-office staff summarized	Section needs survey distributed Equipment sub-group established	Compile information and develop draft decisions around rearrangement and present to ACT	Rearranging the building space is expensive. Determine leadership goals/interests for space rearrangement.	
11	Management Training	Training provided at AMG meetings to enhance management skills.	Administration	Modern Workforce	In Progress	Meeting Expectations	•45 minute sessions have begun. •Will continue with recruitment and onboarding theme until completed.	Topics have been focused on recruitment processes in Workday.	Continued focus on recruitment and Workday processes in preparation for Workday Payroll and Time Tracking.	Focus is on recruitment processes and highest priority "must do's".	
12	Develop Training and Safety Program	Complete initial assessment of WRD's safety policies and practices.	Administration	Modern Workforce	On Hold	On Hold	Hired HR position with Safety responsibilities.	Attendance at Safety Committee meetings. Training and onboarding.		Current focus of HR is on recruitments.	
13	Recruitments	38 new positions from 2021 Legislative Session plus vacancies	Administration	Modern Workforce	In Progress	Meeting Expectations	As of August, twenty six of the thirty eight new positions have been filled, 7 recruitments are in process, one is being repurposed and 1 is being held open to fund another position.	Seven recruitments are in process.	Continue recruitments for the 7 positions.	Job market. Some positions experiencing fewer applicants than in previous recruitments. Managers have several positions to fill and train in short period of time.	

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K
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14	Records Management	Implement records management and retention updates and best practices	Administration	Records	In Progress	Meeting Expectations	Onboarded Records Officer. Initial assessment of paper records and file cabinets at the Salem Office.	Inventory of paper records. Update of Special Retention Schedule. Creation of destruction log. Water Right files workgroup created.	Complete Records inventory. Special Schedule finalization. Training or RM practices. Assess ORMS.	Large project that impacts many sections.	
15	Willamette Basin Complex Issues and Reallocation	Develop basin situation assessment & workplan and implement the Willamette Reservoir Reallocation	Basin Support	Basin Support	Scoping	Meeting Expectations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Position filled on 3/1/2022 Attending Council of Water Leaders and Yamhill Co. Water Task Force quarterly meetings. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nearly complete with internal meetings to support basin situational assessment and Willamette Basin workplan development. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discuss draft reallocation workplan with Army Corps, ACT/Sponsor, and stakeholders Gather external input on basin situation assessment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Willamette EIS process currently underway with potential implications for the management of stored water 	
16	Deschutes and Complex Basins	Funds a communications and policy development work on complex basin water issues, including the Deschutes Basin	Basin Support	Basin Support	Scoping	Meeting Expectations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Basin Coordinator position filled 6/10/22 Basin situational assessment scoped 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Basin situational assessment internal and external meetings Reviewing and refining scope for use of \$125K of grant facilitation funds from POP 111 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Basin situational assessment internal and external meetings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Likely to be many desired projects for position; will not be able to do all of it 	
17	Harney Conservation Reserve Program	State and federal funds to enroll GW users in voluntary program to cancel GW irrigation rights & replace irrigated ground w/native grasses	Basin Support	Cost Share	In Progress	Meeting Expectations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CREP position begins in Bend August 15, 2022 CREP draft contract agreement has been reviewed by USDA and DOJ legal counsel; revisions and reviews in progress 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> OWRD review in progress Ken B. preparing Public Scoping Meeting for Programmatic Environmental Assessment, likely late August in Burns 	Finalize contract agreement; continue work on prog. environmental assessment	Federal process has a number of steps	
18	Walla Walla Long-Term Planning	Work with the State of Washington, the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation and local interests on long-term management in Walla Walla Basin	Basin Support	Basin Support	In Progress	Meeting Expectations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meetings with CTUIR and Ecology. 2050 Strategic plan complete New advisory committee established 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implement Phase II of the Strategic Plan Select bi-state flow study preferred alternative(s) Work on bi-state management issues with Ecology 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complete communications plan for this effort Plan public meeting for the fall of 2022 	Multi-year project, currently scoping into the 25-27 biennium. There are significant legal and policy issues that will need to be addressed relating to bi-state water management and regulation.	

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19	Develop Communications Program	Develop communications program and increase preparedness for emergencies	Communications	Resiliency	In Progress	Meeting Expectations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Drafted communications gaps and needs survey for staff •Finished PAS 1 recruitment •Procuring GovDelivery for listservs •Issued survey to staff 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Assessing communications activities and needs •Onboarding new position once 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Develop communications plan and prioritize communications projects 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Drought, cannabis legislation communications, other issues, and increased media inquiries divert staff time from formation of communications program 	
20	Develop and Implement Plan for Spending the \$5 million for dam safety flood, analysis, and assessments	\$5 million - (\$1 million general funds and \$4 million ARPA funds) to contract for professional engineering services to perform flood methodology, inundation assessments, and engineering analyses for dams.	Dam Safety	Contract	In Progress	Meeting Expectations	20 contracts awarded for \$896k out of \$1M GF.	2 RFPs drafted for remaining \$1M GF. 4 RFPs drafted and 8 RFPs under development for \$3.07M out of \$4M ARPA funds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Get the last 2 contracts for the \$1M GF out to bid • Finalize 12 contracts for \$3.07M in ARPA funds • Develop contracts for the remaining ARPA funds 	working with DAS on an efficient process to get all our contracts through the RFP process as quickly as possible. Can't post RFPs for any other contracts until this process is in place. Should be in place by August 2022	
21	Big Creek Dams grant	Provides \$14 million in the Water Supply Fund for a grant	Dam Safety	Direct Grant	In Progress	Meeting Expectations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Requested project details for a grant agreement from recipient •Received project information in late December, reviewed and requested clarification •Confirmed project details and developed grant agreement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Waiting for grantee to sign and return grant agreement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Execute grant agreement •Manage grant 	Lottery Bond Sale May 2022 / 2023	
22	Wallowa Lake Dam Grant	Provides \$14 million in Water Supply Fund	Dam Safety	Direct Grant	In Progress	Meeting Expectations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Received project information on 1/4/22 from recipient and requested clarification, received revised information on 3/7/22 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Grant agreement sent to DOJ for review 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Execute grant agreement •Manage grant 	Lottery Bond Sale May 2022	
23	2022 Cannabis and Enforcement Legislation	Implementing HB 4061 relating to cannabis water use and water enforcement	Field	Rulemaking / Implement Law	In Progress	Concerned	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Phase I. Communication materials finalized and distributed; letters and emails sent to spread word •Conducted field staff training •Communications staff starts late June 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Continue Phase 1: Raise awareness of bill •Onboard and train comms and policy staff; policy staff starts 8/15 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Guidance and rulemaking needed •Implementing in phases (awareness, documentation, civil penalties, criminal penalties). 	Phase 1 required pulling resources from existing policy staff time. Likely will need to address other policy issues before get back to this one.	
24	Water Measurement Cost Share Program and	Develop spending plan; approach for administering; update materials \$1M ARPA funds plus ~\$100k	Field	Grant Program	On Hold	On Hold	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Decided to move management of fund from ASD to PCI 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Determine ARPA requirements for funding •Develop charter 	Likely will not begin work on revamping program until 2023	

