



Bend Involvement: Deschutes Basin Water Planning and Coordination Efforts

Key Efforts and Accomplishments

The City of Bend grew up around an irrigation project in the early 1900's and Bend has played a leadership role in water stewardship ever since. Located at "Farewell Bend" on the Deschutes River in Central Oregon, Bend is directly involved in watershed scale planning, coordination and implementation of a variety of water related planning, management and water supply and conservation efforts. From its start with the formation of the Bend Municipal Watershed in 1926, to the award-winning WaterWise Program launched in 2000, to its latest participation in the Upper Deschutes Basin Study, Bend is committed to the wise management of the regions water resources.

Key Efforts and Accomplishments:

- **1926 – Bend Watershed Agreement with USFS:** The City of Bend purchased the privately owned Bend Power Water and Light Company in 1924 and moved the source supply from the Deschutes River to Bridge Creek due to the contamination of the Deschutes River from upstream development. The importance of collaboration was recognized for the long term protection of the Bend watershed. Projects and updated agreements continue today with Bend annually investing over \$100,000 in summer fire watch, winter staff, trail maintenance, riparian projects, ongoing public education efforts, watershed tours and annual planning sessions.
- **1986 – Deschutes Basin Resource Committee:** Co-Partner with Deschutes County in forming the Deschutes Basin Resource Committee back in the late 1980's which was a initial effort to protect the Deschutes from further Hydro electric development and became key to identifying flow related issued in the upper basin, still embedded in both entities current comprehensive Plans. Report is great historic read of key issues
- **1993 - 2001 – USGS Groundwater Study:** City of Bend was a key participant and sponsor of the landmark USGS Groundwater Study which made the official connection between surface water and groundwater within the basin and was the

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basis for closing of the upper basin to groundwater appropriation unless mitigation is provided. LINK:

- **1998, 2004, 2011, 2016 (Progress report) – City of Bend Water Management and Conservation Plan:** led to the award winning WaterWise program and full metering of all Bend customers. Partnerships with OSU, EPA WaterSense, Alliance for Water Efficiency, Bend LaPine Schools, Oregon Green Industry, Oregon Landscape Contractor Board and many other important partnerships, programs and processes.
- **1998 – OWRD Groundwater Steering Committee:** Bend provided key leadership to the complex discussion to establish the existing groundwater mitigation program that now implement SB 1033 (1995 Oregon Laws), HB 2184 (2001 Oregon Laws), HB 3494 (2005 Oregon Laws).
- **2000 – Bend WaterWise Program Begins:** Bend hired the first Conservation Program Coordinator; who initiated the Bend WaterWise program – and the tagline, Bend WaterWise – Water Isn't All You Save
- **2001 – MOU - Water Quality Monitoring Program** for the Upper Deschutes and Little Deschutes Subbasins: this effort helped solidify the necessary monitoring of various parameters to help understand past, current and future conditions. Bend signed on to better inform its planning efforts within the Urban Growth Boundary.
- **2002 – Tumalo Creek Restoration Project:** City provided \$150,000 and staff support to a three year effort managed by the Upper Deschutes Watershed Council, and restored the upper 3 mile section of Tumalo Creek through the Bridge Creek burn area.
- **2002 – Deschutes Coordinating Group (DCG):** Bend was signatory to a Deschutes subbasin planning effort guided by the Northwest Power and Planning and Conservation Council (BPA). Outlines watershed priorities for species of concern in the BPA related process. The 2004 supplemental priority document is a good summary of ESA related limiting factors present in the Deschutes Basin. (<http://www.nwppcc.org/fw/subbasinplanning/deschutes/plan/>)
- **2003 – Bend Water Summit:** Bend hosted a regional water summit highlighting key issues and opportunities.
- **2003 – Memorandum of Understanding with COID:** this document was groundbreaking in acknowledging the need for coordination and collaboration between districts and municipal water providers on piping, groundwater mitigation and related water issues. Basis for co-funding of construction of ramp flumes on Pilot Butte Canal to better measure losses and led to future collaboration and formation of the DWA.

