

This fiscal impact assumes a grant program total of \$1,750,000 General Fund, including costs to operate the program. WRD estimates it will need two positions to operate this grant program, a Natural Resource Specialist 4 and an Administrative Specialist 1. The positions would provide program administration, review grant applications, process payments, and provide technical assistance to grant applicants. Costs for the positions would be for 12 months in the 2007-09 biennium (\$120,573 Personal Services and \$7,712 Services & Supplies) to allow time for position recruitment and for the Water Resources Commission to adopt administrative rules for the new grant program.

Umatilla Basin Regional Aquifer Recovery Feasibility Study

The bill requires the Water Resources Department (WRD) to conduct an aquifer recovery assessment in the Umatilla Basin. The Department estimates that such a study would cost \$750,000. WRD indicates they would contract with a private firm to complete the assessment work. WRD has stated that the contract for the study would be divided into three different deliverables:

1. Development of project scope and prioritization development (\$100,000);
2. Selection of the most feasible site for immediate implementation of a recharge project, further site specific assessment, and development of a conceptual project model for the site (\$300,000); and
3. Implement a pilot aquifer recharging project on the selected site, monitoring of pilot recharge efforts, and verification of the conceptual model created for the site (\$350,000).

WRD has stated that the contract for the study would be compartmentalized for different deliverables so that if at any one point a specific project site did not look feasible, contract work on that site could be terminated and the remaining feasibility study monies could be used to look at other sites.

The budget adjustments necessary to implement this bill, including General Fund appropriations and position authority, will be included in SB 5556.