

2023-25 Legislative Summary



	2021-23 Legislatively Approved (4/22)	2023-25 Current Service Level	2023-25 Governor's Recommended	2023-25 Legislatively Adopted*
General Fund (GF)	\$69,089,805	\$63,159,245	\$64,050,544	\$81,331,377
Other Funds (OF) including Fees	\$39,453,906	\$17,085,059	\$32,925,979	\$34,866,859
Other Funds - Grants/Loans	\$86,142,341	\$73,500,000	\$95,765,276	\$139,200,425
Lottery Funds - Debt Service	\$9,499,510	\$15,073,140	\$15,073,140	\$15,856,857
Federal Funds	\$737,366	\$703,315	\$703,315	\$703,315
Total Funds	\$204,922,928	\$169,520,759	\$208,518,254	\$271,958,833
Positions / Full-Time Equivalent (FTE)	241/216.82	235/229.18	244/236.20	258/246.63

*Numbers subject to change with further reconciliation.

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**All positions become 1 FTE next biennium unless denoted by two asterisks or identified as limited duration (LD).

OWRD Budget Reductions and Additions

[House Bill 5043](#)

Effective on Governor's Signature

Package 101 – Facilitate Interagency Work & Implement IWRS – \$271k GF; 1 FTE / 1 position – Makes a limited duration Program Analyst (PA) 4 IWRS Specialist a permanent position to implement the IWRS, develop updates, and coordinate among state, federal, and local agencies, and educational and non-governmental organizations. *IWRS Actions: 6.B, 9.B, 9.C, and 13.A.*

Package 105 – American Rescue Plan Act Carry Over – \$15.9 million OF – Carries forward American Rescue Plan Act funding authorized in the 2021-2023 budget in order for those efforts to be completed, including: place-based planning (\$800k); fish passage (\$500k); Ordnance Project in Umatilla County (\$6m); Well Abandonment, Repair, and Replacement Fund (\$1m); support for fee-based programs and engagement with stakeholders and 8 LD water right staff for 12 months (\$1.5m); engineering services for flood methodology & inundation assessments (\$2.5m); Water Measurement Cost Share fund (\$1m); and surface water and groundwater data collection field equipment (\$2.6m). *IWRS Actions 1.A, 1.B, 5.5B, 7.C, 9.A, 9.B, 10.D, 10.G, 11.A, 11.D, 13.B, 13.C and 13.E*

Package 106 – Water Planning Funding and Support – \$433k GF; 1.75 FTE / 2 positions – Provides a Natural Resource Specialist (NRS) 4 Water Supply Solutions Coordinator and a 0.75 FTE NRS 2 Grant coordinator to support place-based integrated water resources planning. *IWRS Actions 5.B, 9.A, 9.B and 13.C*

Package 108 – Water Rights and Protest Backlog Reduction – \$500k GF – Provides one-time funding to pay for Department of Justice and Office of Administrative Hearings costs for continued progress on the protest backlog. *[ODFW also received \$100k GF for this work in HB 5506]. IWRS Actions: 10.G and 13.B.*

OWRD Budget Reductions and Additions

House Bill 5043 continued

Effective on Governor's Signature

Package 111 – Water Availability Data Update – \$2.2 million GF; 6.87 FTE / 9 positions – Provides a dedicated team that will coordinate research, outreach, project management, and technical activities to refine estimates of water availability, incorporate new data and analytical approaches into the modeling effort, and develop computer programs critical for updating the model using these new approaches. Positions include: 0.79 FTE Hydrographer, 0.73 FTE Research Hydrologist position, 0.88 FTE Data Scientist, 0.88 FTE Software Engineer, 0.88 FTE Assistant Surface Water Manager, two 0.79 FTE Assistant Watermasters, 0.88 FTE Program Analyst, and 0.25 FTE Administrative Specialist** to support the human resources and payroll sections. Includes \$225k for U.S. Bureau of Reclamation Agrimet contract costs, \$200k for stream gage maintenance, \$10k one-time funding for Parameter-elevation Regressions on Independent Slopes Model (PRISM) data, and \$18k one-time funding for Google data. *IWRS Actions: 1.B, 5.B, 9.C, and 13.B.*

Package 114 - Watermaster Staff and Complex Issues – \$456k GF; 1.76 FTE / 2 positions – Adds a 0.88 FTE Klamath Basin Region Manager to split management workloads in the Field Services Division. Adds a 0.88 FTE NRS 5 Basin Coordinator to work on complex water basin issues and help implement agency priorities in the South Central and Eastern Region. Package includes funding for salaries and other payroll expenses only, not services and supplies. *IWRS Actions: 9.C, 10.F and 13.C.*

