

Atlas of Water Rights by Type and by Use

May 2020



CONTENTS

Contents.....	1
Introduction.....	2
About the Atlas	2
Terminology.....	3
Water Rights Use Categories	4
Comprehensive Legend.....	7
Public Land Survey System.....	8
How to find More Information.....	8
Disclaimer and Contact Information	8
Acknowledgements	9

INTRODUCTION

The Oregon Water Resources Department (OWRD) is the state agency charged with governing surface and groundwater resources. Under Oregon law, all water is publicly owned. A primary responsibility for OWRD is to process and track water rights. Water rights information are maintained in a Water Rights Information System (WRIS) and, spatially, in a Geographic Information System (GIS).

ABOUT THE ATLAS

OWRD has designed a comprehensive atlas to display the water rights by type (source) and water rights by use throughout the state. These types include surface water, groundwater, and storage water. The uses have been categorized into municipal, domestic, commercial, power, mining, irrigation, livestock, agriculture, miscellaneous, instream, wildlife, fish, and recreation. Water rights may overlap.

The maps are organized by township, range, and section using the Willamette Meridian. See Figure 1. Only sections in which there are water rights are included in the atlas.

Each map has an abbreviated legend pertaining to the water rights. For more legend details, see the section “Comprehensive Legend.” Not all water rights have been mapped. This atlas does not include applications for water rights, municipal rights, or irrigation district rights. Portions or whole water rights not yet mapped in the GIS are usually indicated by a diamond shape centered in the Public Land Survey (PLS) quarter-quarter of the respective section. This is due to a number of factors such as limited location information in the water right file. Municipal uses have been removed from the Water Type Atlas to minimize confusion in congested areas. These areas are often already known and add little value to the maps.

Each map provides a map date to indicate when the map was created. The date does not represent the status of the water rights. For the most current information or to determine dates for a particular water right, see the section “How to Find More Information.”

The atlas is complemented with a Water Right Report for the section. The report provides all Water Rights within the section including municipal rights, as they are recorded in WRIS. Users should be aware the quarter quarter sections are listed as they are recorded in WRIS, which may or may not be in agreement with the maps. Discrepancies are not global, so each report will need its own evaluation.

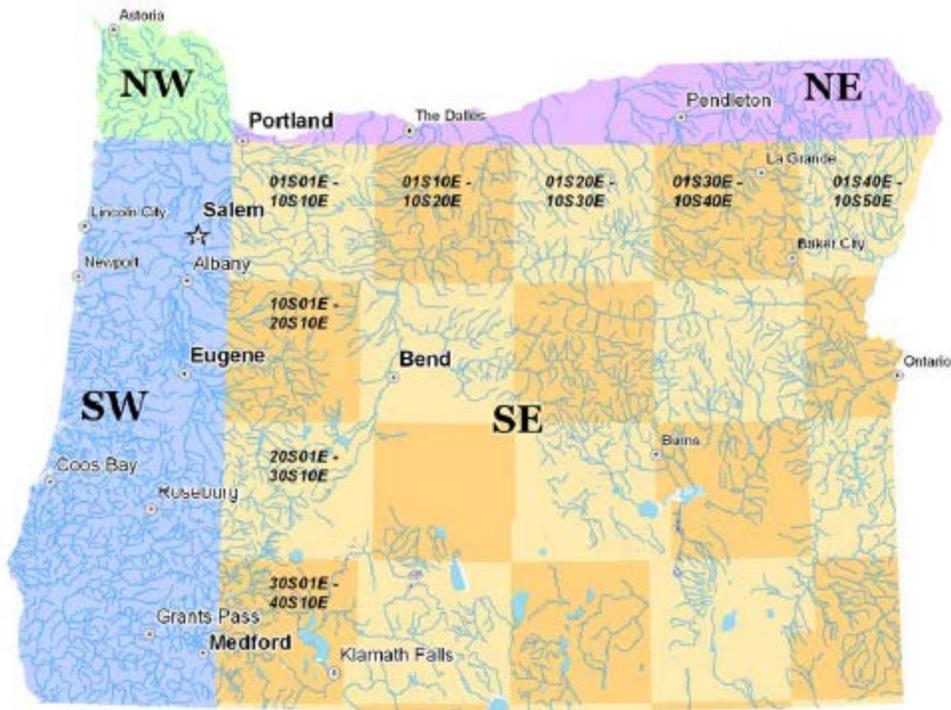


Figure 1. Index map of Township and Range for Oregon.

TERMINOLOGY

Points of Diversion (PODs) – The point where water is diverted from its source, such as a well or pump. Locations of PODs are mapped by the description from the permit or certificate and may not be precisely located physically.

Places of Use (POUs) – Areas where the water use is permitted, such as for agricultural purposes, domestic use, riparian habitat restoration, or others.

Surface water rights – Surface water includes water that sits or flows on the surface such as streams, rivers, lakes, or wetlands. Surface water rights include rights originating from these sources.

