

Proposed Policy Option Packages  
2009-11

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Division	New Pkg #	Description	Fund	Est Amt	FTE
Tech Serv	<u>101</u>	<p><b>Ground Water: Building an ASR &amp; Well-Net Team</b></p> <p>Increasingly counties, cities and individual water users are seeking detailed and timely information about the status of the state's ground water resources, including water-level data, and opportunities for underground storage of water. The Department requires additional staff to meet this demand for data, to consult with local governments about the development of ground water resources, to assist with land-use concerns, complete water supply investigations, respond to supply conflicts, and conduct timely ground water application reviews. This package request includes four, Salem-based ground water staff positions: one support staff position, two hydrogeologists to coordinate monitoring data and resources characterization across Oregon, and one Aquifer Storage and Recovery (ASR) hydrogeologist. The ASR hydrogeologist, in particular, will serve as an ombudsman—coordinating permits with the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality and Oregon Department of Human Services, and guiding applicants through a process to obtain limited licenses and permits for underground water storage projects.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 1 Hydrogeologist (NRS 4)</li> <li>- 1 Hydrogeologist (NRS 2)</li> <li>- 1 ASR Hydrogeologist (NRS 4)</li> <li>- 1 Admin Spec 1</li> </ul>	GF	585,000	4.00
Dir Off	<u>102</u>	<p><b>Developing and Communicating an Integrated Water Conservation and Supply Strategy</b></p> <p>Oregon needs to undertake a public process that begins to outline the principles and approach we want to use as a state to meet future instream and out-of-stream water needs. Oregon also needs a strategy document that will help identify the future gaps between water demand and water supply; the menu of possible policy solutions; and a prioritization of state resources and incentives as part of the solution. This package requests two dedicated positions, a policy analyst/technical writer and a new water planner/outreach coordinator, to work under the supervision of and support from two public policy staff from the Director's office, the state engineer and technical services staff. These two new positions will be responsible for soliciting input and data, writing drafts, capturing public comments, and presenting results in written and verbal form.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Policy Analyst /Technical Writer - NRS3</li> <li>- Water Resource Planner/Outreach Coordinator - Public Affairs Specialist 2</li> </ul>	GF	330,000	2.00
WRAD	<u>103</u>	<p><b>Funding Adjudications</b></p> <p>This package requests full funding for the Klamath Adjudication through the 2009-2011 biennium. \$300,000 was cut from this budget during the 200709 Biennium and this package restores that fully. The Department anticipates continued, future costs related to Office of Administrative Hearings and the Oregon Department of Justice in the Klamath Adjudication. This process has been underway since 1975, and the Department anticipates delivering the Order of Determination to the Klamath County Circuit Court in 2011.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- No Staff</li> </ul>	GF	300,000	

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Division	New Pkg #	Description	Fund	Est Amt	FTE
Tech Serv	<u>104</u>	<p><b>Reclassifying the Dam Safety Coordinator to Dam Safety Engineer</b>                      The Water Resources Department relies on the expertise of its staff to inspect dams, and to consult with local communities to ensure the safe operation of such dams. The Dam Safety Coordinator leads this statewide program with watermasters conducting routine inspections. The Department finds it difficult to compete in the marketplace, recruiting a Dam Safety Coordinator, because the salary range for this position falls significantly short of what the same professionals can earn elsewhere. It recently took the Department nearly six months to underfill the position by deferral of the engineer licensing requirement. The Department requests \$15,000 to reclassify its Dam Safety Coordinator Position from an NRS 4 to a Dam Safety Engineer, NRS 5.</p> <p><i>- Reclass NRS 4 Dam Safety Coordinator to NRS 5 Dam Safety Engineer</i></p>	GF	15,000	
Field	<u>105</u>	<p><b>Reclassifying 5 Regional Hydrotechs</b>                      The Department relies on its regional hydrotechs to provide crucial information about stream flow and stream conditions in areas where the Department has no permanent stream gage equipment. The Department relies on this data to construct hydrographs, conduct water availability studies, and evaluate the status of the state's surface water resources. Currently, the Department finds it difficult to compete in the marketplace, recruiting and keeping hydrotechs, because the salary range for these positions falls short of salaries for positions requiring comparable skill levels in other public and private sector organizations. Department requests \$65,000 to reclassify its five regional hydrotech positions from NRS1 to NRS2.</p> <p><i>- Reclassify 5 Regional Hydrotechs from NRS 1 to NRS 2</i></p>	GF	65,000	
Field	<u>106</u>	<p><b>Reclassifying 5 Field Managers</b>                      Managers in the Field Services Division must possess both technical skills and "diplomatic," or people-related, skills. Persons with such skills are well placed to compete in the job market and the Department has identified five positions that must be reclassified to a more senior level in order to compete for qualified individuals in the market. The Department requests \$50,000 to reclassify five field manager positions.</p> <p><i>- Reclass NRS 4 to PEM D to supervise Salem field staff</i>  <i>- Reclass SW Regional Manager from PEM D to PEM E</i>  <i>- Reclass NRS 3's to NRS 4's Supervisory: Jackson &amp; Wash. Counties</i>  <i>- Reclass NRS 3 to NRS 4 in Klamath County</i></p>	GF	50,000	