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25	SB 5561 Cannabis Package (special session) IT Project	Field and Enforcement Database Upgrade	Field	Information Technology	Scoping	Concerned	Preliminary scoping meeting held in June; evaluating options for contractor selection to identify best approach and software solutions		Fill vacant developer positions. Brad to produce contract dollar spend estimates and statement of work.	Recruitment is a significant risk in a tight labor market.	
26	Public Complaint Form	A central public complaint web form used to reduce lengthy calls to field offices.	Field	Information Technology	On Hold	Concerned	A prototype was created after the Jackson County Complaint Form. Input provided from regional managers. System would allow a citizen to click a location on a map where a violation might be and that would generate an email to the appropriate watermaster.	Feedback being incorporated into a 1.0 release.	Further enhancements being queued up for a 2.0 release at a later date.	This work remains on hold to finalize until decisions are made around SB 5561	
27	Statewide ET Project	Develop field-scale estimates of consumptive use irrigated agricultural lands, along with estimates of evaporation from reservoirs, for the period 1984-2020 using remotely sensed ET data through OpenET.	Groundwater Surface water	Data	In Progress	Concerned	-3 OWRD ET and water use hydrologist positions filled -Installed 3 new AgriMet stations in NE Oregon -DRI contract signed \$290k for ET data analysis portion -DOJ review of 1985-2015 ET data development RFP complete	-RFP for 1985-2015 ET data development awaiting DAS action -DRI contract - having coordination meetings every 3 weeks -Developing stakeholder meeting agenda and handout materials -Meeting with Oregon Climate Office and other state and federal agencies to develop Agrimet network expansion prospectus	-Funding sources mapped to projects and IDd as base budget or one time. -Work with fiscal on RFP process for 1985-2015 ET data scope of work -Spending plan for SB5561 \$\$\$ developed; stakeholder outreach scheduled 8/16/22.	After exploring multiple options for contracting with OpenET, determined we need to run an RFP process - slowing 1985-2015 ET data component of work down further. Need to resolve commitment to the legislature that OWRD will not spend SB 5561 \$\$\$ without stakeholder buy in.	
28	Basin Water Budgets & GW Recharge for Major Basins in OR	Contract w/USGS to do the work; WRD staff support w/data & analyses; HB 2018 and POP 110	Groundwater Surface water	Data	In Progress	Meeting Expectations	•USGS developed a second draft detailed scope of work for contracting. Scope of Work sent to contracting	OWRD to review the second (perhaps final) draft.	•Finalize contract and execute Statement of Work	USGS staff also occupied with Harney and WW work. Multi-year project, currently scoping into the 25-27 biennium	

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K
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29	Expand Obs Well Network	HB 2018 and associated POPS	Groundwater Surface water	Data	In Progress	Concerned	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify drilling locations and discussing access agreements with land owners for several initial obs well sites. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Work with DAS to develop the ability for WRD to contract directly with drillers Seeking to design a delegation of authority process. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Finalize contracting approach Then iterate for each site: Finalize site access Archeological consultation with Tribes and SHPO Draft technical specs and solicit bids Schedule and conduct installation of wells, instrument wells and add to state obs network and GWIS. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Long process to finalize contracting approach with DAS. Drillers booked out over a year in some areas - may encounter difficulty installing wells before the end of the biennium. 	
30	Develop plan and implement/purchase of data collection equipment	\$3 million for surface water and groundwater data collection equipment	Groundwater Surface water	Data	In Progress	Concerned	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Funds released to agency, PCAs set up, kickoff meeting held. DAS solicitation not out yet for parties to respond for needed equipment. USGS Hydrologic Instrumentation Facility (HIF) contract is active. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not started; developing contracts for drilling, equipment list has been provided to DAS along with solicitation, DOJ has approved. Next Step is pre-proposal conference. USGS HIF contract executed; purchase order is out for three gages 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue finalizing contracting issues Develop a plan to be shared with the Commission 		
31	Walla Walla Basin Study	Basin study w/USGS	Groundwater Surface water	Data	In Progress	Meeting Expectations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Scope and contract in place with USGS and WA Ecology; data collection in progress (study completion date: 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Data collection and analysis 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hire basin outreach staff, free up GW staff (2 FTE) to focus on data analysis, add new NRS-3 to the study. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Need drilling contract for observation wells; 2 projects have been spec'd; access agreements in place, waiting to go to bid. Need DAS approval over \$150k 	Webpage Link
32	Klamath SWMPA or CGWA	Potential to declare a Serious Water Management Problem Area (SWMPA) or Critical Groundwater Area in Klamath (CGWA)	Groundwater Surface water	Rulemaking	Not Started	On Hold		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not started due to other workload priorities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assess resources and other priorities to determine if we have sufficient resources to proceed on Klamath SWMPA or CGWA work 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Limited staff capacity: current focus is on completing Div 10 rulemaking; conduct Harney SWMPA- CGWA rulemaking after Div 10. 	Rule Webpage
33	Harney Groundwater Rulemaking Division 512	Review existing rules; Develop CGWA/SWMPA rules; convene RAC	Groundwater Surface water	Rulemaking	Scoping	On Hold	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> East Region public engagement coordinator hired; policy staff hired and start Aug/Sept. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Developing communications on GW Study Currently developing workplan for basin 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Scoping the rulemaking process 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Limited staff capacity for carrying forward rulemakings. Progress will be slowed. 	Rule Webpage

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K
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34	Division 10 Rulemaking	CGWA Process	Groundwater Surface water	Rulemaking	On Hold	On Hold	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Held public information meeting and first RAC meeting; •Scoping of public participation opportunities •Draft of rules developed •Invitations to Rules Advisory Committee •Recruit Policy staff 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Reevaluating rulemaking scope, timelines, and RAC membership/process based on feedback •Policy Staff starts Aug/Sept - onboard and train 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Finalize public participation approach and develop materials for meetings; finalize scope, RAC participation, and timelines •Finalize RAC meeting dates •Hold RAC meetings, and forums for interested parties to comment 	Limited staff capacity for carrying forward rulemakings. Rules Coordinator left agency and will need to recruit. Progress will be slowed.	Rule Webpage
35	Groundwater Allocation Policy	Modernized groundwater allocation policy that is more sustainable and protective of senior water right holders •First task is GW Availability	Groundwater Surface water	Rulemaking	In Progress	Meeting Expectations	contract for public outreach meeting sent to contractor. Draft rulemaking scheduled for 3/15/23 Commission meeting. Weekly workgroup meetings. PFO for interim approach under review.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Internal meetings to prepare for rulemaking process September 22 to October 6 Public meetings tentatively scheduled 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Continue rule drafting •Continue facilitated mtg organization 		
36	Racial Justice - Equitable Water Access	Provides \$1 million for equitable water access and to explore water needs of Black, Indigenous, Tribal, rural and communities of color.	Other Projects	Racial Justice	Recruiting	Behind	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Determined that funds need to be used via contract or intergovernmental agreement (IGA) not via grant •Met with Oregon's Kitchen Table in June about potential role in project, via IGA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Finalize position descriptions and recruit for limited duration positions and/or fellows •Working with OWRD DEI Team to develop potential RFP to contract for Organizational Assessment and training 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Continue to develop a spending plan and proposal work with interested parties on final plan. 	Progress has been slow due to other workloads; do not have capacity to work on all projects at once.	
37	Drought Vulnerability Assessment (special session)	\$300,000 General Fund to contract for a statewide drought vulnerability assessment for both instream and out-of-stream needs	Other Projects	Report	Scoping	Concerned	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Identified and assigned project manager 6/19 •Onboarding/briefing project manager 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Drafting scope of work; exploring whether universities are available to partner 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Develop draft RFP 	Progress has been slow due to other workloads; do not have capacity to work on all projects at once.	
38	Business case assessment	\$350,000 General Fund was approved on a one-time basis to contract for a business case assessment to examine the economic value of water and the impact of water investment.	Other Projects	Report	In Progress	Concerned	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Incorporating feedback from Stakeholders •Sent RFP information to procurement staff 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Procurement staff and DAS to work to finalize Request for Proposals •DAS procurement returned RFP and has a request for some additional evaluation criteria 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Post Request for Proposals 	Funded by General Fund - must be complete by 6/30/2023. Staffing capacity limited. DAS Procurement backlogged.	

