

# Oregon Water Resources Department

## 2019 Legislative Session



	2015-17 Legislatively Adopted Budget	2017-19 Legislatively Adopted Budget	2017-19 Legislatively Approved Budget (Feb Session)	2019-21 Legislatively Adopted Budget
<b>General Fund</b>	\$ 29,622,753	\$31,483,809	\$ 32,150,986	\$36,722,794
<b>Other Funds (including Fees)</b>	13,469,293	12,633,833	12,922,692	13,301,841
<b>Other Funds (Grants and Loans)</b>	60,476,515	48,672,536	53,942,169	*85,849,252
<b>Lottery Funds (Debt Service)</b>	2,511,482	3,953,969	3,953,969	7,566,502
<b>Federal Funds</b>	1,302,403	1,879,534	1,905,917	875,519
<b>Total Funds</b>	\$ 107,382,446	\$98,623,681	\$ 104,875,733	\$144,315,908
<b>Positions/Full-Time Equivalent (FTE)</b>	164/162.58	170/167.59	170/167.59	177/171.79

\*Other Funds (Grants and Loans) includes Lottery Revenue Bond proceeds in the amount of \$42 million in carry forward from the 2017-19 biennium and \$43 million in new bonding (plus the cost of issuance).

### Water Resources Department Budget and Funding Authorizations

[HB 5043](#) – Budget / [HB 5029](#) – Lottery Funds / [HB 5030](#) – Lottery Bonds / [HB 5050](#) – Budget Reconciliation

**Place-Based Planning Community Support:** Provides \$550k general fund to support current place-based planning groups in Harney Malheur Lake, Lower John Day, Mid-Coast, and Upper Grande Ronde, as well to conduct an evaluation of the place-based approach to water planning. Continues existing NRS 4 planning coordinator (\$230k). *Modified Governor's Recommended Budget (GRB) Package #101. Integrated Water Resources Strategy (IWRS) Recommended Action: 9.A*

**Groundwater Basin Studies:** Authorizes \$1.6m general fund, including 6 positions, to increase the state's understanding of water supplies by allowing the Department to conduct one additional groundwater study at a time, while also preparing other basins for study. The next basin intended for study is the Walla Walla Subbasin. Each basin study takes between five to six years to complete. Directs the Department to use \$300k in existing Other Funds limitation (Exempt Use Fees) for cost share expenses related to the studies. *Modified GRB Package #102. IWRS Recommended Actions: 1.A and 1.B*

**Payroll Shared Services:** Makes permanent an existing shared services payroll accounting technician (\$147k other fund) who is a member of the team that provides payroll and benefit services to over 500 staff in six different agencies. *GRB Package #112.*

#### Grants and Loans to Implement Water Projects:

- *Water Projects Grants and Loans* – Provides Lottery Revenue Bonds funding, plus the cost of issuance, for grants and loans for water supply projects to meet instream and out-of-stream water needs (\$15M). *GRB Package #107. IWRS Recommended Actions: 10.E, 10.A, 10.B, 10.C, 3.A, 11.B, and 13.E.*

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- *Deschutes Basin* – Provides Lottery Revenue Bond funding, plus the cost of issuance, to the Department in the Water Supply Development Account for the Deschutes Basin Board of Control to pipe open-ditch irrigation canals to conserve water and enhance fish and wildlife habitat (\$10M).
- *Dam Safety* – Allocates Lottery Revenue Bond funding, plus the cost of issuance, to the Department in the Water Supply Fund for the Wallowa Lake Irrigation District to rehabilitate Wallowa Lake Dam (\$14M), and for the City of Newport for planning, environmental permitting and design costs to replace the Big Creek Dams (\$4M). *IWRS Recommended Action: 7.C*

### Budget Note:

Directs the Department to compile information regarding actions that the agency has taken that resulted in the agency being party to a contested case hearing or legal action since 2015. This includes past, current, and pending items as of July 1, 2019. For each case, the department must identify the legal question being addressed, the underlying statute(s) or administrative rule(s) that were, or are, the basis for the action that the agency undertook, and the fundamental basis or reasoning for the dispute against the agency's actions. If a statute or administrative rule is identified as being foundational to actions taken by the agency that are subject to multiple contested cases or other legal proceedings, the agency must provide a statement regarding the purpose for the statute or rule, what the agency is attempting to achieve by taking action on the statute or rule, and how future litigation regarding those actions might be avoided in the future. The agency is directed to report this information to the Joint Committee on Ways and Means in a format approved by the Legislative Fiscal Office by January 1, 2020.

### Water-Related Legislation

**[HB 2084](#) – Place-Based Integrated Water Resources Planning:** Extends the sunset provision for the Water Resources Department's Place-Based Planning Program, which issues grants and provides technical assistance to communities integrating water resource management efforts, from July 1, 2019 to July 1, 2023. *IWRS Recommended Action #9a*

**[HB 2085](#) – Dam Safety Program:** Provides clarity over the scope of the Dam Safety Program and defines relevant terms. Outlines processes by which dam owners and the Water Resources Department communicate and review plans about dam construction, operation, maintenance, and removal. Stresses a collaborative approach to corrective action when inspection of a high or significant hazard rated dam is deemed unsafe or potentially unsafe. Includes enforcement provisions. Highlights emergency action planning and steps to be taken should a dam fail. Grants Water Resources Department with rulemaking authority to implement statutory provisions. *IWRS Recommended Action #7c*

**[HB 3030](#) – Temporary Authorization to Work: (Modified by [SB 688](#))** – Directs professional licensing board to issue temporary authorization to persons holding eligible credentials from another state and that is married to a member of the U.S. Armed Forces serving in Oregon, and annually report to interim [veterans]committee of Legislative Assembly.

**[SB 854](#) – Acceptable Identification:** Directs professional licensing boards, in certain circumstances, to accept individual taxpayer identification number or other federally-issued identification number in lieu of Social Security number on applications for issuance or renewal of authorization to practice occupation or profession.

**[SB 855](#) – Professional Practice Authorization Study:** Directs professional licensing boards to study manner in which persons who are immigrants or refugees become authorized to practice occupation or profession and reduce barriers to authorization. Requires boards to report to Legislative Assembly not later than November 30, 2019.

*For additional information please contact:*

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