



- b) Make specific findings to demonstrate that even though the presumption is not established, the proposed use will not impair or be detrimental to the public interest and propose approval of the application with appropriate modifications or conditions. OAR 690-310-0120(2)

### **FINDINGS OF FACT**

#### **Application History**

1. On January 10, 2023, Michael Meszaros and Shawn O'Connor filed a complete application for the following water use:
  - Source:** SOUTH FORK COQUILLE RIVER, TRIBUTARY TO THE COQUILLE RIVER, AND AN UNNAMED STREAM, TRIBUTARY TO SOUTH FORK COQUILLE RIVER
  - Use:** DOMESTIC USE FOR ONE HOUSEHOLD
  - Rate/Volume:** 0.01 CUBIC FOOT PER SECOND (CFS)
  - Period of Use:** JANUARY 1 THROUGH DECEMBER 31
  - County:** COOS COUNTY
  - Place of Use:** SECTION 22, TOWNSHIP 30 SOUTH, RANGE 12 WEST, W.M.
2. On February 3, 2023, the Department mailed the applicant notice of its Initial Review, determining that the diversion of 0.01 CFS of water from the South Fork Coquille River, tributary to the Coquille River and an unnamed stream, tributary to the South Fork Coquille River, for domestic use for one household is not allowable January 1 through December 31 of each year; however, the Department will review the additional information provided by the applicant and may recommend approval of the application for human consumption use (indoor use only: cooking, drinking, sanitation) at a rate of 0.005 CFS, further limited to 500 gallons per day, at the next stage of processing. The applicant did not notify the Department to stop processing the application within 14 days of that date.
3. On February 7, 2023, the Department noticed the application in its weekly public notice, requesting comments, and providing information for interested persons about obtaining future notices and a copy of the Proposed Final Order.

#### **Presumption Criterion (a) - Consistency with Basin Program**

4. Domestic use (including human consumption use) is allowed under the South Coast Basin Program (OAR 690-517-0000(12)). ORS 537.153(3)(b); OAR 690-310-0110(1)(a)

#### **Presumption Criterion (b) - Water Availability**

5. An assessment of water availability at 80% exceedance for the proposed use was completed using the Department's Water Availability Reporting System. A copy of this assessment is in the application file. This review is done consistent with OAR 690-410-0070(2)(a). During the period of use requested, the assessment established that surface water is available December 1 through June 30 of each year. ORS 537.153(3)(c); OAR 690-310-0150(2)(c)

**Presumption Criterion (c) - Injury Determination**

6. The proposed use, if authorized, will not injure other water rights. ORS 537.153(3)(d); OAR 690-310-0150(2)(e)

**Presumption Criterion (d) - Whether the Use Complies with Rules of the Commission**

7. Documentation has been submitted from the relevant land-use planning jurisdiction that indicates an approved land-use decision has been obtained, and that either no administrative appeals were received, or all such appeals have concluded. ORS 537.153(3)(b); OAR 690-310-0150(2)(b)
8. The proposed use is in an area of the state in which OAR 690-033-0310 through -0340 applies. These rules establish definitions, additional procedures, and standards to aid the Department in determining whether a proposed use will impair or be detrimental to the public interest with regard to sensitive, threatened, or endangered fish species.

**OAR 690-033-0310 Statewide Rules**

- A. The proposed use occurs in an area that may affect the habitat of sensitive, threatened or endangered fish species. OAR 690-033-0310(2)
  - B. The applicant has been notified that based on a preliminary determination, the proposed use may affect the habitat of sensitive, threatened or endangered fish species and the application may be conditioned or denied. OAR 690-033-0330(1)(a)
  - C. The interagency review team has been notified that an application has been received in an area that may affect the habitat of sensitive, threatened or endangered fish species. OAR 690-033-0330(1)(b)
  - D. The interagency review team was convened to review the application and recommended conditions as necessary to achieve the standards listed in OAR 690-033-0330(2)(a) and (b). As a result of this review, Permit Specific Conditions #3 through #7 have been included in the draft permit.
9. The proposed use is not located within or above a state scenic waterway, as designated under ORS 390.826.

**Determination of Presumption that a Proposed Surface Water Use will not Impair or be Detrimental to the Public Interest under ORS 537.153**

Because the criteria are not met (surface water is not available) the presumption is **not** established. OAR 690-310-0120(1)

**Further Evaluation of the Proposed Use**

10. OAR 690-310-0120(2) states that when the presumption is not established, the Department shall determine whether the proposed use will impair or adversely affect the public interest, and may make specific findings to demonstrate that even though the presumption is not established, the proposed use will not impair or adversely affect the public interest, and propose approval of the application with appropriate modifications or conditions.