Groundwater rights – Groundwater includes water that is held beneath the ground surface, such as in soil, pervious rocks, or aquifers. Groundwater rights include rights originating from these sources.

Storage Water Rights – Storage (or stored) water includes water purposefully stored for later use, such as reservoirs and livestock ponds. Storage water rights include rights that may originate from either surface water or groundwater, but is used to store water.

WATER RIGHTS USE CATEGORIES

To keep the map atlas legible, the water right uses have been combined into the following categories.

Mining (0)

MI - Mining – Use of water for extraction, preliminary grading, or processing of minerals or aggregate at a mining site or construction, operation and maintenance of a mining site. These include, but are not limited to, general construction, road construction, and dust control.

Agriculture (1)

AG - Agriculture - (General) Water used for the production of agricultural products including construction, operation and maintenance of agricultural facilities, and livestock sanitation at farms, ranches, dairies and nurseries. Examples: Dust control, temperature control, animal waste management, barn or farm sanitation, dairy operation, and fire control. Agricultural use does not include irrigation.

CF - Supplemental Flood Harvesting

CH - Harvesting of Cranberries

CR - Cranberries

DB - Dairy Barn

FR - Frost Protection

GH - Greenhouse

MS - Mint Still

NU - Nursery Uses

TC - Temperature Control

Domestic (2)

DI - Domestic Including Lawn & Garden

DN - Domestic Expanded Including Non- Commercial Garden

DO - Domestic

DS - Domestic & Livestock

GD - Group Domestic

HC - Human Consumption

RR - Restroom

SC - School

Irrigation (3)

CI - Irrigation of Cranberries

I* - Irrigation, Livestock & Domestic

IC - Primary & Supplemental Irrigation

ID - Irrigation & Domestic

IL - Irrigation & Livestock

IR - Irrigation

IS - Supplemental Irrigation

OI - Out of Season Irrigation

Commercial (4)

CM - Commercial Uses
GC - General Construction or Maintenance
GT - Geo-Thermal (Heating & Cooling) IM - Manufacturing
LA - Laboratory
LD - Log Deck Sprinkling
SH - Shop
SM - Sawmill

Recreation (5)

CS - Campsite
RC - Recreation
SW - Swimming

Power (6)

PW - Power Development
RM - Ram

Fish (7)

AQ - Aquaculture
FI - Fish Culture
FW - Fish & Wildlife

Livestock (8)

LV - Livestock
LW - Livestock & Wildlife

Municipal (9)

MU - Municipal
QM - Quasi-Municipal

Instream (1)

F1 - Supporting Aquatic Life
F2 - Best Use of Waters from Storage
F3 - Anadromous & Resident Fish Habitat
F4 - Instream
F5 - Instream Fishery Enhancement
F6 - Fisheries Enhancement
F7 - Flow Augmentation for Fish Enhancement
F8 - Anadromous & Resident Fish Rearing
FE - Fish Habitat for Resident Borax Lake Chub
PF - Supporting Aquatic & Minimizing Pollution
PO - Pollution Abatement
R1 - Anadromous & Recreation Fish & Recreation
R2 - Supporting Aquatic Life, Recreation & Aesthetics
R3 - Supporting Recreation & Aesthetic Benefits
RA - Supporting Recreational Boating

RF - Supporting Aquatic Life & Recreation

Miscellaneous (M)

AH - Air Conditioning or Heating

AS - Aesthetics

FM - Forest Management

FP - Fire Protection

GR - Groundwater Recharge

MP - Multiple Purpose

PA - Pollution Abatement

PM - Pond Maintenance

RW - Road Construction

ST - Storage

Wildlife (W)

RH - Riparian Habitat Restoration Project WI - Wildlife

COMPREHENSIVE LEGEND

Figure 2 is a comprehensive legend of all the features provided on the Water Type maps.

Figure 3 is a comprehensive legend of all the features provided on the Water Use maps.

Because polygons overlap, there may be slight variations in colors. The patch patterns should assist in determining the water right type with these overlapping polygons.

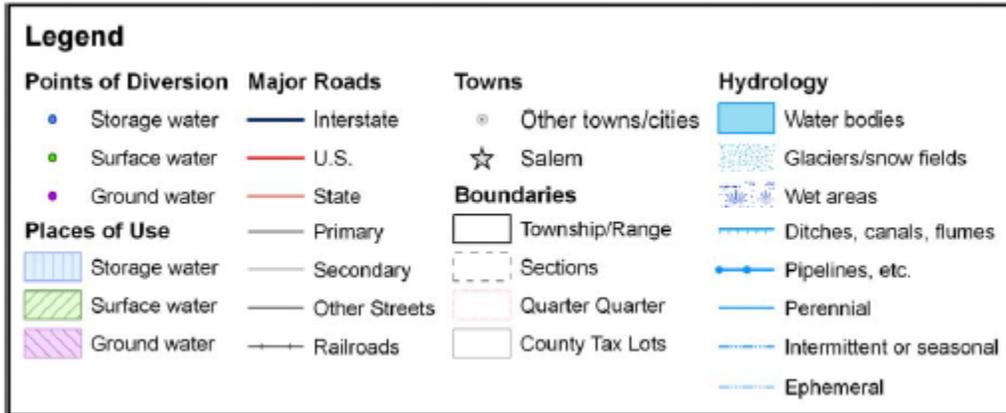


Figure 2. Comprehensive legend for Water Type.