- **2004 – Deschutes Water Alliance (DWA):** founding member with DWA partners with funding from Dept of Interior, Water 2025 program. Key studies underpin and provide a framework for all water related issues in the basin.
(www.deschutesriver.org)
- **2004 – Waterway Overlay Zone (WOZ):** special planning code designation for stream corridors through Bend planning area to provide riparian and water quality protection.
- **2005 – *An Introduction to Xeriscaping in the High Desert*:** Award winning publication created jointly with OSU Extension Service promoting low water using plants that thrive in Central Oregon.
- **2006 – Water Summit Kahneeta – DWA Water 2025 Grant Results:** DWA reports were presented in three day water summit. Key studies showed water was available to meet future needs.
- **2006 – Winner: Oregon Water Resources Department’s Stewardship and Conservation Award:** recognized for key accomplishments and regional leadership on municipal water conservation efforts.
- **2006 – “Winner” Oregon Department of Energy Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds Award:** in recognition of efforts to promote energy and water conservation that also benefit watershed health.
- **2006 – Bend 2030 –** City of Bend vision process with measurable water related environmental goals and new advisory board
- **2007 – City of Bend Integrated Stormwater Management Plan / Central Oregon Regional Stormwater Manual:** the City of Bend compliance document with the Clean Water Act which furthers the efforts in a City of Bend program and regional coordinated effort that promotes standardized design criteria to better serve the region.
- **2007 – Formation of City of Bend Stormwater Utility Division and Stormwater Master Plan:** with new utility funding derived from all land owners with impervious areas to provide staff and capacity to implement the integrated stormwater plan and capital projects identified within the related Stormwater Master plan.
- **2010 – “Re-Formation of the Deschutes Water Alliance- MOU Signatory:** Bend City council continues to support basin wide water management and planning efforts.
- **2010 – Bend joins EPA WaterSense Program:** The City of Bend has joined the EPA Watersense program as a promotional partner to provide yet another resource for Bend residents to learn how to better conserve water.

- **2010 – New Irrigation District Memorandum of Understanding:** Bend signed an historic MOU with 4 irrigation districts (COID, TID, AID, SID) to work through critical coordination issues such as water supply, future planning, impacts of urbanization, stormwater impacts on canals, water quality, and land use and easement issues. Goal is to have a signed intergovernmental agreement in concert with the UGB update.
- **2011 – State Approval of Updated Water Management and Conservation Plan:** Bend average water use continues to decline while the Award Winning WaterWise program continues to help customers be efficient in all their water uses.
- **2011 – City Includes Water Quality Protections for Open Canals:** in Bend Code Stormwater Updates (title 16) which prevent water contamination from Stormwater
- **2012 Oregon’s First Integrated Water Resource Strategy :** City provided staff to the Policy Advisory Group of OWRD which met for over two years and led to a large budget increase in the Oregon Water Resource Dept Budget during 2013 legislative session for better water management and planning in Oregon.
- **2012 Formed Tumalo Creek Restoration Subgroup (City of Bend Resolution 2900):** The City of Bend promotes staff and elected official participation with local, regional, state and federal entities, on boards, committees and appointments, to further water management goals. COID Hydro Mitigation and Enhancement Committee, Oregon Landscape Contractor Board, Institute for Water and Watershed Advisory Board, Oregon Water Utility Council, Upper Deschutes Watershed Council, and other groups.
- **2013 City Launches WaterWise Gardening Website** – a full color garden, plant and irrigation website that actively helps you conserve
- **2013 City Supports Development of Statewide Water Supply Fund (SB 839)**
- **2014 Oregon Senate Bill 839 Passes – Basin Study Funded:**The City along with Deschutes Water Alliance partners, successfully lobbies for passage of SB 839 which provided state funds to match Reclamation Water Smart Basin Study Program.
- **2014: City Expands WaterWise Program** – Hires new Program manager and expands technical staff
- **2015: Bend modifies Water Rates:** water rates removed any water “allowance” and now also charges sewer rates based on quantity of indoor water used, further promoting indoor conservation and investment.

Updated Summer 2018

- **2016: City Completes Progress Report on 2011 Water Management and Conservation Plan:** see Bend Utility website for more information
- **2017 Bend Municipal Watershed – Web Page:** Bend created new website to post all monitoring requirements, operating plans, and reports related to the USFS issued special use permit, including near real time monitoring of Tumalo Creek. Annual flow and temperature monitoring results to date show all temperature criteria being met.
- **2017 Tumalo Creek Voluntary Cooperative Water Flow and Temperature Monitoring Project Initiated:** Bend, USGS, USFS, and OWRD combine forces to install and operate 5 new gaging stations with flow and temperature near real time technology (on the web) to help better understand Tumalo Creek and its tributaries.
- **2018 – Bend Joins Water Summit planning effort:** Bend supports the OWRD, Confederated Tribes plans to hold a Deschutes Basin water summit in Fall of 2018
- **Bend – Tumalo Irrigation District Sign historic Agreement in Principle:** agreement creates work group working on creation of a project list to incorporate into a long term intergovernmental agreement to cooperatively manage and improve flows on Tumalo Creek.

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