

**Oregon Water Resources Department  
Water Right Services Division**

**Application for Extension of Time**

In the Matter of the Application for an Extension of Time ) PROPOSED  
for Permit R-14164, Water Right Application R-86154 ) FINAL  
in the name of Barbara Steele and Steele Revocable Trust ) ORDER

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**Permit Information**

Application:	R-86154
Permit:	R-14164
Basin:	Rogue / Watermaster District 13
Date of Priority:	January 26, 2005
Source of Water:	Applegate River, a tributary of Rogue River
Storage Facility:	Irrigation Reservoir
Purpose or Use of the stored water:	Multiple Purpose, to be appropriated under Application S-86155 for Temperature Control
Maximum Storage Volume:	25.0 acre-feet (AF) each year; limited to a diversion rate of 0.0104 cubic feet per second (cfs) during the period of December 1 through March 31 of each year

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***Please read this Proposed Final Order in its entirety as it contains additional conditions not included in the original permit.***

*In summary, the Department proposes to:*

- Grant an extension of time to apply water to full beneficial use from October 1, 2009, to October 1, 2026.<sup>1</sup>
- Make the extension subject to certain conditions set forth below.

This Extension of Time request is being processed in accordance with Oregon Revised Statute 537.230 and 539.010(5), and Oregon Administrative Rule Chapter 690, Division 315

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<sup>1</sup> Pursuant to ORS 537.230(4), upon the completion of beneficial use of water allowed under the permit, the permit holder shall hire a certified water rights examiner to survey the appropriation. Within one year after the complete application of water to a beneficial use (or by the date allowed for the complete application of water to a beneficial use), the permit holder shall submit a map of the survey and the claim of beneficial use.

## **ACRONYM QUICK REFERENCE**

Application – Application for Extension of Time  
Department – Oregon Water Resources Department  
PFO – Proposed Final Order  
AF – acre-feet  
cfs – cubic feet per second  
FOF – Finding of Fact

## **AUTHORITY**

**Generally, see ORS 537.230 and OAR Chapter 690 Division 315.**

**ORS 537.230(3)** provides in pertinent part that the Oregon Water Resources Department (Department) may, for good cause shown, order an extension of time within which irrigation or other works shall be completed or the right perfected. In determining the extension, the Department shall give due weight to the considerations described under ORS 539.010(5) and to whether other governmental requirements relating to the project have significantly delayed completion of construction or perfection of the right.

**ORS 539.010(5)** instructs the Director to consider: the cost of the appropriation and application of the water to a beneficial purpose; the good faith of the appropriator; the market for water or power to be supplied; the present demands therefor; and the income or use that may be required to provide fair and reasonable returns upon the investment.

**OAR 690-315-0040** provides that in order to approve an application for an extension of time to complete construction or apply water to full beneficial use, the Department shall make the findings in OAR 690-315-0040(1) including a finding that there is “good cause” to approve the extension. OAR 690-315-0040(2)-(4) contains the factors that the Department must consider to make findings that support a “good cause” determination.

**OAR 690-315-0050(5)** states that extension orders may include, but are not limited to, any condition or provision needed to: ensure future diligence; mitigate the effects of the subsequent development on competing demands on the resource; and periodically document the continued need for the permit.

**OAR 690-315-0050(6)** requires the Department, for extensions exceeding five years, to establish checkpoints to determine if diligence is being exercised in the development and perfection of the water use permit. Intervals between checkpoints will not exceed five year periods.

## **FINDINGS OF FACT**

1. On April 27, 2005, Permit R-14164 was issued by the Department. The permit authorizes the storage of up to 25.0 AF of water, limited to a diversion rate of 0.0104 cfs during the period of December 1 through March 31 of each year, in Irrigation Reservoir from the Applegate River, a tributary of Rogue River to be appropriated under Application S-86155 for temperature control. The permit specified the reservoir was to be filled, and complete application of water was to be made on or before October 1, 2009.