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Field	<b><u>107</u></b>	<p><b>Rebuilding Field Capacity (i.e. watermasters/assistant)</b>            Although the Department's field program is heavily reliant on the voluntary actions of water users themselves, maintaining an adequate field presence is crucial to effectively managing the resource. The Department maintains this presence through its watermasters and assistant watermasters, who enforce water law, administrative rules, and agency policy. They need to do this in a timely manner to prevent the potential loss of crops, life, or property. This package requests seven positions to help the Department conduct its core responsibilities statewide.</p> <p>- 1 Watermaster in District 7: Wallowa County NRS3            - 4 Regional Asst. Watermasters NRS2            - 1 Asst. Watermaster in Klamath Basin NRS2            - 1 ISS4 (Grants Pass)</p>	GF	1,090,000	7.00
Tech Serv	<b><u>108</u></b>	<p><b>Adapting to Climate Change</b>            Adaptation to Climate Change is a priority for the Water Resources Dept. and the State of Oregon. Climate change will reduce winter snow pack and significantly change the pattern of flow in our rivers and streams. The Department requests \$300,000 in research funds to model how surface water hydrographs will change in Oregon's rivers and streams as a result of decreased winter snowpack, early seasonal run-off, and other effects of climate change; this scientific approach will form the basis for public policy decisions for years to come.</p> <p>In addition, the Department requests funding for one surface water hydrologist (NRS 4) to estimate the volume of water per month that runs off each basin. The Department anticipates that this investigation would take several years to conduct, using already-existing data, and would help the Department and others better understand the effects of climate change.</p> <p>- 1 Surface Water Hydrologist - NRS 4</p>	GF	470,000	1.00

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Division	New Pkg #	Description	Fund	Est Amt	FTE
Field	<b><u>109</u></b>	<p><b>Building Ground Water Capacity in the Field: 4 Hydrogeologists</b></p> <p>Currently the Department has one regional hydrogeologist position in the Grants Pass office. This position has proved a successful model in providing local expertise to address ground water concerns and data needs to local governments, water users and the citizenry of the region. The Department seeks to place additional Field Services staff in our other regional offices to provide contact with local communities who require immediate ground water-related assistance, freeing up existing ground water staff to review increasingly complex ground water applications and conduct ground water investigations. The Department requests four regional hydrogeologists (NRS 3s) to reside in Pendleton, Salem, Bend, and Baker City to provide quality control and trouble-shooting for the state's Well-Net Monitoring Program, assist local government with land-use/water supply issues, undertake special studies, respond to local ground water user inquiries, and also review ground water permit and transfer applications.</p> <p>- 4 Hydrogeologists (NRS 3s)</p>	GF	620,000	4.00
WRAD	<b><u>110</u></b>	<p><b>Eliminating Certificate &amp; Protest Backlogs (3 LD Staff)</b></p> <p>The Department has pending about 4,000 claims of beneficial use; these claims are awaiting final certification. The Department receives approximately 200 claims each year and can process about 600 per year with existing staff. As a result, the Department has backlog of approximately 10 years in its certificate program. Additionally, the Department has a backlog of about 200 protests at any one time. Protests can involve proposed final orders and final orders in the areas of water rights, permits, certificates and a range of other transactions.</p> <p>The Department requests three limited duration staff members to help eliminate the backlog in the areas of certificates and protests. Two limited duration positions could eliminate certificate backlog in five years. One additional limited duration staff could eliminate the protest backlog in four years.</p> <p>- 1 NRS 2 LD - 2 NRS 3s LD</p>	GF	485,000	3.00

