# Stewardship and Supply Initiative

## Initiative Overview, Partner Groups, and Budget Concepts

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State of Oregon
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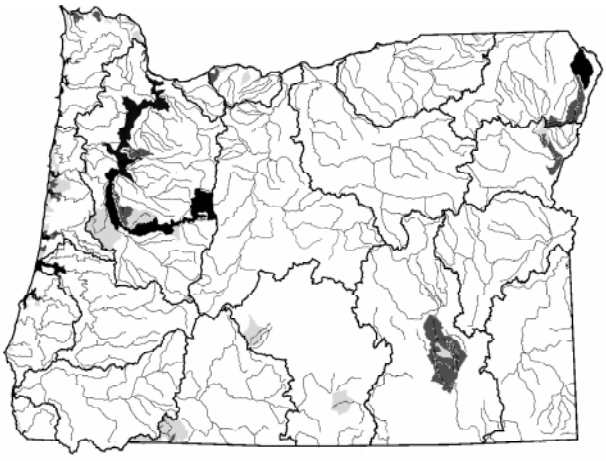
# Stewardship and Supply Initiative

The Stewardship and Supply Initiative seeks to develop basin-wide assessments for each river basin of the state. The assessments focus on collecting, packaging and interpreting core water resources data and making those data accessible to water users and public across the state. Core data consists of information on basin conditions, surface and ground water supply, water use and water rights by sector, instream flow needs as well as water conservation and stewardship as a component of future supply.

A second objective of the initiative seeks to identify and analyze important linkages among issues such as endangered species, water quality and land use/water supply. This component requires the Department to work closely with other agencies to acquire key information. A third objective of the initiative develops online Internet services to provide and update basin information.



***Water Availability***

*Few places in Oregon have water available for new uses (indicated by dark areas) during late summer months such as September, shown here. In order to accommodate for increased demands tied to both economic and population growth, the state must look to innovative approaches to water resource management. The Stewardship and Supply Initiative incorporates basin assessments into management decisions.*

## Managing our Future Water Needs

As the population and our economy grow, the demand for water increases. The Department needs effective ways of compiling and translating water resources data for broader audiences. As existing water supplies shrink, and environmental concerns increase, watershed councils, local governments, interest groups, water users and other natural resource agencies need accurate and accessible information on water availability, future water supply options, and key stewardship issues. If we fail to plan for future needs, the potential for impacts to the economic health of Oregon's communities is great.

## Expected Outcomes

**State of the Water Resources Report**

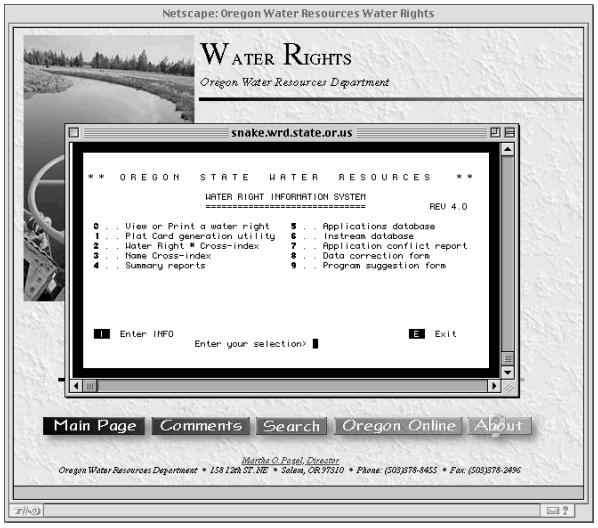
This document will help orient the users of individual *Basin Assessments* and will include information on the statewide aspects of stewardship and water supply in Oregon—highlighting existing laws and policies as well as the tools and programs currently available to the public.

**River Basin Assessment Reports**

The Department currently has *Basin Reports* for the 19 major river basins of the state. However, many of these reports were developed in the 1960s and 1970s and have not been updated since. This initiative aims to "retool" the state's outdated basin reports into relevant *Basin Assessments.*

- These assessments will provide a new template for water resources information so that it is accessible and useful to a wide range of interests in each basin of the state.
- The reports will use a standardized template and allow ongoing updates ensuring that the information stays useful to those who rely on it.
- Each assessment will provide key information, well-developed map products, with overlays of the potential constraints and opportunities for improving water supplies using tools that are most suited to the local conditions.