Package 801 – Supporting Resolution of Complex Issues – \$1.5 million GF; 1.00 FTE / 1 Position – Includes \$1.2 million in facilitation costs for work related to the Confederated Tribes Umatilla Indian Reservation (CTUIR) water rights settlement and other complex issues. Adds NRS 5 Coordinator that will lead the CTUIR settlement work for the Department. *IWRS Actions: 9.B and 9.C.*

Reduction Package 091 – Analyst Adjustments – \$1.38 million GF; 1.00 FTE / 1 positions – Reductions include: Evapotranspiration Hydrologist, \$475k GF Evapotranspiration projects, \$250k GF for outreach in developing groundwater budgets, and \$448k GF for observation wells.

Reduction Package 802 – Position Reductions – \$74k Total Funds (\$4k GF; 70k OF); 3.01 FTE / 6 positions – Eliminates positions with partial FTEs in the Department's base budget.

Statewide Adjustments Reductions – \$2.25m Total Fund; (\$352k GF, \$1.8m LF, and \$49k OF) – Reductions for debt service, Attorney General rates, Department of Administrative Services State Government Service Charges, and Charges for Services.

House Bill 2010 – OWRD Budget Changes

Effective on Governor's Signature

Place-Based Integrated Water Resources Planning – \$2 million GF – Establishes the place-based integrated water resource planning fund. Provides \$2 million for pre-planning work, community capacity building, place-based planning, and implementation coordination of place-based plans. *IWRS Action: 5.B, 9.A, 9.B and 13.C*

Voluntary Groundwater Agreements – \$255k GF; 0.5 FTE / 1 limited duration position – Provides funding for a 0.5 FTE limited duration position or for contracting services to advise, assist and evaluate opportunities for groundwater users in the Greater Harney Valley Groundwater Area of Concern to utilize voluntary agreements. *IWRS Action: 10.D and 13.C*

OWRD Budget Reductions and Additions

[House Bill 2010 – OWRD Budget Changes continued](#)

Department Grant and Fiscal Capacity – \$930k; 4.25 FTE / 5 positions – Makes the limited duration PA 4 Well Fund Coordinator permanent, adds a 0.75 FTE NRS 2 Grant Coordinator, a 0.5 FTE Administrative Specialist 2** to support grant programs, an Accountant, and an Accounting Technician to process and finalize grant agreements and distribute and track funds. *IWRS Action: 5.B, 10.E, and 13.E*

Water Reuse and Recycled Water – \$100k GF; 0.33 FTE / 1 limited-duration position – Directs DEQ, in consultation with the Department, to develop recommendations to expand water reuse or recycled water programs or projects and report to the legislature by September 15, 2024. Appropriates \$100k GF for a part-time limited duration position to support this work. Sunsets January 2, 2025. *IWRS Action: 10.C*

[Senate Bill 5506 / House Bill 5030](#)

Effective on Governor's Signature

Water Projects Grants and Loans – \$60m Lottery Revenue Bonds in Water Supply Development Account – \$10 million for Water Projects Grants and Loans to evaluate, plan, and develop in-stream and out-of-stream water projects. \$50 million for irrigation modernization projects that leverage federal funding opportunities and involve surface water rights where the project conserves water, with priority given to projects that legally protect a portion of the conserved water instream commensurate with the amount required under the approach described in ORS 537.470. *IWRS Action: 10.A, 10.D, 10.E, and 13.E*

City of West Linn Waterline Replacement – \$5 million Lottery Revenue Bonds for grant distribution to the City of West Linn for replacement of a water line crossing the Interstate 205 bridge (Abernathy Bridge). *IWRS Action: 13.E*

[Senate Bill 5506](#)

Effective on Governor's Signature

Facilitation of Tribal Workgroup – \$100k GF one-time funding to Portland State University's Oregon Consensus to continue facilitation of the Tribal/State Water Task Force to discuss issues related to water supply, watershed management, water distribution, and tribal water rights. *IWRS Action: 9.C*

Debt Service and Cost of Issuance – Increase of \$2,632,567 Lottery Funds expenditure limitation for the Department to pay debt service on Lottery Bonds anticipated to be issued during the 2023-25 biennium. \$700,425 Other Fund for bond issuance costs.

