



**REPORT TO GOVERNOR KATE BROWN
Implementation of Executive Order No. 15-09
Directing State Agencies to Plan for
Resiliency to Drought**

**Prepared by the Oregon Water Resources Department
on Behalf of Oregon's State Agencies, Boards and Commissions
November 1, 2015**

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INTRODUCTION

This year will be one for the history books with record low snowpack and streamflows along with record high temperatures; all combining to create drought conditions across Oregon. The water year ended on September 30, 2015 and by that time 25 of Oregon's 36 counties had requested and received drought declarations from the Governor. Reservoirs dipped to unprecedented levels, irrigators shut-off early in the season and some cities implemented water restrictions.

Governor Kate Brown responded to Oregon's drought by signing Executive Order 15-09 [Directing State Agencies to Plan for Resiliency to Drought, to Meet the Challenge that a Changing Climate Brings](#) on July 27, 2015.



The goal of the actions outlined in the Executive Order is to reduce non-essential water use in all state-owned facilities by an average 15 percent or more by December 31, 2020, and to work with private building owners who lease facilities to state agencies to reduce non-essential water consumption at their buildings. This document is the first progress report to Governor Kate Brown.

Additionally, the Executive Order directs an update to the emergency response document known as the Drought Annex to the State of Oregon Emergency Operations Plan. Long-term drought resiliency planning will also be addressed in the Oregon Water Resources Department 2017 update to the Integrated Water Resources Strategy.



As stated in the Executive Order, the warm winter may repeat again in the coming months and “in the long-term, if climate predictions are correct, these conditions will become the new normal. Oregon, along with other western states, must plan for and address how a changing climate challenges our current systems and policies, and threatens our economy and quality of life.”

The report that follows is an overview of what Oregon's agencies, boards and commissions are doing to prepare for and respond to drought, now and in the future.

EXECUTIVE ORDER WATER CONSERVATION GOALS

Executive Order 15-09 requires state agencies¹ that own or manage land or facilities to take a number of actions:

- Work with the Oregon Water Resources Department and DAS to establish a baseline use of water
- Identify and carry out short-term actions that curtail non-essential² exterior water use
- Place a moratorium on installing new non-essential landscape projects that require irrigation at state-owned buildings
- Develop and place signs and other messaging within state-owned buildings to encourage state employees to reduce non-essential inside water use
- Determine if state-owned buildings and facilities have current leak detection systems
- Consider any social and disproportionate effects of actions on underserved communities before making final decisions on water-saving measures
- Report to the Governor by November 1, 2015, and annually thereafter, on progress in implementing these actions, barriers encountered and future steps to reduce non-essential use of water.

WATER CONSERVATION AND EFFICIENCY PLANS

Besides the eight agencies identified by name in the Executive Order, other agencies, boards and commissions were asked to complete an initial Water Conservation and Efficiency Plan and submit it to the Oregon Water Resources Department by October 1, 2015. The plans include a section on Water Conservation Messaging and Water Conservation Measures. Only agencies



that own facilities and/or land had to complete the Measures section, which covers such things as building maintenance, irrigation, and landscaping.

Every agency, board and commission that was asked to submit a Water Conservation and Efficiency Plan complied with the request, seventy-three in all; including a plan from the Governor's Office. Other

¹ The agencies identified in the Executive Order are the Oregon Departments of Administrative Services, Corrections, State Lands, Fish and Wildlife, Forestry, Transportation; and the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department and Oregon Military Department.

² Non-essential water does not include fish and wildlife habitat, livestock maintenance, firefighting or process water used in combined heat and power facilities. Cleaning pavement, parking lots, sidewalks, washing vehicles, pressure washing buildings, and irrigating lawns are examples of non-essential water use.

elected offices, such as the Oregon Legislature, Oregon Secretary of State and Oregon State Treasurer did not have to submit plans. Others excluded from the request include:

- SAIF, the State Accident Insurance Fund, which is an independent corporation
- Oregon Film and Video, a semi-independent state agency
- Office of Emergency Management, which is part of the Oregon Military Department
- Office of the State Fire Marshall, which is part of Oregon State Police
- Northwest Power and Conservation Council, an interstate agency created by Congress
- Oregon's public universities

ACTIONS TAKEN IN 2015

Below are highlights from the agencies identified in the Executive Order. These agencies will continue to work with DAS and OWRD to identify and take actions to reach the goal of 15 percent water reductions by 2020 and report annually on progress toward that goal.

Oregon Department of Administrative Services

Beginning August 7, 2015, DAS reduced irrigation schedules on the Capitol Mall by 25 percent for lawn areas and 15 percent in all bed areas. DAS estimates that water savings from this reduction in August and September was about 2.4 million gallons. The agency is planning a drought resistant landscape for the 550 Capitol Street building. Window washing at all DAS buildings has been delayed until April 2016 (originally scheduled summer of 2015).

