



2021-2024 Legislative Investments Summary

New Legislative Investments (2021-24): Fast Facts

Between 2021-2024, the Oregon Water Resources Department (OWRD) received \$208.5 million in new appropriations, with over 80% of that funding, \$171.6 million, being for grants or direct pass-through appropriations. Of the remaining \$36.9 million, a little over half was for permanent investments in the Department's operating budget, \$21.6 million, Figure 1.

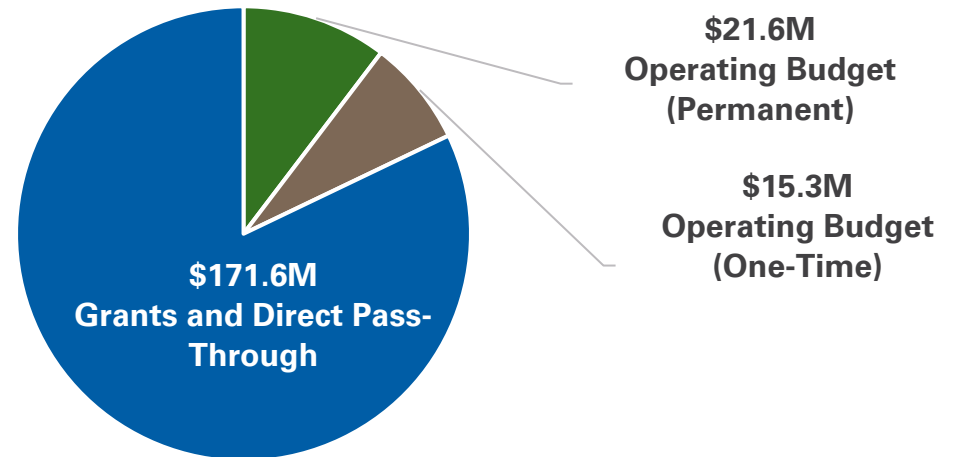
Select areas of investments include, **Planning and Partnerships, Surface and Groundwater Data and Analyses, and Water Distribution and Public Safety.** A full summary of legislative investments and project updates can be found in Attachment 1.

Planning and Partnerships

Integrated Water Resources Strategy Implementation: Investments in staff to implement the IWRS has allowed for development of a 5-year implementation progress report, increased coordination and involvement of agency leadership and the Governor's office, and for the first time, the 2024 version of the IWRS will have **actions prioritized for interagency implementation.**

Capacity for Collaboration: Increased staffing capacity to engage with communities at the local level has expanded the ability of OWRD to work with communities in different basins and developing engagement and technical tools for use statewide. This includes **community-based engagement in areas where the Department is contemplating critical groundwater areas**, including the Harney basin, as well as hosting community events and informational sessions in the Walla Walla and 15-Mile Creek basins. Engagement staff are also developing best practices and community engagement tool kits so OWRD can integrate community engagement into all aspects of our work.

Figure 1. \$208.5 million in new legislative appropriations to OWRD, 2021-24.



Surface and Groundwater Data and Analysis

Building water knowledge and datasets:

Investment has been made in our surface and groundwater science sections, resulting in **significant expansion in water data collection infrastructure** (35 new Agrimet weather stations, 30 new observation wells, 10 new gaging stations, over 11,000 surface and groundwater measurements and samples taken annually). OWRD also developed the state's first ever comprehensive water use dataset using evapotranspiration data, and now has resources to conduct two groundwater studies at a time (Walla Walla and 15-Mile Creek basins in progress).

Improving Sustainable Water Management: This expanded capacity also allows OWRD to apply these data, resulting in **improved accessibility and accuracy of data to better inform allocation, management, and understanding of Oregon's water**. This will allow OWRD to **modernize and refine water management tools** (Water Availability and Reporting System) and other water data infrastructure. OWRD has also been able to **reduce groundwater review backlogs** and lead **significant policy work** that will set the state up to better manage resources for future generations.