Direct Appropriations – \$11.2 million GF (one-time) for the purpose of funding grants to entities for water supply projects. *IWRS Action: 13.E*

- \$2.5 million - City of Beaverton, South Cooper Mountain Non-Potable (Purple Pipe) Project
- \$2 million - North Unit Irrigation District, Infrastructure Modernization Project
- \$1.5 million Deschutes River Conservancy, Conserving Water Through Piping, Monitoring and Measurement
- \$1.53 million - Rogue River Irrigation District, Fourmile Creek Project
- \$1.5 million - City of Monroe Water, Pre-filter and Automated Controls Infrastructure
- \$636k - City of St. Paul, Water Reservoir Improvement Project
- \$225k - City of Bay City, Earthquake Isolation Valves for Water Reservoirs
- \$300k - City of Halsey, New Well
- \$370k - City of Sodaville, Jackson Well Conversion to Municipal Use
- \$592k - City of Falls City, Water Main Line Replacement Project

Water-Related Legislation and Other Budget Highlights

[House Bill 2010 policy and other budget highlights](#)

Effective on Governor's Signature

Place-Based Planning – Authorizes two NRS 3 positions to support place-based planning projects at the DEQ and one NRS 4 at ODA to support this work, as well as work associated with the IWRS. *IWRS Action: 5.B, 9.A, 9.B and 13.C*

Integrated Water Resources Strategy – Extends requirement to review and update the IWRS from five years to at least 8 years. Requires biennial workplan development for water-related activities. Requires IWRS to describe provisions to promote meaningful engagement with environmental justice communities and to promote partnerships with tribes, state and federal bodies to implement recommended actions. Removes requirement to adopt updates in rule. Effective after the next IWRS is adopted. Provides OWEB 0.25 FTE ** to support this work. *IWRS Actions: 6.B, 9.B, 9.C, and 13.A.*

Expansion of Well Abandonment, Repair and Replacement Fund (WARRF) Program – Allows WARRF to fund the abandonment, repair, and replacement of household water wells with contaminant levels exceeding drinking water standards. Requires consultation with DEQ and OHA to establish criteria. Allows denial of applications not likely to result in improved water quality. *IWRS Actions: 7.A, 12.A and 12.B*

Water Project Grants and Loans – Increases the minimum grant cycle of the Water Projects Grants and Loans opportunity from once a year to twice a year. *IWRS Actions: 5.B, 10.E, and 13.E*

1998 Stewardship and Supply Initiative – Directs the Water Resources Department to provide to the Legislature by October 1, 2024: 1) an updated scope as well as estimated cost and timeline for implementing the 1998 Stewardship and Supply Initiative and 2) a proposed approach to sequencing development of river basin assessment reports.

Chewaucan Basin Planning– Appropriates \$420k GF for PSU to facilitate work and directs the Department to engage in a collaborative process, led by PSU, in the Chewaucan River watershed that will work to identify broadly supported actions that meet water needs. Sunsets June 30, 2025. *IWRS Action: 13.C*

Water Use Reporting Authority – Provides that if the Department requires an entity to measure the use of water diverted, stored, or otherwise appropriated by the entity under a right, the Department may require the entity to report the measured use. *IWRS Action: 2.B*

Certified Water Right Examiners – Allows employees who have worked for longer than seven years at an irrigation, drainage, water improvement or water control district with relevant technical experience to be eligible to sit for the CWRE examination. Sunsets July 1, 2027.

Aquifer Recharge Due Diligence Grant and Forgivable Loan Program – Appropriates \$3 million GF and authorizes 1 staff person to Business Oregon to establish an aquifer recharge and aquifer storage and recovery due diligence grant and forgivable loan program for aquifer recharge testing for projects located within designated areas with groundwater challenges. Sunsets January 2, 2032. *IWRS Action: 10.B*

Agricultural Technical Assistance Program – Appropriates \$3 million GF to OSU to establish and implement an agricultural water management technical assistance program at OSU Extension Service and OSU Agricultural Experiment Station that connects and incentivizes producers to improve on-farm water management practices. Directs program to consult with the Department to contract for satellite-based evapotranspiration data. *IWRS Action: 1.B, 10.A, and 10.D*

Water-Related Legislation and Other Budget Highlights

[House Bill 2010 policy and other budget highlights continued...](#)

Community Drinking Water Enhancement and Protection Fund – Appropriates \$1 million GF and authorizes 1 staff person to OWEB to establish a grant program that provides grants to water suppliers to protect, restore or enhance sources of drinking water. HB 5030 authorized another \$4 million in Lottery Funds. *IWRS Action: 11.A, 12.A, and 13.E*

