

Oklahoma Water Resources Board

the water agency

Mission

Our mission is to enhance the quality of life for Oklahomans by managing, protecting, and improving the state's water resources to ensure clean, safe, and reliable water supplies, a strong economy, and a healthy environment.

Goals

- Implement and promote sound water policies, programs, and plans to protect lives, property, and Oklahoma's water resources.
- Build partnerships and increase public awareness to encourage responsible stewardship of Oklahoma's water resources.
- Improve service to the public by maximizing agency efficiency and innovation and through promotion of a healthy, safe, productive, and inclusive working environment.

OWRB Members

Linda Lambert, Chairman
Ford Drummond, Vice Chairman
Joe Taron, Secretary
Tom Buchanan
Marilyn Feaver
Ed Fite
Rudy Herrmann
Kenneth K. Knowles
Richard Sevenoaks

Executive Director

J.D. Strong



Oklahoma Water Resources Board (9 Members)

Executive Director

Administrative Services

Planning & Management

Water Quality Programs

Financial Assistance

What We Do

Managing Water Use

- Allocating water rights through 12,561 permits for the use of more than 6 million acre-feet of stream and groundwater each year.
- Administering federal stream water compacts to ensure the equitable sharing of water with neighboring states.
- Protecting Oklahomans from loss of life and property through maintenance and inspection of approximately 4,500 dams and guiding intelligent land use consistent with local floodplain requirements.
- Preventing groundwater pollution through enforcement of regulations governing the drilling, construction, and plugging of water wells.

Planning for Our Water Future

- Ensuring the viability of state water supplies through proactive studies and long-term plans.

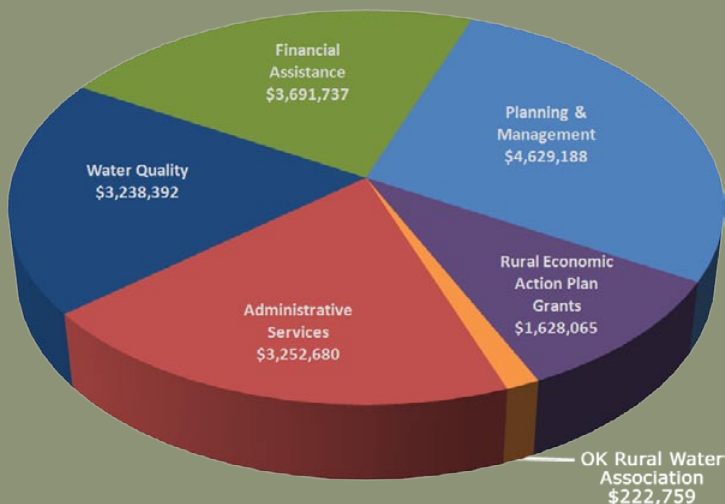
Studying Surface and Groundwaters

- Determining water availability and management options through hydrologic and special studies.

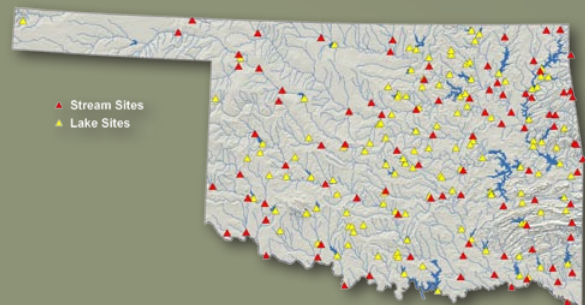
Monitoring & Protecting Water Quality

- Monitoring water quality trends at more than 600 lake and stream sites statewide.
- Developing and establishing fair and consistent standards to ensure water quality protection across the state.
- Curbing pollution of lakes, rivers, and streams and restoring their water quality benefits.

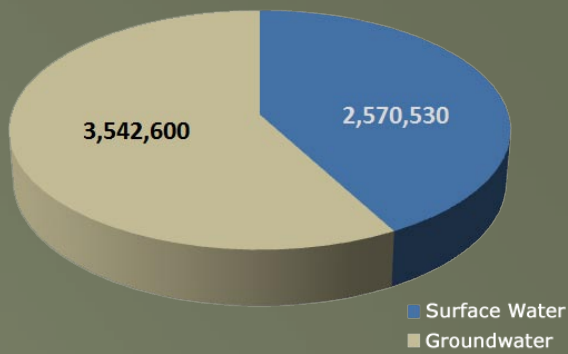
OWRB Budget Overview



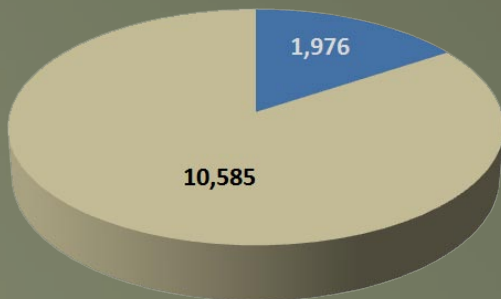
From FY 2009 to 2012 the OWRB's general revenue appropriations were reduced by 19 percent.



