

2023-2025 Budget and Legislative Update



Oregon Water Resources Commission **June 15, 2023**

Informational Update

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Oregon Legislature

- Senate - 30 members
 - President of the Senate
- House of Representatives - 60 members
 - Speaker of the House
- Caucus Leadership
 - House: Majority and Minority
 - Senate: Majority and Minority
- Committees
 - Chair



Long Session

- During odd numbered years,
- Organizational Days in second week of January
- Session start Jan 17
- May not exceed 160 days, unless extended by 2/3 vote
- Unlimited # of pre-session filed bills
- Address budget and policy issues



Legislation

- Almost 3,000 bills introduced;
- Tracked more than 500 bills
 - 200 still alive
- Many tracked due to relating to clauses
- Statewide bills related to employment, contracting, public records, rulemaking, etc.
- See attachment 1 for approximately 100 of the bills tracked



Passed Legislation To-Date

- HB 3097: In-conduit Hydro
- HB 3164: Split Season Leasing
- SB 718: Forfeiture and drought
- SB 326: Water use on illegal cannabis
- SB 954: Warrant Authority for cannabis sites



Water-Related Legislation

- HB 2929: Injunctive Relief
- HB 3099: Planning in the Chewaucan Basin
- HB 3100: IWRS
- HB 3163: Place-based Integrated Water Resources Planning
- HB 3130: Voluntary Groundwater Agreements
- HB 3231: Promoting Water Reuse
- HB 3575: Increased offerings for WPGs
- SB 85: Stock watering and CAFOs
- SB 956: Walla Walla Strategic Plan
- **HB 2010: Water Omnibus**
- **HB 5043: OWRD Budget Bill**
- Many other water bills



Budget: Proposed Investments (Staff in HB 2010 and HB 5043)

IWRS Specialist

Water Supply Specialist (Place-based Planning)

2.5 Basin Coordinators (0.5 LD)

Grant Support: 2 Natural Resource Specialist 2, 1 Program Analyst 4 (WARRF), 0.5 Admin, and 2 Accounting

Klamath Basin Region Manager

Part-time Policy Analyst for Water Reuse (LD)



Budget: Proposed Investments (Water Availability Reporting System)

Technical: 1 Hydrographer, 1 Research Hydrologist, and 1 Data Scientist

Information Services: Software Engineer

Management and Admin: 1 Assistant Surface Water Manager and part-time Administrative Specialist

Field: 2 Assistant Watermasters

Program Analyst in Director's Office

\$425k Agrimet contract costs and stream gage maintenance

\$28k from PRISM and Google data (one-time)



Budget: Proposed Investments (American Rescue Plan Act)

\$800k Place-based Planning and \$500k fish passage

\$1 million Well Abandonment, Repair, and Replacement Fund

\$6 million Ordnance Project in Umatilla County

\$1.5 million fee-based programs; 8 water rights staff for 12 months

\$2.5 million flood methodology & inundation assessments

\$1 million Water Measurement Cost Share Fund

\$2.6 million surface water and groundwater data collection equipment

Budget: Proposed Investments (Funding in HB 2010 and HB 5043)

\$2 million for Place-Based Planning

\$1.2 million CTUIR Settlement & Complex Issues
(one-time)

\$500k DOJ/OAH for protest backlog (one-time)

\$100k for voluntary groundwater agreements (plus
position)

Budget: Proposed Reductions

1 Evapotranspiration Hydrologist

\$475k GF for Evapotranspiration Projects

\$250k GF Groundwater Studies Outreach

\$448k GF Groundwater Investigation Funds
(Observation Wells)

Legislative Session Wrap Up

- New and continuing interest and investment in agency work
- Uncertainty around final budget
 - Lottery bonding, end of session bill
- Constitutional Sine Die: June 25, 2023

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