

Rebuilding Oregon's Stream Gaging Network

Stream Gaging:

The Oregon Water Resources Department operates a stream gaging network of nearly 200 stations scattered throughout the state. These stations collect data used to compute streamflow information that is utilized for a diverse set of purposes including distribution and management of a limited water supply, planning for future water needs, protection of water rights including those instream, and tracking of flood events. About 3/4s of these stations now have satellite telemetry that provide near real time flow information.

The information is available to the public, agencies, organizations, and scientists who use the information to track current conditions and better understand stream flow changes over time.

Current Condition:

Funding for maintenance and replacement equipment has not kept pace on this aging network. Recording equipment is often used beyond its projected lifecycle, that at times, results in lost record due to breakdown of outdated equipment. Gaging equipment is housed in shelters for protection from weather and vandalism. Many of these shelters were constructed years ago and do not meet current safety standards. Funds are needed to modernize Oregon's statewide stream gage network and decommission older gages.

Cost Breakdown:

The Department's inventory shows the following immediate need:

-Complete equipment upgrade: (\$11,000 x 53 gages)	\$ 583,000
-Partial equipment replacement: (\$2,000 x 45 gages)	\$ 90,000
-Shelter replacement: (\$3,000 x 140 sites)	\$ 420,000
-High water measurement cableways: (\$7,500 x 20 sites)	\$ 150,000
-Decommissioning: (\$5,000 x 140 stilling wells)	\$ 700,000
Total Projected Cost	\$1,943,000

Stimulation Benefits

The dollars expended on this program are distributed over several trades. Equipment would be purchased from a USA company. Recorder shelters and cableways will be installed by Oregon licensed contractors. Existing stilling wells will be decommissioned by Oregon licensed well drillers.

Work would be divided into 40 to 50 smaller contract opportunities in blocks of 5 to 10 gage sites located throughout the state available to local contractors. Initial project proposals could be ready for bidding within 60 days of fund availability and awarded with 90 days.