

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Fiscal statement issued

Action:	Do Pass as Amended and Be Printed Engrossed and Be Referred to the Committee on Ways and Means
Vote:	6 - 2 - 0
Yeas:	Bentz, Boone, Krieger, Thompson, Witt, Gilliam
Nays:	Bailey, Cannon
Exc.:	0
Prepared By:	Liz Puskar, Administrator
Meeting Dates:	3/31, 4/21

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Set forth list of reservoirs included within Willamette River Basin Project. For any application for water right transfer affecting more than 500 acre feet of water stored within Willamette River Basin Project, requires Water Resources Department (WRD) to assemble work group of affected stakeholders and federal agency representatives, who will issue report as to whether application should be granted. Prohibits WRD from processing water right transfer application for water stored within Willamette River Basin Project without convening work group. Prohibits WRD from convening work group unless WRD has received adequate funding for work group from public or private source. Declares emergency; effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Past efforts to include stakeholders in the process of determining how water is allocated in the Willamette River Basin Project
- 2008 Biological Opinion by National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Fisheries Service addressing effects on salmon and steelhead populations
- Municipalities' need to provide citizens with water

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: Replaces measure.

BACKGROUND: The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers operates 13 reservoirs in the Willamette Basin Project that store a combined total of 1.64 million acre-feet of water. According to the Oregon Water Utilities Council, 1.56 million acre-feet has yet to be contracted. Congress authorized the reservoirs for flood control, navigation, irrigation, hydroelectric power, drinking water, and stream pollution reduction. The Bureau of Reclamation, the contracting entity for the project, has applied for and received water right certificates to all of the stored water for the purpose of irrigation; any other use of the water would require approval by WRD of a water rights transfer application.