

2007-09 Revised Omnibus Operating Budget (2008 Supp)**Department of Ecology**

(Dollars in Thousands)

	FTEs	Conference Version	
		Near GF-S	Total
2007-09 Original Appropriations	1,594.2	132,355	467,840
2007-09 Maintenance Level	1,594.2	132,373	465,434
2008 Policy Non-Comp Changes:			
1. Kittitas County Groundwater Study	0.0	383	383
2. Reducing Release of Mercury	0.5	0	85
3. Climate Change Preparation	0.3	108	108
4. Conservation Markets	0.3	70	70
5. Walla Walla River Basin Water Mgmt	0.8	195	195
6. Hazardous Waste Assistance Review	0.0	0	80
7. Pilot Water Pathways	0.0	150	150
8. Groundwater Data Gap Analysis	0.0	261	261
9. Pulp and Paper Mill Energy Study	0.0	50	50
10. Surface and Groundwater Study	0.0	200	200
11. Children's Safe Products	0.8	0	333
12. Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Jobs	2.0	1,283	1,283
13. Beach Management Districts	1.3	250	250
14. Swift Creek Clean up	0.0	0	210
15. Assess/Clean Up Hanford Groundwater	1.3	0	439
16. Standby Rescue Tug	0.0	0	3,650
17. Covenants for Cleanup Sites	0.0	0	288
18. Maintain Well Construction Services	0.9	0	155
19. Flood Control Emergency Grants	0.0	0	200
20. Columbia River Water Delivery	0.0	0	2,150
Policy -- Non-Comp Total	8.1	2,950	10,540
Policy -- Comp Total	0.0	-1,164	-3,212
Total Policy Changes	8.1	1,786	7,328
2007-09 Revised Appropriations	1,602.2	134,159	472,762
Difference from Original Appropriations	8.1	1,804	4,922
% Change from Original Appropriations	0.5%	1.4%	1.1%

Comments:

1. Kittitas County Groundwater Study - Availability of ground water in the upper Kittitas region of Central Washington has been a long-standing issue. Senior water right holders in the area are concerned that the large number of new drinking-water wells drilled each year could put their own water rights at risk during times of drought. A groundwater study will be conducted by the Department of Ecology and Kittitas County to determine the impacts of new well construction on the aquifer and nearby surface waters. Ongoing funding is provided for Kittitas County's participation in the study.

2. Reducing Release of Mercury - One-time funding is provided for implementation of E2SB 6502 - Reducing the release of mercury into the environment. The Department of Ecology shall research and develop recommendations for implementation and financing of a convenient and effective mercury-added general purpose light recycling program. (State Toxics Account-state)

* Near General Fund-State = GF-S + EJA + ELT + HSA + PFSA + PSEA + SAF + VRDE + WQA

3. Climate Change Preparation - One-time funding is provided for implementation of E2SB 6308 - Preparing for and adapting to climate change. The Department will prepare a report of recommendations for a comprehensive climate-change program in accordance with the provisions of the bill. The recommendations are to build on the work of the Preparation and Adaptation Working Groups established under the Governor's executive order 07-02, climate change.

4. Conservation Markets - One-time funding is provided for implementation of SSB 6805 - Promoting farmland preservation and environmental restoration through conservation markets. Within current resources, the Department of Ecology will provide input and assistance to the State Conservation Commission during its feasibility study. Funding is provided for more intensive participation in up to two demonstration projects if the results of the Commission's study indicate that conservation markets are feasible and desirable in Washington state.

5. Walla Walla River Basin Water Mgmt - Funding is provided to the Department to support a collaborative process to design and propose a comprehensive water management structure for the Walla Walla River basin and report to the Legislature. The structure should address the allocation of functions, authorities, resource requirements, and issues associated with interstate watershed management of the basin. Invited participants should include but not be limited to the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation; appropriate state agencies; and Walla Walla Basin interests such as municipalities, irrigation districts, conservation districts, fisheries, agriculture, economic development, and environmental representatives.

6. Hazardous Waste Assistance Review - The Department will create a stakeholder-advisory committee to review and develop recommendations to help businesses achieve a fifty percent toxics reduction use goal. The committee will review and make recommendations to improve the effectiveness and delivery of technical assistance in pollution prevention planning, and will develop recommendations for strategies to encourage moving away from "end-of-pipe" pollution reduction approaches to increase hazardous-waste prevention throughout the state. Finally, the group will review and make recommendations on revising the hazardous waste planning fees. (State Toxics Account-state)

7. Pilot Water Pathways - One-time funds are provided to expand and continue through the remainder of the biennium the current pilot water pathways project. The department will work with the Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission and the U.S. Institute on Environmental Conflict Resolution to find resolution on persistent water policy issues between tribes and non-tribal entities.

8. Groundwater Data Gap Analysis - The department will prepare, by June 30, 2009, a data gap analysis that includes a summary of historic and current monitoring of groundwater levels and water quality within each water resource inventory area (WRIA); an evaluation of the completeness and quality of the data and conclusions produced from such monitoring; priorities for enhanced groundwater monitoring where water levels and water quality are of concern; recommendations regarding quality controls and other protocols associated with data collection; a summary and compilation of existing studies of groundwater levels, water quality, and monitoring activities; and recommendations of components necessary to establish a comprehensive, statewide groundwater monitoring and assessment program and the funding necessary to implement the program. This funding is one-time.