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Division	New Pkg #	Description	Fund	Est Amt	FTE
Tech Serv	<u>111</u>	<p><b>Re-Establishing Ground Water Research Funds</b></p> <p>The Department is charged with characterizing the extent, location and capacities of Oregon's ground water resources. This is accomplished through completion of basin-wide ground water studies that identify aquifer boundaries, define water budgets, identify competing needs, and quantify the impacts of future allocations on senior users and the resource. By example, the basalt aquifers in northwest Oregon have undergone substantial permitted and exempt water use development in the last decade, particularly in areas of high population growth. Specific studies are necessary to determine the limits of the ground water supply, volume of available water for future development, and the feasibility of storage opportunities (aquifer storage and recovery) in these aquifers.</p> <p>This package requests \$800,000 in funds to cost share with the US Geological Survey (USGS) and to leverage other funds to conduct the detailed ground water research necessary for managing Oregon's ground water resources in a sustainable manner.</p> <p>- No Staff</p>	GF	800,000	
Tech Serv	<u>112</u>	<p><b>Measuring and Reporting Water Use</b></p> <p>The Department takes a targeted approach to improving water use measurement, focusing limited staff on diversions with the largest volume and those with the greatest potential impact on streams; these are called "significant diversions" and number approximately 2,200 statewide. This package provides incentives for measurement, including \$100,000 in cost-share funding for water-use devices. This package also requests five staff members to help with the installation of measurement equipment, voluntary measurement and mandatory reporting programs, and the processing of resulting data.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 1 NRS 4 for Significant Points of Diversion</li> <li>- 1 NRS 3 for technical assistance with design and installation of water-use measuring devices</li> <li>- 1 data tech for data entry</li> <li>- 1 information specialist (ISS5) to support measurement and reporting requirements</li> <li>- 1 reclassified lead GIS Coordinator ISS6 to ISS7, who supports increasingly complex hydrological modeling</li> <li>- \$100,000 in cost share funding for water-use measurement devices.</li> </ul>	GF	681,000	4.00

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Division	New Pkg #	Description	Fund	Est Amt	FTE
Field	<u>113</u>	<p><b>Providing Regional Water Conservation and Supply Technical Assistance and Outreach</b> Increasingly, communities will benefit from a regional approach to water conservation and supply. To help facilitate this process, and in response to requests from WRD's stakeholder community, the Department proposes five regional experts (NRS 3) to provide the technical assistance and tools to help communities implement regional water supply solutions, through conservation, planning, and partnership. These additional staff resources would enable existing field staff—who are currently spending time facilitating this type of activity already—to focus on their core regulatory duties.</p> <p>- 5 Regional Staff NRS3</p>	GF	775,000	<b>5.00</b>
Tech Serv	<u>114</u>	<p><b>Building a Water Conservation and Supply Engineering Team</b> The Department currently relies on the State Engineer to provide engineering expertise for proposed water conservation and supply projects and grant applications that arrive at the Department. Additional in-house engineering and technical capability is needed to conduct assessments for the proposed water conservation and supply projects expected to arrive during the next several years. This is as a result of more feasibility study grants, regional partnerships, and community planning efforts designed to meet growing water needs and to address climate change impacts on water supply. This request includes: a senior engineer (NRS 5) to evaluate new storage projects and assist communities with technical evaluations of proposed projects, a conservation specialist (NRS 4) to serve as a "conservation clearinghouse" to providing technical assistance and tracking best management practices, a data/web technician, and the reclassification of one information systems developer (ISS7 to ISS8) who can link Department data with related data sets from other public and private organizations.</p> <p>- Senior Engineer (NRS5) - Conservation Specialist (NRS4) - Data/Web Technician - Reclassify one information systems developer (ISS7 to ISS8)</p>	GF	354,000	<b>3.00</b>
Tech Serv	<u>115</u>	<p><b>Making Water Demand Data Useful for Planners - IS support</b> Policy decisions require large amounts of data, which the Department collects regarding the status of ground water and surface water resources, state and local requirements, volume and rate of water user, and water rights. Increasingly, the sheer volume of data and the need to provide it in a timely manner to policymakers, the public, staff, and agency partners means the Department needs to recruit additional staff at competitive salaries. This request is for one new programmer (ISS6) and one reclassified database administrator (from ISS7 to ISS8) to compile all of the department's water demand data into one usable format. The data will in turn be available to integrate with other state agencies, local government, universities, private organizations, and federal agencies to support regional water supply planning.</p> <p>- 1 new programmer ISS6 - Reclassify 1 database administrator from ISS7 to ISS8</p>	GF	215,000	1.00

