

NATURAL RESOURCES AND RECREATION

Agency 461

Department of Ecology

Recommendation Summary

Dollars in Thousands

	Annual FTEs	General Fund State	Other Funds	Total Funds
2013-15 Expenditure Authority	1,570.6	51,435	406,678	458,113
Total Maintenance Level	1,562.8	51,507	406,934	458,441
Difference	(7.8)	72	256	328
Percent Change from Current Biennium	(0.5)%	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%
Performance Changes				
Federal Funding Adjustment			(2,000)	(2,000)
Yakima Adjudication Support	1.8		260	260
Consumer Product Toxics Testing	2.0		611	611
Biosolids Permitting	.6		299	299
Increase Hanford Compliance	2.0		312	312
Coordinate Hanford Permit Revision	1.2		224	224
Beach Monitoring Fund Shift				
Reduce Oil Spill Risk from Rail and Vessels	2.9		652	652
Increase Toxic Cleanups	6.8		1,441	1,441
Water Quality Data Systems Upgrade	.8		815	815
Attorney General Legal Services		50	105	155
Office of Chief Information Officer Services		2	3	5
State Employee Health Insurance		(293)	(829)	(1,122)
Subtotal	18.0	(241)	1,893	1,652
Total Proposed Budget	1,580.8	51,266	408,827	460,093
Difference	10.2	(169)	2,149	1,980
Percent Change from Current Biennium	0.6%	(0.3)%	0.5%	0.4%

PERFORMANCE LEVEL CHANGE DESCRIPTIONS

Federal Funding Adjustment

Federal funding is reduced on an ongoing basis to reflect lower anticipated federal spending in the Shorelands and Water Quality programs. (General Fund-Federal)

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Yakima Adjudication Support

One-time funding and full-time equivalent (FTE) staff are provided for two tasks to support the Yakima water rights adjudication. The first task is migrating adjudication-related data from a legacy data system to a database that resides on a modern platform. This will allow data to be retrieved for managing water rights in the basin. The second task is processing court notifications necessary to construct a complete and accurate schedule of water rights in the final court decree. (Reclamation Account-State)

Consumer Product Toxics Testing

The Legislature has passed a number of laws banning or limiting certain toxic chemicals and metals in consumer products and packaging, including the Children's Safe Products Act (Chapter 70.240 RCW) and the Packages Containing Metals Act (Chapter 70.95G RCW). The Department of Ecology is charged with implementing and enforcing these laws, but does not have ongoing funding to support a robust compliance testing program. Ongoing funding and full-time equivalent (FTE) staff are provided to increase capacity for developing analytical methods and conducting product testing to ensure compliance with applicable laws. (Environmental Legacy Stewardship Account-State)

Biosolids Permitting

The Department of Ecology's Biosolids Program provides oversight, permitting, and assistance for sewage treatment plants, septage management facilities, and beneficial use facilities that generate, treat, and use biosolids. Biosolids are a product of wastewater treatment and septic tanks that can be beneficially recycled after meeting all applicable requirements under Ecology's Biosolids Management rule. One-time funding and full-time equivalent (FTE) staff are provided to address a backlog of approvals for coverage under the biosolids general permit, thereby reducing compliance issues for septage land application sites, primarily in Eastern Washington. (Biosolids Permit Account-State)

Increase Hanford Compliance

The Department of Ecology provides compliance oversight at radioactive mixed waste facilities, including the federal Hanford Nuclear Reservation in Eastern Washington. Compliance oversight responsibilities include inspections, enforcement and technical assistance visits. A recent U.S. Environmental Protection Agency review found the department has too few inspectors and has not met inspection goals set for Hanford facilities. Ongoing funding and full-time equivalent (FTE) staff are provided for two additional inspector positions to ensure an appropriate level of compliance oversight. (Radioactive Mixed Waste Account-State)

