



HILARY S. FRANZ
COMMISSIONER OF PUBLIC LANDS

SB 6062 | HB 2299

\$1.592M GF-S

3 FTEs needed to develop a statewide water bank, repair and replace inefficient equipment, and participate in the Odessa groundwater recharge project will conserve this vital resource for the benefit of the state and people of Washington.

\$1M Capital

Funding for the Odessa Ground Water Replacement Project and a water rights portfolio audit.

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Managing Water for Drought Resilience

DROUGHT MITIGATION STUDY FUNDED BY THE LEGISLATURE HIGHLIGHTS THE NEED FOR PUBLIC LANDS TO BE MORE DROUGHT RESILIENT

DNR must manage our public lands to be more drought resilient, including the ability to lease water assets, to ensure our beneficiaries and the surrounding communities receive the full value and benefit of DNR-managed lands and property.

DNR currently manages over 3,000 water rights that deliver at least \$17 million annually in revenue to DNR beneficiaries and programs. The estimated value of all DNR water rights is over \$1 billion.

DNR received [funding in 2022 from the Legislature for a drought study](#). A 2023 drought mitigation report identified several areas to prioritize for our public lands to be more drought resilient, including work to establish water banks, funding critical water infrastructure improvements and water conservation opportunities.

DROUGHT RESILIENCE INVESTMENTS AND WATER LEASING AUTHORITY

Authority to Lease Non-Land Assets, including Water

DNR's agency request legislation authorizes the agency to lease non-land agency assets, including water. This will also allow DNR to lease water to other entities and can provide drought relief in small, rural communities heavily reliant on agriculture while generating non-tax revenue for beneficiaries.

Critical Water Infrastructure Improvements

\$550,000/biennium will fund necessary repairs to DNR's water aging infrastructure for more effective and efficient water systems on DNR lands.

Development of a DNR Water Bank

Allows DNR to add capacity to manage the agency's water rights and water assets by working with Ecology and other partners to use Ecology's water banking program. This will help protect DNR's water rights from relinquishment, and allow us to move water within approved locations, safely and more efficiently, including during periods of drought.

Odessa Groundwater Recharge Project

\$500,000 in capital funding to participate in the Odessa Groundwater Recharge project. This funding will allow DNR to construct the on-farm infrastructure and pipelines required to access the main lateral for pipeline EL 84.7

Establishing a Water Usage Monitoring and Compliance Program

Monitoring water usage, conducting inspections, managing large-scale projects related to water management, and identifying more efficient use of water for future development, protection and drought mitigation. Review of water usage and lease compliance by 2029 will allow DNR to protect the agency's water rights and ensure we are adhering to legal water use requirements.