Over **\$126.7 million obligated** through **370 grant agreements**



226 positions filled since August 2021 (277 recruitments)



Enhanced Field Activities: **+ 92%** well inspections; **+ 49%** dam safety inspections, **+ 56%** staff-initiated field investigations



Improved accuracy, accessibility and applicability of data to sustainably water management



68% backlog reduction in groundwater reviews for water right applications and transfers



Targeted community outreach in basins slated for Critical Groundwater Area designation (Harney, Walla Walla, 15-Mile Creek)



Restored drinking water to **204 homes**



Contested case hearing referrals increased by 250% (when fully staffed)



7 rulemakings with **+ 60** rule advisory committees, informational sessions and public hearings

Water Distribution and Public Safety

Managing and distributing water: Increased capacity in the field has led to more proactive investigations, with a **66% reduction in complaints from members of the public** and increased ability to be more efficient with field and enforcement processes, if we are not able to achieve voluntary compliance.

Improving Public Health and Safety: Investments to both the Dam Safety and Well Construction sections have led to more dam and well inspections, technical analyses of critical infrastructure, and improved customer service outcomes via modernization efforts and expanded staffing levels. There is **improved resiliency to climate-related flooding and seismic events** for Oregon's 900+ state regulated dams and increased focus on the 76 high hazard dams, including annual inspections and technical assistance to dam owners for Emergency Action Plans (100% EAP completion rate and 8x more EAP exercises per year for high hazard dams). OWRD also **more proactively identified well construction deficiencies** via onsite inspections and increased technical well logs reviews, 92% and 250% increase respectively, with these investments. These **public health and safety outcomes are further improved** by the increased communication and collaboration with private and public dam owners and the well drilling community.

The Challenges

New work and staff: While OWRD has accomplished a great deal with the increased capacity, these investments were largely to implement **over 40 new projects, programs and one-time funding opportunities**. We spent a significant amount of time recruiting to fill vacant positions. **Since August 2021, OWRD has filled 226 positions and opened 277 recruitments.**

Direct pass-through funding: OWRD has found that many of the projects that have received direct pass-through grants are often not shovel ready and the grantees may not be ready to spend the money, which is problematic when the funding source is general fund. In addition, these direct pass-through grants have a large workload associated with establishing grant agreements and actively managing the grants. Our experience indicates the state must support the entire project process, including funding, permitting, and project management.

Permanent investments were not evenly distributed across the agency: Just over half of the investment in OWRD's operating budget was permanent. **Temporary investments only result in temporary solutions**, i.e. temporary resources for protest backlog reduction work. In addition, OWRD staff supported some large efforts without additional resources, including the updated Scope of Work for the Stewardship and Supply Initiative. Lastly, while there were big, permanent investments in some areas, other areas like the **Water Rights Services Division suffered staff reductions** totaling 6.33 FTE in 2021.

Attachment 1. Summary of new legislative appropriations to OWRD between 2021-2024.

2021-2024 Legislative Appropriations Summary		Appropriations		Project Status	
Bill	Description	Allocation	Staff	Status	Updates and Work Products
2021 Regular Session					
SB 5545	Package 087 – State Data Center Ongoing information technology costs associated with the Department's migration to Data Center Services.	\$215,000 (GF)		Complete	
	Package 090 – Equitable Water Access and Indigenous Energy Resiliency Equitable water access and Indigenous energy resiliency as recommended by the Racial Justice Council.	\$1,500,000 (GF one-time)		Not complete	Department did not have authority to expend funds. Funding was dis-appropriated. \$500k GF in 2023 legislative session was provided to the University of Oregon.
	Package 101 – Protecting Public Safety and Water Supplies Staff to coordinate and assess dams for seismic, flood and other safety risks; \$400k for an Oregon flood methodology for dams, and \$600k for engineering analyses on dams.	\$1,900,000 (GF)	3.52 FTE (4 pos.)	Complete	All funds allocated for analyses via 19 projects, flood methodology completed, all positions hired.
	Package 102 – Strategic Modernization of IT Systems and Tools Staff for IT systems, database administration, and records coordination to modernize data and records systems.	\$819,000 (GF)	2.64 FTE (3 pos.)	Ongoing work	Positions hired to implement records management program, update special retention schedule, and completed transition to SDC for most of our in-house servers.
	Package 103 – Fund Legal Expenses to Prevent Service Impacts Funding to address sustained increased costs for DOJ services.	\$800,000 (GF)		Ongoing work	Funds expended.
	Package 109 – Timely Water Management and Distribution Five new assistant watermasters to support water regulation and distribution, complaint response, and	\$1,370,000 (GF)	5.28 FTE (6 pos.)	Ongoing work	Positions hired. During 2022, the watermasters and assistant watermasters reported 8,239 regulatory actions. Staff also reported 30,178 compliance checks. This is an increase from the previous year in which staff conducted 23,153 compliance checks. 56% in staff-