Coordinate Hanford Permit Revision

The Department of Ecology has issued a Hanford sitewide permit that includes requirements for the treatment, storage, and disposal of chemically hazardous and mixed waste at the Hanford Nuclear Reservation. In 2012, Ecology issued a proposed permit revision establishing or updating operating requirements including facility-specific requirements at all Hanford hazardous waste facilities. Over 5,000 comments were received during the public comment period, resulting in the need for extensive reevaluation and revision of the permit. Ongoing funding and full-time equivalent (FTE) staff are provided to continue permit revision work, which is expected to be completed within four years. (Radioactive Mixed Waste Account-State)

Beach Monitoring Fund Shift

The Departments of Ecology and Health coordinate a program to monitor 30 popular marine swimming beaches at high risk for contamination, and to notify beach users when water quality exceeds standards or when pollution events occur. A total of \$152,000 is shifted permanently from General Fund-Federal to the Environmental Legacy Stewardship Account-State to continue beach monitoring. It is anticipated that the state will lose federal funding for this function during Fiscal Year 2015. Continuing this program will reduce the risk of illness to thousands of Washington residents and tourists each year. (General Fund-Federal, Environmental Legacy Stewardship Account-State)

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Reduce Oil Spill Risk from Rail and Vessels

Increasing volumes of crude oil are being imported into Washington from Canada, North Dakota, and Montana, much of it by rail. The Department of Ecology expects these changes will lead to a significant increase in the volume and type of oil being transported through our state and exported by vessel. Ecology lacks adequate prevention and preparedness planning along the inland rail corridors, as well as expertise in risks related to increased vessel traffic resulting from crude oil export activities. Ongoing funding and full-time equivalent (FTE) staff are provided to develop preparedness and response plans and develop expertise in the new risks related to the increase of crude oil being moved by rail and vessels. This will enable Ecology to identify specific preventive measures that could mitigate oil spills and establish preparedness strategies for a rapid response to spills. (Oil Spill Response Account-State)

Increase Toxic Cleanups

Recent amendments to the Model Toxics Control Act (MTCA) created new requirements for the Department of Ecology's Toxic Cleanup Program and set an expectation that toxic-site cleanups will proceed at a faster pace. These requirements include prioritizing large cleanup projects' long-term funding needs, developing new tools to reduce the time it takes to clean up contaminated sites, and instituting cash management of MTCA-related dedicated accounts. Ongoing funding and full-time equivalent (FTE) staff are provided to develop standard cleanup plans for less complex sites, enhance financial and contract management of accounts now managed on a cash basis, and build capacity to manage cleanup activities. New cleanup resources will be applied to projects in all four of Ecology's regions, including water quality source control at the Lower Duwamish site in King County, rural and small-town cleanups in Eastern Washington and engineering support for cleanups within one-half mile of Puget Sound. (State Toxics Control Account-State, Environmental Legacy Stewardship Account-State)

Water Quality Data Systems Upgrade

The Department of Ecology's Water Quality Program regulates point-source discharges to water through the National Pollution Discharge Elimination System permits and state water discharge permits. Permit fees are billed and collected through a billing and revenue tracking system built in 1990 with limited functionality. A separate permit management system resides on a platform that is now incompatible with other technology systems Ecology operates. One-time funding and full-time equivalent (FTE) staff are provided to migrate the permit system to a compatible technology platform, maintain permit-related websites, replace the billing and revenue tracking system, and develop an interface between the two systems. (Water Quality Permit Account-State)

Attorney General Legal Services

The agency's budget is adjusted to align with increased billing levels for legal services in the 2013-15 Biennium because of an increased use of legal services in certain agencies and enhanced recruitment and retention efforts in the Office of the Attorney General. (General Fund-State, Other Funds)

Office of Chief Information Officer Services

The agency's budget is adjusted to align with increased billing levels for the Office of the Chief Information Officer because of implementation of the Washington master address service database. (General Fund-State, Other Funds)

State Employee Health Insurance

Funding for state employee health insurance is adjusted from \$763 per month per employee to \$703 per month per employee in Fiscal Year 2015. (General Fund-State, Other Funds)