



## Water Storage Permits for Wetland Mitigation and Enhancement

### *Will I need to apply for a water right for my wetland mitigation or enhancement project?*

If you are developing a wetland mitigation or enhancement project, you may need to apply for a water right to use water if:

- ✦ You will be storing water as part of your wetland mitigation bank or project. Storage would occur if your project includes a structure that does not have a permanent, open outlet at original natural grade.
- ✦ Your beneficial use of the water will be wetland enhancement or some other beneficial use.

***If you meet these criteria, then you need to secure a water right from the Oregon Water Resources Department. Without a water right, your use of water is not legal, and your wetland project could be in jeopardy.***

There are two options for applying for a water right permit to store water depending on the quantity of water you will be storing and the number of ponds involved. To estimate the quantity of water you will be storing, multiply the surface area (in acres) by the maximum water depth to obtain acre-feet (a volume), then multiply acre-feet by 0.4 (correction factor for the reservoir not having vertical sides and varying water depths).

### *What are my options for applying for a permit to store water?*

- 1) If your project would store less than 9.2 acre-feet, or have a dam height less than 10 feet (as measured from the top of the structure to the original natural grade at the centerline of the structure), then you can apply for an “alternate-reservoir storage permit”, which receives expedited processing:

Application instructions and form:

<http://www1.wrd.state.or.us/pdfs/storage.alt2008.pdf>

Application fee:

<http://www1.wrd.state.or.us/pdfs/fees2007.pdf>

Land Use form:

<http://www1.wrd.state.or.us/pdfs/landuseform.pdf>

The Department will process your request, typically within 4 months. You may not begin storing water for your project before you receive your permit.



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If a permit is approved, you must make beneficial use under the permit and demonstrate that you have made beneficial use of the water (prove up). You can self-certify your use using the form available at:

Self certification form:

[http://www1.wrd.state.or.us/pdfs/beneficial\\_use.pdf](http://www1.wrd.state.or.us/pdfs/beneficial_use.pdf)

- 2) If your project would store 9.2 acre-feet or more, will have a dam height of 10 feet or more, or include more than one pond, then you must apply for a “regular storage permit”:

Application instructions:

<http://www1.wrd.state.or.us/pdfs/surfacebook96.pdf>

Application forms:

<http://www1.wrd.state.or.us/pdfs/storage.standard02.pdf>

Application fee:

<http://www1.wrd.state.or.us/pdfs/fees2007.pdf>

Land Use form:

<http://www1.wrd.state.or.us/pdfs/landuseform.pdf>

The Department will process your request, typically within 8 months. You may not begin storing water for your project before you receive your permit.

If a permit is approved, you must make beneficial use under the permit and demonstrate that you have made beneficial use of the water (prove up). For a regular storage permit, you will need to hire a certified water rights examiner (CWRE) to prepare the Claim of Beneficial Use.

CWRE Contact Information:

[http://www1.wrd.state.or.us/pdfs/cwre\\_listing.pdf](http://www1.wrd.state.or.us/pdfs/cwre_listing.pdf)

If you have questions about whether your project requires a water right permit, contact your local Watermaster.

You can find the contact information for your local Watermaster at:

[http://www.wrd.state.or.us/OWRD/offices.shtml#Region\\_Watermaster\\_Map](http://www.wrd.state.or.us/OWRD/offices.shtml#Region_Watermaster_Map).