

Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife
Water Right and Diversion Transfer Comment Form
(ODFW provides to WRD so that WRD can make findings according to statutory requirements.)

Reference Transfer #: T-14553

Date of review: 1/15/2026

A. Please check box if you believe there is a potential for injury to an instream water right.

☐ The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) believes this proposed transfer may injure an instream water right(s) on _____ *[stream]*, tributary to _____, because _____.

(Please attach any available supporting information.)

Note: This will prompt WRD to make a determination whether the transfer will injure an instream water right. (OWRD makes the determination of injury to a water right, while ODFW's role is to raise concerns, and to evaluate proposed mitigation and net benefit to the resource if OWRD consents to injury of an instream water right.)

B. Please check one of the following five boxes related to fish screen requirements pursuant to ORS 540.525 or 540.532:

☐ **1. Screen Maintain**

[Select this option if the new Point of Diversion (POD) requires a fish screen and is currently equipped with an appropriate fish screen that will still be in compliance if the transferred water is diverted from this POD.]

Note: This option will yield the following:

Finding of Fact: The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife has determined that a fish screen is necessary at the new point of diversion to prevent fish from entering the diversion and that the diversion is currently equipped with an appropriate fish screen.

Condition: The water user shall operate and maintain an approved fish screen at the new point of diversion. If Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) determines the screen is not functioning properly, and is unsuccessful in working with the water user to meet ODFW standards, ODFW may request that OWRD regulate the use of water until OWRD receives notification from ODFW that the fish screen is functioning properly.

☒ **2. Screen Now**

[Option 2 should generally be selected if listed fish species are present at the point of diversion and/or the originating water right diversion is not currently screened. If Option 2 is selected, provide contact information on the "Fish Screening and Passage Information" sheet. The new diversion may be eligible for cost-share.]

Note: This option will yield the following:

Finding of Fact: The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) has determined that a fish screen is necessary at the new point of diversion to prevent fish from entering the diversion and that the diversion is not currently equipped with an appropriate fish screen. This diversion may be eligible for screening cost-share funds.

Condition: Prior to diverting water, the water user shall install an approved fish screen at the new point of diversion and shall provide to the OWRD a written statement from Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) that the installed screen meets the state's criteria, or that ODFW has determined a screen is not necessary.

The water user shall operate and maintain the fish screen at the new point of diversion consistent with ODFW's operational and maintenance standards. If ODFW determines the screen is not functioning properly, and is unsuccessful in working with the water user to meet ODFW standards, ODFW may request that OWRD regulate the use of water until OWRD receives notification from ODFW that the fish screen is functioning properly.

*Please return all 3 pages to: Transfers Section, Water Resources Department,
725 Summer St. NE, Suite A, Salem, OR 97301-1266*

☐ **3. Screen 2 Year**

*[Option 3 may be checked if the change is from an unscreened diversion to a HISTORIC POD or an existing POD in use for another water right, and cost-share funds are not currently available. It should **NOT** be checked if listed fish species are present at the point of diversion, the originating water right diversion is screened, cost-share funds are currently available, or the diversion is not eligible for ODFW's cost-share program. Please provide contact information on the "Fish Screening and Passage Information" sheet.] If extraordinary circumstances are present, please explain: _____*

Note: This option will yield the following:

Finding of Fact: The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) has determined that a fish screen is necessary at the new point of diversion to prevent fish from entering the diversion and that the diversion is not currently equipped with an appropriate fish screen. Listed fish species are not present at the point of diversion, the originating water right diversion is not screened, cost-share funds are not currently available, and the proposed diversion may be eligible for ODFW's cost-share program. A grace period of two years is appropriate until such time as cost-share funds become available to assist in the construction of a fish screen. If cost-share funds do not become available, the water user must screen within the indicated time period regardless of the availability of cost-share funding.

Condition: By October 1, 20__ [Within **two** years after the date of this order] the water user shall install an approved fish screen at the new point of diversion. The water user may withdraw water at the new point of diversion without a screen until October 1, 20__. The water user shall provide to OWRD a written statement from Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) that the installed screen meets the state's criteria, or that ODFW has determined a screen is not necessary.

The water user shall maintain and operate the fish screen at the new point of diversion consistent with ODFW's operational and maintenance standards. If ODFW determines the screen is not functioning properly, and is unsuccessful in working with the water user to meet ODFW standards, ODFW may request that OWRD regulate the use of water until OWRD receives notification from ODFW that the fish screen is functioning properly.

☐ **4. Screen Future**

[Use this option if fish are not currently present, but might possibly be at some future time.]

Note: This option will yield the following:

Finding of Fact: The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife has determined that the diversion is not currently equipped with an appropriate fish screen, but a fish screen may be required in the future at the new point of diversion to prevent fish from entering the diversion.

Condition: The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) may require the water user to install an approved fish screen at the new point of diversion within one year after receiving written notification that a fish screen is required. Once installed the water user shall maintain and operate the fish screen at the new point of diversion according to ODFW's operational and maintenance standards. If ODFW determines the screen is not functioning properly, and is unsuccessful in working with the water user to meet ODFW standards, ODFW may request that OWRD regulate the use of water until OWRD receives notification from ODFW that the fish screen is functioning properly.

☐ **5. No Screen Needed**

[Check this box if fish are not currently present, and are not expected in the future.]

Signature

Jorden Smith
Printed Name

(541)805-1990
Phone

East Region Hydropower & Water Right Coordinator
Title

Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife
Additional Fish Screening and Passage Information for the Applicant
(To be completed by ODFW for WRD to provide to the applicant.)

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The applicant should be aware that fish screening and passage may be required for certain changes in point of diversion if the boxes below are checked.

- ☒ Fish screening is required as a condition of this transfer. The fish screen must meet ODFW's design, construction, operational and maintenance standards.

Pursuant to ORS 498.306, cost-share funds may be available to assist in the installation of fish screening.

The applicant should contact the ODFW staff member below to obtain additional information on the design, construction, operational, and maintenance standards for the fish screen and to obtain information about ODFW's cost-sharing program for screening. **Prior to installation, the water user must obtain written approval from ODFW that the required screen meets ODFW's criteria.**

ODFW staff name: Josh Kelsey

Address: 1495 E Gregory Rd

City/State/Zip: Central Point, OR 97502

Phone: (541) 826-8774

- ☒ This transfer may trigger requirements for fish passage under ORS 509.585 because a new point of diversion will be constructed, an existing point of diversion's capacity will be increased, or an existing point of diversion will be abandoned. The applicant should contact the ODFW staff member below for a determination of whether native migratory fish are or were present at the applicable location, which will determine whether fish passage must be addressed.

ODFW staff name: Jorden Smith

Address: 107 20th Street

City/State/Zip: La Grande, OR 97850

Phone: (541)805-1990