2. On June 29, 2017, Barbara Steele, on behalf of Steele Revocable Trust, submitted an "Application for Extension of Time" (Application) to the Department, requesting the time to apply water to full beneficial use under the terms and conditions of Permit R-14164 be extended from October 1, 2009, to October 1, 2026. This is the first permit extension requested for Permit R-14164.

**Review Criteria [OAR 690-315-0040]**

*In order to approve an Application for an Extension of Time to complete construction and/or apply water to full beneficial use pursuant to ORS 537.230 or 537.630, or to begin construction, pursuant to ORS 537.248, the Department must make the findings in OAR 690-315-0040(1)(a) – (d).*

**Complete Extension of Time Application OAR 690-315-0040(1)(a)**

3. On June 29, 2017, the Department received a completed Application and the fee specified in ORS 536.050 from the permit holder.

**Start of Construction OAR 690-315-0040(1)(b) and 690-315-0040(5)**

4. Construction of the reservoir began prior to October 1, 2009, as specified in the permit as being the date to apply water to full beneficial use. The permit holder states, construction began in January 2006, with the construction of a lined reservoir and a concrete diversion from the irrigation canal.

Based on Findings of Fact (FOF) 4, the Department has determined that construction of the reservoir began prior to October 1, 2009, as required under permit R-14164.

**Good Cause OAR 690-315-0040(1)(d)**

*The Department must find that there is "good cause" to approve the extension. In making a "good cause" finding, the Department shall consider the requirements set forth under OAR 690-315-0040(2).*

**Reasonable Diligence of the Appropriator OAR 690-315-0040(2)(a)**

*In order to make a finding of "good cause" to approve the extension, the Department shall consider whether the applicant has demonstrated "reasonable diligence" in previous performance under the permit. OAR 690-315-0040(2)(a). In determining "reasonable diligence", the Department shall consider, but is not limited to, the following factors: a) The amount of construction completed within the time allowed in the permit or previous extension; b) The amount of beneficial use made of the water during the permit or previous extension time limits; c) Water right holder conformance with the permit or previous extension conditions; and d) Financial investments made toward developing the beneficial use of water.*

**Amount of Construction OAR 690-315-0040(3)(a)**

*The amount of construction completed within the time allowed in the permit.<sup>2</sup>*

5. Work was accomplished during the original development time frame under Permit R-14164. The Application states that excavation and construction of the reservoir and the construction of a concrete diversion from the irrigation canal which transports water from the Applegate River, to the reservoir were completed.

Based on FOF 5, the Department has determined that work has been accomplished within the time allowed in the permit being from April 27, 2005, to October 1, 2009, which provides evidence of good cause and reasonable diligence towards the complete application of water to a beneficial use.

**Compliance with Conditions OAR 690-315-0040(3)(c)**

*The water right permit holder's conformance with the permit conditions:*

6. The Department has considered the permit holder's compliance with conditions, and has identified the following concern: the record does not show that a meter or other suitable measuring device has been installed.

Based on FOF 6, the Department has determined that the permit holder has not demonstrated compliance with permit condition "Before water use may begin under this permit, the water user shall install a meter or other suitable measuring device as approved by the Director", as required by Permit R-14164.

Beneficial use of water under this permit, therefore, has not yet been demonstrated. In order to legally perfect the use of water under this permit, the permit holder must demonstrate that all conditions of the permit have been satisfied.

**Beneficial Use of Water: OAR 690-315-0040(3)(b)**

*The amount of beneficial use made of the water during the permit time limits.*

7. The Application states a maximum volume of 5.0 AF of water has been stored in Irrigation Reservoir, from the Applegate River, a tributary of Rogue River.

Based on FOF 6, the Department has determined that beneficial use of water under this permit, has not yet been demonstrated because not all permit conditions were satisfied by October 1, 2009.

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<sup>2</sup> "Actual Construction" is defined in OAR 690-315-0020(3)(d)(A) and (B) as physical work performed toward completion of the water system which demonstrates the water right permit holder's good faith and intention to complete the project with reasonable diligence. Actual construction does not include planning a diversion system, formulating a business plan, securing financing, letting contracts, purchasing but not installing equipment, surveying, clearing land or planting crops.