Oregon Department of Transportation

Landscape watering was curtailed at three major facilities in the Salem area. All new and major renovation projects will include the use of high efficiency and low-water equipment. Multiple building leaks were detected and repaired at the Estacada Maintenance Station and irrigation leaks were repaired at the Gateway property in Springfield. ODOT is performing quick response and repair of all reported water-related issues. All remodels to restrooms and plumbing system are to include replacement of existing fixtures to efficient models.



Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife

ODFW has implemented numerous non-essential water conservation measures within its facilities. Irrigation for lawns has been reduced, except for trees and shrubs that provide habitat for wildlife. Watering schedules have been changed to provide the minimum amount of water to support trees and shrubs. Water features were turned off.

Oregon Department of Forestry

The turf and landscape irrigation schedule has been reduced by 35-40 percent at the Salem Campus Headquarters and building exterior cleaning services (windows, doors, siding) have been deferred until further notice. Vehicle washing services at the automotive shop wash bay have ended.

Oregon Department of Corrections

Vehicles are only washed when needed for safety reasons. Exterior landscaping watering has been reduced and drip irrigation systems are being installed for garden areas. Lawns have been taken out in some areas. Low-flow shower heads and water saving devices are being installed where feasible.

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

All non-essential irrigation was curtailed and water conservation messages have been posted in the parks. Parks estimates that water savings for irrigated areas should exceed 20 percent. The Department is also requiring all management units to report on all sources of water and any known issues.

Oregon Military Department

The Oregon Military Department monitors utility consumption to identify possible leaks reduced irrigation during the summer. Native plants are part of construction projects because they require minimal watering.

Department of State Lands

The Department of State Lands installed a new drinking fountain at its Salem office that saves up to 90 gallons per day. The Salem office building staff report all water leaks of any kind (by e-mail or phone call) to the facilities manager as soon as observed for prompt action. DAS landscaping services reduced the frequency of watering the grounds at the DSL Salem building.

NEXT STEPS/FUTURE ACTIONS FOR WATER REDUCTION GOAL

In order to understand the variety of ways that state agencies use water the Oregon Water Resources Department and the Department of Administrative Services will meet with the facility managers to:

- Obtain water use data
- Develop a list of state-owned facilities by agency
- Determine the facilities and properties to which the baseline applies
- Select a reporting system and document measures to reduce water use
- Establish a monitoring and evaluation system
- Develop additional water conservation information as needed

EMERGENCY OPERATIONS PLAN - DROUGHT ANNEX UPDATE

The Governor's Executive Order directed the Office of Emergency Management and the Oregon Water Resources Department to update the Drought Annex to the State's Emergency Operations Plan. The annex outlines a system to assess water availability conditions and describes state agency roles and responsibilities when responding to a drought. Systematic



coordination and effective communication between local, state, federal, and tribal governments is a fundamental component of the state's drought response plan. A revised Drought Annex is expected by December 31, 2015.

Drought is a slowly developing and often, long-lasting hazard, with cumulative impacts building over several years. Monitoring and detection of early drought signals are important to preparation.

Drought emergencies are caused by the weather, leading to a reduction in water supply available for human consumption, forestry and firefighting, fish and wildlife, recreation, industry and agriculture.

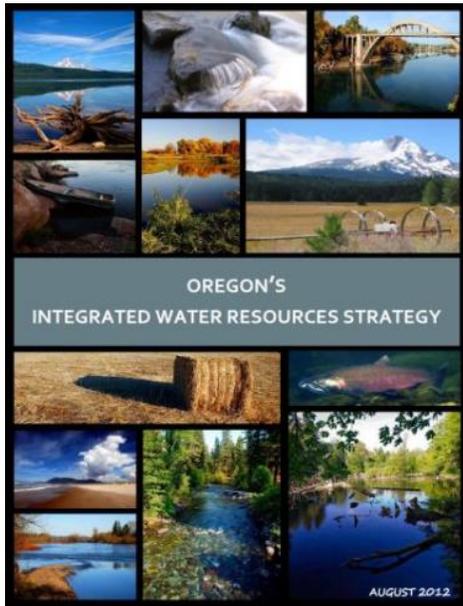
THE INTEGRATED WATER RESOURCES STRATEGY

Oregon's Integrated Water Resources Strategy (IWRS) was adopted by the Water Resources Commission in 2012. Developed in collaboration with state and federal agencies, stakeholders, and the public, the IWRS is a framework for better understanding and meeting Oregon's instream and out-of-stream water needs, including water quantity, water quality, and ecosystem needs. The 2012 Strategy contains more than 40 recommended actions that

address more than a dozen critical water issues facing the state.

Implementation has been centered on:

- improving groundwater and surface water monitoring networks
- providing the tools and resources for partnering with local communities
- delivering technical support and funding for collaborative planning



In October 2015, Oregon’s Integrated Water Resources Strategy won the national Integrated Water Resources Management Award from the American Water Resources Association.

