

Hood River Basin, Oregon Water Supply and Demand Study

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Reclamation and the Hood River County in Oregon, on behalf of the Hood River County Water Planning Group (HRCWPG), will conduct a Basin Study to create a comprehensive water resource plan for the Hood River Basin, which will include strategies to meet current and future water demands.

The 339-square-mile Hood River Basin relies heavily on surface water flows for irrigation, and groundwater wells primarily for drinking water and domestic/municipal use. The Basin also provides habitat for multiple ESA-listed species (steelhead, Chinook, and coho salmon, and bull trout) and many nonlisted species that require water at specific times and in specific quantities for their continued existence.

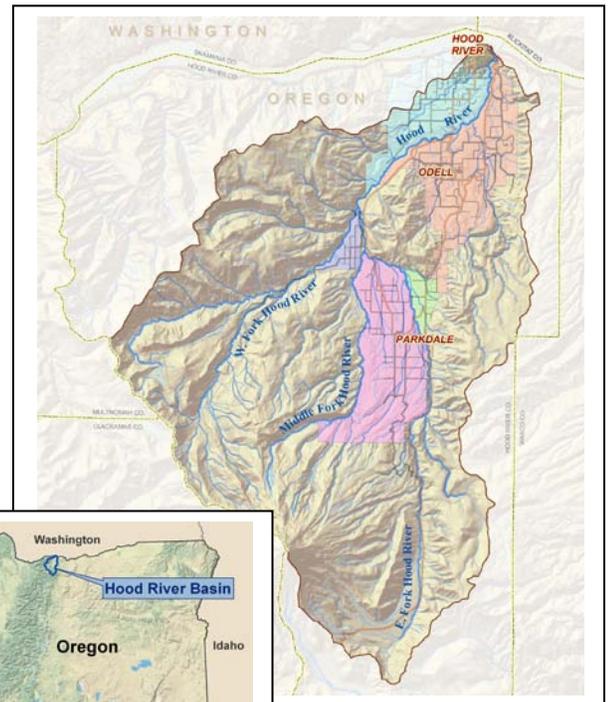
drought, variations in snowpack quantities, and timing of snowmelt have resulted in significant water supply and demand imbalances in the basin. These imbalances are expected to become more acute in the future, and the cooperative approach of the Basin Study will be of paramount importance.

For the past 2½ years, the HRCWPG has worked to collect existing data and information regarding water availability; water use; hydrogeology; water storage; infrastructure; and current and future supply and demand imbalances, including climate data and models that are informative for the Basin. This information will be analyzed to identify data deficiencies and find opportunities to address these deficiencies through the Basin Study.

The Hood River Basin Study will accomplish the following objectives:

- Define current and future basin water supply and demands, with consideration of potential climate change impacts;
- Determine the potential impacts of climate change on the performance of current water delivery systems (e.g., infrastructure and operations);
- Analyze the connection between surface water and groundwater;
- Develop options to maintain viable water delivery systems for adequate water supplies in the future; and
- Conduct a tradeoff analysis of the options developed, summarize findings, and make recommendations on preferred options.

This total cost of the study is approximately \$400,000 (50/50 cost-share).



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