



Oregon

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Department of State Lands

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State Land Board

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Governor

General Authorizations Within Waters of Oregon: Updated Rules Effective July 1, 2024

LaVonne Griffin-Valade

Secretary of State

Changes to administrative rules under [OAR 141-089](#) have been adopted and will become effective on July 1, 2024. These rules guide how the Department of State Lands (DSL) issues and enforces general authorizations in Oregon's wetlands, rivers, streams, lakes, or other waters.

Tobias Read

State Treasurer

What's Changing July 1?

Changes include:

- **Fish passage plan authorizations and fish screen approvals must be submitted with most general authorization notices.** Most activities will now require advance coordination with the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife to obtain fish passage plan authorization or fish screen approval. These documents were previously required prior to starting the activity and now must be submitted with the notice to DSL. This change will ensure DSL is reviewing a general authorization notice for the final project design.
- **More activities will be eligible for a general authorization.** Examples include maintaining in-water structures up to 10 cubic yards, some types of residential docks, some temporary impacts to waterways, and habitat improvement activities like placing beaver dam analogs in a waterway.
- **Removal of unused or duplicative general authorization types.** General authorizations for certain transportation activities and removal of sediment behind tide gates will no longer be available. In most cases, these activities are either already exempt from removal-fill permit requirements or are covered under an alternative permit process.

[An overview of the rule changes is available here \(PDF\).](#) Questions? Contact Russ Klassen, Removal-Fill Specialist, at Russ.Klassen@dsl.oregon.gov.



Important! New Requirements and Forms for Upcoming Submissions

If you anticipate submitting a general authorization notice on or after July 1, 2024, the new rules will apply. You will need to use the [new general authorization packet forms and general authorization checklist available here.](#)

Project Background

Work requiring the [addition or removal of materials from Oregon's waters](#) usually requires a removal-fill permit. Projects with minimal anticipated impacts to wetlands or waters may be eligible for a general authorization without a removal-fill permit. During the required review held every five years, it was determined that revisions were necessary to promote habitat improvement, reflect current scientific research, increase usability for both staff and applicants, and align with current Department guidance and practices.

These amendments were informed by the experiences and recommendations of Department staff who administer general authorizations and conduct compliance monitoring. The Department held extensive consultation with the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife and a Rulemaking Advisory Committee to shape the proposed rule language. The Rulemaking Advisory Committee was convened from May 2023 through October 2023 to advise on draft rule language, representing the interests and expertise of city and county government, home builders and property owners, ports, small businesses, environmental resource management organizations, and state agencies. A comment period was held February 1 - March 4, 2024 and an online public hearing held on February 21, 2024.

Stay Updated

For more information on this rulemaking and other proposed changes to administrative rules at the Department of State Lands, subscribe to receive email updates or see the DSL website: www.oregon.gov/dsl/Pages/rulemaking.aspx

About the State Land Board and the Department of State Lands: *The State Land Board consists of Governor Tina Kotek, Secretary of State LaVonne Griffin-Valade, and State Treasurer Tobias Read. Established by the Oregon Constitution in 1859, the Land Board oversees the state's Common School Fund. The Department of State Lands is the Land Board's administrative agency, managing the lands and resources that help fund Oregon's public schools and protecting the state's waterways and wetlands for the many benefits they provide.*