

# Natural Resources

## WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT

	1999-2001 Actuals	2001-03 Legislatively Adopted at Close of Session	2001-03 Legislatively Approved through Fifth Special Session	2003-05 Governor's Balanced
General Fund	\$21,048,321	\$23,875,317	\$22,370,031	\$22,266,526
Lottery Funds	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	3,718,137	4,879,102	4,988,719	5,759,208
Federal Funds	408,673	515,000	999,721	1,295,000
Other Funds (Nonlimited)	1,827,943	1,122,688	1,122,688	359,103
Federal Funds (Nonlimited)	0	0	0	0
<b>Total Funds</b>	<b>\$27,003,074</b>	<b>\$30,392,107</b>	<b>\$29,481,159</b>	<b>\$29,679,837</b>
Positions	158	150	154	144
Full-time Equivalent	154.88	149.24	152.15	143.21

### Overview

The Water Resources Department administers laws governing surface and groundwater resources. The goal is to balance use of the state's water among current and future generations of Oregonians. Among its responsibilities, the Department:

- Processes transfers of water rights, permits, certificates, and water rights applications.
- Administers hydroelectric relicensing.
- Inspects construction and maintenance of wells and dams.
- Provides technical information and analysis on surface water and ground water availability.
- Adjudicates pre-1909 and federal reserved water rights.
- Negotiates Native American reserved water rights.
- Provides loans for various water development projects.
- The adjudication section rules on disputed water rights. The Klamath Basin adjudication is currently underway.
- Water Development Loan Program (WDLP). Established in 1977 to finance irrigation and drainage projects, the WDLP has provided loans for 181 projects. In addition to irrigation and drainage projects, the portfolio includes five loans for development of community water supply systems.

### Balanced Budget

The Governor's recommended budget is \$29.7 million total funds. This is less than a one percent increase from the 2001-03 Legislatively Approved Budget through the Fifth Special Session. It is, however, a position reduction of

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about seven percent. The reduction in positions results from the phase-out of limited-duration positions, some of which work on the Klamath Basin adjudication. The balanced budget also includes a reduction of another five positions, which will affect information services, hydrographic and water measurement, the Klamath Basin Assistant Watermaster, and field chemical support. The balanced budget continues agency work but at a reduced level. The Water Development Loan Program will receive 70 percent of the funding it needs to continue paying off debt on the existing repayment schedule. The schedule will change to add a payment later. Adjudication of Klamath Basin water rights will continue. Federally-supported efforts to study ground water options in the Klamath Basin also continue.

### Revenue

General Fund supports 75 percent of the total budget. Other Funds from fees associated with water rights and start cards and fees received from service and interagency agreements provide most of the remaining funding. The proposed budget relies on increased fees for various water and reservoir permits, permit amendments, and start of well construction notices. New in-stream lease fees will provide revenue as well. The Water Development Loan Program includes Other Funds generated by general obligation bond proceeds, interest income, and loan repayments. These funds are spent as Nonlimited Other Funds. The agency also receives federal grants for specific projects and for federally directed projects.