

WATERWAY ACCESS PERMITS



Who needs a permit?

Non-motorized boaters with boats 10' and longer have needed a permit since 2020. In 2025, the Oregon Legislature expanded the program to include all non-motorized boat lengths to help raise revenue to fund boat inspection stations at our borders with the goal of expanding them to waterways used for irrigation, drinking water and hydropower generation. The revenue can only be spent on aquatic invasive species inspection stations and non-motorized access development or improvements.

What is the cost?

There are three permit options: One week, for \$6 (valid for 7 days from the date of purchase), one year for \$20 and two years for \$35. Failure to show the permit when asked by a marine law enforcement officer is a Class D violation with a \$115 fine. Permits can be purchased through ODFW's eLicensing system or license agent, or through the Marine Board's Boat Oregon Store. Quantity [discount permits](#) are available for Outfitter Guides and liveries operating six or more boats. Discounted permits must be purchased directly from the Oregon State Marine Board's [online store](#).

Exemptions to WAP Requirements

- Operators of rented boats, provided that the owner of the rental entity, or boat livery, displays proof that the livery has obtained the requisite WAP.
- Residents of a bordering state, launching a boat from its shores into bordering waters.
- Operators of boats on a federally designated wild and scenic river for which a separate fee system is in place.

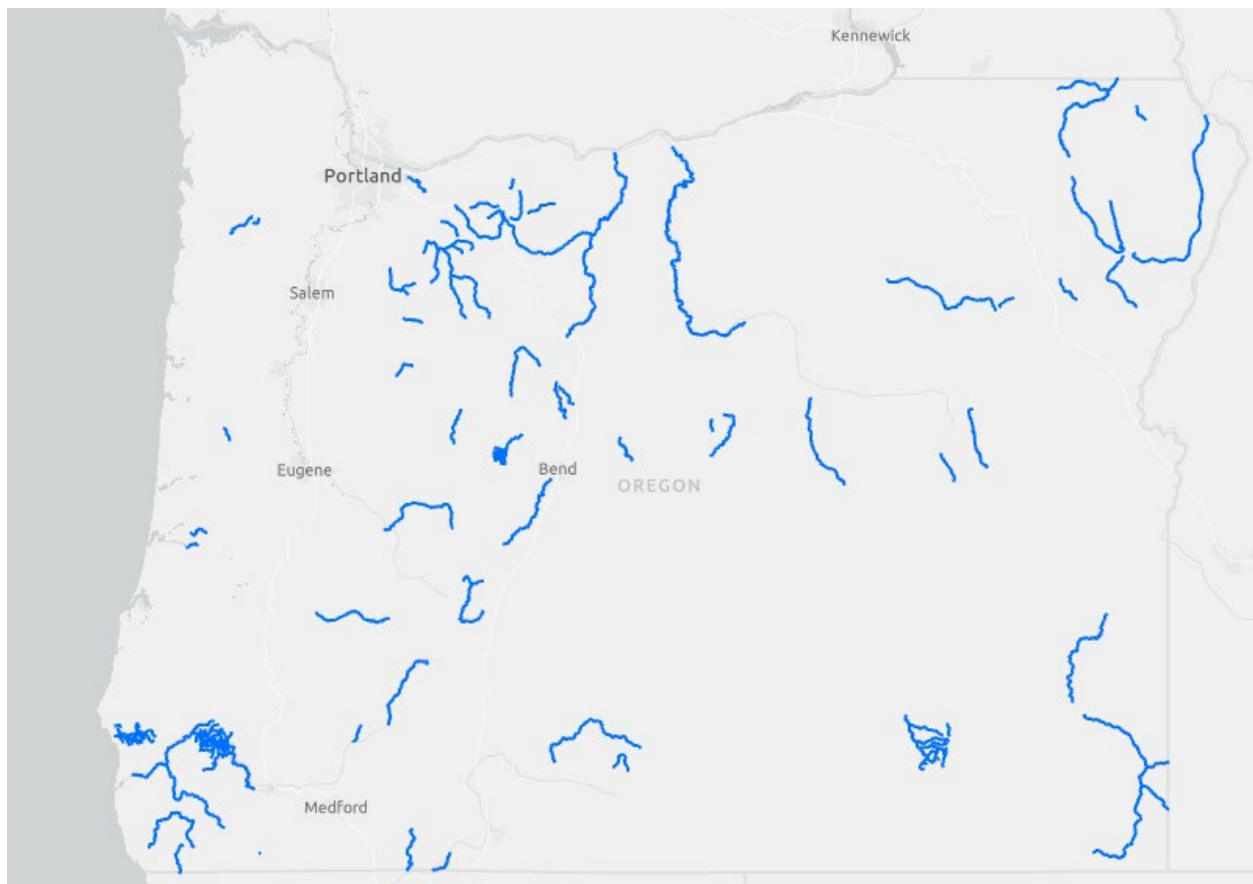
The last item means that boat operators are exempt from the requirement to carry a WAP if they are operating on a federally designated stretch of river AND have already paid other fees for that trip (not including parking fees).

For the general public, separate use fees are only in place for stretches of the Deschutes, John Day, Rogue and Snake River systems. Unless an operator only recreated on those designated river stretches, and only during the times when other fees are required, a WAP would be required.

For Outfitter Guides, additional federal permits are required by the BLM and USFS to conduct business on federally managed public lands. If a special federal permit is required for a trip, Outfitter Guides are exempt from WAP requirements when operating on federally designated stretches. Unless an Outfitter Guide operates exclusively in those sections, a WAP is required.

These are several Oregon rivers with National Wild and Scenic River segments, including but not limited to the Deschutes, John Day, Rogue, Snake, Chetco, Elk, Clackamas, Umpqua, Imnaha, and Owyhee Rivers.

OSMB has an interactive map displaying designated river sections with more information. Zoom in and click on a river for specific details: [Oregon Wild Scenic and Recreation Designated Rivers](#)



For more information about Waterway Access Permit Program, visit [Waterway Access Permit FAQs](#).