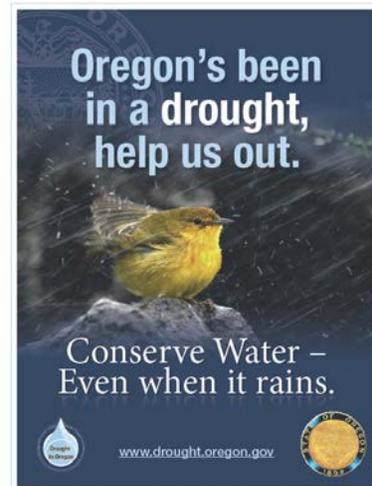
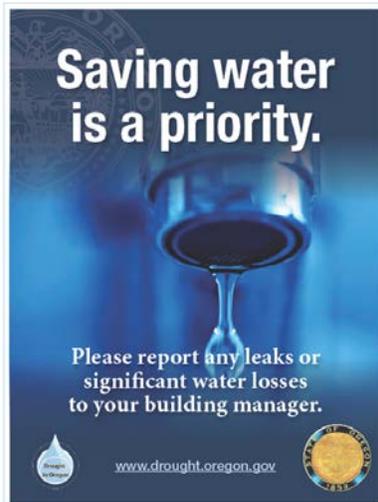
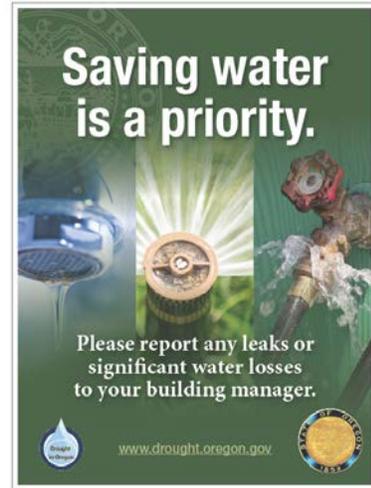
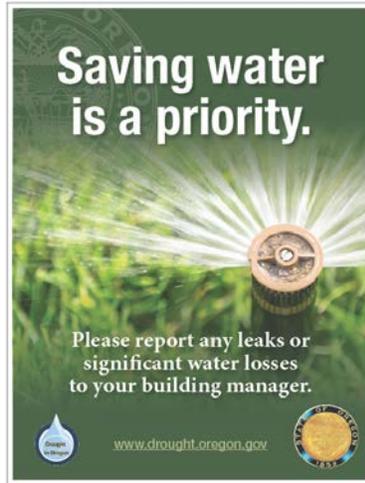
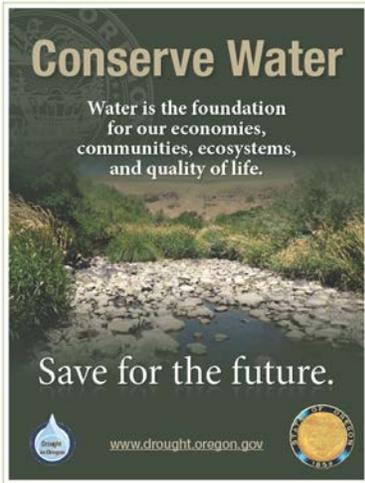
As Oregon faces more extreme or frequent weather events, water managers across the state will need to be better prepared for drought, floods, and other natural disasters. The 2014-2015 statewide snowpack set new record lows, replacing the previous low-snow years of 1977, 1981, 1992 and 2005.

Oregon’s next version of the IWRS, due in 2017, will build upon investments made since 2012, and will focus on integrating drought resiliency into long-term planning efforts. State agencies will begin the process of revising Oregon’s Integrated Water Resources Strategy in late 2015.

INFORMATION AND OUTREACH

The Executive Order directs all state agencies to work with the Oregon Water Resources Department to use their websites and other communication tools to encourage voluntary actions by Oregonians to conserve water and to communicate agencies’ actions to conserve water. Informational posters and a drought logo were created for this effort. The Governor’s Office Drought webpage and OWRD website includes links to these posters and fact sheets on ways to [save water inside the home](#), [outside the home](#), [on the farm or ranch](#) and tips for [municipal water suppliers](#).

DAS Real Estate Services also emailed private building owners asking them, as landlords to state agencies, to take actions to conserve water. Water efficiency will be one of the criteria when DAS looks at new sites to lease for state agencies.



DAS designed these posters for placement in all state-owned or occupied buildings. Signage is required under Executive Order 15-09.

The drought logo was designed by OWRD and will be used on state websites as a link to www.drought.oregon.gov



RESOURCES

- [Executive Order 15-09](#)
- Water Conservation and Efficiency Plans
- [Drought Outreach Materials](#)
- [US Drought Monitor](#)
- [NOAA Drought Prediction Map](#)

