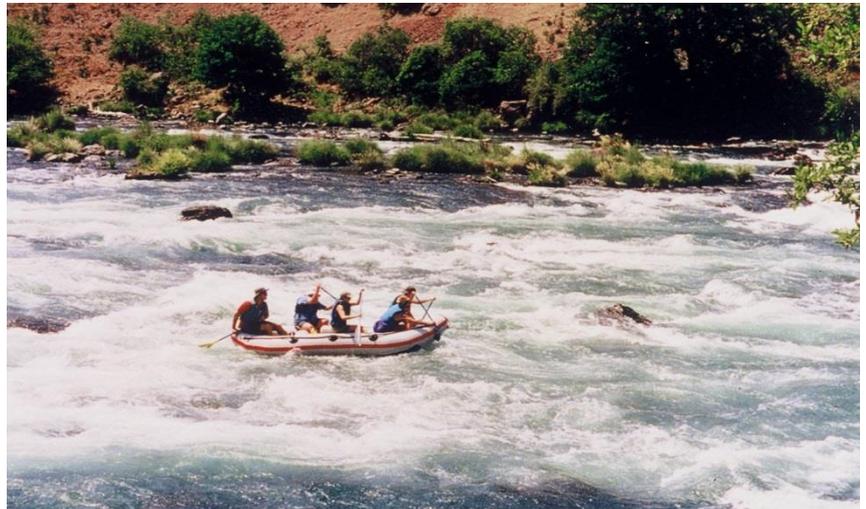
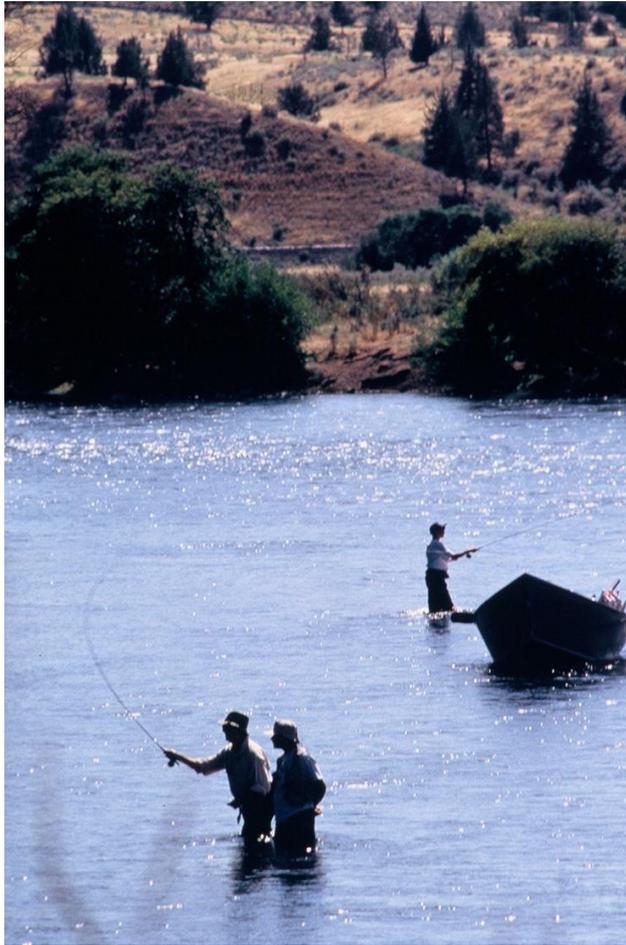




WATERWATCH

PROTECTING NATURAL FLOWS IN OREGON RIVERS



Summer 2015



Dying salmon, summer 2015.
Photo credits: WaterWatch of Oregon

Regulatory tools to help alleviate impacts of drought on rivers and fish



Summer 2015. Photo credit: WaterWatch of Oregon

Enforce: Beneficial Use Without Waste



Photo credit: WaterWatch of Oregon

Oregon statute,
rule and water right
permit conditions all
require beneficial use
of water without
waste.

