

**BEFORE THE WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT
OF THE STATE OF OREGON**

In the Matter of Water Rights Application)
R-87802, Union County)

FINAL ORDER
APPROVING THE STORAGE OF
SURFACE WATER

Authority

Oregon Revised Statutes (ORS) 537.409 establishes the process by which an application to store waters of the public may be submitted.

Findings of Fact

1. On April 23, 2012, the USDA Forest Service, La Grande Ranger District submitted an application for a permit to store water pursuant to ORS 537.409:
Storage Capacity: 0.40 ACRE FOOT
Dam Height: 10 FEET
Source: RUNOFF, TRIBUTARY TO SOUTH FORK CATHERINE CREEK
Location: UNION COUNTY IN SECTION 24, TOWNSHIP 5 SOUTH, RANGE 41 EAST, W.M.
2. The required examination fees were paid and minimum application requirements were met.
3. The Department provided public notice of the application in the Department's weekly public notice on May 29, 2012. A 60-day comment period followed.
4. The Department has not received public comment related to the possible issuance of the attached draft permit.
5. The Department has determined that the proposed source has not been withdrawn from further appropriation.

APPEAL RIGHTS

Appeal to a circuit court: This is a final order in other than a contested case. Any party affected by a final order in other than a contested case issued by the Water Resources Commission or Water Resources Department may appeal the order to the appropriate circuit court (ORS 536.075). A petition for judicial review must be filed within the 60-day time period specified by ORS 183.484 (2).

Petition to the Department for Reconsideration of the Final Order: A person entitled to judicial review of this order may also file a petition for the Department's reconsideration of the order. The petition for reconsideration must be filed with the Department within 60 calendar days after the date of the order. A copy of the petition must also be delivered or mailed to all other persons and agencies requiring notification under statute or rule (OAR 137-004-0080). The petition must set forth the specific grounds for reconsideration, and may be supported by a written argument. The petition may include a request for a stay of the order if the petition complies with the requirements of OAR 137-003-0090 (2). The Department may grant or deny the petition by summary order. If the Department takes no action, the petition is deemed denied as provided by ORS 183.484 (2). A final order remains in effect during reconsideration until stayed or changed. Following reconsideration, the agency must enter a new order, which may be an order affirming the existing order (OAR 137-004-0080). Reconsideration cannot be granted after the filing of a petition for judicial review, unless permitted by the court (OAR 137-004-0080 (6)).

ORS 537.409 does not provide an opportunity to request a contested-case hearing. Appeal rights on this final order approving the application are limited to the above procedures.

6. The proposed reservoir is not prohibited under ORS 390.835.
7. Water is available for the proposed use according to the Department's water-availability model and the watermaster's assessment.
8. The Department finds that existing water rights would not be injured by the proposed use.
9. The Department relies on the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife's review and recommendations in determining whether a proposed use would pose a significant detrimental impact to existing fishery resources. The Department has determined that, as conditioned, the proposed use will not pose a significant detrimental impact to existing fishery resources.

Conclusions of Law

1. Water is available for the proposed use.
2. The proposed use will not injure existing water rights.
3. The proposed use will not pose a significant detrimental impact to existing fishery resources.
4. Application R-87802 is consistent with the requirements of ORS 537.409.

Now Therefore, it is Ordered:

Application R-87802 is approved. Upon payment of the permit recording fee of \$400, a permit shall be issued authorizing the proposed water use. Failure to meet this requirement within 60 days from the date of this Final Order may result in the proposed rejection of the application.

If you need to request additional time, your written request should be received in the Salem office of the Department within 60 days of this Final Order. The Department will evaluate the request and determine whether or not the request may be approved.

Dated at Salem, Oregon on NOVEMBER 8 2012.



E. Timothy Wallin, Water Rights Program Manager
for Phillip C. Ward, Director

This order was produced by Kerry Kavanagh. If you have any questions about any of the statements contained in this document, I am probably the best person to answer your questions. You may reach me at 503-986-0816 or Kerry.L.Kavanagh@ wrd.state.or.us.

If you have other questions about the Department or any of its programs please contact our Customer Service Group at 503-986-0801. Address all other correspondence to: Water Rights Section, Oregon Water Resources Department, 725 Summer St NE, Suite A, Salem OR 97301-1266, Fax: 503-986-0901.

