

**WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT
DIVISION 511
OWYHEE BASIN PROGRAM**

NOTE: The Owyhee Basin is delineated on the agency [Map No. 11.6, dated January 1, 1967](#).

690-511-0010

Classifications

(1) The maximum economic development of this state, the attainment of the highest and best use of the waters of the Owyhee Basin, and the attainment of an integrated and coordinated program for the benefit of the state as a whole will be furthered through utilization of the aforementioned waters only for domestic, livestock, municipal, irrigation, flow augmentation, commercial, agriculture, power development, industrial, mining, recreation, wildlife, and fish life uses, and the waters of the Owyhee Basin are hereby so classified with the following exceptions:

(a) The maximum economic development of this state, and the attainment of the highest and best use of the waters of the mainstem of the South Fork Owyhee River from the Oregon - Idaho border to Three Forks (the confluence of the North, Middle and South Forks Owyhee River), and the main stem Owyhee River from Crooked Creek (river mile 118) to the mouth of Birch Creek (river mile 76), and the attainment of an integrated and coordinated program for the benefit of the state as a whole will be furthered through utilization of the aforementioned waters only for domestic, livestock, municipal, irrigation, industrial, mining, recreation, wildlife, and fish life uses and the aforementioned waters are hereby so classified.

(b) The maximum economic development of this state, the attainment of the highest and best use of the waters of the natural lakes of the Owyhee Basin, and the attainment of an integrated and coordinated program for the benefit of the state as a whole will be furthered through utilization of the aforementioned waters only for domestic, livestock, irrigation of lawn or noncommercial garden not to exceed one-half acre in area, power development not to exceed 7 1/2 theoretical horsepower, recreation, wildlife, and fish life uses, and the waters of the natural lakes of the Owyhee Basin are hereby so classified.

(2) Surface water classification:

(a) Owyhee River and its tributaries above the Owyhee Reservoir are withdrawn from further appropriation for irrigation purposes by order of the State Engineer dated May 27, 1929.

(3) Stored water may be used for any beneficial purpose.

(4) Storage, of up to 1,000 acre-feet of water in the Owyhee Basin, for domestic or livestock purposes authorized under water rights with priority dates after November 6, 1992, shall be exempt from regulation for storage of water reserved under OAR 690-511-0110.

Stat. Auth.: ORS 536

Stats. Implemented: ORS 536.220 & ORS 536.310

Hist.: WRD 2-1997, f. & cert. ef. 2-25-97

690-511-0020

Note: These rules were filed with the Office of the Secretary of State and took effect on 10/18/2016. The rules are subject to non-substantive modifications such as renumbering and correction of typographical errors pursuant to ORS 183.360 (2)(a) when published by the Secretary of State.

Water Quality

Rights to use of water for industrial or mining purposes shall be issued only on condition that any effluents or return flows from such uses shall not interfere with other beneficial uses of water.

Stat. Auth.: ORS 536

Stats. Implemented: ORS 536.220 & ORS 536.310

Hist.: WRD 2-1997, f. & cert. ef. 2-25-97

690-511-0100

Application Process to Store Reserved Water

(1) Reservations of water for economic development are established pursuant to ORS 537.249 and 537.356 to ensure sufficient surface water will be available in the future to meet expected needs. Economic development includes, but is not limited to, the production of goods and services and management of natural resources which contribute economic benefits through both instream and out-of-stream uses of water.

(2) "Multipurpose reservoir", as used in OAR 690-511-0100 and 0110, means a reservoir storing water to serve multiple potential beneficial uses such as irrigation, commercial, agriculture, power generation, municipal , recreation, and flow augmentation for instream purposes.

(3) Reservations of water for future economic development in OAR 690-511-0110 reserve surface water for future storage in multipurpose reservoirs.

(4) Permits to store reserved water shall receive the priority date of the reservation. The priority date for reservations under OAR 690-511-0110 shall be November 6, 1992.

(5) In addition to the requirements of ORS Chapter 537, OAR Chapter 690, Division 310, and any other applicable rules, an application for a permit to store reserved water shall include:

(a) An assessment of the effect of the proposed reservoir on fish and wildlife developed after consultation with the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife;

(b) An assessment of the effect of the proposed reservoir on water quality developed after consultation with the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality;

(c) An analysis of water supply alternatives to the proposed reservoir, such as off-stream storage, water right transfers and implementation of conservation measures; and

(d) An analysis summarizing and describing how the proposed project will enhance instream values, including but not limited to instream flows.

(6) For the purposes of review of water right permit applications to store reserved water under OAR Chapter 690, Division 310, the reserved quantities of water listed in OAR 690-511-0110 are available for appropriation. However, the determination that water is available under ORS 690-511-0110 shall not

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substitute for consideration during the public interest review of site-specific information as required under ORS Chapter 537, OAR Chapter 690, Division 310, or applicable statutes or rules. Because the finding that water is available in OAR 690-511-0110 is a water availability determination for a sub-basin, analysis of water availability at the specific location shall be conducted at the time of permit application review.

(7) In addition to any other findings required for issuance of a reservoir permit under ORS Chapter 537, OAR 690, Division 310, or applicable rules and prior to issuance of a permit for a proposed project storing water reserved under 690-511-0110, the Department shall also find:

(a) The proposed reservoir is consistent with the purpose of the reservation following consultation with the Department of Agriculture and other state agencies;

(b) The proposed reservoir will enhance instream values, including but not limited to instream flows; and

(c) Whether minimum bypass flows are required.

(8) The Department shall determine, and impose as a condition, an appropriate storage season, and shall include other conditions to ensure no injury to senior water rights and to protect instream values.

(9) Progress Reports: Until the Department has issued permits for reservoirs for the full quantity of reserved water under OAR 690-511-0110, the Department shall biennially report to the Water Resources Commission on the amount of water available under the reservation, and the quantity allocated under the reservation. The Department or Commission may require periodic reports from the Oregon Department of Agriculture on continued interest in the reservation, efforts undertaken to develop the reservation, and any challenges to developing the reservation.

(10) Effective date of rules

(a) OAR 690-511-0110 shall be effective until January 7, 2037, unless extended by further rulemaking of the Water Resources Commission.

(b) The expiration of these reservation rules shall not affect pending applications that have been received and deemed complete and not defective by the Water Resources Department pursuant to ORS 537.150(2), prior to the expiration date of the rules.

Stat. Auth.: ORS 536 & ORS 537

Stats. Implemented: ORS 536.310, ORS 537.249, ORS 537.356 & ORS 537.358

Hist.: WRD 2-1997, f. & cert. ef. 2-25-97

690-511-0110

Owyhee Reservations

Sixty thousand (60,000) acre-feet of unappropriated water of the Owyhee River and tributaries are reserved. The water is reserved for storage in multipurpose reservoirs to be constructed in the future. The priority date of the reservations is November 6, 1992.

Stat. Auth.: ORS 537

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Stats. Implemented: ORS 537.249 & ORS 537.356
Hist.: WRD 2-1997, f. & cert. ef. 2-25-97

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