

Department: Sheriff

Program Offer Type: Operating

Related Programs:

Program Characteristics:

Program Contact: Rian Hakala

Program Offer Stage: Adopted

Program Description

The Multnomah County Sheriff's Office (MCSO) River Patrol Unit collaborates with the Oregon State Marine Board, the Port of Portland, and the United States Coast Guard to provide safe commercial and recreational access and passage to the County's 110-miles of waterways along the Columbia River, Willamette River, Sandy River, and the Multnomah Channel. The River Patrol Unit provides law enforcement and search and rescue services to all river, lake, shoreline and island locations in Multnomah County. The MCSO River Patrol Unit (RPU) provides public safety services for the numerous county moorages, marinas and houseboat communities. The nation's fifth largest port requires protection and unobstructed ingress and egress of commercial ship movement into the region. River Patrol Deputies respond to all life-threatening marine calls for service, such as boat collisions, drownings, missing persons, suicidal individuals, and environmental hazards.

The River Patrol Unit is also challenged with addressing the ongoing surrounding abandoned and derelict vessels in and near the waterways of Multnomah County. Deputies collaborate with various marinas and associations that work, live, or recreate on the rivers, as well as MCSO's homeless outreach and community resource programs and other partner agency resources to address the concerning livability issues along the rivers. Deputies provide boater safety education and intervention through classroom, boat inspections, and enforcement activities. The education and intervention programs include youth water safety and working with Metro to facilitate a life-jacket station at the Columbia River boat ramp.

It is crucial for the local economy that cargo vessels carrying consumer products, transport these goods in a timely and efficient manner. Over 12 million tons of cargo moved through its facilities last year. A safe and thriving community for everyone contributes to a flourishing economy, and access to work, cultural, and recreational activity is an important element. River Patrol Deputies participate in regional multi-agency marine security drills to promote efficient coordination of first responder resources and provide critical infrastructure security protection along Multnomah County waterways. The River Patrol Unit is key to emergency preparedness on/near the regional waterways. They participate in numerous agency collaborations and are a significant function to a visible public safety system which strives to support all community members through exemplary public safety service.

The River Patrol Program:

- Provides proactive patrol services for Multnomah County-area waterways
- Promotes boating and water safety
- Issues warnings and citations to ensure safe operation of port and waterways

Performance Measures

Measure Type	Performance Measure	FY24 Actual	FY25 Budgeted	FY25 Estimate	FY26 Target
Output	Hours of community water safety education	151	100	98	100
Output	Number of community members issued boater examination reports, warning, and citations	1,500	1,400	1,050	1,200

Performance Measures Descriptions

Data from Oregon State Marine Board (OSMB) website number of community members issued boater examination reports, warning, and citations includes the following boater contact types: HIN Insp, Pass MTR, Fail w/warn MTR, Fail w/cite MTR, Pass NM, Fail w/warn NM, and Fail w/cite NM. OSMB requested more on water presence to reduce boating incidents and reckless operation in lieu of Boat Examinations.

Legal / Contractual Obligation

Patrol operates under ORS Chapter 830 and contracts with the Oregon Marine Board.

Revenue/Expense Detail

	Adopted General Fund	Adopted Other Funds	Adopted General Fund	Adopted Other Funds
Program Expenses	2025	2025	2026	2026
Personnel	\$2,304,491	\$838,014	\$2,442,214	\$871,365
Contractual Services	\$6,000	\$0	\$6,000	\$0
Materials & Supplies	\$132,000	\$45,000	\$142,000	\$45,000
Internal Services	\$343,533	\$3,509	\$488,665	\$3,491
Total GF/non-GF	\$2,786,024	\$886,523	\$3,078,879	\$919,856
Program Total:	\$3,672,547		\$3,998,735	
Program FTE	8.50	4.00	8.50	4.00

Program Revenues				
Intergovernmental	\$0	\$816,523	\$0	\$849,856
Other / Miscellaneous	\$0	\$45,000	\$0	\$45,000
Service Charges	\$0	\$25,000	\$0	\$25,000
Total Revenue	\$0	\$886,523	\$0	\$919,856

Explanation of Revenues

This program generates \$3,491 in indirect revenues.

Fed/State Fund:

\$25,000 - River Patrol Services for Government Island

\$849,856 - River Patrol Services for the Oregon Marine Board

Special Ops Fund:

\$45,000 - Reimbursement for Boat Repair and Boat Fuel from other Jurisdictions

Significant Program Changes

Last Year this program was: FY 2025: 60515 River Patrol