

# Department Mission



- The Department's mission is to serve the public by practicing and promoting responsible water management through two key goals:
- to directly address Oregon's water supply needs, and
- to restore and protect stream flows and watersheds in order to ensure the long-term sustainability of Oregon's ecosystems, economy, and quality of life.

# Mandated Services



ORS chapters 536 through 543 give the Watermaster authorization to regulate and distribute the public waters of the state. Under Oregon law, all water is publicly owned.

# Department Overview



- Responds to complaints from water users and determine in times of water shortage.
- Regulate junior users to provide water to more senior users.
- Ensure that the users voluntarily comply with the needs of more senior users.
- Provides general information to the public, oversee enforcement of instream water rights, inspect wells and dams for safety violations, and measure and monitor stream flows for management and planning needs

# Successes and Challenges



- The office has maintained the ability to provide the irrigators responsive customer service during an extremely dry year that posed challenges all around the basin with the important funding provided by Klamath County.
- Irrigators received prompt service in assistance in filling out drought emergency permits, information assets related to existing water rights, and current streamflow and well level information.
- Even though the ability of the Watermaster's office was hampered due to the vacancy, the county supported position assisted the Department immensely and together were able to act promptly with other regional staff.
- Funding on the statewide basis has also been a challenge and played a role in leaving the position vacant.



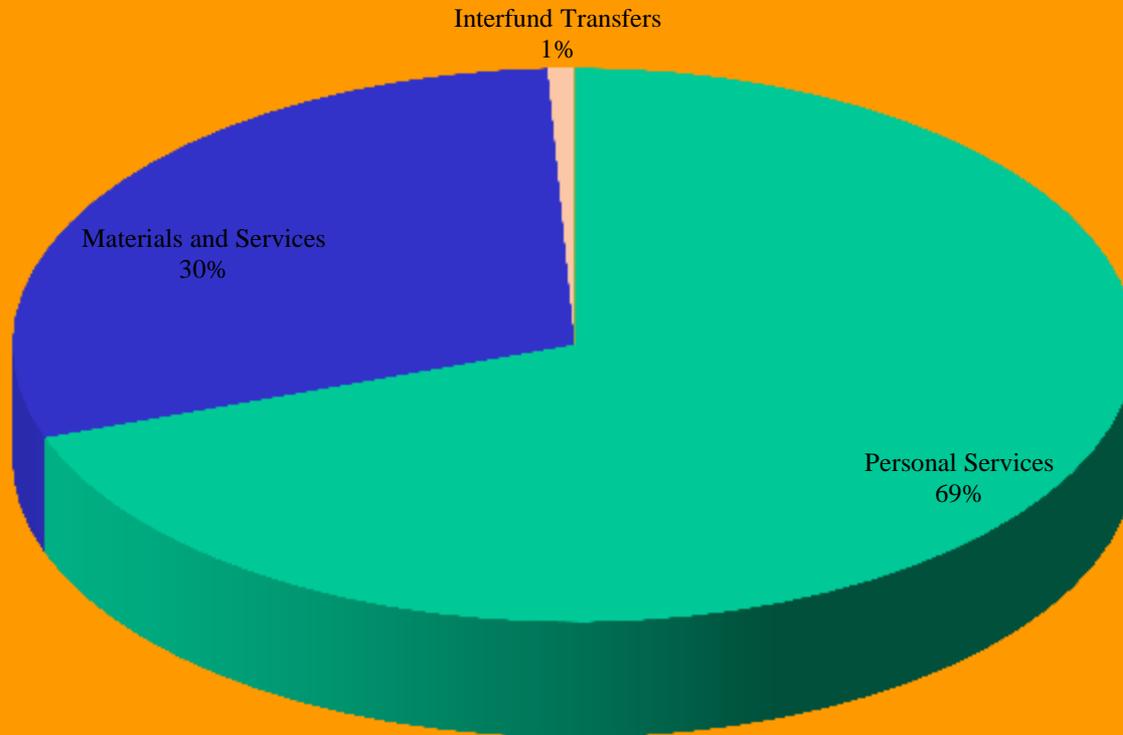
# Budget Overview

- The Watermaster's office has no major revenue sources it is completely dependent upon the general fund. The majority of the budget is made up of personnel costs and inter-department transfers which include, rent and Administrative Services for a total percentage of 22.3%. The remaining 73.2% is made up of all personnel costs.

# Financial Presentation



2011-12 Budget  
Requirements by Category





# Significant Changes

- Without the support from the county, the office would likely have been closed and all inquiries, data needs, responses would have had to be routed either to the Bend region office or Lakeview.
- Major reductions included a reduction in the county share of district costs and reducing employee hours. The FTE would go from 1 to 0.94

# Significant Changes



- A reduction from full-time to part time will have the same effect but on a graduated scale depending on the amount cut from the budget. Cutting the small percentage of services and supplies completely off will have to be made up from state resources but will not reach the percentage cut requested by the budget committee.



# Key issues

- Office has been without a Watermaster since October 2009.
- Allowed the citizens to continue to receive services.
- Without county funding, the office will be closed to the public while the Watermaster is performing field work.
- Office space is key to a long-term sustainable operation.