



State of Oregon
Department of
Environmental
Quality

DEQ Ways and Means Presentation

2015-17 Governor's Recommended Budget

Ways and Means Subcommittee
on Natural Resources
May 4, 2015

Water Quality program budget priorities

- Timely and high quality permits
- Water quality assessment
- Data and information management
- On-the-ground protection and restoration through collaboration



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Package 128 - Quantifying conservation outcomes

Program	Package Type	FUND	Amount	Pos	FTE
Water	New Work	GF	1,863,021	6	5.63



- Cross-agency effort to develop new tools to quantify trends in watershed health and water quality.
- Information will be available to watershed partners and the public and used to identify funding priorities.
- Phases in six permanent, full-time positions.
- Includes \$300,000 for development of quantification tools and \$250,000 for INR to develop a data management portal.

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Package 121 - Water quality assessment - Transforming Data into Information and Knowledge

Program	Package Type	FUND	Amount	Pos	FTE
Water	New Work	GF	491,435	3	2.25



- Supports development of data management system and new resources for analyzing data and related information to develop water quality assessments.
- Necessary to produce transparent and reproducible assessments of Oregon's waters to inform the public and support decision-making.
- Phases in three permanent, full-time positions.

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Package 126 - Reducing Nonpoint Source Pollution

Program	Package Type	FUND	Amount	Pos	FTE
Water	Service Continuation/Expansion	GF	684,249	4	3.17



- Restores two positions and creates two new positions to work with public agencies, local organizations and individuals to reduce nonpoint source pollution by assisting them with developing, implementing and evaluating plans and projects to improve water quality.

Wastewater and Stormwater Permitting

National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permits

- Delegated federal authority for discharges to water bodies
- Industrial, municipal, stormwater
- Five-year permits

Water Pollution Control Facility (WPCF) permits

- State authority for discharges to land to protect groundwater
- Industrial, municipal
- 10-year permits

8,300 water quality permits in 2014

Permit Issuance and Management

- Develop and issue permits, including public notice
- Conduct inspections
- Review technical reports and wastewater treatment plans
- Review Discharge Monitoring Reports
- Provide technical assistance to permittees
- Refer cases to enforcement
- Provide input on program improvement projects, policy development and rulemaking
- Respond to complaints
- Respond to information requests

Permit Status

- 8,300 water quality permits in 2014
- Staffing levels not tracking increasing number of permits
 - 2009-11: 76.34 FTE
 - 2011-13: 67.70 FTE
 - 2013-15: 66.14 FTE

Challenges

- Increasing permit complexity
 - More protective permits
 - Permittees require more assistance
 - Emerging policy issues
 - Increased engagement and scrutiny
- Legal challenges
 - Divert resources
 - Create regulatory uncertainty
- Outdated information management systems
- As a result, 47 percent of permits expired/backlogged in 2014

Blue Ribbon Committee

- Established in 2002 to recommend specific improvements to enhance program effectiveness and operation
- Recommendations targeted at improving permit quality and timeliness, effective compliance program, program resources and accountability
- SB 45 (2005) authorized up to three percent annual fee increase

Ongoing Efforts

- Measuring performance; outcome-based management
- Continue to work with Blue Ribbon Committee
- Identify, prioritize and remove/resolve barriers to permit issuance
- Process improvements – efficiency, quality and consistency
- Improve information management systems



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Package 120 - Replacing Wastewater Permitting System

Program	Package Type	FUND	Amount	Pos	FTE
Water	New Work	GF/OF	558,392	1	1.00

Package 123 - Restoring the Wastewater Permitting Program

Program	Package Type	FUND	Amount	Pos	FTE
Water	Service Continuation	GF/OF	1,106,011	5	6



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Package 120 - Replacing Wastewater Permitting System

Program	Package Type	FUND	Amount	Pos	FTE
Water	New Work	GF/OF	558,392	1	1.00

- Supports replacement of an outdated and inadequate wastewater permitting information management system with a commercial off-the-shelf product.
- New system would be capable of supporting water quality permitting in the near term and serve as the foundation of an agency-wide permitting system in the future.
- Includes one permanent, full-time position and \$325,000 for purchasing and maintaining the system.

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Package 123 - Restoring the Wastewater Permitting Program

Program	Package Type	FUND	Amount	Pos	FTE
Water	Service Continuation	GF/OF	1,106,011	5	6



- Restores 6 FTE that are unaffordable due to shortfalls in federal funds and fee funds.
- Loss of these positions would reduce the program's ability to issue permits in a timely manner, provide technical assistance to permit holders and ensure compliance with permit conditions.



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Proposed budget note

- Hire outside consultant to make recommendations for improving permit quality and timeliness
- Continue to work with Blue Ribbon Committee to implement recommendations for meeting program goals
- Report to Legislature in December 2015 and 2016

KPM #10 Air Quality Diesel Emissions

Quantity of diesel particulate emissions

- **Original request:** Delete and work on developing a better measure
- **Today's request:** Retain the current measure until we can develop a better measure