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Division	New Pkg #	Description	Fund	Est Amt	FTE
Admin	<u>116</u>	<p><b>Building Human Resources Capacity</b> The Human Resources Staff in the Department's Administrative Resources Division will be responsible for the recruitment, training, and administrative processing related to the new positions and programs established by the 2009 Legislature. In addition to the initial recruiting activities, the Human Resources Staff will also be responsible for ongoing support of personnel, payroll, and contracting processes. The Department will need one additional Human Resources staff member (HR Analyst 1) to properly administer all of these activities and programs.</p> <p>- HR Analyst 1</p>	GF	135,000	1.00
Tech Serv	<u>117</u>	<p><b>Upgrading WRD's Stream Gage System</b> The Department's stream gages are important tools that watermasters use to conduct their daily work. This request includes \$275,000 to upgrade the Department's stream gage equipment, and install a system of satellite transmitters and a receiver, allowing WRD staff access to stream gage data in near real-time. For those gaging stations equipped with the ability to capture and relay data, the Department will have the ability to evaluate the overall status of water supply and availability, and to ensure instream and senior water rights are being met. This request also includes two staff positions to process, map, and post stream gage data.</p> <p>- \$25,000 GOES satellite receiving station - \$250,000 to upgrade stream gage equipment with GOES satellite transmitters - 1 mapping specialist (ISS6) - 1 natural resources specialist (NRS 3) to process stream gage data and post data on web</p>	GF	600,000	2.00
Admin	<u>118</u>	<p><b>Water Conservation, Reuse and Storage Feasibility Studies Grants (SB 1069 continued)</b> The Department administers a state-wide feasibility studies grant program, launched under SB 1069 (2008 Laws) and designed specifically to remove the obstacles to feasibility studies for water conservation, re-use, and storage projects. The initial investment of \$1,250,000 in the water project feasibility studies program does not address the current need to invest in future planning for water supplies. The Department is requesting \$5 million to continue the program, as well as continuation of two staff to administer the grants and grant application process.</p> <p>- Grants Specialist (NRS 4) - Administrative Specialist 1 - \$5 million grant funding</p>	GF	5,279,000	2.00

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Division	New Pkg #	Description	Fund	Est Amt	FTE
Admin	<u>119</u>	<p><b>Funding Water Conservation and Supply Infrastructure</b></p> <p>The Department anticipates the need for project implementation funding as a follow-up to SB 1069 or other similar feasibility study efforts. This budget package is a request for \$50 million in lottery-backed bonds to capitalize a fund for subsequent project development. One such project could be the construction of the Umatilla Basin Aquifer Recovery Project. The Department envisions using the Water Conservation, Reuse, and Storage Investment Fund, established during the 2008 Legislative Session, for this purpose. For any grants awarded, the Fund could be replenished with future legislative appropriations. For any loans, the Fund will be replenished with repayments from the borrower. See the Department's 2009 Legislative Concept, "Providing Flexibility to the Water Conservation, Reuse and Storage Fund," as an accompanying document.</p> <p>- No Staff</p>	LBB	50,000,000	
Field	<u>120</u>	<p><b>Developing Water Supply Banks</b></p> <p>The Department anticipates a growing need for water supply banks in Oregon. Water supply banks move water where needed, when it is needed, faster and more efficiently than individuals themselves can by acting as a kind of clearinghouse. This budget proposal would provide one staff member to write the rules, define transactions, and set the stage state-wide for localities to launch their own water supply banks.</p> <p>- Water Supply Specialist NRS3</p>	GF	165,000	1.00
Field	<u>121</u>	<p><b>Capitalizing Water Supply Banks</b></p> <p>Capitalization of one new water supply bank and/or support of existing bank. Staff described above will help describe the market and structure the bank appropriately.</p> <p>- No Staff</p>	GF	550,000	
Field	<u>122</u>	<p><b>Providing Regional Administrative Support</b></p> <p>The Field Services Division provides water right and water law services to the public including date collection and analysis, and publication of reports. Regional administrative support positions provide clerical support to the North Central Region office and also provide access of the regional records to the public. This budget package requests three half-time administrative support staff (OS 2) in our North Central, Northwest, and Eastern Regional Offices.</p> <p>- 3 Admin Support in NC, NW and Eastern Regional Offices .5 FTE each</p>	GF	165,000	1.50



