



## **Water Right Application Initial Review**

June 7, 2024

SCOTT VIERCK  
PO BOX 508  
BANDON OR 97411

Reference: Application S-89457

This document is to inform you of the preliminary analysis of the water-use permit application and to describe your options. In determining whether an application may be approved, the Water Resources Department (Department) must consider the factors listed below, all of which must be favorable to the proposed use if it is to be allowed. Based on the information supplied, the Department has made the following preliminary determinations:

### **Preliminary Determinations under Oregon Administrative Rule (OAR) 690-310-0080:**

1. The application proposes the diversion of 0.01 cubic foot per second (CFS) of water from Venture Creek, tributary to the Rogue River, for domestic use expanded for one household from January 1 through December 31 of each year.
2. The proposed use is not prohibited by law or rule except where otherwise noted below.
3. Domestic use expanded is allowable under the Rogue Basin Program (OAR 690-515-0060(1)(a)(A)).
4. 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). The assessment established, during the period of use requested, surface water is available from December 1 through June 30 and from October 1 through October 31 of each year. Therefore, water is not available for the proposed use. See the **Additional Information Opportunity** section below.
5. The proposed use is located within or above the Rogue Scenic Waterway, as designated under Oregon Revised Statute 390.826.

6. Documentation has been submitted from the relevant land-use planning jurisdiction that indicates an approved land-use decision is **not** being pursued. See the **Additional Information Required** section below for more information.

Summary of Preliminary Determinations
<b>The diversion of 0.01 CFS of water from Venture Creek, tributary to the Rogue River, for domestic use expanded for one household from January 1 through December 31 of each year, is not allowable. However, by providing additional information you may request a limited permit for human consumption use (indoor use only: cooking, drinking and sanitation) at 0.005 CFS, further limited to 500 gallons per day per household. Please refer to the Additional Information Opportunity section below for details.</b>

**Additional Information Opportunity #1:**

Surface water is not available during the entire period of time requested (Preliminary Determination #4). Pursuant to OAR 690-300-0010(57)(b), a water right permit applicant has the opportunity to provide the following information for the Department to consider:

- A. Information that demonstrates the proposed use only requires water (and can make beneficial use of water) during the period of time when water is available for further appropriation, being December 1 through June 30 and October 1 through October 31 of each year; or
- B. Information that demonstrates the applicant can obtain water from an alternate source during the period when water is not available, being July 1 through September 30 and November 1 through November 30.

If you are interested in pursuing the opportunity described above, please submit the requested information no later than **July 11, 2024**. If you need more time, you may request an administrative hold for up to an additional 180 days. You must submit the request in writing, stating how much more time is needed and why you need additional time. If an administrative hold is granted, your application will not be processed further until the requested information is received or the extended deadline has passed.

**Additional Information Opportunity #2:**

Due to requirements for existing water rights and minimum flows in a scenic waterway, water is not available in sufficient quantities to support the proposed use. However, human consumption of water (indoor use only: cooking, drinking and sanitation) from the proposed source may be considered a high public interest use if there is no reasonable alternative. If you can provide evidence that this is the case, we will work with the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife to attempt to determine conditions which will protect instream values during the months when instream flow requirements are not met. These conditions may include mitigation measures to offset the impact of the requested use.

Please complete and return the attached “*Application Supplement for Human Consumption & Livestock Uses*” form. **Please submit this information no later than July 11, 2024**. If you are unable to submit the information listed above, you may request an administrative hold for up to an additional 180 days. You

must submit the request in writing, stating how much time needed and why you need additional time. If an administrative hold is granted, your application will not be processed further until the requested information is received or the extended deadline has passed.

If we do not receive the items requested above or a request for an administrative hold by this date, the Department will likely proceed with a Proposed Final Order recommending denial of the application.

**Additional Information Required:**

Additional information is required to process your application prior to issuance of any Proposed Final Order. Please provide the following item(s):

- A. The Department must receive documentation that the proposed use complies with the local acknowledged comprehensive land-use plan. Please submit documentation from the relevant planning jurisdiction that either a) the proposed use is allowed outright or b) that an approved land-use decision has been obtained, and that either no administrative appeals were received, or all such appeals have concluded.

**Please submit this information no later than July 11, 2024.** If you are unable to submit the information listed above by this date, you may request an administrative hold for up to an additional 180 days. You must submit the request in writing, stating how much more time is needed and why you need additional time. If an administrative hold is granted, your application will not be processed further until the requested information is received or the extended deadline has passed.

If we do not receive the information requested above or a request for an administrative hold by the above date, the Department may reject the application.

**Public Comment & Further Review:**

Public interest issues and/or public comments will be addressed as the Department prepares a Proposed Final Order. If significant public interest issues are identified, they could have an impact on the eventual outcome of the application.

