

**Water Resources Department**

2007 - 2009 Biennium

Agency Number:

69000

**Detail of 5% Reduction to 2007-09 Legislatively Approved Budget Level**

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
Priority (ranked with highest priority first)	Dept. Initials	Prgm. or Activity Initials	Program Unit/Activity Description	GF	LF	OF	NL-OF	FF	NL-FF	TOTAL FUNDS	Pos.	FTE	Impact of Reduction on Services and Outcomes	
Dept	Prgm/ Div													
1	WRD		Ground Water Geologist	22,373						\$ 22,373	1		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This eliminates a senior ground water scientist position responsible for ground water studies and review of new water right and transfer applications.</li> <li>• Ground water studies are critical to understanding aquifers to make sound scientific decisions on the development potential and limitations on the use of ground water. Elimination of this position could have serious economic impact with delays in the development of needed new water supplies at a time when counties, cities, and individuals are seeking detailed and timely information.</li> <li>• Ground water geologists review new ground water applications for water rights to insure that water is available and will not have a significant impact on existing users. The Department is currently unable to meet statutory timelines for review. The loss of this position will further increase this backlog and delay permitting decisions.</li> <li>• Department geologists are charged with annual review of ground water areas with known declines in available water and provide an analysis of projected water availability and notification to water right holders of the annual quantity of water</li> </ul>	

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2	WRD		Southwest Regional Hydrogeologist	29,467						\$ 29,467	1		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This is the only regional Hydrogeologist in the Southwest Region.</li> <li>• Eliminating this position would reduce the Department's ability to respond to complaints of well-to-well interference and concerns about declining static water levels.</li> <li>• Ground water geologists review new ground water applications for water rights to insure that water is available and will not have a significant impact on existing users. The Department is currently unable to meet statutory timelines for review. The loss of this position will further increase this backlog and delay permitting decisions.</li> <li>• In the past, this position has provided technical assistance to communities trying to resolve water issues such as Indian Point, City of Brookings, Shady Cove, Curry County and numerous others. These communities would be left with no local assistance with their ground water issues.</li> </ul>	
3	WRD		North Central Regional Hydrographic Water Measurement Technician	29,467						\$ 29,467	1		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This would eliminate the field processing of data for nearly 50 gaging stations in the North Central Region. WRD operates three of these stations under contract with other agencies/organizations.</li> <li>• Eliminating this position would seriously jeopardize, if not eliminate, the Department's ability to process gaging station data from 23 key stations in the Umatilla Basin. These data are necessary distribute McKay Reservoir releases for downstream water users and fisheries. It would seriously impact the Department's ability to accurately manage and regulate the Umatilla Basin Exchange Project. Poorly substantiated water management decisions increase the probability of tension among water users, as well as increased litigation and liability for the Department.</li> </ul>	

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4	WRD		South Central Regional Hydrographic Water Measurement Technician	22,790						\$ 22,790	1		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This would eliminate the only hydrotech in the South Central Region, who has responsibility for more than 50 gaging stations, collecting critical data for distribution of water among water right holders in the region.</li> <li>• Eliminating this position would severely hamper the Department's ability to collect, process, and use data in a timely manner for the protection of senior water rights. Elimination of this position would increase the time required to respond to data requests from other agencies, Watershed Councils and other resource organizations, slowing their efforts to restore basin habitat.</li> </ul>	
5	WRD		Southwest Regional Hydrographic Water Measurement Technician	23,613						\$ 23,613	1		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This would eliminate the only hydrotech in the Southwest Region, limiting the Department's ability to collect data in a timely manner and possibly leading to a loss of information necessary to make decisions about future uses and climate change adaptation.</li> <li>• This has been the only position to make miscellaneous measurements on instream water rights, to the benefit of fisheries.</li> <li>• This position assists the Department of Environmental Quality with streamflow measurements related to Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDPs) in the Southwest Coastal streams; this position also helps local Watershed Councils collecting data for streamflow enhancement projects.</li> </ul>	

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6	WRD		<b>Eastern Regional Hydrographic Water Measurement Technician</b>	29,467						\$ 29,467	1		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This position is responsible for the operation and maintenance of 17 stream gaging stations, and providing assistance for 15 others, processing and archiving data, and producing provisional water-year records for each site. Eliminating this position would result in the abandonment and decommissioning of these gaging stations, and would severely limit historical and real-time data availability to water users.</li> <li>• This position works with other local, state, federal agencies, and non-profit groups, to assist in surface water discharge measurement data and training needs. Surface water discharge measurements are integral for managing the water needs of irrigators, power generation facilities, municipalities, and instream users to ensure the greatest beneficial use for each stream.</li> <li>• Eliminating this position would also shift the groundwater measurement program to other regulatory staff positions.</li> </ul>	
7	WRD		<b>Water Right and Limited License Processor</b>	37,364						\$ 37,364	1		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This would eliminate the one staff member who processes applications for limited license requests. These are often short-term water-use requests, designed to establish crops or pilot-test new projects. Due to the short term nature of this type of water use (example: Construction), applications must be processed quickly.</li> <li>• This position also processes assignments of permits (name changes), voluntary cancellation of permits and provides customer service assistance to the public.</li> <li>• Remaining water right staff would shoulder these responsibilities, leaving less time to process new water right applications, and leading to development of a probable backlog.</li> </ul>	