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	surface water and groundwater data collection. Re-classified eight watermasters. Added Deputy Division Administrator to help provide critical services to the public.				initiated field investigations and a 66% reduction in community-based complaints.
	Package 110 – Foundational Data for Groundwater Studies Staff to expand the agency’s capacity for groundwater basin studies, produce a groundwater budget for each basin in Oregon, and expand baseline water level and water use data collection.	\$2,000,000 (GF)	6.16 FTE (7 pos.)	Ongoing work	Positions hired. Harney groundwater study complete; Walla Walla groundwater study in data analysis phase; 15-Mile Creek groundwater study in scoping phase; "mini-study" initiated to update and publish the DRAFT 1995 Hydrogeologic Conceptual Model report for the LUBGWMA - to be completed by 2025. Statewide recharge preliminary results to be completed in Spring 2026 and refined estimates by 2030; 5 new wells drilled and 3 retrofits, repairs or cleanouts – looking at 7 new sites. See HB 2018 in 2021. <i>Work Products:</i> May 2024 Legislative Days Update on HB 2018 ; Harney Groundwater Study Executive Summary
	Package 111 – Complex Water Issues: Deschutes and Other Basins Contract funding and staff to support to work on complex water basin issues and help implement agency priorities in priority water basins, including the Deschutes and Willamette River basins.	\$422,000 (GF)	0.88 FTE (1 pos.)	Ongoing work	Position hired. Situation assessment and basin workplan complete. In the 2021-23 biennium, facilitation funds were expended in support of facilitation of the Deschutes Basin Water Collaborative and their place-based planning efforts. In the 2023-25 biennium, facilitation funds are being used for the Division 512 rulemaking in the Harney Basin and community conversations. See Willamette below. <i>Work Product:</i> Deschutes Basin Workplan
	Package 112 – Harney Conservation Reserve Enhancement Programs \$500,000 in funding for cost share for the enrollment of lands and one position to support implementation of Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program to incentivize voluntary non-use of groundwater.	\$706,000 (GF)	0.88 FTE (1 pos.)	Ongoing work	Position hired; Agreement finalized with federal government and outreach materials in development. FSA performed a rental rate analysis for Harney County and resulting in increased payments to ensure rates are competitive for 2024-25. Enrollment opens in January 2025 and currently four landowners are ready to sign up with others expressing serious interest. <i>Work Product:</i> Harney CREP Handout

