

# WATERWAY ACCESS PERMITS

BoatOregon.com | 503-378-8587



## When are they needed?

Per Senate Bill 47, which was passed by the 2019 Oregon Legislature, a Waterway Access Permit (WAP) must be carried by operators of "... a non-motorized boat that is at least 10 feet in length or a sailboat that is at least 10 feet but less than 12 feet in length." Revenue generated by this new permit system is mandated to be spent on the development of access and other resources for non-motorized boaters.

## What is the cost?

The permit purchase options are: 1 week for \$5 (valid for 7-days from the date of purchase through ODFW), 1 year for \$17, and 2 years for \$30. Tyvek tags will no longer be sold. Failure to show the permit is a Class D violation with a \$115 fine. Permits can be purchased through ODFW's eLicensing system and one and two-year permits through the Marine Board's Boat Oregon Store. Quantity discount permits are available to Outfitter and Guides and liveries operating six or more boats. Discounted permits must be purchased directly from the Oregon State Marine Board.

## Exemptions to WAP requirements:

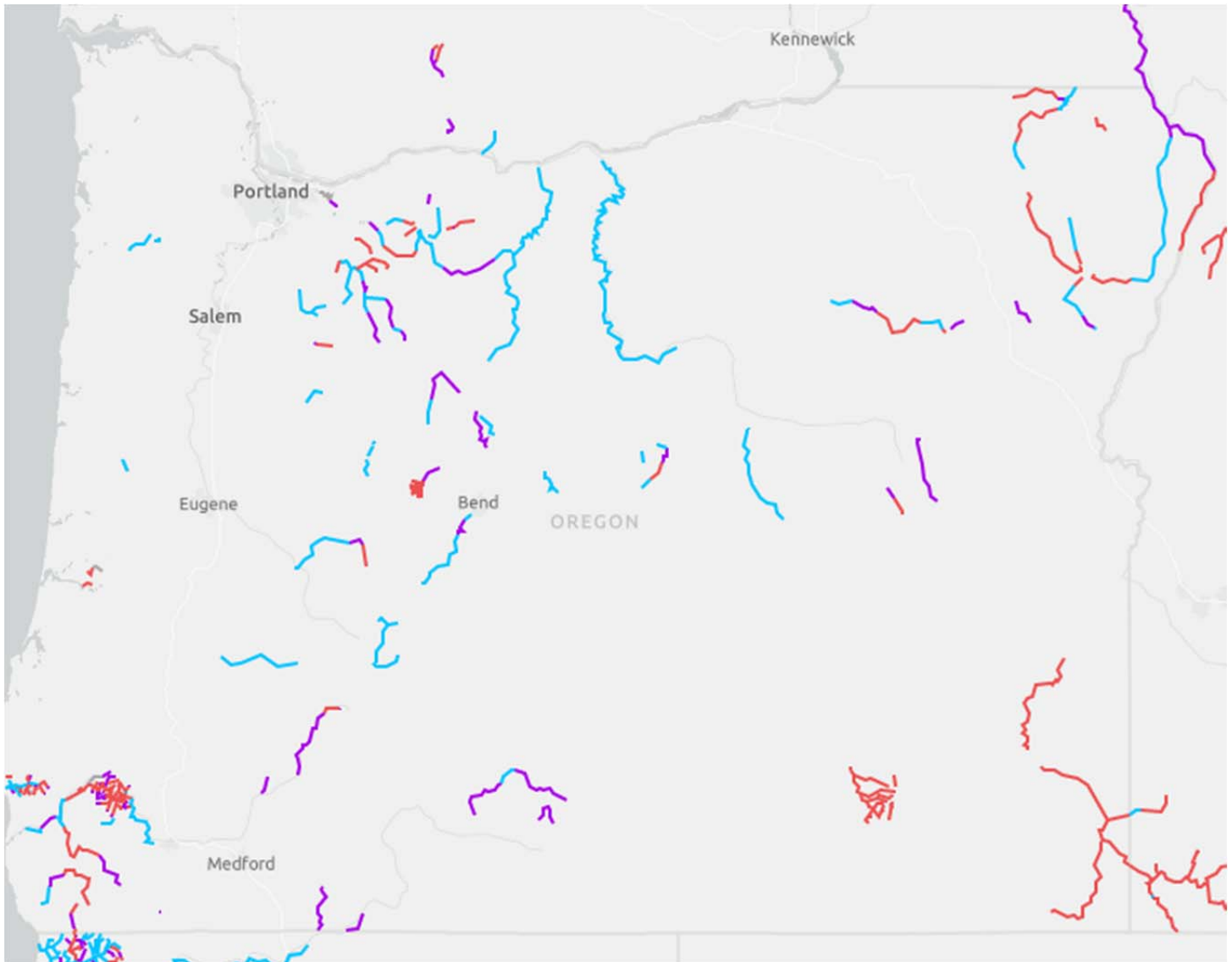
- Operators of rented boats, provided that the owner of the rental entity, or boat livery, displays proof that the livery has obtained the requisite WAP.
- Residents of a bordering state who launch a boat from that bordering state into bordering waters.
- Operators carrying a valid non-motorized boating permit issued by another state, such as a Washington Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention Permit.
- Operators of boats on a federally designated wild and scenic river for which a separate fee system is in place.

*This last bullet 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 Outfitters and 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, Outfitters and Guides are exempt from WAP requirements when operating on federally designated stretches.* Unless an Outfitter and Guide operates exclusively in those sections, a WAP is required.

There 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 developed a web resource that displays those designated river sections at (<https://arcg.is/1Hn8Cy>). All colored segments on the map are part of the federal designation system.



A screenshot of the OSMB map identifying federally designated waters.

Please direct any further questions regarding the Waterway Access Permit to:

**Josh Mulhollem**

OSMB Environmental and Policy Program Manager

Salem OR 97301

Office: (503) 378-2836

Josh.Mulhollem@oregon.gov

