MANAGING WATER SCARCITY AND FLOOD CONTROL IN OREGON

ANU ACHARYA, PhD
Water Availability Program Coordinator
Oregon Water Resources Department

Abstract

Oregon’s water resources are managed by the Oregon Water Resources Department (OWRD). The vision of the Water Resources Department is to assure sufficient and sustainable water supplies are available to meet current and future needs. The mission is to serve the public by practicing and promoting responsible long term water management through two key goals: to directly address Oregon’s water supply needs, and to restore and protect streamflows and watersheds in order to ensure the long-term sustainability of Oregon's ecosystems, economy, and quality of life. OWRD protects existing rights to use water, provides water resource data to the public, ensures State’s water supply wells and dams are constructed in a fashion that protects public health, safety and welfare, and facilitates use of water for economic development and environmental restoration activities. This presentation will cover the basics of hydrology used to describe Oregon’s surface waters (streamflow measurement, rating curve development, stream gaging, and exceedance probabilities), Water Availability Program, Peak Flow Estimation Program, Dam Safety Program, and Water Rights and Adjudication Program. In the presentation, I will also discuss how the agency manages and allocates State’s water resources to ensure a sustainable long term supply.