Division 33 Review – The Department’s Division 33 administrative rules (OAR 690-033) establish 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 (STE) fish species. This Initial Review does not address the potential impact that your proposed use may have on these species.

Your application will now undergo an additional review from numerous federal, state, local, and tribal governmental entities. This review may cause your application to be limited, conditioned, or denied. Depending on the proposed use, you may be required to mitigate for potential impacts identified in the review.

Mitigation for impacts to STE Species – Mitigation is often complicated, time consuming, and expensive, and may include, but is not limited to, actions such as replacing the proposed amount of water within the impacted reach through purchasing or transferring an existing water right. Following the Initial Review, you will be notified if mitigation is required, due to impacts to STE fish species.

If you choose to pursue mitigation, you will likely need to place your application on administrative hold in order to explore options. There will be an additional fee of \$790 required with any mitigation proposal submitted.

**At this time, you must decide whether to proceed or to withdraw the application.**

- **To Proceed** - If you choose to proceed with the application, you do not have to notify the Department. The application will be placed on the Department's Public Notice to allow others the opportunity to comment. After the comment period the Department will complete a public interest review and issue a Proposed Final Order.
- **To Withdraw** - You may withdraw the application and receive a refund (minus a \$310 processing fee). You must notify the Department **in writing** by **June 21, 2024**. For your convenience you may use the enclosed "STOP PROCESSING" form.

**If a permit is issued, it will likely include the following conditions:**

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. A permit is subject to cancellation proceedings if the begin construction deadline is missed.
2. **Water Use Measurement, Recording, and Reporting:**
  - A. Before water use may begin under this permit, the permittee shall install a totalizing flow meter, 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 permittee shall keep a complete record of the volume of water diverted each month, and shall submit a report which includes water-use measurements to the Department annually, or more frequently as may be required by the Director. Further, the Director may require the permittee to report general water-use information, including 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.

The water source identified in the application may be affected by an Agricultural Water Quality Management Area Plan. These plans are developed by the Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) with the cooperation of local landowners and other interested stakeholders, and help to ensure that current and new appropriations of water are done in a way that does not adversely harm the environment. You are encouraged to explore ODA's Water Quality Program website at [www.oregon.gov/ODA](http://www.oregon.gov/ODA) to learn more about the plans and how they may affect the proposed water use.

**For Further Information:**

Feel free to contact me at Lucinda.R.Vranizan@water.oregon.gov or 971-375-2256 if you have any questions regarding the contents of this letter or the application. Please include the application number in all correspondence. General questions about water rights and water use permits should be directed to our customer service staff at 503-986-0900. When corresponding by mail, please use this address: Lucinda Vranizan, Oregon Water Resources Department, 725 Summer St NE Ste A, Salem OR 97301-1266. Our fax number is 503-986-0901.

Sincerely,

*Lucinda Vranizan*

Lucinda Vranizan  
Water Right Application Specialist  
Oregon Water Resources Department

Enclosures: Application Process Description  
Stop Processing Request Form

S-89457  
WAB: 266  
Proposed to Deny

# APPLICATION FACT SHEET

Application File Number: S-89457

Applicant: SCOTT VIERCK

County: CURRY

Watermaster: SCOTT CECILLANI, #14, SWR

Priority Date: APRIL 24, 2024

Source: VENTURE CREEK, TRIBUTARY TO ROGUE RIVER

Purpose or Use: DOMESTIC USE EXPANDED FOR ONE HOUSEHOLD

Rate: 0.01 CUBIC FOOT PER SECOND

Period of Use: JANUARY 1 THROUGH DECEMBER 31

Basin Name & Number: ROGUE, #15

WAB: ROGUE R > PACIFIC OCEAN - AT MOUTH

Point of Diversion:

Twp	Rng	Mer	Sec	Q-Q	Measured Distances
35 S	13 W	WM	32	SE SE	1065 FEET NORTH AND 270 FEET EAST FROM SW CORNER, SESE, SECTION 32

Place of Use:

Twp	Rng	Mer	Sec	Q-Q
35 S	13 W	WM	32	SE SE

**PUBLIC NOTICE DATE: June 11, 2024**

**14 DAY STOP PROCESSING DEADLINE DATE: June 21, 2024**

**30 DAY COMMENT DEADLINE DATE: July 11, 2024**

## **APPLICATION PROCESS DESCRIPTION FOR GROUNDWATER, SURFACE WATER AND REGULAR RESERVOIR APPLICATIONS**

In order to use the waters of Oregon, an application must be submitted and a permit obtained from the Water Resources Department. The water must be used for beneficial purpose without waste. For more information about water right topics, weekly public notice, forms and fees please visit our website at: [www.oregon.gov/owrd](http://www.oregon.gov/owrd)

### **1. Pre-application considerations**

- Follow instructions in the application packet.
- If you have questions about completing an application or would like to arrange a pre-application conference, contact the Department's Water Rights Customer Service Group at (503) 986-0900.