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	<p>Package 113 – Willamette Basin Reallocation Pre-implementation Willamette Basin Coordinator position and funding support to work on complex water basin issues and help implement agency priorities in priority water basins in conjunction with package 111.</p>	\$321,000 (GF)	0.88 FTE (1 pos.)	Ongoing work	<p>Position hired. Situation assessment and two workplans complete. Exploring various external workgroup approaches that comply with federal law to support reallocation tasks. Ongoing federal agency consultation under the Endangered Species Act has delayed reallocation implementation. New biological opinions expected late 2024 or early 2025. OWRD has shifted efforts to focus on other basin priorities, such as drought planning in the North Santiam and engaging with Oregon DEQ on the temperature TMDL. Ongoing work also includes providing assistance to the Mid Coast Water Planning Partnership implementation efforts.</p> <p><i>Work Products:</i> 2023 Situation Assessment, Willamette Basin Workplan, and Willamette Reallocation Workplan.</p>
HB 5006	<p>Regional Water Planning and Management Resources to convene a workgroup to develop a framework for state-supported regional water planning and management.</p>	\$700,000 (GF one-time)	0.88 FTE (1 pos. LD)	Complete	<p>\$263k spent; remainder of funds converted back to general fund at end of 2023 biennium. Legislation passed following workgroup effort to make place-based planning permanent.</p> <p><i>Work Product:</i> Report of the Workgroup on State Supported Regional Water Planning and Management.</p>
	<p>Integrated Water Resources Strategy Update Resources to facilitate, document develop, and support for the 2022 update of the Integrated Water Resources Strategy.</p>	\$450,000 (GF one-time)	0.88 FTE (1 pos. LD)	Ongoing work	<p>Limited duration position hired. Completed progress report on IWRS implementation and launched the community engagement process for the update of the next version of the IWRS. See POP 101 in 2023.</p> <p><i>Work Products:</i> Public Engagement Report for IWRS Update; Interagency Survey Results on IWRS; 2017-2022 IWRS Progress Report</p>
	<p>Business Case Assessment for Water Contract resources for a business case assessment to examine the economic value of water and the impact of water investment.</p>	\$350,000 (GF one-time)		Complete	<p>\$250k spent; unspent of funds reverting to state GF.</p> <p><i>Work Product:</i> The Business Case for Investing in Water</p>
	<p>Place-based Integrated Water Resources Planning Grants</p>	\$200,000 (GF one-time)		Complete	<p>Funds distributed to four place-based planning groups. Grants closed.</p> <p><i>Work Products:</i> Completed Place-Based Plans.</p>

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Bill	Description	Allocation	Staff	Status	Updates and Work Products
	Contested Case Backlog Resources to facilitate the referral and completion of administrative hearings or other procedures to alleviate the backlog of contested cases related to water right decisions.	\$2,200,000 (GF one-time)	0.88 FTE (1 pos. LD)	Complete	Limited duration position hired, all funding expended; positions off-boarded in summer and end of 2023. 65 protests resolved since 7/1/21 and currently have 12 applications in the Contested Case Hearing process. There are 224 protests pending. The number has risen (from 138) since 7/1/21 due to the Department receiving 113 new instream water right protests all in one day.
	Federal ARPA Umatilla County Regional Water Infrastructure Project Direct Appropriation	\$6,000,000 (OF one-time)		In progress	\$600k requested to carry over during 2025 session; Grant agreement effective 3/10/2023; actively managing grant; \$5.4M reimbursed to date.
	Federal ARPA Place-based Planning Grants	\$1,000,000 (OF one-time)		In progress	\$350k requested to carry over during 2025 session; Grant agreements effective with three planning groups in January 2023 and one in June 2023; actively managing grants; reimbursed \$650k. <i>Work Products: Completed Place-Based Plans.</i>
	Federal ARPA Water Well Abandonment, Repair, and Replacement grants to fund to help abandon wells and to repair or replace water wells used for household purposes. <i>[See House Bill 2145].</i>	\$2,000,000 (OF one-time)		Complete	From January 2022 through May 2022, OWRD stood up the new funding program and began accepting applications in June 2022; all funds were allocated by November 2023. In total: \$5.4M appropriated between 2021 Session and 2023 Session; 202 individual grant awards with well owners with 204 homes had water restored to them. <i>Work Product: Water Well Abandonment, Repair and Replacement Fund Progress</i>
	Federal ARPA Local Fish Passage for Dam Upgrades for local governments	\$500,000 (OF one-time)		In progress	Grants agreements in place with cities of Drain (7/5/23) and Dallas (8/27/23); actively managing grants; reimbursed \$60k.
	Federal ARPA Fee-based Services Pending Development of Long-Term Funding Mechanisms	\$3,000,000 (OF one-time)		Complete	8 limited duration water right staff hired. \$1.5M carried over during 2023 session for 8 LD water right staff for 12 months; all funds expended. LD staff off boarded 3/31/24. Backlog trends can be reviewed in Table 1.
	Federal ARPA Dam Safety Flood Methodology and Inundation Assessments	\$4,000,000 (OF one-time)		In progress	\$1.2M requested to carry over during 2025 session. All funds allocated via 24 projects; anticipated completion by end of 2024 and 2026.

