

OREGON



WATER RESOURCES
DEPARTMENT

Water Science and Management in the 15 Mile Creek Watershed

June 5th, 2025

OWRD works alongside communities to address water concerns of today and the future

- Collecting, analyzing, and providing data
- Protecting public safety
- Distributing water under the system of prior appropriation
- Providing planning, technical assistance, and funding to address water supply needs
- Processing water rights transactions

STATEWIDE:

23 Districts in 6 Regions

~236 staff

Surveys ~110,000 miles of streams

Maintains ~89,000 water rights

Monitors ~230,000 wells

Inspects ~950 non-federal dams

Maintains ~250 stream gaging stations

Collects ~1,270 observation wells

Within the Eightmile and Fifteenmile Watersheds

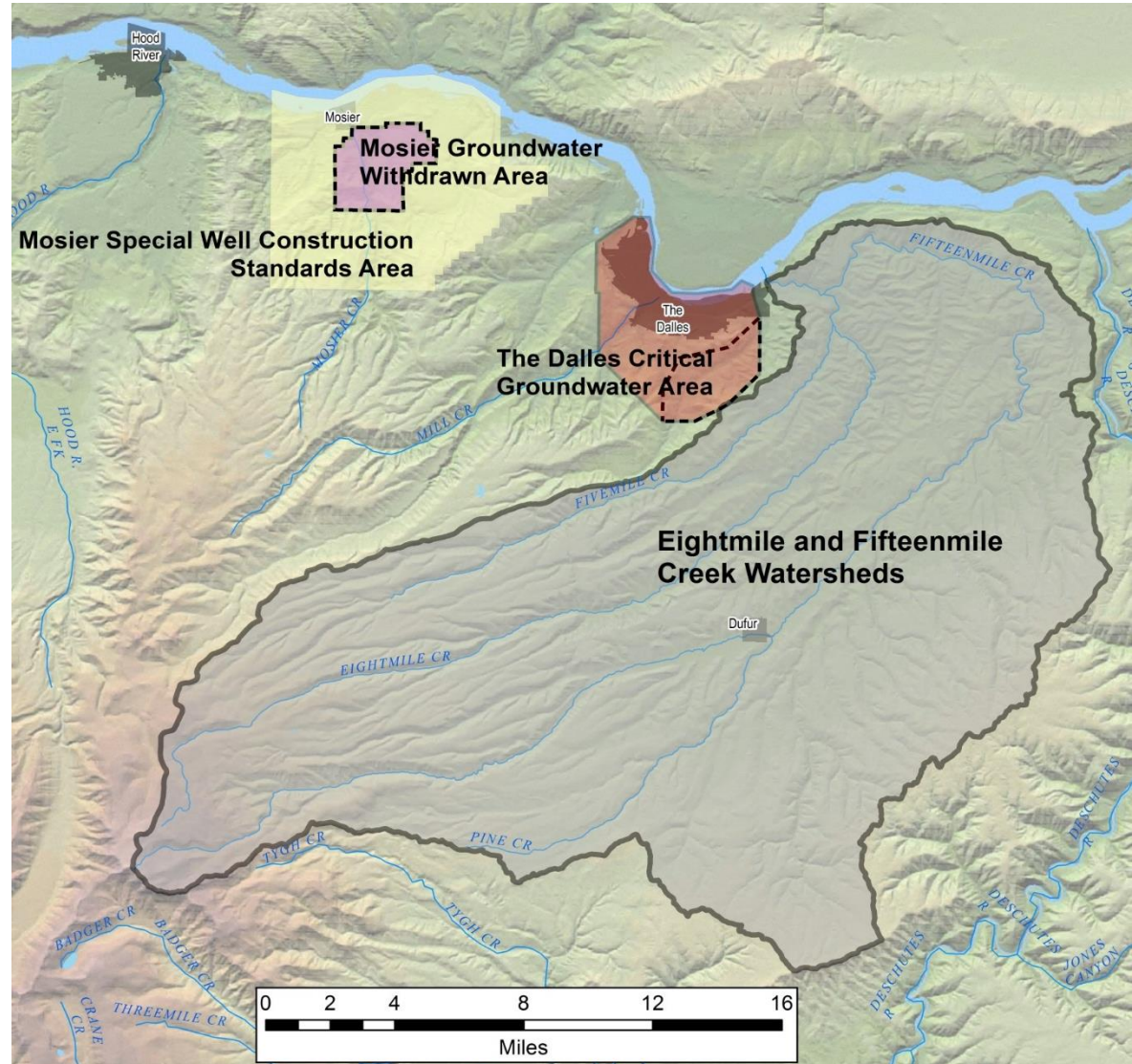
Part of water master district 3

Dedicated regional
Assistant water master

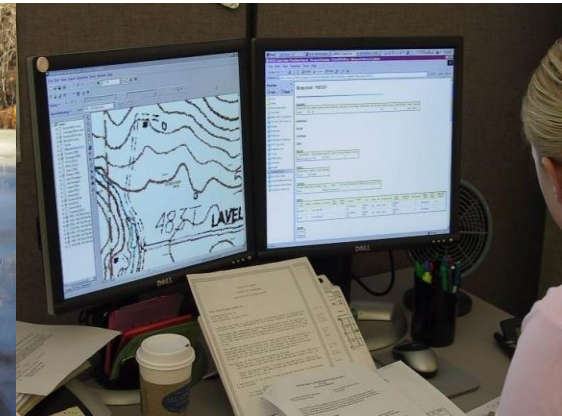
Maintains 9 stream gauges

464 Active water rights

Monitors +80 wells



Staff Contact	Position	Phone	Email