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39	IWRS Update	Update of the Integrated Water Resources Strategy -	Other Projects	Report	Scoping	Meeting Expectations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Met with Oregon Consensus Completed recruitment; new staff started mid-June 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project planning/scoping, agency/work team development Begin work on a progress/implementation update 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop outreach and communication plan Continue work on a progress/implementation update fall 2022 	Meeting expectations based on update to be completed in the last half of 2023 or first half of 2024; timeframes to be determined.	
40	Workgroup on Fee Based Programs	Stakeholder engagement to develop more sustainable, long-term funding mechanisms to support fee programs ARPA	Other Projects	Workgroup	Scoping	Concerned	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Initial scoping started; likely delay work until after 2023 session / and LC/budget deadlines Reached out to potential facilitators 6/17/2022 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meet with potential facilitators and identify facilitator Developing draft workplan Develop informational materials 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conduct initial individual discussions with interested parties end of 2021 Identify participants and develop schedule April/May 23 Kickoff meeting in June or July 2023 	WRD received notice in March that ARPA funds could be used. Progress has been slow due to other workloads (2021 2nd Special Session and 2022 HB 4061), 2023 Budget and legislative deadlines, and lack of staff capacity.	
41	Tribes-State Agencies Task Force	\$500,000 for indigenous energy resiliency to addressing Indigenous treaty water rights, water scarcity, hydropower, and ecosystem services.	Other Projects	Racial Justice	In Progress	Meeting Expectations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> See also Racial Justice Equitable Water Access Organizational meetings to discuss the formation of the workgroup Hired facilitator - First meeting June 21 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Workgroup meetings scheduled 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hold workgroup meetings; hoping to have a report out by end of year 	Initial organization of task force took more time than expected due to challenges of coordinating with many entities.	
42	2023 Legislation Development - Place Based Planning	Propose legislation for funding planning. Place-based planning funding authority sunsets 2023.	Planning	Legislation	In Progress	Meeting Expectations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> May 10 workshop Review of workshop feedback and LC revisions Submit draft LC language by June 3 to DAS 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meeting with interested parties group to further discuss LC Revising LC proposal based on input 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue discussions with stakeholders to refine LC language 	Authority sunsets coordination with the work of the regional water planning and management workgroup.	
43	Place Based Planning Funding	\$1 million to support place-based planning efforts - spending plan - ARPA	Planning	Grant Program	In Progress	Meeting Expectations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Asked planning groups for information about their funding needs Received and reviewed fund requests Allocated funds amongst planning groups 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Awaiting additional details from planning groups about projects to enter into grant agreements 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop grant agreements 		
44	Regional Water Planning Workgroup	Engage Oregon Consensus to convene a workgroup to consider and develop a framework for state-supported regional water planning and management	Planning	Workgroup	In Progress	Meeting Expectations		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meeting monthly in accordance with work group operating protocols Subgroup meeting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue meeting through December 		Workgroup Webpage

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45	Nesika Beach Grant	\$250,000 General Fund SB 5006	Water Projects	Direct Grant	In Progress	Meeting Expectations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identified point of contact for recipient Met with recipient - requested project information to develop grant agreement Received and reviewed project details 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meeting with recipient to confirm project details and develop grant agreement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop and execute grant agreement Manage grant 	Grantees still determining scope of work to be completed. General fund dollars requires that work be complete by June 30, 2023.	
46	Fish passage for dam upgrade projects grants	Provides \$500,000 in ARPA Funds to assist local governments with meeting fish passage requirements for dam upgrade projects	Water Projects	Direct Grant	Scoping	Concerned	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Made initial contact with ODFW Proposed two options for approach to DAS Received confirmation from DAS on approach Identified potential projects 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Setting up processes to comply with federal funding requirements Meeting with ODFW in Sept 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> verify approach for selected projects and identify dams to receive funds 	WRD received notice in Feb/March that ARPA funds could be used for this purpose.	
47	Deschutes Basin Board of Control piping Project Grant	\$10 million in the Water Supply Development Account SB 5006 / SB 5534	Water Projects	Direct Grant	In Progress	Meeting Expectations	Grant Agreement became effective 2/7/2022 and DBBC is getting ready to submit requests for fund reimbursement on project work completed to date	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Manage grant 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Manage grant 	Lottery Bond Sale May 2022	
48	Ordinance regional water infrastructure project.	\$6 million in ARPA Funds for a grant to Umatilla County for the Ordinance Project.	Water Projects	Direct Grant	Scoping	Meeting Expectations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Met with recipient to get general understanding or project timeline and share what limited information is known about ARPA funding requirements 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Setting up processes to comply with federal funding requirements Setting up meeting with recipient now that have ARPA funding direction 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with recipient to develop a grant agreement after we understand what the federal government may require that would need to be incorporated into the grant agreement Execute grant agreement Manage grant 	Did not get confirmation on ARPA funds until Spring 2022	
49	HB 3293 - Water Project Community Engagement	Make support available to local organizations and local governments for purpose of developing local community engagement plans for water projects.	Water Projects	Rulemaking / Grant Program	On Hold	On Hold	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Water Core Team identified agency representatives for work Hired grant analyst on 12/13 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reassessing plan due to staff resignation recruiting grant analyst 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop plan for coordinated rulemaking with affected agencies Draft charter 	On hold due to other workloads; do not have capacity to work on all projects at once. Likely further delays due to staff resignation June 2022.	

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K
1	Project	Description	Category	Type	Stage	Status	Completed	In Progress	Next Steps	Issues / Risks	Link
50	Columbia River - Umatilla Solutions task force grant and Participate in CRUST	\$500,000 in General Fund - Grant to Umatilla county to implement agreements of the Columbia River - Umatilla Solutions task force	Water Projects	Direct Grant	In Progress	Behind	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Met with recipient •Gathered information from DAS and DOJ on how to responsibly issue funds upfront •Sent form to gather information needed for grant agreement •Developed 2023 POP for carryover funding 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Waiting for grantee to provide project details for grant agreement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Review information (once submitted) and incorporate into an inter-governmental agreement or grant agreement 	Funded by General Fund - must be complete by 6/30/2023. Multi-year project, not feasible to complete in that timeframe due to nature of project - will need funding carry over.	
51	2023 Legislation Development - Split Season Leasing	Split season leasing to Sunset January 2, 2024. Propose legislation.	Water Rights	Legislation	In Progress	Meeting Expectations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Submitted draft LC language by June 3 • Received stakeholder feedback on changes; • Met again with interested party group; discussed concept 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Waiting to receive LC back from Legislative Counsel 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Request revisions to draft if needed • Share with stakeholders work on amendments • Finalize fiscal and handouts by October • Develop testimony • Meet with legislators 		
52	Division 77 Rulemaking	Rulemaking pertaining to instream transfers and leases	Water Rights	Rulemaking	On Hold	On Hold	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Discussed whether to proceed with rulemaking with Water Resources Commission 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Currently on hold due to other rulemaking priorities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Per direction of the Commission, prep information to schedule another RAC meeting 	On hold due to other workloads; do not have capacity to work on all projects at once.	Rule Webpage
53	Division 380 HB 3103 Character of Use Changes	Implement bill to allow change of Character of Use for which water is stored under a certificated storage right.	Water Rights	Rulemaking / Implement Law	On Hold	On Hold	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consistent with the direction of the Legislature in HB 3103, as of January 1, 2022, Transfer staff are accepting and processing Transfer Applications. •Recruit policy staff 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Policy staff starts Aug/Sept - onboard and train 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Address rule updates at a later date 	Low staff capacity for rulemaking. Rulemaking on hold due to other workloads; do not have capacity to work on all projects at once. Other rulemakings likely higher priority.	
54	Water Right Transactions Backlog Reduction	Hire staff to reduce WRSD backlogs; Portion of \$3 million	Water Rights	Backlog Reduction	In Progress	Behind	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Job postings completed and recruitments announced. •Support person hired. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Holding interviews for NRS2 positions. •Certificate support position hired and trained. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Hire and train new staff. 	WRD notified in March that ARPA funds could be used for this purpose.	