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Bill	Description	Allocation	Staff	Status	Updates and Work Products
	Federal ARPA Purchase and Deployment of Surface and Groundwater Data Collection Equipment	\$3,000,000 (OF one-time)		In progress	\$250k requested to carry over during 2025 session. Two wells drilled in Walla Walla; Contracted for two wells in Klamath; Installing measuring tubes or repairing wells in Rogue, Deschutes and Willamette; siting wells in Umatilla; 30 new AgriMet weather stations and ongoing evapotranspiration monitoring; purchased stream and canal gaging equipment to update and add flood monitoring equipment to over 120 gages; 10 new gages and 5 new high flow measurement devices.
	Federal ARPA Water Measurement Cost Share Revolving Fund	\$1,000,000 (OF one-time)		In progress	\$800k requested to carry over during 2025 session. Working on adjustments to improve the impact of the program
HB 3103	Transfers of Stored Water Allowed the holder of a water right certificate that authorizes water storage to change the type of use identified in the water right. Resources to engage a professional facilitator to work with stakeholders on a path forward for transferring the point of diversion and location of storage right.	\$485,000 (GF one-time)		Complete	\$35k spent on contract for facilitator scoping analysis on POD/location transfer issue. Policy issue was resolved by Court of Appeals decision on <i>Bridge Creek Ranch vs. OWRD</i> . No workgroup convened.
HB 2018	Groundwater Data Funding to develop and publish ground water budgets for all major hydrologic basins in Oregon, a report on statewide consumptive water use and evaporation from all major reservoirs; to expand the ground water level monitoring network; and to help the public utilize the data.	\$2,387,000 (GF)	5.75 FTE (9 pos.)	Ongoing work	Positions hired. Statewide recharge preliminary results Spring 2026 and refined estimates by 2030; completed peer-review of statewide consumptive water use report with results by January 2025, and continued ET data production in consultation with DRI and OpenET; 5 new wells drilled and 3 retrofits, repairs or cleanouts – looking at 7 new sites; developing public engagement strategy and hosting with regional meetings local leaders. <i>Work Products:</i> May 2024 Legislative Days Update on HB 2018 .

2021-2024 Legislative Appropriations Summary		Appropriations		Project Status	
Bill	Description	Allocation	Staff	Status	Updates and Work Products
HB 2145	Well Construction Modernization Modernized and increased efficiency within the well construction program to prevent well deficiencies that can lead to contamination or waste of groundwater and to better protect groundwater resources for Oregonians; increased the start card fee by \$125; Established a Well Abandonment, Repair and Replacement program, including \$100,000 GF.	\$675,000 (GF)	2.64 FTE (3 pos.)	Complete	Positions hired; final provisions of bill effective 7/1/24. +92% increase in onsite well inspections; 250% increase technical well logs reviews. Funding for wells issued through grants (see above). <i>Work Product:</i> Implementation Report on HB 2145 ; Water Well Abandonment, Repair and Replacement Fund Progress . Rulemakings complete.
HB 3092	Domestic Well Remediation in Harney Basin Established program for replacing, repairing, or deepening domestic wells affected by overallocation of groundwater within the Greater Harney Valley Groundwater Area of Concern.	\$500,000 (GF one-time)		In progress	7 projects awarded funds, totaling \$71k. Remaining funding carried forward for next grant cycle.
HB 5006 SB 5534	Water Projects Grants & Loans Grants to evaluate, plan, and develop in-stream and out-of-stream water projects.	\$30,000,000 (LRB)		Complete	9 projects awarded funds, totaling \$25M.
	Feasibility Study Grants Grants for studies to evaluate the feasibility of developing water conservation, reuse or storage projects.	\$500,000 (GF)		Complete	11 projects awarded funds, totaling \$1.45M for the biennium; 4 projects totaling \$285k funding in 2023-25. \$20k of GF spent due to expenditure of LRB from previous biennia.
	Direct Pass-Through Deschutes Basin Board of Control Piping project	\$10,000,000 (LRB)		In progress	Grant agreement effective 2/7/2022; actively managing grant; \$8.8M reimbursed.
	Direct Pass-Through City of Newport Big Creek Dam remediation	\$14,000,000 (LRB)		In progress	Grant agreement effective 10/10/2022; actively managing grant; \$2.5M reimbursed.