High Desert Partnership – Appropriates \$1 million GF for High Desert Partnership to design and implement projects on the Silvies River Floodplain, Donner und Blitzen River Floodplain, Malheur Lake, and in the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge that restore or maintain wet meadow, wetland, and lake conditions. *IWRS Action: 11.D and 13.E*

Small Water System Vulnerabilities – Appropriates \$1 million GF pass through to Oregon Association of Water Utilities to contract for a study of the needs and vulnerabilities of small and very small community water systems, including but not limited to, water supply reliability, source and treated water quality and standards, utility board and operations management, infrastructure, natural hazards, funding, financial stability and water rates, opportunities for emergency interties, system consolidation and regionalization. Sunsets January 2, 2025. *IWRS Action: 5.5A, 5.5B, 5.5C and 12.A*

Low Income Rate Payer Research – Directs the Legislative Policy and Research Office to report to legislature on the federal resources available for low-income individuals to repair and replace private residential drinking water and sewer infrastructure, and opportunities to leverage federal resources by January 15, 2024.

Western Juniper Removal – Appropriates \$2.15 million GF to DAS to provide grants to select soil and water conservation districts and counties for treatment of western juniper. Appropriates \$365k for distribution to Oregon State University to support this work. *IWRS Action: 8.C*

[Senate Bill 5506 other budget highlights](#)

Effective on Governor's Signature

Oregon Business Development Department Direct Appropriations – One-time Other Funds. *IWRS Action: 7.A, 7.C, 10.A and 13.E*

- \$10 million - Levee Project Grant Fund
- \$5 million - City of Aumsville Wastewater System Improvements
- \$5 million - City of Molalla New Wastewater Treatment Plant
- \$3.8 million - City of Newport Wastewater Treatment & Conveyance System Improvements
- \$2.4 million - City of Estacada New Wastewater Facility project
- \$2.5 million - Port of Morrow, South Morrow County Water and Transportation Infrastructure Development
- \$2.2 million - City of Waldport Industrial Park Sewer expansion
- \$306k - City of Lowell Water Treatment Plant Upgrades
- \$984k - Illinois Valley Fire District Extension of Water & Sewer Lines
- \$750k - City of Port Orford Water Recycling project
- \$1.3 million - Tillamook County Shilo Levee Rehabilitation

Department of Administrative Services Direct Appropriations – One-time Lottery Funds. *IWRS Action: 13.E*

- \$1.2 million for Mid-Columbia Water Commission to implement the Morrow and Umatilla Drought Relief Aquifer Recharge and Aquifer Storage and Recovery Project
- \$1.6 million for Oregon Association of Water Utilities to build the Water System Training Center.
- \$1.5 million for High Desert Partnership for infrastructures to deliver water in Harney County.
- \$2.25 million for Baker County for infrastructure improvement projects (water, sewer, road, broadband)

Water-Related Legislation and Other Budget Highlights

[Senate Bill 5506 other budget highlights continued](#)

Water Justice Funding – \$500k GF (one-time) appropriation for the University of Oregon Just Future Institute for work related to equitable water access, including conducting research to understand and address water needs of environmental justice communities and providing grants to community-based organizations, tribes, and other entities to build capacity to engage in water related work and projects that help to understand and address water needs of environmental justice communities. *IWRS Action: 13.C*

Fish Passage Fund - \$8.75m OF to ODFW for fish passage projects. *IWRS Action: 11.D*

Water and Mineral Mapping – \$418k to the Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries to support staff to expand the Oregon Mapping Program to include sampling for water and mineral resources. *IWRS Action: 1.B and 1.C*

Statewide Water Conference – \$100k GF (one-time) appropriation for the Higher Education Coordinating Commission to distribute to the Oregon State University Institute of Natural Resources to convene a statewide water conference to facilitate learning and relationship-building between sectors, identify research needs, and develop statewide research and learning agenda. *IWRS Action: 8.D*

Water Related Legislation

[Senate Bill 85](#) – Confined Animal Feeding Operations – Authorizes ODA to issue nutrient application permits and requires persons that apply for water quality permits for certain confined animal feeding operations to submit water supply plans to the Water Resources Department. Caps the stockwatering exemption for groundwater at 12,000 gallons/day for new operations and expanding operations located in Critical Groundwater Areas, which sunsets on September 15, 2027. Effective on Governor’s Signature. *IWRS Action: 10.G, and 11.E*

[Senate Bill 326](#) – Cannabis Penalties – Prohibits use of water at location not licensed or registered for growing cannabis. Allows the Water Resources Commission to impose civil penalties for violations. Increases criminal penalties to a maximum of 364 days' imprisonment, \$6,250 fine, or both. Effective on Governor’s Signature.

