

Flow Restoration in Oregon

Oregon is a leader in flow restoration, with more than 573 current instream leases, instream transfers, allocations of conserved water, and conversions of hydro-electric rights restoring just over 6510.68 cubic feet per second (cfs) of streamflow for fish and wildlife, recreation, and pollution abatement. The Department regulates streams to protect instream water rights. The majority of water put instream on a permanent basis through allocations of conserved water and instream transfers in Oregon is water with senior priority dates from certificates pre-dating Oregon's 1909 water law. Since the adoption of Oregon's 1987 Instream Water Right Act, the Water Resources Department has converted to instream rights more than 500 of the state's minimum perennial stream flows and has issued more than 900 state agency instream water rights.

Instream Transfers

The Department has completed 163 permanent and long-term instream transfers, representing approximately 411.88 cfs.

Instream Leases

During 2021, there were 301 active instream leases totaling 4956.57 cfs. One of those leases was a power right protecting 2500.00 cfs instream. The instream leasing program also benefits greatly from active partnerships with The Freshwater Trust, Deschutes River Conservancy, and Trout Unlimited.

Allocation of Conserved Water

The Department has approved 109 applications for allocation of conserved water, resulting in approximately 342.23 cfs both permanently protected and temporarily reserved instream.