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Bill	Description	Allocation	Staff	Status	Updates and Work Products
	Direct Pass-Through Wallowa Lake Irrigation District Wallowa Lake Dam Rehabilitation	\$14,000,000 (LRB)		In progress	Grant agreement effective 8/31/2022; actively managing grant; \$1.2M reimbursed.
	Direct Pass-Through Nesika Beach Fire protection infrastructure	\$250,000 (GF one-time)		Complete	Grant closed; \$246k reimbursed.
	Direct Pass-Through Columbia River-Umatilla Solutions Task Force Agreements	\$500,000 (GF one-time)		In progress	Grant Agreement effective 1/12/2023; actively managing grant; \$500k disbursed to the County, no funds reported as expended.
2021 Special Session					
SB 5561	Water Well Abandonment, Repair, and Replacement Fund Grants to help abandon wells and to repair or replace water wells used for household purposes and permanent staff.	\$3,750,000 (GF one-time)	1.88 FTE (3 pos.)	Complete	From January 2022 through May 2022, OWRD stood up the new funding program and began accepting applications in June 2022; all funds were allocated by November 2023. In total: \$5.4M appropriated between 2021 Session and 2023 Session; 202 individual grant awards with well owners with 204 homes had water restored to them. <i>Work Product:</i> Water Well Abandonment, Repair and Replacement Fund Progress
	Drought Vulnerability Assessment Contract funds for a statewide drought vulnerability assessment for both instream and out-of-stream needs.	\$300,000 (GF one-time)		In progress	OWRD working to finalize report; anticipated publish date 2025. \$48k spent and remainder reverted to the state GF. Supplemented study with GF from 23-25 budget to complete work.
	Field and Enforcement Capacity Field and technical staff to increase regulatory presences; resources for IT systems.	\$5,000,000 (GF)	18.13 FTE (29 pos.)	Ongoing work	Enhanced capacity for both field and enforcement staff has led to increased enforcement activity through more efficient processes, including training to field staff, improved timeliness of compliance and the issuance of final orders and a streamlined notice of assessment have improved compliance mechanisms, resulting in a 3x increase in issued notices of violation from 2021 to 2022. IT Resources: \$60k spend on Field Activities Database Analysis and \$7,500 on server. Utilized communications funding to develop videos (coordinated with work below on HB 4061). \$475k for Evapotranspiration work was given back to the GF and

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Bill	Description	Allocation	Staff	Status	Updates and Work Products
					1 hydrographer position was reduced permanently in 2023-25 budget due to stakeholder concerns about anticipate work. Remaining \$270k reverted to state GF. <i>Work Products:</i> HB 4061 Informational page.
2022 Emergency Board					
E-Board	Direct Passthrough Klamath County Passthrough to address dry domestic and community water wells.	\$5,000,000 (GF one-time)		In progress	Grant Agreement effective 1/3/2023; actively managing grant; \$5M disbursed to the County, July 2024 biannual report noted that the County expended \$934k.
2023 Regular Session					
HB 5043	Package 101 – Facilitate Interagency Work & Implement IWRS Implementation, update development, and coordination among state, federal, and local agencies, and educational and non-governmental organizations.	\$271,000 (GF)	1.00 FTE (1 pos.)	Ongoing work	Position hired and is actively working on 2024 IWRS update. <i>Work Products:</i> Public Engagement Report for IWRS Update ; Interagency Survey Results on IWRS ; 2017-2022 IWRS Progress Report ; Public Comment Draft 1 2024 IWRS Update
	Package 105 – One-time American Rescue Plan Act Carry Over from 2021	\$15,900,000 (OF one-time)		In progress	Carryover funding. Summary in Federal ARPA HB 5006 2021.
	Package 106 – Water Planning Funding and Support Staff to support place-based integrated water resources planning	\$433,000 (GF)	1.75 FTE (2 pos.)	Ongoing work	Positions hired. Department staff are standing up the permanent Place-Based Water Planning Fund. A Rules Advisory Committee met from August through November 2024 and rules for the program are anticipated to be adopted in March 2025. Staff are also working on improving technical assistance and interagency coordination and updating program guidelines. The first grant solicitation is anticipated to occur in 2025.
	Package 108 – Water Rights and Protest Backlog Reduction Department of Justice and Office of Administrative Hearings costs for continued progress on the protest backlog.	\$500,000 (GF one-time)		Complete	All funds expended. See summary above in HB 5006 in 2021.