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K
1	Project	Description	Category	Type	Stage	Status	Completed	In Progress	Next Steps	Issues / Risks	Link
55	Protest Backlog Reduction	\$2.2 million / limited-duration positions to facilitate the referral and completion of administrative hearings or other procedures to alleviate the backlog.	Water Rights	Backlog Reduction	In Progress	Meeting Expectations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •37 protested applications referred to Office of Administrative Hearings (OAH); 12 cases withdrawn from OAH for updates or protest resolved •Trained Hearing Officers in WRD's process in December •DOJ hired new attorney in February to support backlog reduction project. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Currently 25 protested applications at the OAH •Remaining cases at OAH are transfers (3), permit extensions (1), groundwater (3), and instream (18) applications •3 cases led by staff; 22 led by DOJ with staff support 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •DOJ onboarding new attorney •OAH to schedule conferences for remaining referred cases •OWRD continues to work on contested cases and evaluate potential settlement opportunities 	Given the length of the hearing process, significant changes to the number of remaining cases (versus settled or otherwise resolved cases) are anticipated over months rather than weeks.	
56	Division 340 Rulemaking	Reclaimed water registrations	Water Rights	Rulemaking	On Hold	On Hold	•On Hold		•Revise draft rules / Form new RAC	Staffing capacity. Other rulemakings are a higher priority. May take some time to get back to this one.	Rule Webpage
57	HB 3103 - Transfers of Stored Water Workgroup	Workgroup on changes to right to store water (Note: character of used already addressed in prior legislation)	Water Rights	Workgroup	Scoping	Concerned	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Started scoping; likely some delay in work until after 2022 session •Reached out to potential facilitators 6/17/2022 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Meet with potential facilitators and identify facilitator •Developing draft workplan •Developing solicitation for participation 	•Scope project; work with facilitator to convene workgroup in 2022	General fund dollars requires that work with facilitator be complete by June 30, 2023. Progress due to other workloads (2021 2nd Special Session and 2022 HB 4061), 2023 Budget and legislative deadlines, and lack of staff capacity. Current litigation on matter. Workgroup to go into 2023 session.	
58	HB 2145 - Report to Legislature	Report to the legislature on well log reviews and inspections by January 31, 2023 and 2025.	Well Construction	Report	In Progress	Meeting Expectations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Reporting requirements are being incorporated into new technical well log review information system. •Reports are being developed in coordination with system. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Meeting weekly with IS to develop needed reports. •Met w/TSD Admin to go over proposed data and report development. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Scope out information for report and data that must be collected •Reports are being incorporated into well report review system based on discussions with DO. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Project development has begun. Reports are being developed and will be based on internal discussions with DO. •First report due January 31, 2023 	

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K
1	Project	Description	Category	Type	Stage	Status	Completed	In Progress	Next Steps	Issues / Risks	Link
59	HB 2145 - Technical Well Log Reviews	Train staff and develop procedures for 100% well log reviews by July 1, 2022 120 day reviews are ongoing	Well Construction	Implement Law	In Progress	Meeting Expectations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •NRS2 Well Program Specialist transitioned to new role. •NW Region inspector hired. •SC Region well inspector hired. •Presented to OGWA regarding July 1, 2022 changes. •Met with OGWA 6/2022 to discuss technical well report reviews and communication regarding deficiencies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Program went live on July 1. •Working through bugs in IS application. •Finalizing reports to be sent out for 120 day notification requirement. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Send out 120 day reports to drillers as required by bill. •Continue to monitor reviews for compliance with timelines. 	Webpage Link	
60	HB 2145 - Implement All other policy changes scheduled for July 2023/2024	All other provisions of HB 2145; conduct rulemaking; Well report reviews are done (eff. 7/1/22) working in 7/1/23 changes.	Well Construction	Rulemaking / Implement Law	In Progress	Meeting Expectations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •WCC 120 reporting has begun. Prepping for report to the legislature. •Discussions ongoing with IS regarding July 1, 2023 requirements •Communication plan for 2023 changes has been implemented. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •WCC meeting weekly with IS on upcoming July changes to develop process and applications needed to successfully implement requirements. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Thinking ahead for July 2023/2024 changes. •Discussions with IS continue in regard to July 2023 and July 2023 program changes. 	Webpage Link	
61	HB 2145 - Communications	Communicate out law change to drilling community	Well Construction	Implement Law	In Progress	Meeting Expectations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Met w OGWA 6/2022 to discuss July 2022 technical well report reviews. •Included article in July 2022 Well Said about July changes. •5/22 - One page mailer about July changes sent to all licensed drillers. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Next meeting with OGWA scheduled for 10/2022. •Continuing communication with OGWA in regard to bill requirements. •Plan future Well Said articles, mailings, personal contact, and phone calls to drillers. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Staff are communicating with drillers regarding changes. •10/2022 meeting scheduled w OGWA about July 2022 changes. •Continue communicating about changes to industry. 		
62	HB 2145 - Exempt Use Fund Transition / Start Card Fee Increase	Transition exempt use map and fee to collection by driller by January 1, 2022. Roll out start card fee increase.	Well Construction	Rulemaking	On Hold	Behind	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Changes for 1/1/2022 implemented. Tasks complete except as provided in next steps. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Rule changes have been developed. •Staff addressing issues as they come up and responding to customers. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Hold RAC meeting to discuss changes to OAR 690-190, 690-225, 690-260. 	Rules will be adopted at a later date due to limited staff capacity. Working to hire new rules coordinator.	Webpage Link
63	HB 2145 - IS Project - Update Well Logs and Start Card Systems for 2023/2024	Begin work in January 2022 to update well log system and start cards for new info by 2023; electronic submittal by 2024.	Well Construction	Information Technology	In Progress	Meeting Expectations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •WC has provided information to IS on changes necessary to implement bill. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •IS and WCC are meeting weekly to discuss July 2023 system changes. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Finalize scope and charter of work •Tasks are moving forward as we wrap up the July 1, 2022 changes. •Begin communication plan in July 2022. 	Limited IS Resources	Webpage Link

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K
1	Project	Description	Category	Type	Stage	Status	Completed	In Progress	Next Steps	Issues / Risks	Link
64	Division 215 Rulemaking	Correct issue with rule	Well Construction	Rulemaking	On Hold	On Hold	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Notified drilling community of need for rulemaking •Language for rule drafted consistent with language that was previously removed by mistake in 2016 	•On Hold	•Incorporate with other rulemakings for HB 2145	On hold due to other workloads; do not have capacity to work on all projects at once.	Rule Webpage
65	HB 2145 - Set up Water Well Abandonment, Repair and Replacement Fund (HB 2145)	Provides \$5.4 million to provide assistance to abandon wells and to repair or replace water wells used for household purposes.	Well Construction	Grant Program	In Progress	Meeting Expectations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WARRF launched in June 2022 • LD NRS 4 grant position filled July 1, 2022 - full-time August 1, 2022. 2 interns hired in Klamath Falls office to assist with program Application materials translated into Spanish 	Receiving and reviewing grant apps; 59 submitted as of 8/3/22;	Need grant agreement from DOJ; discuss re-allocation of funds to cover high needs counties.	Many apps are incomplete; takes time on phone to resolve. IS information security concerns to be resolved. Concerns about availability of well drillers.	WARRF Link
66	Set up Harney Domestic Well Remediation Program	\$500,000 for the Domestic Well Remediation Fund for replacing, repairing, or deepening domestic water wells affected by declining ground water level/ HB 3092	Well Construction	Grant Program	On Hold	On Hold	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Developed draft charter •Received charter approval on 12/2 •Updated charter on 1/7/22 to reflect need to pause project implementation due to priority focus on Water Well Abandonment Repair and Replacement Fund 	•On hold due to work on statewide well fund.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Reinitiate project •Recruiting for grant analyst 	Capacity is limited and focused on standing up statewide Well Abandonment, Repair, and Replacement Fund to address emergency issues associated with drought and wildfire. Recent resignation of senior grant staff will delay project further.	

