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IMPACT STATEMENT

Date: June 5, 2015

Council date: July 15, 2015

Legislation title: Authorize Intergovernmental Agreement with the United States Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service for an amount not to exceed \$105,000 for Snow and Precipitation Monitoring (Ordinance)

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Presenter name: Kristin Anderson

Purpose of proposed legislation and background information:

The purpose of this legislation is to authorize an Intergovernmental Agreement (Agreement) with the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) to continue the collection of snowpack, snow cover, and precipitation information in the Bull Run Watershed using NRCS snow telemetry (SNOTEL) system. This legislation will not affect City policies.

NRCS installs, operates, and maintains an extensive SNOTEL network designed to collect snowpack and related climatic data in the Western United States and Alaska. In 1935, NRCS, then the Soil Conservation Service, established a formal cooperative Snow Survey and Water Supply Forecasting (SS-WSF) Program to conduct snow surveys and develop accurate and reliable water supply forecasts. The SS-WSF Program has grown into a network of more than 1,200 manually-measured snow courses and over 900 automated SNOTEL stations in 13 Western United States, including Alaska.

The SS-WSF Program provides stream flow forecasts for over 740 points in the Western United States. The data, as well as related reports and forecasts, are made available in near real time for the automated SNOTEL sites to federal, state, and local governments, and private citizens through an extensive internet delivery system and other distribution channels.

Since 1974, the Water Bureau has been provided services by NRCS through Intergovernmental Agreements. Most recent is City of Portland Contract No. 30001968 which has provided for long term operation and maintenance of SNOTEL sites in the Bull Run Watershed, and was approved by Council on March 2, 2011 via Ordinance No. 184441. A new agreement is necessary and will provide for the continued monitoring of watershed conditions.

Such monitoring is critical in identifying long term trends in environmental conditions. Snow and precipitation information from the SNOTEL sites in the Bull Run Watershed are used in making operational decisions for Bull Run reservoirs and dams. Information from SNOTEL sites is utilized in implementing both the Portland Water Bureau Summer Supply Plan, as well as the Bull Run Water Supply Habitat Conservation Plan, and in the bureau's work to assess and prepare for climate change.

Financial and budgetary impacts:

The total cost of this 10-year Intergovernmental Agreement will not exceed \$105,000. Funding of \$10,500 is available in the FY 2015-16 Budget. Additional funding of \$94,500 (\$10,500 per FY) will be requested in the FY 2016-17 through FY 2024-25 Budgets.

This legislation will not generate or reduce current or future revenue and does not affect staff levels within the City of Portland.

Community impacts and community involvement:

The agreement with NRCS provides the Water Bureau with continuous long term climate data and is necessary in the planning and management of the Bull Run reservoirs and dams. Information on snow depth, cumulative precipitation, and air temperature in the Bull Run Watershed is included in various reports and information that are provided to the community by the Water Bureau.

This legislation is a continuation of the services provided by NRCS and are fundamental to operations and supply planning of the Bull Run Watershed. As such, there will be no impacts on the community and no community involvement necessary for this legislation.

Budgetary Impact Worksheet

Does this action change appropriations?

☐ YES: Please complete the information below.

☒ NO: Skip this section

Fund	Fund Center	Commitment Item	Functional Area	Funded Program	Grant	Sponsored Program	Amount

David G. Shaff, Administrator



APPROPRIATION UNIT HEAD (Typed name and signature)