



## WATER RESOURCES RESEARCH GRANT PROPOSAL

**Project ID:** OR4681

**Title:** US Transboundary Waters: Interstate Waters, Interstate Compacts

**Focus Categories:** Law, Institutions, and Policy, None

**Keywords:** Web-based data management; US interstate compacts; searchable bibliographies

**Start Date:** 03/02/2001

**End Date:** 03/01/2002

**Federal Funds:** \$15,003

**Non-Federal Matching Funds:** \$38,480

**Congressional District:** 5th

**Principal Investigator:**

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**Abstract**

To aid in research on the nature of conflict and the assessment of the process of water conflict resolution, we have been working over the past five years to develop the Transboundary Freshwater Dispute Database, a project of the Oregon State University Department of Geosciences, in collaboration with the Northwest Alliance for Computational Science and Engineering. The Database currently includes: a digital map of the world's 261 international watersheds; a searchable compilation of 300 water-related treaties and 49 US compacts, along with the full text of each; an annotated bibliography of the state of the art of water conflict resolution, including approximately 1,000 entries; negotiating notes (primary or secondary) from fourteen detailed case-studies of water conflict resolution; a comprehensive news file of all reported cases of international water-related disputes and dispute resolution (1948-2000); and descriptions of indigenous/traditional methods of water dispute resolution.

Our current research program, with a variety of funding sources, is developing to expand the Database capabilities to include an interdisciplinary, "virtual center" for the study of transboundary waters. In this context, "transboundary" refers both to water that flows across legal or political boundaries as well as to water and watershed resources used by more than one sets of interests (i.e., water needed by the environmental as well as economic sectors). Our center will be "virtual" in the sense that much of the data assessment and analysis will be web-based. Although the infrastructure for the virtual center would be housed at Oregon State University, it would be linked with partners across campus and around the world.