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Division	New Pkg #	Description	Fund	Est Amt	FTE
Field	<u>123</u>	<p><b>Make Permanent an Assistant Watermaster in South Central Region</b> (Pkg 134 in 2007-09)</p> <p>Although the Department's field program is heavily reliant on the voluntary actions of water users themselves, maintaining an adequate field presence is crucial to effectively managing the resource. The Department maintains this presence, in part, through its assistant watermasters, who enforce water law, administrative rules, and agency policy. They need to do this in a timely manner to prevent the potential loss of crops, life, or property.</p> <p>Currently, the Department has a limited duration assistant watermaster (NRS 2) in the South Central Region (package #134 in 2007). This package requests making this limited duration position permanent, to help the Department conduct its core responsibilities, including: settling water right disputes; protecting existing instream and out of stream water rights; collecting hydrologic data for planning and regulation; inspecting dams and wells for structural integrity and public safety.</p> <p>- NRS 2</p>	OF	150,000	1.00
Field	<u>124</u>	<p><b>Continuing an Existing LD Hydrotech in East Region</b></p> <p>The Department relies on its regional hydrological technicians, or hydrotechs, to provide crucial information about stream flow and stream and climate conditions within their region of responsibility. The Department relies on this data to construct hydrographs, conduct water availability studies, and evaluate and improve the status of the state's surface water resources. Hydrotechs must acquire ever-increasing technical knowledge, programming skills, satellite telemetry and factory training, in order to keep up with technological changes. They also provide technical assistance to watermasters and other field staff.</p> <p>The Department requested and received a limited duration (LD) hydrotech (NRS 4) Eastern Region, using federal funding from the U.S. Department of Interior's Bureau of Reclamation in 2007 (see package 131 in 2007). This budget package is a request to continue this existing limited duration position.</p> <p>- NRS 1</p>	FF	150,000	1.00
Field	<u>125</u>	<p><b>Adding Transfer Staff Liaison for Reimbursement Authority</b></p> <p>This budget package requests one transfer staff member to serve as a liaison between the Department and outside contractors. This use of contractors for this task is part of the Department's Reimbursement Authority, which is an expedited service that customers can pay for. Using external contractors requires the Department to sign a contract for each processed document, photocopy appropriate files and materials, answer contract questions, and conduct a final review for each. One additional staff member (NRS 1) would help ensure that the Department's role in the entire process is responsive and timely.</p> <p>- NRS1</p>	OF	140,000	1.00

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WRAD	<u>126</u>	<p><b>Bringing Reimbursement Authority In-House: Applications &amp; Certificates</b></p> <p>The Department uses Reimbursement Authority, an expedited service that customers can request and pay for, to prevent additional backlog in the processing of water rights documents. The Department proposes to move its Reimbursement Authority Program in-house, instead of relying on outside contractors to conduct the work. Using external contractors requires the Department to sign a contract for each processed document, photocopy appropriate files and materials, answer contract questions, and conduct a final review for each. Reimbursement authority is a fee-driven process, and applicants would save time and money if the expedited process moved in-house.</p> <p>The Department requests three Natural Resource Specialists to move the Department's reimbursement authority program in-house and help eliminate backlogs in applications and certificates: one specialist would process certificates, one would process water rights applications, and one would conduct the actual technical reviews for ground water applications.</p> <p>- 1 NRS 2 - 2 NRS 3</p>	OF	450,000	2.00
Field	<u>127</u>	<p><b>Processing Groundwater Registrations (Continuing LD Staff)</b></p> <p>The purpose of this package is to continue the limited duration position to process requests to modify groundwater registrations. Oregon's ground water code, adopted in 1955, generally requires a permit to use ground water. Pre-1955 ground water users had an opportunity to register and receive "certificates of registration" for their use. However, these "certificates of registration" are not final determinations of water use; the final determination is made by the circuit court after adjudication by the Department. The adjudication of the approximately 4,000 ground water registration is many years off. Although the ability to modify existing water uses is an important tool for meeting Oregon's long-term water supply needs and supporting economic development and environmental restoration activities throughout the state, there was no process to modify the ground water use claimed in the registration until recently. House Bill 2123 (2005 laws) authorized modifications in the place of use, type of use, or point of appropriation of the ground water use claimed in the registration.</p> <p>- 1 NRS 2 (0.5 FTE)</p>	OF	155,000	1.00
Admin	<u>128/129</u>	<p><b>Administrative Position Fund Shift</b></p> <p>The Water Development Loan Fund is nearly inactive and does not require a full time FTE. During the past biennium, the position has shifted funding to other funding sources to reflect other duties. This package shifts the position from the Water Development Loan Fund to the Administrative Services Division.</p> <p>- No Net Funding or Position Impact</p>	OF		
				64,774,000	47.50