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.

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.

Finalize and implement the Oklahoma Comprehensive Water Plan to prepare for the water needs of state citizens throughout at least the next 50 years.

Address the negative impact of declining State appropriations on Financial Assistance Program bond reserves and ratings, OWRB State Revolving Fund programs, grant assistance, and Rural Economic Action Plan funding for struggling Oklahoma communities and rural water districts.

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Finalize hydrologic and water allocation studies for the Arbuckle-Simpson and Garber-Wellington aquifers to manage supplies consistent with future local needs and priorities.

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

OWRB Priority Initiatives

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Rudy Herrmann, Chairman
Mark Nichols, Vice-Chairman
Linda Lambert, Secretary
Ford Drummond
Ed Fite
Marilyn Feaver
Kenneth K. Knowles
Richard Sevenoaks
Joe Taron
Executive Director
J.D. Strong

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What We Do

Managing Water Use
- Allocating water rights through 12,640 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.
- Controlling pollution of lakes, rivers, and streams and restoring their water quality benefits.

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 $2.4 billion in financial assistance to cities, towns, and rural water districts to-date.
- Saving communities and rural water districts $846 million over conventional financing options.

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Oklahoma Comprehensive Water Plan

The primary goal of the Oklahoma Comprehensive Water Plan (OCWP) is to blend extensive public input with science, engineering, and related disciplines to establish a sound and progressive water future for Oklahoma citizens. During special session in June 2006, the Governor and State Legislature instigated this unprecedented planning effort through passage of legislation providing $1.3 million annually to fund a five-year update of the OCWP. In 2009, funding was extended through FY-2014 to begin immediate implementation of initial OCWP projects.

Integral to the update are the many partnerships between the OWRB and other state and federal entities, universities, organizations, and the private sector. These partners possess advanced expertise to address emerging water issues and problems. Federal agencies also contribute federal matching funds that result in reduced state expenditures for water planning and implementation in Oklahoma.

In 2011, citizen participants will be given the opportunity to comment on a draft version of the Water Plan during regional meetings. In the Fall, Water Board members will formally consider the final plan prior to its submittal to the State Legislature and Governor early in 2012.

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The pie chart shows water use by region as a percent of statewide use.

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