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	<p>Package 111 – Water Availability Data Update Staff to coordinate research, outreach, project management, and technical activities to refine estimates of water availability, incorporate new data and analytical approaches into the modeling effort, and develop computer programs critical for updating the model using these new approaches.</p>	\$2,200,000 (GF)	6.87 FTE (9 pos.)	In progress	New positions have been filled and project charter has been completed. Existing staff working on the stream gage records backlog necessary for the update and identifying locations for new gages. 30 new AgriMet weather stations were added in partnership with OSU.
	<p>Package 114 - Watermaster Staff and Complex Issues Added Klamath Basin Region Manager and a Basin Coordinator to work on complex water basin issues and help implement agency priorities in the South Central and Eastern Region.</p>	\$456,000 (GF)	1.75 FTE (2 pos.)	Ongoing work	Klamath Basin Region manager hired; hosted two failed recruitments for Basin Coordinator, reconsidering recruitment strategy and actively recruiting as of December 2024.
	<p>Package 801 – Supporting Resolution of Complex Issues Facilitation costs for work related to CTUIR water rights settlement and other complex issues. Added Basin Coordinator to lead the CTUIR settlement work for the Department.</p>	\$1,500,000 (GF)	1.00 FTE (1 pos.)	Ongoing work	Position hired but has since left the agency; actively recruiting as of December 2024. Conversations ongoing between settlement parties and outreach plan in development with facilitation contractor.
HB 2010	<p>Place-Based Integrated Water Resources Planning Grants for pre-planning work, community capacity building, place-based planning, and implementation coordination of place-based plans.</p>	\$2,000,000 (GF)		In progress	Department staff are standing up the permanent Place-Based Water Planning Fund. A Rules Advisory Committee met from August through November 2024 and rules for the program are anticipated to be adopted in March 2025. Staff are also working on improving technical assistance and interagency coordination and updating program guidelines. The first grant solicitation is anticipated to occur in 2025.

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	Voluntary Groundwater Agreements Contracting services to advise, assist and evaluate opportunities for groundwater users in the Greater Harney Valley Groundwater Area of Concern to utilize voluntary agreements.	\$255,000 (GF one-time)		In progress	Draft guidance for Voluntary agreements has been developed and is currently being reviewed by local water partners in the basin. Feedback on the draft guidance is expected by January 8, 2024. The final guidance document is anticipated to be complete by March 2025.
	Department Grant and Fiscal Staff	\$930,000 (GF)	4.25 FTE (5 pos.)	Ongoing work	All positions hired (except 0.5 FTE admin) and staff are supporting grant programs, processing and finalizing grant agreements and distributing and tracking funds.
	Water Reuse and Recycled Water DEQ, in consultation with OWRD, to develop recommendations to expand water reuse or recycled water programs or projects and report to the legislature.	\$100,000 (GF one-time)	0.33 FTE (1 pos. LD)	Complete	Funds use to support existing LD staff to complete the work. <i>Work Products:</i> HB 2010 Water Reuse Legislative Report
	1998 Stewardship and Supply Initiative Directed OWRD to update scope as well as estimated cost and timeline for implementing the 1998 Stewardship and Supply Initiative and propose an approach to sequencing development of river basin assessment reports.	NO RESOURCES APPROPRIATED		Complete	<i>Work Product:</i> Stewardship and Supply Initiative Updated Scope of Work
SB 5506 HB 5030	Water Projects Grants and Loans \$10 million to evaluate, plan, and develop in-stream and out-of-stream water projects. \$50 million for irrigation modernization projects.	\$60,000,000 (LRB)		In progress	First funding cycle competed in June; 11 projects awarded funds totaling \$33.4M. Second funding cycle closed July 2024 with award decisions in December 2024.
	Direct Pass-Through City of West Linn Waterline replacement	\$5,000,000 (LRB)		In progress	Lottery revenue bond sale scheduled for March 2025.
	Direct Pass-Through City of Beaverton Non-potable (purple pipe) project	\$2,500,000 (GF one-time)		In progress	Grant agreement being finalized.