High noon sidewalk watering in Bend
(August 2015)

Waste: Short Term Responses



1. Active Enforcement
2. Include in drought declaration (i.e. CA)
3. Drought funds to pay for additional field staff
4. **ORS 536.720 & 780 provide Governor and/or OWRC authority to require drought conservation or curtailment plans, or both, from state agencies and political subdivisions (cities and districts).**

Waste: Longer Term Responses



Deschutes County, August 2015

OAR 690-410, Conservation and Efficiency (1990)

- Programs to eliminate waste shall be implemented
- Water users shall construct, operate and maintain their water systems in manner that prevents waste and minimizes harm to the waters of the state and injury to other water rights
- Commission shall encourage/facilitate sub basin conservation plans
- Major water users shall prepare water management plans
- When wasteful practices are identified in sub basin conservation plans and water management plans, the Commission shall adopt rules prescribing statewide and sub basin standards and practices that ensure beneficial use without waste
- Measurement is essential to the management of water and the elimination of waste

Measurement and Reporting



What gets measured gets managed



1) Fully implement OWRC's 2000 Water Measurement Strategy

- A. Tier One: Significant diversions within high priority watersheds (2,300 diversions that represent approximately 10% of the diversions in high priority watersheds, and account for 50% of the water)
- B. Tier Two: Significant Diversions statewide
- C. Tier Three: All diversions statewide

2) Include directive in drought declaration (i.e. CA)

3) Utilize existing authorities to require measurement and reporting. i.e. ORS 540.435

4) Funding:

- Devices: Water Measurement Cost Share Fund (ORS 536.021), SB 839 grants
- Field Staff

5) Education

WMCP Curtailment Plans

- Include flows needed for fish as a water use curtailment trigger
- Consistency in conservation and curtailment triggers, especially for cities that share the same source.
- Expand Ag WMPCs



Dead pre-spawn salmon pile up by a dock during summer 2015.
Photo credit: WaterWatch of Oregon

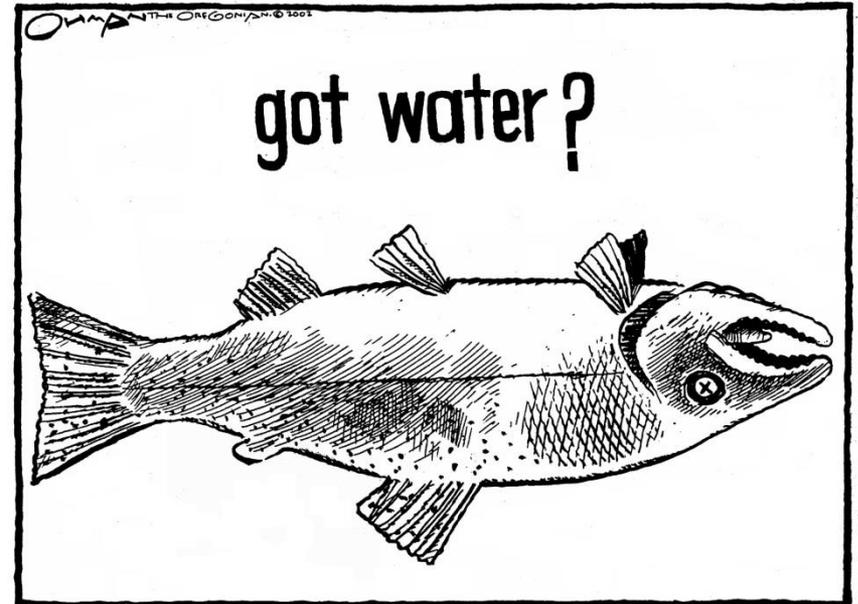


California

- 1. Statewide mandatory 25% reduction in potable urban usage:** Emergency regulation assigns each urban water supplier (serving more than 3,000 connections) a conservation standard that ranges between 4% and 36% based on its residential gallons per capita per day for a collective reduction of 25%.
- 2. Prohibited uses for all Californians:** using potable water to wash sidewalks and driveways, runoff when irrigating with potable water, using hoses with no shutoff nozzles to wash cars, using potable water in decorative water features that don't recirculate, outdoor irrigation w/i 48 hours of precipitation, using potable water to irrigate ornamental turf on public street medians, etc.
- 3. Increased Enforcement Against Water Waste:** Required measurement and reporting, conduct inspections to determine whether illegal diversions or wasteful and unreasonable use of water are occurring, and bring enforcement actions against illegal diverters and those engaging in the wasteful and unreasonable use of water.

4. Emergency Minimum Flows for Fish

- a. Voluntary cooperative agreements to maintain emergency minimum flows for listed fish.
- b. If voluntary plans do not cover a significant percentage of the water diverted in the basin, then mandatory minimum emergency flows for listed fish.
- c. Curtailment of diversions to meet minimum emergency flows. Flows vary by season and include some pulse flows.
- d. Curtailment orders suspended if the identified listed fish are not present and/or there is a change in hydrologic conditions.





WaterWatch of Oregon
www.waterwatch.org