



Water Right Application Initial Review

November 14, 2025

OREGON DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
ATTN: SPENCER SAWASKE
4034 FAIRVIEW INDUSTRIAL DR SE
SALEM OR 97302

Reference: Application IS-89941

This document is to inform you of the preliminary analysis of the instream water right application and to describe your options. In determining whether an application may be approved, the Water Resources Department (Department) must consider the factors addressed in the preliminary determinations 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) 690-077-0029:

1. The application proposes the instream protection of water in Nehalem River, from river mile 13.5 to mouth river mile 0.0, tributary to Nehalem Bay, for the following public use: conservation, maintenance and enhancement of aquatic and fish life, wildlife, and fish and wildlife habitat (Oregon Revised Statute (ORS) 537.332(5)). The requested rate in cubic feet per second (CFS) by month (or half-month) is shown below.

Amount of water requested for instream use (CFS):

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
400.0	400.0	400.0	400.0	265.0	178.0	178.0	162.5	136.6/162.6	400.0	400.0	400.0

2. The proposed use is not prohibited by law or rule except where otherwise noted below.
3. The proposed reach for this instream water right application is in the North Coast Basin.
4. Wildlife and fish life uses are allowed under the North Coast Basin Program (OAR 690-501-0005(1)).
5. Water available for instream water right applications is limited to the estimated average natural flow. OAR 690-077-0015(4).

6. An assessment of estimated average natural flow and water availability at 50% exceedance probability for the proposed source was completed using the Department's Water Availability Reporting System. A copy of this assessment is in the application file. This review was completed consistent with OAR 690-077-0029(1)(b). The assessment established, during the period of use requested, the estimated average natural flow shown below.

Estimated Average Natural Flow (CFS):

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
6,520	5,680	4,530	2,780	1,350	673	330	185	192	420	3,570	6,180

7. The proposed use is not located within or above any state scenic waterway.

Summary of Preliminary Determinations

The instream protection of water in Nehalem River, from river mile 13.5 to mouth river mile 0.0, tributary to Nehalem Bay, for the conservation, maintenance and enhancement of aquatic and fish life, wildlife, and fish and wildlife habitat is allowable.

Amount allowable by month (or half-month) for instream use (CFS):

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
400.0	400.0	400.0	400.0	265.0	178.0	178.0	162.5	136.6/162.6	400.0	400.0	400.0

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.

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. You must notify the Department **in writing** by sending a hard copy letter or an email to the assigned caseworker. The Department will not further process the application until the Stop Processing Deadline Date shown in the attached Application Fact Sheet. This 14-day window allows the applicant time to withdraw the application before the Department takes further action. The applicant still has the opportunity to request to withdraw the application after this deadline.

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

1. For purposes of water distribution, this instream right shall not have priority over human or livestock consumption.
2. The instream flow allocated pursuant to this water right is not in addition to other instream flows created by a prior water right or designated minimum perennial stream flow.
3. The flows are to be measured at the lower end of the stream reach to protect necessary flows throughout the reach.

For Further Information:

Feel free to contact me at Nick.A.Reece@water.oregon.gov or 971-719-1058 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: Nick Reece, Oregon Water Resources Department, 725 Summer St NE Ste A, Salem OR 97301-1266. Our fax number is 503-986-0901.

Sincerely,

Nick Reece

Nick Reece
Water Right Application Specialist
Oregon Water Resources Department

Enclosures: Application Fact Sheet

IS-89941
Proposed to Approve

APPLICATION FACT SHEET

Application File Number: IS-89941

Applicant: OREGON DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

County: TILLAMOOK

Watermaster: NIKKI HENDRICKS, #1, NWR

Priority Date: OCTOBER 15, 2025

Proposed Source: NEHALEM RIVER, FROM RIVER MILE 13.5 (SWNW, SECTION 35, TOWNSHIP 3 NORTH, RANGE 9 WEST, W.M.) TO MOUTH RIVER MILE 0.0 (NWNW, SECTION 2, TOWNSHIP 2 NORTH, RANGE 10 WEST, W.M.), TRIBUTARY TO NEHALEM BAY

Proposed Purpose or Use: INSTREAM USE

Proposed Period of Use and Rate (CFS):

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
400.0	400.0	400.0	400.0	265.0	178.0	178.0	162.5	136.6/162.6	400.0	400.0	400.0

Basin Name & Number: NORTH COAST, #1

WAB: NEHALEM R > NEHALEM BAY – AT MOUTH

PUBLIC NOTICE DATE: November 18, 2025

14 DAY STOP PROCESSING DEADLINE DATE: November 28, 2025

30 DAY COMMENT DEADLINE DATE: December 18, 2025