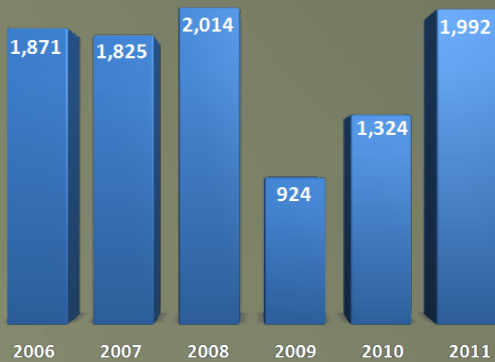
Permitted Water Source & Amount
(acre-feet/year)



Active Regular Water Use Permits



OWRB Provisional Temporary Permits Issued (2006-2011)

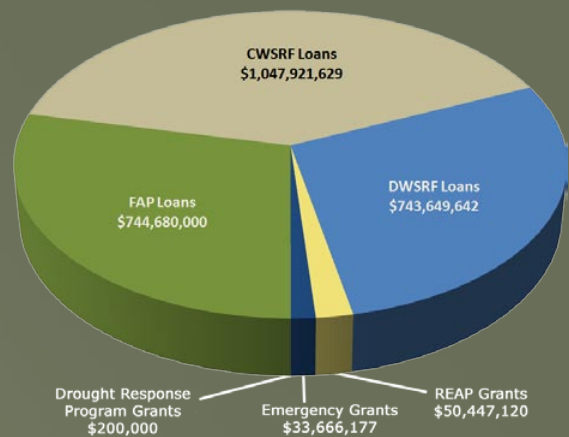


The OWRB currently has on file 10,585 regular permits appropriating 3,542,600 acre-feet of groundwater and 1,976 regular permits for 2,570,530 ac-ft of surface water. Provisional-temporary permits (PTs), those that authorize relatively short-term (90-day) water use, represent the most common type of permit administered by the OWRB. In 2011, more than 90 percent of these permits were for oil/gas production. The OWRB is currently developing a web-based program to facilitate the authorization of PTs as well as greatly reduce staff time required to process these requests.

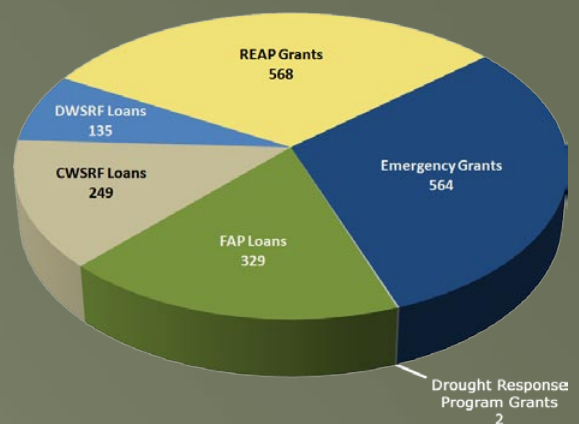
Financing Water & Wastewater Projects

- Providing grants and below-market interest rate loans for water and wastewater infrastructure improvements to facilitate growth and economic development throughout Oklahoma.
- Providing more than \$2.6 billion in financial assistance to cities, towns, and rural water districts to-date.
- Saving communities and rural water districts \$917 million over conventional financing options.

Amount of Approved OWRB Loans & Grants



Number of Approved OWRB Loans & Grants



OWRB Priority Initiatives

In large part reflective of the OCWP "Priority Recommendations", and consistent with the agency's enduring mission to ensure a reliable water supply for all Oklahomans, the following initiatives represent Oklahoma's most pressing near- and long-term water issues.

- Develop a more robust state funding program to address Oklahoma's escalating \$82 billion future drinking water and wastewater infrastructure need.
- Strengthen Oklahoma's water management and data collection programs to ensure the fair, reliable, and sustainable allocation of Oklahoma's water supplies and protection of water quality.
- Provide a mechanism for local water users and stakeholders to solve local water issues and conduct local planning through the establishment of non-regulatory regional planning groups charged with prioritizing and implementing initiatives consistent with the OCWP.
- Investigate the suitability and structure of an instream flow program in Oklahoma to ensure protection of water quality, ecological diversity, and economic development, including benefits associated with Oklahoma's third largest industry, tourism and recreation.
- Investigate appropriate and voluntary conservation measures and incentives, including encouraging the use of marginal quality water supplies, which would result in cost savings for water users and assist in achieving a statewide goal of maintaining water use at current levels through 2060.
- Continue to work proactively toward the resolution of pending claims and lawsuits regarding Oklahoma waters, including the water rights claims of Tribes and out-of-state interests.

For more information,
visit the OWRB Website
at www.owrb.ok.gov.

OCWP

Last October, the OWRB finalized and approved the 2012 Update of the Oklahoma Comprehensive Water Plan, the most ambitious water planning effort ever undertaken by the state.

Throughout 2011, OWRB staff and partners assembled the wealth of OCWP technical data and information collected in the course of four years into 13 Watershed Planning Region Reports. The reports include water supply/demand assessments, future supply challenges, and potential options to secure water for planning basins and regions through the next 50 years and beyond. Considerable attention was given to creating both sensible and functional planning documents, which will serve as indispensable technical resources for water providers, policy makers, and water users in making informed decisions concerning future local and regional water use and management.

Concerning policy issues, OWRB members dedicated four monthly meetings in 2011 to detailed review and discussion of OCWP water policy recommendations—the cornerstone policy product of the OCWP process. Culminating from extensive citizen involvement since initiation of the update in 2006, these initiatives were deliberated, debated, and prioritized for immediate or prompt implementation and/or legislative consideration. The final OCWP Executive Report—featuring both priority and supporting recommendations, as well as an extensive summary of technical work—was formally approved by OWRB members on October 17 prior to submittal to the Governor and State Legislature in February 2012.

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