Chris Kowitz	North Central Region Manager	541-278-5456	chris.c.kowitz@water.oregon.gov
Justin Iverson	Groundwater Manager	503-302-9728	justin.t.iverson@water.oregon.gov
Tim Seymour	Assistant Groundwater Manager	503-979-3512	timothy.r.seymour@water.oregon.gov
Bob Wood	Watermaster District 3	541-506-2652	robert.l.wood@water.oregon.gov
Kate Fitzgerald	Assistant Watermaster	541-278-5456	kate.m.fitzgerald@water.oregon.gov
Jon La Marche	Hydrologist	541-480-7774	jon.l.lamarche@water.oregon.gov
Joshua Hackett	Hydrogeologist	503-437-5242	joshua.a.hackett@water.oregon.gov
Shaun Finn	Well Inspector	541-969-9896	shaun.p.finn@water.oregon.gov
Charlotte Whitefield	North Central Community Engagement Coordinator	971-375-3481	charlotte.m.regula-whitefield@water.oregon.gov



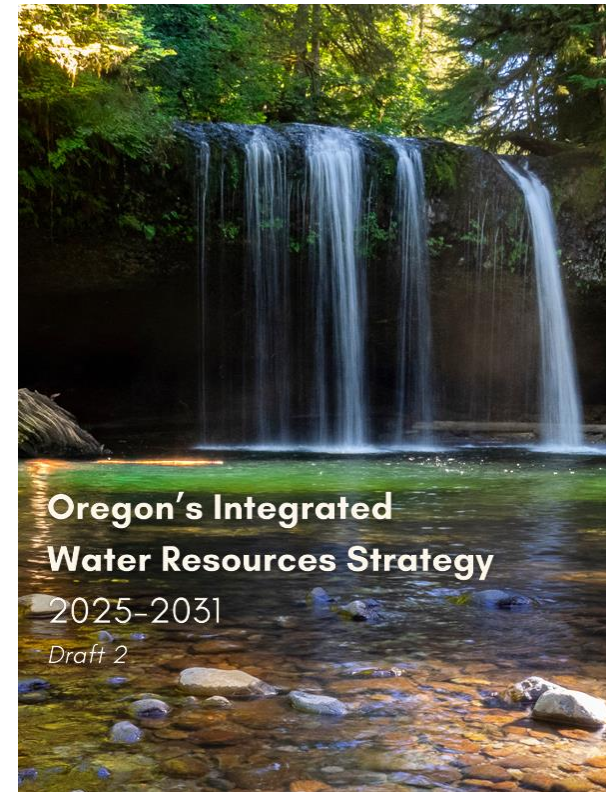
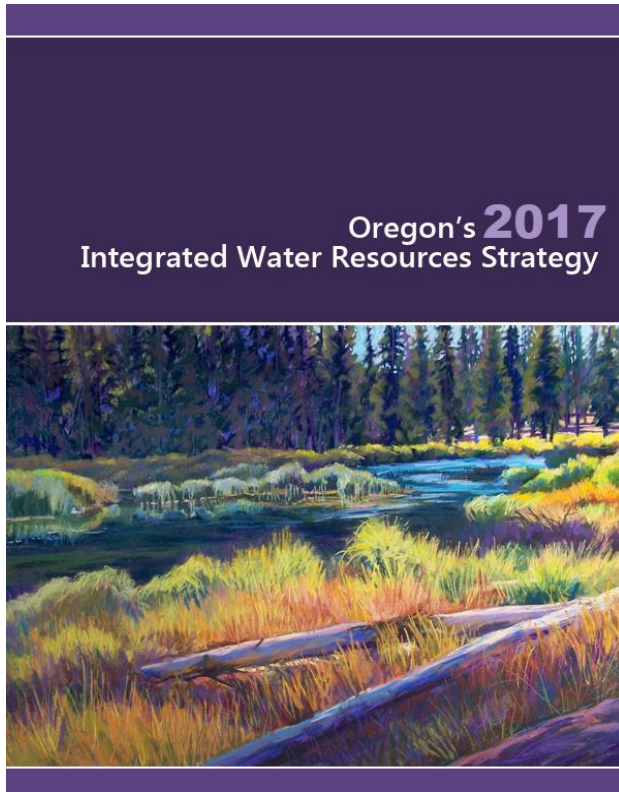
Community Observations and Concerns



Groundwater drawdown and drying wells in certain areas, particularly parts of Eightmile and Fifteenmile including the Dry Creek tributary.

