

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

In the Matter of the Proposed Water	)	FINAL ORDER APPROVING A
Management and Conservation Plan for	)	WATER MANAGEMENT AND
City of Prairie City, Grant County	)	CONSERVATION PLAN

**Authority**

OAR Chapter 690, Division 086, establishes the process and criteria for approving water management and conservation plans required under the conditions of permits, permit extensions and other orders of the Department. An approved water management plan may authorize the diversion and use of water under a permit extended pursuant to OAR Chapter 690, Division 315.

**Findings of Fact**

1. The City of Prairie City (City) submitted a Water Management and Conservation Plan (plan) to the Water Resources Department (Department) on September 11, 2006. The plan was required by a condition set forth under Permit G-15077 (*issued June on 13, 2002*). Subsequently, a final order (*issued on April 3, 2007*) approving an extension of time for Permit G-15077 also contained a condition requiring submittal of the plan.
2. The Department published notice of receipt of the plan on September 19, 2006, as required under OAR Chapter 690, Division 086. No comments were received.
3. The Department provided written comments on the plan to the City on October 29, 2010, and in response, a revised plan was submitted on October 5, 2011. Final clarifications on the revised plan were received on October 21, 2013.
4. The Department reviewed the revised plan and finds that it contains all of the elements required under OAR 690-086-0125.
5. The projections of future water demands in the plan demonstrate a need for up to 1.0 cfs of water available under Permit G-15077 to help meet the City's anticipated 20-year water demands. These projections are reasonable and consistent with the City's land use plan.
6. The system is fully metered and the rate structure includes a base rate and volumetric charge. Unaccounted-for water is estimated at between 35 and 45 percent.
7. The plan includes 5-year benchmarks for implementation and/or continuation of the following water conservation measures: Annual water audits, visual reservoir inspections; a regularly scheduled and improved meter testing and maintenance program, including testing of meters greater than 2-inches and source production meters; a leak detection and repair

<p>This is a final order in other than a contested case. This order is subject to judicial review under ORS 183.484. Any petition for judicial review must be filed within the 60-day time period specified by ORS 183.484(2). Pursuant to ORS 536.075 and OAR 137-004-0080, you may petition for judicial review or petition the Director for reconsideration of this order. A petition for reconsideration may be granted or denied by the Director, and if no action is taken within 60 days following the date the petition was filed, the petition shall be deemed denied.</p>
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program; a program to install more efficient irrigation practices at all city parks; a program to replace all galvanized pipe in the system; and a program for public education of water conservation issues.

8. The plan also includes 5-year benchmarks for developing a method to monitor and estimate the quantities of water used for authorized, unmetered uses such as line flushing, fire suppression and other operational water used at City facilities.
9. The plan identifies Dixie Creek, unnamed springs and ground water as the sources of the City's water rights. The plan also accurately and completely describes the listed fish species for the City's sources, namely Bull Trout, Middle Columbia River Steelhead and Westslope Cutthroat Trout. The plan also identifies the parameters for which Dixie Creek has been listed as being water quality limited, specifically Biological Criteria, Flow Modification, Habitat Modification, Sedimentation and Temperature. The City's ground water sources are not within the designated boundaries of any Critical Ground Water Area.
10. The water curtailment element included in the plan satisfactorily promotes water curtailment practices and includes a list of three stages of alert with concurrent curtailment actions.
11. The diversion of water under Permit G-15077 will be initiated during the next 20 years and is consistent with OAR 690-086-0130(7), as follows:
  - a. As evidenced by the 5-year benchmarks described in Findings of Fact #7 and #8 above, the revised plan includes a schedule for the continuation and/or development of conservation measures that would provide water at a cost that is equal to or lower than the cost of other identified sources;
  - b. Considering that water savings from identified conservation measures will reduce but cannot fully meet the City's water demand projections, that interconnection with other municipal water suppliers is not feasible due to the distance that would be involved, and because of the need to provide additional water supply redundancy in the system to help meet demands when the City's other sources are offline or cannot meet demands due to seasonal limitations, access to the diversion of water under Permit G-15077 is the most feasible and appropriate water supply alternative to the supplier at this time; and
  - c. The City is not currently required to provide mitigation to address limitations or restrictions on the development of water under Permit G-15077, as no resource issues pertaining to this permit have been identified under OAR 690-086-0140(5)(i).

### **Conclusion of Law**

The Water Management and Conservation Plan submitted by the City of Prairie City is consistent with the criteria in OAR Chapter 690, Division 086.

### **Now, therefore, it is ORDERED:**

1. The City of Prairie City's Water Management and Conservation Plan is approved and shall remain in effect until October 22, 2021, unless this approval is rescinded pursuant to OAR 690-086-0920.

2. The limitation of the diversion of water under Permit G-15077 established by the extension of time approved on April 3, 2007, is removed and, subject to other limitations or conditions of the permit, the City of Prairie City is authorized to divert up to 1.0 cfs under Permit G-15077.
3. The City of Prairie City shall submit an updated plan meeting the requirements of OAR Chapter 690, Division 086 within 10 years and no later than April 22, 2021.
4. The City of Prairie City shall submit a progress report containing the information required under OAR 690-086-0120(4) by October 22, 2017.
5. The deadline established herein for the submittal of an updated Water Management and Conservation Plan (consistent with OAR Chapter 690, Division 086) shall not relieve the City of Prairie City from any existing or future requirement(s) for submittal of a Water Management and Conservation Plan at an earlier date as established through other final orders of the Department.

Dated at Salem, Oregon this 22 day of October, 2013.



Dwight French, Water Right Services Administrator for  
PHILLIP C. WARD, DIRECTOR

Mailing date: OCT 24 2013