

Umatilla Basin Basalt Stabilization Pilot

FORMATION

1) HB 2377 (2019 Session)

What HB 2377-2 Does

- Appropriates \$1 million to DAS to provide \$500,000 annually to Umatilla County to facilitate replacement of groundwater pumping with Columbia River water
- Establishes reporting requirements

2) Local Economic Opportunity Grant (secured through Greater Eastern Oregon Development Corp)

What LEOF Grant Does:

- Provides funding to develop Voluntary Agreements capable of being approved by the Water Resources Commission to protect saved water groundwater
- Provides funding to facilitate the outreach in the CGA Sub-Areas targeted for testing (4 sub-areas of CGA's targeted)

OPERATION (4 yrs)

Umatilla Basin Aquifer Stabilization and Recovery Advisory Committee (to be formed following passage of HB 2377-2)

Advisory Committee to finalize details related to:

- Membership, responsibilities, voting
- When/if to request declaration of effort as an Oregon Solutions Project
- Meeting schedule and subject matter
- Rules for reimbursement for water rights holders participating in program (grant administration)
- Review of OWRD monitoring reports and recommendations for expanding monitoring or expanding program
- Public outreach and reporting

Note:

Groundwater allocations will be protected from being reallocated by OWRD through Voluntary Regional Agreements created under this program during the irrigation season that the water is saved. Existing rules and laws governing OWRD allocation of Sustainable Annual Yield in Critical Groundwater Areas of the Umatilla Basin protect saved water left in the ground in the future years beyond the original year saved.

REPORTING

Committee to Report to Legislature

Reporting Requirements related to findings of Pilot:

- Number of Voluntary Agreements Approved by the WRC
- Amount of groundwater saved in each participating CGA annually
- Average cost differential between C. River water and groundwater
- Changes to aquifer levels

Reporting requirements related to long-term implementation:

- Likelihood of achieving aquifer stabilization and recovery through long-term implementation of program
- Plans, options and constraints for expanding program beyond piloted sub-areas
- Funding needs and alternatives for long-term implementation of program