

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

Water Right Application IS-88326 in the) PROPOSED FINAL ORDER
name of Oregon Department of Fish &)
Wildlife)

Summary: The Department proposes to issue an order approving Application IS-88326 and issue a certificate consistent with the attached draft certificate.

Authority

The application is being processed in accordance with Oregon Revised Statute (ORS) 537.140 to 537.250 and 537.332 through 537.360, and Oregon Administrative Rule (OAR) Chapter 690, Division 77 and Hood Basin Program Division 504. These statutes and rules can be viewed on the Oregon Water Resources website: <http://www.oregon.gov/owrd/pages/law/index.aspx>

The Department’s main page is <http://www.oregon.gov/OWRD/pages/index.aspx>

The Department shall presume that a proposed use will not impair or be detrimental to the public interest if:

- (a) The proposed use is allowed in the applicable basin program established pursuant to ORS 536.300 and 536.340 or given a preference under ORS 536.310(12);
- (b) Water is available; OAR 690-077-0015(4)
- (c) The proposed use will not injure other water rights; and
- (d) The proposed use complies with the rules of the Commission. OAR 690-077-0033(1)

All four criteria must be met for a proposed use to be presumed to not impair or be detrimental to the public interest. When the criteria are met and the presumption is established, or if the proposed use can be modified or conditioned to meet the presumption criteria, the Department must further evaluate the proposed use, any comments received, information available in its files or received from other interested agencies and any other available information to determine whether the presumption is overcome. OAR 690-077-0037(3).

If the Department determines that the presumption is established and not overcome the Department shall issue a proposed final order recommending issuance of the certificate subject to any appropriate modifications or conditions.

FINDINGS OF FACT

Application History

1. On December 1, 2016, Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife filed a complete application for the following water use:

Use of Water: Public use, specifically fish life and wildlife.

County: Wasco County

Location: MILL CREEK, TRIBUTARY TO THE COLUMBIA RIVER, BEGINNING AT THE CONFLUENCE OF WEST FORK NEAL CREEK AND NEAL CREEK AT APPROXIMATELY RIVER MILE 8.1 (45.5506, -121.3079) (SESW, SECTION 22, TOWNSHIP 1N, RANGE 12E, WM): CONTINUING DOWNSTREAM TO THE MOUTH

AT APPROXIMATELY RIVER MILE 0.0 (45.6068, -121.1872) (SWSW, SECTION 34,
TOWNSHIP 2N, RANGE 13E, WM) WASCO COUNTY

Source of Water: Mill Creek in Hood River Basin

Amount of Water (in cubic feet per second "CFS") requested by month

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
10	10	15	26	26	26	15	15	10	10	10	10

2. On March 17, 2017, the Department mailed the applicant notice of its Initial Review, determining that "Some percentage of the water applied for has been determined allocable for the purposes identified in this application." The applicant did not notify the Department to stop processing the application within 14 days of that date.
3. On March 21, 2017, the Department gave public notice of the initial review in its weekly notice. The public notice included a request for comments, and information for interested persons about obtaining future notices and a copy of the Proposed Final Order.
4. Written comments were received from WaterWatch of Oregon and the East Fork Irrigation District. The Department has carefully considered the comments.
5. This Proposed Final Order confirms the preliminary findings made in the initial review.

Presumption Criteria (a) Consistency with Basin Program

6. "Fish life" is a classified use allowed under the Hood River Basin Program (OAR 690-504-0000(1)). ORS 537.343(1); OAR 690-077-0039(2)

Presumption Criteria (b) Water Availability

7. An assessment of surface water availability was completed and a copy of this assessment is in the file. The amount of out-of-stream appropriations is not a factor in determining the amount of an instream water right. OAR 690-077-0015(3). The amount allocable to an instream water right is limited to the estimated average natural streamflow occurring from the drainage system, except where periodic flows that exceed the natural flow are significant for the applied public use. OAR 690-077-0015(4). The table below compares the estimated average natural flow (EANF) of Mill Creek on a monthly basis (in CFS) to the requested flows in the application. The last row is the allowable amount and the amount in the proposed certificate. Water is not available in the times and amounts requested. ORS 537.343(1); OAR 690-077-0039(2)(c)

Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
EANF	25.8	61	65.1	45.3	25.5	15.4	12.6	10.7	9.72	8.43	10.3	15.8
Flows Requested	10	10	15	26	26	26	15	15	10	10	10	10

Allowable amount	10	10	15	26	25.5	15.4	12.6	10.7	9.72	8.43	10	10
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Presumption Criteria (c) Injury Determination

8. The proposed use is junior in priority and by operation of the prior appropriation doctrine will not injure other water rights. ORS 537.343(1); OAR 690-077-0039(2)(d)

Presumption Criteria (d) Whether the use complies with rules of the Commission

9. The Department placed the application on the Department’s Public Notice for a 30-day comment period. Consistent with OAR 690-077-0031, copies of the notice were sent to the planning departments of affected local governments with a request that a copy of said notice be posted in a conspicuous location in the county courthouse. No land use information was received by the Department during the initial review 30 day public comment period. Pursuant to OAR 690-077-0031(5) the Department may presume the proposed instream water right is compatible with the comprehensive land use plans and land use regulations of affected local governments.
10. The proposed use complies with rules of the Water Resources Commission not otherwise described above.

Whether the proposed use would impair or be detrimental to the public interest as provided in ORS 537.170

11. Based on an evaluation of the proposed use, the comments received, information available in its files or received from other interested agencies and any other available information, the Department has determined that the proposed use will not impair or be detrimental to the public interest as provided in ORS 537.170. OAR 690-077-0039(2)(e)

Determination of Presumption that a proposed surface water use will not impair or be detrimental to the public interest

12. Based on the review of the presumption criteria (a)-(d) above, and Finding of Fact #9, #10 and #11, the Department finds that a rebuttable presumption has been established. 537.343(1); OAR 690-077-0039(2)(g)

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

The proposed use would not impair or be detrimental to the public interest.

When issuing certificates, ORS 537.343(1) authorizes the Department to include provisions or restrictions concerning the use, control and management of the water to be appropriated for the project. The attached draft permit is conditioned accordingly.

PROPOSED ORDER

The Department recommends approval of Application IS-88326 and issuance of a certificate consistent with the attached draft certificate.

DATED October 17, 2017

Dwight French

Dwight French, Water Rights Services Division Administrator, for
Thomas M. Byler, Director

Protests

Under the provisions of ORS 537.153(7), the Proposed Final Order may be protested. Protests must be received in the Water Resources Department no later than **December 1, 2017**. Protests must be in writing, and must include the following:

- Your name, address, and telephone number;
- A description of your interest in the Proposed Final Order, and, if you claim to represent the public interest, a precise statement of the public interest represented;
- A detailed description of how the action proposed in the Proposed Final Order would impair or be detrimental to your interest;
- A detailed description of how the Proposed Final Order is in error or deficient, and how to correct the alleged error or deficiency;
- Any citation of legal authority to support your protest, if known;
- To affect the department's determination that the proposed use in this application will, or will not, impair or be detrimental to the public interest ORS 537.153(6) requires that a protest demonstrate by a preponderance of evidence any of the following: (a) One or more of the criteria for establishing the presumption are, or are not, satisfied; or (b) The specific aspect of the public welfare, safety and health under ORS 537.525 that would be impaired or detrimentally affected, and specifically how the identified aspect of the public welfare, safety and health under ORS 537.525 would be impaired or be adversely affected;
- If you are the applicant, the protest fee of \$410 required by ORS 536.050; and
- If you are not the applicant, the protest fee of \$810 required by ORS 536.050 and proof of service of the protest upon the applicant.
- If you are the applicant, a statement of whether or not you are requesting a contested case hearing.

Requests for Standing

Under the provisions of ORS 537.153(7) persons other than the applicant who support a Proposed Final Order can request standing for purposes of participating in any contested case proceeding on the Proposed Final Order or for judicial review of a Final Order.