Project	Description	Category	Type	Status	Link
Intranet Migration	Migration of Intranet to new server infrastructure in the M365 cloud.	Administration	Information Technology	Complete	
M365 Email Migration	Mandated change of email address happening November 17th.	Administration	Information Technology	Complete	
Reopening to Public	Develop and Implement Plan for reopening agency for public access on May 1, 2022	Administration	Modern Workforce	Complete	
HB 2244 - Implement Stays Bill	Implement bill	Field	Implement Law	Complete	
SB 391	Authorizes county to allow owner of lot or parcel within rural residential zone to construct one accessory dwelling unit on lot or parcel, subject to certain restrictions.	Field	Implement Law	Complete	
HB 2298- Environmental Restoration Weirs	HB 2298 – Directs ODFW to adopt rules and administer a program regarding environmental restoration weirs in closed basins east of the cascades on streams of a specified size.	Field	Implement Law	Complete	
Water Use Measurement and Reporting - Report to the Legislature	Due to House Water Committee January 2022	Groundwater Surface water	Report	Complete	Link to Report
Hydroelectric Fee Increase and Division 51 Rulemaking	Implement fee increase	Hydroelectric	Implement Law	Complete	Rule Webpage
SB 1602 Report to the Legislature	Due to legislature February 2022	Other Projects	Report	Complete	Link to Report

Project	Description	Category	Type	Status	Link
Deschutes 5 year report to the legislature	Due to legislature by 1/1/2022	Water Rights	Report	Complete	Link to Report
Water right fee increase	Implement HB 2142 fee increase 7/1/2021	Water Rights	Implement Law	Complete	
HB 2145 - Technical Well Log Reviews - IS Project	Ensure a system is in place for conducting Technical Well Log Reviews July 2022.	Well Construction	Implement Law	Complete	Webpage Link
Division 54 Rulemaking	Hydro conversions to ISWR	Hydroelectric	Rulemaking	Complete	Rule Webpage

Water Right Section 2021-23 Biennium Work Priorities and Projects

The Water Rights Section within the [Oregon Water Resources Department](#) (WRD) receives, reviews, and processes [applications to use water](#). These functions are conducted according to applicable statutes and rules and are done in alignment with WRD's [Integrated Water Resources Strategy](#) and [2019-24 Strategic Plan](#). The purpose of this document is to highlight our section's priorities and projects for the 2021-23 biennium. We would like to transparently communicate what we are doing.

Ongoing Operations - Day-to-day work and standard section business that spans the biennium

- **Review and Process Water Right Applications –**
 - Applications to use [groundwater](#), required to use water from a non-exempt well
 - Applications to use [surface water](#), required to use water from a river, reservoir, or pond
 - Applications under the [standard review process for a reservoir](#), required to construct and store water in a reservoir or pond
 - Applications under the [alternate reservoir process](#), applicable to any pond or reservoir with a dam height of less than 10 feet or a capacity of less than 9.2 acre-feet
 - Applications for [aquifer storage and recovery](#) to store water underground during times of low demand and then recover it through wells during high demand periods
 - Applications for instream water rights, which may be requested by certain state agencies
- **Review and Process Other Requests Related to Water Use –**
 - Applications for [limited licenses](#), which provide short-term authorization for temporary water use
 - Requests for [assignments](#) to change the name of the holder of an application, permit, limited license, transfer, permit amendment or groundwater registration claim (i.e., non-perfected, non-certificated rights)
 - Applications for [road watering](#). A public agency may register for water use for road and highway maintenance, construction, and reconstruction.
 - Renewal of groundwater for 5-year permits. In certain areas of the Willamette Basin, permits for groundwater use may be issued for a period not to exceed 5 years and have to be reviewed to determine if they can be renewed or not.
 - Requests for reinstatement of canceled permits
- **Engage External Stakeholders –**
 - Respond to customer inquiries
 - Receive and enter data for applications submitted to the Water Right Services Division
 - Update applicants on review timelines and request additional application information as needed
 - Provide public notice and public comment opportunities as required by statute and rule
 - Collaborate with Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, Oregon Department of Environmental Quality, and Oregon Department of Agriculture to review proposed uses that may impact sensitive, threatened, or endangered fish species

2021-2023 Water Right Section Projects

The following Water Rights Section project is planned for the 2021-23 biennium to be done in coordination with others in the Department and external partners. This work is in addition to the “Ongoing Operations” described above. Please note all timelines are tentative and will likely change, given the need to adaptively manage projects and workloads.

	Project	Tentative Timeframe
Water Right Transactions Backlog Reduction	Position planning	Apr - June 2022
	Recruitment	Jul - Aug 2022
	Hire and train 2 additional staff (limited duration)	Aug 2022 – June 2023
	Hire and train 1 additional staff member (permanent)	Aug 2022 – June 2023
	Trivia: As of July 22, 2022, there are 495 pending water right applications, not including protested applications.	

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WRSD Additional Functions 2021-23

Biennium Work Priorities and Projects (DRAFT)

There are four functions within the Water Right Services Division (WRSD) that are not handled by the Water Right Section or the Transfer and Conservation Section. These additional functions include the Certificate Section, Extension of Time reviews for water right permits, the Hydroelectric Section and the processing of protests. These functions are conducted according to applicable statutes and rules and are done in alignment with OWRD's [Integrated Water Resources Strategy](#) and [2019-24 Strategic Plan](#). The purpose of this document is to highlight our priorities and projects for the 2021-23 biennium. We would like to transparently communicate what we are doing and what we will not be able to do this biennium.

Ongoing Operations - Day-to-day work and standard section business that spans the biennium

- **Certificate Section – Review of Claims of Beneficial Use and issuance of certificates (IWRs 10.G)**
 - Claims of beneficial Use are submitted by Certified Water Right Examiners and permit holders. Water right certificates are issued documenting the results of the review of the claims. WRD receives approximately 400 claims each biennium.
 - Section staff work in cooperation with the Oregon State Board of Examiners for Engineers and Land Surveying to test qualified applicants who wish to become a CWRE in Oregon. Testing is proctored and scored by Department staff in April of each year.
 - Section staff provided training to CWRE's in four locations around the state in the fall.
 - Section staff remind permit holders of their obligation to prove up on their permit by filing a Claim of Beneficial Use and may cancel permits when applicants decide not to follow-up on these obligations. We call this work our Completeness Project.
- **Extension of Time Reviews for Water Right Permits – (IWRs 1.C)**
 - Staff review approximately 160 applications in a biennium to determine if an extension can be granted.
 - Section staff collaborate with staff at the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife on reviews and conditions that can affect future development of municipal permits.
- **Hydroelectric Section – (IWRs 4.B, 11.B)**
 - Review applications for major and minor hydroelectric projects
 - Collect annual fees for hydro projects in Oregon
 - Review applications to reauthorize or modify existing hydro projects
 - Convert hydro projects that have not operated within five years to an instream water right
- **Protests – (IWRs 10.G)**
 - Receive protests to Proposed Final Orders for permit applications or Extensions of Time and Proposed Orders on Transfers
 - Work with protestant and applicant to explore settlement
 - Issue Final Order to denying the protest with or without modification of the proposed decision, schedule a contested case hearing or settle the protest with agreement from the protestant and the applicant (if they are not the same).
 - Receive and process affidavits of cancellation of water right certificates. Forward to Office of Administrative Hearings as appropriate

Work on Hold - Efforts put on hold due to lack of capacity and other priorities

- **Starting new surface or groundwater adjudications – (IWRs 2.C)** Requires significant investment in staff, data collection, and additional Department of Justice support. Not a priority for the Department at this time.

WRSD Additional Functions – Projects for 2021-2023

The following are projects planned for the 2021-23 biennium to be done in coordination with others in the Department and external partners. This work is in addition to the “Ongoing Operations” described above. Please note all timelines are tentative and will likely change, given the need to adaptively manage projects and workloads.

