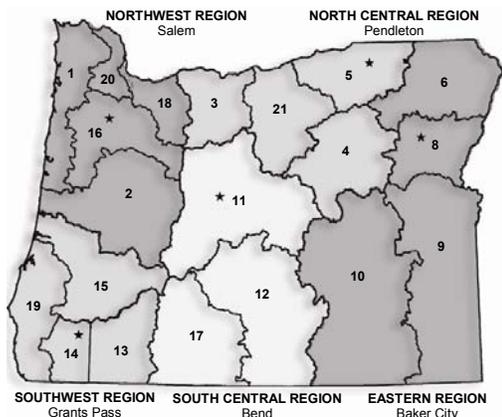




State of Oregon  
Water Resources Department  
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# Managing Oregon's Water



## Field Services

This is the largest of the agency's five divisions and includes the five regional offices and 20 watermaster districts. The division also conducts field investigations, final proof surveys, and water right transfers and cancellations.

## Technical Services

This division provides services including dam safety, enforcement, well construction inspections, ground water hydrology, information services, water availability analysis, and hydrographic data collection, analysis and publication.

## Water Rights and Adjudications

This division assesses incoming applications for new water use, issues water right permits and certificates, coordinates hydroelectric relicensing, and serves as a record keeping body for the existing water rights in Oregon.

## Administrative Services

The agency's day to day operations are supported through fiscal management, training, clerical support, copy center, and mailroom functions. This division also manages the Water Development Loan Fund program.

## Director's Office

This office serves to coordinate policy, legislation, public information, and contested case hearings.

## Water Resources Commission

The Water Resources Commission is a seven-member citizen body that sets water policy for the state and oversees the activities of the Water Resource Department in accordance with state law. Commission members are appointed by the Governor and must be confirmed by the Oregon Senate. They serve four-year terms. A Commission member is appointed from each of five regional river basin areas, and two members are selected from the state at large.

## Water Resources Department

The Water Resources Department is the state agency charged with administering the laws governing surface and ground water resources. The Department is currently organized into five divisions—Field Services, Technical Services, Water Rights and Adjudications, Administrative Services, and the Director's Office—all operating under the immediate authority of the Director.

It is the responsibility of the Water Resources Department to manage Oregon's water for the protection of existing water uses, the environment, and future needs. The Department works to ensure a sufficient supply for Oregon's growing economy and quality of life.

## Understanding the Resources

The Water Resources Department employs hydrogeologists, engineers, hydrologists, geographers and other specially trained technicians that work to improve our knowledge of the water resources of Oregon's rivers, streams, lakes, aquifers and reservoirs. These staff measure surface water sources and wells throughout Oregon using a combination of advanced technology and time-tested methods. The information is analyzed using computer models and prepared for use by the staff and public in making decisions about future uses of the resource.

## Implementing Law and Policy

The Department uses resource information gathered and analyzed by staff and comments gathered from the public to advise the Water Resources Commission in setting statewide water policy. These administrative rules guide the Department in issuing permits for the use of water. Basin plans describe the kinds of uses allowed in certain areas and a series of water management policies provide a framework for reviewing requests for water.

## Managing the Resource

Using the knowledge gained by studying the resources and the direction provided by law and policy, our staff implement the programs that allocate the state's water, protect existing water rights, and plan for future uses. The Department works with water right holders and the public to find efficient and effective ways to meet water supply needs without causing damage to the resource or injury to other water rights.