**Financial Investments to Appropriate and Apply Water to a Beneficial Purpose OAR 690-315-0040(2)(b),(3)(d),(4)(d)**

8. The Application states the permit holder has invested approximately \$15,200, which is about 94 percent of the total projected cost for complete development of this project. The permit holder anticipates an additional \$1,000 investment is needed for the completion of this project

Based on FOF 8, the Department has that the permit holder had made an investment, which provides evidence of good cause and reasonable diligence towards the complete application of water to a beneficial use.

**Reasonable Diligence of the Appropriator [OAR 690-315-0040(2)(a)]**

The Application provides evidence that work has been accomplished towards completion of the water system; a financial investment has been made; the permit holder has not demonstrated compliance with all permit conditions; and, beneficial use of water has not been demonstrated. The Department has determined the applicant has demonstrated reasonable diligence in previous performance under Permit R-14164.

**The Market and Present Demands for Water OAR 690-315-0040(4)(a-f)**

*The Department's determinations of market and present demand for water or power to be supplied shall consider the requirements set forth under OAR 690-315-0040(4)(a-f). In accordance with OAR 690-315-0040(4), the Department shall consider, but is not limited to, the following factors when determining the market and the present demand for water or power to be supplied:*

- *(a) The amount of water available to satisfy other affected water rights and scenic waterway flows;*
- *(b) Special water use designations established since permit issuance, including but not limited to state scenic waterways, federal wild and scenic rivers, serious water management problem areas or water quality limited sources established under 33 U.S.C. 1313(d);*
- *(c) The habitat needs of sensitive, threatened or endangered species, in consultation with the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife;*
- *(d) Economic investment in the project to date;*
- *(e) Other economic interests dependent on completion of the project; and*
- *(f) Other factors relevant to the determination of the market and present demands for water and power.*

**The amount of water available to satisfy other affected water rights and scenic waterway flows OAR 690-315-0040(4)(a)**

9. A review of the amount of water available to satisfy other affected water rights and scenic waterway flows was determined at the time of issuance of Permit R-14164;

furthermore, water availability for other affected water rights and scenic waterway flows after the permit was issued is determined when an application for a new water right is submitted.

10. Current Water Availability Analysis for the Applegate River, (Tributary of Rogue River) above Mill Gulch (watershed ID 31530902) shows that water is available during the months of December through March at the 50% exceedance level.

**Special water use designations established since permit issuance, including but not limited to state scenic waterways, federal wild and scenic rivers, serious water management problem areas or water quality limited sources established under 33 U.S.C. 1313(d) OAR 690-315-0040(4)(b)**

11. The point of diversion is located on the Applegate River tributary of Rogue River, and is not located within a Withdrawn Area.
12. The Applegate River is located above the Rogue Scenic Waterway.
13. The point of diversion is in a location listed by the Department of Environmental Quality as a water quality limited stream. Applegate River, River Mile 0 to 46.8, is listed under Water Quality Limited for pH.

**The habitat needs of sensitive, threatened or endangered species, in consultation with the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife OAR 690-315-0040(4)(c)**

14. Applegate River is located within an area ranked “low” for stream flow restoration needs as determined by the Department in consultation with the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, and is located within a Sensitive, Threatened or Endangered Fish Species Area as identified by the Department in consultation with Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife.

**Economic interests dependent on completion of the project OAR 690-315-0040(4)(d)**

15. The Application states an approximate total of \$15,200 has been invested in the project.

**Other economic interests dependent on completion of the project OAR 690-315-0040(4)(e)**

16. The Application did identify economic interests other than those of the applicant’s that may be dependent on completion of the project in that they provide nine full time jobs in the local economy.

**Other factors relevant to the determination of the market and present demand for water and power OAR 690-315-0040(4)(f)**

17. No other factors relevant to the determination of the market and present demand for water and power have been identified.

**Fair Return Upon Investment OAR 690-315-0040(2)(f)**

18. The Application did not identify that the use and income from the permitted water development will likely result in reasonable returns upon the investment made to date.