Sub-Group	Project	Tentative Timeframe
Certificates	Certificate Backlog Reduction – hire and train 3 additional LD staff (HB 5006)	Aug 2022 – June 2023
	Completeness Project – hire and train 1 additional LD staff (HB 5006)	Aug 2022 – June 2023
	FUN FACT: The Claim review backlog that was over 6000 in 2004 is now at 1060	July 31, 2022
Hydroelectric	Develop new rules for conversion of hydro projects to instream water rights	Completed Jul 2022
	Begin converting eligible hydroelectric projects to instream water rights	Jul 2021- Jun 2022
	FUN FACT: There are 176 licensed hydroelectric projects within Oregon	As of July 2022
Protest Backlog Reduction Project	Provide background training for new Administrative Law Judges at OAH	Completed Dec 2021
	Protest Backlog Reduction project - (HB 5006)	Jul 2021- Jun 2023
	Hired two additional protest staff	Completed Nov 2021

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Groundwater Hydrology Section 2021-23 Biennium Work Priorities and Projects - DRAFT

The Groundwater Hydrology Section (GWH) within the Technical Services Division of the [Oregon Water Resources Department](#) (WRD) 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. We conduct our work in alignment with WRD's [Integrated Water Resources Strategy](#) (IWRS). Groundwater section staff participate in all facets of the agency's core work as described in its [2019-24 Strategic Plan](#). We 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.

The Groundwater Section grew from 14 positions (10 filled) to 21 positions after the 2021 Legislative Session, and several new groundwater-related projects were authorized and funded. This document highlights our section priorities and projects for the 2021-23 biennium, which are cross-referenced to the applicable [IWRS recommended actions](#) and related [Key Performance Measures](#) (KPMs) for each topic area.

Core Functions - Day-to-day work and standard section business that spans the biennium

- **Data and Information** – *IWRS 1.A, 1.B, 1.C, 2.B, 3.B, 8.D; KPM 5, 7, 8*
 - Collect water level and/or use data from over [1200 observation wells across Oregon](#) and make that data available to the public through [GWIS](#) and other data platforms
 - Assess hydrogeologic data to continuously improve our shared understanding of the state's groundwater systems, including basin study projects (see below)
- **Water Right Transactions** – *IWRS 1.C, 11.E; KPM 10, 11*
 - Conduct [technical reviews](#) of groundwater right transaction applications, including new appropriations, transfers, extensions of time, and others; respond to applicant feedback
 - Manage groundwater-related programs, including the Aquifer Storage and Recovery ([ASR](#)), Artificial Recharge ([AR](#)), Pump Test ([PT](#)), and Low-Temp Geothermal ([LTG](#)) programs
 - Prepare and provide expert witness testimony for contested case and PJR hearings
- **Distribution and Regulation of Groundwater** – *IWRS 1.C, 11.E; KPM 3*
 - Investigate [groundwater interference complaints](#), assess groundwater permit decline conditions, and support regulation by watermasters
 - Manage the state's [groundwater administrative areas](#), including Critical Groundwater Area allocations, Groundwater Limited Area permit renewals, and SWMPA reporting
 - Respond to well inspector requests for consultation to implement [HB 2145](#)
- **Meeting Future Needs** – *IWRS 1.C, 8.C; KPM 7*
 - Support the four groups piloting Place-Based Integrated Water Resources Planning, plus similar groups forming in the Deschutes and Walla Walla basins, by responding to technical assistance requests, presenting at public meetings, and addressing other stakeholder requests
 - Provide input on grant applications involving groundwater resources
- **Administrative**
 - Administer the Groundwater Advisory Committee ([GWAC](#))

2021-2023 Groundwater Hydrology Projects

The following are GWH projects for the 2021-23 biennium, many of which require coordination with others in the Department and external partners. This work is in addition to the “Core Functions” described above.

	Project	Tentative Timeframe
Administrative KPM 10, 11	Recruit Assistant GHS Manager x1 (currently open)	Jul 2021 – Dec 2022
	Recruit NRS-4 Hydrogeologist x2 (1 filled, 1 currently open)	Jul 2021 – Dec 2022
	Recruit NRS-3 Hydrogeologist x6 (5 filled, 1 currently open)	Jul 2021 – Dec 2022
	Recruit NRS-3 GW Data Developer x1 (filled)	April 2022
	Recruit NRS-2 GW Data Specialist x2 (filled)	April 2022
	Contested case backlog reduction, expert witness prep and testimony	Spans full biennium
	Contracts for studies and observation well installation (Recurring GF)	Spans full biennium
	Groundwater right technical review business process streamlining	Spans full biennium
	Groundwater section desk reference	Pre-2021 to post-2023
Groundwater Data and Information IWR 1.A, 1.B, 1.C, 2.B, 3.B, 8.D; KPM 5, 7	Harney Basin Groundwater Study	Spans full biennium
	Walla Walla Basin Groundwater Study	Spans full biennium
	HB 2018 Statewide Groundwater Budgets Study	Spans full biennium
	HB 2018 Observation Well Network Expansion	Spans full biennium
	American Rescue Plan Act appropriations (HB 5006) – install additional observation wells	Before Dec 2023
	Support drought-related work; dry-well response and emergency use authorization	2020 to present
	Groundwater database upgrades and information products	Spans full biennium
	Oregon Open Data Program participation	Spans full biennium
	Oregon Water Data Portal participation (HB 5006)	Spans full biennium
	National Groundwater Level Monitoring Network - Portland Basin well net and observation well drilling	Spans full biennium
	Creation of databases and support software for groundwater chemistry and equipment	Spans full biennium
Rulemaking IWR 11.E	Harney Basin Program (Div 512)	Start 2023
	Critical Groundwater Area Designation and Curtailment (Div 10)	Expected start Fall 2022
	Groundwater Allocation Policy (Div 8, 9, 310, 400, 410)	In progress
	Klamath Basin CGWA (Div 25 replacement)	On Hold
Sovereign Engagement	CTUIR; water rights settlement, groundwater component	On Hold
	California DWR; Klamath Basin groundwater coordination	Anticipated
	Washington Ecology; Walla Walla Water 2050 process	Spans full biennium

Slowed or Stalled Work - Efforts put on hold or slowed due to lack of capacity and other priorities

- **Groundwater Basin Studies** – Going slow on all projects due to staffing limitations (OWRD and USGS)
- **CGWA Rules (Div 10)** - On hold, rules coordinator vacant, other competing rulemaking priorities
- **Allocation Rules** – Timeline extended, seeking public input before drafting rules, coordinator vacant
- **HB2018** – Going slow on all components due to staffing limitations (OWRD and USGS); transition from ORPIN to OregonBuys causing contracting delays with observation well contractors

Transfer and Conservation Section 2021-23 Biennium Work Priorities and Projects (DRAFT)

The Transfer and Conservation Section (TACS) within the [Oregon Water Resources Department](#) (OWRD) receives, reviews, and processes various types of applications to [transfer water rights](#) (including [district transfers](#) and [instream transfers](#)), [allocate conserved water](#), and [temporarily lease water rights to instream uses](#). In addition, TACS also receives, reviews, and processes agricultural and municipal [water management and conservation plans](#), accepts [registrations of reclaimed municipal water use](#), and maintains the mitigation tracking system and undertakes other required tasks associated with the [Deschutes Basin Groundwater Mitigation Program](#). These functions are conducted according to applicable statutes and rules and are done in alignment with OWRD's [Integrated Water Resources Strategy](#) and [2019-24 Strategic Plan](#). The purpose of this document is to highlight our section's priorities and projects for the 2021-23 biennium. We would like to transparently communicate what we are doing and what we will not be able to do this biennium.