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	Direct Pass-Through North Unit Irrigation District Infrastructure Modernization	\$2,000,000 (GF one-time)		In progress	Grant agreement effective 11/19/2024; actively managing grant.
	Direct Pass-Through Deschutes River Conservancy Piping, monitoring and measurement	\$1,500,000 (GF one-time)		In progress	Grant agreement effective 5/23/2024; actively managing grant.
	Direct Pass-Through Rogue River Irrigation District	\$1,530,000 (GF one-time)		In progress	Grant agreement effective 2/12/2024; actively managing grant.
	Direct Pass-Through City of Monroe Water Infrastructure	\$1,500,000 (GF one-time)		In progress	Awaiting information from grantee for grant agreement. Funds have not been expended.
	Direct Pass-Through City of St. Paul Water reservoir improvement	\$636,000 (GF one-time)		In progress	Grant agreement effective 1/24/2024; actively managing grant.
	Direct Pass-Through City of Bay City Earthquake isolation reservoirs valves	\$250,000 (GF one-time)		In progress	Grant agreement effective 11/27/2023; actively managing grant.
	Direct Pass-Through City of Halsey Well construction	\$300,000 (GF one-time)		In progress	Grant agreement sent to City for signature 11/12/2024; awaiting signature.
	Direct Pass-Through City of Sodaville Well construction	\$370,000 (GF one-time)		In progress	Project adjustment in 2024. Grant agreement effective 5/23/2024; actively managing grant.
	Direct Pass-Through City of Fall City Water mainline replacement	\$592,000 (GF one-time)		In progress	Grant agreement effective 11/30/2023; actively managing grant.
2024 Regular Session					
	Well Abandonment, Repair and Replacement Fund Grants	\$1,000,000 (GF one-time)		In progress	35 individual grants awarded to well owners, funds totaling \$727k. Open solicitation applications to expend the remaining funds. Water has been restored to 204 homes.
SB 5701 SB 1530	Direct Passthrough City of Sodaville Water hauling expenses	\$60,000 (GF one-time)		In progress	Project adjustment in 2024 additional funds and legislative authorization; Grant agreement effective 5/23/2024; actively managing grant.
	Direct Passthrough City of Riddle Above ground storage reservoir	\$1,500,000 (GF one-time)		In progress	Grant agreement effective 7/26/2024; actively managing grant

Table 1. Water right transaction trends since 2019.

Biennium	2019-2021			2021-2023			2023 to 11/30/24		
	Apps Received	Final Orders Issued*	Current Backlog	Apps Received	Final Orders Issued*	Current Backlog	Apps Received	Final Orders Issued*	Current Backlog
Water Rights	740	629	657	445	508	591	553	293	895
Transfers	449	590	310	430	367	370	276	254	493*
Claims of Beneficial Use	394	728	1,220	445	1100	968	384	651	1015
Extensions	179	127	153	171	163	128	121	149	101
Protests	44	51	154	157	77	232	24	25	230

For Protests, this number represents protests resolved rather than final orders. Protests may be resolved through issuance of a final order, issuance of a final order incorporating settlement agreement, withdrawal of the protest, or withdrawal of the protested proposed final order (PFO) or preliminary determination (PD) and returning the application to WRSD for a new PFO or PD.

*OWRD identified an error in our tracking system that led to under reporting in previous biennia.