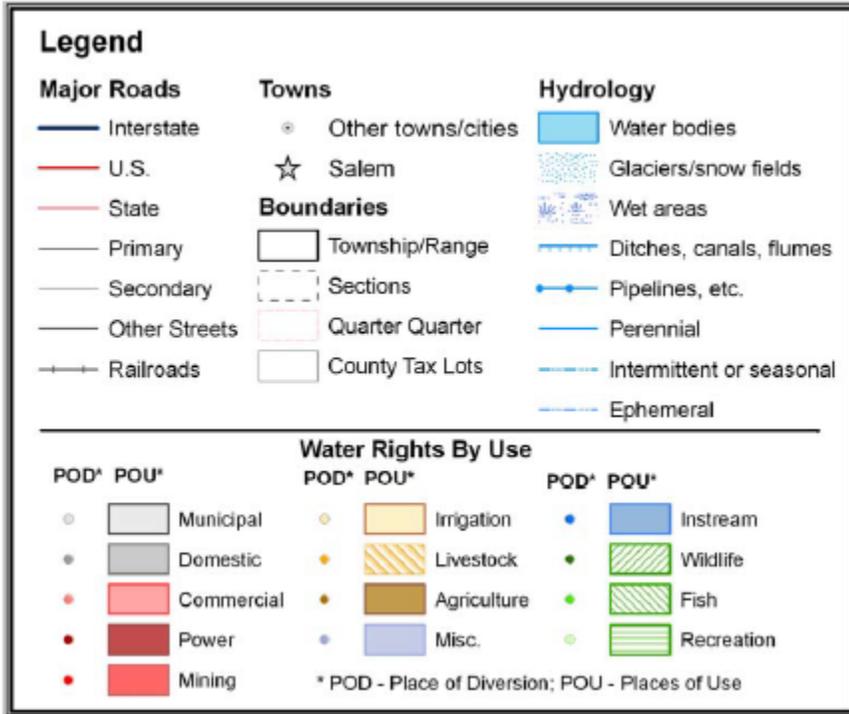


Figure 3. Comprehensive legend for Water Use

PUBLIC LAND SURVEY SYSTEM

Figure 4 is a diagram of the Public Land Survey System (PLSS). This illustrates the numbering order of sections.

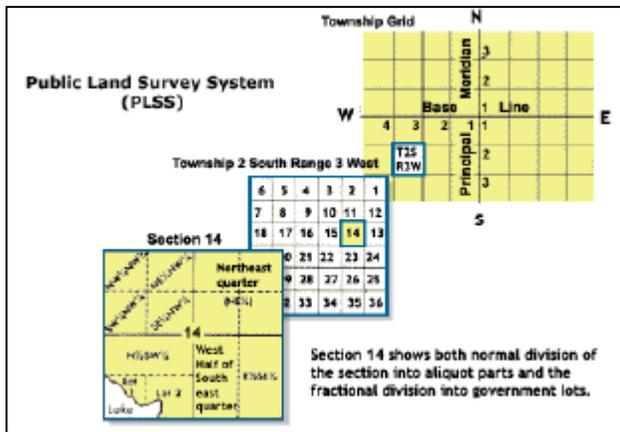


Figure 4. Illustration of the PLSS from the National Atlas.

HOW TO FIND MORE INFORMATION

This atlas provides an overview of the best available water rights information in a printable format using automated methods. Nevertheless, there are more details that simply cannot be automated or easily mapped. Many of the water rights overlap or extend over several sections. To research a particular area or a particular right, there are two online tools that can assist: The [Water Right Mapping Tool](#) and the [Water Rights Information System \(WRIS\)](#).

DISCLAIMER AND CONTACT INFORMATION

This atlas is for informational purposes and was not prepared for, or suitable for legal, engineering, or surveying purposes. Users of this information should review or consult the primary data and information sources to ascertain the usability of the information.

The map is produced by the Oregon Water Resources Department from digital data. Any errors or corrections to the data should be directed to the Geographic Information Systems section. The GIS section welcomes any comments, or requests for these maps by calling 503-986-0900.

Mailing address:
725 Summer St. NE, Suite A
Salem, OR 97301-1266

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Mapping the State of Oregon water rights involves extensive research into new and historic documents, accurate interpretation and processing. The information supporting this atlas is a product of many data technicians, watermasters, and contractors over past decades. The Department offers a sincere thank you for their dedication and attention to detail.