City of Dufur has expressed concerns about their wells and declining water levels.

The losing reach of Fifteenmile Creek below Dufur is a known issue that OWRD and the Community has documented for almost twenty years.



The department prioritized the Fifteenmile Creek Subbasin for study in the Integrated Water Resources Strategy because of declining groundwater levels and indications that groundwater extraction is affecting surface water flow.

Management Tools

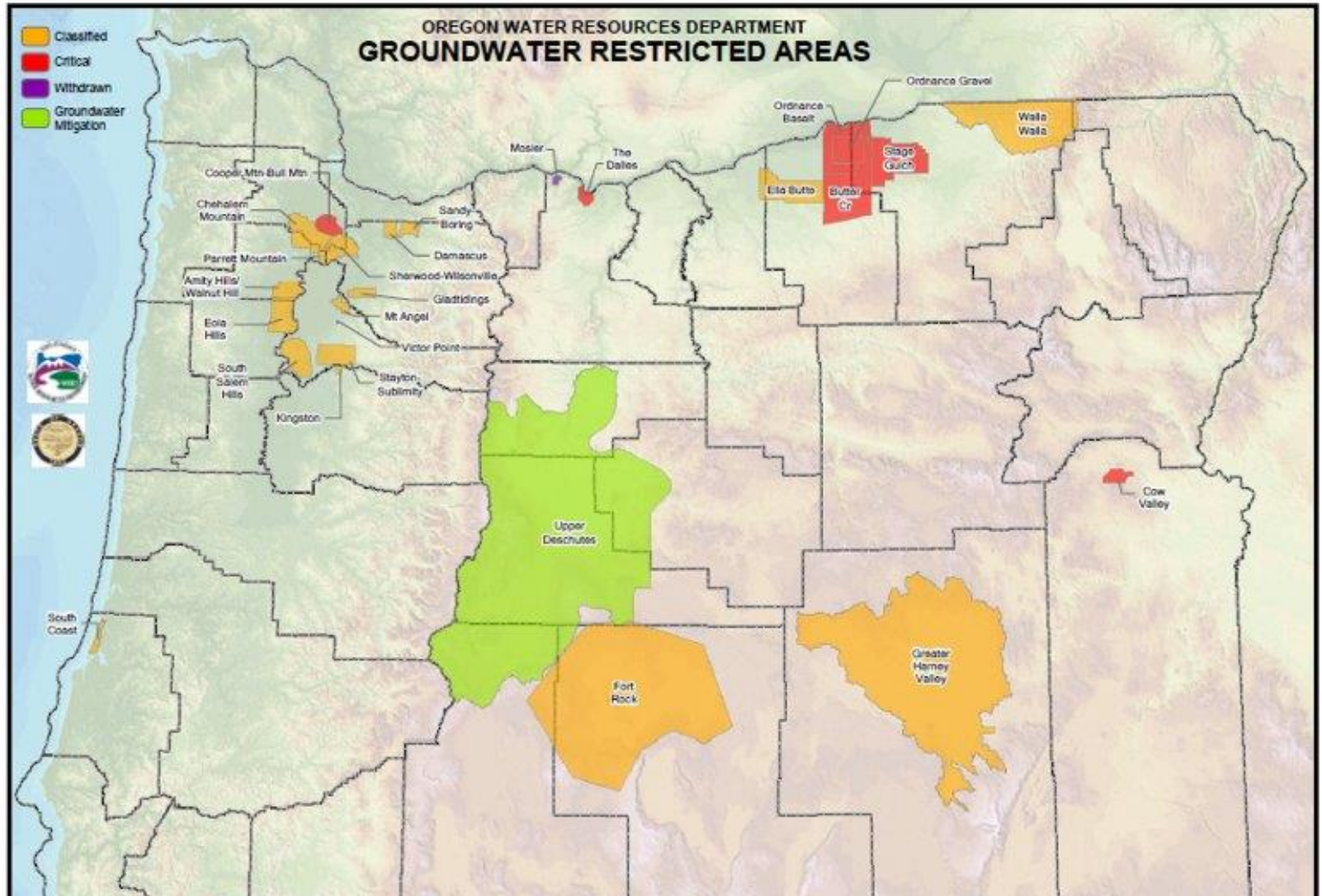
Classification of Waters

Serious Water Management Problem Area (SWMPA)

Critical Groundwater Area

Groundwater Mitigation Area

Oregon's Current Critical Groundwater Areas



Partnering with Communities