**OAR 690-310-0120(2) Specific Findings**

To determine whether the proposed use will preserve the public interest, the factors in ORS 537.170(8) have been considered as follows:

- A. The conservation of the highest use of the water for all purposes, including irrigation, domestic use, municipal water supply, power development, public recreation, protection of commercial and game fishing and wildlife, fire protection, mining, industrial purposes, navigation, scenic attraction or any other beneficial use to which the water may be applied for which it may have a special value to the public.

*Domestic use (including human consumption) is classified under the South Coast Basin Program, and therefore is one of the highest and best uses.*

- B. The maximum economic development of the waters involved.

*The applicant has demonstrated that denial of this application would result in loss of reasonable expectations for use of the property.*

- C. The control of the waters of this state for all beneficial purposes, including drainage, sanitation and flood control.

*Human consumption includes uses of water for sanitation (OAR 690-300-0010(24)). Because the applicant has no other reasonable source of water to provide sanitation to their home, human consumption use is necessary to provide the beneficial use of sanitation to the applicant.*

- D. The amount of waters available for appropriation for beneficial use.

*Water is not available for the proposed use during the full period requested; however, the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife and Department of Environmental Quality have recommended Permit Specific conditions #3 through #7 to reduce the impacts of the proposed use.*

- E. The prevention of wasteful, uneconomic, impracticable or unreasonable use of the waters involved.

*The use will be conditioned to require reasonable use of the water and measurement, recording and reporting conditions.*

- F. All vested and inchoate rights to the waters of this state or to the use of the waters of this state, and the means necessary to protect such rights.

*The pending application's priority date and the Department's existing system of regulation are the means necessary to protect existing vested and inchoate rights, thus the protection of rights consideration is satisfied.*

- G. The state water resources policy.

*The Department determined the proposed use is consistent with the state water resources policy formulated under ORS 536.295 to 536.350.*

- 11. Written comments were received by the close of the comment period and a copy is available in the application file. The Department determined all comments received pertained to a separate unaffiliated application and were not intended for this application. OAR 690-310-0150(1)
- 12. The Department therefore concludes that, in accordance with OAR 690-310-0120(2)(b), although the presumption is not established, the proposed use as modified and conditioned in the attached draft permit will not impair or be detrimental to the public interest.

**Other Criteria and Requirements**

- 13. The amount requested for one household, 0.01 CFS, further limited by the Department to 0.005 CFS and 500 gallons per day, per household, is necessary for the proposed use. ORS 537.153(3)(c); OAR 690-310-0150(2)(d)
- 14. The applicant proposed measures to prevent waste, measure the amount of water diverted, prevent damage to aquatic life and riparian habitat, prevent discharge of contaminated water to a surface stream and to prevent damage to public uses of any affected surface waters. These measures are included in Sections 6 and 7 of the application. OAR 690-310-0150(2)(j)
- 15. The proposed use complies with rules of the Water Resources Commission not otherwise described above.

**CONCLUSIONS OF LAW**

- 1. The proposed use, as conditioned, would not impair or be detrimental to the public interest as described in ORS 537.153.

NOTE: When issuing permits, ORS 537.170(6) authorizes the Department to include provisions or restrictions concerning the use, control and management of water to be appropriated for the project.

**PROPOSED ORDER**

The Department recommends approval of Application S-89322, as amended, and issuance of a permit consistent with the attached draft permit.

DATED July 11, 2023

*Katherine Ratcliffe*

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

## Protests

Under the provisions of ORS 537.153(7) (for surface water) or ORS 537.153(8) (for groundwater), you can protest this Proposed Final Order. If you wish to submit a protest by U.S. mail, please consider mailing early to ensure the Department receives the protest by the deadline specified. Protests must be received by the Water Resources Department no later than **August 25, 2023**.

Protests must be in writing and include the following:

- Your name, address, and telephone number;
- A description of your interest in the Proposed Final Order, and, if you claim to represent the public interest, a precise statement of the public interest represented;
- A detailed description of how the action proposed in the Proposed Final Order would impair or be detrimental to your interest;
- A detailed description of how the Proposed Final Order is in error or deficient, and how to correct the alleged error or deficiency;
- Any citation of legal authority to support your protest, if known;
- To effect the Department's determination that the proposed use in this application will, or will not, impair or be detrimental to the public interest, ORS 537.153(6) requires that a protest demonstrate, by a preponderance of evidence any of the following: (a) One or more of the criteria for establishing the presumption are, or are not, satisfied; or (b) The specific aspect of the public interest under ORS 537.170(8) that would be impaired or detrimentally affected, and specifically how the identified aspect of the public interest under ORS 537.170(8) would be impaired or be detrimentally affected;
- If you are the applicant, a protest fee of \$480 required by ORS 536.050; and
- If you are not the applicant, a protest fee of \$950 required by ORS 536.050 and proof of service of the protest upon the applicant.
- If you are the applicant, a statement of whether or not you are requesting a contested case hearing.