9. Pulp and Paper Mill Energy Study - One-time funding is provided to coordinate with the University of Washington to assess the current energy profile of Washington state pulp and paper mills. The energy consumption and energy generation capability will be determined for both steam and electrical power. In addition, the sources and types of fuels used in various boilers will be assessed.

10. Surface and Groundwater Study - Funding is provided to assess the surface and ground water impacts to the level of Lake Ballenger.

11. Children's Safe Products - Funding is provided to implement E2SHB 2647 (children's safe products). By January 1, 2009, the department will identify high-priority chemicals that pose a potential risk to children's health as outlined in the bill and submit a report to the legislature, including policy options for addressing these chemicals. The department will adopt rules to finalize the list of chemicals of high concern for children by January 1, 2010. The department will develop a comprehensive database of products and notices received from manufacturers and make the electronic database available to the public. (State Toxics Account-state)

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12. Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Jobs - Funding is provided for implementation of E2SHB 2815 - Reducing greenhouse gases emissions in the Washington economy. The Department will submit a greenhouse gas reduction plan to the Legislature to limit statewide greenhouse gas emissions, adopt rules requiring a reporting system to monitor greenhouse gas emissions, and develop a design for a regional multisector market-based system to limit and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The Department will monitor progress toward meeting emission-reduction goals and analyze reductions from policies already enacted and in place, as well as emissions reduced from any future policies or strategies. The Department will continue its current activities such as participation with the Western Climate Initiative.

13. Beach Management Districts - Funding is provided for implementation of SSB 6508 - Beach management districts. The Department will provide technical assistance to community groups, and county and city legislative authorities that request assistance with developing beach management programs. The Department will ensure that beach management plans are consistent with federal, state, and local laws and planning efforts and develop study and work plans to address sea lettuce growth and proliferation in Puget Sound.

14. Swift Creek Clean up - One-time funding is provided to clean up naturally occurring asbestos from Swift Creek. (Local Toxics Control Account--State)

15. Assess/Clean Up Hanford Groundwater - The U.S. Department of Energy has reprioritized cleanup work at the Hanford Nuclear Reservation, with a new emphasis on risk assessment and groundwater cleanup. Ongoing funding and full-time equivalent staff are provided for risk assessments and hydrogeological investigations in support of integrated cleanup and closure of the 18 Hanford tank farms and 30 surrounding contaminated areas consisting of over 1,000 individual waste disposal sites. These efforts, which are fully covered by new federal funding and fee-generated revenue, will enhance the state's ability to assess the risks to, and its ability to protect, human health and the environment. (General Fund-Federal; State Toxics Control Account-State)

16. Standby Rescue Tug - The standby rescue tug stationed at Neah Bay is a preventive measure that reduces the risk of a catastrophic oil spill. Since 1999, the tug has responded 34 times to ships losing power or steering, or experiencing other problems. The 2007 Legislature provided funding for a standby rescue tug for Fiscal Year 2008, in anticipation of federal legislation establishing a permanent, industry-funded tug at the entrance of the Strait of Juan de Fuca, but no state funding was appropriated for Fiscal Year 2009. Stop-gap funding for 365-day coverage is provided from several state accounts in anticipation of federal action. (Vessel Response Account-state; State Toxics Control-state; Local Toxics Control Account-state; Aquatic Lands Account-state; and Coastal Protection Account-non appropriated state)

17. Covenants for Cleanup Sites - Chapter 104, Laws of 2007, establishes new requirements in situations where environmental covenants (a form of deed restriction) are used to control the future use of toxic cleanup sites. However, only partial funding was provided to the Department for carrying out its new responsibilities under the Act. Ongoing funding is provided for the remaining costs to implement this bill. (State Toxics Control Account-State)

18. Maintain Well Construction Services - The Department of Ecology and local health departments regulate well construction and decommissioning to protect public health and groundwater resources. The Department has experienced a significant increase in the volume of well drilling over the past four years and has begun the process of merging its well construction and licensing data systems to improve data accessibility and system reliability. A combination of one-time and ongoing funding and full-time equivalent staff are provided to improve customer service and license processing. (Reclamation Account-State)

19. Flood Control Emergency Grants - The Department of Ecology provides grants and technical assistance to local governments for flood damage reduction projects and comprehensive flood hazard management plans. Local and state government grant spending from the Flood Control Assistance Account during the 2005-07 Biennium was less than estimated, resulting in additional dollars available in the ending fund balance for the biennium. One-time funding is made available for local emergency flood response grants during the 2007-09 Biennium. (Flood Control Assistance Account-State)

20. Columbia River Water Delivery - Funding is provided for implementation of Engrossed Second Substitute Senate Bill No. 6874 (Columbia River Water Delivery). The department will distribute \$2 million to affected counties to mitigate for negative impacts caused by releases of Lake Roosevelt water. In addition, the department will conduct an analysis of legislative options to protect rural communities in northeast Washington from disproportionate economic, agricultural, and environmental impacts when upstream water rights are purchased and transferred for use, or idled and used as mitigation, in a downstream watershed or county. (Columbia River Water Delivery Account-state)

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