[Senate Bill 718](#) – Drought and Forfeiture – Provides that a year in which the Governor declares drought within a county under ORS 536.740 does not count toward period of time for forfeiture of water right for nonuse within that county provided certain conditions are met. Does not change transfer considerations. Effective January 1, 2024.

[Senate Bill 954](#) – Search Warrants – Establishes a non-exclusive list, including state regulatory agencies, who may accompany an officer on execution of a search warrant as may be necessary for the successful execution of the warrant. Effective on Governor’s Signature.

[House Bill 2929](#) – Injunctive Relief – Provides the Department the authority to seek an injunction requiring a person using water illegally to refrain from the activity and take any actions necessary to remedy the violation or any threat to water supplies, public health or public safety resulting from the violation. This authority is repealed Jan. 2, 2030, and the Department is to report to the legislature by September 15, 2028, on the frequency of the Department’s pursuit of injunctions and the outcomes of applying for injunctions. Effective January 1, 2024.

[House Bill 2971](#) – Instream Leasing and Property Tax Special Assessment – Adds instream water leasing as a reason that farmland is not disqualified from the property tax special assessment for tax years beginning on or after July 1, 2024. Effective 91st day following sine die.

Water Related Legislation

[House Bill 3097](#) – In-conduit Hydro – Provides that a municipal corporation or people's utility district may apply for certificate to use water for hydroelectric purposes within an artificial delivery system that is delivering water for municipal uses even if municipal corporation or people's utility district is not holder of underlying municipal water right, with permission of holder of underlying municipal water right. Effective January 1, 2024. *IWRS Action: 5.B*

[House Bill 3164](#) – Split Season Instream Leasing – Makes permanent the authority to allow a water right lease for split use of water between the existing water right and in-stream water right within same year. Removes prohibition on leasing water right for split use for more than 10 years. Effective January 1, 2024. *IWRS Action: 10.D and 11. B*

[House Bill 3211](#) – City of Newport Big Creek Dam Transfer of Stored Water – Authorizes the City of Newport to apply to change the authorized point of diversion and place of use of their municipal storage rights associated with the Big Creek Dam, provided the dams have a high hazard rating, and are unsafe or potentially unsafe. Requires compliance with other applicable state and federal environmental laws. Repealed on January 2, 2026. Effective on Governor signature.

[House Bill 3343](#) – Welding Requirements for Well Construction Licensing – Provides the Department authority to determine which types of wells require welding experience when establishing well constructor licensing requirements. Effective on Governor signature.

[House Bill 3409](#)

Effective on Governor signature

State Agency Energy Use – Directs DAS to develop a methodology and work plan for state agencies to implement a comprehensive assessment of energy use and greenhouse gas emissions of state-owned buildings.

Harmful Algal Blooms – Appropriates \$120k GF and two staff at DEQ and one staff at OHA to identify water sources susceptible to harmful algal blooms, monitor and test susceptible waters and develop protocol for advisory alerts. DEQ to develop a response strategy for harmful algal blooms, produce and maintain relevant data, identify sources of pollutants, develop strategies to reduce pollutants, and determine causes of harmful algal blooms. *IWRS Action: 1.B, 10.G, 12.A, and 12.B*

Community Green Infrastructure Grant Program – Appropriates \$6.5 million GF and four staff at DLCD to establish the Community Green Infrastructure Grant Program for the purpose of awarding grants to offset the cost of planning and developing community green infrastructure projects or green infrastructure economic development projects, developing and supporting native seed banks or native plant nurseries, and for implementing green infrastructure master plans. Authorizes two staff at ODF to support this work. *IWRS Action: 6.C and 13.E*

Natural and Working Lands Fund – Appropriates \$10 million GF and establishes the Natural and Working Lands Fund at OWEB to annually transfer funds, as directed by the Global Warming Commission, to the Agriculture Natural Climate Solutions Fund, Forestry Natural Climate Solutions Fund, Watershed Natural Climate Solutions Fund, and Fish and Wildlife Natural Climate Solutions Fund established at ODA, ODF, OWEB, and ODFW respectively. Authorizes two staff at Oregon Department of Energy to support this work. *IWRS Action: 5.B, 6.C, and 13.C*