### **2. Application filing**

- Application with fee is received by the Department.
- Department determines completeness of application.
- If use is not allowed by statute (ORS 538), the application and fees are returned to the applicant.
- An incomplete application and fees are returned to the applicant.
- Only a complete application receives a tentative priority date, is assigned a caseworker, and moves forward for processing.

### **3. Initial Review (IR)**

- Caseworker reviews application by considering basin plans, water availability, statutory restrictions, and all other appropriate factors.
- Caseworker sends IR report to Applicant.
- Four days after date of the IR, it is included in Department's weekly Public Notice.
- Public comments must be submitted within 30 days after the Public Notice.

### **4. Proposed Final Order (PFO)**

- Caseworker evaluates application against required criteria and develops draft permit, if appropriate.
- PFO includes instructions for filing of protests.
- Caseworker considers public comments and mails PFO to Applicant.
- The PFO is included in Department's weekly Public Notice.
- Public protests to the PFO must be submitted within 45 days after the Public Notice.

### **5. Final Order (FO)**

- If no protest is filed, Final Order is issued.

#### ***The protest process***

If one or more protests are filed, the process consists of:

- settlement discussion;
- contested case hearing;
- Proposed Order;
- period of time to file exceptions; or
- possible hearing by Water Resources Commission.
- Final Order is issued.

#### ***Permit holder responsibilities***

- Comply with all water use conditions of the permit.
- Advise Department of address change or assignment to new permit holder.
- If need arises, request extension of time or authorize cancellation of permit.
- Submit timely claim of beneficial use (COBU) to the Department.
- Most permits require COBU to be prepared by a Certified Water Right Examiner.
- Permits may be canceled by the permit holder or by the Department for failure to comply with or one or more permit conditions.

**STOP PROCESSING REQUEST FORM**

**FOR GROUNDWATER, SURFACE WATER AND REGULAR RESERVOIR APPLICATIONS**

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- Stop processing deadline is within 14 days of Initial Review.

Applicant notification to withdraw Water Right Application **S-89457**.

After reviewing the Initial Review for my application, I request that processing be stopped, and the fees be refunded (minus a \$310 processing fee.) I understand that without a valid permit, I may not legally use the water as requested in my application.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Under ORS 537.150 (5) and 537.620 (5) timely submission of this request authorizes that the water right application process be stopped, and all filing fees (except \$310 processing fee) be returned.

- This notice must be received at Water Resources Department by:

**June 21, 2024**

- Return the notice to:

OWRD, Water Right Services Division  
STOP PROCESSING  
725 Summer Street, NE - Suite A  
Salem OR, 97301-1266

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File #: \_\_\_\_\_

## Oregon Water Resources Department

### Application Supplement for Human Consumption & Livestock Uses

For water use permit applications within or above scenic waterways, or from streams for which water is not available due to required instream flows, the Department may issue limited permits for human consumption and livestock uses. Human consumption use is limited to 500 gallons per day for indoor use only for drinking, cooking, and sanitation, and does not include other uses such as lawn or garden watering or other related water uses.

In order to issue a permit to you for human consumption or livestock use, the Department must find that you cannot reasonably obtain water from any other source. For human consumption, an additional finding must be made that denial of the water right would result in loss of reasonable expectations for use of your property. For livestock use, additional findings must be made that issuance of a permit is necessary to prevent the livestock from watering in or along the stream bed and that you have excluded livestock from the stream and the adjacent riparian zone.

Please answer the following questions, and sign and return this form to Oregon Water Resources Department, 725 Summer St NE Ste A, Salem OR 97301-1266.

1. Can you reasonably obtain water from any other source? YES NO

If not, please describe why each of the following options are not reasonable:

- a. Groundwater, such as a well on yours or a neighbor's property. (If expense is the reason groundwater is not reasonable, please provide two estimates of the cost.)
  
- b. Securing stored water from upstream reservoirs.
  
- c. Trucking water. (If expense is the reason this option is not reasonable, please provide a copy of an estimate of the cost of trucking water.)

- d. Community or municipal water suppliers.
  
- e. Tying into a neighboring property's spring.
  
- g. Transferring existing water rights to your proposed use(s).

Please identify any other alternate water sources you have considered, and why they are not feasible:

2. If you are seeking a permit for **human consumption use**, would denial of your application result in loss of reasonable expectations for use of your property?  
 YES                      NO                      NOT APPLICABLE

If so, please describe how:

3. If you are seeking a permit for **livestock use**, is the proposed use necessary to prevent the livestock from watering in or along the stream bed?  
 YES                      NO                      NOT APPLICABLE

4. If you are seeking a permit for **livestock use**, have you excluded livestock from the stream and the adjacent riparian zone?  
 YES                      NO                      NOT APPLICABLE

Applicant Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Applicant Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_