

## HB 2018 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

### House Committee On Water

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**Prepared By:** Allison Daniel, LPRO Analyst

**Meeting Dates:** 3/4

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#### **WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:**

Directs Water Resources Department to enter into a cost-matching agreement with United States Geological Survey (USGS) to develop and publish ground water budgets for all major hydrologic basins in the state; contract for person to produce peer-reviewed report on statewide consumptive water use that summarizes historical irrigation water use for all irrigated fields and estimates open water evaporation from all major reservoirs in the state between 1984 and 2019; establish comprehensive ground water level monitoring network to improve estimates of ground water use; and measure progress in estimating and monitoring ground water levels and use by publishing reports that quantify ground water recharge, producing statewide maps and datasets that quantify open water evaporation, collecting and processing ground water data, assessing the time and cost of ground water studies, and assessing prioritization of water management in major hydrologic basins in the state.

*No subsequent referral.*

*May have fiscal impact, but no statement yet issued.*

*May have revenue impact, but no statement yet issued.*

#### **ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

##### **EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:**

No amendment.

##### **BACKGROUND:**

According to the Water Resources Department (WRD), Oregon currently has over 250,000 known wells, and several thousand new wells are built each year. Well uses range from providing drinking water and water for irrigation and industry to informing ground water levels throughout the state. To monitor ground water, WRD has a network of approximately 1,100 observation wells that provide information on current ground water availability and long-term trends. However, more information is needed in many basins to better understand how ground water uses impact streams, aquifers, and other water sources.

WRD coordinates with the United States Geological Survey (USGS) to conduct extensive water basin studies and collect information on ground water levels and use. These studies typically take five to six years to complete, given all basin data must be compiled, reviewed, and analyzed in order to monitor ground water trends. To date, about one-third of the state has had basin studies.

House Bill 2018 would direct WRD to enter into a cost-matching agreement with USGS to produce and publish ground water budgets for all major hydrologic basins in the state, contract for person to produce a report on statewide consumptive water use, establish a ground water level monitoring network, and measure progress in estimating and monitoring ground water levels and use.