



Oregon Water Resources Department

2011-13 Legislative Summary

WRD's 2011-13 Legislatively Adopted Budget, Residing in HB 5049 & SB 5508

	2009-11 Legislatively Adopted Budget	2011-13 Legislatively Adopted Budget
General Fund	\$21,035,526	\$20,614,684
Other Funds, including fees	9,983,185	10,403,841
Other Funds (grants and loans)	3,591,125	18,758,324
Lottery Fund (Debt Service)	354,911	706,751
Federal Funds	1,197,639	1,195,479
Total Funds	\$36,162,386	\$51,679,079
Full-Time Equivalent (FTE)	146.29	144.59

2011-13 Significant Budget Changes

Pkg #101 – Oregon's Integrated Water Resources Strategy (2.0 FTE, \$291,674 General Fund)

Package #101 continues the development of an Integrated Water Resources Strategy to help Oregon meet its future water needs, in terms of water quantity, water quality, and ecosystems.

This package represents a change in funding source from lottery-backed bonds to General Fund. It continues two already existing limited duration positions.

These two positions are:

- One NRS3 Scientific Coordinator at the Department to oversee scientific work in the areas of water demand forecasts, instream needs, climate change adaptation, etc.
- One NRS3 Public Policy Coordinator at the Department to convene and manage the public process, develop the strategy, and oversee work products.

Pkg #107 – Field Position (federal and local funds)

Package #107 makes permanent one hydrotech (NRS1) for the Eastern Region, using funding from the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation and Grande Ronde Model Watershed. No general fund resources were requested.

Pkg #109 – Water Development Loan Fund (\$15 million in general obligation bonds)

This package builds upon HB 3369 (2009), and includes new authorization for the Department to receive \$15 million in general obligation bonds to provide loans for the construction of water development projects in the Columbia River Basin by water developers that are not municipalities or municipal water providers.

Pkg #110 – Feasibility Study Grants (0.5 FTE, \$1.2 million in lottery-backed bonds)

This package builds upon SB 1069 (2008), and includes recapitalization of a feasibility grant program, securing \$1.2 million in lottery-backed bonds. Previously, such grants provided about \$2 million to more than 20 Oregon communities to evaluate the feasibility of water conservation, re-use, and supply projects.

Pkg #805 – Groundwater Study Funds (\$50,000 General Fund)

Groundwater Study Funds identify aquifer boundaries, define water budgets, document the interaction between surface water and groundwater, identify competing needs, and quantify the impacts of future allocations on senior users and the resource. The Legislature provided funds of \$125,000, representing a net increase of \$50,000 from the 2009-11 legislatively adopted budget.

2011-13 Significant Changes, continued

Fund Shift in Staffing: Two Oregon Plan Positions (\$336,700 General Fund to Other Funds)

Shift of two Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds positions from General Fund to the Pacific Coast Salmon Recovery Fund (Other Funds).

Reductions in Staffing: Two Positions (\$388,593 General Fund)

Staff reductions include:

- Information Technology – 1.0 FTE. Senior data systems and database administrator. Leads information technology development efforts for the Department.
- Procurement – 1.0 FTE. Responsible for ensuring the Department interprets and follows administrative rules relating to contracts, public purchases, and grants.
- [Note: two additional positions removed in HB 5049, a water availability hydrologist/modeler and a groundwater hydrogeologist, were later reinstated through SB 5508.]

Statewide Reductions to Agency Budgets (\$2,161,469 General Fund)

- 5.5% Reductions in Compensation Packages (\$954,888). Final salary and benefit decisions will be determined by policy discussions and future labor negotiations.
- Reduction in Inflation and Service Charges (\$179,331)
- 6.5% Reduction in Services and Supplies (\$291, 782)
- 7.0% Hold-back for Second Year of the 2011-13 Biennium (\$735,468)

2011-13 Water Resource-Related Statutory Changes

Department Bills (Effective January 1, 2012):

- [SB 126](#) Continuing education for Certified Water Right Examiners (CWREs).
- [HB 2133](#) Electronic communications with customers, in lieu of hardcopy communications, where mutually agreed upon.
- [HB 2134](#) Expanding eligibility in a water exchange to include groundwater recharge permits in the Umatilla Basin. Includes a “no net loss of flows in the Umatilla River” clause.
- [HB 2135](#) Reduces the number of required newspaper notices to two consecutive weeks.

Non-Department Bills:

- [HB 2748](#) Wave energy bill modeled after SB 195 (2009), providing exemptions to wave energy pilot projects under the state’s hydroelectric statutes. Bill became effective May 27, 2011; program sunsets 2022.
- [HB 3623](#) Extends 2014 sunset on the Deschutes Groundwater Mitigation Program from 2014 to 2029; requires the Department to report on progress to the Legislature every five years. Effective July 1, 2011.

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