## Requests for Standing

Under the provisions of ORS 537.153(7) (for surface water) or ORS 537.621(8) (for groundwater), persons other than the applicant who support a Proposed Final Order can request standing for purposes of participating in any contested case proceeding on the Proposed Final Order or for judicial review of a Final Order.

Requests for standing must be received in the Water Resources Department no later than **August 25, 2023**. Requests for standing must be in writing, and must include the following:

- The requester's name, mailing address and telephone number;
- If the requester is representing a group, association or other organization, the name, address and telephone number of the represented group;
- A statement that the requester supports the Proposed Final Order as issued;
- A detailed statement of how the requester would be harmed if the Proposed Final Order is modified; and

- A standing fee of \$270. If a hearing is scheduled, an additional fee of \$680 must be submitted along with a petition for party status.

After the protest period has ended, the Director will either issue a Final Order or schedule a contested case hearing. The contested case hearing will be scheduled only if a protest has been submitted and either:

- upon review of the issues, the director finds that there are significant disputes related to the proposed use of water, or
- the applicant requests a contested case hearing within 30 days after the close of the protest period.

If you do not timely file a protest or timely request a hearing, or if you withdraw a request for a hearing, notify the Department or the administrative law judge that you will not appear or fail to appear at a scheduled hearing, the Director may issue a Final Order by default. If the Director issues a Final Order by default, the Department designates the relevant portions of its files on this matter, including all materials that you have submitted relating to this matter, as the record for purpose of proving a *prima facie* case upon default. OAR 137-003-0670.

You may be represented by an attorney at the hearing. Legal aid organizations may be able to assist a party with limited financial resources. Generally, partnerships, corporations, associations, governmental subdivisions or public or private organizations are represented by an attorney. However, consistent with OAR 690-002-0020 and OAR 137-003-0555, an agency representative may represent a partnership, corporation, association, governmental subdivision or public or private organization if the Department determines that appearance of a person by an authorized representative will not hinder the orderly and timely development of the record in this case.

**Notice Regarding Servicemembers:** Active duty service members have a right to stay proceedings under the federal Servicemembers Civil Relief Act. For more information contact the Oregon State Bar at 800-452-8260, the Oregon Military Department at 503-584-3571 or toll-free at 800-452-7500, or the nearest United States Armed Forces Legal Assistance Office through <http://legalassistance.law.af.mil>.

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- If you have any questions about statements contained in this document, please contact Lucinda Vranizan at 971-375-2256 or [Lucinda.R.Vranizan@water.oregon.gov](mailto:Lucinda.R.Vranizan@water.oregon.gov).
  - If you have questions about how to file a protest or if you have previously filed a protest and you want to know the status, please contact Patricia McCarty at 503-979-9160 through June 23, 2023. After June 23, 2023, please contact Will Davidson at 503-986-0801.
  - If you have any questions about the Department or any of its programs, please contact our Water Resources Customer Service Group at 503-986-0900.
  - Address any correspondence to: Water Right Services Division  
725 Summer St NE, Suite A  
Salem, OR 97301-1266  
Fax: 503-986-0901
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DRAFT

This is not a permit.

DRAFT

STATE OF OREGON

COUNTY OF COOS

DRAFT PERMIT TO APPROPRIATE THE PUBLIC WATERS

THIS DRAFT PERMIT IS HEREBY ISSUED TO

MICHAEL MESZAROS  
SHAWN O'CONNOR  
47058 HWY 242  
BROADBENT OR 97414

The specific limits and conditions of the use are listed below.

APPLICATION FILE NUMBER: S-89322

SOURCE OF WATER: SOUTH FORK COQUILLE RIVER, TRIBUTARY TO THE COQUILLE RIVER; AN UNNAMED STREAM, TRIBUTARY TO SOUTH FORK COQUILLE RIVER

PURPOSE OR USE: HUMAN CONSUMPTION USE FOR ONE HOUSEHOLD (INDOOR USE ONLY: COOKING, DRINKING, SANITATION)

MAXIMUM RATE: 0.005 CUBIC FOOT PER SECOND; FURTHER LIMITED TO 500 GALLONS PER DAY, PER HOUSEHOLD

PERIOD OF USE: JANUARY 1 THROUGH DECEMBER 31

DATE OF PRIORITY: JANUARY 10, 2023

AUTHORIZED POINTS OF DIVERSION:

Twp	Rng	Mer	Sec	Q-Q	Measured Distances
30 S	12 W	WM	22	NW NE	2450 FEET NORTH AND 2950 FEET EAST FROM W1/4 CORNER, SECTION 22
30 S	12 W	WM	22	NE NW	2210 FEET NORTH AND 2450 FEET EAST FROM W1/4 CORNER, SECTION 22

AUTHORIZED PLACE OF USE:

Twp	Rng	Mer	Sec	Q-Q
30 S	12 W	WM	22	NW NE

## PERMIT SPECIFIC CONDITIONS

1. Failure to comply with any of the provisions of this permit may result in action including, but not limited to, restrictions on the use, civil penalties, or cancellation of the permit.
2. **Water Use Measurement, Recording, and Reporting:**
  - A. Before water use may begin under this permit, the permittee shall install an in-line flow restrictor, or other suitable measuring device as determined by the watermaster, at each point of diversion. The permittee shall maintain the device in good working order.
  - B. The permittee shall allow the watermaster access to the device; provided however, where any device is located within a private structure, the watermaster shall request access upon reasonable notice.
  - C. The Director may require the permittee to keep and maintain a record of the volume of water diverted, and may require the permittee to report water-use on a periodic schedule as established by the Director. In addition, the Director may require the permittee to report general water-use information, the periods of water use and the place and nature of use of water under the permit.
  - D. The Director may provide an opportunity for the permittee to submit alternative measuring and reporting procedures for review and approval.

3. **Riparian Area Restoration:**

If the riparian area is disturbed in the process of developing a point of diversion, the permittee shall be responsible for restoration and enhancement of such riparian area in accordance with ODFW's Fish and Wildlife Habitat Mitigation Policy OAR 635-415. For purposes of mitigation, the ODFW Fish and Wildlife Habitat Mitigation Goals and Standards, OAR 635-415, shall be followed.

4. **Fish Screen:**

The permittee shall install, maintain, and operate fish screening consistent with current Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) standards or submit documentation that ODFW has determined fish screening is not necessary or is exempted. Fish screening is to prevent fish from entering the proposed diversion. The required screen is to be in place and functional, and approved in writing by ODFW **prior to diversion of any water**. The permittee shall operate and maintain the fish screen consistent with ODFW's operation and maintenance standards. The permittee is hereby directed to schedule a consultation with an ODFW Fish Screen Coordinator.

5. **Maintain Passage:**

The permittee shall maintain adequate passage of native migratory fish at all times (ORS 509.610) and shall not construct, operate, or maintain any dam or artificial obstruction to fish passage across any waters of the state that are inhabited, or were historically inhabited, by native migratory fish (ORS 509.585).

**6. In-Water Work:**

Any in-water work related to construction, development, or maintenance of the proposed use shall be conducted during the preferred work period of July 1 through September 15, unless an alternate time period is approved by Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife.

**7. Water Quality:**

All water use under this permit shall comply with state and federal water quality laws. The permittee shall not violate any state and federal water quality standards, shall not cause pollution of any waters of the state, and shall not place or cause to be placed any wastes in a location where such wastes are likely to escape or be carried into the waters of the state by any means. The use may be restricted if the quality of source stream or downstream waters decrease to the point that those waters no longer meet existing state or federal water quality standards. Permittee is responsible for obtaining any necessary state and federal permits.

**STANDARD CONDITIONS**

1. Where two or more water users agree among themselves as to the manner of rotation in the use of water and such agreement is placed in writing and filed by such water users with the watermaster, and such rotation system does not infringe upon such prior rights of any water user not a party to such rotation plan, the watermaster shall distribute the water according to such agreement.
2. This permit is for the beneficial use of water without waste. The water user is advised that new regulations may require the use of best practical technologies or conservation practices to achieve this end.
3. 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.
4. The use of water allowed herein may be made only at times when sufficient water is available to satisfy all prior rights, including prior rights for maintaining instream flows.

**DEVELOPMENT AND COMPLETION TIMELINE REQUIREMENTS**

1. Construction of the water system shall begin within five years of the date of permit issuance. The deadline to begin construction may not be extended. This permit is subject to cancellation proceedings if the begin construction deadline is missed.
2. Complete application of the water shall be made within five years of the date of permit issuance. If beneficial use of permitted water has not been made before this date, the

permittee may submit an application for extension of time, which may be approved based upon the merit of the application.

3. Within one year after complete application of water to the proposed use, the permittee shall submit a claim of beneficial use, which includes a map and report, prepared by a Certified Water Rights Examiner.

ISSUED \_\_\_\_\_

**DRAFT - THIS IS NOT A PERMIT**

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