STATE OF OREGON

COUNTY OF UNION

DRAFT PERMIT TO STORE PUBLIC WATERS

THIS DRAFT PERMIT IS HEREBY ISSUED TO:

USDA FOREST SERVICE, LA GRANDE RANGER DISTRICT
3502 HWY 30
LA GRANDE OR 97850

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

APPLICATION FILE NUMBER: R-87802

SOURCE OF WATER: RUNOFF, TRIBUTARY TO SOUTH FORK CATHERINE CREEK

STORAGE FACILITY: SOUTH FORK RESERVOIR

MAXIMUM VOLUME: 0.40 ACRE FOOT

DATE OF PRIORITY: APRIL 23, 2012

WATER MAY BE APPROPRIATED AS FOLLOWS: MAY 1 THROUGH MAY 31

USE: MULTIPLE PURPOSE

Dam Location/Authorized Point of Diversion:

	Twp	Rng	Mer	Sec	Q-Q	Measured Distances
Reservoir	5 S	41 E	WM	24	NE SE	2430 FEET NORTH AND 1220 FEET WEST FROM SE CORNER, SECTION 24
POD	5 S	42 E	WM	19	NW SW	2364 FEET NORTH AND 362 FEET EAST FROM SW CORNER, SECTION 19

The Area To Be Submerged:

Twp	Rng	Mer	Sec	Q-Q
5 S	41 E	WM	24	NE SE

Measurement, recording and reporting conditions:

- A. Before water use may begin under this permit, a staff gage that measures the entire range and stage between full reservoir level and dead pool level in the reservoir. The staff gage shall be United States Geological Survey style porcelain enamel iron staff gage style A, C, E or I.
- B. The permittee shall maintain all required devices in good working order.
- C. 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.
- D. The permittee shall keep a complete record of the amount of water stored each month, and shall submit a report which includes the recorded water-storage 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.

E. The Director may provide an opportunity for the permittee to submit alternative measuring and reporting procedures for review and approval.

The permittee shall install control works on the diversion pipe.

The storage of water allowed herein is subject to the installation and maintenance of an outlet pipe (with a minimum diameter of 8" for any in-channel reservoir). This requirement may be waived if the Department determines other means have been provided to evacuate water when necessary.

The permittee shall pass all live flow outside the storage season described above.

The Director may require the user to measure inflow and outflow, above and below the reservoir respectively, to ensure that live flow is not impeded outside the storage season. Measurement devices and their implementation must be acceptable to the Director, and the Director may require that data be recorded on a specified periodic basis and reported to the Department annually or more frequently.

The permittee shall not construct, operate or maintain any dam or artificial obstruction to fish passage in the channel of the subject stream without providing a fishway to ensure adequate upstream and downstream passage for fish, unless the permittee has requested and been granted a fish passage waiver by the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission. The permittee is hereby directed to contact an Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife Fish Passage Coordinator, before beginning construction of any in-channel obstruction.

Notwithstanding that ODFW has made a determination that fish screens and/or by-pass devices are not necessary at the time of permit issuance, the permittee may be required in the future to install, maintain, and operate fish-screening and by-pass devices to prevent fish from entering the proposed diversion, and to provide adequate upstream and downstream passage for fish.

This permit allows an annual appropriation (not to exceed the specified volume). This permit does not provide for the appropriation of water for out-of-reservoir uses, the maintenance of the water level or maintaining a suitable freshwater condition. If any water is to be used for out-of-reservoir purposes, a secondary water right is required. If any additional live flow is to be appropriated to maintain either the water level or a suitable freshwater condition, an additional water right is required.

Diversion of water under this permit is contingent on designated scenic waterway flows being met downstream. The user is required to monitor streamflow at Grande Ronde River at Troy, OR, gage 13333000, and discontinue diversion when the flows specified below are unmet at the gage. At the discretion of the Director, the location and nature of streamflow monitoring required to protect scenic waterway flows is subject to change. In addition, the watermaster may regulate diversion under this right if it is determined by the Department that the flows listed below are unmet at the gage.

Wallowa-Grande Ronde Scenic Waterway	
Month	Minimum Flow (cfs)
May	5000

STANDARD 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. 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.
5. 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 Chapter 635, Division 415, shall be followed.
6. The use may be restricted if the quality of downstream waters decreases to the point that those waters no longer meet existing state or federal water quality standards due to reduced flows.
7. If the volume of the completed reservoir is 9.2 acre feet or more and a dam is used to impound the water, the height of the dam shall be less than 10.0 feet.
8. Construction shall be completed and up to the permitted annual volume of water shall be stored within five years of the date of permit issuance.
9. Within one year after storage of water, the permittee shall submit a claim of beneficial use to the Oregon Water Resources Department.
10. The claim of beneficial use shall be prepared by a Certified Water Right Examiner in conformance with the requirements of OAR 690-014 if an associated secondary permit exists for the use of stored water under this permit, or if the reservoir capacity is equal to or greater than 9.2 acre-feet.
11. If no secondary permit exists and the reservoir capacity is less than 9.2 acre-feet of water, the claim of beneficial use need not be prepared by a Certified Water Right Examiner. The information submitted to the Oregon Water Resources Department shall include:
 - a. the dimensions of the reservoir;
 - b. the maximum capacity of the reservoir in acre-feet; and
 - c. a map identifying the location of the reservoir prepared in compliance with Departmental standards.

Issued _____ 2012.

DRAFT – NOT A PERMIT

for Phillip C. Ward, Director
Water Resources Department