

Oregon Water Resources Department

**Final Order**  
**Limited License Application LL-1915**



***Appeal Rights***

This is a final order in other than 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 either 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.

***Requested Water Use***

**Applicant:** JEFF STILING

**Date Submitted:** JANUARY 24, 2022

**Amount:** 12 GALLONS PER MINUTE (0.027 CUBIC FOOT PER SECOND (CFS))

**Source:** A WELL (YAMH 57781)

**Use:** IRRIGATION TO ESTABLISH WINE GRAPE VINES IN NEW VINEYARD ON 7.5 ACRES

**Period of Use:** JUNE 1 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30 OF EACH YEAR; FROM JUNE 1, 2023 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30, 2027

**County:** YAMHILL COUNTY

**Well Location:** 5.00S-4.00W-25 NE NE

***Authorities***

The Department may approve a limited license pursuant to its authority under ORS 537.143, 537.144 and OAR 690-340-0030.

ORS 537.143(2) authorizes the Director to revoke the right to use water under a limited license if it causes injury to any water right or a minimum perennial streamflow.

A limited license will not be issued for more than five consecutive years for the same use, as directed by ORS 537.143(8).

***Findings of Fact***

1. The forms, fees, and map have been submitted, as required by OAR 690-340-0030(1).
2. On February 1, 2022, the Department provided public notice of the application, as required by OAR 690-340-0030(2).
3. The Department has not received public comment related to the possible issuance of the limited license.

4. This limited license request is limited to an area within a single drainage basin, as required by OAR 690-340-0030(3).
5. The Department has determined that the proposed source has not been withdrawn from further appropriation per ORS 538.
6. As part of its review to determine groundwater availability, the Department has determined that groundwater is not over appropriated, and is available for the requested use. The proposed use will, if properly conditioned, avoid injury to existing groundwater rights or to the groundwater resource. The Department has stipulated conditions pertaining to measurement and reporting, and meeting applicable standards in the Columbia River Basalt Group. A copy of this review is in the file.
7. The Department may not issue a limited license for the same use for more than five consecutive years. (ORS 537.143)(8).
8. In this location, a vineyard does not necessarily require continuing irrigation after establishment. This limited license is issued to establish a vineyard. The Department may issue a limited license for irrigation if the sole purpose of the use is to provide water necessary to establish a crop for which no further irrigation will be required after the crop is established. ORS 537.143 (6)(a).
9. Pursuant to OAR 690-340-0030(4) and (5), conditions have been added with regard to notice and water-use measurement.
10. Yamhill County has indicated that the proposed use is compatible with the applicable acknowledged comprehensive land-use plan. A copy of the land use compatibility statement is in the file.

***Conclusions of Law***

The proposed water use will not impair or be detrimental to the public interest pursuant to OAR 690-340-0030(2), as limited in the order below.

***Order***

Therefore, pursuant to ORS 537.143, ORS 537.144, and OAR 690-340-0030, Application LL-1915 is approved as conditioned below.

1. The authorized use of water under this limited license is as follows:

**Amount:** 12 GPM (0.027 CFS)

**Source:** A WELL (YAMH 57781)

**Use:** IRRIGATION TO ESTABLISH WINE GRAPE VINES IN NEW VINEYARD  
ON 7.5 ACRES

**Duration:** JUNE 1 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30 OF EACH YEAR; FROM JUNE 1, 2023  
THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30, 2027

2. The licensee shall give notice to the Watermaster in the district where use is to occur not less than 15 days or more than 60 days in advance of using the water under the limited license. The notice shall include the location of the diversion, the quantity of water to be diverted, and the intended use and place of use.

3. Before water use may begin under this limited license, the licensee shall install a totalizing flow meter at each point of appropriation. The totalizing flow meter must be installed and maintained in good working order.
4. The licensee shall maintain a record of all water use, including the total number of hours of pumping, the total quantity pumped, and the categories of beneficial use to which the water is applied. During the period of the limited license, the record of use shall be submitted to the Department upon request.
5. Groundwater production shall only be allowed from the Columbia River Basalt Group (CRBG) groundwater reservoir.
6. The well (YAMH 57781) obtains groundwater from the CRBG aquifer system, which is in the Amity Hills/Walnut Hill Groundwater Limited Area and is classified for exempt uses and irrigation only (OAR 690-502-0200). Irrigation use under this rule is further limited to drip or equally efficient irrigation and an annual duty of one acre-foot per acre per year.
7. Static Water Level Condition:
  - (1) Use of water from any well, as allowed herein, shall be controlled or shut off if the well displays:
    - (a) An average water-level decline of three or more feet per year for five consecutive years; or
    - (b) A total water-level decline of 15 or more feet; or
    - (c) A hydraulic interference decline of 15 or more feet in any neighboring well providing water for senior exempt uses or wells covered by prior rights.
  - (2) The licensee/appropriator shall be responsible for complying with each of the following requirements for measuring water levels in the well(s).
    - (a) Use of water from a new well shall not begin until an initial static water level in the well has been measured and reported to the Department.
    - (b) In addition to the measurement required in subsection (a) of this section, a water-level measurement shall be made each year during the period March 1 through March 31.
    - (c) All water-level measurements shall be made by a qualified individual. Qualified individuals are certified water rights examiners, registered geologists, registered professional engineers, licensed land surveyors, licensed water well constructor, licensed pump installer, or the permittee/appropriator.
    - (d) Any qualified individual measuring a well shall use standard methods of procedure and equipment designed for the purpose of well measurement. The equipment used shall be well suited to the conditions of construction at the well. A list of standard methods of procedure and suitable equipment is available from the Department.
    - (e) The licensee /appropriator shall report the record of measurement to the Department on a form available from the Department. The record of measurement shall include both measurements and calculations, shall include a certification as to their accuracy signed by the individual making the measurements, and shall be submitted to the Department within 90 days from the date of measurement. The Department shall determine when any of the declines cited in section (1) are evidenced by the well measurement required in section (2).
8. Water may be used under this limited license only to establish a crop for which no future irrigation will be required after the crop is established (ORS 537.143(6)(a)).

9. The Director may revoke the right to use water for any reason described in ORS 537.143(2), and OAR 690-340-0030(6). Such revocation may be prompted by field regulatory activities or by any other information.
10. Use of water under a limited license shall not have priority over any water right exercised according to a permit or certificate, and shall be subordinate to all other authorized uses that rely upon the same source.
11. By law, the land use associated with this water use must be in compliance with statewide land-use goals and any local acknowledged land-use plan.
12. A copy of this limited license shall be kept at the place of use, and be made available for inspection by the Watermaster or other state authority.

NOTE: This water-use authorization is temporary. Applicants are advised that issuance of this final order does not guarantee that any permit for the authorized use will be issued in the future; any investments should be made with that in mind.

Issued FEB 14 2023

*Katherine Ratcliffe*

Katherine Ratcliffe, Water Rights Section Manager, *for*  
Douglas E. Woodcock, Acting Director  
Oregon Water Resources Department

cc: Joel M. Plahn, District 22 Watermaster  
Western Region, ODFW  
Middle Willamette, DEQ  
Surface Water Section  
File

If you need further assistance, please contact the Water Rights Section at the address, phone number, or fax number below. When contacting the Department, be sure to reference your limited license number for fastest service.

Remember, this limited license does not provide a secure source of water. Water use can be revoked at any time. Such revocation may be prompted by field regulatory activities or many other reasons.

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