The effort will eventually provide as much information as possible through the Internet, ensuring that current information is always available.




**Internet Information**
*Using online services and Internet technology, information and data in Basin Assessments can be updated instantly while access is provided around the clock.*

### Link to the Water Resources Strategic Plan and the Oregon Plan

This effort fits squarely within the Department's Strategic Plan, achieving progress toward both of the co-equal agency goals of watershed *stewardship* and water *supply*. The effort also complements the Department's work under the Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds, by moving toward a systematic and integrated approach to managing water resources.

## Benefits of the Initiative

The basin assessments will enhance the state's water management efforts by providing the public with current and accessible information to accomplish the the following goals:

- Better inform the Department's water allocation decisions
- Assist local decision makers (watershed councils, soil and water conservation districts, cities and counties and individual water users) in making water supply decisions by providing information on baseline water resources conditions.
- Identify gaps in data needed to support proactive, long-term water management for the state of Oregon.
- Identify future water supply options for each river basin—giving water users a realistic picture of water availability and the viability of supply sources. Stewardship need will be outlined for each river basin—enabling targeting of local restoration efforts.
- Enhance coordination between local groups such as watershed councils and state agencies. The initiative provides a framework for information that watershed councils can integrate into their individual watershed assessments. Local groups can provide state agencies with information on water quality and quantity, fish, and local restoration priorities.

# Stakeholder Involvement

## Workshop Participants

The following stakeholders have attended meetings and helped develop this concept.

| | |
|---|---|
| Pete Test | Oregon Farm Bureau |
| Jerry Schmidt | Oregon Association of Realtors, Oregon Ground Water Association, Oregon Association of Well Drillers |
| Jan Lee | Oregon Water Resources Congress |
| Roger Bachman | Oregon Trout |
| Lorna Stickel<br>Roberta Jortner | Portland Water Bureau/Regional Water Providers Consortium |
| Hillary Abraham | Oregon Environmental Council |
| Gary Johnson<br>Ed Henricks | Willamette Industries, Inc. |
| Debbie Gorham<br>Steve Applegate | Oregon Department of Agriculture |
| Scott Ashcom | Oregon Association of Nurserymen |
| Richard Kosesan<br>Rex Barber | Water For Life |
| Dan Bradley | Oregon Water Utilities Council |
| Kevin Hanway | Willamette Water Supply Agency |
| Ray Kelly | Senate Natural Resources Committee |
| Pat Zwick | Legislative Administration Committee |
| Jill Zarnowitz<br>Rick Kruger | Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife |
| Reed Bensen<br>Kimberley Priestley<br>Doug Myers | WaterWatch of Oregon |
| Cheyenne Chapman | Oregon Water Trust |
| Joni Low<br>Willie Tiffany | League of Oregon Cities |
| Sarah Myers | Ball Janik LLP |
| Sheree Stewart | Department of Environmental Quality |
| Rob Hallyburton | Marion County Planning Department |
| Lisa Nye | Deschutes Basin Resource Conservancy |
| John Dummer | HDR Engineering |
| Bob Rindy | Department of Land Conservation and Development |

***Constituencies aided by the Initiative***

- *County land and water planners*
- *Municipalities*
- *Watershed councils*
- *Soil and Water Conservation Districts*
- *Public interest groups and their constituencies*
- *Consulting engineers/geologists (fish, municipal, water pollution interests)*
- *Other state and federal agencies*
- *Timberland holders and agricultural landowners*
- *Local groups (riverkeeper organizations, homeowner organizations, and others)*

## Water Resources Commission Subcommittee

This sub-committee of the Water Resources Commission has been actively involved in the initiative:

| | |
|---|---|
| Ron Nelson | Representing North Central Region |
| Dan Thorndike | Representing Southwest Region |
| Jim Nakano | Representing Eastern Region |
| John Frewing | Representing Northwest Region |