**Other Governmental Requirements OAR 690-315-0040(2)(g)**

19. The Application did not identify any delay in the development of this project that was caused by any other governmental requirements.

**Unforeseen Events OAR 690-315-0040(2)(h)**

20. The Application did not identify any unforeseen events.

**Denial of the Extension Will Result in Undue Hardship OAR 690-315-0040(2)(i)**

21. The Application did not state if a denial of the extension would result in undue hardship.

**Good Faith of the Appropriator OAR 690-315-0040(2)(c)**

22. The Department has found good faith of the appropriator under Permit R-14164.

Based on FOF 4, 5, 7, 8, and 15, the Department has determined that the applicant has shown good faith and reasonable diligence.

**Duration of Extension OAR 690-315-0040(1)(c)**

*Under OAR 690-315-0040(1)(c), in order to approve an extension of time for water use permits the Department must find that the time requested is reasonable and the applicant can complete the project within the time requested.*

23. As of June 29, 2017, the permit holder states the remaining work to be completed consists of installing a meter or other suitable measuring device and applying water to full beneficial use.

Given the amount of development left to occur, the Department has determined that the permit holder's request to have until October 1, 2026, to accomplish the application of water to beneficial use under the terms and conditions of Permit R-14164 is both reasonable and necessary.

**Good Cause OAR 690-315-0040(1)(d)**

*The Department must find that there is "good cause" to approve the extension. In making a "good cause" finding, the Department shall consider the requirements set forth under OAR 690-315-0040(2).*

The Department has considered the reasonable diligence and good faith of the appropriator, the cost to appropriate and apply water to a beneficial purpose, the market and present demands for water to be supplied, the financial investment made and fair and reasonable return upon the investment, the requirements of other governmental agencies, and unforeseen events over which the permit holder had no control, whether denial of the extension will result in undue hardship to

the applicant and whether there are no other reasonable alternatives for meeting water use needs, any other factors relevant to a determination of good cause, and has determined that the applicant has shown that good cause exists for an extension of time to apply water to full beneficial use pursuant to OAR 690-315-0040(1)(d).

## **LIMITATIONS AND CONDITIONS**

1. OAR 690-315-0050(5) provides for extension orders to include, but are not limited to, any condition or provision needed to ensure future diligence, and/or mitigate the effects of the subsequent development on competing demands on the resource. Based on Findings of Facts 17 and 18, the Department determined the need to place a “Meter Condition” on this extension of time in order to ensure diligence is exercised in the development and perfection of water use permit. This condition, specified under Item 2 of the “Conditions” section of this PFO, was determined to be necessary because no meter or other suitable measuring device has been installed in the Irrigation Reservoir.
2. OAR 690-315-0050(6) requires a checkpoint condition on this extension of time in order to ensure diligence is exercised in the development and perfection of the water use permit. A “Checkpoint Condition” is specified under Item 1 of the “Conditions” section of this PFO to meet this condition.

## **CONCLUSIONS OF LAW**

1. The Applicant has submitted a complete extension application form and the fee specified in ORS 536.050, as required by OAR 690-315-0040(1)(a).
2. The Applicant complied with construction timeline requirements to begin construction as required by ORS 537.230, OAR 690-315-0040(1)(b) and OAR 690-315-0040(5).
3. Based on Finding of Facts 5 through 25, full application of water to beneficial use can be accomplished by October 1, 2026<sup>3</sup>, as required by OAR 690-315-0040(1)(c).
4. The Applicant can complete the project within the time period requested for the extension on the project, but the extension is conditioned to mitigate the effects of the subsequent development on competing demands on the resource and is granted only for the reasonable time necessary to complete water development and apply water to beneficial use. OAR 690-315-0050(5).
5. The Applicant has demonstrated good cause for the extension, but the extension must be conditioned to ensure this is the last extension granted in order to ensure future diligence; OAR 690-315-0050(5).

