

Upper Deschutes River Basin Study

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The Upper Deschutes River basin in central Oregon includes the Deschutes River, Crooked River, and Whychus Creek systems. Surface water in the Upper Deschutes River basin has been almost fully allocated since the early 1900s, primarily for agricultural uses. Prior studies assessed projected water supplies and demands through 2050 and indicated an overall 230,000 acre-foot unmet annual average demand, including agricultural, instream flow, and groundwater (municipal) needs.

Building off of these efforts, Reclamation and the Deschutes Basin Study Work Group (BSWG), through an agreement between Reclamation and the Deschutes Basin Board of Control (DBBC), will complete the Upper Deschutes River Basin Study (Basin Study). The Basin Study process started in the fall of 2014 and the study is scheduled for completion within 3 years at an estimated total cost of \$1.5 million. Reclamation and DBBC are each responsible for 50 percent of the study costs. The objectives of the Basin Study are to:

- Build off the solid foundation of prior studies to develop a comprehensive analysis of water supply and demand, integrating and updating the analyses to account for climate change.
- Analyze how existing operations and infrastructure will perform under the projected future water supply conditions and demands.
- Collaboratively develop and evaluate options for addressing identified water imbalances, providing a common understanding of the interconnected effects of options that may move water between uses and users.
- Complete a tradeoff analysis to compare relative cost, environmental impact, risk, stakeholder response, and other common attributes of identified options. While the study will not propose any specific project, program, or plan, it will provide a current and broadly-shared basis for future water management in the basin.



The BSWG is a collaborative, consensus-based entity with representatives from irrigation, instream, and municipal interests, and from the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs. A communication and outreach plan will be developed and implemented to engage and inform the public and others.

