

right, the seller shall also deliver to the purchaser evidence of any permit, transfer approval order or certificate of water rights if the permit, transfer approval order or certificate is available.

(3) The failure of a seller to comply with the provisions of this section does not invalidate an instrument of conveyance executed in the transaction.

(4) This section does not apply to any transaction for the conveyance of real estate that includes a water right when the permit, transfer approval order or certificate evidencing the water right is held in the name of a district or corporation formed pursuant to ORS chapter 545, 547, 552, 553 or 554.

(5) As used in this section:

(a) "Certificate" means a certificate or registration issued under ORS 537.250 (1), 537.585, 539.140 or 539.240.

(b) "Permit" means a permit issued under ORS 537.211, 537.240 or 537.625.

(c) "Transfer approval order" means an order of the Water Resources Commission issued under ORS 540.530. [1979 c.535 §4; 1981 c.448 §1; 1991 c.411 §1; 1995 c.274 §12; 2005 c.14 §1]

IN-STREAM WATER RIGHTS

537.332 Definitions for ORS 537.332 to 537.360. As used in ORS 537.332 to 537.360:

(1) "In-stream" means within the natural stream channel or lake bed or place where water naturally flows or occurs.

(2) "In-stream flow" means the minimum quantity of water necessary to support the public use requested by an agency.

(3) "In-stream water right" means a water right held in trust by the Water Resources Department for the benefit of the people of the State of Oregon to maintain water in-stream for public use. An in-stream water right does not require a diversion or any other means of physical control over the water.

(4) "Public benefit" means a benefit that accrues to the public at large rather than to a person, a small group of persons or to a private enterprise.

(5) "Public use" includes but is not limited to:

(a) Recreation;

(b) Conservation, maintenance and enhancement of aquatic and fish life, wildlife, fish and wildlife habitat and any other ecological values;

(c) Pollution abatement; or

(d) Navigation. [1987 c.859 §2; 1995 c.416 §32]

537.334 Findings. The people of the State of Oregon find and declare that:

(1) Public uses are beneficial uses.

(2) The recognition of an in-stream water right under ORS 537.336 to 537.348 shall not diminish the public's rights in the ownership and control of the waters of this state or the public trust therein. The establishment of an in-stream water right under the provisions of ORS 537.332 to 537.360 shall not take away or impair any permitted, certificated or decreed right to any waters or to the use of any waters vested prior to the date the in-stream water right is established pursuant to the provisions of ORS 537.332 to 537.360. [1987 c.859 §3]

537.335 [Formerly 537.280; renumbered 537.390 in 1987]

537.336 State agencies authorized to request in-stream water rights; agreement required when supply is stored water. (1) The State Department of Fish and Wildlife may request the Water Resources Commission to issue water right certificates for in-stream water rights on the waters of this state in which there are public uses relating to the conservation, maintenance and enhancement of aquatic and fish life, wildlife and fish and wildlife habitat. The request shall be for the quantity of water necessary to support those public uses as recommended by the State Department of Fish and Wildlife.

(2) The Department of Environmental Quality may request the Water Resources Commission to issue water right certificates for in-stream water rights on the waters of this state to protect and maintain water quality standards established by the Environmental Quality Commission under ORS 468B.048. The request shall be for the quantity of water necessary for pollution abatement as recommended by the Department of Environmental Quality.

(3) The State Parks and Recreation Department may request the Water Resources Commission to issue water right certificates for in-stream water rights on the waters of this state in which there are public uses relating to recreation and scenic attraction. The request shall be for the quantity of water necessary to support those public uses as recommended by the State Parks and Recreation Department.

(4) Any request for an in-stream water right to be supplied from stored water shall refer to the reservoir for a supply of water and shall show by documentary evidence that an agreement has been entered into with the owners of the reservoir for a sufficient interest in the reservoir to impound enough water for the purposes set forth in the request. [1987 c.859 §4; 1989 c.904 §68; 1995 c.673 §1]