

## Water Resources Department Contacts

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## Mission

To serve the public by practicing and promoting responsible water management.

## Goals

To restore and protect streamflows and watersheds in order to ensure the long-term sustainability of Oregon's ecosystems, economy, and quality of life.

To directly address Oregon's water supply needs.

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# Strategic Outlook

2009-2011

Oregon  
Water Resources  
Department



## Strategy 1 Meeting Oregon's Water Needs

For the Water Resources Department, “meeting Oregon’s instream and out-of-stream water needs” includes not only the development of new water supply in the traditional sense, but it also means “stretching” current supplies through the use of conservation, greater efficiencies, and shared resources. As a state, we have a wealth of policies and technologies - including regional planning, water conservation, re-use, storage, water banks and more - available to help meet our water supply needs. Determining the manner in which we prioritize and develop these long-term supply solutions will require a commitment to public involvement, innovation, planning, and investment.

### Using this strategy, the Department will seek to:

- Develop and communicate an integrated water conservation and supply strategy.
- Work with communities to identify Aquifer Storage and Recovery (ASR) opportunities.
- Provide water conservation and supply technical assistance and outreach.
- Help meet instream needs.
- Provide monies for region-wide water planning, feasibility studies, and implementation/construction.
- Assist in the development of water supply banks.

## Strategy 2 Managing Oregon's Water Resources

At the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Oregon Water Code, we are acutely aware of the need to protect senior water right holders and instream needs through the rule of law. Amidst the increasingly complex regulatory, technological, and stakeholder environment, our cadre of scientists, engineers, and water resource professionals are committed to ensuring necessary protections through our water right and adjudication process and presence in the field.

### Using this strategy, the Department will seek to:

- Uphold Oregon water law; protect existing water rights.
- Adjudicate water right claims in the Klamath Basin, confirming and securing existing water uses.
- Ensure safety in dam construction and operation.
- Process water rights, permits, transfers, groundwater registrations, and certificates in a timely manner.
- Provide closure in protests and contested cases.
- Provide staff educational and training opportunities on technical issues.

## Strategy 3 Understanding Our Water Resources

Oregon’s surface water and ground water resources, by their very nature, are ever-changing. By month, season, and year, the Water Resources Department needs better data in order to form an accurate picture of water availability statewide. There are gaps in our data sets that must be addressed, streamflow gages that must be replaced, surface water assessment and ground water investigations that must be completed, and required water-use measurement and reporting that must be enforced.

### Using this strategy, the Department will seek to:

- Forecast and measure changing conditions related to climate change.
- Collect and provide crucial data about the status of ground water levels.
- Collect and provide information about stream flow, peak flows, and basin yield throughout Oregon.
- Continue to implement our Commission’s strategy of measuring significant diversions.