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8	WRD		<b>Water Right Extensions and Certificates Processor</b>	31,837						\$ 31,837	1		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This staff position is the sole person responsible for processing requests for extensions of time to develop water right permits, including those from municipal water suppliers. Work would be transferred to the water right application review staff members, which would greatly increase the time they take to process water right applications (by statute, this work is supposed to take only seven month).</li> </ul>	
9	WRD		<b>Microcomputer and Network Support</b>	34,255						\$ 34,255	1		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This would eliminate the only computer and technology support for the Department's Central and Eastern Oregon field offices (technical support for more than 40 staff members).</li> <li>• Elimination of this position would significantly reduce the staff's ability to use computers, conduct regular computer training, and keep software systems operational for internal and public use. This will have a resulting negative effect on the staff members' ability to complete their work.</li> <li>• Includes \$18,557 in general costs related to the positions in this 5% grouping. Costs include telephone, office supplies, etc.</li> </ul>	

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10	WRD		Tribal Water Rights / Rules / Public Information Coordinator	37,446						\$ 37,446	1		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This is the Department's only staff person working directly with Indian Tribes on water right issues. This position receives inquiries from Tribes, related to water use, obtaining water rights, and protection of senior water rights. The coordinator provides timely responses to the Tribal representatives. Eliminating this position will greatly reduce the Department's ability to interact with Tribes on water right issues. Government-to-Government discussions between Tribes and the Department will not occur on a regular basis.</li> <li>• This position also responds to "public records requests" from water right holders, realtors, attorneys, well constructors, and other members of the public, ensuring timely, complete, and accurate responses. The resulting information is used in court actions, property sales, and other proceedings. With the elimination of this position, public information requests will take longer to process.</li> <li>• This position also manages rule-making for the Department, ensuring that administrative rules are adopted and maintained consistent with state law.</li> <li>• Finally, this position serves as the Department's primary point</li> </ul>	

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11	WRD		<b>Regional Customer Service and Office Support</b>	18,033						\$ 18,033	0		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This would reduce the regional support staff from 2.0 FTE to two .5 FTE positions.</li> <li>• This position assists the public on the phone and walk-ins and is many times the only staff in the office during the summer months, as other staff members are in the field responding to water user requests. This will lead to reduced hours that the office will be open to the public during the regulation season, when people need a lot of assistance. The Department's ability to respond to requests in a timely manner will be severely curtailed.</li> <li>• Reducing the hours for this position would dramatically slow the Department's ability to provide timely customer service. Potential land sales could also be hampered by the lack of response from the Department, related to ground water wells or water rights issues.</li> <li>• This position is responsible for purchasing, accounting, the mail room, filing, travel arrangements, meeting agendas, and other office functions. These duties are ongoing and necessary, and will be shifted to more senior staff. Some of the purchasing could be shifted to Salem staff members, which</li> </ul>	
12	WRD		<b>GIS Position</b>	31,399						\$ 31,399	1		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The GIS applications developer is responsible for developing tools for internal staff and external customers intended to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of accessing Department information.</li> <li>• The loss of this position would delay or eliminate the Department's ability to develop these tools to streamline business transactions for our customers.</li> </ul>	

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13	WRD		<b>Water Right Certificate Issuance Support</b>	21,331						\$ 21,331	1		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This would eliminate the position that supports the certificate issuance activity. Water Rights Certificates are the final step in the process of obtaining a water right. A certificate is necessary before a water right holder can transfer a water right on a temporary or permanent basis. The Department has approximately 4,000 claims of beneficial use pending; these claims are awaiting final certification. The Department receives approximately 200 claims each year and can process about 600 per year with existing staff. As a result, the Department has a backlog of approximately 10 years in its certificate program.</li> <li>• The Department would spread these duties amongst other support and technical staff in the work unit, causing inefficiencies in the certificate section and other work areas.</li> </ul>	
14	WRD		<b>Salem Central Office Receptionist</b>	13,087						\$ 13,087	1		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This would eliminate one part time receptionist position that is the public's first point of contact when they enter the Department's main offices in Salem. Customers would be required to wait prior to be directed to services that meet their needs.</li> <li>• The Department provides direct person to person telephone contact through this person. Customers would experience wait times of 10-15 minutes during peak call periods if this position were eliminated.</li> <li>• This position processes and delivers mail, purchases supplies, and assists with large mailings. Elimination of the position will put these responsibilities on higher paid staff and reduce the effectiveness of those staff to provide core services.</li> </ul>	