Ongoing Operations – Day-to-day work and standard section business that spans the biennium

- **Review and Process Div. 380 Transfer Applications – (IWRs 10.G)**
 - Applications for [permanent transfers](#) to change the type of use (USE), place of use (POU), or point of diversion (POD) or appropriation (POA) associated with a certificated water right, and [other types of permanent transfers](#) to change the location of the POD/POA to reflect historical use, to change a surface water POD to a groundwater POA, to facilitate an exchange of water, to change a supplemental use to a primary use, and to substitute a supplemental groundwater right for a primary surface water right
 - Applications for [temporary transfers](#), which allow a temporary change (up to 5 years) in POU of a water right and in location of the POD/POA, if necessary to convey water to the temporary POU
- **Review and Process Div. 19 Temporary Drought Transfer Applications – (IWRs 10.G)**
 - [Drought Temporary Transfer Applications](#) provide short-term authorization to change the USE, POU, and POD/POA for a right located in a drought declared county (one year or term of Governor's declared drought, whichever is shorter)
- **Review and Process Div. 382 Groundwater Registration Modification Applications – (IWRs 10.G)**
 - Applications for [groundwater registration modifications](#) to recognize modifications to the USE, the POU, or POA claimed under an unadjudicated certificate of groundwater registration
- **Review and Process Div. 385 District Transfer Applications – (IWRs 10.G)**
 - Applications for [district transfers](#) to permanently change POU of a district right (*District Permanent Transfers*), to temporarily change the POU, USE in a right to store water, POD to facilitate a change in POU, surface water POD to a groundwater POA, or USE of a primary right to a supplemental right (*District Temporary Transfers*), to allow certain pre-approved districts to temporarily change POU of a right for one irrigation season without filing a water right transfer (*Pilot Project Temporary Transfers*), and to permanently change POU of a right prior to fifth consecutive year of non-use to prevent forfeiture (*District Permanent Transfers of Water Right for Non-Use*)
- **Review and Process Div. 77 Instream Transfer & Instream Lease Applications – (IWRs 10.G, 11.A, 11.B & 11.D)**
 - Applications for permanent or time-limited [instream transfers](#) and applications for temporary [instream leases](#), which provide water right holders a voluntarily means to protect streamflows by transferring out-of-stream surface water rights to instream purposes for fish and wildlife, improved water quality, and recreation
- **Review and Process Div. 18 Allocation of Conserved Water Applications – (IWRs 4.C, 5.B, 10.A & 10.G)**
 - [Allocation of Conserved Water Applications](#), which after implementing physical changes to conserve water, allocates a portion of the conserved water to the applicant for use and a portion to the state for an instream water right
- **Review and Process ORS 537.211(4) Permit Amendment Applications – (IWRs 10.G)**
 - Applications for [permit amendment](#) to change the POU or the POD/POA associated with a water use permit
- **Review and Process Other Requests Related to Water Use**
 - [Specific-to-General Industrial Use](#), which under [ORS 540.520\(9\)](#) allows this change without approval of a transfer
 - [Registrations of Reclaimed Municipal Water Use](#), which in accordance with [ORS 537.132](#) allows water used for municipal purposes and then treated, to be used for a direct beneficial use that could not have otherwise occurred
 - Applications for [Split a Permit](#), which under [ORS 537.225](#) allows certain types of water rights to be split apart
 - [Transfer Extensions of Time](#), which upon a finding of reasonable diligence allow more time to complete change(s)
 - Requests for voluntary cancellation of water rights
 - Requests for voluntary water right diminution (i.e., diminishing a primary right to a supplemental right)
- **Maintaining the [Deschutes Basin Groundwater Mitigation Program](#) and Credits Tracking System**
 - Review, assign, and track mitigation credits and debits, including tracking changes to mitigation credit holders and working to gain permit holder compliance for those who are delinquent in obtaining required mitigation credits
 - Track mitigation bank activity and reporting

- Review and process [mitigation project](#) applications (creation of mitigation credits in the Deschutes GW Study Area)
- Annually solicit and track use of mitigation credits for permits with an incremental development plan
- Provide annual reports (ORS 540.587) on implementation of 25-Year Temporary Transfers in the Deschutes Basin
- **Engage External Stakeholders –**
 - Respond to customer inquiries
 - Receive and enter data for applications submitted to TACS
 - Update applicants on review timelines and request additional application information as needed
 - Provide public notice and public comment opportunities as required by statute and rule
 - Collaborate with Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) to review applications with new proposed point(s) of diversion from surface water to determine whether fish screen conditions are necessary
 - Collaborate with ODFW, Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (ODEQ), and Oregon Department of Parks and Recreation (Parks), as appropriate, to seek their recommendation of whether OWRD should consent to injury for those proposed transfer applications that will injure existing, state agency-requested instream water rights
 - Collaborate with ODFW, ODEQ, Parks, and Oregon Division of State Lands as part of review of mitigation project applications, which can result in the creation of mitigation credits in the Deschutes Groundwater Study Area
 - Staff serve as technical review team member for OWEB irrigation modernization grant applications
 - Staff provide outreach/educational presentations about various TACS programs (overview, criteria, & process)

Work on Hold – Efforts put on hold due to lack of capacity and other priorities

- **Rulemaking for [OAR 690-077](#) to streamline district instream lease process, incorporate split season lease changes (SB 199, 2013 Oregon Laws), incorporate basic mapping rules, and clarify when storage rights may go instream**
 - Draft rules were prepared and at least two rules advisory committee (RAC) meeting were held, however ongoing discussions to resolve complex issues related to transfers of storage have delayed completion of this rulemaking
- **Rulemaking for [OAR 690-340](#) to add Registrations of Reclaimed Municipal Water Use to Div. 340**
 - Draft rules were prepared and two RAC meetings were held, however, higher-priority rulemakings and limited staff resources in OWRD’s Policy Section have delayed completion of this rulemaking
- **Rulemaking for [OAR 690-086](#) – update Agricultural Water Supplier Water Management and Conservation Plan sections**
 - Higher-priority rulemakings and limited staff resources in OWRD’s Policy Section and in TACS (WMCP staff) have delayed initiation of this rulemaking
- **Update the Agricultural Water Supplier WMCP guidebook**
 - On hold until a rulemaking on the Agricultural Water Supplier WMCP sections of OAR 690-086 can be done
- **Finalize draft Alternate Municipal WMCP Template to aid small municipal water suppliers in preparing own plan**
 - Other higher-priority tasks, such as reviewing and providing initial feedback to suppliers within 90 days of receiving a complete WMCP to maintain KPM #9 at 100%, have prevented finalization

2021-2023 Transfer and Conservation Section (TACS) Projects

The following Transfer and Conservation Section projects are planned for the 2021-23 biennium to be done in coordination with others in the Department and external partners. This work is in addition to the “Ongoing Operations” described above. Please note all timelines are tentative and will likely change, given the need to adaptively manage projects and workloads.

Sub-Group	Project	Tentative Timeframe
Transfers	Fill Two Vacant Permanent NRS 2 Transfer Caseworker Positions – recruit, hire, and train 2 additional permanent staff	July – Aug 2022
	Transfer Application Backlog Reduction – recruit, hire, and train 2 additional limited-duration NRS 2 staff HB 5006 (2021 Oregon Laws)	Aug 2022 – June 2023
	<i>STATISTIC: As of June 30, 2022, there were 326 transfer applications pending with OWRD.</i>	
WMCP Outreach & Education	Update Div. 86 Municipal WMCP guidebook to include new section on Alternate Municipal WMCP for Small Municipal Water Suppliers	July 2022 – June 2023
TACS Process Modernization	Update Desk Manuals as part of Succession Planning	July 2022 – June 2023
	Modernize Training Procedures & Tools	
	Implement Improved Electronic Peer Review (SharePoint?)	
Transfers of Storage Workgroup HB 3103 (2021 Oregon Laws)	Collaborate with and assist Policy Section, as needed, to engage facilitator and work with stakeholders on a path forward for transfers of storage (POD, location of storage, & associated criteria)	July 2022 – June 2023
OWRD Legislative Concepts (2023 Session)	Transfers of Storage (POD & location of storage) - placeholder	July 2022 – June 2023
	Split-Season Instream Leasing	

Policy Section 2021-23 Biennium Priorities and Projects

The Policy Section within the [Oregon Water Resources Department](#) (WRD) supports and facilitates public processes related legislative, rulemaking, public records access and budget development and is responsible for interfacing with stakeholders, the Legislative branch, the public, and the media as outlined in [Oregon's Integrated Water Resources Strategy](#) and WRD's [2019-24 Strategic Plan](#).