Requests for standing must be received in the Water Resources Department no later than **December 1, 2017**. Requests for standing must be in writing, and must include the following:

- The requester's name, mailing address and telephone number;
- If the requester is representing a group, association or other organization, the name, address and telephone number of the represented group;
- A statement that the requester supports the Proposed Final Order as issued;
- A detailed statement of how the requester would be harmed if the Proposed Final Order is modified; and
- A standing fee of \$230. If a hearing is scheduled, an additional fee of \$580 must be submitted along with a petition for party status.

After the protest period has ended, the Director will either issue a Final Order or schedule a contested case hearing. The contested case hearing will be scheduled only if a protest has been submitted and either:

- upon review of the issues, the director finds that there are significant disputes related to the proposed use of water, or
- the applicant requests a contested case hearing within 30 days after the close of the protest period.

If you do not request a hearing within 30 days after the close of the protest period, or if you withdraw a request for a hearing, notify the Department or the administrative law judge that you will not appear or fail to appear at a scheduled hearing, the Director may issue a Final Order by default. If the Director issues a Final Order by default, the Department designates the relevant portions of its files on this matter, including all materials that you have submitted relating to this matter, as the record for purpose of proving a *prima facie* case upon default.

You may be represented by an attorney at the hearing. Legal aid organizations may be able to assist a party with limited financial resources. Generally, partnerships, corporations, associations, governmental subdivisions or public or private organizations are represented by an attorney. However, consistent with OAR 690-002-0020 and OAR 137-003-0555, an agency representative may represent a partnership, corporation, association, governmental subdivision or public or private organization if the Department determines that appearance of a person by an authorized representative will not hinder the orderly and timely development of the record in this case.

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>

This document was prepared by R. Craig Kohanek. If you have any questions about any of the statements contained in this document I can be reached at 503-986-0823.

If you have questions about how to file a protest or a request for standing, please refer to the respective sections in this Proposed Final Order entitled "Protests" and "Requests for Standing". If you have previously filed a protest and want to know its status, please contact Patricia McCarty at 503-986-0820.

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 Ste A, Salem OR 97301-1266, Fax: 503-986-0901.

STATE OF OREGON
COUNTY OF WASCO
PROPOSED CERTIFICATE OF WATER RIGHT

THIS CERTIFICATE ISSUED TO

OREGON WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT
725 SUMMER STREET NE, STE A
SALEM, OR 97301

The specific limits for the use are listed below along with the conditions of use.

APPLICATION FILE NUMBER: IS-88326

SOURCE OF WATER: MILL CREEK, TRIBUTARY TO THE COLUMBIA RIVER

COUNTY: WASCO

BENEFICIAL USE: PUBLIC USE, SPECIFICALLY FISH LIFE AND WILDLIFE

DATE OF PRIORITY: DECEMBER 1, 2016

To be maintained in:

MILL CREEK, TRIBUTARY TO THE COLUMBIA RIVER, BEGINNING AT THE
CONFLUENCE OF WEST FORK NEAL CREEK AND NEAL CREEK AT
APPROXIMATELY RIVER MILE 8.1 (45.5506, -121.3079) (SESW, SECTION 22,
TOWNSHIP 1N, RANGE 12E, WM): CONTINUING DOWNSTREAM TO THE
MOUTH AT APPROXIMATELY RIVER MILE 0.0 (45.6068, -121.1872) (SWSW,
SECTION 34, TOWNSHIP 2N, RANGE 13E, WM) WASCO COUNTY.

The right is established under Oregon Revised Statute 537.341

The following conditions apply to the use of the water under this certificate:

1. The right is limited to not more than the amounts, in cubic feet per second, during the time periods listed below:

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
10	10	15	26	25.5	15.4	12.6	10.7	9.72	8.43	10	10

The water right holder shall measure and report the instream flow along the reach of the stream or river described in the certificate as may be required by the standards for instream water right reporting of the Water Resources Commission.

For purposes of water distribution, this instream right shall not have priority over human consumption.

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.

The flows are measured at the lower end of the stream reach to protect necessary flows throughout the reach.

Issued _____

DRAFT

Dwight French
Water Right Services Division Administrator, for
Thomas M. Byler, Director
Oregon Water Resources Department