

FINDINGS OF FACT

Application History

1. On November 30, 2020, Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife filed a complete application for the following water use:

Source: BIG CREEK, TRIBUTARY TO SMITH RIVER
Use: PUBLIC USE, SPECIFICALLY FISH LIFE AND WILDLIFE.
County: DOUGLAS COUNTY
Location: BIG CREEK, TRIBUTARY TO SMITH RIVER, BEGINNING AT RIVER MILE 3.4 (SENE, S18, T21S, R8W, WM) IN DOUGLAS COUNTY (43.74276, -123.680696) AND CONTINUING DOWNSTREAM TO THE MOUTH RIVER MILE 0.0 (NESW, S4, T21S, R8W, WM) IN DOUGLAS COUNTY (43.769081, -123.653892).

Rate: SHOWN BELOW IN CUBIC FEET PER SECOND (CFS) REQUESTED BY MONTH:

Fish Life and Fish Habitat:

| Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-------|-----|-----|
| 34 | 34 | 34 | 34 | 19 | 13 | - | 1.8 | 1.3 | 3.3/- | 34 | 34 |

2. On January 14, 2021, 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 January 19, 2021, 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. Numerous written comments favoring and opposing the application were received during the 30-day comment period.

Presumption Criteria (a) Consistency with Basin Program

5. "Fish life and Wildlife use's" are classified as allowed under the Umpqua Basin Program OAR (690-516-0005(1)) and OAR 690-077-0015(11). ORS 537.343(1); OAR 690-077-0039(2).

Presumption Criteria (b) Water Availability

6. 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). OAR 690-077-0015(4). The table below compares the requested flows in the application for Big Creek on a monthly basis (in CFS) to the estimated average natural flow (EANF). The last row is the allowable amount and the amount in the proposed certificate. ORS 537.343(1)(b); OAR 690-077-0039(2)(c). The amount allocated for this application shall not exceed some months the estimated average natural streamflow occurring from the drainage system. ORS 537.343(1)(b); OAR 690-077-0039(2)(c).

Fish Life and Fish Habitat:

| Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-------|-----|-----|
| 34 | 34 | 34 | 34 | 19 | 13 | - | 1.8 | 1.3 | 3.3/- | 34 | 34 |

Estimated Average Natural Flow:

| Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|------|------|------|------|-----|------|------|-----|-----|------|-----|------|
| 56.9 | 56.9 | 42.2 | 23.4 | 12 | 5.49 | 1.92 | .89 | .56 | 1.47 | 19 | 46.7 |

Allowable Instream Use:

| Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|-----|-----|-----|------|-----|------|-----|-----|-----|--------|-----|-----|
| 34 | 34 | 34 | 23.4 | 12 | 5.49 | - | .89 | .56 | 1.47/- | 19 | 34 |

Presumption Criteria (c) Injury Determination

7. 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

8. 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.
9. 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

10. Based on an evaluation of the proposed use, 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

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

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

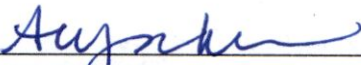
The proposed use would not impair or be detrimental to the public interest.

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-88966 and issuance of a certificate consistent with the attached draft certificate.

DATED JAN 04 2022



Alyssa Mucken
Water Rights Section Manager, for
Thomas M. Byler, Director
Oregon Water Resources Department

Protests

IMPORTANT: Due to COVID-19, the Department's office is closed to walk-in services. The Department encourages the submission of protests by U.S. mail. Please consider mailing early to ensure the Department receives the protest by the deadline specified above.

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 **February 18, 2022**. 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 \$480 required by ORS 536.050; and
- If you are not the applicant, the protest fee of \$950 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 **February 18, 2022**. 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 \$270. If a hearing is scheduled, an additional fee of \$680 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 Servicemembers:

Active duty servicemembers have a right to stay a proceeding under the federal Servicemembers Civil Relief Act. For more information contact the Oregon State Bar at 800-452-8260 the Oregon Military Department at 503-584-3571, or the nearest United State Armed Forces Legal Assistance Office through <http://legalassistance.law.af.mil>. The Oregon Military Department does not have a tollfree telephone number.

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 503-979-3185.

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 503-979-9160.

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 DOUGLAS
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-88966

SOURCE OF WATER: BIG CREEK, TRIBUTARY TO SMITH RIVER

BENEFICIAL USE: FISH LIFE AND WILDLIFE USES

DATE OF PRIORITY: NOVEMBER 30, 2020

To be maintained in: Big Creek, tributary to Smith River, beginning at river mile 3.4 (SENE, S18, T21S, R8W, WM) in Douglas County (43.74276, -123.680696) and continuing downstream to the mouth river mile 0.0 (NESW, S4, T21S, R8W, WM) in Douglas County (43.769081, -123.653892).

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 |
|-----|-----|-----|------|-----|------|-----|-----|-----|--------|-----|-----|
| 34 | 34 | 34 | 23.4 | 12 | 5.49 | - | .89 | .56 | 1.47/- | 19 | 34 |

2. 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.
3. For purposes of water distribution, this instream right shall not have priority over human or livestock consumption.

4. 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.
5. 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

Mailing List for IS PFO
Scheduled Mailing Date:

Application: IS-88966

Applicant:

Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife
4034 Fairview Industrial Drive SE
Salem, OR 97302

OWRD copies:

WRD - Watermaster: Susan Douthit, District 15 - Electronic
WRD - Regional Manager: Jake Johnstone - Electronic
WRD - Data Center - Electronic
WRD - Water Availability - Electronic
WRD - File - Paper

Other persons to receive copies:

ODFW: Anne Hayden-Lesmeister - Send certified mail

Caseworker: Craig Kohanek

Copies Mailed

by: _____

(STAFF)

on: _____

(DATE)