

**BEFORE THE WATER RESOURCES COMMISSION
OF THE
STATE OF OREGON**

IN THE MATTER OF APPLICATION FOR)
EXTENSION OF TIME IN WHICH TO BEGIN)
AND COMPLETE CONSTRUCTION WORK) ORDER
AND MAKE COMPLETE APPLICATION OF)
WATER UNDER PERMIT NUMBER 50957)

The Grants Pass Irrigation District is the holder of water use permit number 50957 issued by the Water Resources Director which expires on October 1, 1994. The district has submitted an application for a five-year extension of the time limits within which to begin and/or complete construction work and/or make complete application of water to beneficial use under the permit.

The Water Resources Commission is authorized under the provisions of ORS 537.230 to grant extensions of time for good cause shown, within which to complete work to perfect a water right under a permit. The terms and conditions of permit number 50957 provide for extensions of time to implement any plan adopted by the Commission provided that the Commission finds that the permittee has exercised due diligence in complying with the conditions of this permit and with the conditions of any plan adopted and that it would not impair or be detrimental to the public interest to extend the permit.

The permittee appears to have exercised due diligence in complying with the conditions of the permit sufficient to support a 30-day extension of time during which the Commission shall further review progress under the permit and consider amendment of this order consistent with the terms and conditions of the permit. The permittee has completed a water management study as required under the permit. In completing the study, the district consulted with an advisory committee. The study submitted by the district includes information related to water needs in the district, an evaluation of alternatives for improving water use efficiency, resolution of fish passage problems at Savage Rapids Dam; and a recommended plan for implementation of improvements for the district.

The Commission has not considered and adopted a plan of conservation and improvements for the district to implement. However, the district has developed and is implementing a water conservation plan.

A 30-day extension of the permit would not impair or be detrimental to the public interest. The permit allows the use of water from the Rogue River for irrigation which is an allowable use of the waters. The permit provides a process to evaluate whether the water use practices of the Grants Pass Irrigation District are consistent with statutory prohibition of wasteful, uneconomic, impracticable or unreasonable uses and, to the extent necessary, to reduce the quantities of water historically diverted by the district. A portion of the Rogue River below the district is designated as a state Scenic Waterway. In addition, the Rogue River provides an important anadromous fishery. The permittee has proposed a plan to reduce diversions of water and to resolve fish passage problems associated with Savage Rapids Dam. Implementation of the plan could enhance the primary uses of the Scenic Waterway and mitigate for harm to these uses from the continued use of water under the permit. A short-term extension would provide additional time to review the plan proposed by the district and to resolve issues relating to a long-term extension.

NOW, THEREFORE, it hereby is ORDERED that the time for completion of work under permit number 50957 is extended until October 31, 1994. All other conditions and requirements of the permit shall be retained and shall remain in effect.

Dated at Salem, Oregon this 9th day of September, 1994.



Cliff Bentz
Acting Chairman
Water Resources Commission