



# Oregon

John A. Kitzhaber, MD, Governor

## Water Resources Department

North Mall Office Building  
725 Summer Street NE, Suite A  
Salem, OR 97301-1271  
503-986-0900  
FAX 503-986-0904

### **Resolution Supporting Water Storage and Allocation in the Willamette River Reservoir System**

Adopted by the Oregon Water Resources Commission

Whereas, the Willamette Valley, 11,478 square miles in area, constitutes 12 percent of the landmass in the state of Oregon; and

Whereas, the counties of the Willamette Valley are home to 2.6 million people, representing 70 percent of the population of the state of Oregon; and

Whereas, the Willamette Valley is among the most fertile agricultural areas of the world, with more than 170 varieties of agricultural crops grown and sold; and

Whereas, the Willamette River is home to 60 species of fish, requiring flows to support life-cycle and biological processes throughout the year; and

Whereas, abundant and reliable water supply is critical for all of these inhabitants to grow and flourish; and

Whereas, the natural delivery of water, through precipitation and run-off, occurs primarily during the winter months in Oregon, outside times of peak municipal and agricultural demand; and

Whereas, water right certificates issued to the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation allocate all the stored water available for contract in the Willamette River Reservoir System for irrigation only;

Whereas, other beneficial uses need access to this water as well.

#### **Be It Resolved by the Oregon Water Resources Commission:**

That the storage of water in the Willamette River Reservoir System, owned and operated by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, represents a critical source of current and future water supply for instream and out-of-stream needs. The Water Resources Commission strongly supports ongoing efforts by the State of Oregon, federal partners, and local stakeholders to work together to re-allocate the water stored in these reservoirs and to develop a means by which to contract for such water.

Signed by John Jackson, Water Resources Commission Chair

March 1, 2012