## Review and Comment

While unable to attend meetings in Salem, the following stakeholders were consulted about the initiative and have reviewed materials generated by each meeting. Some have provided verbal or written comments.

| | |
|---|---|
| Bob Roth | Johnson Creek Watershed Council |
| Lu Anthony | Little Butte Creek Watershed Council |
| John Runyon | McKenzie Watershed Council |
| Melissa Leoni | Yamhill Watershed Council |
| Jacqueline Dingfelder | Tualatin Watershed Council |
| Frank Neilson | Douglas County Planning Department |
| Mitch Rohse | Department of Land Conservation and Development |
| Lynn Beaton | Oregon Economic Development Department |
| Ed Graham | Oregon State Board of Engineering Examiners and Land Surveyors |
| Jim James | Oregon Forest Industries Council |
| John Ledger | Associated Oregon Industries |
| Steve Schneider | Oregon Ground Water Association |
| Gail Achterman | Stoel Rives |
| Bill Blosser | CH2M Hill |
| Gil Ridell | Association of Oregon Counties |
| Zach Willey | Environmental Defense Fund |
| Isaac Regenstreif | Portland Power and Light (also Terry Flores) |
| Steve Walker | HDR Engineering |
| Chuck Norris | Former State Legislator |
| Mike Golden | Watershed Consultant |

# Proposed Implementation and Budget

## Accomplishing the Initiative

**Component A. Basin Assessments**
Under the proposed initiative, a Basin Assessment Team designs and oversees development of assessment reports for the 19 river basins of the state. The team leader works with staff and key stakeholders to design the template for the basin assessment reports. The aim is to do this work intensively, under a relatively short time frame, completing the work during the 1999-2001 biennium.

As part of the anticipated 1999-2001 Water Resources Department budget proposal, general funds will be requested to fund a team leader to manage this effort. This Natural Resources Specialist (NRS4) position would guide the work of a basin assessment team (4 NRS3 FTE). The team leader oversees integration of the work of two hydrogeologists and one civil engineer into the basin assessments. All positions except the team leader are budgeted as two-year limited duration positions.

The Department will work with stakeholders on the development of the template for the basin reports which will include a section on the overall basin condition including key stewardship indicators. The template also will include elements that help to define the *basin's potential*—such as defining consumptive water demands, projecting instream flow demands, identifying the potential for water conservation opportunities as a means of managing demand and analyzing regional water supply options.

**Component B. Aquifer Recharge Identification**
This component of the initiative begins to develop a statewide inventory of potential groundwater storage sites. General funds are requested to support two hydrogeologist positions. Under the program, a lead NRS4 hydrogeologist provides overall leadership for the project and assumes primary responsibility for site-specific investigations. A second hydrogeologist, NRS3, provides program support and is responsible for developing a statewide inventory of potential ground water storage sites. According to the proposal, specific sites that have the highest potential for immediate development are investigated in detail and the information is provided as technical assistance to potential developers.

***Overall Staffing Impact***
1 - NRS4 Team Leader
4 - NRS3 Basin Assessment Team
1 - NRS4 Hydrogeologist *
1 - NRS3 Hydrogeologist *
1 - NRS3 Civil Engineer *
1 - IS4 Computer/Internet Programmer

***Revenue Source***

| | |
|---|---|
| GF | $1,269,077 |
| OF | 0 |
| FF | $ 500,000 |
| | $1,769,077 |

**Component C. Surface Water Storage Site Inventory**
Another key component for meeting future water demand will be the construction of surface water storage facilities. This portion of the package provides general funds to support one NRS3 civil engineer who develops a master inventory of potential surface water storage sites. The inventory will include any existing environmental assessments that can be found. Following completion of the inventory, the engineer develops additional preliminary environmental assessments by contacting other agency personnel who can contribute information. Finally, they will rank the sites according to the potential for development from an environmental and cost/benefit perspective.

**Component D. Computer / Internet Coordinator**
In order to make data readily accessible to the full range of users, special efforts will be made to have as much as possible of the current basin report information available on-line. A computer/internet programmer will ensure that this component of the initiative is implemented.