

Appendix V: Oregon Water Data Portal Project 2025-2027 Biennium Options

Aug. 18, 2025

Current status of project

The OWDP project is unfunded as of July 1, 2025. The OWDP was planned and managed specifically with the understanding that 1) the project was acknowledged as of extreme importance to the state's water programs and 2) there may be pauses due to funding or other issues.

Currently, the Pilot Portal is functioning, with a fairly small amount of data incorporated. There are a lot of additional data families identified and available for processing and potential inclusion. This data inventory is included in the final report. The Pilot Portal supports many uses of data but does not support all functions which we know Oregon needs in the long run. A permanent portal addressing those issues has begun to be planned in a very minimal way.

Pilot Portal infrastructure

The Oregon Water Data Portal is a federated application, meaning it exists in a variety of locations on machines working together behind the scenes. It is run primarily by machines at Oregon Department of Administrative Services (DAS)/Enterprise Information Services (EIS) and at Internet of Water (IoW). These machines access data from a variety of databases in Oregon and eventually at federal agencies around the US. No licensing fees are currently required, though maintenance issues will eventually need to be addressed.

We anticipate that Oregon State University's Institute of Natural Resources (INR) will be able to address most maintenance needs, though eventually IoW may need to address one or another issue. Most portions of the infrastructure are understandable and accessible to most technicians who have worked on the project, thus far.

The Pilot Portal was collaboratively developed by INR, the IoW Coalition, and the DEQ-lead project team, with input from multiple state agencies and interested parties, and was publicly launched in January 2025. After evaluating several platform options, the team selected ArcGIS Hub as the primary infrastructure. This choice leveraged existing enterprise software and staff expertise and allowed the team to seamlessly provide access to multiple authoritative datasets from the State's GeoHUB, built with the same ArcGIS Hub platform. In addition, datasets from Oregon Water Resources Department and DEQ were harvested into IoW's Data Integration server, which provides an automated data pipeline, enabling near-real-time data processing via a standards-based API.

Options

The current legislative and funding situation presents us with us several options.

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1. Let the Pilot Portal die

- a. Absent continued approval and funding from the legislature, turn off the portal software and cease all activity. Note that this would eliminate all results from the first two biennia of OWDP project work except for the final reports.

2. Maintain the existing Pilot Portal, but completely pause project function

- a. The current Pilot Portal is a federated data application, hosted both in Oregon (DAS/EIS with INR) and by the IoW. We estimate that the Pilot Portal, as currently set up, can be maintained for \$40,000-\$50,000 per biennium, contracted to INR and the IoW. These contracts would be necessary to fund and execute by a chosen de facto lead OWDP agency.

3. Maintain the existing Pilot Portal and continue select portions of the project

- a. The majority of the work associated with the original OWDP project involves one or more of the 18 executive agencies who handle water data changing their operations as necessary to center decision making on collected, well managed data, and on making those data available to the OWDP. These are long-term tasks, generally best handled by the agencies themselves. They will, in general, require agency staff time, but will not generally require specific legislative authorization or funding.
- b. Low cost OWDP project activities which could be pursued include:
 - i. Make additional data available for the OWDP (agency centered tasks).
 - ii. Standardize rules and procedures for data collection across the state.
 - iii. Fully form the cross-agency WaterDOGs (Data Organization Group) for cross-agency issues.
 - iv. Begin planning the permanent portal.
 - v. Form relationships with local Oregon governments, universities and other water data suppliers.
 - vi. Prepare project proposal for future legislative approval.

These tasks would be done by agency staff or by project staff directed by the participating agency and/or the interagency Oregon WaterDOGs group. Funding would be determined by the supervising group at the time of taking on the tasks.

Notes: 1) Oregon executive agency staff time is not included in these estimates. 2) EIS, DAS and Executive Agency Central IT section policies are not considered in these scenarios. 3) In general, we should be encouraging agencies to get in the habit of dedicating resources toward maturing their data management practices such that decision making capabilities and Water Data Portal support are maximized.

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