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15	WRD		<b>Contracts Officer / Loan Specialist</b>	44,321						\$ 44,321	1		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Elimination of this position jeopardizes the Department's ability to correctly interpret and follow administrative rules relating to contracts, grants and the Water Development Loan Fund.</li> <li>• This position provides Department wide support for the processing of public purchases, contracts, grant, and loan documents. These processes would be delayed significantly (60-90 days) beyond current turn-around times and delay provision of services by department staff.</li> </ul>	
16	WRD		<b>Water Availability Modeler</b>	44,321						\$ 44,321	1		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This is the Department's senior (and only) water availability modeler, who provides the scientific data needed to make decisions regarding management of the resource and to evaluate water right applications, permits, and transfers.</li> </ul>	
17	WRD		<b>Regional Transfer Applications</b>	109,310						\$ 109,310	3		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This eliminates all field-based transfer application processors. Work transferred to the Salem staff would result in increased processing times, workload, and backlog. Currently the backlog for completing a transfer application is more than two years.</li> </ul>	
18	WRD		<b>Water Right Application Processor</b>	27,430						\$ 27,430	1		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This would eliminate one water right application processor, significantly slowing review times, which impairs the Department's ability to meet statutory timeframes.</li> <li>• The process is designed by law to take seven months for each application, and we are not meeting this timeframe in most instances. Such a staffing reduction could literally add months to the process.</li> </ul>	

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19	WRD		<b>Water Management and Conservation Plan Processor</b>	34,964						\$ 34,964	1		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This would eliminate the general funded Water Management and Conservation Plan (WMCP) staff.</li> <li>• Some water users have, as a condition of their water right permit or permit extension, a requirement to submit a WMCP.</li> <li>• Eliminating this position would drastically slow the rate at which the Department can review WMCPs and could therefore significantly delay permit holders, like cities, from accessing "green light" water under these permits.</li> </ul>	
20	WRD		<b>Measurement Technician – Salem Based</b>	26,421						\$ 26,421	1		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This would eliminate the Department's ability to provide the real-time streamflow records for watermasters to use in day-to-day management decisions, and for other agencies and the public.</li> <li>• Remaining staff would continue to collect data, but the workload would result in backlogs that would frustrate the Department's ability to do "real-time" reporting.</li> </ul>	
21	WRD		<b>Water Use Reporting</b>	30,466						\$ 30,466	1		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This would eliminate the water use reporting staff.</li> <li>• Some water users have, as a condition of their water right permit, a requirement to measure and report their water use.</li> <li>• Eliminating this position prevents the Department from processing or reviewing the submitted data, as well as preventing assistance to any new permit holders.</li> </ul>	
22	WRD		<b>Water Measurement Technician – Field Based</b>	32,700						\$ 32,700	1		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This would eliminate the field hydrographic capabilities for the North West Region of the state.</li> <li>• This position is responsible for collecting streamflow data, which the Department uses in its day-to-day management decisions to enforce water law and protect water rights.</li> </ul>	

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23	WRD		Information Technician (IT) Application Development	48,134						\$ 48,134	1		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Department relies heavily on IT applications in order to enforce water rights, evaluate new applications, coordinate decision-making with other agencies, and then make these data and decisions available to the public.</li> <li>This would reduce the Department's ability develop the tools, databases, and applications necessary to accomplish the tasks above.</li> </ul>	
24	WRD		Oregon Plan Activities	130,135						\$ 130,135	4		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This would eliminate the agency's participation in Oregon Plan activities.</li> <li>These activities include instream water right transfers, mapping water rights, and collecting streamflow data in support of Oregon Plan efforts.</li> </ul>	
25			Attorney General, Administrative Hearings and vacancy savings	125,000						\$ 125,000			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Scheduling of Attorney General and Administrative Hearings services would be deferred until next biennium causing customer delays in resolution of issues.</li> <li>Vacancies will be held open as they occur based on program prioritization. Processing of water rights may be delayed resulting in an increased backlog.</li> </ul>	
<b>The Governor's 1.2% reduction is composed of items #26 and #27</b>														
26	WRD		Attorney General, Administrative Hearings and vacancy savings	201,883						\$ 201,883	0	0.00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Scheduling of Attorney General and Administrative Hearings services would be deferred until next biennium causing customer delays in resolution of issues.</li> <li>Vacancies will be held open as they occur based on program prioritization. Processing of water rights may be delayed resulting in an increased backlog.</li> </ul>	
27	WRD		SB 1069 Water Conservation, Reuse and Storage Grant Program	125,000						\$ 125,000	2		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Grants awarded by the Water Resources Commission would have a prorated reduction applied. This will cause feasibility studies funded by the program to not be fully funded.</li> </ul>	
										\$ -				
										\$ -				
				1,362,014	-	-	-	-	-	\$ 1,362,014	30	0.00		