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<sup>3</sup>Pursuant to ORS 537.230(4), upon the completion of beneficial use of water allowed under the permit, the permittee shall hire a certified water rights examiner to survey the appropriation. Within one year after the complete application of water to a beneficial use (or by the date allowed for the complete application of water to a beneficial use), the permittee shall submit a map of the survey and a new or revised claim of beneficial use as deemed appropriate by the Department.



## PROPOSED ORDER

Based upon the foregoing Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, the Department proposes to issue an order to:

Extend the time to apply water to beneficial use under Permit R-14164 from October 1, 2009, to October 1, 2026.

Subject to the following condition:

### LIMITATIONS AND CONDITIONS

1. **Checkpoint Condition**

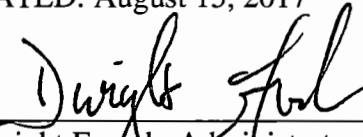
The permit holder must submit a completed Progress Report Form to the Department by **October 1, 2023. A form will be enclosed with your Final Order.**

- (a) At each checkpoint, the permit holder shall submit and the Department shall review evidence of the permit holder's diligence towards completion of the project and compliance with terms and conditions of the permit and extension. If, after this review, the Department determines the permit holder has not been diligent in developing and perfecting the water use permit, or complied with all terms and conditions, the Department shall modify or further condition the permit or extension to ensure future compliance, or begin cancellation proceedings on the undeveloped portion of the permit pursuant to ORS 537.260 or 537.410, or require submission of a final proof survey pursuant to ORS 537.250;
- (b) The Department shall provide notice of receipt of progress reports in its weekly notice and shall allow a 30 day comment period for each report. The Department shall provide notice of its determination to anyone who submitted comments.

2. **Meter Condition**

The use of water under Permit R-14164 is conditioned to require the installation of a meter or other suitable measuring device. If a meter or other suitable measuring device is not installed by October 1, 2026, this will be the last extension granted for Permit R-14164 and future extension requests shall be denied.

DATED: August 15, 2017

  
Dwight French, Administrator  
Water Right Services Division

*If you have any questions,  
please check the information  
box on the last page for the  
appropriate names and  
phone numbers.*

## Proposed Final Order Hearing Rights

1. Under the provisions of OAR 690-315-0100 and 690-315-0060, the applicant or any other person adversely affected or aggrieved by the proposed final order may submit a written protest to the proposed final order. The written protest must be received by the Water Resources Department no later than **September 29, 2017**, being 45 days from the date of publication of the proposed final order in the Department's weekly notice.
2. A written protest shall include:
  - a. The name, address and telephone number of the petitioner;
  - b. A description of the petitioner's interest in the proposed final order and if the protestant claims to represent the public interest, a precise statement of the public interest represented;
  - c. A detailed description of how the action proposed in the proposed final order would adversely affect or aggrieve the petitioner's interest;
  - d. A detailed description of how the proposed final order is in error or deficient and how to correct the alleged error or deficiency;
  - e. Any citation of legal authority supporting the petitioner, if known;
  - f. Proof of service of the protest upon the water right permit holder, if petitioner is other than the water right permit holder; and
  - g. The applicant or non-applicant protest fee required under ORS 536.050.
3. Within 60 days after the close of the period for requesting a contested case hearing, the Director shall:
  - a. Issue a final order on the extension request; or
  - b. Schedule a contested case hearing if a protest has been submitted, and:
    - 1) Upon review of the issues, the Director finds there are significant disputes related to the proposed agency action; or
    - 2) The applicant submits a written request for a contested case hearing within 30 days after the close of the period for submitting protests.

**Notice Regarding Service Members:** Active duty service members have a right to stay proceedings under the federal Service Members Civil Relief Act. 50 U.S.C. App. §§501-597b. You may contact the Oregon State Bar or the Oregon Military Department for more information. The toll-free telephone number for the Oregon State Bar is: 1 (800) 452-8260. The toll-free telephone number of the Oregon Military Department is: 1 (800) 452-7500. The Internet address for the United States Armed Forces Legal Assistance Legal Services Locator website is: <http://legalassistance.law.af.mil>

