Groundwater Use in Oregon

Overview

Total
Groundwater (mgd — fresh, not saline) ............................................ 1,480
Percentage of total freshwater* supply for state.......................... 22.5%

Public Supply
Groundwater (mgd) ........................................................................... 147
Percentage of total groundwater .................................................... 9.9%
Percentage of total public supply .................................................. 25.9%

Individual Household
Groundwater (mgd) ........................................................................... 66.4
Percentage of total groundwater .................................................... 4.49%
Percentage of total individual household supply ......................... 89.9%

Irrigation
Groundwater (mgd) ........................................................................... 1,220
Percentage of total groundwater .................................................... 82.4%
Percentage of total irrigation ......................................................... 23.6%

Livestock/Aquaculture
Groundwater (mgd) ........................................................................... 35.8
Percentage of total groundwater .................................................... 2.42%
Percentage of total livestock/aquaculture .................................. 5.51%

Industrial, Self-Supplied
Groundwater (mgd) ........................................................................... 3.45
Percentage of total groundwater .................................................... 0.23%
Percentage of total industrial, self-supplied ................................. 3.29%

Mining
Groundwater (mgd) ........................................................................... 8.45
Percentage of total groundwater .................................................... 0.57%
Percentage of total mining ............................................................. 74.8%

Thermoelectric
Groundwater (mgd) ........................................................................... 1.57
Percentage of total groundwater .................................................... 0.11%
Percentage of total thermoelectric .............................................. 13.8%

(mgd = million gallons per day)

*All totals and ratios are measures of freshwater only.

Groundwater’s Role in Oregon’s Economic Vitality

• Approximately 225,000 known residential wells statewide.
• 667 community water systems use groundwater for 573,200 people
• 320 non-community, non-transient water systems use groundwater for 71,500 people
• 1,229 non-community, transient water systems use groundwater for 168,800 people
• 8,780 irrigation wells used serving 4,800 farms and 510,000 acres

2 Oregon Water Resources Department
4 Ibid.
5 Ibid.
6 Census of Agriculture 2013 Farm and Ranch Irrigation Survey.
Oregon’s Groundwater Industry Employment

Men and women working to provide and protect Oregon’s groundwater resources for the benefit of people, business, and our environment.

Oregon’s Contracting Employment
Drill and service water wells, install and service pumps, install and service point of use water treatment devices. This portion of the industry is characterized by small firms, many of which are multi-generation family-owned and operated.7

- 87 firms employ an estimated 564 people
- Annual estimated sales of $145.4 million

Oregon’s Scientists and Engineers Employment
Geologists, hydrogeologists, engineers, geochemists, geophysicists, microbiologists, regulators.

Environmental Consulting8
NAICS 54162: Establishments primarily engaged in providing advice and assistance on environmental issues, such as the control of environmental contamination from pollutants, toxic substances, and hazardous materials.

- 561 firms employ an estimated 2,123 people
- Annual estimated sales of $406.5 million

Remediation9
NAICS 56291: Establishments include those engaged in remediation and cleanup of contaminated buildings, mine sites, soil, or groundwater.

- 81 firms employ an estimated 793 people
- Annual estimated sales of $188.7 million

Public Service and Universities, Colleges, and Research Centers
- Many more dedicated individuals

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7 InfoUSA, SIC 1781, June 2019.