Ongoing Operations - Day-to-day work and standard section business that spans the biennium

- Drafting, implementing, and coordinating agency policies, rules, and legislation
- Participating in annual legislative sessions and associated policy work groups
- Supporting the Administrative Services Division on biennial budget development
- Communicating with and responding to inquiries from stakeholders, partners, members of the Legislature, the public, and the media via face-to-face meetings, conference calls, web-based platforms, letters, informational listservs, news releases, fact sheets, interviews, and public meetings.
- Responding to all public records requests received by the agency and coordinating with staff to collect documents to respond to those requests
- Overseeing the development, update, and implementation of Oregon's Integrated Water Resources Strategy (IWRS), an inter-agency blueprint for understanding and addressing the state's water needs.
- Responding to the natural hazards and emerging policy issues related to water across the state (wildfire, drought, cannabis, etc.)
- Reporting on Department Key Performance measures
- Organizing Federal Appropriations requests
- Coordinating and participating in internal task groups, work groups, and initiatives (ex. The Giving Tree, Workforce Reimagined, DEI Workgroup)
- Leading the agency's efforts to consider justice, 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
- Coordinating with other agencies on climate efforts, such as the Governor's Executive Order 20-04, as well as the Climate Adaptation Framework, and the Global Warming Commission

2021-2023 Policy Projects

The following are Policy projects planned for the 2021-23 biennium to be done in coordination with others in the Department and external partners. Please note all timelines are tentative and will likely change, given the need to adaptively manage projects and workloads.

	Project	Tentative Timeframe
Administration	✓ Public Records and Administrative Support Specialist Recruitment	July 2021 -Nov 2021
	✓ Public Affairs Specialist 2 Recruitment	Oct 2021 -Jan 2022
	✓ Policy Section Manager Recruitment	Nov 2021 -Mar 2022
	✓ Public Affairs Specialist 1 Recruitment	March 2022 -June 2022
	✓ Integrated Water Resources Strategy (IWRS) Specialist Recruitment	March 2022 -June 2022
	✓ Water Policy Analyst/Rulemaking Recruitments (2 positions)	May 2022 -Sept 2022
	New Staff Training and Onboarding	Nov 2021 -Dec 2022
	Public Records Requests: Develop Desk Manual for Handling Records Requests	April 2022 -Dec 2022
	Public Records Requests All Staff Reference and Training	April 2022 - TBD
	Develop Public Records Team Given Increased Workloads	Sept 2022 – Dec 2022
	SOS Inquiry: Water Governance and Water Security	2021 - Fall 2022
	IWRS	Convene Teams for IWRS update
IWRS Interagency Progress Report		June 2022 - Dec 2022
Communications and Outreach Plan development for IWRS Update		Oct 2022- Dec 2022
Implement Communications and Outreach Plan, including stakeholder and public engagement, regarding updates to the IWRS		Jan 2023 - Aug 2023
Develop Draft and final stakeholder reviews of IWRS		Aug 2023 - Dec 2023
Commission Approval Target		Winter/Spring 2024
Rulemaking*	✓ Division 51: HB 2143 (2021) Repeal Annual Fee	July 2021 - March 2022
	✓ Division 54: Hydro Conversion to Instream- Complete	July 2021 -June 2022
	Division 10: Appropriation and Use of Ground Water	Sept 2022 - June 2023
	Groundwater Allocation Policy Modernization	Sept 2022 - Mar 2023
	Divisions 190, 200, 205, 215, 225, 240, 260: Various Well Construction, Rule Updates	Sept 2022- June 2023
	HB 3293 (2021): Water Project Community Engagement	Sept 2022 - TBD
	Division 512: Malheur Lake Basin Program / Harney Groundwater, Serious Water Management Problem Area, and/or Critical Groundwater Area	Apr 2023 - Dec 2023
	HB 4061 (Cannabis and Enforcement) Rulemaking: Civil penalties, criminal penalties, and interpretation of statute	Prep 2022 - Jul 2023 Target RAC start July 2023
	Division 380 Rulemaking: (HB 3103) Stored Water Character of Use	2023
	Division 77 Rulemaking: Pertaining to Instream Transfers and Leases	2023

Budget	✓ December 2021 Special Session Funding and OpenET Follow up (handoff to Surface Water Section)	Dec 2021 - July 2022
	✓ 2023-2025 Biennium Agency Request Budget development	Nov 2021 - Aug 2022
	✓ Community Engagement Plan Development and Implementation, Progress Report, Presentations, and Final Racial Equity Impact Statement (REIS)	Nov 2021 - Aug 2022
	✓ Governor's Budget Process	Aug 2022 - Feb 2023
	2023 Joint Ways and Means Budget Presentation Development & Outreach	Oct 2022 - Mar 2023
	E-Board Filings (June, September, December)	June, September, December
Policy & Bill Implementation	✓ Cannabis Policy Development and Legislation (HB 4061)	Nov 2021 - February 2022
	House Bill 4061 Implementation: development and training of field, enforcement, and customer service staff	March 2022 - 2023
	2023 Legislation: LC 549, Split Season Leasing policy discussions (Sunset Provisions)	March 2022 - May 2023
	2023 Legislation: LC 544, Water Planning policy discussions	March 2022 - May 2023
	Policy Workgroup: Fee Based Programs discussions (workgroup start June/July 2023)	November 2022 - May 2023
	HB 3103 Policy Workgroup: Transfers of Stored Water policy discussions	End 2022 - June 2023
	Participant Policy Workgroup: Confined Animal Feeding Operations (Poultry) policy discussions	June 2022 - August 2022
	Participant: Salmonid Mitigation Credit Workgroup	Aug 2022 - February 2023
	Participant: Interagency Farmworker Housing Task Force	June 2022 - Oct 2022
Communications	Agency-wide Communication Survey, Analysis and Work Plan Development	March 2022- Dec 2022
	Develop Preparedness, Emergency, and Resiliency Communications Action Plan	Mar 2022- Dec 2022
	Cannabis (House Bill 4061) Communication materials and video	Apr 2022 - June 2023
	HB 2145: Communications materials for Well Abandonment, Repair and Replacement Fund	May 2022- Sept 2022
	Conversion of Agency Listservs to Gov Delivery	Mar 2022-Dec 2022
	Develop style, writing, web, plain language, and accessibility guidelines	October 2022-March 2023
	Harney Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) Communications Material Development	TBD
	Dry Well Response, Information, Website and Launch of Public Form	June 2021- August 2021?
	✓ Dry Well Informational Handout and Template Version 2	Aug 2022
	Internal newsletter revamp, template and release	June 2022 - August 2022
	✓ Drought Webpage Update (drought.oregon.gov)	June 2022 - Sept 2022
	Develop social media guidelines and launch accounts	Feb 2023 - June 2023
	Agency One-Pagers Project	June 2022 - Aug 2022
	Agency Document Translations Project	TBD
	Agency Fees and Fee History Handouts	Aug 2022 - May 2023
HB 2145 Communications: July 2023 Requirements / July 2024 Requirements	Jan 2023 - Sept 2024	

Reports	Deschutes Mitigation Credits Annual Report	Annual
	Annual reporting of Key Performance Measures	7/21-10/21 & 7/22-10/22
	Annual Rules Report	12/21-1/22 & 12/22-1/23
	Annual Government-to-Government Report	10/21-12/21 & 10/22-12/22
	Annual 540.587 Report to Legislature	12/21-1/22 & 12/22-1/23
	Oregon Sustainability Report and Presentation	July 2022-Sept 2022
	Environmental Justice Annual Report ORS 182.550	TBD
	Water Measurement Report to House Water Committee	June 2021 - Jan 2022
	✓ SB 1602 Report to Legislature	July 2021 - Feb 2022
	✓ Deschutes 540.155 Report to the Legislature	July 2021 - Dec. 2021
	✓ HB 2145 (2021) Implementation report to Legislature	July 2022 - Jan 2023
Director's Office Projects	Justice and Equity Coordinator and/or Fellows Recruitment	Sept 2022 – Oct 2022
	Racial Justice Equitable Water Access Funding	Aug 2022 - June 2023
	Business Case Assessment for Water	April 2022 - July 2023
	Tribal Water Task Force	Jan 2022 - TBD
	2021 New Project Organization, Tracking, and Management	July 2021 - Present
	Drought Vulnerability Assessment	July 2022 - July 2023

* There are additional rulemakings in backlog that will likely remain on hold for the remainder of the biennium.