

Oregon Water Resources Department

Final Order
Limited License Application LL-2024



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: NORTH UNIT IRRIGATION DISTRICT

Date Submitted: MARCH 25, 2026

Amount: 15 TO 144 CUBIC FEET PER SECOND (CFS), UP TO 10,000 ACRE-FEET (AF) OF STORED WATER

Source: PRINEVILLE RESERVOIR

Use: IRRIGATION FROM STORED WATER

Period of Use: APRIL 1, 2026, THROUGH OCTOBER 31, 2026

County: JEFFERSON COUNTY

POD Location: 14.00S-13.00E-13 SW 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.

Findings of Fact

1. The forms, fees, and map have been submitted, as required by OAR 690-340-0030(1).
2. On March 31, 2026, 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 stored water is available for the requested use.
6. Pursuant to ORS 537.143(1), the use of water for irrigation is not eligible for a limited license except as provided in subsections (4) to (6) and (9) of the statute. This limited license request is to use water for irrigation under the provisions of ORS 537.143(9).
7. The Department may not issue a limited license under ORS 537.143(9) for more than one year. (ORS 537.143(9)(a)).
8. Because the use requested is longer than 120 days and because the use is in an area that has sensitive, threatened or endangered fish species, the use is subject to the Department's statewide rules under OAR 690-033-0310. These rules 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. The Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (ODEQ) recommended conditions to achieve the standards listed in OAR 690-033-0330(2)(a) and (b). The authorization of limited-license LL-2024 is conditioned to address the recommendations.
9. The Department's Watermaster recommended providing pump data (rate, date, and total duty) as requested by the Department.
10. Because this use is from surface water and has the potential to impact fish, the Department finds that fish screening is required to protect the public interest.
11. A copy of H.R. 2640, Crooked River Collaborative Water Security and Jobs Act of 2014 and temporary water service contract between NUID and the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation was part of this application as required by ORS 537.144(2)(a)(A).
12. Pursuant to OAR 690-340-0030(4) and (5), conditions have been added with regard to notice and water-use measurement.
13. Jefferson 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).

Order

Therefore, pursuant to ORS 537.143, ORS 537.144, and OAR 690-340-0030, Application LL-2024 is approved as conditioned below.

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

Amount: 15 TO 144 CFS, UP TO 10,000 AF OF STORED WATER

Source: PRINEVILLE RESERVOIR

Use: IRRIGATION FROM STORED WATER

Duration: FROM LIMITED LICENSE ISSUE DATE THROUGH OCTOBER 31, 2026


POD Location: 14.00S-13.00E-13 SW NE

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. In the case of this application, this order serves as the notice described above.
3. Before water use may begin under this limited license, the licensee shall install a totalizing flow meter, or other suitable measuring device as determined by the watermaster, at each point of diversion. The measuring device 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 annually and shall be submitted to the Watermaster upon request.
5. The licensee shall provide pump data (rate, date, and total duty) as requested by the Department.
6. All water use under this license shall comply with state and federal water quality laws. The licensee 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. Licensee is responsible for obtaining any necessary state and federal licenses.
7. The licensee shall comply with basin-specific Agricultural Water Quality Management Area Rules described in Oregon Administrative Rule Chapter 603-095. The licensee shall protect riparian areas, including through irrigation practices and the management of any livestock, allowing site capable vegetation to establish and grow along streams, while providing the following functions: shade (on perennial and some intermittent streams), bank stability, and infiltration or filtration of overland runoff.
8. 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.
9. 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.
10. The licensee shall install, use, and maintain fish screening and by-pass devices as required by the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife to prevent fish from entering the proposed diversion. See copy of enclosed fish screening criteria for information.
11. By law, the land use associated with this water use must comply 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 APR 29 2026



Raymond Eliot Crafton
Water Rights Section Manager, for
Ivan Gall, Director
Oregon Water Resources Department

Enclosures - fish screen criteria

cc: Bill D. Nashem, District 24 Watermaster
Eastern Region, ODFW
Deschutes, DEQ
Surface Water Section
File
OWRD WMCP

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.

Water Rights Section
Oregon Water Resources Department
725 Summer Street NE, Suite A
Salem OR 97301-1271
Phone: (503) 979-9895 Fax: (503) 986-0901

FISH SCREENING CRITERIA FOR WATER DIVERSIONS

This summary describes ODFW fish screening criteria for all fish species.

Screen material openings for ditch (gravity) and pump screens must provide a minimum of 27% open area:

Perforated plate: Openings shall not exceed 3/32 or 0.0938 inches (2.38 mm).

Mesh/Woven wire screen: Square openings shall not exceed 3/32 or 0.0938 inches (2.38 mm) in the narrow direction, e.g., 3/32 inch x 3/32 inch open mesh.

Profile bar screen/Wedge wire: Openings shall not exceed 0.0689 inches (1.75 mm) in the narrow direction.

Screen area must be large enough to prevent fish impact. Wetted screen area depends on the water flow rate and the approach velocity.

Approach velocity: The water velocity perpendicular to and approximately three inches in front of the screen face.

Sweeping velocity: The water velocity parallel to the screen face.

Bypass system: Any pipe, flume, open channel or other means of conveyance that transports fish back to the body of water from which the fish were diverted.

Active pump screen: Self cleaning screen that has a proven cleaning system.

Passive pump screen: Screen that has no cleaning system other than periodic manual cleaning.

Screen approach velocity for ditch and active pump screens shall not exceed 0.4 fps (feet per second) or 0.12 mps (meters per second). The wetted screen area in square feet is calculated by dividing the maximum water flow rate in cubic feet per second (1 cfs = 449 gpm) by 0.4 fps.

Screen sweeping velocity for ditch screens shall exceed the approach velocity. Screens greater than 4 feet in length must be angled at 45 degrees or less relative to flow. An adequate bypass system must be provided for ditch screens to safely and rapidly collect and transport fish back to the stream.

Screen approach velocity for passive pump screens shall not exceed 0.2 fps or 0.06 mps. The wetted screen area in square feet is calculated by dividing the maximum water flow rate by 0.2 fps. Pump rate should be less than 1 cfs.

For further information please contact:

Statewide Fish Screening Coordinator
Oregon Dept. Fish and Wildlife
4034 Fairview Industrial Drive SE
Salem, OR 97302
(503) 947-6229