

Deschutes Basin Water Mitigation and Conservation Program

WHAT IS IT: Successful program that has led to a collaborative re-allocation of water resources in the basin and incentivized a four-fold increase of flows in the middle Deschutes River. The program is designed to enhance the rivers (Deschutes/Crook/Wychus/etc.) in the region but allow a framework for management of water resources which meets the needs of economic development and growth in the Basin. It requires regular review of program groundwater guidelines/restrictions.

WHO ARE OUR PARTNERS: The Water Resources Department, cities, counties, irrigation districts, agricultural users, Tribes, local environmental/river restoration groups.

BI-PARTISAN: The program has generated broad bi-partisan support in the House and in the Senate and was signed into law by Governor Kulongoski and Governor Kitzhaber. The program has helped the region unite to pursue more aggressive efforts at conservation and coordination needed to comply with broader federal rules (i.e. ESA)

1995 Session

Water Mitigation Standards/In-Stream Flows (SB1033)

2001 Session:

Water Mitigation Bank/Conservation Efforts (HB2184)

2003 Session

Surface to Groundwater Transfers (HB3215 via SB820)

Temporary Leasing of Agriculture Rights to Municipalities (HB3217 via SB820)

2005 Session

Mandatory Conservation and Management Plans for Cities (HB3038)

2011 Session

Reauthorization of Deschutes Mitigation/Conservation Program through 2019 (HB2067)

The basin has banded together to collaboratively and constructively plan for the future. That plan includes as a fundamental principle leaving more water in-stream. That water is being left in-stream now. It's a plan that has attracted national support and one that will provide clear and measurable positive impacts for the river and for the region.

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