



Oregon

John A. Kitzhaber, MD, Governor

Water Resources Department

North Mall Office Building
725 Summer Street NE, Suite A
Salem, OR 97301-1271
503-986-0900
FAX 503-986-0904

Resolution Supporting Water Storage and Allocation in the Willamette River Reservoir System

Adopted by the Oregon Water Resources Commission

Whereas, the Willamette Valley, 11,478 square miles in area, constitutes 12 percent of the landmass in the state of Oregon; and

Whereas, the counties of the Willamette Valley are home to 2.6 million people, representing 70 percent of the population of the state of Oregon; and

Whereas, the Willamette Valley is among the most fertile agricultural areas of the world, with more than 170 varieties of agricultural crops grown and sold; and

Whereas, the Willamette River is home to 60 species of fish, requiring flows to support life-cycle and biological processes throughout the year; and

Whereas, abundant and reliable water supply is critical for all of these inhabitants to grow and flourish; and

Whereas, the natural delivery of water, through precipitation and run-off, occurs primarily during the winter months in Oregon, outside times of peak municipal and agricultural demand; and

Whereas, water right certificates issued to the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation allocate all the stored water available for contract in the Willamette River Reservoir System for irrigation only;

Whereas, other beneficial uses need access to this water as well.

Be It Resolved by the Oregon Water Resources Commission:

That the storage of water in the Willamette River Reservoir System, owned and operated by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, represents a critical source of current and future water supply for instream and out-of-stream needs. The Water Resources Commission strongly supports ongoing efforts by the State of Oregon, federal partners, and local stakeholders to work together to re-allocate the water stored in these reservoirs and to develop a means by which to contract for such water.

Signed by John Jackson, Water Resources Commission Chair

March 1, 2012